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# SQUASH

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MARCH/APRIL 1988

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Roger Eady  
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Senior Contributing Editors

Linda Henderson  
Administrative Assistant

Judy Rash  
Ministry of Tourism  
and Recreation Consultant

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Design and Composition

Craig Hanley  
Art Direction

Bowne of Canada  
Printer

Jerry C. Hobbs  
Photography

Harry J. Allen Jr.  
Marketing & Sales - for Fresh Ideas  
Marketing Inc., 135 Heddington  
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# SQUASH

L I F E

MARCH/APRIL 1988

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# NOW THAT I'M HERE, WHAT DO I DO?

Over the past several years, sport has become a business — a big business! Gone are the days of folksy meetings around the kitchen table. Some may lament the passing of those days but the fact remains that it is now necessary, even critical, for sport organizations to seek volunteers who not only understand business but also appreciate the importance and significance of a balance sheet and profit and loss statement. The truth of the matter is that sport, and squash is no exception, is attracting major corporate dollars as companies diversify their advertising and promotional budgets. As more revenues come into the sport coffers, the game gains in visibility, credibility and profitability. There is one more 'bility' that must then become part of the equation — accountability.

*...they must be prepared to manage the association as a business*

People volunteer for a myriad of reasons. Some, out of a true feeling of wanting to help and give back to a sport or organization from which they have gained. Some, out of a need to be needed

and still others, because they want the 'prestige' and title which go with an executive position. Weeding out the good volunteer from the bad can be difficult and, in some organizations, once the volunteer is firmly entrenched in the system, it is virtually impossible to 'relieve' him or her of their duties.

Those people who volunteer to serve on regional executive committees, provincial or national Boards of Directors, must do so recognizing that they are there to serve the membership and organization as a whole. There is no room for parochialism at the board table. They must do what is best for the association even though some provincial or national policy decisions may not be well received by a particular faction of the organization. If committee members are elected to serve, then serve they must — this is when the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few.

The other attitude which must go is the one which looks at government funding as though it were monopoly money. The Ministry which funds sport is becoming more and more concerned with just how, where and why its money is being spent and quite rightly. What many volunteers fail to realize is that government money became government money because we, the taxpayers, gave it to them. So, in effect, it is ours and these volunteers are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that our tax dollars are spent as wisely and effectively as possible. Boards cannot blithely ignore growing deficits or questionable expenditures. They must be prepared to manage the association as a business — the members should not only expect this type of approach but should demand it.

Over the next several months, Squash Ontario's regions will be holding annual meetings at which time new executive committees will be elected. This is the time when those of you with a real interest in the development and promotion of the game can stand up and be

counted. We encourage you to bring your love of squash together with your business skills forward — we need you! The policies of a region are set by the executive committee members and, if you care enough, you'll get involved. If you want change, you'll get involved.

*...if you care enough, you'll get involved.  
...if you want change, you'll get involved...*

Squash Ontario will also be looking to elect a slate of Board members. The Nominating Committee, chaired by past president Anne Smith, will be looking for five people to direct the affairs of the association over the next year. The annual meeting for Squash Ontario has been set for Saturday, June 4th in Toronto. Voting delegates from all seven regions will be present to elect the new Board and discuss the policies and directions the association will enact and take over the next year. These voting delegates are those which are elected at the regional level so, whether you are a player or a club owner, if you want your voice to be heard, this is the first step. The opportunity to serve is there — is the commitment? ●

*Gerry Gussow*



CHARITY SQUASH CHALLENGE

# EVERYONE WAS A WINNER!

BY JAN ATKINSON



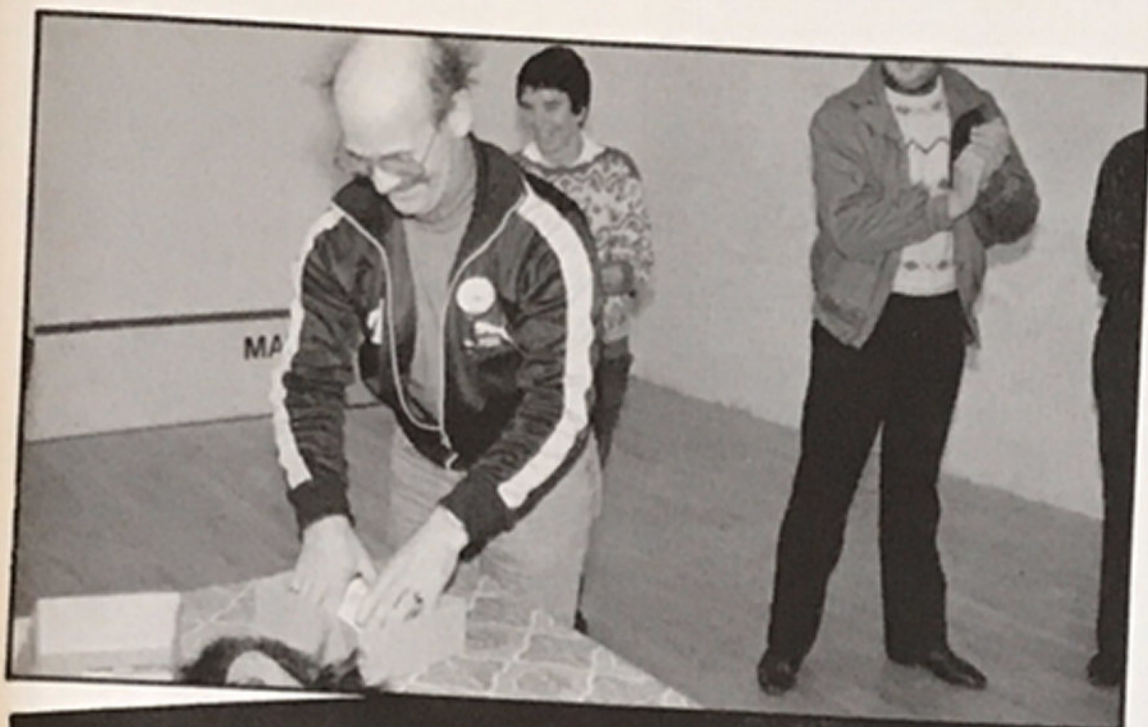
SUE GODFREY (RIGHT) AND 'DUDLEY' OF CANINE VISION ACCEPT YOUR CHEQUE.

The celebrations that took place on February 27th and 28th were six months in the making. One hundred and twenty squash players descended on Mayfair Parkway Racquet Club to participate in the grand finals of the Amstel Light Charity Squash Challenge.

Since September, clubs throughout Ontario have been holding club events to raise money for Canine Vision Canada. At the same time these players were vying for the right to represent

their club at one of eight Regional Championships. Competition was fierce at the January Regionals to earn a spot in the Provincial Championships.

This was the third year of Amstel Brewery Canada Limited's sponsorship of this program and each year has brought with it something new. This year marked the arrival of the Regional Team Championships. Points were awarded to every player based on their final placing within each of the fourteen separate events. At the end of the two



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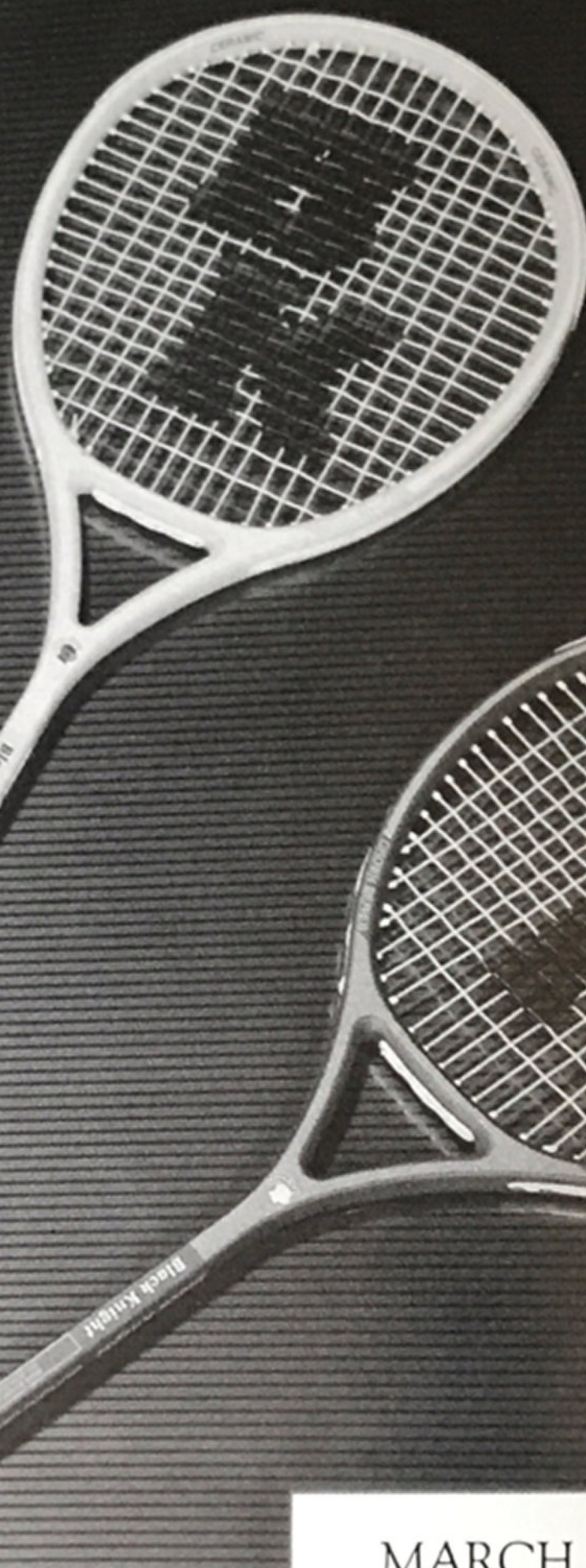
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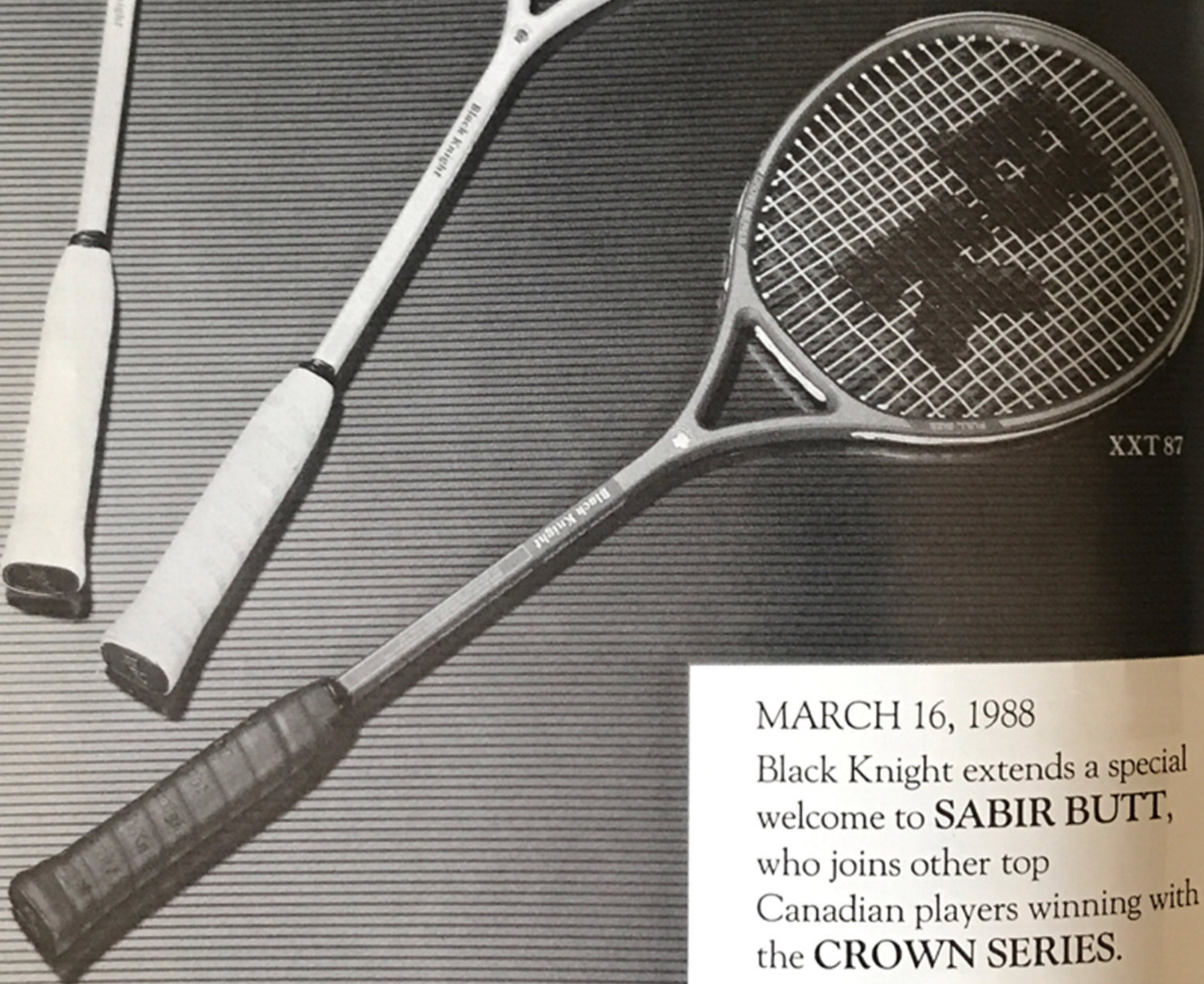
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GT 87



XT 87



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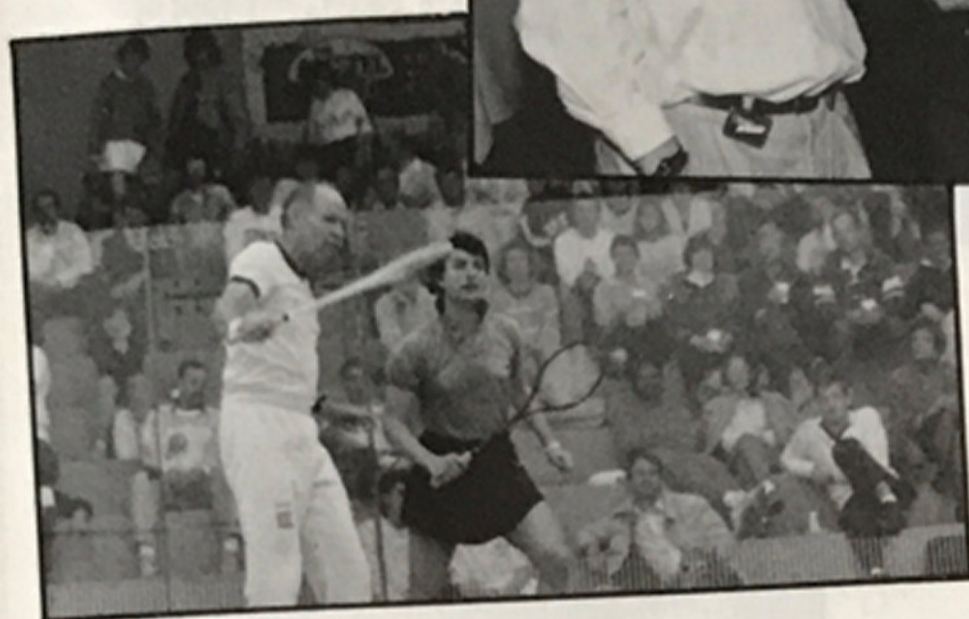
MARCH 16, 1988

Black Knight extends a special welcome to **SABIR BUTT**, who joins other top Canadian players winning with the **CROWN SERIES**.

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day competition all of the points were quickly added up to determine the overall winning Region. The final standings were very close with Toronto & District West winning by a narrow margin. Tied for second place were Ottawa & District, and Toronto & District East. Each of the fourteen representatives received a specially designed Amstel sweatshirt as a reward for their efforts.

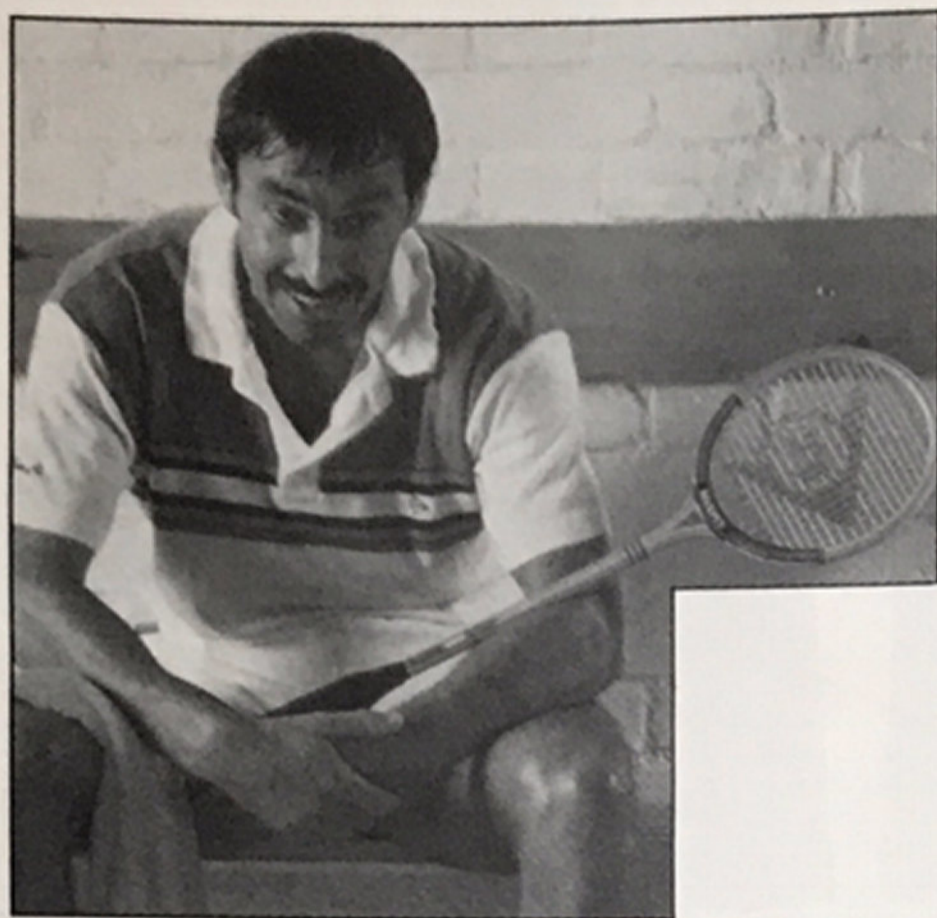
The Club Professional Event was back for a third year. The \$2,000.00 prize money event is by invitation only and that invitation was well deserved by each of the eleven competitors. Any club with 75 or more entries in their club Charity Challenge was invited to participate. The result is a mix of playing professionals, teaching professionals and activity directors, male and female. These eleven club professionals represented over 35% of the total province-wide participation. The consolation event was won by Nancy Cranbury of the Hamilton Squash & Fitness Club. Nancy twice defeated Mark Sachvie of the White Oaks Tennis & Racquet Club in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Nancy had previously defeated Mark in the first round of the championships. She was fed back into the consolation after a five-game loss to Mayfair Lakeshore's Barbara Diggins. Tony Swift of the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club finished in third place with a four-game win over Barbara Diggins. The final of the Club Professional Event saw a familiar face in a familiar place. For the third year in succession, Northfield's Ralph Bentfeld

was runner-up in the Club Professional Event. This year Ralph was bridesmaid to Steve Wren. Steve's presence in the event was the result of a series of mishaps. Steve is the very popular pro at the Curzons Sporting Club (formerly Carlson Court). He had well over one hundred members in his club Charity Challenge ensuring his place in the Club Professional Event when disaster struck. The club was robbed, with the culprit making off with the proceeds for Canine Vision Canada and Steve's invitation. Meanwhile, at The Adelaide Club in downtown Toronto, Margaret Boselli ran a very successful Charity Challenge ensuring her place in the Club Professional Event when disaster struck. Margaret suffered a back injury, sidelining her from participation in the event. It was a case of good news, bad news. Margaret contacted Steve and, well, the rest is history. The young New

Zealander entertained the packed gallery with a brilliant display of squash. He won the final in just under an hour, joining previous champions Gordon Anderson and Jeff Sneyd.

There was more to be won than the squash. The judging might be as incomprehensible as that in figure skating, but this year there was an outright winner in this, the sixteenth event of the Amstel Light Charity Squash Challenge. Northern Ontario won the Saturday night party by a huge margin! The evening began with a Happy Hour hosted by Amstel, followed by a buffet dinner. After the hungry mob devoured absolutely every last morsel, the party got underway. Mayfair's own Joe Taggio was our disc jockey and also orchestrated the lucky draws for the many prizes donated to this event. The party went well into the night at Mayfair and was continued at the host hotel, the Chimo,

*Squash is my life!*  
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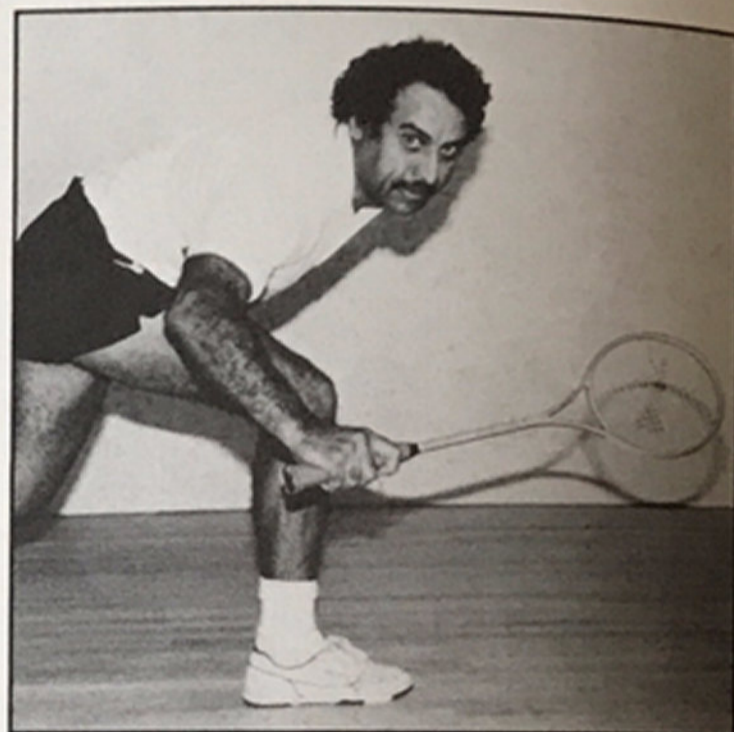
JONAH BARRINGTON

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Fans will be on the edge of their seats as the display of shot making will dazzle the club player. But their real enjoyment will come from the stories both stars will relate off-court, drawn from the decades of being part of squash's world growth.

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which is fortunately within staggering distance of Mayfair.

The real winner this weekend was Canine Vision Canada. Sue Godfrey and her side-kick Dudley were presented with a cheque for \$28,000.00. Canine Vision Canada proved to be a popular charity with Ontario squash players. Ontario is the leader in Canadian squash regarding eye protection and the choice of charity was a natural one. We hope that we have helped in some small way to promote Canine Vision Canada and the marvelous mission that this charity has.

An event like this couldn't be possible without the help and co-operation of a very large number of people and organizations. Special mention to Bill Warren, our referee-in-chief, and all of the staff at Mayfair Parkway, particularly Wendy Wontner and Pat Carpignano. Thank you also to the following companies for their sponsorship support:

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 We couldn't do it without you. Hope to see you all again next year! ●

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Men's "B"	John Power	Central Ontario
Men's "C"	Bill Buckton	Southwestern Ontario
Men's "D"	Gary Walker	Toronto & District West
Men's Novice	Jay Playter	Toronto & District West
Men's 35+	Richard Fleming	Northern Ontario
Men's 40+	Rick Stevens	Toronto & District East
Women's "A"	Cathie Reid	Toronto & District East
Women's "B"	Jo-Anne Reed	Ottawa & District
Women's "C"	Elaine Arthur	Southwestern Ontario
Women's "D"	Katie Goodchild	Southwestern Ontario
Women's Novice	Caroline Feather	Toronto & District West
Women's 35+	Anne Smith	Southwestern Ontario
Women's 40+	Penny Glover	Ottawa & District
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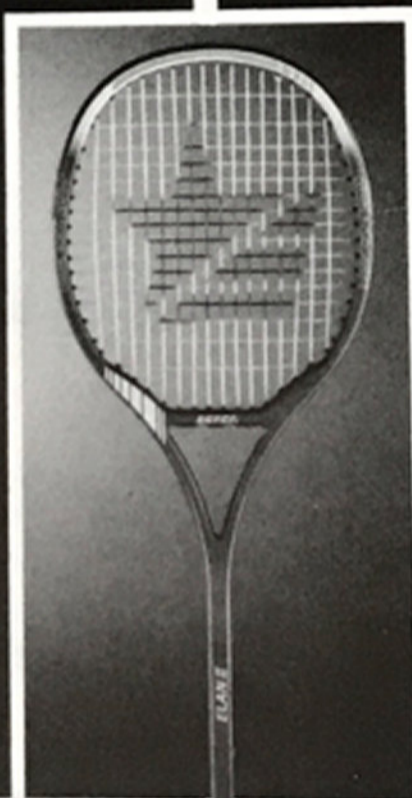
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# ONTARIO JUNIORS EXCEL ABROAD

BY JOHN POWER

While most of us were recovering from Christmas festivity and beginning to make our New Year's resolutions, two of Ontario's finest young squash players were making their way to London, England in search of top international competition.

Our two travellers, Sabir Butt and Jonathan Power, immediately found the competition they were seeking in the National Westminster Bank British Junior Championships. The tournament began 2 Jan 88 and was just for boys in the under 19, 16 and 14 categories, a total of 160 aspiring champions in all.

Sabir, already with significant international acclaim, was the number two seed in quest of the coveted Drysdale Cup. A truly international group of young players tested his well-honed skills but the Mississauga resident gave up only one game to Israel's #1, Tal Benschacher, in his march to the final. A packed house turned up at the Lambs Club in London to see two of the finest young players in the game today. Sabir's opponent and number one seed was Del Harris, Britain's current golden boy who recently completed a sweep of the British under 23 and National Closed Championships. He was also endeavouring to make this his fourth consecutive trip to the Drysdale Cup winners circle. The match, played with a double yellow dot ball, provided the audience with an awesome display of all court squash particularly in the front of the court. Sabir, forced into more errors than normal and showing a slight lack of patience, succumbed 9-3, 9-5, 9-4 to England's hopeful replacement to the last world champion from Britain, Jonah Barrington.

Meanwhile, our provincial and national under 14 champion Jonathan Power, was getting his first taste of the depth of the British Junior Squash program. After giving up only three points in the first round, Jonathan, clearly showing the effects of a transatlantic

flight, ran out of steam after being up 2-0, 4-0 to a determined Adam Purs-glove from Portsmouth. Adam bolstered by the win, went on to beat the number four and two seeds before succumbing to Justin Rennie in the final. It is interesting to note both these boys by virtue of their birthdays would be under 16 players in Canada.

Jonathan, philosophical about his first ever loss to a boy in his own age category spent the next few days resting and practicing with the hope of redeeming himself at the Surrey Open the following weekend.

Jonathan, from Borden, Ontario and a member of the Barrie Racquet Club, was unseeded in the draw of 32.

The Canadian Champ rolled through the competition without too much difficulty. A mental lapse in the second round with number two seed Lee Finegold, cost Jonathan the first game, however, he went through that match and the rest of the tournament without dropping another game including a 3-0 victory in the final against England's #3 Joshua Logan.

Sabir, staying at the home of Rahmat Khan continued his daily dose of hard training in preparation for the next I.S.P.A. tournament in Belgium before returning home to represent Canada at the Mennen Cup.

Congratulations lads on a fine international performance! ●

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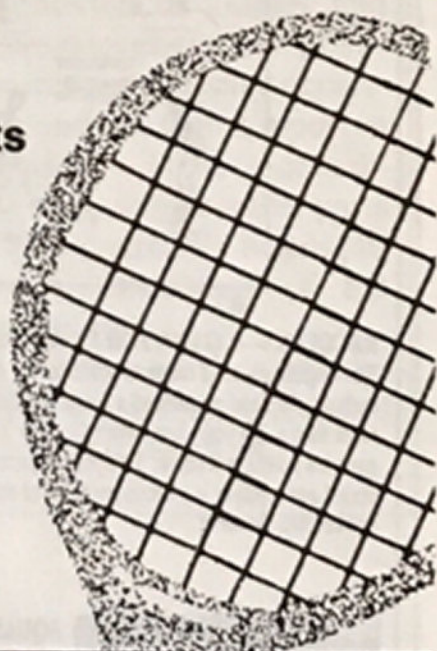
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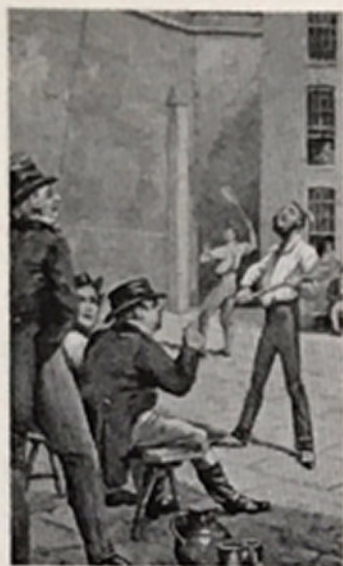
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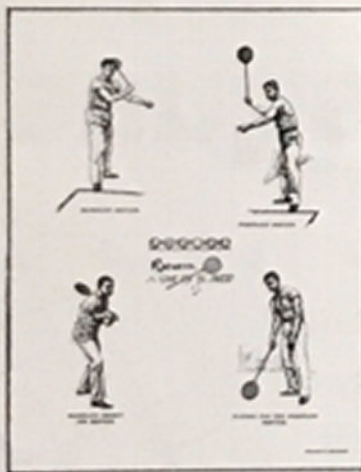
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**DEBTOR'S PRISON**  
(9" x 12")

The first game of racquets was played against a single wall within the Debtor's Prisons of England prior to 1800. The most famous Debtor's Prison was the "Fleet" referred to by Charles Dickens in the "Pickwick Papers".



**RACQUETS—A GAME FOR EX-ATHLETES** (12" x 16")  
The English game of racquets made its way to New York as early as 1793 and maintained a feeble and fitful existence until more than a 100 years later when the New York Racquet Club gave it a permanent home. This print depicts the clothing of the period and a player in various positions of readiness to serve and receive the serve.



**SQUASH RACQUETS AT HARROW**  
(9" x 12")  
The Harrow School in England is credited with the invention of the game of squash racquets. In the late 1800's, while waiting to enter the hard racquets court, the boys playing in the courtyard of the Headmaster's house invented a soft "squashy" ball to avoid breaking windows.

**THE BELVEDERE RACQUETS COURT**  
(16" x 12")

The single wall version of racquets quickly expanded outside of the Debtor's Prison and was most popular in the early 1800's in Ireland. This print depicts a 45' high wall and four men are playing within a designated area 45' x 60' long.



**THE CHAMPIONSHIP COURT OF THE NEW YORK RACQUET CLUB**  
(12" x 9")

By the early part of this century, racquets and squash racquets were becoming firmly established as the excellent games they are now known to be. This print illustrates active play being observed by several interested observers in the gallery.



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# KITCHENER, A THRIVING DOUBLES COMMUNITY

BY MICHAEL TAYLOR

The 1988 Ontario Men's "C" Doubles Squash Championship was hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Racquet Club on the weekend of February 5-7 with a draw of nineteen teams. Teams from Toronto, Hamilton, London and, of course, Kitchener were participating.

As with any tournament organized and run by K-WRC squash professional, Sandy Morgan, this event ran smoothly, on time and provided both spectators and players with excellent, competitive squash. The draw was comprised of players ranging from senior and veteran status to those in their early twenties. One team from the Sharif Khan Racquet Club entered, never having played doubles before and were defeated 15-0 in their very first game. Learning from this humbling experience, they managed several points over the next two games before being relegated to the consolation singles draw.

As might be expected, the strong doubles programme at the K-WRC produced the finalists in the tournament with the young team of Peter Maule and Jamie Allen capturing the title in three games over veterans, Bill Herzog and Terry Reidel. It is interesting to note that in 1967, when Herzog and Reidel began their partnership, the most serious matter in the minds of Maule and Allen was not squash but toilet training.

A consolation hardball singles event was also offered and produced a final, again featuring members of the host club. Bob Franks required five hard fought games to defeat clubmate Dave Tartaglia.

Throughout the weekend the social side of doubles squash was not ignored, with the Saturday and Sunday luncheons at the club washed down with a large amount of the official tournament beverage, Foster's Lager from Carling O'Keefe. ●

# ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS SQUASH OVERCOMES POLITICS

Kuwait was the recent host of the 1988 Asian Championships attended by thirteen nations and yours truly. Between the 20th and 30th of January, we saw teams and individuals in action from Pakistan, Lebanon, Singapore, India, Jordan, Qatar, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Palestine, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and, of course, Kuwait.

With the full patronage of the Amir, H.H. Sheik Jaber Al-Ahmad and the 27-year-old, squash playing Sheik Fahad Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah, we were in for the full "Royal Treatment" including first class hotel, cars and drivers for everyone, superb clubs and the excellent all glass show court. All were generously provided at the expense of the Kuwait Squash Federation.

Kuwait is a progressive sporting nation with all the major squash clubs employing two professional coaches (either Pakistani or Egyptian). Imagine going to your club and playing Gogi Alauddin every day — this is now a reality in Kuwait! The results of this far-sighted injection of facilities, cash and excellent coaches by the Kuwaiti government is now bearing fruit. Kuwait is developing a very powerful group of young players.

But what of the other nations who attended? Lebanon, a country torn apart by civil war; yet it produced a group of excellent players fluent in Arabic, English and French, who are a real credit to their nation. Iraq, also engaged in a long and bloody war with their neighbours, Iran, are producing fine players from the only courts in Iraq, at the Bagdad University School of Physical Education. But there are plans for more. Another strife torn country was present, Sri Lanka, confirming to all who enquired that the Tamil problems had not ground the country to a halt. Bangladesh, not exactly overflowing with wealth, subject to interminable periods of droughts



**ROGER EADY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OF THE I.S.R.F.**

and floods, also sent a team to these Championships.

The gathering of so many nations did re-emphasize the value of regional championships in stimulating growth and interest in the game. Like the European Championships, they are a focal point for help and advice, exchange of ideas and competition.

During my stay, I was tempted to take up the offer of a certain Dr. Mohammed, to go fishing on his boat in the Gulf. He did warn me that the nearby islands were no longer safe as they were regularly occupied by members of the revolutionary guard. Having no desire to become the press-ganged development officer for squash in Iran, I declined his generous offer. He suggested that we cruise away from

the islands, but I had a vision of an Iraqi pilot mistaking us for a large "naval target" and rocketing us into the arms of Allah!!

And so to other news on the International front. Squash has been included in the list of fifteen Commonwealth Games sports. However, it does not necessarily follow that future host cities will include squash in their final list of ten out of fifteen approved sports. Victoria is bidding for the 1994 Games against Delhi and Cardiff, so, Canadian friends, you need to do some lobbying on the Pacific coast.

Still no news on our bid for inclusion as a demonstration sport in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. We made our presentation to the Organizing Committee in December 1987 and it may be another four months before we receive a reply.

Inclusion of squash in the Canada Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games does ensure that politicians and government treasury departments can demonstrate their support in more positive ways — injection of cash. This is already happening in other parts of the world and is certainly helping to stimulate greater awareness of the game in new countries.

Perhaps by the time for the next issue of Squash Life, we will have received good news from Barcelona. ●

## Tennis - The rich life

by **BROWNING**

# AGAINST ALL ODDS

BY SHERRY FUNSTON

You'd think, after ten years, the staging of the Mennen Cup would be as easy as falling off a log. The eight man, round robin format established a decade ago was again being used. It features the top player from eight countries and is unique to a squash event. The prize money was increased to a purse of \$75,000 with \$25,000 going to the overall winner. So, what could be easier? To organizer Trevor Marshall, the answer was "many things". The night before the event was to begin, the venue, Carlson Court, changed ownership and became the Curzons Sporting Club. New management and new telephone numbers made life somewhat difficult and, for a while, the only thing that reigned supreme, was confusion. And, when the draw was announced, where was Jansher Khan, the reigning world champion? This had all the earmarks of a disaster but instead, only served to heighten the interest and suspense, making it one of the most successful Mennen Cups to date.

The field was an impressive one, even without Jansher Khan. It featured Jahangir Khan from Pakistan, Ross Norman of New Zealand, Mario Sanchez of Mexico, Singapore's Peter Hill, Ned Edwards representing the United States, Canada's own Sabir Butt and the new kid on the block, England's Del Harris, purported to be the next Jonah Barrington. Back to mark the tenth anniversary of the Mennen were two of the most popular players in the history of squash — Geoff Hunt and Sharif Khan. A special rematch between the two of them prior to the start of play raised \$1,500 for Ronald McDonald House. History really does repeat itself as Sharif won the match just as he did ten years ago.



THE "CONQUEROR" IS BACK! JAHANGIR WINS HIS SIXTH CONSECUTIVE MENNEN.

Play throughout the week went pretty much according to world rankings and armchair pundits. After all was said and done Jahangir Khan and Chris Dittmar were set to face each other in the finals.

Each won their matches easily — neither really threatened at all throughout the week.

Dittmar took to the court feeling that there were several factors in his favour.

*Squash is my life!*  
by BROWNING

The Mennen was being played under American scoring with a two inch lower tin. Coupled with that was Jahangir's new 'beatability' and, although Dittmar has had little success against Khan in the past, he really felt he was in with a chance this time. The spectators might have concurred as, in the first game, Chris chipped away at an early Khan lead to win it 15-13. Dittmar is a big man, standing just over 6' and weighing 180 lbs and consequently is not fast, particularly at the front of the court. He also prefers an unhurried brand of squash. Khan, who has beaten him in their last two meetings, picked up the pace considerably in the second game, refusing to stand at the back of the court and slug it out with the Australian. He put an enormous amount of pressure on Dittmar completely disrupting his game plan. Dittmar, unable to hit any length without Khan cutting it off, lost the second game 15-5 and the third, 15-9. It was do or die for him in the fourth and his inability to gain any ground on Khan increased his frustration resulting in several temper tantrums. Punching the glass wall and dropping and kicking his racquet only served to hasten his demise and Khan took the game and his sixth consecutive Mennen title in just under an hour.

Jahangir looked as though he had dropped some weight which made him lightening quick at the front of the court. Although he says his fitness level is below what he would like it to be, it was enough that day. He appears to be serving notice that he is 'hungry' again and that, together with his recent wins over world champion, Jansher Khan, make him a force to be reckoned with. "The news of his death has been greatly exaggerated".

Mennen is unique among sports sponsors. It takes its commitment to squash seriously; hence its celebration of a decade in the game. The Mennen Cup has been innovative in both its format and style — the eight man, round robin, the American scoring, the annual increase in prize money — all have added to the success of the Mennen year after year. One can only hope that Mennen feels it has achieved as much from its sponsorship as have the players and spectators. With only the Canadian Open enticing the world's top players to Toronto, the Mennen is an intricate part of the world circuit. It has continually provided us with great excitement and brilliant squash — let us hope this is not the end of a decade but the beginning of a new one. ●

## JAMAICA TO HOST CANADIAN JUNIORS

Canadian players under 21 years of age will travel to sunny Jamaica to play in the first Caribbean-Canadian International Squash Tournament. The event takes place July 7 to 10, 1988.

Tournament Director Philip Clarke plans to bring together sixteen of Canada's nationally ranked players and an equal number of top players gathered from seven different Caribbean nations.

The event is based on an exchange between the rising athletes of the participating countries. The precedent was set by the Jamaican national junior team when they visited Canada in '86 and '87 to play in clubs across Ontario. They met and played some of Canada's best and really benefitted from the exposure to quality, foreign competition.

During the 1987 tour the Canadians voiced an interest in playing in the Caribbean. The Jamaicans were all in favor of the idea. It would give them the opportunity to reciprocate the hospitality and good sportsmanship displayed by their Canadian hosts.

It promises to be a fun and highly beneficial experience for all the participants. Of special importance is the draw format. Tournament organizers are working toward enabling each competitor to play five matches over the course of the three day event.

The budgeted sponsorship is \$15,000.00 Cdn. There will not be prize money. Instead every effort is being made to reduce the expense to the visiting players. The experience and trophies are to be the valued prizes. ●

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# BON SOO SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

...a continuing success

BY KEN OJEER

Richard Fleming may be a little older but he's no less cunning as his opponents at Sault Ste. Marie's YMCA discovered February 5-7. "I'm not that quick or fit any more so I have to play a smarter game to stay competitive," said the 38-year-old Fleming after disposing of Renzo Trozzo 9-3, 9-7, 9-5 to clinch his fourth straight Open title at the Bon Soo Squash Championships. Although Fleming concedes he lacks the physical assets of many of his opponents, the veteran compensates with technical precision and the use of energy-conserving strategies.

"This is the most exciting year for me since I've been here because I'm really feeling pushed. Up 'til now I've always felt I could save a losing situation by bearing down and playing very disciplined squash. But after two recent tournament losses, I'm no longer so sure," he said.

"I just wanted to use my youth against him — retrieve, get him tired, and force him into errors," said the 27-year-old Trozzo, the third ranked player in Northern Ontario. Fleming had other ideas, however, slowing the pace and making tight shots and cut-offs to stifle Trozzo's bid to make the match a marathon battle of endurance.

Despite the setback, Trozzo agrees the pack is closing in on Fleming, the top-ranked player in Northern Ontario since 1983. "I definitely think it's open this year as opposed to the past four where Richard really dominated," he said. "The competition is so fierce that everyone has to keep improving just to maintain their ranking."

Ken Ojeer used his quick volleying to advantage in defeating Peter Apostle in the battle for third place in the Open Division.

Results in the ladies' divisions in the order first, second, and if played, the consolation winner and runner-up, were: (A) Paige Mason, Nancy Gregory; (B) Laurie Verdone, Karen Coubrough, Tina Camirand, Michelle

Taillefer; (Novice) Mary-Ann Degregorio, Maxine Gendron.

Men's results were: (B) Bob Spence, John Corelli, Jim Hammond, Bob McCracken; (C) Mark Bordin, Peter

Schwarz, Peter MacPhail, Rick Wytsma; (D) Rick Yurich, Len Mizzi, Eric Cerilli, Jim Stitt; (40+) Bryan Drew, Larry Schleen, Jeff Colligan, Bob Rainbird; (50+) Jim Bodnar, Chris Sanders, Bill Suhay, Bud Godson; (Novice) Ron Gibras, Peter Chow, Joe Rosmus, Richard Yendell.

Among the many who assisted chairmen John Marrack and Ken Ojeer were John Clarke, Jeff Colligan, Ann Marrack, Gloria Ojeer, Dean Pauli, and Jim Stitt. Saturday night's dinner/dance was an elegant affair at the Algo Club. The sponsorships of Travel Service, Molsons, and Slazenger were crucial to making the Bon Soo a successful tournament. ●



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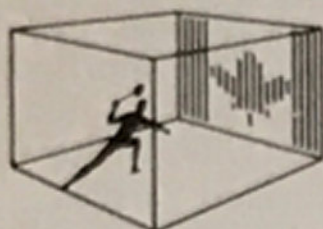
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## CANADIAN NATIONAL HARDBALL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

# TORONTO EVENT "MONTREAL" STYLE

BY JAN ATKINSON

The traditions of the hardball game were alive and well on the weekend of February 5th at the Toronto Lawn Tennis Club. The Xerox Canadian National Hardball Championships returned to the Lawn after a very successful stint at the Montreal Badminton and Squash Club. Tournament chairman, Tony Swift, witness to the Montreal extravaganza, knew he had a tough act to follow and vowed to spare no expense to duplicate Montreal's efforts. Easier said than done, but in Tony's typical drive for perfection he managed to do what was once believed impossible. He kept his promise and delivered some of that "Montreal magic" into his Toronto event.

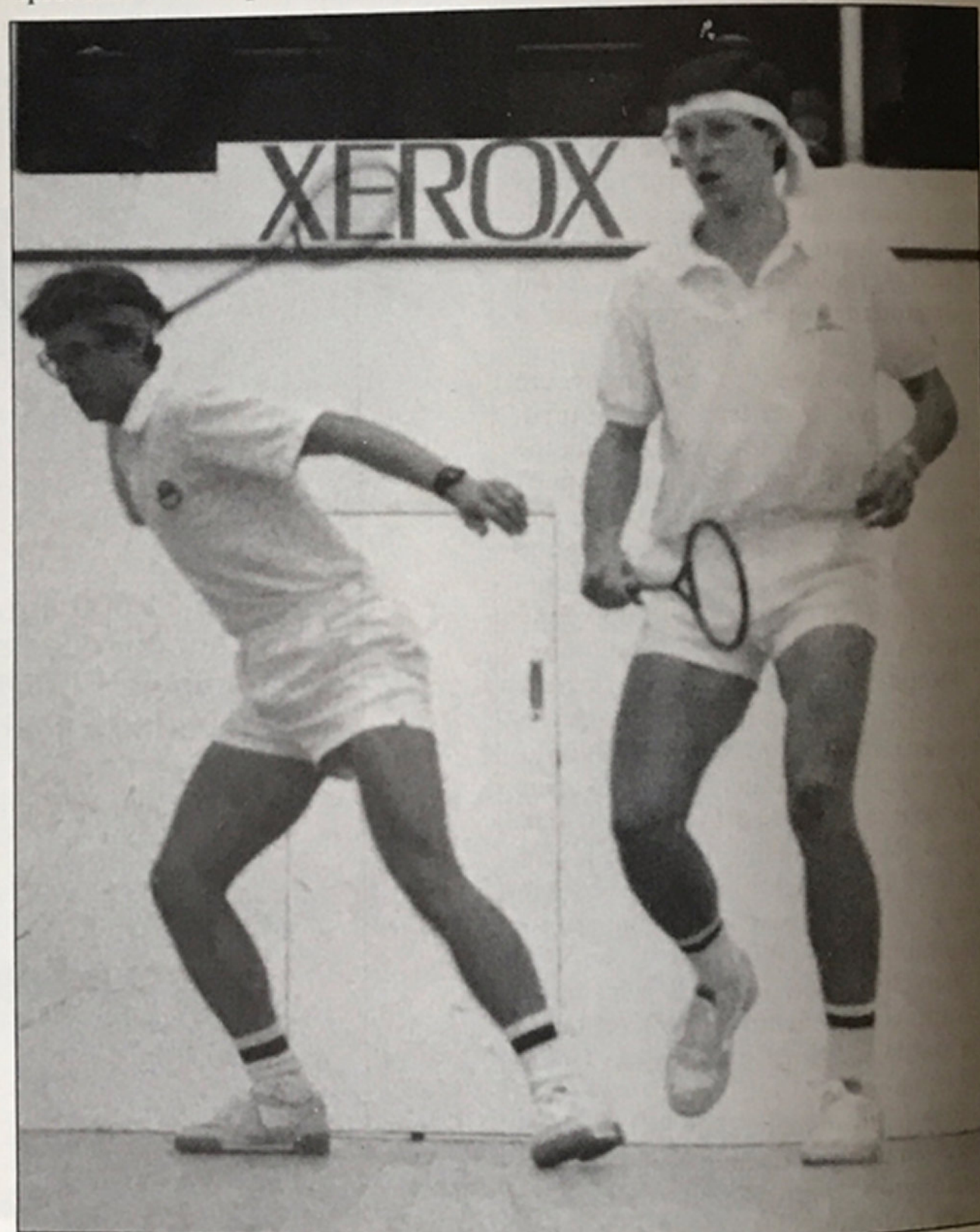
Xerox continued with its sponsorship of the event while Amstel Brewery Canada Limited helped with a good supply of a squash player's favourite pastime. The Championships were co-hosted by the nearby Badminton and Racquet Club. The largest draw, the men's open, was played in its entirety at the B&R, with the women's draw and the six age categories being played at the Lawn. All events were brought together at the B&R on Sunday for the finals.

Players were treated to a hot buffet dinner at the Lawn Friday evening while rekindling old friendships. The off court highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening festivities. Players and their guests gathered at the Lawn for a cocktail party which was followed by a multi-course dinner worthy of any five star restaurant. Immediately after dinner, the serious partying got underway. The live band had most people on their feet, dancing late into the night. A fine time was had by all and the party will be remembered as one of the best in Toronto squash history.

### Men's Open

The draw could have been renamed the University of Western Ontario Open. Jack Fairs and the Western Boys added considerable talent and numbers to the open draw. The major upset of the men's open occurred at the

semi-final stage. Defending champion Scott Dulmage was eliminated in five games by Paul Dunning, squash professional at the Badminton & Racquet Club. Paul opted to play in the open draw even though he was eligible for the over 35's. He quipped afterwards



MARK BARBER (RIGHT) OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO WINS NATIONAL SINGLES OVER PAUL DUNNING OF THE B&R.

that the competition in the 35+ was tougher. In the bottom of the draw, University of Western Ontario's Mark Barber found himself in a titanic struggle against Rob Dinerman of the U.S. The match lasted five games, leaving Barber, the eventual winner, with something to remember the match by. Mark got a little too close to Dinerman's racquet which resulted in several stitches to the eye area. The final was played to a packed gallery, largely filled by enthusiastic B&R members. Paul Dunning however, could not muster the firepower to counteract the assault coming from his opponent. An obviously delighted Mark Barber won the final and the title of Canadian National Champion, 15-7, 17-14, 15-11. The consolation was won by Mark Tredgett over Tim Bacon in a long five games.

#### Men's 35+

The draw may have been small, but the quality top notch. Defending champion, Tom Poor of Boston, was going for his tenth consecutive Canadian Over 35 Championship. In fact, the name of Tom Poor is the only one to appear on the trophy. There were, however, six others who were determined to end his reign. Friday evening witnessed Victor Harding avenge his defeat in the Ontario's against Sean McDonough. The match lasted almost one and a half hours, with Victor pulling it out in the fifth. Meanwhile, John Frederick squeaked past Boston's Malcolm Davidson, 18-16 in the fifth. John Frederick then came up against Bill Macdonnell in the semi-finals. Bill needed four games to advance to the final. The feature match of this draw was the semi between Tom Poor and Victor Harding. Both men are top left wallers in doubles and neither are known for their generosity of space on the squash court. The match never degenerated into the messy, territorial struggle as many had predicted. Instead both players displayed a respect towards each other and played an exciting and problem-free match. The first game went in the Bostonian's favour by a single point, 17-16. Victor, needing the fourth game to force the deciding fifth, appeared to have the momentum when the lights went out, literally. For over a half an hour the hydro malfunction continued and one had to speculate on which player the delay in action was favouring. The gallery was not to be denied a fifth and deciding game. Victor returned to the court and captured the

fourth game 15-12. The final game appeared to be going in the defending champion's favour from the start. In fact, with a commanding lead of 13-8, it looked like it was all over. Victor mustered all of his talents and kept chipping away at Poor's lead and brought the score to 13 all. Set five was called and it was a whole new ballgame. However, a classic 18-17 in the fifth was not to be as Tom Poor ran out five straight overtime points and he secured his spot in his tenth consecutive final. The Sunday final looked like a potential epic in the making. The first game went to Tom Poor with a score of 15-10. Bill Macdonnell rebounded to take the second by an

identical score. The third seemed to be the turning point in the match with Macdonnell squeaking out a 17-15 win. The fourth and final game was all business for Bill as he fairly cruised to a 15-8 win thus putting an end to Tom Poor's dynasty. Tom had stated after previous championships that he would continue to defend his title until some young upstart could wrestle it from him. Now that the reign has ended the question everyone is asking is, which event will the "Boy from Boston" play in, the over 40's or the over 45's? Scary! Sean McDonough finally exorcised the "ghost of championships past" in winning the consolation. Sean defeated

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**BOSTON'S TOM POOR CAN FINALLY ACT HIS AGE, BILL MACDONELL ENDED HIS REIGN AT NINE CONSECUTIVE 35+ CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Malcolm Davidson in straight games, thus avenging his first round loss to Malcolm at Montreal last year.

#### Men's 40+

A small draw grew even smaller through a default and an injury but the Sunday championship and consolation finals provided great spectator interest. Odds-on favourite Peter Hall of Hamilton lived up to his number one seeding but not without a struggle from Kit Tatham of the United States. Hall easily won the first game to seven points, but found the tables turned on him in the second game, earning only eight points. It was looking very much like yet another National Championship for the Hamiltonian in the fourth, but Kit dug deep, winning that game 15-13.

The deciding game can only be described as bizarre. Hall had at least six match balls but couldn't manage that single elusive point! Tatham levelled the score at 14 all and Hall called set three. After four games and twenty-eight points, it all came down to the best of five points. Kit, who had done so well to get to this stage, came out flat in the extra points, a bit like he thought he had already won the match. Much to Peter's credit, he kept his nerves in check and won the next three points to win the over 40 championship. Hall is another question mark for next year's championship. Will he defend his title or will he move into the next age group into which he is graduating?

The 40+ consolation final was a family affair for the brothers Frost. Peter and Paul entertained friends and family. As Tony Swift declared, it was a final between P. Frost and P. Frost, with P. Frost winning. The P. in this exchange belonged to younger brother Paul.

#### Men's 45+

Yet another small draw that became smaller due to injury. Third seeded Mike Whelpton was forced to withdraw before the tournament began. This set the stage for a final between Peter Hatcher of the Badminton and Racquet Club and the tournament chairman, Tony Swift. Swift won the first game in extra points, 18-15. Hatcher won the second game by a single point, 15-14. The third and pivotal game, saw Hatcher moving well, retrieving the best that Swift could throw at him. Peter earned a 15-13 win and easily won the fourth and final game over a dispirited Swift. Peter Hatcher was a gracious winner, acknowledging that Tony's efforts in orchestrating the event was a contributing factor in the outcome.

#### Men's 50+

George Morfitt made the trek from Vancouver to defend his title but it was not meant to be. George met his nemesis in the semis against a very youthful Bob Kerr. Bob put together a weekend of his finest squash, beating John Fuller, Morty Goldhar and George Morfitt all in straight games. Bob met a rather high hurdle in the final in the name of Gerry Shugar. Bob Kerr possesses one of the prettiest backhand, volley, reverse angles in the game if given the opportunity to play it. And therein lies the secret of Gerry Shugar. He knows only too well where the strengths and weaknesses are in his own game and his opponent's. The 50+ final came down to a fifth game where the doctor did what he does best. Bob Kerr is likely still scratching his head, wondering what happened. Consolation finalist, Clive Porter, put it so well when he commented that Gerry Shugar has the ability to show you a completely different game from the ones you have just played. He orchestrated the fifth game perfectly, taking the game to his opponent's weaknesses and at the same time capitalizing on his own strengths. There is a lot to be said about patterning. I think I'll rename Gerry Shugar, the Dr. Pavlov of Squash.

The consolation final of the 50+ event was won by the Cricket Club's Jim Adam, who had suffered a disap-

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pointing first round loss to a very talented Garry Gale. Jim was philosophical about his results. He reported on completing a rather unique "double". He was the consolation winner of both the National Soft Ball and Hardball 50+ Championships. He, in fact, has completed a unique "double squared". The very season before, he was main event finalist in both the National Soft Ball and Hardball 50+ Championships! Coincidence?

#### Men's 55+

Charlie Wright was the man of the hour in this event defeating Bob Mason of the Toronto Racquet Club in the final. The match lasted three games with close scores of 17-14, 15-11, 17-15. Bob had upset Ontario 55+ Champion, Bill Bewley, in the semis, needing five games to do the job. Charlie ousted Hamilton's Don Leggat in a three game semi. Fittingly, the consolation was won by Jim Bentley who had lost in five games to Wright in the first round. Consolation finalist was Dick Willemson.

#### Men's 60+

The Toronto Racquet Club's Ken Lane needed four games in the final to win yet another national title. His

opposition was a familiar face in club mate, Bob Puddy. Ken has won more national championships than many have even played in. I might add that his athletic prowess is not limited to squash. When the lakes and rivers are relieved of the icy covering that winter brings, Ken can be found rowing and canoeing his way to even more sporting achievements.

#### WOMEN'S OPEN

The seedings had no bearing on the final outcome in the Women's Open. The event attracted a total of nineteen entries, the largest draw since the category was resurrected in 1984. Players came from Washington, Ottawa, Hamilton, Toronto and a group from the University of Western Ontario. On Saturday morning, all four seeds took a graceful exit. Defending champion Sue Smeaton was ousted by fifteen year old Margo Green of Ottawa while Jann Taylor was defeated by Cathy Covernton. Margo and Cathy continued their winning ways, subsequently defeating Jill Samis and Anita McMullin in the semi-finals.

The final was a see-saw battle with young Margo taking the first and third games while Cathy earned the second and fourth. The gallery was treated to

many long rallies which were ended with outright winners. The fifth game was closely contested with Margo eventually winning it 15-12.

The award presentations were held in the Trophy Room of the Badminton & Racquet Club. There was a special presentation made by Peter Frost, Past President of the C.S.R.A., to Jack Fairs of the University of Western Ontario. Jack was presented with the Special Achievement Award, recognizing his many years of hard work in squash. It was a fitting occasion to recognize Jack's contributions to the sport as the University of Western Ontario was so well represented in the men's and women's open draws. The champions all had an opportunity to say a few words. All acknowledged the great support that squash receives from Xerox. The sponsorship of the National Hardball Championships is only one example of Xerox's commitment to squash. Xerox supports events throughout North America in both the professional and amateur squash communities. With the financial support of Xerox and the organizational expertise of Tony Swift, the event was certain to be a success. Next year's hosts have a tough act to follow. ●

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# ONTARIO WOMEN WIN FIFTH TITLE

BY JOHN CUSHING

In this 10th anniversary of the Women's Team Squash Championship, sponsored for the first time by Waterford Wedgewood Canada, the Province of Ontario prevailed as the victorious team for the fifth time, the last four in a row. In fact, it was an all Ontario final by virtue of the host province entering two well balanced teams. Six other provinces entered teams of their top three players for a total of eight.

The first Ontario team was headed by Gail Pimm of Toronto, Nancy Cranbury, recently moved to Hamilton from the host Rideau Tennis and Squash Club in Ottawa, and Lori Coleman from Ajax, all selected from the results of the Ontario Closed in November. The second team was led by Ottawa's Heather Wallace who was unable to compete in the Ontario Closed, Cathy Covernton now residing in Toronto, and Shelley Harvey of Ottawa who replaced an injured Wendy Wontner of Toronto at the last minute.

The final was set up as early as the second round on Friday evening of the round robin when Shelley Harvey of Ontario No. 2 team edged Penny Wedd of British Columbia 3-2 to give them a lead. Wallace then played Joyce Maycock, and although expected to win, Wallace crushed Maycock, 9-0, 1, 9-2 to give Ontario the win over B.C. Andrie Levey beat Cathy Covernton for B.C.'s only win.

In the other major matchup in round 2, Ontario No. 1 team shutout Alberta 3-0. Nancy Cranbury led the way with a convincing 3-0 (9-7, 9-0, 9-7) win over Kelsey Lundmark to avenge her loss to Kelsey in the Canadian Women's Open in November.

The closest matchup in the first semi final was between Alberta and the Ontario No. 2 team. Kelsey Lundmark struggled from 5-7 in the fourth to win 9-8, and then proceeded to shutout ailing Cathy Covernton in the fifth. As expected, Heather Wallace won her

match over Paton, however, it was surprising how few points (3) Paton could win. However, Paton was not alone, as all of Wallace's opponents could only win no more than 3 points the entire match, and of a total of five matches, Wallace lost only 14 points.

With the match tied, Shelley Harvey played her usual consistent and hard-hitting style of squash and beat Cathy Brown 3-0 to advance the Ontario team to the Final.

In the other semi final, Ontario No. 1 team defeated British Columbia 3-0. Nancy Cranbury crushed Andrie Levey 9-0, 9-2, 9-0; Gail Pimm did not let her concentration wander against Joyce Maycock and won 3-1, while Lori Cole-

man persevered against Penny Wedd and won, on a stroke, 9-7 in the fifth.

Waterford's generous contribution to the organization of this event enabled the women to be well treated and entertained. On Saturday evening, the women went to the Japanese Village, relaxed, and had an excellent dinner after their two days of intense squash. By Sunday, they were ready for the final matches of this team championship.

The most exciting match of the championship was between B.C.'s Joyce Maycock and Alberta's Amanda Paton in the second match for the 3rd/4th Playoff. Paton took the first two games 9-4, 9-3, and appeared to have the match won. However, in the middle of the third

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CAROL HEINDORF OF WATERFORD PRESENTS GAIL PIMM WITH HER PRIZE AS TEAMMATES NANCY CRANBURY AND LORI COLEMAN LOOK ON.

game, Paton let up on some rallies, and Maycock who never quits came back to win 9-6. She went on to take the fourth

9-0 for the showdown in the fifth. It was close and tense all the way for both the players and supporting teammates.

Maycock had match point twice at 8-6 and 8-7, but Paton tied it at 8-8. There were 8 more intense rallies, but a combination of unforced errors by Paton and winners by Maycock enabled Maycock to win 10-9, and give B.C. the victory over Alberta with 2 matches won after Penny Wedd's win. Andrie Levey took the third match in another cliffhanger 9-6 in the fifth over Kelsey Lundmark.

In the Final between the two Ontario teams, the first match between the no. 3 seeds, Lori Coleman and Shelley Harvey would be the key match. As much as Harvey had been the spoiler in the second round, she did not play as well. Certainly Coleman's strategy to change pace during rallies with her soft lobs and delicate drop shots flustered Harvey's game plan. Lori led the way in all games, the first two were close (10-8, 9-7), but the third was 9-2. With the No. 1 team having a 1-0 lead, Heather Wallace as she had done all weekend played hard every rally, and never gave No. 2 ranked Gail Pimm a chance to rebound — the end result, a 9-0, 9-1, 9-0 win. The Final was tied, and perhaps it was only fitting for Nancy Cranbury, who had just left the host club, the Rideau, for the Hamilton Squash and Fitness Club, to play the deciding match in front of a partisan gallery. Nervous, Cranbury lost the first 6 points to Cathy Covernton, but she settled down, came back to win the first game 9-6. From then on, Cranbury kept Covernton off balance with deep cross courts and boasts. Covernton missed several boasts on the backhand hitting the tin, enabling Cranbury to win the next two games 9-3, 9-1, and give the Ontario No. 1 team the Waterford Inter-provincial Championship.

This is the third year in a row that Pimm and Cranbury have been on the victorious Ontario team. For Coleman, it is her first.

Waterford, for their first year in squash, has been an excellent sponsor. The prizes in terms of the permanent crystal trophy and the crystal vases to the winners were just outstanding. The competitors indeed hope that Waterford will continue to be the sponsor of this prestigious event for years to come.

A special thanks is extended to Barbara Sutherland who tackled the reigns as Tournament co-chairperson in Nancy Cranbury's absence, and with her Committee, organized an excellent tournament. The Committee is also appreciative of the assistance of Racquet Follie for the contribution of their well designed shirts for the competitors, and to Belisle Automobile Ltd. for providing transportation. ●

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# THE HISTORY OF SQUASH IN CANADA

BY GEORGE SPELVIN

It was Tuesday, 1850. The place was Harrow, an esteemed education centre, near London, England. The weather — rain as usual.

Clive: "Goodness, Lester, our tennis ball has shrunk in the rain."

Lester: "The rain is ruining my mascara anyhow. Let's go inside."

Clive and Lester went inside to the tennis bubble but as luck would have it the Harrow Geriatric Athletic Association had the court tied up in what could only be called a very slow-paced game.

"You'll have to play in the broom closet," the hall porter told the disappointed duo. But to the closet they went where they learned the delights of playing a shot off the back wall and bashing their wrists against the side wall on a backhand.

And so was born the game of "Squash Racquets" or simply "Squash".

But I hear you asking, "Where the Dickens did the name come from anyhow?" Some propose that the name comes from the "squashing" of the ball on a forehand drive. Others say it came from squashing Clive and Lester's game into the broom closet. Still others allude to the hubbard squash Clive stepped on when he exited the closet, both ruining his court shoes and the hall porter's dinner.

It turned out that tennis was a pretty poor game to play on the sailing ships that brought the British to Canada. The ball was constantly going over the side into the briny. As well, the cabin boy would frequently steal the net to drag for herring. Then when the net was used again the herring would be knocked all over the court by net balls and in that hot sun... well, I don't have to tell you just how horrible it was.

Squash once again saved the day. Turning the bosun's saloon into a court was just a matter of installing some tin on the walls. (The tin, and the use of it

to designate the out-of-bounds zone is linked to the tinned tuna carried on these immigrant ships.) Inside the ship the game proceeded punctuated only occasionally by seasickness or cannon fire from pirates. But quite often these vicious barbarian boarding parties brought another player or two, enriching the game as a whole.

Landing in Newfoundland, the ship's crew raced onshore to rejoice their arrival in the new land. Pretty soon "Newfie Squash" was invented where the tin was moved up the centre of the wall so it was a little easier to hit. Squash and squid jiggin' were pretty soon hand-in-hand.

In no time the game moved across the country. "Le squash" was popular in Quebec where a tiny "tortiere" was used instead of a squash ball and snow shoes were used for rackets. In some less polite establishments in Chicoutimi some of the more brazen "voyeur-de-bois" might enquire of a young damsel "Voulez-vous squasher avec moi, ce soir?"

"Certainment non, you cad!" the ladies would exclaim and the habitants would burst into colourful song and dance scattering hockey cards around the room. In English this came to be known as "courting".

Ontario took to the game more con-

servatively. The news paper of the time, the York Spam-Colonist notes "After church and tea with a maiden aunt, it is considered appropriate for the younger lot to indulge in a game of squash. In all cases female players should be clothed from neck to ankle and young men should refrain from using the spittoon. Cows should be kept off courts whenever possible."

With the coming of the railway, squash made its trek out to the golden west. Originally the courts were made of logs but players found the ball flew off at odd angles, making play erratic at best. By stacking wheat on the court floor, ambitious farmers could both play the game and do the thrashing. This was, of course, before International Harvester. Those big tall square buildings you still see dotting the prairie skyline originally housed squash courts, stacked to minimize land usage. Take the elevator to the third court the players would say and the name stuck.

Hauling the game of squash over the mountains to B.C. was by far the biggest challenge ever to the sport. Finally just over three dozen top squash players (who we remember as the forty 9ers) made their way across the mountains turning the nation into the giant squash game it now is. ●

*Badminton for life*

by *B* BROWNING



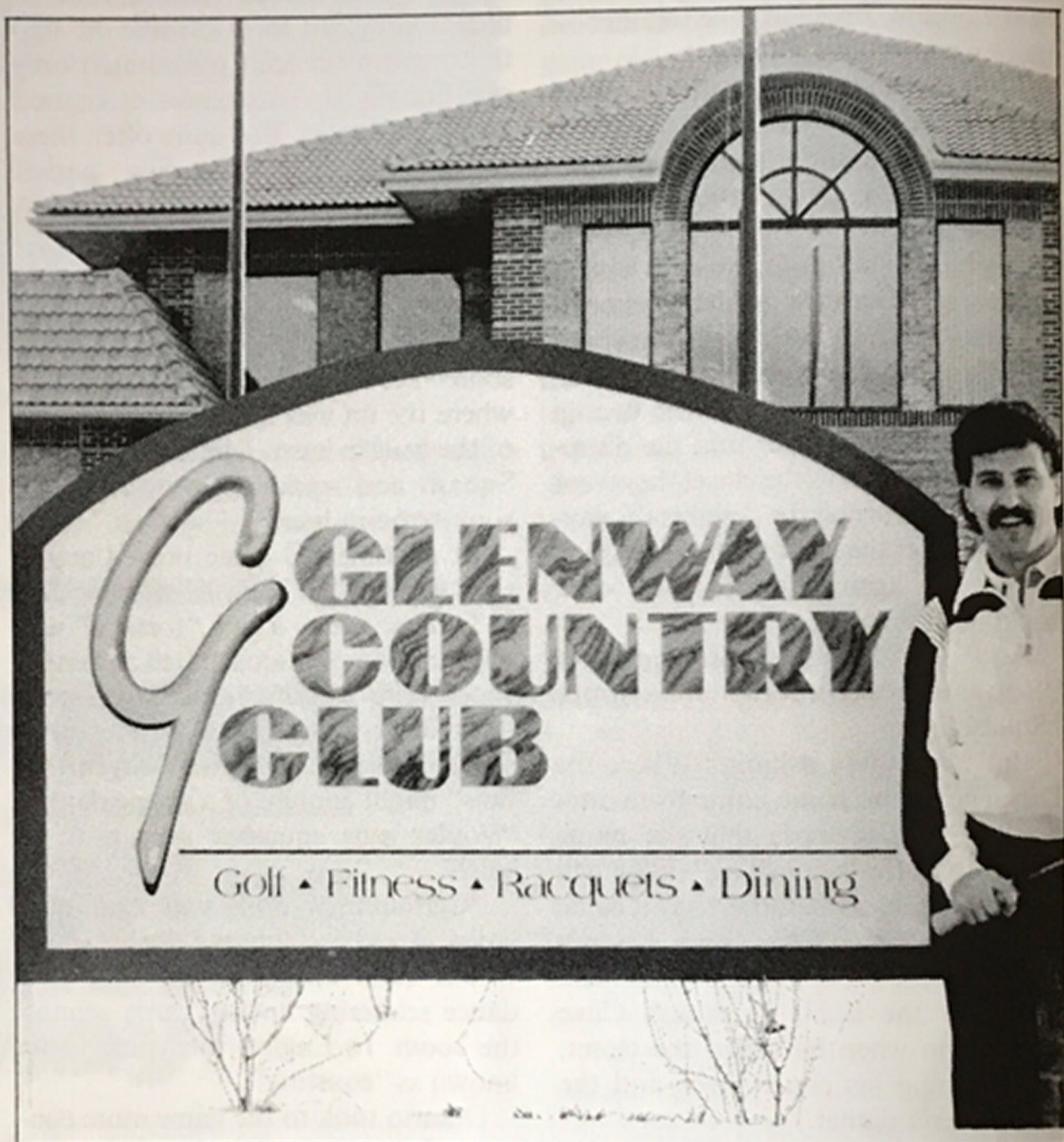
## FACILITY WITH A LIFESTYLE

Glenway Country Club is a quality, family oriented, year round recreational and social club offering its members activities and programs to suit every purpose in comfortable surroundings. Glenway is located in the fast growing community of Newmarket, easily accessible from Toronto by highways 400 or 404. The club is part of Glenway Estates and Country Club, a community planned and built by Glenway Builders Limited.

"The club was planned to offer its members the opportunity to participate in many sports and social activities and to encourage family involvement and fun!", says Gary Lester, General Manager.

The club features seven international squash courts, a fitness centre with multi-purpose weight room, pro shop, spa, outdoor pool, coffee shop, dining room, convention and banquet rooms for up to 350, and more. The "Tennis Dome", which houses four Plexi-Pave tennis courts, provides year round play in all weather conditions. The clubhouse fits beautifully into the community environment and is surrounded by the challenging 18 hole golf course. Cross-country skiing on the golf course and skating add to the list of sports programs to keep members active over the winter months. Glenway is a club where the whole family can take part in social and recreational activities together.

John Migliaccio, Head Racquets Pro/Manager is a certified squash and tennis professional. Before joining Glenway, John taught squash, tennis and organized special programs at the Richmond Hill Country Club. He also draws on his experience as Assistant Head pro at the Inn and Tennis Club at Manitou. He administers and programs all tennis and squash activities. Juniors from 4 to 17 are coached in



**JOHN MIGLIACCIO, HEAD RACQUETS PRO/MANAGER, STANDS PROUDLY BEFORE THE BEAUTIFUL CLUBHOUSE.**

skills, etiquette and general fitness.

The professional teaching staff provide adult clinics, club tournaments, "Challenge the Pro" events, house leagues, private and semi-private as well as group lessons, inter-club competitions as well as challenge ladders in tennis, squash and golf. In all of these programs the social aspect of the game is highlighted by the staff's efforts in arranging matches and making sure members are quickly made to feel comfortable.

Both the members and the friendly, dedicated staff of Glenway Country Club are very proud of the lifestyle created at the club. The concept of the future now thrives at Glenway Country Club.

*This space is reserved for member clubs of Squash Ontario. We invite clubs to participate by sending a short write-up and photographs to Squash Life. Reprints are available at minimal cost. For more information please contact Squash Ontario, (416) 495-4140. ●*