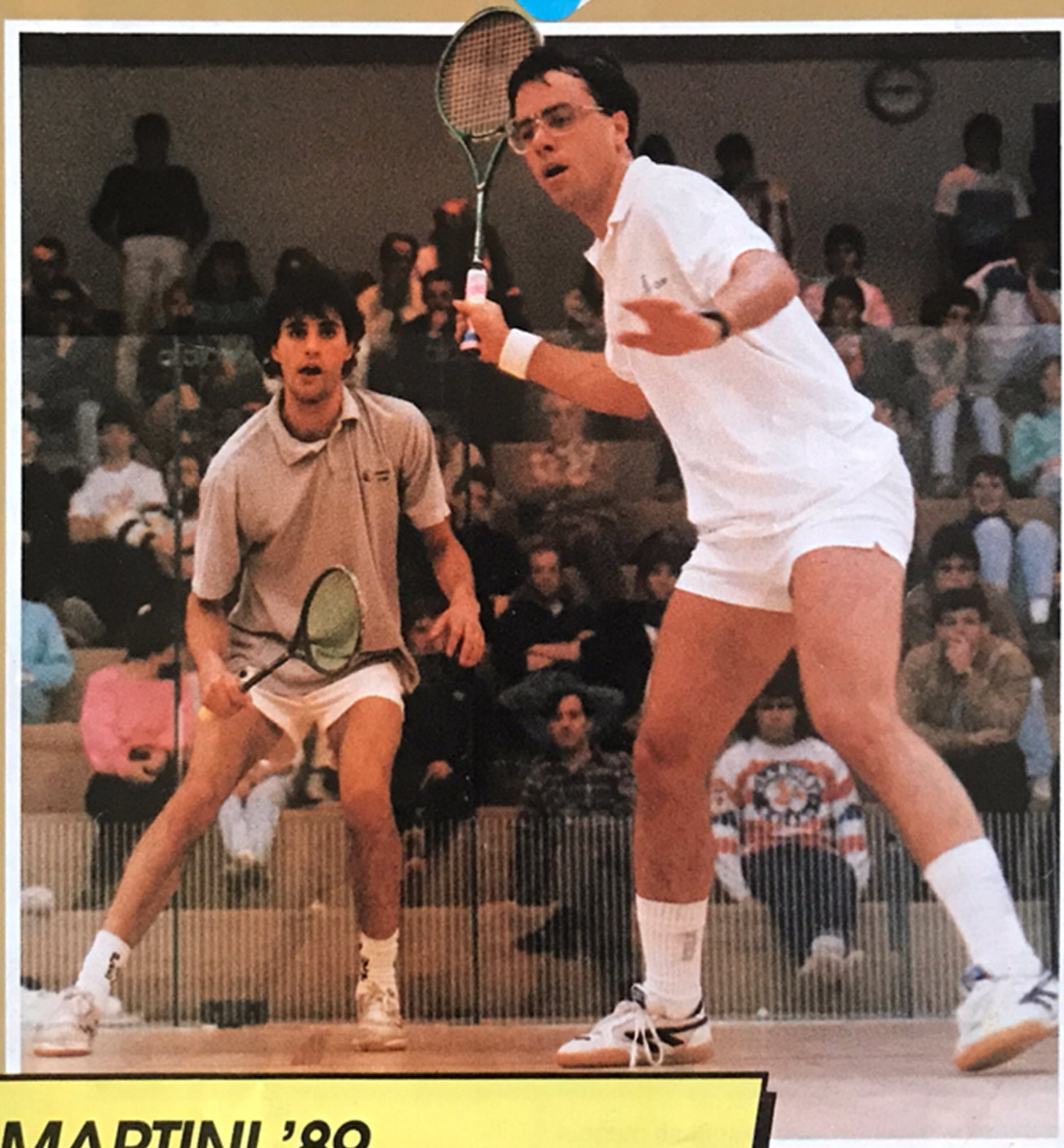


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SQUASH LIFE is published 5 times a year by Squash Ontario,

1220 Sheppard Avenue East, Willowdale, Ontario M2K 2X1. Telephone (416)495-4140 FAX (416)495-4310.

It is published to give voice to and promote squash in the province. We invite members of the sport community to contribute articles on every aspect of squash, and welcome readers' comments on the contents of this magazine. The contents of this publication may be reproduced or broadcast, provided credit is given **SQUASH LIFE** and author.

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Over 7,500 copies of **SQUASH LIFE** are distributed in bulk and on a complimentary basis to member facilities in the province, as well as to a number of clubs and associations across Canada.

VOLUME 13, NO. 2

DON'T TOUCH THAT CHANNEL!

by Joe Stewart

One does not have to be involved in squash for very long before the temptation arises to dive headlong into the debate concerning the state of the game. We argue about the rules, we heatedly discuss the pros and cons of squash on television. Why do clubs close? Why don't more juniors play? Why won't the government give Squash Ontario more money? We all have opinions, and so we should as such debates are healthy and necessary in the same way regular medical checkups are in maintaining the health of an individual.

However, it often seems to me that in these deliberations we fail to acknowledge a basic truth that must be continually recognized if any of the above is to have any relevance. Namely, as a sport, we are in competition with other sports. People in Ontario seeking fitness, recreation and fellowship have only so many dollars and so much time to spend in the pursuit of these goals. Our job is to convince them that squash represents their best investment.

To do this, we should first know who we're up against. Ask this question and most people automatically say tennis, and then, usually in the same breath, that if squash is to grow, it must be as successful on television as is tennis.

Tennis, through television, has become a spectator sport. The average couch potato can now watch a tennis match with interest, knowing they will probably never play the game. Will squash ever reach this state? I have my doubts, but whether I'm right or wrong doesn't matter here, because right now I'm sure we'd all agree squash does not presently enjoy that added benefit. But herein lies the key. There is a big difference between spectator sports and participatory sports.

As I've said, spectator sports appeal to individuals as entertainment. Almost all viewers know they will never play these sports, but they can still enjoy watching them in the same way they enjoy watching the Cosby Show, Cheers or Dallas. The biggest spectator sports in Ontario all fit into this category: hockey, baseball, football, and horse racing. Some of us may have played one or more of them as kids (the last one may have posed a problem) but those days are probably long gone now.

I can readily think of only two participatory sports which have gleaned significant benefits from television - tennis and golf. There are qualities that these sports possess which have helped them develop t.v. audiences, but they are qualities which squash does not now possess. But that does not need to hold us back because, as we all know, at the participatory level, squash can compete with either of these sports.

Participatory sports do not automatically need television to gain mass recognition. When did you last watch "This Week in Jogging" or "Aerobics Night in Canada"? Neither of these activities have required television to become popular, and they are our real competition. Right now, we want participants - not spectators. Spectators translate into increased tournament purses but participants means a larger pool from which to increase playership.

There are probably six arbitrary standards by which to measure the success of sports today. Does it offer fitness maintenance or improvement; is it both mentally and physically challenging at all skill levels; does it offer mass participation; is it easy to learn; is it easy to get involved and does it offer individual or group play? How an activity succeeds or fails to succeed in all of these categories dictates its popularity. So, how does squash

measure up when compared with the competition? It is obviously one of the best forms of all round exercise a person can get - top marks! Like golf, a squash player always believes the perfect stroke is attainable....someday. Like curling, strategy is all important to success. Therefore, squash can meet the challenge. Almost everyone can play squash, and at almost every age. And this is one of its **greatest** benefits. You can enjoy playing for much of your life, health permitting. Most people only want to get involved in an activity if it offers an immediate reward. Squash is a game with relatively simple rules. Combine this with some degree of natural physical co-ordination and one should pick the game up quickly and start enjoying it right away. Easy involvement depends on the availability of facilities, the length of the season, and the welcome extended to prospective participants. There are plenty of squash courts available in most centres in Ontario, and although there is a lull in the summer, squash can be played all year. Unfortunately, playing squash by yourself is not too exciting. So the introspective athlete will have to stick to swimming or running. However, those looking for fun and camaraderie need look no further than squash. The joys of playing a match with a friend can be expanded through tournaments and leagues at various levels.

The strengths of squash are obvious. We must go one from here to convince non-players to get involved. Remember, we're in fierce competition with many other activities for our audiences' time and dollars. We've got a great game, let's go out of our way to make it attractive enough to others. Get them to tune in and then not change channels (figuratively, of course!).○

A. Henkel - Squash

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A Sparkling End To The Martini Challenge!

Toronto West Captures Second Successive Regional Title

By Sherry Funston

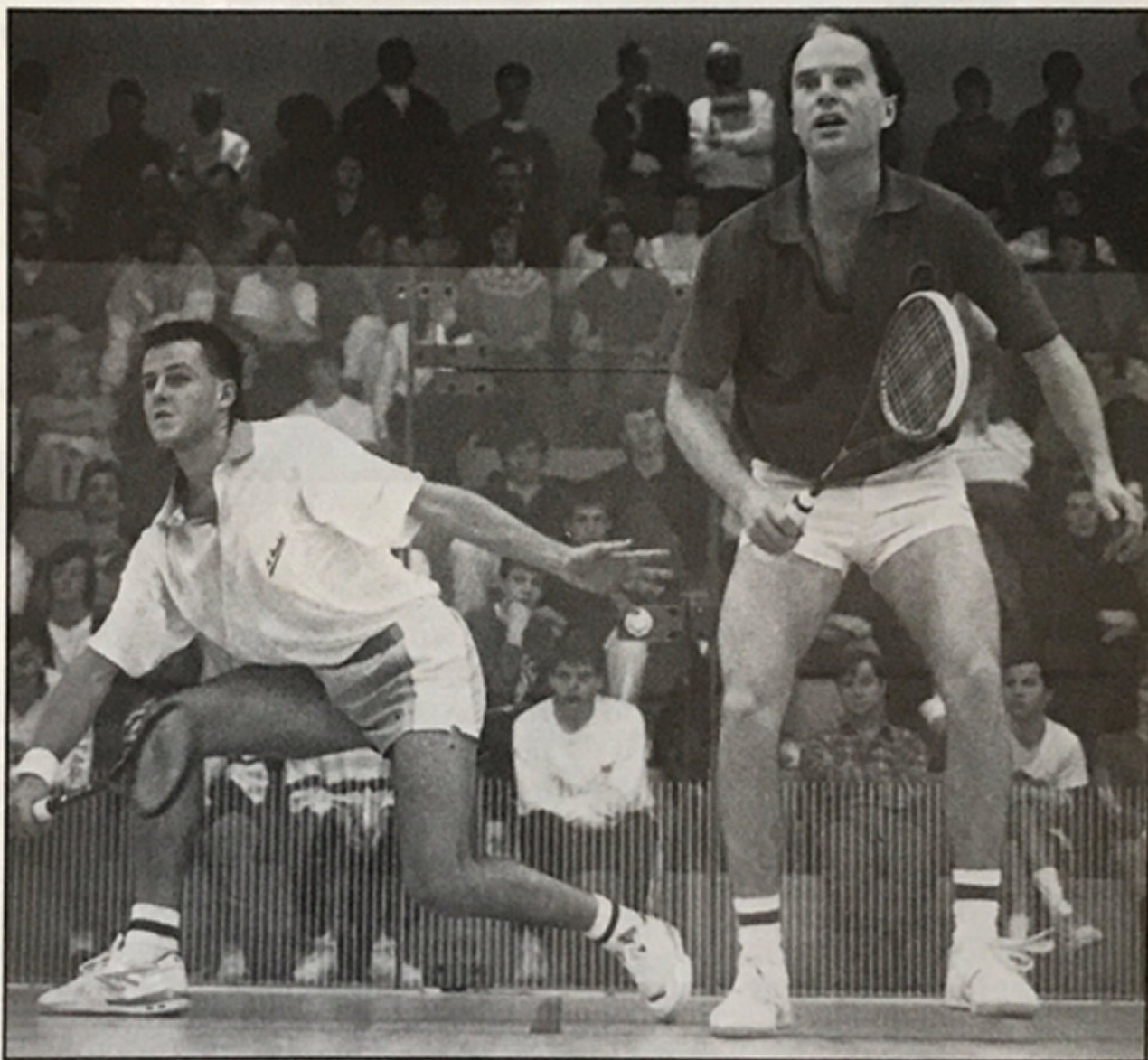
They came, they saw, they partied and, oh yes,...15 of them conquered! On a bright but cold February day, 119

people made their way to Mayfair Parkway Racquet Club in Markham, our perennial and congenial host of the annual charity event. The 'they' in this story are those people who successfully won their Martini club championship and then went on to win at the second tier in this event, the Regional Championships. Now the moment of truth had come...all were scheduled to meet their regional colleagues on the courts and on the dance floor during the weekend of February 25th and, as in all good stories...the universe unfolded as it should.

We had two defending champions back this year. Toronto & District West had won the overall Regional Championship in 1988 and the 14 members of this year's team were determined to hold on to the title. Northern Ontario had won the party last year and were equally determined to hold on to their title. Both were extremely successful. Points for the Regional Championships are awarded on the basis of finish from eighth place through first and, at the end of the day, Toronto & District West held a commanding lead over its nearest rival, Ottawa & District with Western Region just a hair's breath behind. As for Northern Ontario, we're pleased to report that the host hotel, the Chimo, is still standing, slightly worse for wear but still willing to have us back next year! Mayfair Parkway is a 'tough old girl' and has withstood many a seige from squash players over its illustrious past and the Northern On-

tario contingent posed no serious threat to its foundations, although some of the beautiful Martini & Rossi posters were declared 'missing in action' on Sunday morning!

The Martini Challenge is the only event



which allows and encourages inter-regional play. In its early history, Toronto & District walked off with the lion's share of the titles but, over the last few years, the disparity in the calibre of play within the province has lessened. Ottawa's Jay Gildenhuys took the Men's A Championship in a tough, five game match against Toronto's Al Hunt. Down 0-2, Jay fought his way back to take the next three games. Both men provided the packed gallery with some of the most exciting squash of the weekend. Western Region's Chris Herbert took home the hardware in the Men's B, Southwestern Ontario's Anne Smith captured her first 40+ title while Cam

Curzon's Steve Wren successfully defended his pro event title, although Northfield's Ralph Bentfield tried valiantly to wrest it from him.



Lynn Begg on her way to the Women's A Title.

Chadwick took the honours in the Men's C. Western Region's Kathy Christensen won the Women's D and Lauren Doig took home her first 35+ championship. One of the most popular wins was that of Karen Beilhartz from Northwestern Ontario who worked very hard to win the Women's Novice Championship. For those regions who may feel intimidated by the presence of Toronto players in a draw, the results of the Martini Challenge '89 should dispel some of those qualms. Playing down a division really helps no one and defeats the purpose of the event. Players need to have a yardstick with which to truly measure his or her game and if you are a C in your region and you win the right to represent your region in that event at the provincial championships, then it behooves you to do so. Playing D may assuage your ego but it really does nothing for your game and is unfair to your opponent (unless, of course, she or he is playing down as well!).

The Lauren Doigs and Cam Chadwicks have proven that there is "nothing to fear but fear itself" and hopefully next year, the draws in all events will be truly reflective of the standard of play in each region.

The success of this event is due to many, many people. The club professionals are absolutely instrumental in ensuring that we have province-wide representation and to those ten professionals who had more than 75 people in their club draws, we say a big thank you. The Mayfair Group, with Cathy Covernton, Wendy Wontner and Barbara Diggins, contributed almost 300 players between them with Mayfair Lakeshore the overall winner in the province with the most players. Consequently, the draw at the provincials for the Club Pro Event was almost a Mayfair benefit with Barbara Diggins finishing 3rd, Wendy Wontner 6th and Cathy Covernton taking 7th. The Soo's Ken Ojeer and Adelaide's Margaret Boselli put up a valiant effort

and, of course, the draw wouldn't have been complete without the Northfield contingent of Larry Christiansen and Ralph Bentfeld, both of whom have always been tremendously supportive of this event. The dark horse in the draw was Club Markham's Nigel Gleeson, to Squash Ontario, only a voice with an Irish lilt on the other end of the 'phone. The face turned out to be as friendly as the voice. Missing in action was the London Squash Club's Fio Marin, who decided to take to the ski hills instead of the courts. Steve Wren, a popular player both on and off the circuit, was representing the Curzon's Sporting Club and was seeded at one. He and Ralph Bentfeld met (as usual) in the final and though Ralph gave it his best shot, Steve was just too tough. Both were a pleasure, not only to watch in the final but also to have in the tournament and we hope to see them back for many years to come.

The social side of the weekend was certainly not neglected as Pat Carpagola of Mayfair provided the players with lunch on Saturday, a bountiful dinner on Saturday evening and kept their energy up on Sunday morning with a generous supply of coffee and muffins. Martini & Rossi aided and abetted Pat's culinary efforts by providing Martini spritzers on Saturday afternoon and a happy hour prior to the dinner. For those who needed a 'hair of the dog' on Sunday, Asti Spumante was flowing in abundance.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, everyone was a winner on Sunday afternoon. Michel Racine at Dunlop provided the balls, not only for all the regional and provincial championships, but also for each player's goodie bag. Walter Perchel and Ed Chiu of Wizard Sports and Estusa/Estca respectively, ensured that all finalists went away with racquets, and third place winners with bags, Carl Michetti of Cosmair Canada provided beautiful gift boxes of Figi, Polo and Drakkar Noir and Heddington's donated sets of squash prints which proved very popular with everyone. And the goodie bags were a squash player's delight - thanks to Kellogg's Canada, L'Oreal Hair Care, Wizard Sports Inc., and Dexter's Sport Drink. Dexter's is, by the way, sponsoring the Canadian Men's Team this year and we're delighted to welcome them into the squash world. Weither's Enterprises,



Left to right: Women's A Winner, Lynn Begg, Peter Mielzynski, Martini & Rossi, and Jay Gildenhuys, Men's A Winner.

and the Chimo Hotel, along with our other sponsors, all donated wonderful prizes which were drawn for throughout the Saturday evening dance. All in all, the support of the sponsors was excellent with very special thanks to Peter Mielzynski of Martini & Rossi. Without his financial and moral support, the Martini Challenge simply could not have run.

Over 2,400 Ontario players competed in the Martini Challenge '89

and almost 70 clubs. Net profits from the event are being channelled into Ontario's Canada Games programme. Selection and training of our junior team will begin in the summer and, although Ontario lags behind some of the other provinces in terms of its start, we expect to be right there at the finish - holding the trophy. Thanks to the generosity of the players who participated, you have helped to make this goal much more than a possibility - it is now achievable and we will continue to provide information on our progress.

The entire weekend ran flawlessly and much of the credit goes to the Tournament Referee, Norma Graham and her contingent of officials....Dave Tullis, Bill Warren, and

Doug Isherwood as well as the many players themselves. There were 181 matches played throughout the weekend, each with an official at the helm.

So, the Martini Challenge '89 is history with the prospects for next year even brighter. Slight changes in the format should eliminate the problem of those few clubs who 'designate' representatives for the regionals rather than run a true club championship and efforts will be made to address the problems of 'sandbagging' with published regional and provincial player classifications. Suggestions for improvement are always, always welcome and for you players who did compete in the Martini Challenge and you who did not, we'd love to hear from you.

The Martini Challenge is the largest tournament of its kind in Canada, with the Insilco in the United States being the only one bigger than ours in North America. In 1990, let's take up that 'challenge' and go for 5,000 entrants...who knows, what with free trade, can a North American Martini Challenge be far behind? O

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CLASH OF THE KHANS

Jahangir Captures 7th Consecutive Mennen Cup

By Christian Endemann

Jahangir Khan of Pakistan consolidated his hold on the top rung of the international squash scene with a workmanlike victory over compatriot Jansher Khan in the \$75,000 Mennen Cup. The scores were 12-15, 15-12, 15-2, 15-8.

Jahangir, 25, has now won the Mennen Cup on seven consecutive occasions since its inception 11 years ago while Jansher, 19, was making his debut in this invitational event.

Jansher still leads an intensifying rivalry 10 matches to eight although Jahangir has had the upper hand in their last four contests.

Both players were brimming with confidence going into the final as a result of convincing semi-final victories. Jahangir coasted through

a malady-stricken Chris Dittmar of Australia, the number 3 ranked player in the world, while Jansher had few problems with New Zealander Ross Norman who occupies the number 4 position.

A capacity crowd of 350 sat spellbound as Jahangir and Jansher matched wits in the first game which lasted all of 40 minutes. The panther-like Jahangir looked as if he was starting to measure up his junior opponent after losing the first game but he was still struggling to find his rhythm in the second while trailing 5-2.

But Jahangir is always at his most dangerous when down and he capitalized on Jansher's mental lapses to rebound and tie the score at 12-12.

At this juncture, Jansher became rattled, suffered a penalty stroke and seemed to wilt. Khan levelled the games at one apiece, 15-12.

Game three was a rout. Jahangir won the first nine points, five of them with delicate nicks, and romped home to a 15-2 thumping in less than 10 minutes.

the semi finals after player each other once.

Group A comprised defending champion Jahangir Khan, Ross Norman of New Zealand, Del Harris representing England and Mark Talbott of the United States. Group B featured Jansher Khan of Pakistan, Chris Dittmar of Australia, Anders Wahlstedt of Sweden and Sabir Butt of Canada.

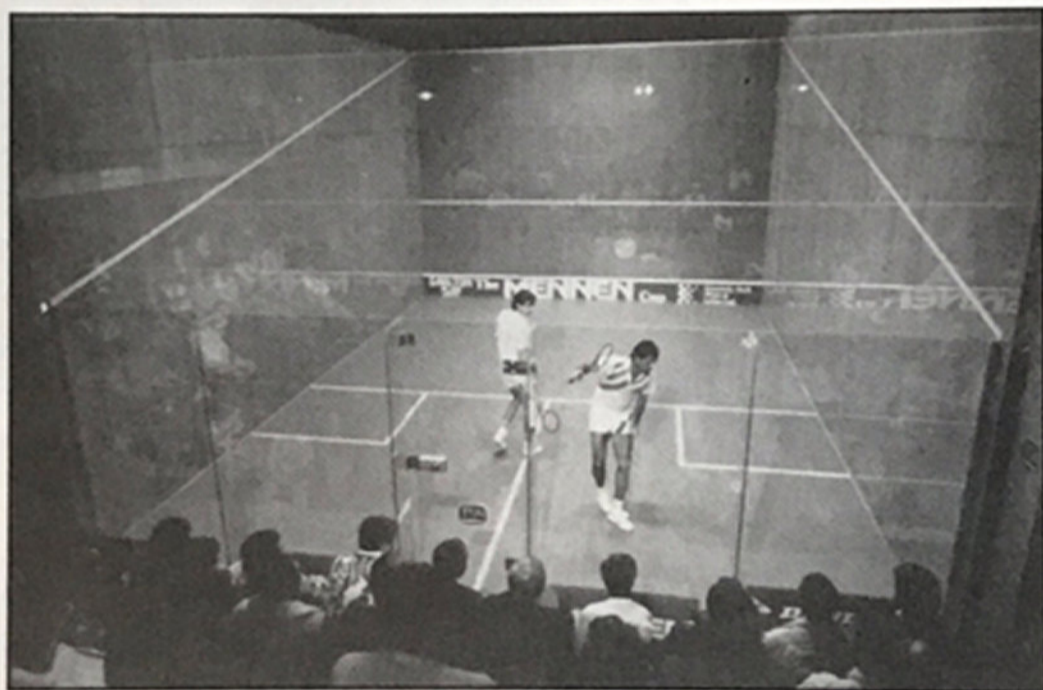
The final standings had Jahangir at one, Jansher at two, Ross Norman at three, Chris Dittmar at four, Del Harris at five, Wahlstedt at six, Talbott at seven and Sabir Butt at eight. Concern about competitive balance and professional integrity is not seen by everyone as a problem with the Mennen Cup. The goal is to bring geographic diversity and a distinctive international character to the event. This has always been a powerful drawing point

for players and patrons like.

Nonetheless, tiered-level competence is revealed glaringly when one considers that only three of the 12 preliminary round contests went beyond three games. The squash was always entertaining but dramatic flair and sustained suspense were noticeably absent except in a few cases.

The Curzons Sporting Club, in addition to its manifold exercise and recreational facilities, houses a permanent four-sided, twin-view squash court with a seating capacity of 350. It is an ideal setting for what has come to be an annual Toronto squash treat - with players and spectators alike, anticipating the Mennen Cup. ○

With thanks to Squash News



A spectacular view of the Curzon's Sporting Club's four-sided glass squash court.

The fourth game remained close until 7-7, when Jahangir gained the ascendancy for good with an assortment of drops shots interspersed with crackling drives down both walls. Jansher was a spent and beaten force as he lost the game and match at 15-8.

Jahangir was rewarded with a pay cheque of \$25,000 while Jansher was consoled with one for \$15,000.

The unique round-robin format of the Mennen clearly favoured the strong players since one sub-par outing would not automatically eliminate them from the competition as it would in a conventional championship draw.

The eight players invited were divided into two groups of four - with two from each section moving onto

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Remember the good old days when everyone was so pleased when British Columbia bid for the National Championships? Remember thinking how great it would be to experience a touch of early spring - see the daffodils in Victoria and enjoy a balmy sail in English Bay? Ah yes, those were the days when entire families planned mini-vacations around Mom and Dad's entry in the nationals but, like all good things, it has come to an end - it's a new day and, for Ontarians, it's a new game.

Wintario, that champion of the underdog - that programme which allowed and encouraged anyone to play in a national championship - has changed the game and there are some things you should know before you see your travel agent.

Travel and accommodation funding assistance will only be available to the top four Ontario athletes in each category - Open, 35+, 40+, etc. To make matters just a little tougher, you must have played in the equivalent Ontario Championship in order to even be considered eligible for funding. This new requirement should, of course, help the entries for the Ontario Open and Masters Championships in April.

The Government of Ontario is not just picking on the seniors...these new requirements hold true for all national events, including the National Junior Championships which are scheduled for May in Ottawa. In fact, there is a special treat in store for parents of juniors. You must have travelled at least 150 km one way before any mileage can be considered for funding and, of course, your child must have played in the Ontario Junior Championships to be considered for funding. Isn't this fun?

We're not going to leave out the doubles and hardball players either. Again, you must have competed in the equivalent Ontario Championships for funding eligibility and you must have done well! How well? In the top four. Of course, give up all dreams of competing in U.S. events. Funding for these has gone the way of the dodo bird.

These new regulations come into effect 1 April 1989 and are as a result of the Ontario Government's new legislation with respect to lottery funds. These, for the most part, have always gone to sport, recreation and culture. Now, because of the financial crisis in the health field and in particular, hospitals, lottery funds are being redirected and, consequently, the same number of dollars are not now available to sport governing bodies.

So, before you get all carried away with dreams of the Pacific Ocean and high tea at the Empress, check your ranking...then check your bank book.○

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Early in November 1988, I made my annual trip to the meeting of the General Assembly of International Sports Federations. The Assembly is a body formed by all of the International Sports Federations, both Olympic and non-Olympic. There are also some very unusual international groups represented - international time-keepers, international sports facilities, and military sports. International sport is a strange environment!

This year, the Assembly was held in Lausanne, Switzerland which is the headquarters of the International Olympic Committee. We took the opportunity to arrange a 30 minute meeting with Juan Antonio Samaranch and gave him an update on squash. If all goes according to plan, he will attend the 1989 Men's World Open final in Malaysia next October.

During our few days in Lausanne, we were wined and dined by representatives of those cities bidding for the 1996 Olympic Games. Athens is a strong contender but Toronto, led by J. Dennis Toews, put forward a formidable presentation and kept our alcohol levels topped up throughout the conference.

We were told by the Toronto delegation that if the City won the bid, then squash would certainly become an Olympic demonstration sport. The fact that most of the promotional team play squash regularly probably has something to do with their positive attitude.

From Lausanne I moved on to the Italian city of Milan. Northern Italy is experiencing a squash boom and there are some lavish clubs being constructed to cope with the demand from affluent Italians to play this 'yuppie game'.

The country can also boast the most elaborate and expensively finished squash magazine in the world which is produced by the publishers of polo and yachting magazines, thus reflecting the image of an up-market sport.

I arrived in time to witness the final

rounds of an Italian inter-club competition designed to rank and then select teams for a newly formed Italian club squash league. There were men's and women's teams and, as is the practice in Europe, each club



Roger Eady,
Executive
Director I.S.R.F.

strengthened its side by an injection of good foreign players. Egyptians, Pakistanis, Swedes, Fins, Australians, English - all were represented on this finals day.

Italians, along with other Latin countries, do not display the reserve both on and off court, typical of the English approach to the game. Referees are there to be baited, abused and threatened, and it certainly adds a new dimension to watching the game when you know that the Referee is the most frightened person in the event. Like the rest of continental Europe, the players also have a habit of wearing exactly what they want on court - beachwear, offensive t-shirts, cycling shorts, etc. Squash the Italian way is certainly a million miles removed from squash at the R.A.C. Club in London!

The good news is that the Italian influence in sport amongst the Mediterranean nations has led to the inclusion of squash in the Mediterranean Games. Okay, so you haven't heard of the Mediterranean Games before, - equally, they have never heard of the Canada Games!

It seems that squash has now conquered the 'soft underbelly' of Europe with the sport now firmly established in Spain, Italy and Greece. The North African countries bordering the Mediterranean also play squash, but, with the exception of Egypt, the game is played at a low level. Both Libya and Lebanon have national teams - now there would be an interesting international fixture! ○

Even The Weather Co-Operated!

*A tongue in cheek account of the
1989 Canadian Men's Team
Championships*

By Ann Thatcher

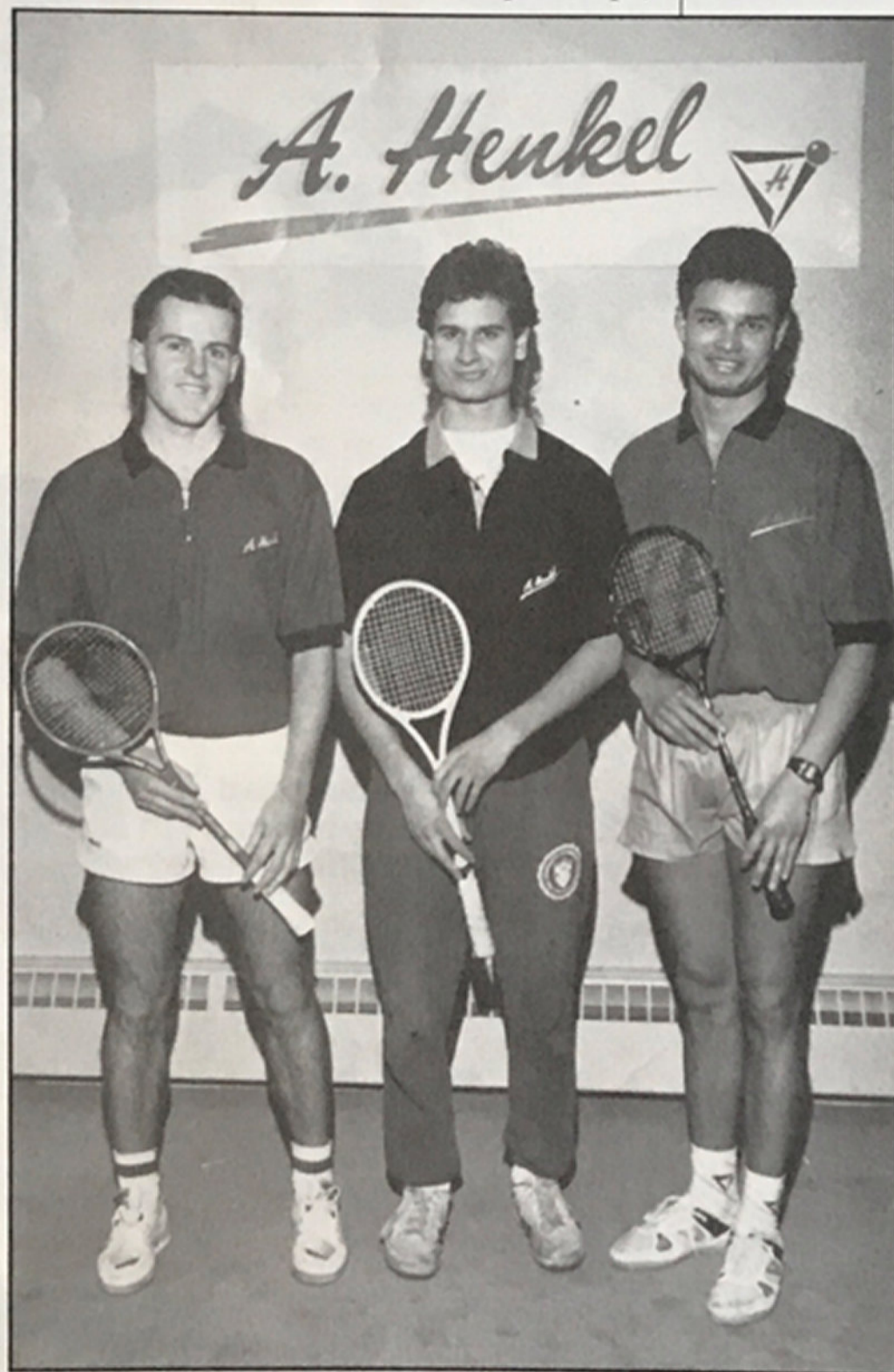
Winnipeg, Manitoba was the host city for the 1989 Canadian Men's Provincial Team Championships,

and contrary to popular belief, (or perhaps by a stroke of sheer good fortune), the weather was not an inhibiting factor on either the calibre of play or the social activities. Zero degrees celsius in Winnipeg in January...who would have believed it!

The host committee, headed up by Gary Miles, did an excellent job in securing sponsorship from Black Knight and Canadian Airlines International. This support, supplemented by the Government of Manitoba, Squash Manitoba, Fitness and Amateur Sport and the provincial sport associations, ensured that a quality event was offered to both athletes and volunteers alike.

The Delta Winnipeg was the official hotel and did a great deal to ease the strain on the athletes by providing first rate accommodation at a reasonable cost. What the athletes did to the hotel is still being determined at the time of printing; with dollar values to be assigned at a later date.

Bruce Murphy organized the transportation schedule to and from the airport and to and from the club. Squash Manitoba is not aware that anyone was permanently lost, although a few people did go A.W.O.L. in the 'transportation shuffle', but if a specific province feels it is missing a key athlete or two, please call and we will check the snow banks, (or a few of the more



The 1989 Ontario Men's Team (sponsored by A. Henkel)
Left to right, Steve Wren, Ric Hartunian, Max Weithers.

notable nightspots)!

Anne Keeler and the Winnipeg Canoe Club staff and volunteers are to be commended on their patience and sense of humour as they gave over their squash facility for four days. To be overrun by an assortment of athletes and officials from across Canada, who come complete with a broad range of personalities and requirements, both reasonable...and shall we say 'strange', is no small sacrifice. This article is our guarantee to the Canoe Club that it will not be 'invaded by aliens' for at least twelve months. (all visas for out-of-province athletes have been revoked!)

The competition itself suffered a slight hiccup with the last minute

Weithers, Steve Wren and Ric Hartunian found themselves in the midst of this madness. The team easily defeated Quebec in the first round 3-0. Whether it was the fact that P.E.I.'s withdrawal had given Ontario a bye in the second round or the feeling on the part of the team that they should be good guests, is still being debated but Ontario promptly lost to host team Manitoba 2-1. In round four, Ontario defeated Nova Scotia 3-0 and found itself in the semi-finals against its nemesis, Alberta, where Ontario suffered a stinging loss of 3-0. It did however, manage to avenge its earlier loss to Manitoba in the 3/4 playoff, thus finishing in third place, behind Alberta and British Columbia.

In summary, however, and on a serious note, Squash Manitoba was pleased to host the 1989 Men's Team Championships. We appreciated the excellent squash, and we enjoyed the company of the visiting players. We wish to thank the sponsors for their continued support and assistance and we applaud the considerable contribution of the stalwart band of volunteers who made it possible. The assistance of the Canoe Club in providing its facility and taxing their staff made a tremendous contribution to the overall success of the championships.

Our profound thanks to all involved, you are always welcome in Friendly Manitoba!○

MANITOBA'S HOSPITALITY WAS EVERYWHERE BUT ON THE COURT

withdrawal of P.E.I., but hurried communication between Squash Canada and Squash Manitoba resolved the issue without difficulty - whoever invented the 'bye' should be knighted for service above and beyond the call of duty (and/or squash). Having suitably dealt with problem #1, the committee felt it was invincible, and happily, that proved to be the case (at least in the eyes of the committee...no other opinions are required unless they concur with the above!).

Don Trim, the head referee, handled the officiating in an exemplary manner. Don called in all the favours owed to him, and when that didn't work, resorted to bribery and coercion, to ensure that there were enough qualified referees available to handle all matches. The term 'qualified referee' is still being defined, but as no blows were exchanged and no blood was drawn or arrests made, we feel we can view that as success.

So, Ontario's team of Max



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Ontario Crowns Six New Champions

By Larry Christiansen

The Northfield Clubs of Kitchener-Waterloo threw open their doors to 138 keen squash players on the weekend of February 3rd. In the end, six new Ontario Champions were crowned but

ners faced a long, tough road to the finals. The biggest draw, not surprisingly, was the Men's D. With 46 entries, the eventual winner had to play 6 matches over 3 days. Although he had not lost a game in the first five, Grant Fraser of Georgetown had all he could handle and was taken to the

Northfield Doon defeated Ann Kallin to win the consolation.

A large 36 draw in the Men's C displayed the depth of talent in this strong field with both finalists extended to 4 or 5 games in most rounds. The eventual winner, Gary Selley, showed a loss of concentration



To the victors, belong the spoils, from left to right, Gary Selley, Heather McLean, Danny March, Nora Johnston, Larry Christiansen, Tournament Chairman, Grant Fraser. Missing is Nicole Garon.

the road to victory was never easy for any of them.

All players received great tournament packages which included a t-shirt designed by Dave Owen Advertising, a Carlsberg Light kit bag, plus lunch, a Saturday night beach party and champagne presentations. Even those who only managed to get two matches in seemed pleased to have participated.

The calibre of play in all divisions was extremely high and all the win-

fifth, but hung on to win over John Eckersley. Third place was secured by Jim Detlor with a 3-2 victory over Dave Veitch. John Arthur from Stratford took the consolation over Northfield-Waterloo's, Dave Brown.

Thirteen ladies participated in the D event which saw a strong and determined Nora Johnston from McMaster defeat Cathy Batrychuk of Hamilton in a well played 3-1 final. Cathy Wright took 3rd over Joan Smith while Kathy Kelly from

at times but "got it together when it counted" and defeated Wayne Pakkala of Georgetown in 80 minutes. Brian Settigue of Richmond Hill took third in another marathon match over Scott Shearer of Applewood 3-2. Terry Solomon from Regency was the 3-1 victor over Fred Kallin from Northfield Waterloo in the consolation.

Nine entrants in the Ladies C produced some very close matches in all rounds. Nicole Garon of Clinton

proved the strongest of the day as she defeated Doon's Patti Coady 3-1. The final produced a touch of drama as Patti anticipated Nicole's shots too well and ran into her opponent's racquet. She completed her match before exiting for a couple of quick stitches and arrived back for the presentations on time. Jennifer Lynch of McMaster took third 3-2 over Renuka Bagal of Hamilton. Monica Laing of Windsor defeated Northfield's Sharon Lloyd to win the consolation.

What the Ladies B lacked in quantity, it more than made up for in quality. In a round robin format, Heather McLean of Western proved strongest of the weekend and defeated Trudy Anzik of St. Catherines 3-0 in the final. Elaine Arthur of Stratford took 3rd with a 3-0 win over Debbie McKinnon from Curzons.

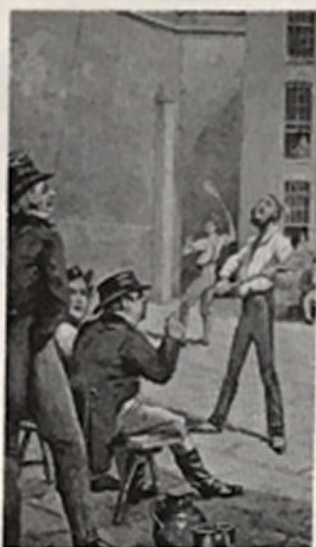
A draw of 26 in the Men's B set the stage for exciting squash and many long matches right from the first round. The two finalists, Martin Langdale of Toronto and Danny March from Northfield Waterloo both reached the finals without dropping a single game. Again the stage was set for a great final. Martin, the smooth shot-maker, against Danny, the determined retriever. After losing last year's one hour and 40 minute semi-final, Danny was a man with a mission. In the end, it was his retrieving ability that won the day as Martin was unable to get anything by him. The relentless pressure was too much and Danny captured the elusive Men's B Championship 3-0 in a very entertaining final.

Once again, it was Northfield's pleasure to host another prestigious Squash Ontario Provincial Championship. We look forward to seeing many of these participants back in the future. Putting on such an event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and we thank Labatt's, Black Knight and, of course, the Northfield Clubs. Special thanks to all the club volunteers who helped out and to Len, who allowed me to recover from the Saturday's beach party in peace and got things rolling Sunday morning. Ralph Bentfeld and I look forward to seeing all you avid squash players again when we host the Canadian Nationals in May 1990.○

A rare opportunity for devotees of racquet sports!

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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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TALBOTT RACKS UP 8TH WIN AT XEROX CANADIAN OPEN

By Christian Endemann

On January 13, Mark Talbott successfully defended his Xerox Canadian Open

Championship title in Toronto with a demoralizing 15-13, 15-8, 15-12 demolition of John Nimick. It marked the eighth consecutive tour

victory for the Wakefield, Rhode Island resident who had yet to be defeated at that stage of the W.P.S.A. tour. Pretenders to his lofty roost atop a frustrated flock of pretenders must wonder what extraordinary levels of excellence they much achieve to dislodge him from his pre-eminent perch.

Talbott dismisses any talk of a perfect season with characteristic abashment. "There are too many good players around challenging me every week. I believe the law of averages will catch up with me. In one of my next five game matches, somebody will get hot and put me away."

No one that weekend was going to "put him away", not the least of whom was John Nimick. In the critical first frame, Nimick went all out, guns blazing furiously in a desperate attempt to overpower his formidable foe. But he fell just short at 15-13. In the second game, Nimick was very much in the hunt until 9-8 in Talbott's favour. But he lost the next six points very quickly as Talbott became more aggressive and Nimick lapsed into a spate of unforced errors.

The final game was also a see-saw affair until 12-all when the indomitable will of the Rhode Islander took over and ended the match.

Talbott's convincing win in the final was preceded by tougher tussles against a couple of young Turks who let loose with a few cannons of their own before being muffled by the inexorable drive for dominance that pervades Talbott's psyche. Alex Doucas, ranked #9, the darting waterbug from Montreal, is a captivating presence on the court but he, like all the other mortals on the tour, becomes error-prone at crucial moments. Talbott was able to rise to the occasion against him in an enthralling second-round encounter and prevailed 15-7, 16-17, 15-14, 15-12.

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In the semi-final round, Talbott crossed swords with fellow Rhode Islander, Kenton Jernigan, by consensus the most improved player on the tour this season. The Newport resident had never beaten Talbott prior to this encounter. He stretched Talbott to the limit but the elastic-band defence held once more. Jernigan is endowed with both speed and power and he has managed to develop a more judicious shot-selection strategy than the risky shoot-from-the-hip approach that plagued him in his rookie year.

Against Talbott, the sting and pace of his shots were inflicting some punishment but in the deciding fifth frame, his concentration cracked at the seams. The 24-year old Harvard graduate fell behind early at 6-2, reigned in his aggression and never mounted any threatening assault again. Talbott cruised home after a rough early voyage, 15-9, 9-15, 15-10, 12-15, 15-7.

Talbott collected \$13,000 for his win in the Xerox Canadian Open, an annual event which is certainly the highlight of the W.P.S.A. tour. ○

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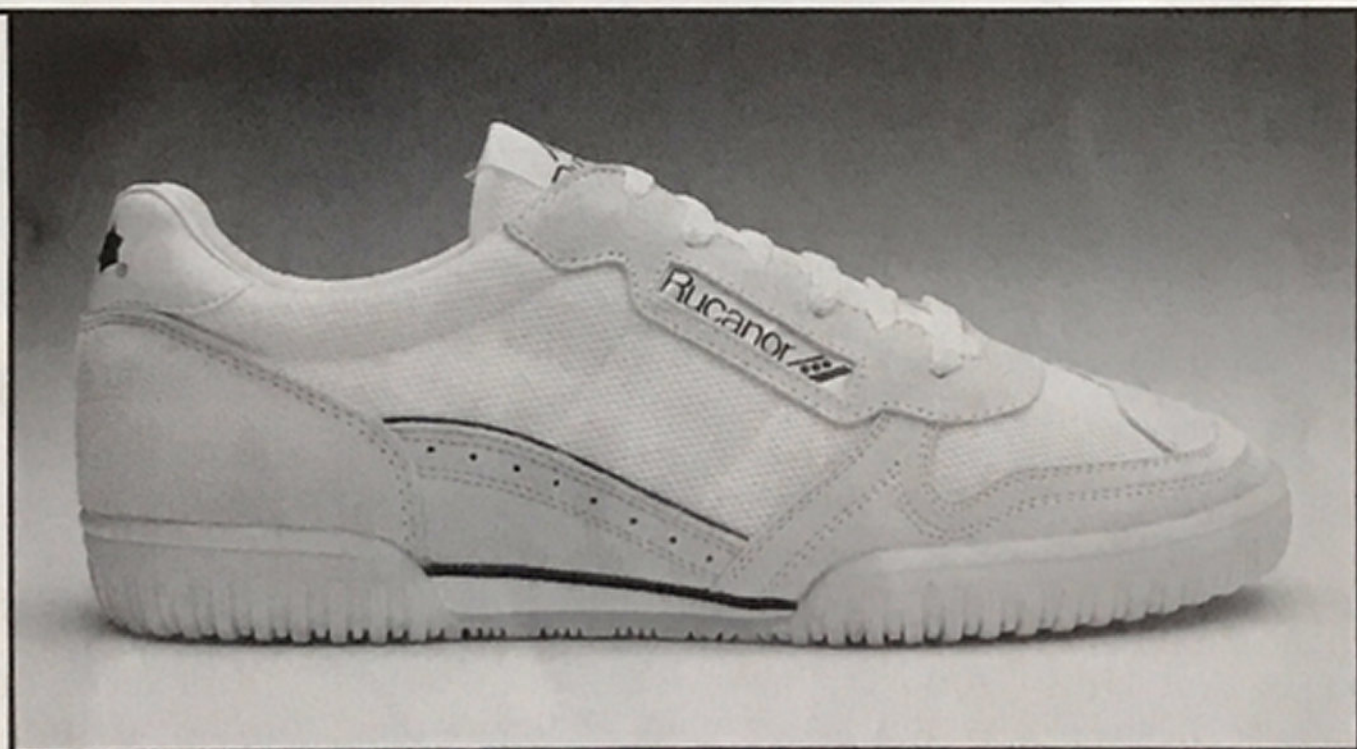
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WHO SAID, "WHERE ARE ALL THE JUNIORS?"

By John Power

Willie Curry and the staff of Belleville's Harbour Club graciously hosted the 1989 Central Ontario Junior Championships in mid January. The MidWay Toyota-sponsored event was a grand success, attracting seventy five boys and girls all playing in six open events. There was a full weekend of squash, swimming, videos and lots of Pizza Delight italian food!

The highlight of the weekend was, without question, the Boys' Under 16 final. Derrick Grant, the completely ambidextrous young player from Cornwall, had upset the highly favoured Ben Thomas in the semi finals to earn the right to play the relatively unheralded Ryan Bell from Belleville. Playing before a large partisan crowd, Ryan rose to the occasion, playing inspired squash to finally outlast Derrick in a long, exciting five game final.

Former Canadian Under 12 Champion, Sara Leckie had little trouble with the opposition, but worthy of note in the Under 14's was the play of Vicki Marrack of Sault Ste Marie who finished second in her first provincial tournament. Tara Sharpe of Peterborough took the Under 16 title.

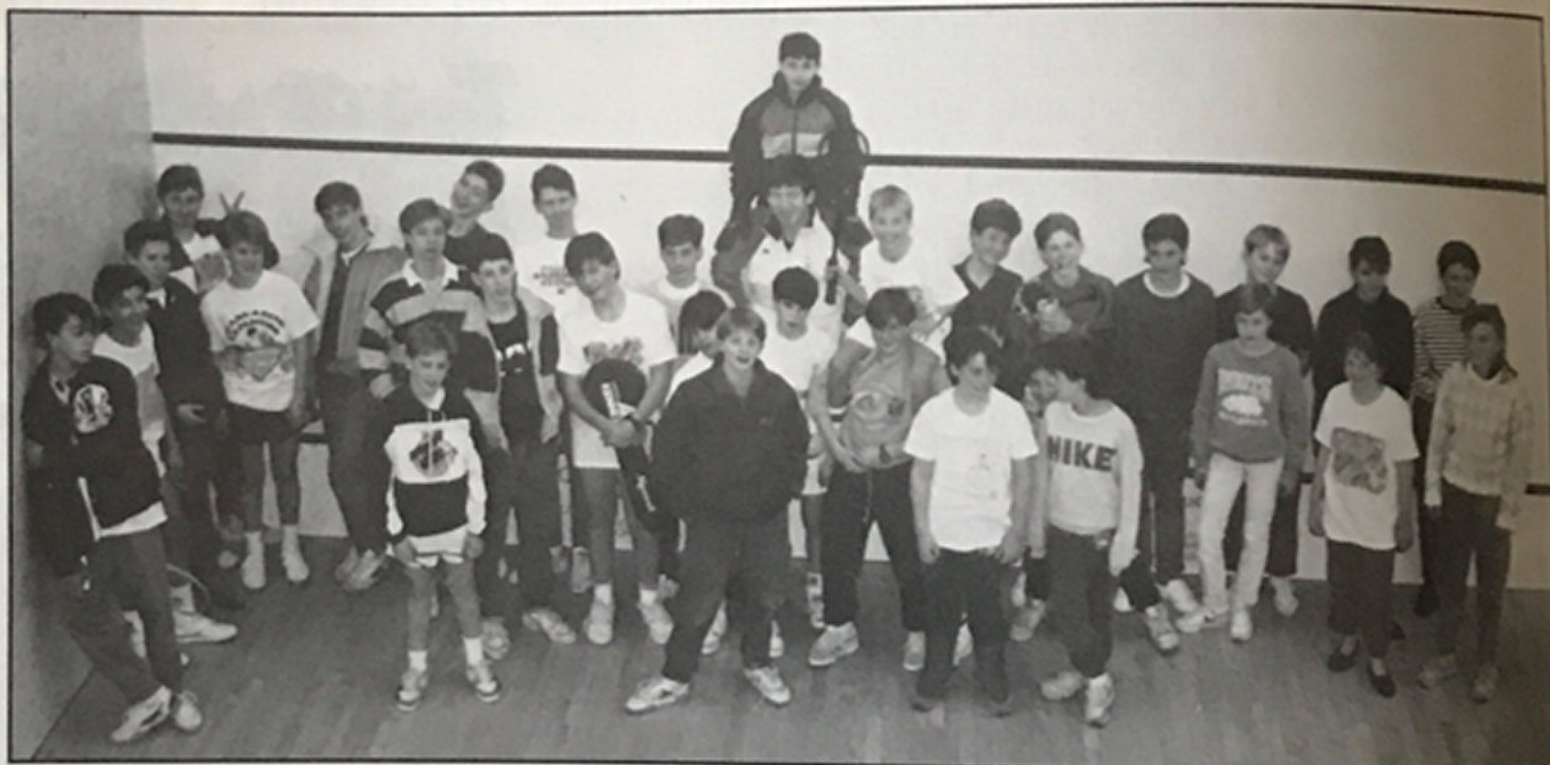
On the boys' side, the continuing battle for supremacy in the Under 12's was very much in evidence as Eric Zaremba and Lucas Watson once again faced each other in the final. These two have never played a match which didn't go to five games and this final was no exception. Eric pulled this one out of the first after trailing

1-2 in games. In the Under 14 division, it was once again Borden's Rodney Bowers over neighbour, practice partner and friend, Ian Power. The two have met in every final to date.

The final match of the weekend was waged between two of Canada's brightest squash hopefuls. Having

tawa, was the venue of this year's Ottawa & District Junior Championships. The organizing committee, headed by Dave Thomas, did a superb job in scheduling a full weekend of squash and social activities for more than 170 young players.

The tournament took in all age categories, boys and girls, novice and



Junior squash - where everyone's a winner!

recently returned from three tournaments abroad, Graham Ryding, 13 years of age and Jonathon Power, 14, met as predicted in the Under 19 final. The older and physically stronger Power avenged an early season loss winning 3-0 but the match was a terrific showcase for these two fine and promising young athletes.

Special mention is necessary for the Trinity College squash team, which, with 25 players, contributed greatly to the success of the 1989 Central Ontario Junior Championships.

... AND ON TO OTTAWA!

Queensview Racquet Club, in Ot-

experienced players. Winners in the open divisions were:

Girls' Under 12

Danielle Clarke (Sarnia)

Girls' Under 14

Sara Leckie (Toronto)

Girls' Under 16

Tara Sharpe (Peterborough)

Girls' Under 19

Margo Green (Ottawa)

Boys' Under 12

Lucas Watson (Barrie)

Boys' Under 14

Rodney Bowers (Borden)

Boys' Under 16

Raoul Mehta (Winnipeg)

Boys' Under 19

John Wilson (Peterborough)

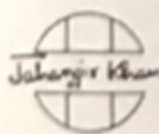
A special thanks to Black Knight for sponsoring this most successful event.○

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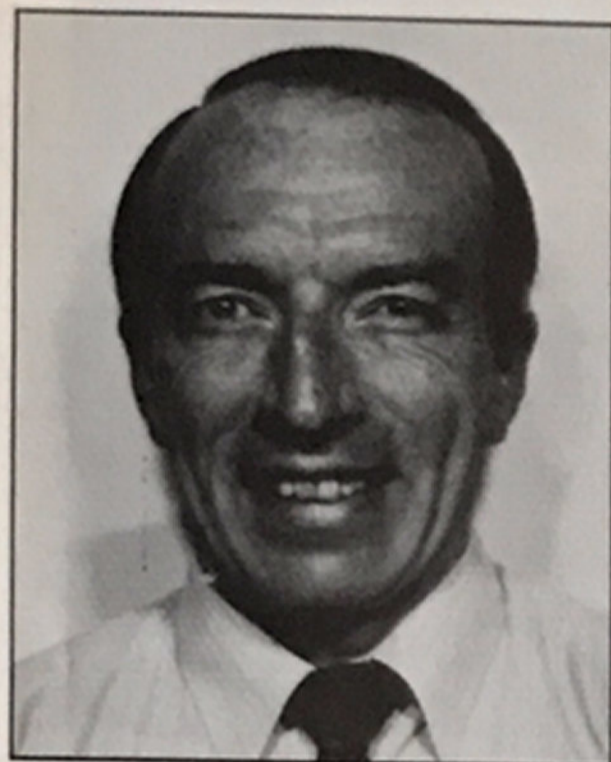
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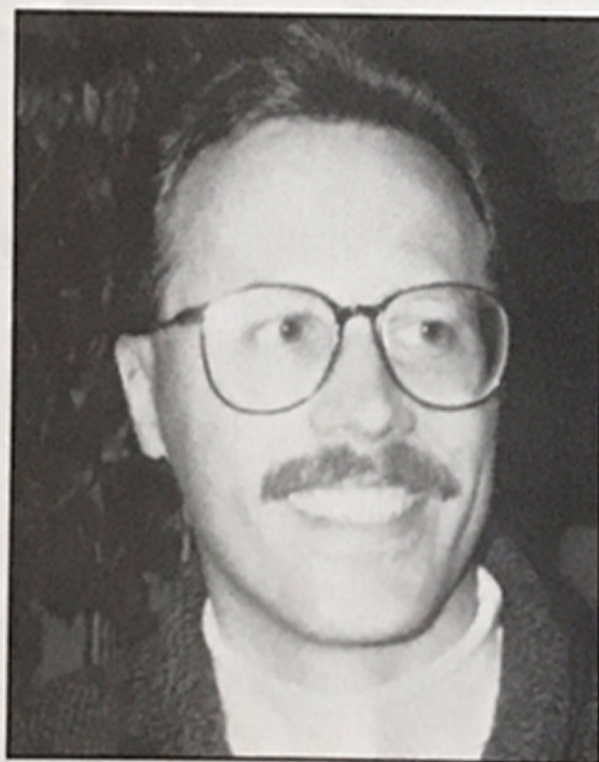
Joe Kruger

Joe is an Economist working as a Senior Advisor, Policy and Co-Ordination, with Transport Canada and has been a member of the Ottawa Athletic Club for many years. He is an avid player and a Level I Certified Coach. He became involved in the Ottawa & District Squash Association because it was a challenge and secondly because he realized how important it is to have dedicated volunteers involved in the maintenance of a competitive sport like squash. Joe has been President of the region for two years.



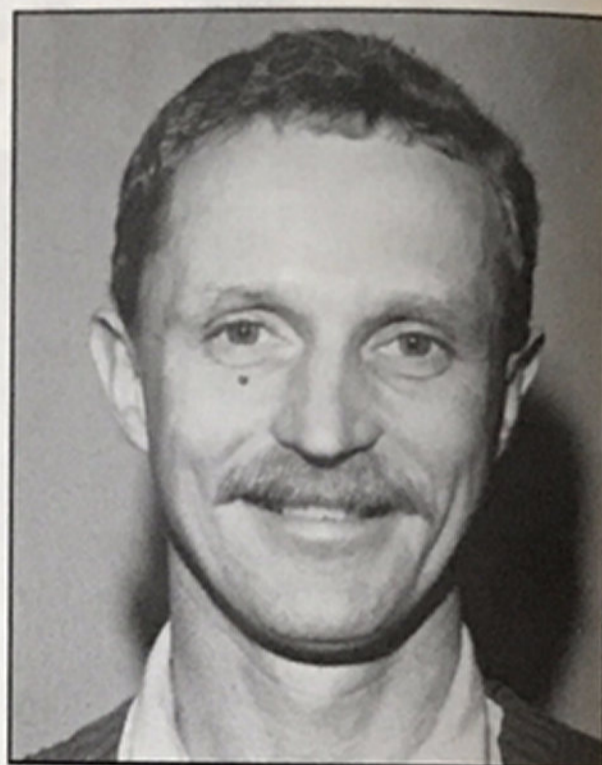
Larry Christiansen

Larry is presently the head squash professional of Northfield Doon Racquet Club in Waterloo, Ontario. Aside from running the many programmes for his own members, he finds time to act as Tournament Chairman for the Western Region Squash Association. He has also taken on the huge task of chairing the Organizing Committee for the 1990 Canadian Closed Championships and



Norma Graham

Norma is actively involved in all facets of squash - she is a Certified Level I Coach, a provincial instructor in officiating and a fine player, currently ranked in the top four in the province in 35+. She was appointed by the Board of Squash Ontario to the position of Provincial Tournament Referee and as such, is responsible for ensuring that qualified referees are on hand for the four major provincial championships. Norma plays her squash out of The Club in Oakville.



expects a draw of some 400 people. His coaching and 'volunteer' duties leave him precious little time to play much competitive squash but he does manage to keep as active as possible in Ontario tournaments.

Joe Stewart

Joe Stewart is the president of Central Ontario region and, with his soft-spoken but persuasive manner, he has attracted an active and effective group of volunteers to run the many programmes in the region. His interests in squash are varied - a useful player on court, a certified Level I coach and now, through a bit of friendly coersion, has volunteered to proceed through the officiating certification programme. He is a bear for punishment! Joe is presently playing his squash out of Kingston Tennis World.○

THREE ONTARIO ATHLETES NAMED TO NATIONAL WOMEN'S TEAM

Gail Pimm, Shelley Harvey and Lori Coleman will represent Ontario and Canada in the upcoming Women's World Squash Championships, March 5-19 in the Netherlands. Rounding out the team will be Alberta's Amanda Paton.

The three Ontario athletes have just come off a very successful National Team Championship where, once again, the team brought home the beautiful Waterford Trophy for its first place finish.

Now, it's on to the Worlds. With an average age of 23, the team is the youngest ever to represent Canada in the World Championships and reflects the trend of much younger players at the top of the international competitive circuit. However, both Coleman and Paton have had extensive international experience as juniors and were members of the Canadian Team which finished fourth at the last Junior World Championships in 1987.

The team will be aiming to maintain its standing in the top six of women's international squash against rapidly improving countries such as Finland and the Netherlands. The unfortunate loss of Nancy Cranbury, out of competitive squash for at least six months with a back injury, will make the going tough for the team to achieve its objective. We wish all members the best of luck in both the team and individual events. ○

TORONTO & DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The annual banquet promises to be a smashing success. Circle Thursday, April 20th in your diary and join us at Ontario Place for an evening of fun, fashion and awards. Special thanks to Remy-Pannier for sponsoring the cocktail party and to Kettle Creek Fashions who will be showing you the latest in sportswear for 1989 after the banquet.

Tickets are \$20.00. Call Fairlie Taylor at 431-9149 to reserve your club table.



1989 Ontario Women's Team (sponsored by A. Henkel) Winners of the Waterford Trophy (left to right, Gail Pimm, Shelley Harvey, Lori Coleman)

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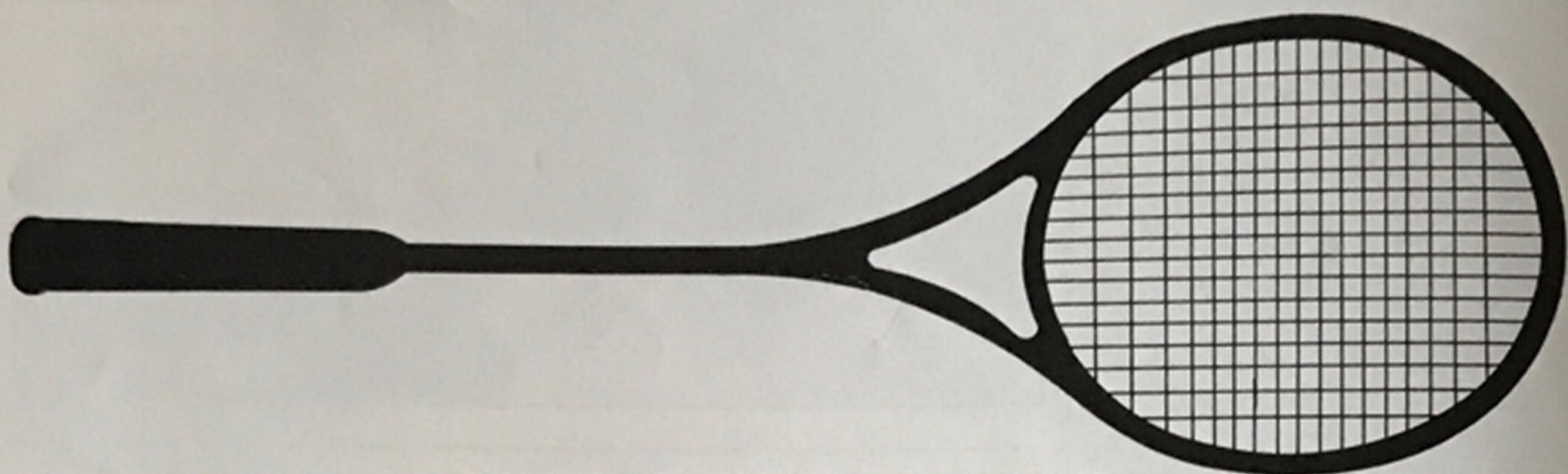


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Maximum weight	225 gm (9 ounces)	Maximum depth across face	20 mm (0.81 inches)

By Tony Swift
I.S.R.F. Rules Committee

There is apparently considerable confusion over the legality of some rac-

quets which are currently being sold in Canada. In order for the squash-playing customer to decide for himself/herself as to just what is legal and what is not, the Revised Specifications

for Squash Racquets which were approved at the recent I.S.R.F. Annual Meeting in Brisbane are as follows:

CONSTRUCTION OF A RACQUET

At all times, the head or shaft shall not contain outside edges with a radius of curvature less than 2 mm. Strings or string ends must be recessed within the racquet head or, in cases where such recessing is impractical because of the racquet material, or design, must be protected by a non-marking and securely attached bumper strip made of a flexible material which cannot crease into sharp edges following abrasive contact with the floor or walls.

Strings shall be gut, nylon or a substitute material, provided metal is not used. Only two layers of string shall be allowed, and these shall be alternately interlaced to form an orthogonal array. These specifications become effective September 1989.

The main changes to the original specifications are that only the maximum dimensions are now defined, the most important being maximum length, maximum width and maximum weight. What goes on in the middle is up to the ingenuity of the manufacturer.

However, any racquet which exceeds any one of the maximum dimensions is illegal.○

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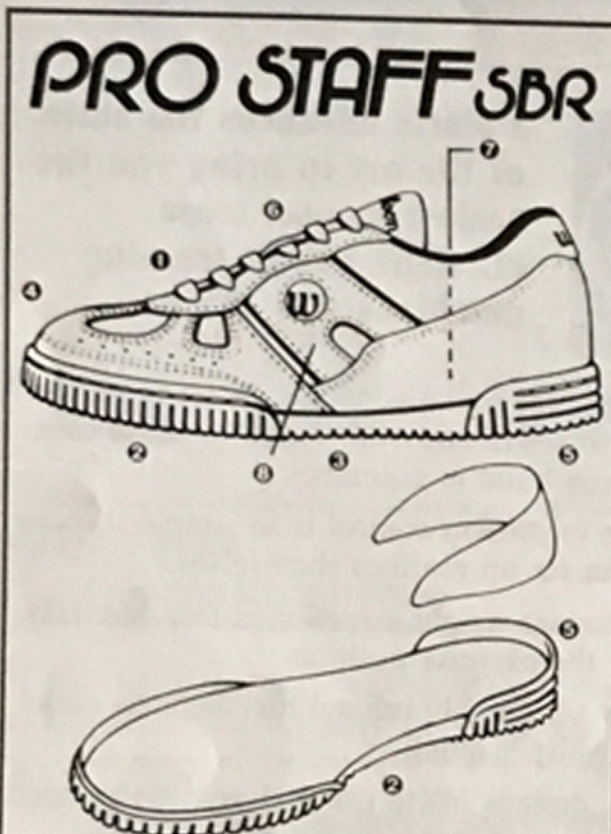
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FIN, PRINCE AND WILSON ON REVIEW!

This month we feature two well known names, and one newcomer. Wilson will be presenting its new squash shoe for men, Prince, its Ex-



- ① Nylon Mesh Upper for true breathability.
- ② Radial Designed Outersole for quick lateral movement.
- ③ EVA Midsole for light weight cushioning.
- ④ Suede Toe Box provides protection against abrasion.
- ⑤ Cup heel outsole for maximum heel support.
- ⑥ Biomechanical Eyelet Stay designed for more consistent circulation in the feet to reduce foot fatigue.
- ⑦ Removable Innersoles for Sport Thotic or Personal Innersoles.
- ⑧ Circle "W" Saddle connected to the Heel Counter to reduce roll-over

tender squash racquet, and from Fin, a range of racquets which tackle the problem of vibration dampening for sufferers of tennis elbow.

The first impression I got of Wilson's new Pro Staff SBR shoe was one of comfort and lightness. The comfort comes from the very well padded collar and the removable shock absorbing insole. The lightness comes from the mix of nylon mesh uppers with the suede toe box, and the EVA midsole. Traction is excellent and there is good support both laterally and through the extended heel counter. It has very clean cut lines and the blue, white and red cos-

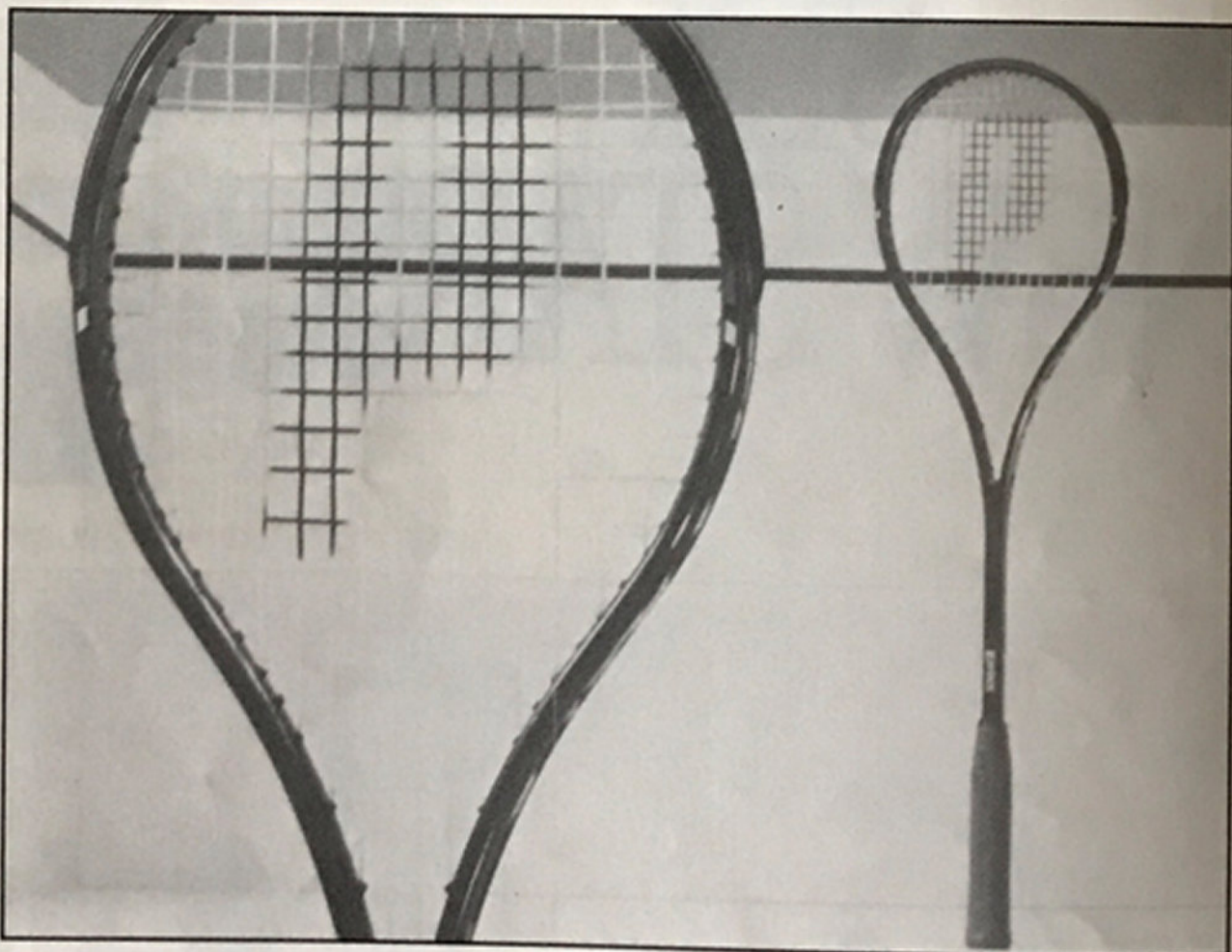
metics are very 'crisp'. If this shoe is half as popular as the Pro Staff tennis shoe, it will sell really well. These should retail around \$69.95 and they are available in men's sizes 6 through 12. Contact John Barr at (416) 439-4163 for the dealer nearest you.

There is nothing as powerful as an idea whose time has come! The Durbin tennis racquet available a few year's ago featured a frame where the strings extended down further than other racquets, past the place where was normally found the throat piece. The tennis racquet was not very successful. They say creation is the linking of two or more previously unconnected concepts, and the engineers at Prince coupled this extended string concept with that of squash racquet performance. This gave birth to the Extender.

demonstrator used for the test weighed just under 190 grams, including the stringing. This will appeal to players who want a fast, manoeuvrable racquet, and for those who may have a tendency towards shoulder or arm troubles which can be aggravated by heavier, or more head-heavy racquets. The second surprise is out there on court. The lengthening of the main strings elongates the sweet spot, the area of maximum sensitivity on the string surface, and this means great 'feel', but it also means good power too.



Adrian Coles, Pro Manager, Mayfair East Racquet Club



Extender: Prince's revolutionary new design.

This Extender is definitely not another 'me-too' racquet. The immediate reaction of players who pick it up is one of surprise. It is, on average, at least 15 grams lighter than most other racquets. The

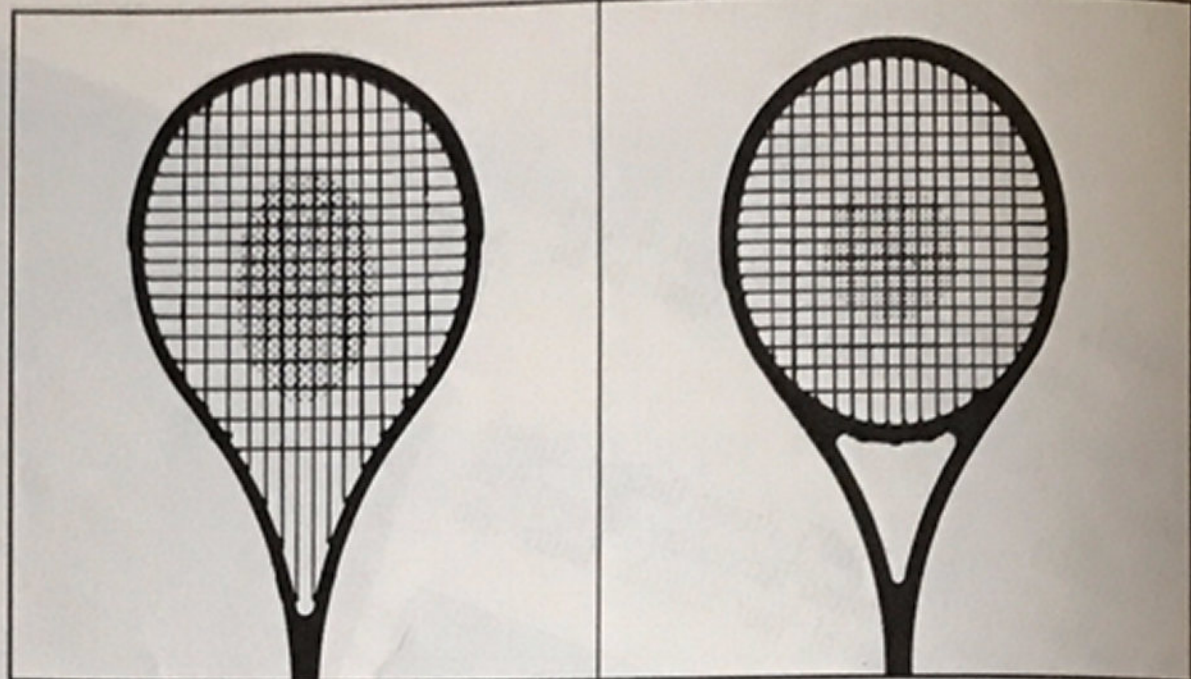
With this racquet, it shows that Prince is really listening to the comments of players and is establishing a name as a manufacturer of squash racquets in its own right. The Extender is composed of graphite and fibreglass, with

Prince's Technigrip synthetic grip. It comes with an extended head cover too.

The Prince Extender will be available at around a suggested retail of \$209.00. For more information, contact Ross Clarke at (416) 479-2553 for the name of your nearest dealer.

It is very refreshing for me as equipment reviewer to come across a new company that offers products that don't say 'here-we-go-again', and that is true of Fin.

Fin offers tennis and squash racquets that have a unique concept running through their complete line, and this may well be the answer to the prayers of anyone who suffers from tennis or golfers elbow. Fin is distributed by VFS Sports. The VFS stands for Vibration Free System, and this is the key to all their frames.



Prince' Extender on left and regular squash raquet on right.

The problem of vibration travelling from the racquet head, past the throat, down the shaft, and then into your arm has been solved by an ingenious little plug found at the bottom of the head. The frame is split at this point and this is where the plug is situated. It absorbs the vibration and prevents it from being transmitted any further. Without reading any further in the sales literature, I decided to test it out to save time. I took down the Airflow Tennis Rac-

quet, which was the closest at hand and hit the strings hard with the palm of my hand. Quickly placing my fingers on the side of the frame, I felt sizeable buzzing vibration. Then I hit the strings again with my palm and this time placed my fingers just below the throat piece, expecting to feel the same degree of vibration. Well, well! No vibration! When one is used to sales hype, its refreshing to find something that lives up to its claim. I tested the squash racquets, and the same

ARE ALL THE COURTS IN USE TO-DAY?

Nautilus succeeds where ordinary exercise equipment fails



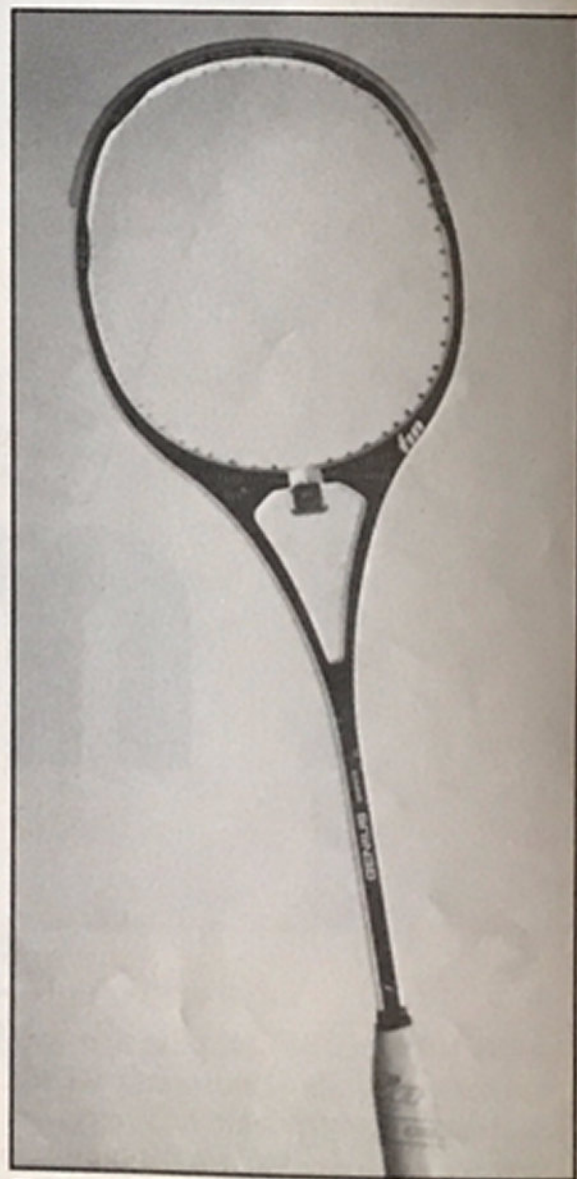
One of the most popular operations available to-day is the exercise-fitness area. An owner of an existing squash-racquetball facility can take advantage of empty courts by converting them with a little effort and a relatively small investment in Nautilus equipment.

For more information call Franc Sutcliffe 613-238-1112

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Fin's specially designed nylon rubber plug

thing happened. Vibration at the side of the head - no noticeable vibration down the shaft. Tennis elbow sufferers should try out a demonstrator at their local dealers as soon as they can. In fact, one of the members here came to me and asked if we had any as his doctor had recommended he use one in conjunction with treatment for severe elbow problems.

The Fin range of squash racquets comes with other good features: an extra thick head protector strip; and internal weights placed at 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock which correct the distribution of the frame on impact. The range is made up of currently 3, soon to be more, models, offering differing degrees of flexibility and weight. The Genius Ceramic-Boron retails for \$189.00 and is the stiffest. The Competitor Graphite retails for \$179.00 and is a touch heavier but a little more flexible and the Legend which sells for \$169.00. It is the lightest and most flexible of the 3.

For more information on these graphite fibreglass composite models, call Red Sheedy at VFS Sports, (416) 395-1772. The talk is all that is buzzing about these racquets!○

Help Wanted

SQUASH PROFESSIONAL

Hollyburn Country Club, one of Canada's finest family sports clubs, is seeking a Squash Professional.

Reporting to the General Manager, through the Recreation Director, the Squash Professional will be responsible for the planning, teaching, promotion and supervision of his/her sport programme.

Applicants must have the following credentials:

- Played and coached at the International level
- Level III coaching certification or equivalent
- Experience as a private sport club professional or university coach
- Good communication and interpersonal skills and the ability to work with members of all skill levels is essential

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CLUB MARKHAM... A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Club Markham, a fabulous 26,000 square foot racquet and fitness club has opened its doors in Markham, Ontario. Conveniently located at the corner of Highway 7 and Warden Avenue in the luxurious Markham Suites Hotel, Club Markham offers a sophisticated and professional calibre of fitness that has never been experienced before in the Toronto area.

Luxurious amenities include over a quarter million dollars of state-of-the-art fitness equipment in a spacious gymnasium lined with large bay windows, a 2,200 square foot "cushion-mounted" aerobics floor designed by aerobic experts, a "Suite Spa" - a secluded retreat where you can work and play in total privacy, and

an indoor pool with adjacent garden and licensed patio. Club Markham also boasts an inviting Club Dining Lounge and party room which overlooks five international squash courts. There is a child care centre, whirlpool, steam rooms, and dry saunas. Club Markham is dedicated to providing five-star service and a 'feeling of security and comfort' to each and every one of its members.

Club leagues, ladders, special events and parties will be planned regularly. Club rentals can be arranged for private groups on Saturday evenings.

A vibrant and thriving squash scene will develop easily at Club Markham. The five international courts, four of which are glass-back-

ed, are viewed easily from the 3,500 square foot, three-tiered licensed lounge, appropriately called, the Courtyard. Anyone who remembers the Victoria Village Squash Club and the parties for which it became famous, will feel right at home in the Courtyard! Thursday night will be

from a certified swimming instructor.

Club Markham does not just want to be located in Markham, it wants to be part of the community of Markham and will be an eager participant in sponsoring many neighbourhood events and excursions. Successful racquet and fitness clubs



From business suits to sweatsuits - the lounge provides a welcome for everyone.

"Club Night", which will feature squash exhibitions, demonstrations, a disc jockey and dancing. But that's not all - Club Markham's resident squash professional, Nigel Gleeson (formerly of Cedar Springs Athletic Club and originally from Ireland), organizes a schedule of weekly squash events that would keep an entire department busy. For instance, houseleagues, flight ladders, round robins, ladies morning leagues, junior clinics, Toronto & District league teams, exhibitions, noon-hour leagues, club championships and much, much more.

But Club Markham will not be for swingers only. The services of a masseuse, beautician and chiropractor will also be available, as well as lessons

today are those which make their facility an extension of a member's living room and Club Markham fits this criteria precisely. You'll feel both comfortable and at home in this friendly, neighbourhood club - come in, and welcome home!

For further information, call (416) 470-2400 or come and see us at 8500 Warden Avenue in Markham.

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