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C O N T E N T S

- 5 1991 Team Championships
12 Charity Flame Still Aglow
15 Team Ontario Wins at Canada Games
18 Here's To The Winners
20 Coming Attractions

DEPARTMENTS

- 8 Point....Counter Point
14 From The Regions
22 Club Focus



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VOLUME 14, NO. 6

A delicate drop from the veteran Beryl Paton.



Alberta Wins Women's Title

B.C. UPSETS ONTARIO FOR MEN'S TITLE

By Sherry Funston •••••

Come on, Mom! Come on, Mom? Now how often do you hear that at a squash tournament these days, particularly from one team mate to another?

Alberta, in an attempt to psyche out the rest of the teams in the Inter-Provincial Team Championships, sent the one-two punch of Beryl and daughter, Amanda to defend its Women's title which they somehow managed to wrest away from Ontario in 1990.

The family Paton was just one of the unique features of the 1991 Inter-Provincial Team Championships. For the first time ever, the men's and women's events were held together and playing host was Toronto's Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet Club, whose

13 international courts were well used and well squashed throughout the last weekend in January. Nineteen teams from almost every province and the North West Territories sent representatives and spectators were treated to some excellent squash. Joyce Maycock, still a force to contend with, led the British Columbia women's contingent while Steve Lawton and ex-Ontarian John Fleury carried the banner for the men. Canada's newest national coach, Gene Turk captained the Manitoba men's team while Jamie Crombie performed similar duties for Alberta. Max Weithers captained Ontario's men's team, anchored by an almost perennial number two in command, Steve Wren. Playing third was Jonathan Power. The Ontario women's team was led by two of the most promising juniors in the country, Melanie Jans and Tara Sharpe and they were ably anchored by Beccy Rogers.

Preliminary pool play in the women's event saw few surprises with both British Columbia and Alberta finishing on top of their divisions, having demolished all opposition in convincing style. Alberta did not lose a single game in its first four matches and B.C. lost but two. Both teams



B.C.'s, John Fleury, right, wins a tough 5 setter against Ontario's Max Weithers.

sustained their winning ways in the semi-finals with B.C. trouncing Manitoba 3-0 and Alberta dispensing with Ontario in similar fashion. It certainly set the stage for an exciting final.

The game these days may belong to the young but, in the crunch, it is the experience of the more mature player which can sometimes pull it out and Beryl Paton proved that. The evening before the final, the team captains flipped a coin to determine the order of play and it was therefore decided that it would go 2, 1, 3. Thus, the first match pitted B.C.'s Debbie Secco against the veteran Paton and Debbie, with a series of deft drop shots from all over the court, took the first game 9-6. Beryl won the next game quite handily with some nifty drops of her own and then lost a hard-fought game three, 9-10. Down 2-1, Paton kept her poise and patiently moved Secco around the court, waiting for the unforced errors which eventually came. In the fifth and deciding game, it was the younger Secco who ran out of legs and Alberta took that very important first match of the final 3-2.

Now it was daughter Amanda's turn as the two number ones took to the court. Amanda played brilliant squash and dispensed with Joyce Maycock very easily 9-4, 9-4, 9-7. That win gave Alberta the title, making the third match between Andrie Bates and Sandy McBean somewhat anticlimactic. However, Sandy finished it off in style with a 7-9, 9-7, 9-6, 9-1 victory.

In the play off for third and fourth, Ontario's Melanie Jans, Tara Sharpe

and Beccy Rogers were all winners as they put together a great team effort to defeat Manitoba 3-0.

The men's event proved to be a much closer battle, in both the two pools as well as in the semi-finals and finals. British Columbia once again ended up on top of the heap in its pool, finishing just two points ahead of rival Alberta. In the other pool, Ontario also ended up with 11 points, just three points ahead of Manitoba.

In the cross over for the semi finals, Manitoba and British Columbia squared off as did Ontario and Alberta. B.C.'s Jim Geddes won a marathon 4 setter against Manitoba's Bob Ballinger but Gene Turk came back to tie the match at 1 all with a convincing 3-0 win over John Fleury. This put the heat on Steve Lawton who pulled the win out by defeating Sushane Soni 3-1. In the other semi-final, Ontario's Max Weithers played steady squash but was unable to match the shot-making talents of Alberta's number one, Jamie Crombie, and lost in 4. Jonathon Power had won his match so the pressure was on Steve Wren. He rose to the occasion and came away with a comfortable 3-1 win over Dave Safton, thus giving Ontario a berth in the final and the opportunity to defend its title.

The flip of the coin once again determined the order of play for the finals. First up was Power who won his match over Jim Geddes 3-1. Max then took on John Fleury in what was easily the best match of the weekend. He lost the first game 4-9 but came back strongly in the second, winning

that one 9-2. A lapse of concentration on Weither's part in the third game resulted in a 0-9 drubbing but he regained his poise in the fourth to win that and even the match at 2 all. The fifth game was a brilliant display of squash which saw the score see-saw back and forth. The hometown crowd watched in nail-biting fashion as Max denied John four match points before finally succumbing 6-9.

Now it was all up to Steve Wren and it was unbearable pressure for the likeable pro from Curzons. So how Steve Lawton becomes much more dangerous on court after a night on the town and such was the case that day. He took quick and total control of the match from the first point and in rather short order, Lawton, of course, British Columbia, captured the 1991 Men's Team title.

The winning members of the team as well as all finalists were presented with original lithographs by Toronto's Harriet Wolfe, the kindness of which will be a visual reminder of the fun and camaraderie enjoyed at Mayfair Lakeshore. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation of Ontario provided a hostess to assist Tournament Chairwoman Barbara Diggins, with the man associated with running an event of this size and prestige and Stella, fresh and Pepsi-Cola all contributed product to the event. Through Jennifer Dawkins, the players were entertained between host hotel, the Queen Plaza and the club in a luxurious General Motors van. Norma Graham, Tournament Referee and her group of officials, provided fair and refreshingly uncontested refereeing throughout the weekend and Kevin Inouye, the congenial assistant squash professional at the Lakeshore was, as usual, of enormous assistance in helping to make things go smoothly.

Most of the players agreed that holding the two events together was an excellent idea. It lent itself to more of a 'team' atmosphere with the men rooting on the women as loudly and heartily as each other. Jamie Crombie, Alberta's boisterous cheerleader, can attest to that! Whatever the decision in the future, Squash Ontario was proud to play a part in this experiment. Next year, wherever the championships are held, we will obviously strive to find a mother and daughter team to counter the Paton's although, having met both, one must concede that they are likely one of a kind. O

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO LET?

As Rodney Dangerfield is wont to say, "I don't get no respect". Most probably, every person who has ever sat in the official's chair, whether it be at the back of the court or at centre court, can sympathize with this lament. And most likely, every player has, at one time or another, thought that the person refereeing the match either had never read the rule book or was in desperate need of an appointment at the optician.

The good natured jibes of the past between referee and player have now turned nasty, with referees often subjected to the most insulting and offensive invectives. The whining and pouting, and sometimes racquet abuse by some players, and particularly that of some of our juniors, brings no credit either to the player or the game. Squash, the game once renowned for its civility, is beginning to sink to levels of which none of us can or should be proud.

In this first of a two part series, Senior Contributing Editor, John Bonnar, examines the controversial issue of player behaviour - is this a new phenomenon? - are we making too big a deal of it? - can we find a solution?

John discusses the issue with Norma Graham, Ontario's Tournament Referee and Steve Wren, one of the country's best and most articulate players. Norma has had an enormous amount of experience refereeing international matches, many of which featured some of squash's most difficult players. She is chairman of the Squash Ontario Officiating Committee and is this province's representative on the national Officiating Committee. Steve, the squash professional at Toronto's Curzon's Sporting Club, is highly respected both for his talent and his sportsmanlike conduct on and off the court. He has some very definite opinions as to what steps should be taken to improve the calibre of officiating and the behaviour of some players on court.

Does the answer lie in stricter enforcement of the Code of Conduct by referees? Does it lie in administrative discipline of the offending players? Is the solution somewhere in between? The problem is not peculiar to Canada but, unfortunately, is endemic within world squash circles. To do nothing, is by definition, benign condonation. This is not an acceptable solution.

EDITOR'S NOTE

By John Bonnar ●●●●●●●●●●

Most people agree that there is increasing tension between players and referees but has it reached a crisis point?

Abuse has been made into an issue by the media. Broadcasters and writers focus on players' indiscretions rather than on the quality of the match. Conflict does exist in squash, but the increased publicity may have blown the problem out of proportion. "Abuse has always been there", admits Steve Wren, "but I don't think the situation has deteriorated to a crisis point".

rated to a crisis point".

Twenty years ago squash was not promoted the same way it is today. Players competed in fewer tournaments, received less prize money and had few or no endorsements. Today's fiery, competitive environment has produced moments of questionable on court behaviour. "In the past, you still got the quarrels", says Wren, "but few people witnessed the incidents and you never read about it in the newspaper". "Abuse happened in the private clubs", agrees Graham, "but it never got out in the open". Abuse was

not newsworthy and thus the media felt that the general public would not be interested in such trivial dramatics. Today it receives more attention because the fans have shown a keener interest in watching athletes make a spectacle of themselves.

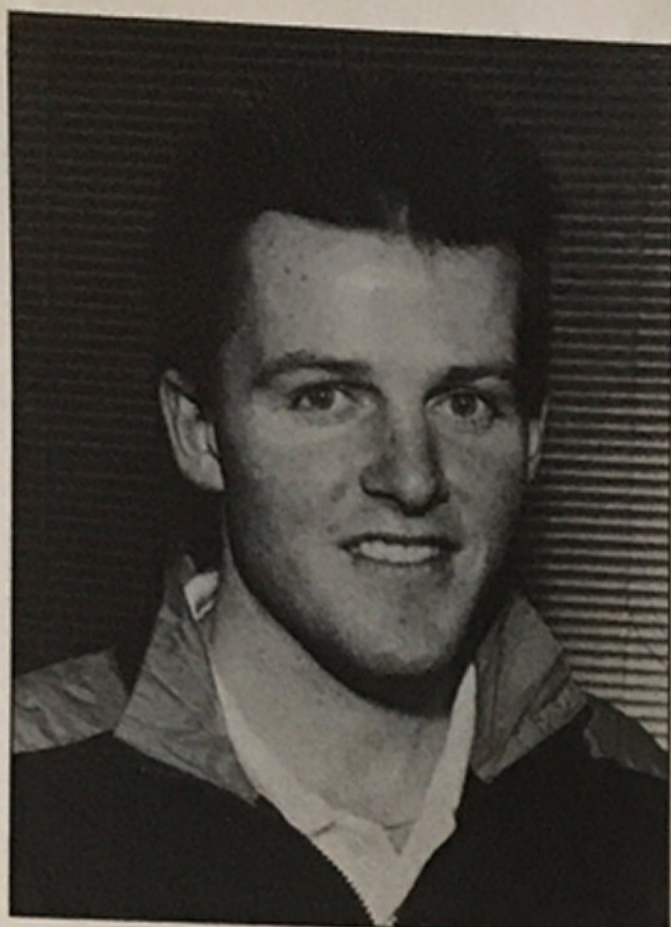
"In 1991, there are more professionals competing for bigger purses", says Wren. "Players misbehave to motivate themselves, psyche out an opponent, or gain more time". "But it's not just about dollars", says Graham. "Players are striving to perform at their peak level. On days when that's not possible, a player will blame his faults on the equipment, his opponent, or the official".

Some members of the squash community feel that a player should have to control his emotions or keep up his feelings on court. However, according to Wren, "there are some players who let too much of their personality into the game". Everyone wants to win and nobody likes to lose. In a team sport, a loss is shared by the players. In squash, the loss is alone. A player vents his frustration on himself, an opponent, or on a referee. "That's what abuse really is", says Graham, "anger, competitiveness, frustration all aimed in the wrong direction".

And if there really is a problem, what is the solution?

"Let's publicize the fact that abuse is unacceptable", says Wren, "instead of simply reporting the abuse itself". Most of the abuse at the club level stems from the professional ranks. The club player hears about the abuse of a professional in some event and finds out the player escaped without penalty. He feels he then has the right to act in a similar manner.

Abuse is a part of a match fans



STEVE WREN

remember. They may forget the great shots but they generally recall a thrown racquet or a verbal outburst. Whether it's 'selective memory' or too much publicity is open to debate.

Referees have tried to stay on top of abuse at the professional level. Certain acts of misconduct warrant a loss of a point, game or a match. "Referees

should enforce a strict code of ethics", says Wren, "and that means more than just handing out warnings". "Top professionals are getting away with some incredible things against international referees". Officials should not be required to explain or rationalize their calls to a player; that only leads to arguments and stalled play.

"The problem in Canada", says Graham, "is that a lot of the players are more experienced than the referees". The referees lack the confidence to clamp down on abusive players. A less experienced official cannot see the difference between a competitor 'playing the person' and one playing the ball. Referees need time to learn how to deal with players 'cheating on the rules'. Only 15 people in Canada are qualified to referee at the international level and, only a few of these will be

available at any given tournament. The officiating body always finds itself in a catch up situation.

Squash Ontario needs better programmes and increased funding to develop top level referees. "We need a similar system to develop referees",

says Graham, "as the coaches have to develop players". If a player gets to play in 10 tournaments a year to perfect his game, an official should be able to referee 10 tournaments a year to perfect his skills. Squash players prefer playing to officiating and that is reflected in the

types of programmes available to the aspiring referee".

If club players emulate the professionals' abusive behaviour, so too do referees often imitate the meek, subdued and submissive behaviour of top level referees. "We can deal with that

Officials are too lenient in dealing with abusive behaviour

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NORMA GRAHAM

by putting more people through an officiating programme", says Graham, "and giving our referees more experience in dealing with top calibre players". Officials are too lenient in dealing with abusive behaviour and a healthy dose of assertiveness training coupled with additional experience might help solve the problem.

And is consistency a realistic expectation?

"The tournament players are aware of the experienced referee's stroke zone", says Graham, "and some are tighter than others". The problem arises in a tournament where players do not always get an experienced official until the quarter or semi finals. In the opening rounds, a new referee is not going to provide the same quality of officiating.

"In the C.P.S.A., players are happy to referee their own matches", says Wren, "and have matches refereed by other players". According to Wren, "players have a lot more confidence in a referee who is of equivalent playing calibre". However this undermines the goals of the officiating body. Conflict emerges because the players do not credit an official with a proper understanding of the game. "Some of the worst referees in the world are top players", retorts Graham. In other sports, like hockey and baseball, officials are not top players nor have they ever been. They do, however, spend several years in the minor leagues, honing their skills, before officiating at the top level. "To understand the game and recognize the abilities of players, you do not need elite playing

experience", says Graham.

The Code of Conduct allows referees to hand out stiff penalties for questionable behaviour on court. However, inexperienced officials are reluctant to impose the Code. They do not feel confident in dealing with this issue. "You should be penalized if you abuse yourself, your opponent or the referee", says Graham, "and referees are partly to blame for allowing it to continue. If unsportsmanlike conduct is jumped upon, the squash community will react by saying: "You didn't do it to the guy in the previous match, so why me?" It always comes

back to the consistency factor. The fact that squash is a unique little family compounds the situation. A referee hesitates to disqualify a 'buddy'. "Provincial and national referees have to seriously consider the problem", adds Wren, "because the Code of Conduct is still not being enforced".

John Bonnar will continue his discussions with Norma Graham and Steve Wren. They will examine the Code of Conduct and its apparent lack of use by officials as well as talk about the affect abuse is having on our juniors, on spectators and on sponsorship.

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Charity Flame Still Burns Brightly

Keept the fire burning.....that was the rationale behind the Central Ontario Black Knight Charity Squash Challenge. In the absence of a provincial sponsor, the Central Ontario Executive felt it was even more important than ever that the charity challenge series be kept alive.

Throughout December and January, clubs in Central Ontario held in-house tournaments to determine their representatives for the regional event. The weekend of January 25-27, 1991 signalled the start of the regional championships, hosted by the Royal Brock Hotel, Spa and Sports Club in Brockville. A total of 75 players arrived to compete for 12 titles. All weekend long, we were treated to exciting squash and luxurious hospitality on the part of the Royal Brock staff.

At the reception on Saturday night, local Multiple Sclerosis representative, Jean Lormer, reminded us all of just how important the funds we raised are to those stricken with multiple sclerosis. A total of \$1,500 was raised for M.S. and will be distributed to chapters around Central Ontario.

The success of the Charity Challenge is due largely to the many club organizers whose efforts are "what got the ball rolling" at the club level. Our thanks to Cary Club (Kingston), Willie Curry (Harbour Club), Bruce MacLean (Cobourg Y), Wes Shaver (#1 Nautilus) and Steve Kullman (Barrie Racquets Club). Central Ontario would also like to thank our sponsor, Black Knight, for its generous support and assistance.

1991 Black Knight Central Ontario Charity Challenge Winner

Men's A Champion: Kerri McKoney

Women's A Champion: Nancy Wiggitt-Orford

Men's B Champion: Paul Ryan

Women's B Champion: Kim Kay

Men's C Champion: Dale Garrah

Women's C Champion:

Sylvie Cloutier

Men's D Champion: Steve Kullman

Women's D Champion: Laurie Coady

Men's E Champion: David Tong

Women's Novice Champion:

Lois Carr

Men's 35+ Champion: John Faulkner

Men's 40+ Champion:

Mike Procyshyn

In order for any event to be a success, someone has to organize the organizers. Squash Ontario would like to take this opportunity to thank Graham Gilley for all of his hard work in ensuring that the charity fires were, indeed, kept burning in Central Ontario.

Not to be outdone, two clubs in Western Ontario Region also took up the challenge of keeping the charity flame lit. Northfield-Doon Racquet Club had 110 members participate in its charity event resulting in a cheque of \$1,200 to the local Multiple Sclerosis Society. The cheque was presented on behalf of the members by club manager, Melanie Hanson.

Local clothing manufacturer Tiger Brand supplied all participants with t-shirts and our thanks to Martha Turner for her support. Rick Donelle of Superior Sanitation Supplies covered the cost of screening and artwork and Labatt's supplied some of the prizes.

Northfield-Doon provided food and courts and the players did the rest.

Men's A Champion: Jim Martel

Men's B Champion: Brent Heard

Women's B Champion: Ginette Ball

Men's C Champion: Boyd Nairn

Women's C Champion: Elaine Smith

Men's D Champion: Henry Bout

Women's D Champion:

Rosemary Schroeder

It is anticipated that other clubs within the region will also be holding club level events and we will be able to co-ordinate a regional play off. With some luck and the generosity of a new sponsor, we hope to be involved in the provincial tournament again next year.

Cedar Springs Athletic & Racquet Club ran its squash charity classic tournament in January. Sponsors of the event were Sharkeys on the Water and Atom Racquets as well as Federal Music & Video and Camelot Agency. We thank them for their donation of prizes.

Over 65 squashers participated in the event which saw 100 matches being played over the weekend, many of which were refereed by willing volunteers.

The tournament produced a lot of winners but the real winner was the Halton Multiple Sclerosis Society. A cheque was donated to the society on behalf of the members of Cedar Springs.

Thanks to the many sponsors of our tournament, the players who provided some great squash, and the many people who volunteered to referee. Let's all keep the charity squash tournaments a tradition in all clubs.

Men's A Champion: Greg Brechin

*Men's B Champion:
Wynn MacDonald*

Men's C Champion: Paul Rice

*Women's C Champion:
Maureen Thomas*

Men's D Champion: Dave Hunt

*Women's D Champion:
Mariellen Glover*

Men's 35+ Champion: Norm Crook

Men's 40+ Champion: John Gow

Larry Christiansen of Northfield-Doon and Pat Cranbury of Cedar Springs have been perennial supporters of the annual Charity Challenge. Fortunately for Squash Ontario and the Multiple Sclerosis Society, they were both unwilling to see the Charity Challenge die and have, in a major way, kept the flame burning brightly.

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Thunder Bay also benefitted from the generosity of the players in Northwestern Ontario Region. The unfortunate withdrawal of sponsorship support for the annual provincial Charity Challenge did not discourage the executive of the Thunder Bay Squash Association. Instead, through the generous support of Cantel Inc., the

1991 Cantel Charity Challenge raised over \$2,000.00 for the local M.S. chapter.

The tournament was hosted by Confederation College Fitness Centre and the Canada Games Complex. Despite the absence of a trip to the provincial finals in the Toronto area, this year's event attracted as many participants as before, close to 120 from the region and also several juniors on an exchange programme from the Winnipeg Winter Club.

The tournament committee, chaired by Philip Wong, would like to thank the major sponsor, Cantel Inc. for its support in making this charity tournament possible. As well, other sponsors included Confederation College Fitness Centre and the Canada Games Complex, Robin's Donut, and Casey's Restaurant.

Men's A Open Champion: Bob Shine

*Women's A Champion:
Donna Newhouse*

Men's A Champion: Barry Quarrel

Men's B Champion: Dave Bazulak

*Women's B Champion:
Brenda Moulson*

Men's C Champion: Robin Lakhani

Women's C Champion: E. Matson

Men's D Champion: Mark Scofish

*Junior Men's Champion:
D. Figliomeni*

*Junior Women's Champion:
Nikki Butter*

Northern Ontario did its part too in keeping the charity event alive. Dana Matson, this year's co-ordinator, organized the event and, again, the real winner was the M.S. Society. Thanks to Dan Yachuk, the Assistant Director of the Valley East Recreation Centre for his generosity in giving up court time and thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a success.

Men's A Champion: Keith Denis

Men's B Champion: James McDonald

Men's C Champion: Blain Parrington

Men's D Champion: Bob Bedard

*Men's Novice Champion:
Michael Graham*

Women's Champion: Cathy Fiddes

Although not formally, a number of clubs in the Toronto & District also did their part to help raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Thanks to Mayfair Lakeshore, Mayfair Parkway, Waterfront Squash Club and Club Markham for carrying on a great tradition.○

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SQUASH HEATS UP IN NORTHERN CLIMES

By Chuck Wallsten •••••

Picture this. It is the 1990 Northern Ontario Closed Championship. You strike off at 12:00 noon, drive for seven hours and get out of the car just in time for your 8:00 p.m. match. A crazy person? No, a squash player in Northern Ontario.

The Northeastern region of Squash Ontario spans an area from Kapuskasing, where some brave souls play in a converted coal bin, Iroquois Falls, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, the enthusiastic New Liskeard club, North Bay, Parry Sound, Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. These areas are oases of squash pools along the trade routes of highways 69, 17 and 11.

Eleven years ago, a small group from the Sudbury Y sparked the formation of what became the regional executive. The work of these few created the impetus to organize and coordinate a series of tournaments in the north that began the growth of squash in the region.

Since then, some of the locations have changed - new clubs have formed and a bunch of fresh young faces have appeared on the scene. The major growth of squash in this region has certainly been stimulated by this crop of enthusiastic and keen junior players who willingly travel the province to gain experience and improve their play. This dedication has paid enormous dividends with the

selection of the Soo's Vicky Marrack to the Ontario Canada Winter Games Team. An 'aging' junior, Keith Denis, is ranked as an Ontario A player and other fresh hopefuls are busy preparing for the Northern Junior team which will compete in the Ontario Winter Games.

All of this has happened because of a group of dedicated, hard-working individuals. Sault Ste. Marie has its core of workers led by Ken Ojeer. He has been a driving force behind the junior programmes in that city and has recently been named coach of the region's team in the Ontario Winter Games. As well, Ken will chair the Bank of Montreal Ontario Junior Squash Championships, the first time this prestigious event has been held in the north. The Y and Creeds have combined on several occasions to host events that have been both squash and social successes.

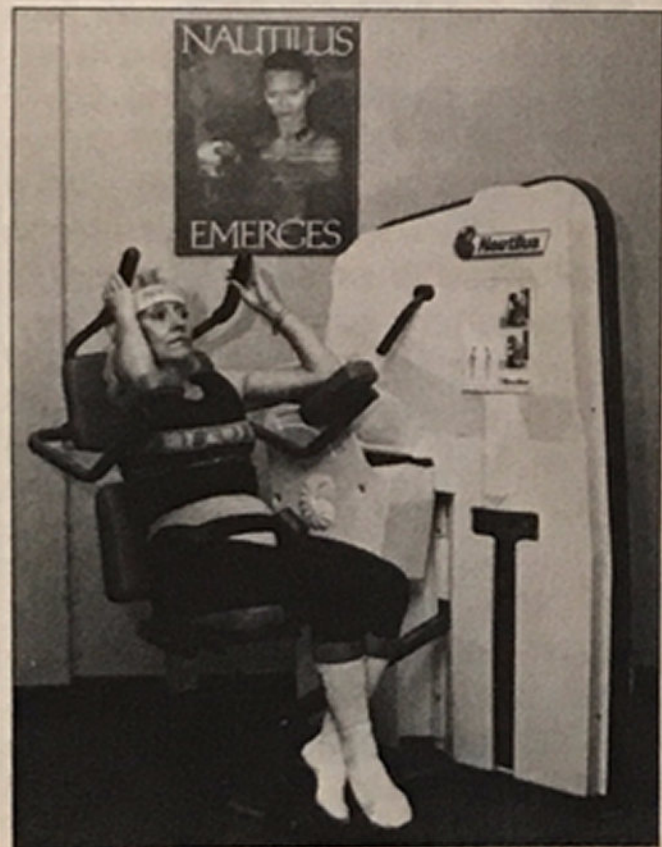
Sudbury has its share of volunteers as well. People like Bryan Drew who is responsible for running the entertaining and valuable rules clinics and Dana Matson, another tireless worker on behalf of juniors.

All the clubs have their core of workers and volunteers - too many to name them all. But they work to keep the game alive and well in Parry Sound's Jolly Roger, or North Bay's Y, or Cambrian College's studied courts.

And this year, when the Northern Closed is held at the Valley East Complex, it will only be a four hour road trip. One squash player will not have to leave until 3 in the afternoon to make that 8 p.m. match!

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Vice President	Stephanie Todd
Secretary/ Treasurer	June Wallsten
Officiating Chairman	Bryan Drew
Ranking Chairman	Brad Dussiaume
Junior Chairman	Dana Matson
Past President	Ken Ojeer

Ontario Teams Strike For Gold At CANADA WINTER GAMES

By John Power

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, was the recent host for the 13th Canada Games. With approximately 2500 young athletes from all ten provinces and two territories descending upon Canada's smallest province and birth-place of Confederation, it made for an unforgettable sporting experience.

For eight young squash players and two coaches from Ontario it was even more memorable as we arrived home sporting gold medals and with the knowledge that we contributed maximum points to the overall Ontario effort. The excitement and interest of having squash as part of a major multi-sport games for the very first time made the experience that much more significant. We lived, ate and travelled with athletes and coaches of other disciplines. We gained greater appreciation for the commitment and talent of young rhythmic gymnasts, the size and strength of 16 year old hockey players, the grace and beauty of synchro swimmers and the similarity of our sport to badminton. The fraternity within the Canadian squash community was indeed apparent. The demeanour and sportsmanship displayed on court, coupled with the smooth organization of the tournament, only enhanced the image of squash at the Games.

The actual squash battles themselves went pretty much according to plan. The Ontario junior women's team comprised of Tara Sharpe, Jo Thomas, Jan Wilson and Vicky Marack was the number one ranked team and easily lived up to expectation. In fact, the team exceeded the predictions of the pundits by not even dropping a match during the week. They predictably came through their four team pool in first place and then routed Alberta 4-0 in the semi final.

On paper, the final was to be a classic showdown. The Manitoba team, with two former Canadian champions in Marnie Baizley and Sally Norgate at positions two and three and their number one, Anita Soni, looked to be at least even odds after not dropping a match in the first four days of competition.

The order of play for the final day

was three, four, one, two. Jan Wilson led off with a convincing 3-0 victory over Sally Norgate. The number four position was a mystery. Vicky had never met up with the more experienced Sophie Metraux from Winnipeg and appeared nervous, dropping the first game 9-2. After a short talk with coach Sue Smeaton, the young Sault Ste. Marie native returned to the court with a confidence and consistency that was not to be undone. Vicky ran out the remainder of the match in convincing fashion.

One more match was required to clinch victory and the gold for the Ontario side and the pressure was placed on the shoulders of Tara Sharpe from Peterborough. Tara had last played her counterpart, Anita Soni, at the 1990 National Championships and had lost in a thrilling five games. However, this match started off in a whole different manner with Tara winning the first two games in a long but convincing fashion, 9-4, 9-1. But then the tide changed and Anita began to strike the ball with more confidence and her short game was putting pressure on the weary Ontarian. Two games all and it looked as if Manitoba's hopes were being rejuvenated. What happened exactly, we'll never be sure but Tara came out in the fifth in a dry shirt and with new found determination. She re-discovered her length and the power that gave her the early lead. Ten minutes later, it was over and a jubilant Ontario team had won the gold.

It was left up to Jo Thomas to complete the sweep. The slight Ottawa girl showed why she is a leading candidate for the national junior women's team, defeating the highly regarded Marnie Baizley, 3-1.

The boys' team was comprised of Ontario's top two under 19's, Patrick Ryding and Duncan Peake and the under 16 twosome of Ian Power and Taras Klymenko. Though seeded number one going into the games, they knew they were in for a difficult time from the western provinces, particularly at the tree and four positions.

The six team A pool concluded with Ontario and Manitoba still in the hunt for the gold while British Columbia

and Alberta finished a close one-two in the B pool. In the semi final crossover, young Ian at number three felt the pressure and couldn't manage a game from an older, more experienced Albertan, Kent Crossland. But Duncan Peake had little difficulty reversing the trend, giving up only one point to Calgary's, Eric Watson. Patrick Ryding had little trouble duplicating Duncan's effort as he soundly defeated Owen Myre 9-0, 9-1, 9-1. This secured the win for Ontario and took the pressure off Taras who was up against the Canadian under 14 champion, Douglas Parent. In what was a meaningless encounter, the diminutive 13 year old Parent displayed his technical and tactical maturity, handing Taras a 3-1 defeat.

The final match up with B.C. turned out to be easier than expected. Matthew Harley, the number three from Victoria, was favoured to win but needed a 3-0 win of B.C. was to be in the hunt. It wasn't to be as the determined Ian fought him every inch of the way before bowing out 9-7 in the fifth. This set the stage for three strong performances from Taras, Patrick and Duncan and a final 11-4 total game score. Little doubt was left as to who were the current rulers in Canadian junior squash. A complete golden sweep!

Sue Smeaton and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for its financial support of our first Canada Games effort. We are also very grateful to MasterCard. We planned a comprehensive training programme some 18 months ago and the Ministry grant could not cover all of our plans. MasterCard's financial assistance enabled us to achieve all our goals.

And, finally, a congratulations to the team members. Well done!

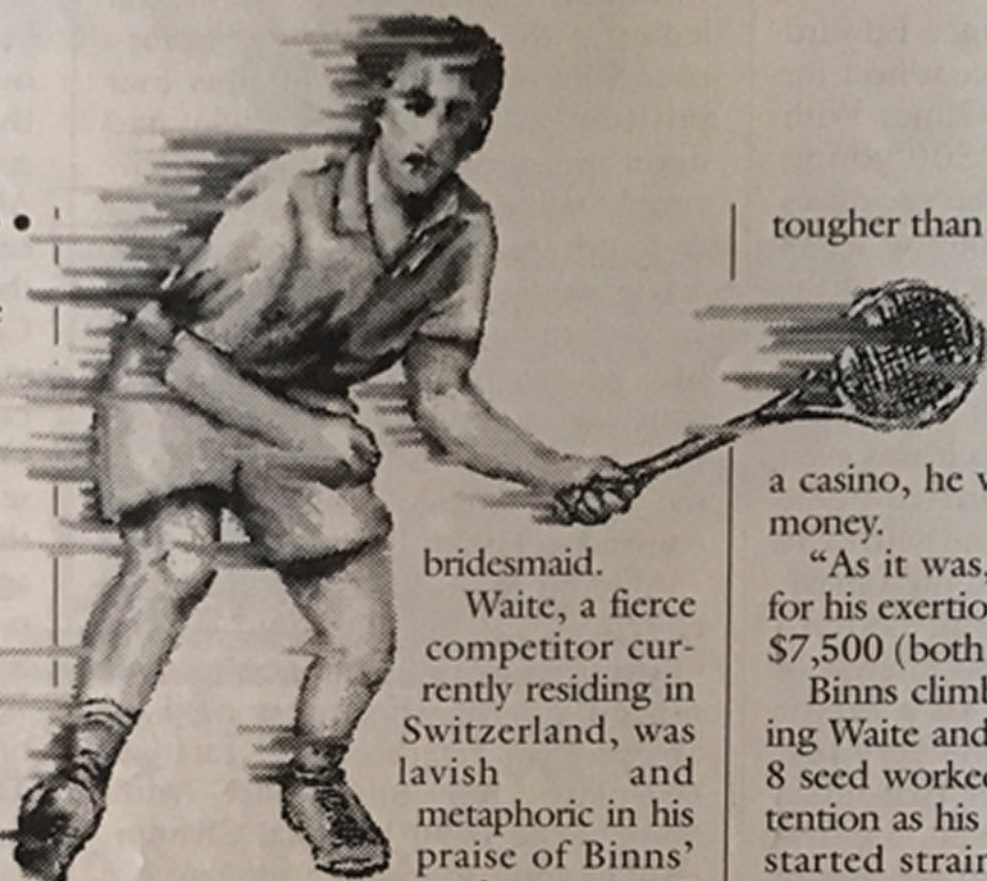
Squash Ontario would like to publicly thank both Susan Smeaton and John Power for their work, time and effort throughout the Canada Games programme. Both now relinquish their duties but do so with the knowledge that they were, in fact, pioneers and that future Canada Games coaches will benefit from the foundations which they have help to lay.○

BINNS BEATS THE ODDS AT CANADIAN OPEN

By Christian Endemann •••••

Todd Binns finally rid himself of the proverbial albatross when he won his first singles at the Xerox Canadian Open Championships in Toronto. The 33 year-old local favourite conquered compatriot Gary Waite in resounding fashion by scores of 14-15, 15-8, 15-9, 15-12.

It was an extremely popular win, not only among the partisan spectators, but also among the competitors who felt the victory was long overdue and that maybe time was running out for the 11 year tour veteran after perennial roles as



bridesmaid.

Waite, a fierce competitor currently residing in Switzerland, was lavish and metaphoric in his praise of Binns' performance. "I

played my heart out but Todd was

tougher than usual. To be a champion you have to be a gambler and the way he played tonight, Todd richly deserved to win. Had he tried his luck at a casino, he would have won a lot of money.

"As it was, Binns earned \$10,000 for his exertions while Waite picked up \$7,500 (both U.S.) for his efforts.

Binns climbed all over a slow-starting Waite and led 10-4 before the no. 8 seed worked himself back into contention as his fourth-ranked opponent started straining and indulging his penchant for hitting the dreaded tin.

Binns, who was giving away eight years to his 25 year-old rival, regained his composure to forge ahead 14-12 but Waite unleashed some cannons of his own to take the last three points and the game, 15-14.

At this juncture, many observers felt that Binns would fall prey to phantom fears about his own ability to persevere against misfortune but he quickly dispelled those notions with an aggressive display of ferocious hitting that pinned Waite to the back wall. Binns led 11-7 and cruised home to prevail 15-8 and tie the match at one game apiece.

Game three was a virtual reprise of the one before except that Waite tried to make some adjustments which would slow down the pace. But Binns poured on the heat to take the last six points with a withering barrage of bullets that forced Waite to defend desperately but to no avail. Game to Binns, 15-9.

The fourth game was a seesaw struggle as Waite was, for a while, able to blunt the sharpness of Binns with a weighty arsenal of his own. At 12-12, a riveted crowd sat hushed as the tension mounted. Binns once again raised the ante and came through with two crackling cross-court winners and an irretrievable rail shot to capture the Canadian crown in dramatic and convincing fashion. ○ COURTESY SQUASH NEWS

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Here's To The Winners!

Nutrasweet/Diet Coke Doubles

Hosted by Royal Canadian Yacht Club

Champions:

Jamie Bentley & Kenton Jernigan

Finalists: Tom Page & Todd Binns

Canadian Hardball Squash Championships

Hosted by the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club

Men's Open Champion:

Scott Stoneburgh

Finalist: Pat Richardson

Women's Open Champion:

Kerome Jerome

Finalist: Cairn Meek

Men's 40+ Champion:

Sean McDonough

Finalist: Jay Gillespie

Women's 35+ Champion: Anne Smith

Finalist: Jane Mitchell

Men's 45+ Champion: Peter Hatcher

Finalist: Peter Hall

Men's 50+ Champion: George Young

Finalist: Ted Marmor

Men's 55+ Champion: Jim Adam

Finalist: Alan Cherry

Men's 60+ Champion: Don Boyko

Finalist: Chuck Wright

Ottawa & District Junior Open

Boys' Under 19 Champion:

Patrick Ryding

Finalist: Graham Ryding

Boys' Under 16 Champion: Ian Power

Finalist: Trevor Borland

Boys Under 14 Champion: Sharir Rezik

Finalist: Eric Zaremba

Boys' Under 12 Champion:

David Phillips

Finalist: Justin Mather

Girls Under 19 Champion:

Carole Ann Rodgers

Finalist: Jo Thomas

Girls Under 16 Champion: Jan Wilson

Finalist: Danielle Clark

Girls Under 14 Champion:

Courtney Power

Finalist: Danielle Therien

Girls Under 12 Champion: Sarah Cairns

Finalist: Heather Hames

11th Annual Snofest

Hosted by the Peterborough YMCA

Men's A Champion: Geoff Mitchell

Finalist: Kerry McConkey

Men's B Champion: Samir Bhatnager

Men's B Champion: Bob Goekel

Finalist: Steve Griffin

Men's D Champion: Larry Huskinson

Finalist: Len Shrier

Ontario Mixed Doubles Championships

Hosted by the Oxford Club

Champions: Karen Jerome &

Peter Sidgwick

Finalists: Lolly Gillen & Victor Harding

Toronto & District Closed Championships

Hosted by Mayfair Lakeshore

Racquet Club

Men's A Champion: Stephen Eastwood

Finalist: Norm Platt

Women's A Champion: Melanie Jans

Finalist: Lynn Miller

Men's B Champion: Steve Delaney

Finalist: Bruce Taylor

Women's B Champion: Donna Moritsugo

Finalist: Courtney Power

Men's C Champion: Doug Gillespie

Finalist: Greg Sweeney

Women's C Champion: Yasmeen Majid

Finalist: Lisa Palmer

Men's D Champion: Frank Jarko

Finalist: Rasheed Saleuddin

Women's D Champion:

Rosemary Oxenham

Finalist: Sandy Whorton

Ontario Hardball Championships

Men's Open Champion:

Scott Stoneburgh

Finalist: John Tredget

Men's Over 30 Champion:

Sean McDonough

Finalist: Steve Hisey

Men's Over 45 Champion: Peter Hatcher

Finalist: Peter Hall

Men's Over 55 Champion: Jim Adam

Finalist: Alan Cherry

Ontario Junior Hardball Championships

Hosted by the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club

Boys 18 & Under Champion:

Mike Leckie

Finalist: Chris Deratnay

Boys 16 & Under Champion:

Mike Pirnak

Finalist: Scott Barker

Boys 14 & Under Champion: David Reid

Finalist: Scott Hurley

Boys 12 and Under Champion:

Jamie Nicholls

Finalist: Cam Weir

Boys 10 & Under Champion: Oliver Lea

Finalist: Drew Osborne

Hi-Tec Curzons Classic

Hosted by the Curzons Sporting Club

Men's A Champion: Steve Eastwood

Finalist: Steve Wren

Men's B Champion: Mike Ponomarew

Finalist: Bruce McLean

Men's C Champion: Ian McPhail

Finalist: Jim Langman

Men's D Champion: Yuill McGregor

Finalist: Greg Platt

Men's E Champion: Don Andrew

Finalist: Tom McLeod

Men's 40+ Champion: Jon Powers

Finalist: Leo Smits

Women's A Champion: Lynn Miller

Finalist: Melanie Jans

Women's B Champion:

Catherine Lawrence

Finalist: Courtney Powers

Women's C Champion: Marion Ringuette

Finalist: Teresa Hickey

Women's D Champion: Rhonda Reid

Finalist: Jane Lariviere

Women's 35+ Champion: Ann Savage

Finalist: Marion Vanganswinkel

True Heart

Hosted by # 1 Nautilus, Peterborough

Women's A Champion: Nancy Sharpe

Finalist: Sara Mitchell

Women's B Champion: Judy Woodley

Women's C Champion: Liz Gunn

Men's A Champion: Andrew Galvin

Finalist: David Hall

Men's C Champion: Dan Wing

Finalist: Steve Griffin

R.C.Y.C. Doubles

Hosted by the Royal Canadian Yacht Club

Open Champions:

Steve Hisey & Jay Gillespie

Finalists: John Boynton & Taylor Fawcett

Seniors Champions:

Bob Kerr & David Bogert

Finalists: Ed Bracht & Norm Lee

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COMING ATTRACTIONS

BANK OF MONTREAL ONTARIO JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time ever, a major provincial championship will be hosted by the Northern Ontario Region. The Y and Creed Fitness Centre of Sault Ste. Marie will welcome junior players from across Ontario as well as from other provinces on the weekend of April 19th - 21st as they compete in the Ontario Junior Squash Championships.

Events include boys and girls under 19, under 16, under 14 and under 12 and is open to any junior who is a member in good standing of Squash Ontario or his or her provincial squash association. The entry fee is \$25.00 and deadline for entries is Monday, April 8th.

The major sponsor for the Ontario Junior Championships is the Bank of Montreal which has become a great supporter of junior squash in Ontario over the past year. Secondary sponsors include Canadian Airlines/Canadian Partner, Canadian Tire, Hi-Tec, Dunlop, Athlete's Foot and the Ontario Lottery Corporation.

Posters and additional information will be mailed to all Squash Ontario member clubs on March 1st, so watch your club bulletin board for further information.

PACKARD BELL CANADIAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Town of Pickering is proud to be hosting the 1991 Canadian Junior Squash Championships to be held May 9 - 12 at the Pickering Recreation Complex. The event will attract over 250 of Canada's top junior players, representing many of the provinces.

Packard Bell Electronics Incorporated will be the tournament's primary sponsor. This is Packard Bell's second year as title sponsor and personal computers are earmarked for the four winners of the boys and girls under 19

and under 16 events. Hi-Tec Sporting Goods and Remax Realty will also sponsor the event. The Town of Pickering and all of this year's sponsors are committed to making this event memorable for the players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators.

An event of this calibre requires a facility such as the Pickering Recreation Complex. The Complex, located in the centre of Pickering, offers six international squash courts, health room, arena, swimming pool, four indoor tennis courts and two racquetball courts as well as a number of other facilities.

Other supporting sponsors include the Optimist Club of Pickering, Tridel, Beatrice Foods, Coca-Cola, Merco, Web Offset, Black Knight, Nevada Bobs, Xerox, Rohm & Haas Canada Inc., Sunoco Inc., and Henkel. A special thank you to Squash Ontario and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for providing a hosting grant for the Championships.

The Packard Bell Canadian Junior Championships promises to provide a lot of fast-paced action for players, coaches and spectators. For more information, contact Bram Wittenberg, at 831-1711.

BLACK KNIGHT TORONTO & DISTRICT JUNIOR LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

You don't need a crystal ball to see the future of squash in Ontario. Simply waltz yourself down to Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet Club, 801 Lake Shore Boulevard East in Toronto on Monday, March 18th and watch the play-offs in the Black Knight Junior Squash League. There are three divisions, under 19, under 16 and under 14 and all three at the time of writing, are led by a strong contingent of juniors from Pine Valley Racquet Club.

The 1991 league saw an increase of over 25% in the number of clubs participating and, hopefully, this trend will continue in years to come. ○

BALMY BEACH CLUB

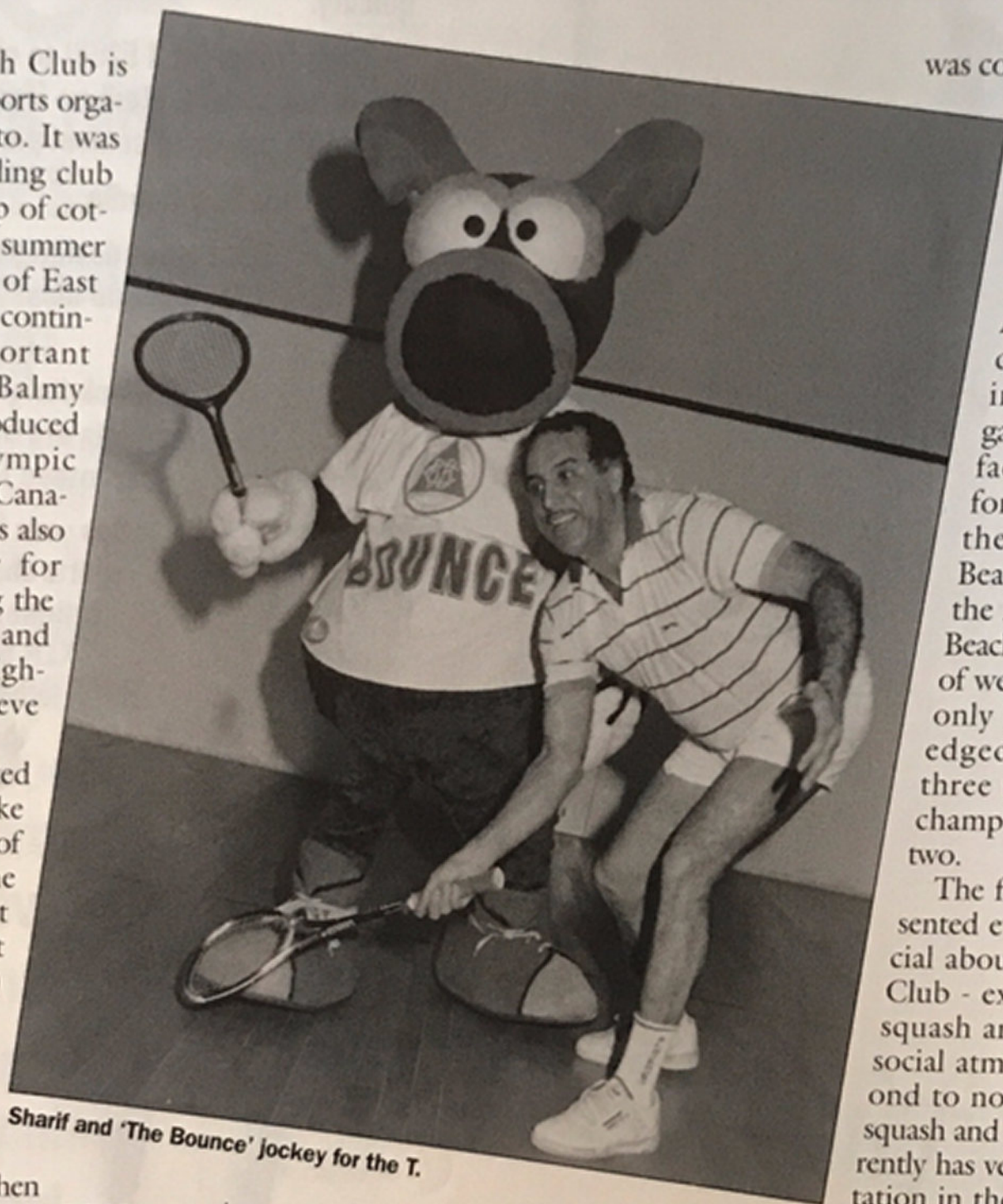
"A Very Special Club, on the Shores of Lake Ontario"

The Balmy Beach Club is one of the oldest sports organizations in Toronto. It was founded as a paddling club in 1903 by a group of cottage owners in the summer resort community of East Toronto. Paddling continues to be an important activity and the Balmy Beach Club has produced a number of Olympic medal winners for Canada. Balmy Beach was also a football power for many years, winning the Grey Cup in 1927 and 1930 (the only 'neighbourhood' to achieve this distinction).

The Club is situated on the shores of Lake Ontario, at the foot of Beech Avenue, in the heart of the East End's 'Beach' (not Beaches, please!) neighbourhood. The clubhouse has been virtually destroyed by fire twice over the past sixty years, in 1936 and 1963. When the Club was rebuilt in 1965, two hardball squash courts were added to the facilities through the efforts of long-time members Dave Thomas and Ken Lane.

Facilities at BBC include men's and women's locker rooms, saunas, weight rooms, a spacious dance floor and the best bar in the city. Sitting with a drink on the large deck overlooking Lake Ontario on a sunny afternoon reinforces the point - Balmy Beach is a very special place (and one of the best bargains in the Toronto area).

As Balmy Beach begins its second quarter century of squash, the Executive is evaluating several plans to add international courts to BBC's facilities.



Sharif and 'The Bounce' Jockey for the T.

Squash will be part of the BBC mystique for many years to come.

The fall of 1990 represented the completion of the first 25 years of squash at "The Beach", and the executive organized a four-day celebration to mark the event. A 64 entrant team tournament was held over three days for current and 'reunion' members, followed by a banquet for almost 200 guests on January 12th. At the banquet, three BBC athletes were honoured for 'outstanding achievement in squash' during the Club's first quarter century - Ken Lane, Craig Wells, and the late Paul Jacobsen.

The 25th Anniversary celebration

was completed on Sunday with a brunch and a series of exhibition matches. Following Roy Ollier's demonstration of soft ball technique (against John Olejnik and Scott Abernathy), Sharif Khan defeated his cousin Gul in four entertaining games. Sharif next had to face an even more formidable opponent - the legendary "Balmy Beach Bounce", formerly the Argo Bounce! Balmy Beach then had the honour of welcoming the one and only Hashim Khan, who edged BBC's Ken Lane, three time Canadian 60+ champion, three games to two.

The four day event represented everything that's special about the Balmy Beach Club - excellent competitive squash and, in particular, a social atmosphere that's second to none. In addition to squash and paddling, BBC currently has very strong representation in the following sports: rucker, lawn bowling, Old Boys hockey, and volleyball. The

annual Squash Volleyball tournament, held on the beach in front of the Club every summer, is attracting more and more teams from T&D Squash League clubs each year. Just one more thing which makes the Balmy Beach Club unique.○

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 Sherry Funston, Squash Ontario, (416)495-4140.

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