

SQUASH

Spring 1998

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in Niagara**

the 1998 XEROX Canadian Junior
Closed Squash Championships

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have gotten
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SQUASH Life

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Sherry Funston
MANAGING EDITOR

Ann Gray
PRESIDENT

Chris Herbert
VICE PRESIDENT

Peter Ward
VICE PRESIDENT

Gord Aitken
VICE PRESIDENT

Jeff Deverill
VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Way
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Geoff Sheppard
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

David Evans
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Barry Faguy
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Roman Lehecka
ART & DESIGN

Advertising

SHERRY FUNSTON FOR SQUASH ONTARIO
1185 EGLINTON AVENUE EAST
NORTH YORK ON M3C 3C6

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Squash Life is published to give voice to and promote squash in Ontario. 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.

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The views expressed in Squash Life are not necessarily those of Squash Ontario.

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Squash Ontario's Coaching Achievement Award



Cover photo featuring Manitoba's Alana Miller and Quebec's David Phillips, courtesy of Laurel Wood Photography.

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Toronto & District League survey results

First, on behalf of both the Men's and Women's League organizers, thank you to all the players who took the time to complete the survey. We have compiled some very interesting data.

Men's League: 56% of the respondents favour an award's banquet although an equal percentage would not attend if their club was not in the play-offs. 59% favoured a combined men's and women's league banquet and 82% thought a combined finals on a Saturday afternoon would be a great idea. Are you listening, Mayfair Lakeshore? And 78% of the respondents were very satisfied with the organization of the league so congratulations to Gord Robertson, Dave Tullis and John Varley.

Women's League: 55% of the respondents favour a combined men's and women's league finals and 53% are in favour of the finals being followed by a banquet. And an overwhelming majority think the league organizers are doing a great job - Elka Markus, Susan Howard, Theresa Miolla and Joan Frain.

League in General: On occasion in the past, there have been mutterings about the cost of the social following league matches, the travel involved, whether winter league should be longer (beginning in October and ending in May, thus eliminating summer league) and the participation of juniors in senior leagues.

SURVEY SAYS...no, travelling is not a problem. And yes, 92% stay for the social following league. Sunday squash was pooh-poohed and there was no decision on whether summer league should be eliminated by making winter league longer. And as for juniors, 75% said juniors should be allowed to participate.

Some of the responses open up some excellent partnership opportunities for the two leagues - a combined league handbook, a combined finals on a Saturday, joint league sponsorship and a combined finals banquet. The organizers of both leagues will be getting together over the summer to begin the process of enhancing the league experi-

ence for all participants.

Toronto Men's B Doubles League Finals

Division 1 winners, Kitchener-Waterloo; Division 2 winners, Cedar Springs; Division 3 winners, Kitchener-Waterloo.

Black Knight Junior Mixed League finals

Congratulations to the Granite Club junior team which captured the Under 12 title, Club Meadowvale who took the Under 14, Pine Valley the Under 16 and to the R.C.Y.C. on taking the Under 19 title. This year, we had a record number of teams participating in the league and we encourage all squash professionals in the Toronto area to think about entering a team next year. The emphasis is on fun and league participation is a great entry for kids who want a little bit of competition mixed with a hearty helping of good times.

Many thanks to Rob Brooks and John Power who co-ordinated league activities this year and to Allan Sklar of Black Knight. Allan has been a wonderful supporter of this programme.

Outdoor squash court becoming a reality



Can we now play our sport anywhere?

The first public outdoor squash court in the United States will be constructed this spring in Burlington, Vermont. So many people believe that this is the future of squash that people from all over the U.S. have donated to it. From San Jose, California to Minneapolis to Atlanta to Rochester, players have embraced this concept as the new wave for

the game. It will do for squash what

Growing the game

The world's leading squash brand Dunlop, in conjunction with the sport's three principal international associations, the World Squash Federation (WSF), Professional Squash Association (PSA), and Women's International Squash Players Association (WISPA), unveiled plans for 1 million (pounds sterling) investment in the launch of a new range of squash balls, both to increase participation in the sport through greater accessibility, and to revolutionize the sport's televisual appeal.

Dunlop has also been chosen as the official ball of the three associations thereby guaranteeing the ball's use in all international competition and major championships.

The announcements, under the banner, "Squash - Growing the Game", were made at a press conference at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham during the British Open.

The objective in Dunlop's new squash ball programme is to stimulate participation levels and growth worldwide. Dunlop is in an excellent position to recognize that the game must become more accessible, and must overcome the high drop out rate from beginners whose early difficulties are invariably caused by using an inappropriate ball.

Abandoning the existing and widely misunderstood range of coloured dot balls, Dunlop is introducing a new squash ball programme which includes balls which are bigger and more playable than the current single standard size ball, to bring more fun to the game.

The new range which will be available in sports shops worldwide early in 1999, features four balls: the Revelation Championship XX,

the existing traditional-sized black ball for championship play; the Revelation Competition XT, the existing traditional-sized green ball for club players; the new MAX Progress ball which is 6% larger than the XX and has instant bounce and which has a 20% longer hang time, thereby making it ideal for the game-improver; and the MAX ball

which is 12% larger and has a 40% greater hang time - the starter ball.

For those of you who have not yet registered in our Intolink programme, telephone 416-426-7201 or email us at squash.ontario@sympatico.ca.

Masters squash

In recognition of the growing area of masters squash, the WSF agreed to add a Masters Sub-Committee to the WSF Championships Committee with a mandate to standardize tournaments, promote world masters championships and date to worldwide data base of masters age players. The data base already stands at 3,000 players and all masters are invited to send their name, address and date of birth so they can be included in routine masters' mailings. Email to squash@wsf.cablenet.co.uk.

The 2001 World Masters Championships have been awarded to Australia and will be the greatest ever for squash. They will be staged in the magnificent new Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre and hosted by Squash Australia and the Victorian Squash Federation and Tourism Victoria.

For further details or information,

to new players and to use for training exercises for the more experienced players. The idea is to hit the ball onto one of the coloured areas on the head-wall and have it land on the same coloured area on the floor. Hitting into the other coloured areas is a no-no as this would be a loose shot.

Our game of squash is always changing. Changes in rules, equipment, clothing, training methods, etc., have been, are, and will be happening. I believe that the change coming in court colours is a positive one that will give courts a more inviting appearance and therefore entice more new players to try the game.

Intolink additions

Accuform Golf has now joined as a sponsor in the Intolink programme. Accuform has consistently created the world's best golf equipment for more than twenty years. Squash Ontario Intolink members can now take advantage by using their Hi-Tec/Mantag Scorecard and receiving 25% off suggested retail price on all golf products. For more information, call 1-800-668-7873.

Once upon a time you needed this.



Today all you need are these



Chromaball

The new Dunlop Chromaball, developed in partnership with the PSA, exploits chroma key television technology which enhances the ball's visibility on a TV screen - the same technology which enables a TV meteorologist to appear to stand in front of a weather map when the backdrop is in fact a blank blue screen.

This long-awaited breakthrough in the bid to overcome one of the sport's biggest hurdles - seeing the ball on TV - has come after extensive research and development in Los Angeles and at the recent PSA Super Series finals in Hatfield, England.

The yellow Chromaball will be launched at the 1998 Men's World Open in Bombay in November.

And speaking of colour

by Michael Taylor, Playcon Recreational Ltd.

The term "white only" referring to court attire in today's squash clubs is rather passe. Only a few clubs now adhere to this policy. Courts, however, have remained "white only" forever. Playing on a newly painted court could lead to snow blindness! Today, players can be found on courts wearing a variety of colours and shades. They are, however, still hitting a dark ball against white walls. Sterile, stark white walls that, with a black ball, create a contrast that is too strong for the eye - not to mention still photos as well as TV and video cameras.

As with court attire, equipment, etc., courts themselves are changing as well. Recently in Europe there appears to be a trend to court in-play walls with colours other than white. Pastel shades of blue, turquoise and yellow are now being used. The effect is a calmer, player-friendly atmosphere that is kinder to the eye. Certainly a less intimidating court for the first time player and gives better results when camera work is required. Toronto's Jean Delierre, a respected teaching professional and arguably the most knowledgeable individual in Canada in filming the game, is quite in favour of the use of colour on

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Girls Team Championship will take place at Cedar Springs Health, Racquet & Sportsclub on June 25 - 28. Teams from the United States, Caribbean, Mexico, Bermuda and Canada will take part. There will be two age divisions in this 3 women team event - Under 19 and Under 16.

background and interest in this area.

Squash Ontario is saying goodbye and thank you to Fernando Pisano who has been a member of the High Performance Committee for five years. He has always offered sound and sage advice on a number of controversial issues.

any manager brings not only a wealth of experience but also another, but equally important, perspective to competitive events.

Please apply in writing to Squash Ontario, 1185 Eglinton Avenue East, North York, Ontario M3C 3C6, stating your background and interest in either of these two areas.

