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SQUASH ONTARIO



# SQUASH *Life*

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cover photo and feature photos by Hugh McClean

# POWER RECLAIMS NORTH AMERICA

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN



Photos by Hugh McClean

CANADA'S JONATHON POWER on November 14 reclaimed the YMG Capital Canadian Squash Classic title at BCE Place in downtown Toronto, beating England's top seeded world champion, Peter Nicol, 15-8 15-3 16-17 15-7 in a final that stopped twice, for ankle injuries to each player, was suspended for 41 minutes on a 'contributory injury' decision from the referee, and concluded on a forehand volley boast that left the loser standing hopelessly on one foot two hours and 14 minutes

after the opening rally.

The wildly dramatic final capped a stellar week for the third edition of the YMG Capital Classic, which enjoyed sold out crowds, extensive media coverage and the debut of a stunning new portable glass squash court. As Tournament director John Nimick summed up, "This was our finest effort to date and the players responded. Not only did players like Joe Kneipp light up the court with two five game upsets, but the "last man standing" clash between Nicol and Power enhanced both

their reputations." Canada's leading professional tournament, the YMG Capital Classic offered \$75,000 in prize money and was the tenth largest event on the 2002 PSA Men's World Tour.

Nicol, the 29-year-old left-handed defending champion, went into the final match with a heavily strapped right ankle having had a week of intensive treatment on a sprain picked up in the previous week's National Squash League action in England. But, it was Power who hobbled from the court at 1-0 in the third game after

stubbing his right foot hard into the court floor and wrenching the same ankle that he severely injured several years ago when playing basketball with his father.

Power, the 28-year-old former Torontonian who now lives in Montreal, was in almost complete command of the final by that time, having strung together a single hand of 10 points from 4-7 down to win the 21 minute opening game 15-8 and another hand of 12 points to get control of the 11 minute second game before tidying it away 15-3. "I was moving well and hitting my shots almost on demand," he said. "I think if I had not fallen the way I did, it would have been all over in about 40 minutes."

Yet, by the strict rules of the game, Power should either have resumed play three minutes after the fall or conceded the match if unable to return. The referee, Mike Riley, decided that Power had tripped over Nicol's foot in a desperate chase from the top left corner behind a ball dying in the centre of the back wall. Because this interpretation of events could be classified as 'contributory injury', Power was granted extended time to recover, and arguments were even launched about whether the final could be finished on another court the next day because the new ASB glass showcourt mounted at BCE Place was due for immediate demolition after the final.

After a 41 minute break, Power emerged courtside from the trainer's area to a huge roar of support from the packed 800-person audience. After testing the heavily taped ankle with several rapid court movements, Power asked for the ball and indicated his readiness to carry on. Nicol pushed back into the match after the break and, despite Power's apparently unfettered movement, clinched an argumentative tie break on a superb forehand cross court killing pass to win the game 17-16 in 33 minutes of actual play. Normally the most placid and concentrated of players, Nicol left the court punching the air and snarling in triumph, having thoroughly berated his opponent prior to the last serve over what he later described as Power's 'drama queen' antics in pursuit of unnecessary lets.

Almost in perfect counterpoint to Power's explosion of pain and fury at his own ankle episode, Nicol crashed his previously injured leg into the side wall in pursuit of a wrong footing clinger when leading 4-2 in the fourth game and requested his own injury timeout. In this instance Head Referee

Mike Riley called the injury "self inflicted" as Power was not involved in the incident and provided only three minutes of injury timeout to the world #1. Nicol received a brief medical treatment before returning within the time period, but was noticeably hobbled through the remainder of the final game.

Again, in the words of the tournament organizer, John Nimick of Event Engine, the final was more of an event than a squash match. "It reminded me of when Butch and Sundance are shot

up and cornered by the Bolivian army, but still choose to come out firing. Each player proved his mettle tonight." But the third game was a grand scrap with the Toronto crowd, fuelled by an extra 40 minutes of bar time, in full cry for their man, and when Power tidied up the fourth with three hands of four points each to conclude on an imperious forehand volley boast to which Nicol could raise no mobile response, it was hard to argue with their joy at the outcome.

The result brought the head-to-

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head score between Power, the Commonwealth Games Champion, and Nicol, the World Champion, to 16-16, with Nicol leading 57-56 on games won but, with the points count putting Power ahead by 1,339 to 1,319.

The pair had pretty well skated through the semi-finals against Australian opponents who had left their best efforts in previous rounds.

Power took out the unseeded Joe Kneipp 15-11 15-1 15-12 in 53 minutes, slotting in an unanswerable eight minute second game of such speed, accuracy and sheer domination that even the success-hungry Torontonians in the executive seats erected around a brand new sparkling glass showcourt at BCE Place were reduced to a hushed awe, and Nicol defeated Stewart Boswell 15-13 15-8 15-6 in 57 minutes.

Kneipp was not too displeased to be on the receiving end of Power's devastating assault, however. He reached the semi-final with an 87 minute 6-15 7-15 15-12 15-13 15-10 quarter-final win over the fourth seeded John White and a 91 minute 17-16 15-12 14-17 8-15 15-3 win over the sixth seeded Lee Beachill in the opening round.

Against Beachill in the first round Kneipp collected 13 fifth game points in two hands against an increasingly dispirited opponent. With White he went only to 6-2 in his first two fifth game hands, although he might have advanced further had referee Mike Riley not become a mite miserly with his

penalty stroke calls, but that was enough of a lead to bring the necessary edge of frustration into White's powerful striking of the ball. The Scottish number one got as close as 9-11 but three resounding tinned errors, two of them in the last two rallies, sounded his death knell.

"I just played percentage squash at the end," Kneipp explained. "Actually, the match against Beachill was tougher because the rallies lasted much longer. You know with John that the big hit is going to come in sooner rather than later and, if things are going the right way, he will put a lot of them into the tin."

In another interesting breakthrough, Nicol found his most serious pre-final challenge coming from Rodney Durbach, a South African qualifier who took Martin Heath, the eighth seed, out of the first round and then made the world champion run hard for 71 minutes to achieve a 15-8 16-17 15-8 15-12 win. "That was absolutely the best I have played for a very long time," said Durbach of both his matches.

Graham Ryding, the Canadian number two, also gave complete justification to the idea of granting a wild card to a decent home town player in major PSA World Tour squash events by forcing Nicol into a fiercely concentrated top gear to achieve a 71 minute 15-12 11-15 15-13 15-8 first round win.

Malaysia's Ong Beng Hee played a lot better than in some previous appearances too but, the young Malaysian was on the wrong end of a series of refereeing gaffs that certainly deprived him of a fourth game and arguably interfered with an important five game result against the in-form Boswell in their 15-11 9-15 15-6 15-13 encounter.

Ong Beng Hee's sharpness showed in his dismissal of Paul Price from the first round and it was obvious again in the way he took the second game of the quarter-final and fought through 2-3, 6-6 10-10 and 12-12 in the fourth against the inattentive determination of the referee to prevent him reaching a fifth game decider.

At least five times the referee interpreted interference between the two tiring players unfairly against the young Malaysian. Two penalty strokes, at 13-12 and more crucially at 15-13, went to Boswell, a couple of let calls seemed to reverse reality and a no-let decision for 10-8 to the Australian was simply inexplicable: "You were holding your opponent," the referee told Ong Beng Hee, who in fact

seemed to be preventing the stumbling Australian from sprawling to the floor after he had forced the Malaysian away from the ball.

Durbach took qualification to the highest point in the tournament but, it was a young Englishman who displayed the best success in the battle for main round places. James Willstrop, the 19-year-old European Junior Champion, reached a first round of a tour event for the first time by beating the vastly experienced Del Harris 15-14 15-11 15-13 in a qualifying final and played well enough against Stewart Boswell, the world number four, to lead him momentarily 4-2 in the second game.

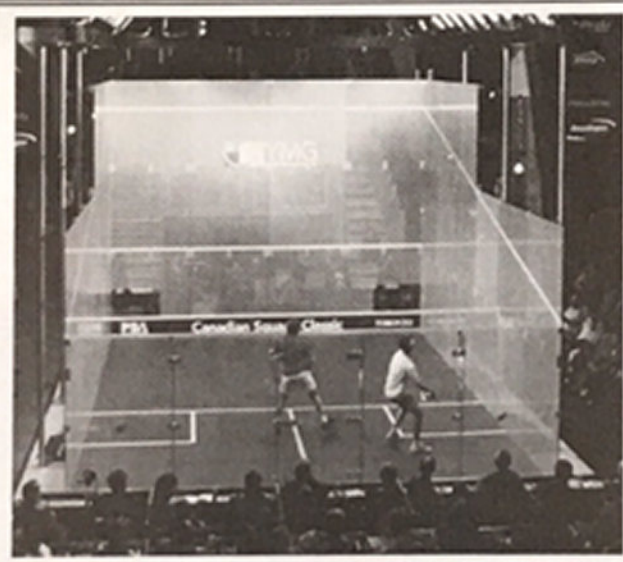
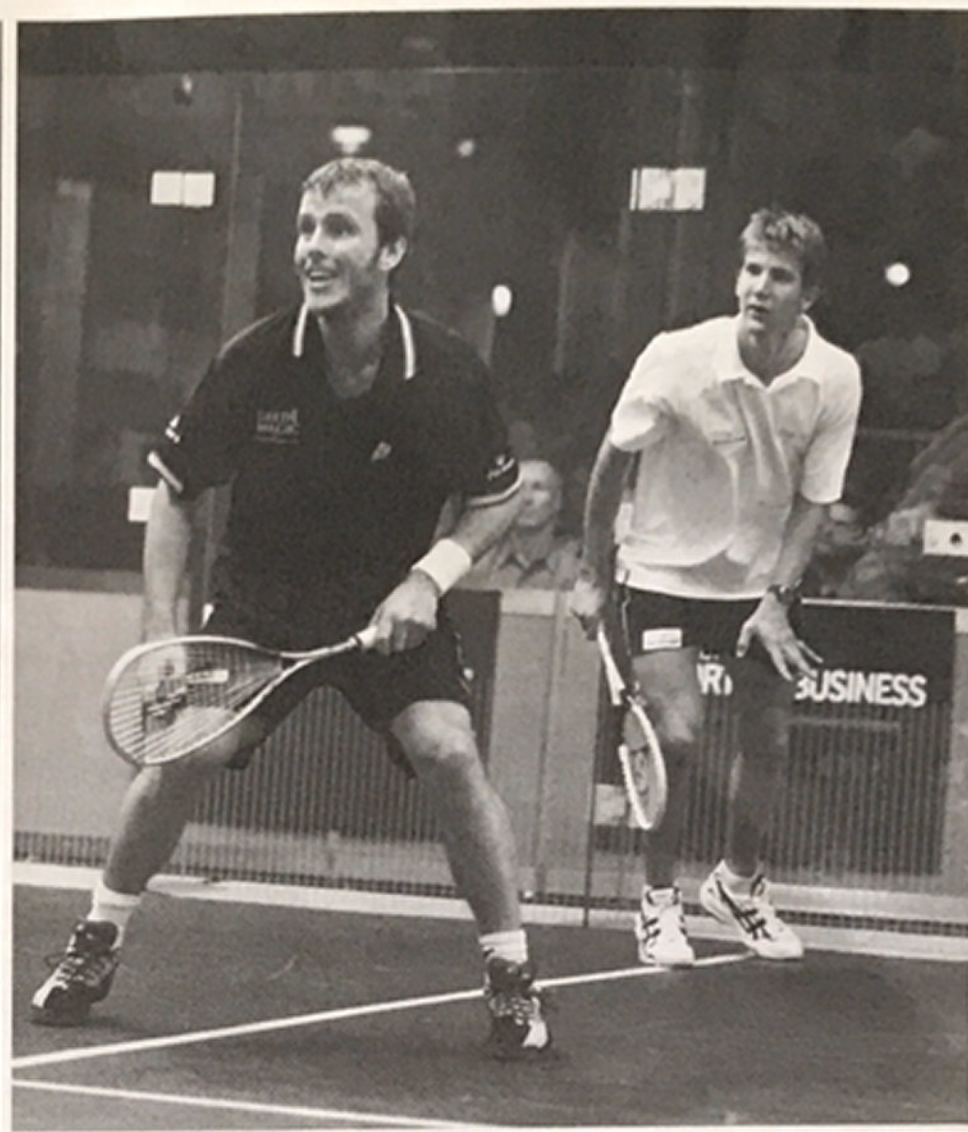
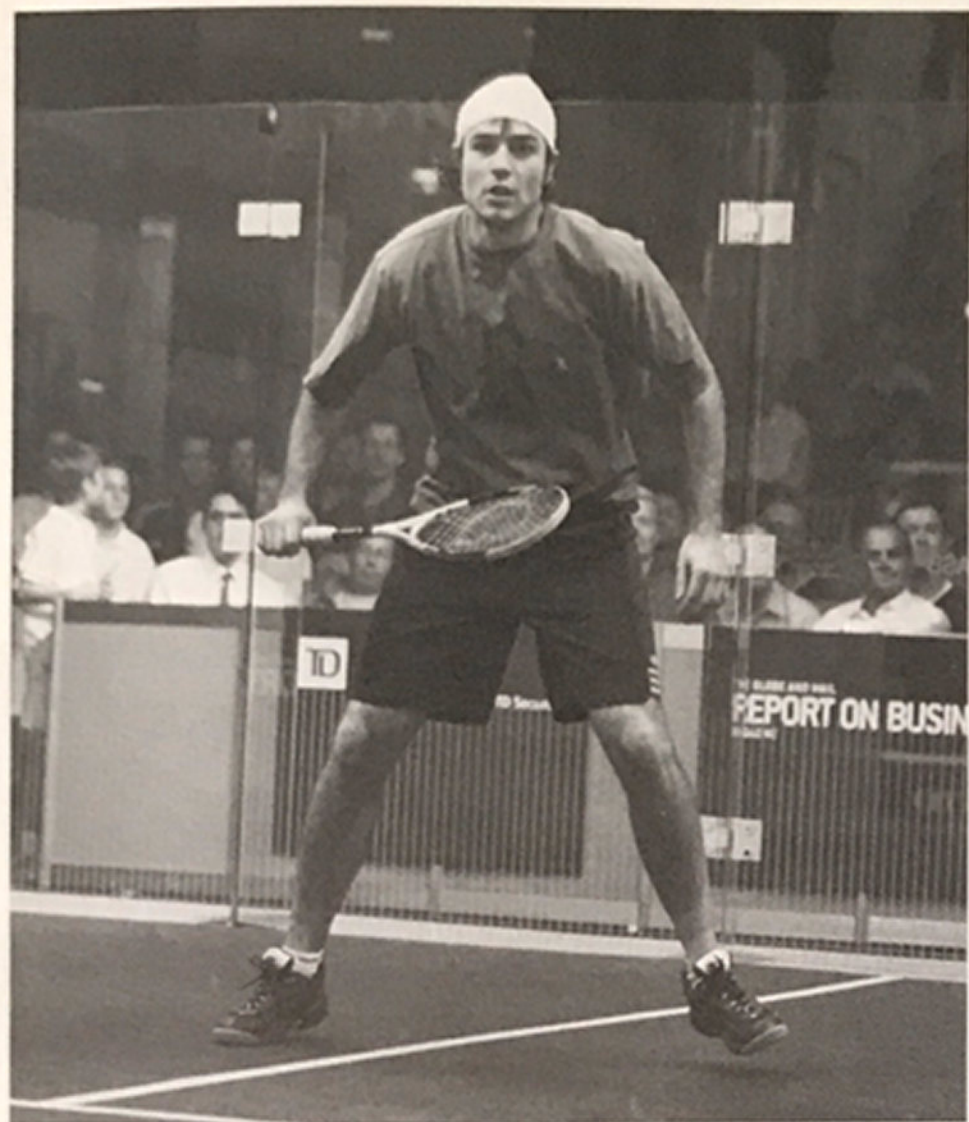
Willstrop had never before met the 33-year-old Harris in tournament play. "I have won a qualifying final for the British Open more or less on home ground in the past, but this is the first time I have actually come out of the qualifiers of a major PSA World Tour event to challenge the top guys in the main draw, and to beat Del Harris for the first time, to do it, makes me think I have done quite well," the youngster said.

Harris, a former British National Champion in every age group and 14 years ago himself the world junior champion, commended Willstrop's win. "It was not quite what I planned for Toronto," he admitted. "But it was a very good performance from James. I was playing pretty well but, once he took the first game very strongly on a single point tie break, I was always chasing him."

Harris has always been seen as the gentle giant of British squash. Tall, blonde and amazingly athletic, he took the game by storm through the late 1980s and early 1990s. Willstrop, also blonde and even taller at six feet five inches, looks capable of moving naturally into the same role.

Boswell, who was unrelenting in beating Willstrop, 15-5 15-7 15-8 in 41 minutes, added: "I think he will be a top player one day when he develops more strength and experience. He had me on the end of things a few times and he seems to understand what he is doing pretty well."

While the world's top players who visited Toronto in November for the YMG Capital Canadian Squash Classic will move on to Antwerp and the penultimate Tour event, the World Open, to close the 2002 pro season, the echoes of triumphal roars, squealing athletic shoes and hard hit squash balls will linger in BCE Place for some time.



# Mayfair's Magnificent Madness

In 1988, The Mayfair Group opened its flagship club, the Lakeshore. It entered this world not with a whimper but with a big bang and in the decade or so since its birth, this club has had a profound impact on the state of squash in Ontario. And, not just in Ontario. It has hosted any number of national and international events.

The Lakeshore is arguably one of the finest facilities in Canada and with its thirteen squash courts, is a natural home for squash events of all types. The club strutted its stuff in November when it played host to an extremely unique junior clinic. Forty juniors from various Ontario clubs had the opportunity and honour to be coached by ten world class touring pros who donated their time to give these kids an opportunity of a lifetime. Led by world number 1, Peter Nicol, along with Stewart Boswell, Ong Beng Hee, Martin Heath and Graham Ryding, these young juniors boasted, dropped and volleyed their hearts out - all under the watchful and experienced eyes of the pros who were here in Toronto playing in the YMG Classic.

The kids were divided into ten pods of four per court with each pod having a 15 minute session. As part of the day, the kids were given t-shirts and lunch.

Many thanks to Barb Cooper, the head squash professional at the Lakeshore, the pros who participated, YMG organizers Lolly Gillen and John



Nimick and to The Mayfair Group for donating its courts to give these young juniors a day in their squash careers they will never forget.

But November at the Lakeshore wasn't entirely for the juniors. Just one week after this clinic, it hosted over 160 participants in the Ontario Men's and Women's open, A, B, C, D, and E Championships. Not only did it host, it also co-sponsored the open component of the event.

For years, Squash Ontario has worked to elevate the Closed Championships to a prestigious status and it has finally attained this goal. In large measure, the success of the Championships is due to the venue and the organization. With its many courts and exceptional viewing, spectators and participants alike are readily entertained by the energy as well as some extraordinary squash, from the

E category all the way up through to the Open.

Squash Ontario is committed to ensuring that each of its provincial championships offer not just an exhilarating competitive experience but, also value for that experience. The Competitions Committee prepares a very stringent bidding package each year and clubs vie to host a provincial. The selection of a club to host a provincial championship is thorough - the Committee looks at a bid from a technical, organizational and historical point of view. One would be hard-pressed to find a squash professional more organized or with more tournament experience than Barbara Cooper at the Lakeshore. The Closed ran like clockwork.

Plans are afoot next year to perhaps include a Masters Closed Championships as part of this event. The Squash Ontario Competitions Committee will review the request in the spring.

The decision to host events does not necessarily rest with the squash professional of a club. More often than not, it is a management decision. Shirley Vedder, CEO of The Mayfair Group and herself an accomplished squash player, has always been a supporter of squash in Ontario and has used both the Parkway and the Lakeshore to cement that commitment. She recognizes that as squash thrives, so too do squash facilities. ©

## Congratulations to the Champions and Finalists of the 2002 Mayfair Ontario Closed Championships:

Women's Open . . . Melanie Jans  
Women's A . . . . . Marci Sier  
Women's B . . . . . Cathy Carson  
Women's D . . . . . Jenny Greidanus  
Women's E . . . . . Sunyana Gupta

Men's Open . . . . . Ian Sly  
Men's A . . . . . Robert Hong  
Men's B . . . . . Gareth Pike  
Men's C . . . . . Zig Negri  
Men's D . . . . . Asim Nanj  
Men's E . . . . . John Armstrong



**the pictures  
attest to the  
magnificence  
and the joyful  
madness that  
erupted at  
M a y f a i r  
L a k e s h o r e**





## ROBBIE OSHER A MASTER ON THE COURT

In the decade of the '80s, the mean age of a squash player was about 22. Today that mean age has doubled. Players now in their late '30s and beyond have been accorded the lofty and venerable designation of "masters." Many of these masters still play a formidable game of squash, substituting guile and deception for their youthful speed and resilience. That the masters contingent is still extremely competitive is not surprising when you look at the playing credentials and achievements of their younger years.



Robbie Osher

As the legions of masters players continue to grow, Squash Ontario is pleased to introduce the new Masters department in Squash Life. This new section is the brainchild of Robbie Osher who has recently joined the Board of Directors of Squash Ontario. His vision is to focus on the players, the events, and personalities of the masters component.

So, meet Robbie Osher. Robbie Osher says he's getting quite close to the end of his career as a competitive squash player, but the 63-year-old, three time defending Canadian Masters Champion (60+) shows no signs of

slowing down on the court. Osher has won at every level of the game since first picking up a racquet at the age of 31 in his hometown of Johannesburg, South Africa. While he has won all the tournaments in his age group over the past couple of years, he says he has changed over time from a very fit player to a wise and skillful one. You adjust for your age by not running so much, by playing the shots that get the opposition out of position. It's all in the head. With retirement looming in a couple of years, Robbie expects squash will remain a big part of his life both on and off the court. "I've gotten so much out of the game, I want to give back all the experience I've had wherever I can," said Osher who has been true to his word, first chairing Squash Ontario's Competitions Committee for five years and now a member of the Board of Directors.

### A LESSON IN SQUASH A LESSON IN LIFE

by Barbara Cooper

When Robbie Osher asked me to write a story about one of my matches, I started with what, to me, were my most significant victories. I'd bounced from England to Australia then Singapore and South Africa but, as I travelled back through time, I realized those matches had very little significance to anyone but me.

I evaluated my career and I asked myself where and when did I learn my most significant lessons? How did I



Barbara Cooper (right)  
and partner Lolly Gillen

evolve into the player that I am today? It was my losses that taught me the most, even though they were uncomfortable.

At 12, I played tennis, not squash. One match was against a fellow who wore long pants. No big deal in England. Every cricketer always wore white flannels so, I didn't think it was significant. I hit the ball as hard as I could with as much topspin as possible. There I was driving, volleying, chasing down every ball. I served my heart out and finally lost 6-4, 6-4. Fairly respectable, I thought, until my friends informed me I had just lost to an international table tennis champion who lost one leg in a car crash. That was why he was wearing long pants. I learned then to play my opponent, not myself.

Another loss that caused a change in my life was last season. In November Mayfair Lakeshore was due to play U of T in women's A league. I played Izumi Matsuda and she showed me every part of the court and way too quickly. I was beaten 3-0. It

### 2003 Masters Events

#### SOFT BALL

Date	Venue	Event	To Enter
JAN 17-18	Copperfields Fitness Club, Trenton	Central Ontario Open M & W 45+	613-392-1825
JAN 17-19	White Oaks, Niagara on the Lake	Court Classic M & W 40+	905-688-6800
JAN 24-26	Mayfair Lakeshore, Toronto	T & D Open M & W 35+, 40+, 45+ 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+	416-466-3777
FEB 7-9	Club Meadowvale, Mississauga	Valentines Open M 40+, 50+, W 40+	905-821-4560
MAR 21-23	Brockville Y+, Brockville	WILSON ONTARIO MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS M 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+ W 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+	416-426-7203 or squashontario.com
APRI 3-6	Mayfair Lakeshore, Toronto	Spring Squash Challenge	416-466-3777

#### DOUBLES

Date	Venue	Event	To Enter
JAN 24-26	Toronto Racquet Club, Toronto	Ontario Veteran, Senior & Master Championships	416-426-7203 or squashontario.com
FEB 28 - 2	Vancouver, BC	Canadian Doubles	squash.ca
MAR 27 - 30	Toronto Cricket Club, Toronto	Marianne Caldwell	416-485-5930
APRI 11 - 13	Toronto Lawn Tennis Club, Toronto	Canadian Mixed Doubles	416-922-1105

dawned on me that I had allowed myself to become complacent. I thanked Izumi for the match and for giving me an incentive to train. I knew the following April I would likely be playing Izumi again in the T&D A finals and so I put the plan into place. I hired a personal trainer, persuaded a few of Lakeshore's members to drill and practice with me and continued to work on my head.

Finally the day of reckoning arrived. This was not about revenge - it was about personal pride and not losing one's physical and mental abilities through complacency. That age old saying, "If you don't use it, you'll lose it" holds true for squash as well as life. I was successful and Mayfair Lakeshore prevailed 4-0.

I continued to contemplate last season and remembered the World Doubles held at the Cricket Club. I played with Victor Harding in the Mixed Masters and with Lolly Gillen in the Women's Masters. Lolly and I had had an uneventful passage to the final but, before we knew it, we were 2-0 down and struggling. Demer Holleran came down to us and told me to make my cross courts hit the side wall. Now

there's a thought. How many times had I said that to a pupil. Lolly was as solid as ever on the right side and we eventually won in the fifth but, not without some fear and trepidation.

That match was no where near as tough on the nerves as the match I played on the right wall with Victor Harding in the semi finals. Lindsey Hermer Bell and Clive Caldwell were our opponents and 14-11 up in the fifth before we prevailed 17-14.

When anyone wins the last six match balls in a row, you have to believe the gods are with you.

## MASTERS' RANKINGS

In order to produce credible rankings, we first need results and so we encourage clubs to do two things - first, include age categories in all of your events and second, make sure you send those results to Squash Ontario immediately following the event.

With many, many thanks to Gordon Robertson, Squash Ontario has been able to produce men's masters rankings. However, these will be updated more frequently if we receive re-

sults.

At the moment, there are no women's masters rankings. There just have not been enough tournaments to allow us to input results. Rankings cannot be published on the basis of just one tournament - for example, the Ontario Masters Championships.

Squash Ontario is also looking for a volunteer who will undertake to input these women's results when they are received. If you are interested and have some free time on your hands, please contact Squash Ontario at 416-426-7202.

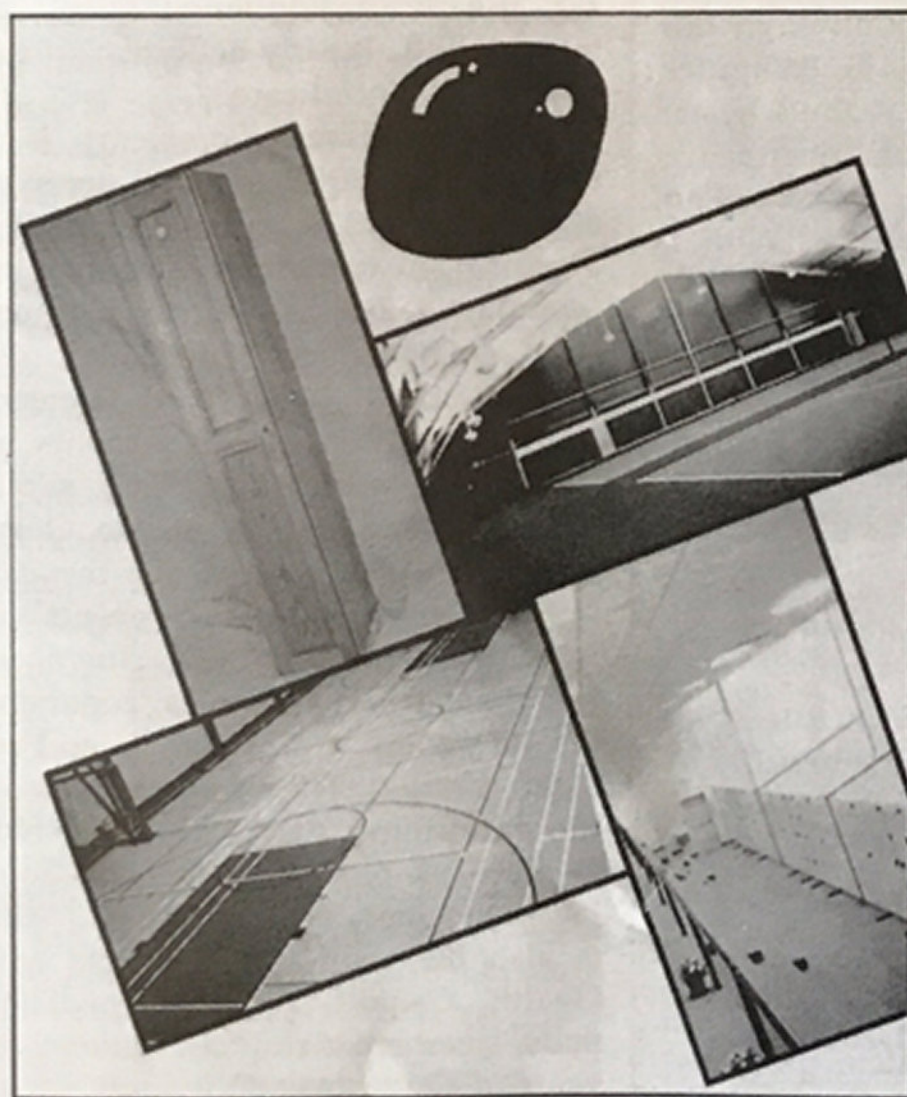
## THE FUTURE

The Squash Ontario Competitions Committee has received a request to consider adding a Masters Championship to the Ontario Closed Championships. The Committee will review this request in the spring.

The 2003 Wilson Ontario Masters Championships will not include a men's 30+ or a women's 65+ this year. Over the past several years, we have had only 2 or 3 entries in the former and only one in the latter. ©

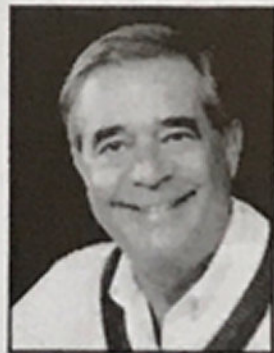
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# being prepared in the event of emergencies

BY AUSTIN KENNEDY

Statistics can be skewed in just about anyone's favour. However, there's one well documented realm where the data is as hard as the reality. Consider research offered by both the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation and American Heart Association. Every 33 seconds one North American dies of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). Outside the home, athletic and fitness clubs are among the top five places where SCA occurs. Less than five percent of SCA victims survive. For every minute that elapses after SCA, the victim's survival rate diminishes by ten percent. SCA is a symptom of cardiovascular disease (CVD). One in five adults has CVD, a condition that accounts for 40.6 percent of all deaths, making CVD the leading killer of adults.

"That's the bad news about sudden cardiac arrest," says Carlos Carvalho, a registered cardiovascular technologist and senior partner with ForeHeart International Inc. "The good news is that SCA survival rates can be increased more than ten fold thanks to new technology in the form of automated external defibrillators (AEDs)."

SCA, when the heart suffers an abnormal electrical activity resulting in an irregular heartbeat known as ventricular fibrillation (VF), has only one known therapy - defibrillation through electrical shock. "AEDs provide the victim of cardiac arrest a restored heart rhythm and in cases where the heart has stopped, a restart of the heart itself," said Mr. Carvalho. "AEDs also buy invaluable time for the victim because the average response time for EMS in major cities is 8.1 minutes. More importantly, the average time for EMS to deliver the first shock is 10.6 minutes. With an AED on site, a first responder can attend the victim within thirty seconds to four minutes. That's the critical window AEDs provide."

Increasingly, visionary public and private facilities are making AEDs available for patrons and staff. The lap-top computer-sized units are so-



The ForeHeart Senior Partners with their FR2 Biphasic automated external defibrillator. From left, Steven Brammer, Carlos Carvalho and Chris Traber

phisticated technological marvels. ForeHeart's FR2 is designed for lay user ease of use. Voice and visual prompts guide the user through the fool proof application. The computer processor analyzes the victim's heart, determines the physical impedance and will only call for the delivery of an electrical shock if necessary. With a

the units are fail safe and provincial good samaritan acts protect those who attend to any victim

five-year lithium battery and daily self diagnosis, the AED is faithfully at the ready.

Health, fitness and racquet facilities are becoming aware of the benefits. A scientific statement urging fitness clubs to install AEDs and train staff to use them was released in March by the American Heart Association and the American College of Sports Medicine.

The joint position statement, advises that high traffic facilities and those with special seniors programs be

equipped with AEDs and to provide training. "Many more Americans are now exercising at health and fitness clubs, including more senior citizens and people with undiagnosed heart disease who may be at higher risk for cardiac arrest," said Gary Balady, M.D., professor of medicine at Boston University School of Medicine and director of preventive cardiology at Boston Medical Center. "The first few minutes after cardiac arrest are critical to survival."

Dr. Balady, added, "The good news is that if people are fit and they keep exercising, they decrease their risk of suffering a cardiovascular event. The bad news is that we have many people visiting fitness centers with undiagnosed coronary heart disease. It's important that health and fitness centres are prepared in case of an emergency. In the chain of survival, every minute counts."

The chain of survival includes four steps: 1) early access to care/calling 9-1-1; 2) early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); 3) early defibrillation and 4) early advanced care.

Markham-based ForeHeart is a leading provider of AEDs, professional training and emergency planning. The firm, in tandem with its training company, Rescue 7, has equipped and trained high-traffic, high risk venues throughout North America and Europe. ForeHeart's clients include Angus Glen Golf Club, site of the 2002 and 2007 Canadian Open, Glenwild Ski & Spa, host of the 2002 Utah Olympic downhill ski events and recently equipped the Town of Markham's hockey arenas, community and fitness centres, pools and senior's facilities. The Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts and the 45-hole Deer Creek Golf Club are also ForeHeart facilities. ForeHeart's FR2 AED is also the only unit available with Health Canada-approved pediatric pads, suitable for children under eight years of age or over 55 pounds.

Squash Ontario, through it's Board of Directors, has negotiated a pre-

ferred supplier agreement with ForeHeart. Said, Executive Director, Sherry Funston, "as the governing body for squash in the province, Squash Ontario is committed to providing its member clubs with information which will enable them to operate their facilities in the safest way possible. We feel very strongly that we have a responsibility to strongly encourage all of our facilities to have an emergency plan in place. Squash Ontario's member clubs are now afforded a special corporate package that includes ready to go, state-of-the-art FR2 biphasic AEDs, training and emergency planning at a deeply discounted rate. Squash Ontario selected ForeHeart because it is a full program company. They offer AEDs for sale and lease, provide certified training, planning, recertification, maintain a staff training data base, conduct post-incident procedures and monitor client's accessories replacement requirements. ForeHeart offers our membership the best equipment and services at savings unavailable elsewhere".

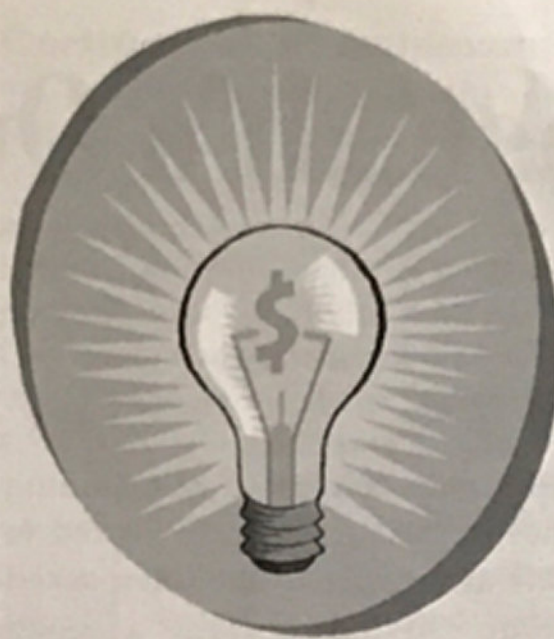
Awareness and acceptance for the life-saving abilities of AEDs grows daily through education and training said Mr. Carvalho. "AEDs will be legislated for high traffic, high risk facilities within the next five years because they are proven to save lives and reduce post-incident health care and related costs," he said. "The units are fail safe and provincial Good Samaritan Acts protect those who attend to any victim. Further, our clients receive one hundred percent indemnification, a benefit never exercised anywhere in the world since AEDs were approved by Health Canada and the FDA."

The units are affordable, particularly with bulk savings to organizations like Squash Ontario, he added. "The cost is miniscule compared to the value. There's no price tag on saving a life."

Squash Ontario member facilities can learn more about the special discounts by contacting ForeHeart toll free, 1-866-317-6059, direct at 905-474-9620 or [www.foreheart.com](http://www.foreheart.com) on the web. ©

Austin Kennedy is a Toronto-based business and medical writer.

Editor's Note: On behalf of its membership, Squash Ontario has established an exclusive partnership with ForeHeart International Inc., leaders in the provision of automated external defibrillators, professional life-saving training and emergency planning. Accordingly, Squash Ontario has negotiated exceptional savings on AEDs and ForeHeart services for our member clubs.



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# Squash...It's Our Racquet!

## All in the family

Squash Ontario is the governing body for the game in the province. Many programmes fall under its auspices and its responsibilities - league play, tournaments, provincial championships, coaching and officiating, schools, and juniors.

Policy decisions and the overall management of squash in Ontario are in the hands of a volunteer Board of Directors, numbering six. The Board is elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting and the President is then elected by the Board from amongst its numbers.

Canada now has one million fewer volunteers today than it had in 1997, according to new Statistics Canada data. The dramatic decrease is being attributed to profound societal changes that leave workers increasingly pressed for time and volunteers burned out by dizzying demands as governments make cut backs. One would have been hard-pressed to see any burnout on the part of the 70 or so volunteers who attended the recent Squash Ontario annual meeting in Toronto.

Traditionally, as the first blush of colour touches the trees and the heady scent of newly fallen leaves tantalizes the ole factory sense, Squash Ontario brings its family together. It is not so much a meeting as a gathering of friends, a time to look back at accomplishments and plan for future endeavours.

It is also a time to honour the people who have played such a major role in making Squash Ontario the most successful squash association in the country.

## Black Knight Coaching Achievement Award

Several years ago, the Board of Directors searched for a meaningful way to

identify and recognize outstanding coaches in the province. It wanted to provide an answer to the often-asked question, "What makes a good coach?" Not an easy task but, essentially the Board narrowed the criteria down to four important principles.

First, they not only teach but consistently demonstrate respect - for one's opponent, for the official, for oneself and for the game. Second, they have integrity - they are honest, sincere and honourable and they encourage and support their athletes to be the same. Third, they teach and abide by the principles of fair play. And, last but by no means least, they are a role model for the profession of coaching itself.

The recipient of this year's Black Knight coaching Achievement Award was **Pat Richardson** of the **Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club**. He began his coaching career in Montreal but fortunately for us, moved to Ontario and to the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club. Pat has run an enormously successful junior programme at the Cricket for many years, and has turned out a number of national champions. But more importantly, he's turned out hundreds of fine young squash players, courteous both on the court and off.

The Cricket Junior has become a tradition in Ontario junior squash but Pat's dedication also reaches into the senior ranks. He has hosted many provincial and national championships and the enormously successful World Doubles every two years.

Pat Richardson is also a very accomplished doubles player.

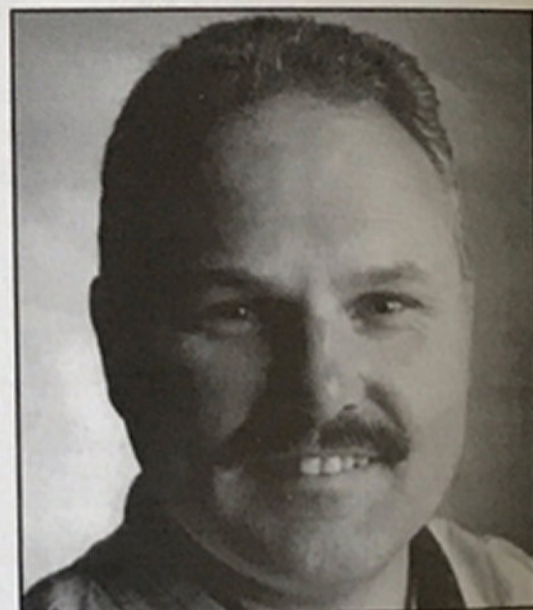
Pat exemplifies the very philosophy of the Coaching Achievement Award - he teaches fair play and conducts himself in the same manner. He is an exceptional role model for the coaching profession and there can be no greater

accolade than to be honoured by one's peers.

## Special Achievement Award

This is Squash Ontario's highest honour, awarded by the Board of Directors at its discretion, to a volunteer, coach, official or player who has made an outstanding contribution to the game of squash at the regional, provincial and national level. These are few people who fit this rather exacting criteria.

**Jim McAuliffe** is one such individual and he was the recipient of the 2002 Special Achievement Award.



Jim McAuliffe, 2002 recipient of the Special Achievement Award

Jim lives in Thunder Bay having arrived at Lakehead University by way of Alberta. He served on the Squash Alberta Board of Directors for a number of years and then was elected to the Squash Canada Board. Jim served six years with Squash Canada, the last two as president.

In his capacity as national president, he represented Canada on the Canadian Olympic Association, the Pan American Squash Association and the World Squash Federation.

Jim is also an accomplished official (if that is not a contradiction in terms!).

## Jim Mason Fair Play Awards

The name **Jim Mason** is synonymous with junior squash in Ontario and this award was named in his honour. It is presented to one male and one female junior athlete who displays the principles of fair play both on and off the court. The 2002 recipients were **Brad Jones** of Conestoga and **Marci Sier** of Barrie. Both are a credit to their parents, their club and to the game of squash and are wonderful role models



Brad Jones and Marci Sier, 2002 recipients of the Jim Mason Fair Play Award

for all the young junior players in Ontario.

## Certificates of Achievement

These certificates are awarded annually by the Board of Directors to those volunteers, coaches, players, officials and corporations who have been particularly supportive of the game at the regional and provincial level. Squash Ontario is truly blessed with outstanding contributions from many of its constituents - the players who often represent this province on teams - the officials who take their life in their hands every time they pick up a clipboard - the coaches who are so directly responsible for training our athletes, particularly the younger ones - the volunteers who administer the leagues - and the corporations, without whom, many programmes would go wanting. The Squash Ontario Board of Directors recognized these outstanding individuals:

Volunteers: **Doreen Hunt** (Toronto), **Brenda Fawcett** (Ottawa)

Players: **Carolyn Russell** (Toronto), **Stephanie Richardson-Hewitt**

Officials: **Dave Howard** (Toronto), **Moe Shehata** (Pickering), **Craig Hall** (London)

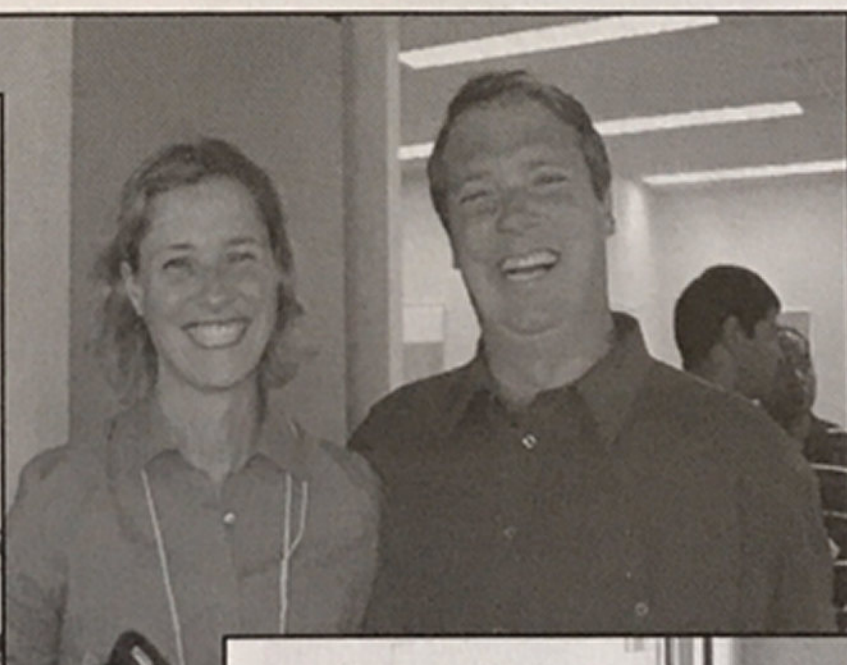
Corporations: John Sekhar (**BMO Nesbitt Burns**), Allan Sklar (**Black Knight**), Doug Coombs (**Wilson**), Stephen Hall (**Dunlop**), Jeff Bardsley (**Head**)

## The Business at Hand

The formal part of the day was the annual and general meeting of members. Squash Ontario divides the province into nine regions each of which is administered by an enthusiastic and keen group of volunteers. The president of each region attends the annual meeting as the official representative and votes on behalf of that region. One of the most pressing orders of business is the election of the Squash Ontario Board of Directors. A nominating committee begins its work in February to identify individuals who have not only unique talents and skills but who are also willing to devote some of their precious personal time to the association. The slate is presented to the members by the nominating committee and in 2002, it was approved unanimously. Guiding Squash Ontario over the next year will be President, **Rob Brooks** (Toronto), and Vice Presidents, **Barry Farstad** (Sudbury), **Dawn Sommerville-Pi-**



Carolyn Russell receiving Certificate of Achievement from Board member, Dawn Sommerville-Picotte



Tammie Sangster (Head) and Black Knight's Fred Reid



An official trio. From left, Craig Hall, Moe Shehata and Dave Howard

cotte (Brockville), **Lolly Gillen** (Toronto), **Mark Sachvie** (St. Catharines) and **Robbie Osher** (Toronto).

Rounding out the Board is **Peter Ward** as Past President.

### Some Good Byes

The Association said good bye to three very wonderful people - **Ann Gray**, who has now retired as past president; **Peter Ward** who completed his five-year stint on the Board and be-



Ann Gray, Squash Ontario's newest honorary member with Peter Ward, our retiring President.

comes a very active past president; and **Linda Stewart** who brought her talent and enthusiasm to the Board with the portfolio of Vice President, Marketing. Ann and Linda will be greatly missed although we know that their avid interest in the affairs of the corporation will never wane.

The day ended for everyone on a very positive note - enthused and keen for the season to begin - and with the wonderful group of volunteers all across the province, squash in Ontario and Squash Ontario itself are well positioned to take the game to the next level.

### Fore the Kids!

Four years ago, a new Junior Advisory Committee was created by Squash Ontario. It's mandate is to ensure that there is a progressive athlete development structure for junior players in Ontario - from novice right up through to high performance.



The winning foursome - from left, Mark Sachvie, John Boullivant, Mike Anderson and Willie Hosey

The Committee initiated a number of innovative changes to the structure, creating new programmes and tweaking old ones. Some of these changes have required not just human resources but financial resources. The Committee undertook to develop and promote the Lee Hanebury Junior Squash Fund, a fund which was established in memory of Lee Hanebury, a keen and enthusiastic mother of two junior players. The fund offers a tax receipt and all monies collected go directly into junior development in Ontario.

As an initiative to raise much-needed dollars for juniors, the Board of Directors of Squash Ontario gave its blessing to a charity golf event which was held the day prior to the annual meeting. On a beautiful September afternoon, fifteen foursomes swung their way around **Rolling Hills Golf Club** in Markham.

Holding a charity golf event was the brainchild of **Jim Adam** who was an avid supporter of squash and Squash Ontario. This "first annual" was held in Jim's memory and he would have been so pleased to see the extent of the support - from past presidents, to a number of our squash pros - Board members (past and present) - officials - our corporate partners and volunteers. We thank them all, not just for their attendance but for providing so many of the great prizes. Kudos to **Mark Sachvie**, **Jim Matrice** and **Lolly Gillen** who orchestrated the entire event - a huge success and one which will be repeated. Mark your calendars now for Friday, September 12th.

### PROGRAMMING NOTES Coaching Certification

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squash coach or upgrade your current skills, you've come to the right place. Squash Ontario, along with the National Coaching Certification Programme (NCCP), offers a variety of clinics to help you achieve your goals.

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**Level 2 in Ottawa** with Rene Denis

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**Level 1 in Toronto** with Jim Paton

Remember, all coaches who complete their full certification in the 2002-2003 season will receive a specially designed equipment bag, courtesy of Black Knight.



#### Officiating Certification

Squash Ontario's Officiating Program encompasses all aspects of the training of officials and instructors, and the education of the squash community with regard to the Rules of Squash. Squash Ontario works in cooperation with Squash Canada and the World Squash Federation in an effort to ensure that all matches are contested safely and fairly.

#### Certification Clinics

DEC 7, 2002, Niagara on the Lake

JAN 11, 2003, Toronto

FEB 1, 2003, Ottawa

#### Upgrading Opportunities

MAR 7 - 9, 2003, Toronto

MAR 21 - 23, 2003, Brockville

MAR 28 - 30, 2003, Niagara on the Lake

**To register for Coaching or Officiating Certification or Officiating upgrading opportunities, telephone 416-426-7201 or visit [squashontario.com](http://squashontario.com)**

# SQUASH VIDEOS

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**an honour  
for squash**

Once a year, the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, holds a Sport Awards ceremony at which time, it honours the many, volunteers, coaches, officials and athletes who have brought honour to their sport and to their province. Each provincial sport organization may nominate candidates for the Special Achievement Award - an award to recognize outstanding contributions of volunteers in sport.

How often does one individual truly make an impact on an association and the direction in which it is going? Not very frequently. In Ann Gray's case, Squash Ontario reaped the rewards and benefits of having such a remarkably gifted and committed volunteer.

Ann began her squash "career" in Belleville over 25 years ago. An admitted C player, she played for the sheer love of the game. A "fixer" by nature, she quickly became involved in the Central Ontario Squash Association and in a short time, under her guidance, the region became one of the most active in the province.

Ann quickly came to the notice of the Squash Ontario Board of Directors' Nominating Committee and in 1994, she was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors. In her first two of five years on the Board, she carried the portfolio of Vice President, Finance. In her third year, she was elected by her Board colleagues as president, a position she held for the next three years.

Under Ann's presidency, Squash Ontario enjoyed a resurgence of energy and commitment. Her first task was a long overdue human resources audit of the association which made Squash Ontario leaner, trimmer but much, much more effective.

A facilitator not just by nature but by profession, Ann led the restructuring of junior squash in Ontario and helped put into place the very firm foundations upon which that component is now balanced. In addition, she led three marketing strategy sessions for both her Board colleagues and our regions.

When her term of office concluded (necessitated by our By-laws), Squash



2002 Government of Ontario Special Achievement recipients - squash's Ann Gray, seated third from left

Canada quickly snatched Ann up and she was elected to its Board where she held the portfolio of Vice President Finance for two years. Ann would have continued on that Board and served as Squash Canada's president; however, her work commitments took her out of Ontario for a great deal of the year.

Her work commitments did not stem her interest in or commitment to squash and to Squash Ontario. She has been an enormously active past president, even if from afar. She joins Board meetings when she is able and she is always, always available to provide input and advice.

Ann stepped down as past president in September of 2002. Her presence will be sorely missed - she has been one of the most valuable volunteers Squash Ontario has ever had.

**Dunlop believes in juniors...**

...and they are ready to put their money where their mouth is. Stephen Hall's relationship with Dunlop Sports was the beginning of a renewed commitment by the company to make its presence felt in Canadian squash. No where has this been more evident than in Dunlop's partnership with Squash Ontario at the YMG Classic this past November.

Sharing a trade show booth can be a little bit like sharing a bed - one person pulling the covers one way and the other wrestling them back. Not so with Dunlop and Squash Ontario. Working like a well-oiled machine, Dunlop sold product and Squash Ontario processed orders with a donation going to the Lee Hanebury Junior Squash Fund.

The Fund, established a number of years ago by Squash Ontario but reinvigorated by the Junior Advisory Committee, will put the dollars to very good

use. Squash Ontario provides, amongst many other things, travel grants for our top juniors to participate in the national championships and comprehensive support of the Canada Winter Games programme. The Games will be held in February 2003 and Ontario's Team is looking to bring home the gold.

We are very grateful to Stephen Hall and Dunlop - suffice to say, Squash Ontario's ability to continue to grow squash at the junior level in Ontario would be in jeopardy without this kind of financial support.

**annual "Pro Shuffle"**

Glenway Country Club - Jan Prieditis; Badminton & Racquet Club - Eric Baldwin and Jamie Nicholls; Fitness Institute West - Bertrand Tissot; Fitness Institute East - Eduardo Alvarez; Sports Clubs of Canada Parkview - Michael Wang

**Hamilton Thistle  
closes its doors**

The Hamilton Thistle Club could trace its roots back to the early 1920s. At that time, the club had three courts and in 1924, the other Hamilton club, the Hamilton Squash Club, closed down and joined forces with the Thistle.

Over the 90 or so years of its existence, the Hamilton Thistle Club not only produced some wonderful Canadian champions, it also hosted more than its share of provincial and national championships.

Unfortunately, in the summer, financial circumstances were such that the Thistle was forced to forever close its doors and with the closing, goes a major piece of Canadian squash history.

**the winner is...**

As a fund raiser for the Lee Hanebury Junior Squash Fund, Squash Ontario partnered with White Oaks Conference and Resort Centre at the recent YMG Classic. Anyone who contributed to the Fund during the five days of the YMG was eligible to receive a weekend for two at the beautiful White Oaks Conference and Resort Centre in picturesque, Niagara-on-the-Lake. The winner is Michael Barnes of Toronto.

Squash Ontario thanks all who donated to the Lee Hanebury Junior Squash Fund and in particular, White Oaks Conference and Resort Centre. It is a magnificent facility and we are grateful for their support.

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