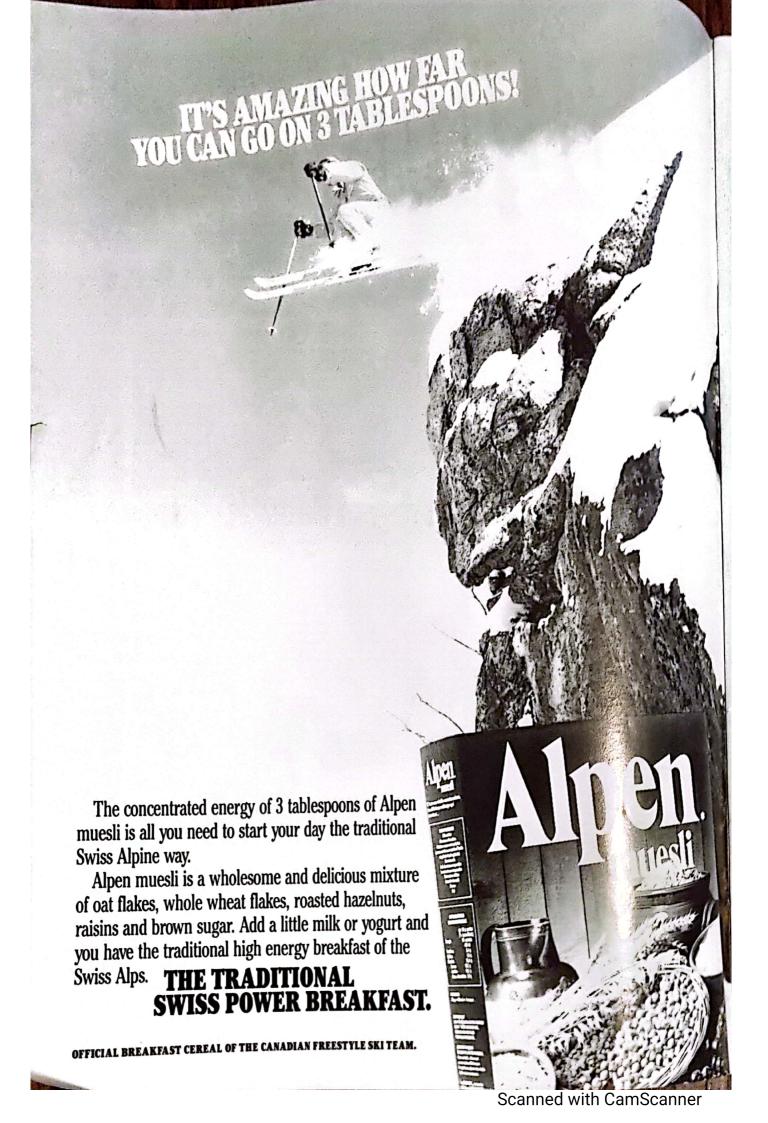


LAMBOURNE LOVES THE LAKESHORE! TRAVISS TITLE GOES DOWN UNDER



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1991

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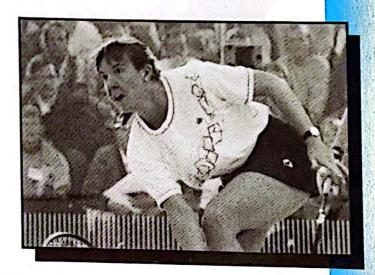




Australia Finally Has A Traviss Title Lambourne Captures Triple Crown Ontario Closed Championships Coming Attractions Here's To The Winners

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ROBYN LAMBOURNE TAKES MAYFAIR LAKESHORE INTERNATIONAL OPEN & TRAVISS TITLE HOME TO AUSTRALIA

By Christian Endemann • • • •

hird-seeded Robyn Lambourne of Australia captured the Mayfair Lakeshore International Open Squash Championship in Toronto in early November after outlasting compatriot Liz Irving in a thrilling marathon which had a capacity crowd spellbound for almost two hours of seesaw competition. Lambourne prevailed by the slimmest of margins, 9-3, 4-9, 8-10, 9-5, 9-7.

The 26 year old Lambourne, who also notched more one-sided victories in the Calgary Women's International and the Canadian Open in Belleville, had her work cut out in the Lakeshore event. While the loss for the 25 year old Irving must have been heartbreaking, she was consoled by the enthusiastic response of the spectators who saw an exhibition of women's squash at its vintage best.

"Naturally, it's disappointing to lose but I am pleased that the quality of the match was so uniformly high. I know the men can sustain longer rallies and hit the ball harder but I think we proved in this match that women can offer more variation and change of pace which the average player can relate to more readily," Irving observed after the match.

Lambourne, a flamboyant shotmaker whose long reach makes her difficult to pass, also sports a strong boast and specializes in running her opponents around to exhaustion. After her bout of attrition against Irv-

At 5-7, Robyn Lambourne summons the last vestiges of energy in a determined effort to win the elusive Mayfair Lakeshore Open.

ing, a flushed Lambourne conceded that her tactics almost backfired on her.

"I always seem to let Liz off the hook. She made some fantastic recoveries, beat me up front regularly and had me running much more than I wanted. I though she would tire much earlier but she was still strong at the end when the match was up for grabs", admitted Lambourne.

"Liz is a terrific competitor and pretty well had me on the ropes when she led 7-5 in the fifth game and I knew I had to bear down one



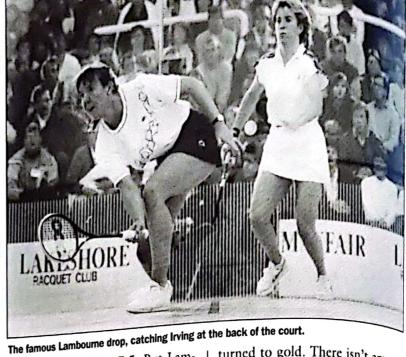
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last time to pull it out. The match was so even it was a pity there had to be a loser. What is important to all of us on the tour is that we sell the game effectively to spectators and sponsors and I believe we did okay in that department."

While Lambourne jumped out of the blocks quickly in game one and coasted home 9-3, Irving moved into a much higher gear in games two and three as she counterpunched effectively, outsteadied her rattled rival who started to berate herself, and took those two frames 9-4 and 10-8 respectively.

Irving, who at all times appeared to be the more composed of the two, was knocked back on her heels by a more aggressive Lambourne in game 4. Despite prolonged rallies which featured tactical lobs, blistering overheads and daring boasts offset by feathery drops, the eventual champion used what Irving called "those bloody long arms" to keep her opponent at bay and evened the contest two games apiece.

Lambourne came out blasting in game 5 and led 3-0 and 5-3 before the ever-patient Irving capitalized on weariness and unforced errors to



assume command at 7-5. But Lambourne summoned her energy for one final thrust and this time Irving wavered and lost the final four points of a riveting match.

In the semi finals, fourth-seeded Irving upset top ranked Lisa Opie of England in a devastating fashion, 9-2, 9-7, 9-6. Opie shrugged wistfully after the match.

"Everything she touched today

turned to gold. There isn't anyone on our tour who could have won even one game the way Liz played today. I was simply overwhelmed

In the other half of the draw another all-Aussie duel took place and Lambourne was a relatively easy winner over no. 5 seed, Michelle Martin. A sister of Rodney and Brett Martin, both top 10 competitors on the ISPA tour, the 23 year old shows much promise but does not yet have the counter-attacking weaponry to blunt Lambourne's arsenal when she is in full cry. The veteran romped by scores of 9-0, 9-3, 3-9, 9-3.

Canada's best hope, Heather Wallace of Ottawa, surpassed the expectations of her no. 9 seeding to reach the quarters after toppling Fiona Geaves of England (no. 8). Wallace subsequently lost to Irving in four tough games, 10-9 3-10, 9-7, 9-5.

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Wallace, 27, and teaching pro in Ottawa, was phile : ical about her performance. "Th playing, I should the tough match even had my ch critical first game"

Martine LeM seed from Engla ankle in the quart and was forced to ond game. Noneth old veteran's entigame is as keen as e

"I have looked after myself pretty well over the years and I believe I can continue to compete successfully at my current level for at least another five years. It's been a tough grind for those of us who have been the pioneers of women's professional squash over the past decade but that hard

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5405 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 103 Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 5K6 (416) 626-8649 (626-UNIX) work is beginning to pay dividends now and I want to reap some of the benefits before calling it a day."

There seems no question that women's squash is on the ascendancy worldwide. Alicia McConnell, 29 year old journeywoman from the United States, feels that the two paramount squash nations, Australia and England, may soon start to feel the heat from other countries.

"There are droves of young players emerging in Europe, Germany, France and Switzerland, along with the Scandinavians, who are actively promoting junior development and pouring money into their programmes.

"Unfortunately, squash still doesn't get the same grass roots support in the United States and Canada but the sponsorship will come out of the woodwork once it becomes obvious how much the women's game has improved over the last five years."

Tony Swift, Chairman of Canada's National Teams Committee, has watched women's squash for over 30 years and believes the improvement during the last decade has been dramatic and irreversible.

"Their performances here in Canada have not been a fluke. I only just

came back from the World Championships in Australia and the level of competition has been consistently high. I also think the women's game offers an alternative to the men's tour and that their goals can be complementary rather than adversarial.

The Mayfair Lakeshore International Open is held annually in honour of Judy Traviss who died of cancer while in the middle of forging the breakthrough of women's squash in Ontario. It celebrates the coming of age of this sport at the professional level on a global scale.

This year more than 10 nations were represented and only three of the top 10 competitors on the now firmly entrenched WISPA (Women's International Squash Players Association) tour were absent. The three week Canadian circuit was a resounding success and there are plans to move into the lucrative and largely untapped U.S. market as well.

Michelle Martin feels a compelling argument can be made for women's squash, not only as a source of spectator entertainment, but also as a viable marketing tool for large corporations who would like to reach the rapidly growing distaff group making Squash Ontario would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their support of the Mayfair Lakeshore International Women's Open (competing for the Judy Traviss title) We couldn't do it without you!

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FOR SUCCESS: Integrated Club Programs

By John Bonnare • • •

en years ago squash was a flourishing, thriving sport. Baby boomers, the overwhelming majority of players, had a lot more time and energy back then. Clubs were built with little, if any, fitness facilities. It was pay as you play. There was little staffing other than the squash professional who doubled as the manager. In fact, there were so many new players that clubs tried to push squash players into fitness to reduce demand on scarce court time.

In 1991, it is increasingly difficult to attract, retain and develop squash players. Baby boomers, now married with children, have a lot less time and energy. The squash player is doing more cross training and there is an increased emphasis on getting the fitness member interested in playing the game of squash. In general, more sports are available to athletes.

Squash players are key to the vitality of a club. Club owners cannot afford to turn their backs on the squash-playing members. Unfortunately, there is no magic formula for programming for the squash player. What works at one club isn't necessarily going to succeed at another club. Clubs cater to the needs of different types of members and, consequently, contrasting philosophies can still produce positive results.

I've seen what has happened to racquetball over the last seven or eight years," says Kell. "Racquetball exploded in North America and then declined rapidly." Racquetball courts were converted to squash courts and aerobic studios. "If clubs don't get involved with the development of the sport of squash, we'll end up like racquetball", adds Rob Brooks.

In Kell's view, it is important for his

It is rumoured that the formula for Coca-Cola is safely stashed in a vault somewhere, surrounded by a moat in which man-eating piranha swim lazily and hungrily, ever alert. The secret ingredients which go into Kentucky Fried Chicken and Swiss Chalet's famous sauce are said to be just as jealously guarded. But in the squash business, there is no patent on the formula for success. Each squash club is, in its own way, different from the rest in terms of philosophy, membership, programming, and direction and what works for one does not necessarily work for another. A large facility can offer members a plethora of programmes from aerobics to tennis but a smaller club can capitalize on the intimacy of its surroundings. The municipal club can become an extension of the community and the private club proffers a secluded respite.

Ontario is peppered with a variety of squash facilities, many of which have been and continue to be enormously successful in attracting new members and, perhaps more importantly, retaining them. Our Senior Contributing Editor, John Bonnar, in his quest for that elusive 'secret' formula, discussed the formula and many other things, with Jay Kell, Executive Vice President of The Sports Clubs of Canada, and Rob Brooks, owner and manager of the Pine Valley Racquets Club. Both have been involved in the sports business for a number of years. Jay, initially with the Toronto Squash Club, and Rob, with clubs in Montreal and Toronto, before finally taking the plunge and purchasing Pine Valley. Jay and Rob may approach problems in a different manner but there is no question that the end result for both spells 'success'.

clubs to play an active role in the development of squash. Their goal is to have 125 squash-playing members per court at each club. Brooks prefers to look at the big picture. He wants to develop squash by exposing the game to the general public. It's not important that they join his club. In the long run, he knows he will benefit if the sport of squash begins to boom again. "I want people to associate positive things with the word squash", states Brooks. "My role is to get everybody excited about the game".

Getting people excited about the game is no easy task. The demographics of society are changing. We have a greying population and must adapt to the over 40 squash player or risk losing that person to another sport.

Kell feels that the situation can be turned around with increased emphasis on programming. He doesn't want his older players to get bored with squash and play another game. "The over 40 year old still things he's 34 or 35", declares Kell, "so we integrate him into our overall

programme".

"The older person enjoys an 'open' club concept, adds Brooks. "because the marure person gets older in body but never However, the fact restaurant Veterans section of District Leagues is true and the ing division.

Pine Valley has strength house leagues and the more However, it is usually to the service players out of a total agreement membership of 450 particles in the house league. I of good competition ou sis is on having fun. But the state of the s if players enjoy thems.

SQUASH LIFT ANNUARY FEBRE ALL

continue to renew their membership. It's tough to argue with his numbers;

he must be right.

While most clubs highlight beginner or advanced players, Pine Valley concentrates on all levels. Every Saturday, Brooks runs three, 2 hour round robins for beginner, intermediate and advanced players. Match results are unimportant. The focus of these sessions in on developing the game of each player. Round robins are included in the price of a regular membership.

At Sports Clubs of Canada, each new member is assessed by the club professional. The member is given the names and telephone numbers of players to call for a game. In addition, each new member is given an evaluation to determine their level of fitness and recreational needs. A programme might include 2 games of squash and 2 workouts or 3 games of squash and 1 workout per week. The player is reassessed in 2 months, put in programmes and placed in leagues. "If the individual is active in their first 2 months, says Kell, "they'll feel a part of the club and stay with us for years."

Different philosophies have created two distinct, yet prosperous clubs. Sports Clubs of Canada is a fitness centre with squash courts. They've turned racquetball courts into aerobics studios and free weight rooms. Kell created cardio-energy centres with rowers, bikes, stairmasters and treadmills. Kell has carefully segmented each aspect of the fitness market. He wants to be the best at everything.

Brooks, on the other hand, wants to be the best at only one thing - racquet sports. Pine Valley has no aerobic programme. It maintains a minimal amount of weight training and cardiovascular equipment for the squash player who wishes to do offcourt training. There are no fitness evaluations. It is solely a racquets club and the members know that the minute they walk in the door.

Pine Valley runs city tournaments at least once a month. Sports Clubs of Canada doesn't host Toronto & District events. "We've backed off due to the demand on court time", admits Kell, but we realize we have to attract new squash members. Kell has lost some members to other clubs with better teams.

And what about junior development?

Pine Valley has attracted a great

deal of attention with their junior programme. Two and one half years ago, Brooks started with 4 kids. Today, Pine Valley juniors can be found as finalists in almost every junior tournament in the province. Brooks claims there is no mystery to his success. He makes his club an exciting place for kids. The initial fleet of juniors were entered in tournaments outside the club. Everybody noticed their meteoric rise and wanted to be a part of that programme.

Brooks' first objective is to get his juniors into house league. Later on, he enters them in junior tournaments where he closely monitors their progress. Juniors are permitted to participate in T&D men's and women's leagues which is not the case at many clubs. His youngsters have fun, make friendships and grow (literally and figuratively) extremely fast.

Pine Valley employs a lot of juniors in the club. A 10 year old can see a top ranked junior like Jay Playter working behind the front desk, on

"We'll have to get more aggressive with our junior programmes"

the cover of Squash Life, in the provincial rankings and on the Men's T&D A team. In time, that 10 year old will come to believe he can attain similar status in a few years. "If we don't get them", says Brooks, "other sports will." The cost of a junior membership at Pine Valley is similar to other clubs but there are no restrictions on playing time.

"We have not been successful in our junior programme", admits Kell. His clubs have only 5 or 6 courts each and the senior members are not prepared to sacrifice court time for the sake of developing juniors. "Things are changing now", insists Kell, "and we'll have to get more aggressive with our junior programmes in the future". Kell has introduced a young adult membership for the 15-24 year old and schools utilize courts in physical education classes.

And are there special programmes for women?

Sports Clubs of Canada encourages

women to participate in all events but has no women-only programmes. "Its another area in which we could improve", says Kell. Pine Valley has no women only programmes either yet the club has a lot of women players. "If you give us an adult male or female who has never played the game", declares Brooks. you will see an unbelievable difference in their level of play within a one year period. When she participates in a tournament and someone asks: How did you improve so quickly? They respond: I learned to play at Pine Valley.

Pine Valley is committed to matching the amount of time and effort each member puts into their game. Brooks also stays in touch with his players to find out how they did at the tournament last week, to inform them of an upcoming tournament or simply to find out how they did in their house league match.

There's no secret to Brook's success. "It's a lot of hard work and a lot of hours", says Brooks, "but we're in the people business; not just the squash business".

Brooks and Kell agree that members are more concerned with their own personal development than the are with the development of the sport as a whole. "The key this that the club is doing where the there to meet the needs or goals", adds Kell, "so there big interest is in developing their skill level in squash".

And what should the clubs be doing for Squash Ontario?

We've underfocussed on the recreational player", says Kell, "and these are the majority of players at our clubs". "We have to service them properly in the future". It's a difficult task. The recreational player is not easy to target and it is very hard to meet his various needs. Squash needs more exposure at the club level. "If people in my club like squash, that's good for the overall game", says Brooks.

Even then, a secure future is not ensured by clubs taking an active release in the development of squark. "There are no guarantees in says Brooks, "but we cannot said like the racquetball clubs dia "80s".

"Our big fear is that want to end up like racquet Kell. According to Kell, clusters

have to be more proactive in the evolution of the sport. Opening a club with 10 squash courts will not bring members flocking to your doorstep. Clubs have to market themselves properly and introduce more people to the game. Kell feels you need at least 100-125 members per court to get a return on space. It's simple arithmetic. 40 people can fit into a 1400 sq.foot aerobics studio but only 2 people can play in a 700 sq. foot squash court. That's why clubs have greater fitness orientation today than they did in the mid to late '70s.

Managerial tactics may vary from club to club but it is the player who has the most influence on the direction of squash. "You cannot force things on the members", says Kell, "so you have to listen and act. The clubs or Squash Ontario cannot dictate a focus to the players. In Kell's view, Squash Ontario is very responsive to the demands of club owners and operators. The problem is that nobody is quite sure where the game is headed.

Brooks feels he can influence the focus of the sport but only in a subtle way. "If I send out players from my club who truly enjoy the sport:, says Brooks, "we have a chance to influ-

ence the game". "People sense something different about our people and start to demand the same kinds of programmes in their club".

Perhaps the '90s will be the decade of innovation. House leagues, tournaments, and teams are not the only ways to meet the needs of the squash player. There is a recreational athlete looking for something else. Squash has always been positioned as a scrious, physically demanding, competitive sport. It could also be positioned as a social sport. Fun programmes and a different scoring system might help promote the recreational side of the sport.

Unfortunately, Squash Ontario cannot always spend its funds in the best interests of the sport. "The ideal situation would be for the government to write Sherry Funston, Executive Director of Squash Ontario) a cheque and trust her to spend that money the best way", says Brooks. Squash Ontario does listen to managers but, in many instances, it has to adhere to strict funding guidelines.

The club is the communication link between Squash Ontario and the player.

Therefore, a club is obligated to

play a developing role. "We've been guilty", admits Kell. "We listen actively and respond to the players needs without going to Squash Ontario". Brooks feels there is an excellent communication network between the clubs and the provincial association. Regrettably, he cannot say the same for racquetball.

Pine Valley and The Sports Clubs of Canada are as different as night and day and yet both are successful operations. They are proof that different philosophies can yield excellent results and that the cookiecutter approach to programming for the squash player will not work. Club owners must respond to the needs of their members and these needs will vary from club to club. A club, like a business, has its own unique culture. Some cultures are created while others evolve naturally. Managers have to identify the culture of their club and produce tailor made programmes. But, at the same time, they also have to realize that cultures will not remain static over time. The failure to recognize new trends and attitudes may result in the inability to react to and capitalize on the everchanging and always-demanding needs of the squash player..O

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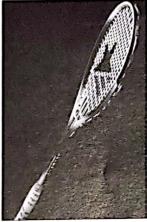
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SQUASH LIFE JANUARY

SQUASH ONTARIO ANNOUNCES NEW RECOGNITION PROGRAMME

By Joe Stewart • • • • • • • Vice President Marketing

In any organization, an all-too-common fault is the failure to acknowledge contributions. And, as the contributor usually gave to us with no expectation of future recognition, it is often possible for us to forget that we have forgotten to say 'thanks'.

Squash Ontario understands that this does not make such omissions cor-

rect, and at the Officers' Meeting of September 5, 1990, decided to institute a Provincial Recognition Programme. The programme is comprised of four classes of recognition:

Special Achievement Award

This is the most prestigious award presented by Squash Ontario. Since 1979, it has been awarded annually, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, to a volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution on behalf of

the game and Squash Ontario.

Past President Award

The contributions made by Squash Ontario Presidents are acknowledged with a gift, upon the completion of their final term.

Honorary Members

A tribute to recognize significant contributions (usually voluntary), to squash in Ontario. These awards are granted at the discretion of the Board, through nominations made by it and by other members of Squash Ontario. The selection process is co-ordinated by the immediate Past President (or a predecessor in his or her absence) in consultation with the regional executive committees.

Framed certificates conferring Honorary Member status are presented to each recipient. There is no limit as to how many Honorary Memberships may be granted each year; however, the Board is to be mindful that the award is for significant contributions.

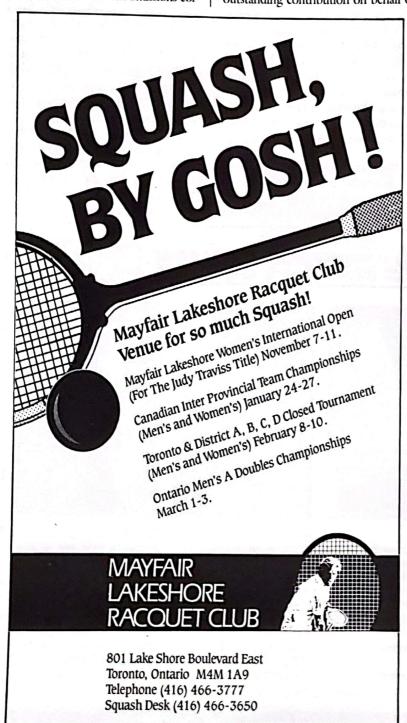
The duration of an Honorary Membership is at the Board's discretion. According to the corporate By-Laws, the bestowing of an Honorary Membership, in and of itself, errors no rights to vote at any meeting.

Certificates of Appre

The fourth level of received and those making important and at the level of long, dedicated support required for Honorary Membership. Typical recipients of these certificates would be significant tournament sponsors and long-time advertisers in Squash Life or regional newsletters.

Selection is a Board decision. The selection process is co-ordinated by the Past President (or a predecessor in his or her absence), who will seek regional input.

Award nominations forms are being prepared and will be sent out to all the regional executive competees. However, any person in the Ontario squash community may nominate candidates for either and orary Membership or a Certific of Appreciation. Nominations of Appreciation.



CANADIAN WOMEN'S

By Alan Smith • • • • • • • • •

determined effort gave Robyn Lambourne of Australia her first Canadian title in the \$15,000 Central Guaranty Trust Canadian Women's Open at the Harbour Club in Belleville. The 9-0, 9-6, 9-0 destruction of fellow Australian Liz Irving also gave Lambourne a sweep of the three event Canadian WISPA mini-circuit for top international players. The victory was sweet for Lambourne who had been edged in the final of her two previous challenges for the Canadian Open title.

Although entries for the 1990 event were down from the previous year's record due to its proximity to the recently completed Women's World Championships, 23 international players, including six of the top ten in the world rankings, did return to this popular event along with 8



"And now, a word from our sponsor!" At right, Stephen Stewart, Vice President of Central Guaranty Trust with, middle, Norm Richards and Susan Dodge, Executive Director, Squash Canada.

previous weekend. In the first game, Opie played Fitzgerald's hitting game and was lucky to escape with the game 9-6, after being behind most of the way. Fitzgerald again jumped ahead in the second and was up 6-3 when Opie reverted to her infamous floating game to change the

momentum. Fitzgerald made a string of errors to lose the game 6-9 and then the match, 6-9, 6-9, 2-9 in just 35 minutes. Liz Irving was in full control in her domination of England's Fiona Geaves, despite one lapse of concentration resulting in the loss of six straight points in the second game. She took the match 9-6, 9-6, 9-3. Heather Wallace

gave a good effort against Lambourne but went down to defeat 5-9, 9-4, 1-9, 5-9. The remaining spot in the semi final was filled by Michelle Martine who had an easy victory over Claire Nitch.

In a repeat of their match the previous weekend, Irving again overwhelmed Opie by playing an aggressive attacking game and refusing to let Opie utilize her soft game. Irving continually frustrated Opie with tight, low drives and dead winners until Opic lost her focus and surrendered with hardly a fight in four games. Lambourne

quickly took the first game against Martin with nine straight points but Martin recovered to stay even in the second before losing 6-9. The third was a great battle in which Martin had four match balls but failed to capitalize and emerged at the wrong end of a 0-9, 6-9, 9-10 score.

The final was all Lambourne as she returned the best that Irving had to offer and played nearly errorless squash - consistent length and superb retrieving. Except for a brief spell in the middle of the second game, Lambourne had total control and captured her first Canadian title in just over 30 minutes.

The tournament was again superbly orchestrated by Tournament Chairman, Willie Curry, host professional at The Harbour Club which has been the congenial host of the Championship for five of its six years of existence. Penny Glover undertook the unenviable task of Tournament Referee and kept everything well under control.

A fascinating sidelight to the Championships themselves was the use of the three official system. This was tried on an experimental base for all of the Canadian Market System, referee/trial judges, which is the contract of the contract of



First triple crown winner, Robyn Lambourne with Willie Curry (left) and Norm Richards of Central Guaranty Trust.

Canadians. Three-time Canadian Open champion Martine LeMoignan of England had also been entered but re-injured her leg the preceding weekend, leaving a gap in the bottom of the draw and gave Australia's Michelle Martin an easy route to the semi finals.

The quarter finals produced no surprises. Lisa Opie of England appeared to be back in form, after a spell of lacklustre matches, in her battle with Sarah Fitzgerald (Australia), who was determined to rebound from a disastrous performance the

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judges, who sat below the referee and on opposite sides of the court, had a different, and sometimes, better perspective on interference calls, balls up or down and line calls. The players were used as appeal judges in the early rounds and were very co-operative. They were generally more compromising than the referees, preferring to be 'safe' with a "yes, let" call rather than giving more definitive "stroke" decisions so that delays were minimal.

The officials appreciated the reduced pressure and generally improved atmosphere. It also generated many lively discussions when decisions were overturned, by agree-

ment of the appeal judges, and regarding various scenarios that could, and sometimes did, arise.

The system will be used for additional events in Canada and feedback will be given to the International Squash Rackets Federation. There will undoubtedly be a positive recommendation from Squash Canada for this system with the proviso that various technical problems be resolved and that players will likely have to be used in the early rounds. Look for some heated debates on this proposal at the international level in the next few years. O

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SKYDOME TORONTO'S FINES

ONTARIO CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS They're How Old?

By Larry Christiansen • • • • •

n extremely strong field of squash players arrived at the Northfield-Doon Racquet Club on the December 1st weekend to vie for the Men's and Women's Ontario Closed Championship titles. The tournament saw the results of the efforts which have been put into the development of the junior squash programme by Squash Ontario as the women's final featured two of Canada's top female juniors and the men's 3/4 playoff was won by our top ranked under 19 male,

In the women's draw, top seed Lynn Miller of Pine Valley Racquet Club was taken out convincingly in the semi-finals by 17 year old Melanie Jans, while, on the other side of the draw, Cathy Covernton, the number 2 seed, went down even earlier, losing to Tara Sharpe of Peterborough 3-0 in the quarter final. Tara went on to defeat Becky Rogers of Barrie in the semi final, thus setting the stage for the youngest final ever in the Ontario Closed Championship.

Tara took the first game in the final by coming out very strong and very fast, catching Melanie a little flatfooted. The second game, though, was much different as Melanie cut down on her errors and took total control of the game, winning it convincingly 9-0. From that point, a composed Jans stroked her way to her first Ontario Closed Championship, taking the next two games 9-5, 9-1.

In the 3/4 playoff between Lynn Miller and Becky Rogers, Lynn appeared to be in complete control as she collected the first two games in very short order, 9-1, 9-2. Becky was not going to go down without a fight however, and came out very determined for the third game. Cutting down on her errors and playing good, controlled squash, she took the next two games by identical 9-2 scores. Lynn regained her composure in the fifth as both players battled for the final spot on the Ontario Team which will represent the province in the National Team Championships at the end of January. Becky had the momentum and although Lynn battled back valiantly, Becky took the fifth 9-5.

Linda Henderson put on a gutsy performance taking fifth place with a 3-2 victory over Cathy Covernton while Vicki Quinn defeated Anne Keeler 3-0 to win the consolation.

Experience and composure were the big factors in the final outcome of the Men's Championship. The first semi-final matched last year's runnerup, Steve Wren against 17-year Jonathan Power. Having beaten Steve in a previous match up, Jonathan was poised to take out the number two seed. Steve, however, had different ideas. The match was decided after the first ten minutes, as Steve played aggressive, controlled squash, forcing Jonathan into numerous unforced errors. Jonathan, at this point, lost his concentration, getting into many uncalled for discussions with the referee. Things didn't get any better from that point and Steve won easily 10-9, 9-7, 9-0.

Things were much more entertaining in the other semi final which pitted the number 1 seed, max Weithers, against number 4 seed, Steve Eastwood. Max won the first two games 9-7, 9-2 but in the third game, Steve came on very strong, forcing Max into numerous errors. The fourth game was a seeTMsaw battle but Max's experience saw him through as he won 10-9.

The final lived up to its expectations as both Weithers and Wren showed their great mobility and superb shotmaking ability. Max didn't appear as if he was quite ready to play in the first game and Steve came out shooting, putting away many of Max's loose balls and forcing Max into many unforced errors. Steve won that game quite convincingly 9-2. The second and third games were a complete reversal of game one as Max gained stride and began forcing Steve into errors. Games two and three to Max. Steve came back strong in the fourth, winning it 9-6, and thus setting the stage for the fifth and deciding game. A very close fifth resulted in a well earned 9-7 win for Max although Steve tried to prolong the match with some crafty discourse with the referee.

Jonathan Power took third place with a 3-1 win over Steve Eastwood and Michael Khan took fifth with a 3-2 defeat of Jay Gildenhuys.

All in all, an excellent weekend of squash and, for the first time, we were able to provide prize money for the winners as well as television coverage of the finals by Rogers Cable. This was solely due to the excellent sponsorship provided by Molsons and Black Knight along with the local support of Superior Sanitation and Grandview Lincoln-Mercury. The players were also treated to complementary beverages all weekend, courteously provided by Gatorade Sports.

The weekend would not have been a success without the help of Norma Graham who acted as Tournament Referee and the many volunteers (Len, Carolyn, Jacqui) and, of course, the referees who gave up their weekend to render their expertise. Thanks to Dave Brown, Fio Marin, Jay Niebel, Gord Robertson, Matthew Templar and Bob Wakfer.

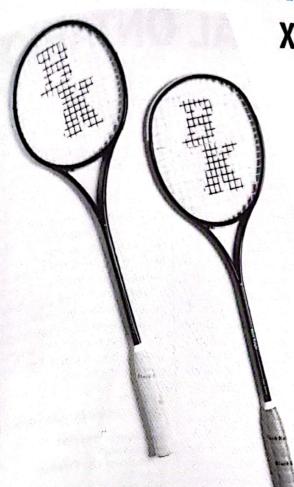
The Northfield-Doon Racquet Club offers hearty congratulations to all the participants and wishes the Ontario Teams the best of luck in the National Team Championships.

Inter-Provincial Team Championships

January 24 - 27, 1991 Mayfair Lakeshore Racquet Club Toronto, Ontario

Ontario Women's 'Assa'a Melanie Jans Tara Sharpe Becky Rogers Ontario Men's Te Max Weithers Steve Wren Jonathan Power

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CENTRAL ONTARIO

By Joe Stewart •

Over the past few years, quietly but steadily, great strides have been made in the squash world of Central Ontario. Here, in one of the most historic areas of Ontario - home of the United Empire Loyalists, Sir John A. Macdonald, Don Cherry, and Paul Wilson, a group of enthusiastic and committed volunteers is doing its best to make squash a vital part of the regional scene.

Squash activities offered in Central Ontario are second to none. Along with the comprehensive programmes provided through Squash Ontario, the Regional Executive has developed a variety of its own initiates.

Under the guidance of John Faulkner, the regional produces a quality newsletter, the C.O.S.A. News, to keep players abreast of the latest in area squash developments, local tournaments, club and player profiles, playing tips and more.

The regional league has expanded over a few short years from six teams to 24 playing in two divisions that are each divided into East and West Conferences. The league has become very popular, and to meet future demand, a C Division may have to be added.

Competitive players in Central Ontario eagerly await each update of the regional rankings. The computerized system not only sparks curiosity and debate among players, but is a big help to tournament organizers when they are attempting to properly seed participants.

Growing out of a commitment by the Executive not to let the Charity Challenge die, Graham Gilley spearheaded the formation of a regional event. With the support of Black Knight, funds will continue to be raised by squash players for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The executive is pleased to see other regions have accepted the Central Ontario challenge and it is anticipated teams from a number of regions will accept invitations to a finale at the Royal Brock Club in Brockville in February of 1991.

Carrying out these ambitious projects takes a dedicated executive and supportive clubs. The Central Ontario region has long been doubly blessed in this regard. Many area clubs regularly go out of their way to assist the executive in a variety of ways, be it by running a Rust Remover event or by donating meeting space for rules clinics or executive meetings.

As well, executive members continue to give of their time freely. Many travel long distances each month for meetings, not to mention their support of regional clinics and tournaments. The results speak volumes - their efforts have brought outstanding results.

1990/91 Central Ontario Executive Committee

Wes Shaver, President Peterborough Willie Curry, Vice President Belleville Dave Menard, Treasurer **Kingston** Ann Gray, Secretary Belleville John Faulkner, Newsletter Editor **Brockville** Susan Tunnicliffe, Officiating Gananoque Jim Sills, Rankings Kingston **Graham Gilley, Juniors Brockville** Nancy and Gary Wiggett-Orford **Tournaments Belleville** Cary Club, League Administrator Kingston Dawn Sommerville-Picotte, Womens Programmes Brockville Dan Murrell, Publicity Belleville

Central Ontario is geographically one of the largest of Squash Ontario's seven regions. For this reason, it is always a challenge for the regional executive to meet the needs of all players in such a vast area. This group remains conscious of this though and is committed to always doing their best. Squash Ontario a all Central Ontario squash enthus are fortunate to have such a win group of volunteers. The prese in good hands and the future lo bright!O

COMING ATTRACTIONS

1991 INTER-PROVINCIAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time ever, the Inter-For the Institute Championships will provincial Team Championships will broad together. Hosting this provincial together. Hosting this caval-be held together. Hosting this cavalbe held to stars is Mayfair Lakeshore cade of club, 801 Lakeshore b Reguet Club, 801 Lakeshore Boule-

yard East in Toronto. All provinces and territories will be all Property three-man and three-women compete in a pool sending to compete in a pool event on teams to compete in a pool event on teams to compete in a poor event on the weekend of January 25 - 27, the The Ontario Men's The Contario Men's the Week Ontario Men's Team is 1991. For champion having 1991. In champion, having pulled a defending champion having pulled a detenuing pulled a surprise upset last year in Montreal. The Women's Team will be looking The riverse its loss against Alberta in avenge its loss against Alberta in 10 avenue Amberta in Yellowknife. Hopefully, a more temrelionate will produce the warm perate climate will produce the warm

glow of victory. Admission is absolutely free and this is an excellent opportunity to see ome excellent squash. Come out and support your Ontario Teams.

For further information, contact Barbara Diggens at (416)495-4140.

Does Your Racquet Measure Up?

The following changes were approved by the International Squash Rackets Federation at its October 1990 annual meeting in Sydney, Australia. Please note that the specifications apply to all games of squash, the United States Squash Racquets Association, having cast an assenting vote.

Maximum length 685 mm (27 Inches) Maximum width measured at right

angles to shaft 212 mm (8.36 Inches) Maximum depth across face 26 mm (0.98 Inches)

Maximum weight 255 gm (9 oz.)

So, what has changed? The maximum depth across the face has changed from 20 mm (0.79 inches) to 26 mm (0.98 inches) and the specification for maximum width across the face has been deleted entirely.

CANADA WINTER **GAMES**

Squash will have its first foray into the Canada Winter Games which are being hosted by Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island from February 15-24, 1991.

Each province and territory began some 18 months ago to select and train their teams and Ontario is no exception. Squash Ontario is proud to announce the 1991 Ontario Canada Winter Games Team and its coaches:

Taras Klymenko (Hamilton) Boys' Under 16 Vicky Marrack (Sault Ste Marie) Girls' Under 16 Duncan Peake (Toronto) Boys' Under 19 Ian Power (Toronto) Boys' Under 16 Patrick Ryding (Oakville) Boys' Under 19 Tara Sharpe (Peterborough) Girls' Under 19

Jo Thomas (Ottawa) Girls' Under 19 Jan Wilson (Sarnia) Girls' Under 16 Susan Smeaton Girls' Coach

John Power Boys' Coach

Congratulations to all the juniors who have participated over these months and good luck to Team Ontario in Charlottetown. Thanks also to MasterCard for its financial support of the Canada Games programme.

ONTARIO WINTER GAMES

The format of the squash participation will change this year. The Winter Games will become a junior regional team championship with each of our seven regions selecting and training their best young athletes.

Hosting the event will be Jim Sier's Barrie Racquet Club in Barrie, Ontario. The OWG are being held on the weekend of March 8-10, 1991.O

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Here's To The Winners!

Tenth Annual Spectacle Boutique

Hosted by Trent University & #1 Nautilus Men's A Champion: Samir Bhatnagar Finalist: Bob Stock Men's B Champion: Paul Wilson Finalist: Perri Domm Men's C Champion: Jim Ross Finalist: Jim Halls Men's D Champion: Adolf Palatsky Finalist: Colin Ainsworth Women's A Champion: Nancy Sharpe Finalist: Nancy Wiggett-Orford Women's B Champion: Rosa Rinaldi Finalist: Liz Gunn Women's C Champion: Charlene Morton Finalist: Charlene Bridger And the big winner....The Multiple Sclerosis

Society with a donation of \$2,500.00 **Appleby Under 14 Team Tournament**

Hosted by Appleby College Champions: Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club Finalists: White Oak Fitness Club Third Place: Appleby College Fourth Place: Hamitlon Thistle Club

Parry Sound Open

Hosted by Jolly Roger Fitness Men's A Champion: Fernando Pisano Finalist: Mark Ducharme Men's B Champion: Bill Beckevech Finalist: Jay Niebel Men's C Champion: Charlie Bogner Finalist: Kelvin Johnson Men's C Champion: John McFarlane Finalist: Rick Guest Women's A & B Champion: Lorie Trudeau Finalist: Cathy Matson Women's C Champion: Stacey Cruise Finalist: Laurie Kerr Women's D Champion: Heather Pearson Finalist: Lisa Garner Women's Novice Champion: Joanne Sacoucci Finalist: Carol Guest

Cambridge Club Doubles Championship

Hosted by the Cambridge Club Champions: Todd Binns and Tom Page Finalists: Mark Talbott and Peter Briggs

Calgary Women's Open

Hosted by the Edgemont Club Champion: Robyn Lambourne Finalist: Sarah Fitzgerald

Southwestern Ontario Closed Championships

Hosted by #1 Nautilus, Sarnia Women's A Champion: Sandra Shaw Finalist: Nicole Garon Men's A Champion: Jan Bisonnette Finalist: Pete Curran Men's B Champion: Tom Borecky

Finalist: Mike Withers Men's C Champion: Doug McArthur Finalist: Shaun Ryan

Ontario Men's C Doubles Championship

Hosted by the Kitchener-Waterloo Racquet Club Champions: Ian Dunbar and Greig Tollar Finalists: Doug Maule and David Kuntz

Sudbury Y Open

Hosted by the Sudbury YMCA Men's A Champion: Paul Maguire Finalist: John Corelli Men's B Champion: Gilles Chabut Finalist: Dave Parks Men's C Champion: Scott Lund Finalist: Laird White Men's D Champion: Alain Guenette Finalist: Steve Savage Men's Novice Champion: Brian Ransom Finalist: Ken Manston Men's 40 + Champion: Chuck Wallsten Finalist: Ken Ojeer Women's A Champion: Lori Zorzit Finalist: Rachelle Niemela Women's B Champion: Cindy Kempny Finalist: Leah Lepage Women's D Champion: Michelle Taillefer Finalist: France Gelinas

Central Ontario Closed Championships

Hosted by #1 Nautilus, Peterborough Men's A Champion: David Sly Finalist: Ryan Bell Women's A Champion: Tara Sharpe Finalist: Nancy Sharpe

Hamilton Thistle Open

Hosted by Hamilton Thistle Club Men's A Champion: Keith Durling Finalist: Peter Tanz Women's Open Champion: Alison Giachino Finalist: Linda Henderson Men's 35+ Champion: John Nelles Finalist: Jim Martel Men's 40+ Champion: Tom Nederpel Finalist: Peter Hall Men's 45+ Champion: Don Willard Finalist: Tom Borecky Men's Open Doubles Champions: Victor Harding and Scott McDonough Finalists: Fred Reid and Alan Hunt Men's Veterans Doubles Champions: Cass Quinn and Gary Kritz Finalists: Henry Board and Barney Lawrence

Cherry Hill Travel Mixed Doubles Championship

Hosted by London Squash Club Champions: Lindsay and Anne Smith Finalists: Scott Michalachi and Cathy Covernton

Creed Tin It

Hosted by Creed Fitness Centre Men's A Champion: Paul Maguire Finalist: Khaled El Swefeify

Northfield-Doon Racquet Club Hallowe'en Hosted by Northfield-Doon Racquet Club Men's A Champion: Jamie Crombie

Finalist: Danny Marsh

BACON AND MAULE 'TAPF' THE COMPETITION TO THE WALL IN 3M INVITATIONAL DOUBLES

By Kevin Higgins

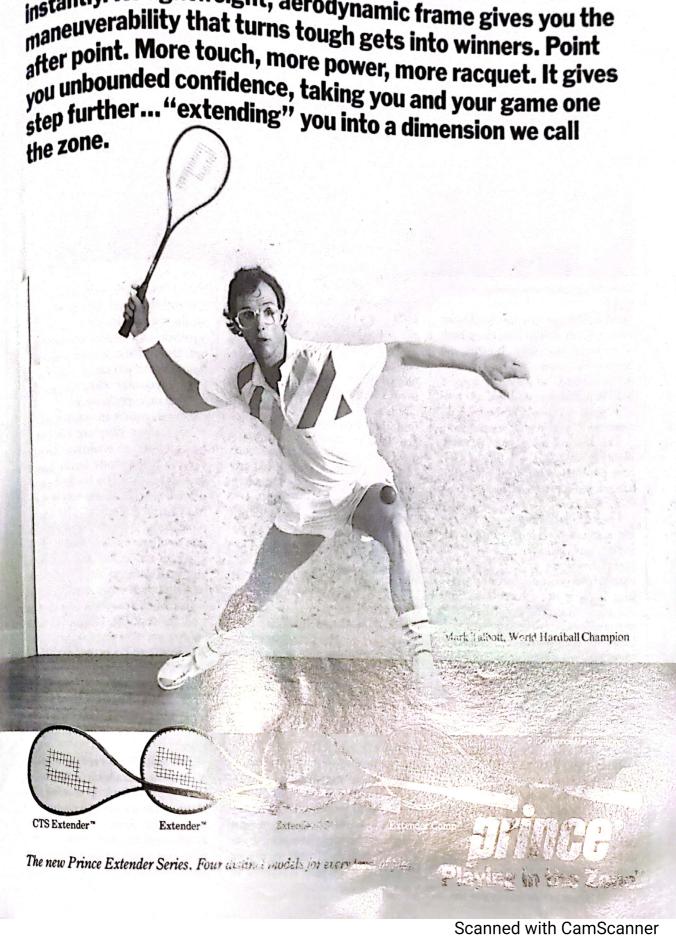
After going to extra points in their opening game of the 3M Invitational Doubles, Kevin Bacon and Peter Maule of the Toronto Racquet Club, withstood all challengers to claim the tournament prize of a handcarved Swedish crystal.

Hosted by the London Squash Club in mid-December, the tournament featured veteran tournament pairings and several new pairs of strong singles players. In the semi finals. Kevin and Peter faced the fine young pairing of Scott Nash and Scott Coleman. However, the well honed doubles skills of the old generation were no match for the enthusiastic youngsters from Western University. They advanced without difficulty, albeit after many captivating rallies, to face the seasoned pair of Jim Shaw and Lindsay Smith of the host club. Jim and Lindsay, the current Ontario B Champions, elevated their game beyond the usual pace played at the club and employed a variety of tactics, tricks, and shows to combat the strong Toronto Ultimately, they were unable to rcome the superior youth, spec. 1 shot-making of Kevin and Pet:

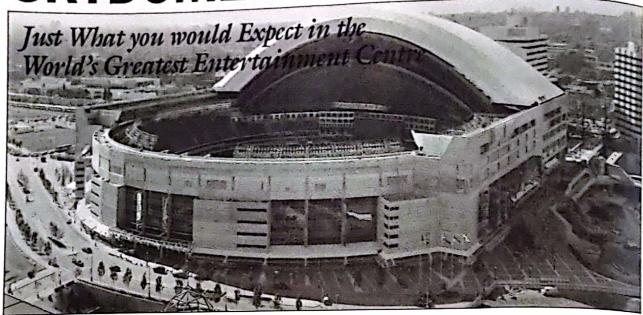
Doubles players sh make a special note of this eve it is played on a fabulous glasscourt, for a terrific sponsor h entrant received a sundry ba: M products and a spiffy warm-up in front of knowledgeable and astic fans. London Squash Ci hanks the sponsor, 3M, and the rs; particulary those from out of n, for helping to conduct a terrilia d fun tournament.O

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SKYDOME FITNESS CLUB



The world's greatest entertainment centre!

Whether or not the SkyDome Fitness Club should have been built is not worth discussing. It exists, and is open for business, and as buildings go up around the stadium - some 8 million square feet of office and resident space is planned in the immediate area - it will grow in popularity.

The costs of building a complete facility like the SkyDome Fitness Club have escalated to the point where you will not see another club like this built in the foreseeable future.

Located in the northwest corner of the stadium, adjacent to the hotel, the club is easily reached from the street or when driving from the club's reserved underground parking. There is also direct access from the stadium during events. In fact, the club operates three private skyboxes for members and their guests. (next season's all-star game will be by lottery for members).

The club is over 50,000 square feet in size, with its Oasis pool acting as the focal point for the 5,000 sq.ft. fitness areas as well as the dining lounge and reception lobby. The pool area also features a co-ed sauna and whirlpool. Aquabics classes really liven up the area, although Argonaut football players use the pool a lot for rehabilitation.

The club was designed around our belief in executive fitness. People today have less leisure time than ever before. However, the need to stay physically fit has never been more evident as seen in the increased medical benefits costs for companies. Toward the goal of improving and maintaining health and performance-related fitness, the club has assembled a hand-picked selection of equipment. On the floor you will find Nautilus, Cybex, Gravitrons, Star-Trec Treadmills, as well as the most complete line of Life Fitness equipment, including the computer integrated Lifecircuit and the only Liferacer network in the city.

We realize that it is people, not equipment, that keeps members coming back. In fact, everyone at Sky-Dome practices QSP (Quality, Service, People) every day. But nowhere is it more evident than in the fitness section which is under the overall direction of Allan Scott, one of the best known people in the fitness business. A competent team of fitness coordinators led by Diane Cooper personally oversee every programme.

After a comprehensive fitness evaluation, the OASES Certified personnel develop a programme of exercise within your time frame. That is only the beginning as they check your pulse, and find out when you plan to return for your next workout.

After your workout comes a real treat. A wet area where everything is just where you would have put it if you were designing the ultimate spa in your home. The steam room is adjacent to

the individual showers with shaving and make-up areas right there as well. In the spacious locker area, there are vanities, hair dryers and a host of amenities. There is even a secluded lounge where you can do your nails or read a magazine while you wait for your massage appointment

Squash courts are squash courts, except when they are cooled by refrigeration to maintain the ideal playing temperature in the heat of summer. The glass backed courts provide viewing for spectators seated in the sports lounge. The squash professional, Taylor Fawcett, in addition to offering a wide variety of programmes and lessons, will also videotape your game to show you quickly to master those weak areas

Just when you think you've done it all, the concierge at the Font lobby informs you that there is cats available in the club's private bybox for tonight's Blue Jay game

What does it cost to all A lot? Guess again. The Sky Club is the least expension of the scility in downtown To the control of the cost of

This space is reserve. member clubs of Squash Ontar Ve invite clubs to participate by ing in a short write-up and phe graph to Squash Life. Reprints are evailable at minimal cost. For more information, please contact Sherry Funston, Squash Ontario, (416) 495-4140.)

This ain! no long nec THE BEAM BRIDGED CONSTRUCTION **INFINITY E.X.T. 62** The trend in squash racquet design to extend string length by creating an elongated head is forcing squash players to make some serious choices. Though longer string length increases the sweet spot area and generally gives better control, the strain on the racquet's open throat can cause structural fatigue and premature breakage. Better performance at the expense of racquet durability. Some choice. Squash players, serious about performance and reliability, should consider the new Infinity E.X.T. 62 with exclusive Extended High Pean Bridned Construction. is recover design makes the most of passes coming to discretifier. Due impositive the same that is the same bend with the constraint and the same of the same which on the state of th Scanned with CamScanner

