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PACE Canadian Classic
with the emphasis on
'class'

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Second Season Begins

...and much more

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SQUASH ONTARIO



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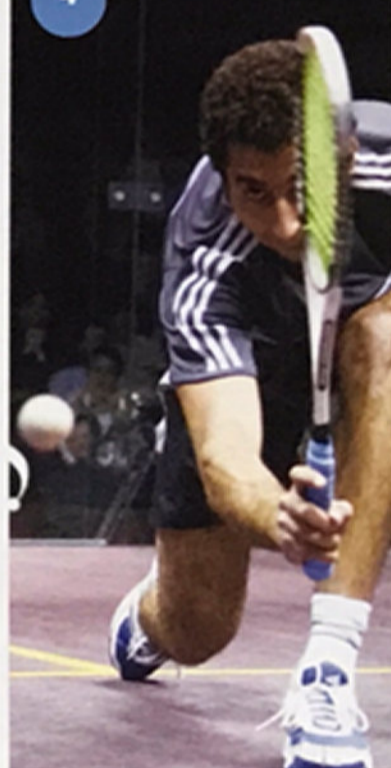
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Ontario

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PACE Savings & Credit Union Canadian Squash Classic

By Liz Shaughnessy

SETTING THE STAGE

As the curtain dropped on the sixth annual PACE Canadian Squash Classic, held in Toronto mid January, event promoter John Nimick, principle of Event Engine Inc. and the decision makers at PACE Savings & Credit Union Ltd., must have been proud of the tournament's achievements and the new benchmarks it set for squash tournaments across North America.

A new venue with double the seating capacity, primetime national TV coverage, daily live result web casting and emotionally charged focal points stepped this world class squash event into a new era of sports entertainment.

After five incredibly successful years in BCE Place, Nimick had to find a new home for the Classic as diminishing floor space in the glass domed Galleria and limited seating capacity continued to plague

expansion opportunities for the tournament. With the growing worldwide PSA Tour schedule, Nimick also needed to reposition the timing of the event, so it worked efficiently with the top ranked players' already jammed schedules.

Sounding more like a real estate agent than an event promoter, Nimick's venue credo was location, location, location. Guided by his Toronto-based marketing director (and Squash Ontario director) Lolly Gillen, they combed the streets of Toronto for the perfect venue, essentially stumbling into the little known John Bassett Theatre on the lower floor of the world renowned Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Nimick is no stranger to unique venues for his beloved squash tournaments; he holds the US Tournament of Champions in Grand Central Terminal in New York and the US Open in Boston's Symphony Hall.

"The John Bassett Theatre provided an easily accessible downtown location, in the heart of the city, with the added benefits of club style theatre seating for our spectators, plus the staging, sound and electrical systems to produce a full fledged entertainment package each evening of the Classic", states Nimick.

Clearly, the sport's patrons bought the concept, with more than 3,000 tickets issued, double any previous year of the Classic.

The sport's elite players were equally impressed with the new facility and particularly the staging concept which gave them division from the masses, but still the intimacy with their audience that only a small theatre can provide. The green rooms backstage were quickly converted to warm-up, therapy, meeting and change rooms for players.

Nimick & Gillen both realized that buy-in to the new site by players was important, but the tournament's sponsors and patrons had to be equally impressed with the venue and "re-staging" of the event. "PACE Savings & Credit Union, a three year returning sponsor, supported the decision and fully endorsed the move of the Canadian Classic to the John Bassett Theatre. They knew we could reach more people in a larger venue and that the flexibility of having 750 seats each night would allow us to reach out to a broader base of squash fans, too", says Nimick.

The Theatre also provided the space on two lobby levels for squash to showcase its egalitarian attitude as each night elite athletes,

recreational players, sport patrons and the squash public converged in the vendor exhibit and hospitality areas for good fun and camaraderie amongst sport enthusiasts.

National primetime coverage, supported by Dundee Securities, continued for the 2006 PACE Canadian Squash Classic under the creative execution of John DeLierre's Telimage Productions, with highlights of all four days of the Classic scheduled for airing on TSN, Sunday February 12 at 11:30 a.m. De Lierre's passion for the sport, driven by a family of competitive national tour players, will be clearly visible in the final production, hosted



The incomparable, the inimitable,
Hashim Khan

by the network's squash savvy Vic Rauter with play by play provided by the charismatic former world ranked squash player from Scotland, Martin Heath.

"Because we were producing for tape-delayed television each evening", says Nimick... "we decided to integrate the whole TV production, in a live format, for our attending audience with Vic & Martin providing microphoned input before each match and in between games. The pulse of the entire room each evening, with the immediate post discussion by gifted sport broadcasters, was palpable in every corner of the Theatre."

THE MAGIC MOMENTS

The quality that separates good competitions from great events is the emotional charged

moments that can't be rehearsed, aren't scripted and just seem to evolve in their own right. The 2006 PACE Canadian Squash Classic was filled with many magical moments.

Who can forget the closing evening when the audience was treated to selected footage from Josh Easdon's soon to be released documentary on Hashim Khan, the man who changed the world landscape of the sport - forever. Shown on giant court-side projection screens "Hashim Khan: A Squash Champion's Story" moved the room to an overwhelming standing ovation for the man and his legacy. Khan, 92 years old, was there to receive and, with his son Sharif, provided insight and anecdotal stories about his life as an international sports hero for the fledgling nation of Pakistan.

Other poignant moments included Jonathon Power's presentation on Friday evening, to 14 year old Canadian rising star Laura Gemmill for her outstanding 2005 international competition results at the Canadian, US, Scottish & British, under 15, Championships. Laura received star status treatment from the biggest gun in the sport.

Three of the five Ontario Squash Hall of Fame inductees were honored Thursday night at the Classic: Susan Swift and Ian C. Stewart, who were founding members of Squash Ontario in 1976, and Sharif Khan, winner of 12 North American Open Championships and considered the greatest hard ball player in history. Created in 2005, the Ontario Squash Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for outstanding achievement and contribution to the sport of squash in Ontario.

A signature piece for the PACE Canadian Squash Classic is the Dunlop Junior Jamboree where more than 60 kids under 15 years of



A long Power stretch against Spain's
Borja Golan

PACE Savings & Credit Union Canadian Squash Classic

age, get a full hour on court with the top 12 pros. In a draw following the Jamboree, young Eric Mercer of Toronto won a 15 minute court session with Power who, in his inimitable style, extended the play time to 40 minutes, while simultaneously providing action shot opportunities for a lovely magazine photographer who was shooting mug shots of Jonathon for the front cover of Post City magazines February issue. Multi-tasking is clearly a necessary asset in the arsenal of tricks top squash players must carry with them on a daily basis.



A strong Egyptian contingent in Abbas and Darwish

An event of this magnitude would not be possible without a groundswell of support from the grassroots. No where was this more evident than the volunteer ushers who escorted spectators to their seats each evening. Head usher Kevin Gillen (brother of Lolly) may do commercial real estate by day, but he could definitely moonlight as a major event traffic manager. The mission of seating 750 people daily was accomplished by volunteers from the Mayfair Parkway, North York YMCA and University of Toronto Squash team clubs plus another of Canada's squash rising stars, Neha Kumar, 2005 Champion under 19 years of age at the Canadian, US and Scottish Junior Championships.



On top of everything was world #1, Amr Shabana

THE MAIN EVENT

Day One

The perfect script for the PACE Canadian Squash Classic would read that Canada's Jonathon Power, #1 in the world should face off against world #2 Amr Shabana of Egypt...and they did. However, the events leading to the final eclipsed closing night as qualifiers beat top seeded players in opening night matches. Canada's 5th seeded Graham Ryding fell to qualifier Borje Golan of Spain in a surprising upset opening night, while World Open Champion Amr Shabana made short work (36 min) of Laurens Anjema of the Netherlands on the same evening. Fellow Canadian Shahier Razik fell to the tactical third seed Gregory Gaultier of France, effectively knocking the second of three Canadians out of the tournament. Fortunately Power was easily able to hold the national fort against the emotionally charged Italian Champion Davide Bianchetti.



The French connection - Greg Gaultier and Jonathon Power

who qualified for the tournament by ousting another Canadian, Shawn De Lierre of Montreal. [Shawn took his defeat in the final qualifier in good stride and opted to help his TV producer father man the numerous cameras which surrounded the squash court.]

Day Two

The quarter finals on day two resembled an invasion of the Pharaohs as two of the four matches featured all Egyptians. Once again, Shabana claimed his victim as Wael El Hindi, ranked 19th, fell to one of the greatest shot makers on the PSA tour. In the next match, featuring French nationals, the natural pecking order prevailed as qualifier Jean-Michel Arcucci fell to the third seed Gregory Gaultier. In the most emotionally charged match of the evening, Jonathon Power exacted



A famous Power photo

retribution from opponent Borje Golan, who had knocked-out his fellow Canadian, Graham Ryding, the previous evening.

Day Three

The semi-final match between Jonathon Power and Gregory Gaultier was a definitive display of disciplined squash versus Gaelic temper. Power's road to the final was by no means easy as he had to work hard for 76 minutes, forcing Gaultier to give away points though sheer exhaustion. In the other semi-final, Shabana clearly rules Egypt as he dispatched fellow national and 4th seed Karim Darwish in a speedy 31 minutes. Shabana's speed during the match was stunning and his accuracy was deadly, as the World Open champion comfortably cruised to the finals against the indomitable Jonathon Power.

Day Four

Statistically, the PACE Canadian Squash Classic was the perfect match-up: World #1 Power, in front of a packed, fan-filled adoring audience, meets World #2 and current World Open Champion Amr Shabana from Egypt. From a pure numbers perspective, Power was in the driver's seat, defeating Shabana on 6 out of 7 occasions [JP's only loss was due to retirement from competition because of injury]. From an audience perspective, their styles are diametrically opposed opposites -

the fiery Power versus the methodical Shabana. Both are exciting to watch and at the top of their games.

But stats are never guaranteed, as Power's quest for yet another title were dashed by injury. Power lost to Shabana in 37 minutes as he gamely played the full three game match - like the true champion he is. However, the end result was as good as finished midway through the first game when Power took a 3 minute injury break for back spasms which could not be relieved. For the next two games, Power grimaced with pain, barely able to run, while Shabana played his lethal drop shots.

Asked why he continued though excruciating pain, Power replied "I certainly wanted to put on a show more than anything and make everybody enjoy the experience of the final with the #1 and #2 (Shabana) in the world, but I couldn't compete." But at no point did he consider forfeiting the match..... because that's the kind of guy he is.



A fairy tale final with a sad ending for Jonathon Power

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JUNIOR SQUASH

COLOURFUL FALL FOR ONTARIO JUNIORS

As Mother Nature worked her annual magic in the early days of October, gently kissing the leaves with an array of golds, yellows and reds, the first ball of the junior squash season was struck. The colours of the day.....gold and silver!

On the first weekend of October, almost 100 eager young junior squash players took to the courts for the Wilson Silver Event #1 at both Nepean Squash Club in Ottawa and Parkview Club in Toronto. Just three weeks later, 120 juniors participated in the Wilson Silver Event # 2, hosted in Southwestern Region by Huron Oaks and in Toronto by the Racquet & Fitness Academy.

Bisecting the Wilson Silver Events was the first Jesters Gold of the season hosted by Rob Brooks and Fabulous Fitness. We had a record draw of 125 juniors participating.

The season tumbled into November with two more Wilson events hosted by Ottawa Athletic Club and Ontario Racquet Club. The policy of simultaneous events in different regions continues to pay big dividends as again, entries were over 125 juniors.

Doug Hamilton and Burlington Racquet & Fitness Club hosted the second Jesters Gold and welcomed 123 enthusiastic competitors. This event was quickly followed with an enormously successful Wilson Silver #4 co-hosted by the Toronto Lawn Tennis and Badminton & Racquet Clubs and again, numbers totaled well over 100.

The Wilson Silver events and the Jesters Gold events are both integral components of a very comprehensive and successful junior athlete development program. Silver events offer a gentle yet competitive opportunity for juniors just coming out of club programs and the golds are the next rung up in a junior pyramid which leads to Canada Games and National Junior Teams.

BMO Nesbitt Burns Ontario Junior Closed Championships

Further up the junior athlete development model is the Ontario Junior Closed Championships which again received wonderful support from John Sekhar and BMO Nesbitt Burns as well as the Jesters. The Championships were hosted by Fabulous Fitness and Rob Brooks and drew a record entry of almost 140 participants.

Congratulations to.....

Girls' Under 19.....Laura Gemmell
Girls' Under 17.....Lauren Sachvie
Girls' Under 15.....Samantha Cornett
Girls' Under 13.....Michelle Gemmell
Girls' Under 11.....Jillian Baker
Boys' Under 11.....Jake Beck
Boys' Under 13.....Jamie Baker
Boys' Under 15..... Nicholas Sachvie
Boys' Under 17..... Fred Reid
Boys' Under 19..... Colin West

Canadian Junior Open

Colin West of Toronto and Neha Kumar of Oakville, Ont., won the men's and women's under-19 titles on Tuesday at the Canadian Open junior squash championships, which was held at the White Oaks Fitness and Racquet Club. In the men's under-19 final, West completed a near perfect performance defeating top-seed Andrew McDougall of Calgary 3-0. The 17-year-old West did not lose a game in five matches at the competition which started on Saturday. Dave Glass of Winnipeg defeated Chris Sachvie of St. Catharines, Ont., 3-1 for the bronze.

"Andrew had beaten me a couple of weeks ago so I was definitely looking to get him back for that one," said West, 17, who was seeded

second. "He's really fit and fast and I was prepared to play a long match. I was nervous at the start but I moved well throughout."

In the women's under-19 final, number-one seed Kumar defeated number-two Amanda Siebert of the U.S., 3-1. Rebecca Hazell of Toronto beat Sarah Parsons of Victoria 3-1 for the bronze.

"It wasn't my best squash but generally I played very well," said Kumar, 17. "I tried to use to shots that I was comfortable with and keep her moving as much as possible. I played her last year and this match wasn't as close. It's a big win because I have a string of international tournaments coming up so I wanted to get off on the right foot."

Also bringing home the honours to Ontario were Laura Gemmell (Under 15), Jamie Baker (Under 13), and Michelle Gemmell (Under 13).

Ontario Athletes Continue Winning Ways

4 U.S. titles were won by Canadian athletes and every one of those athletes.....yes, every single one! was from Ontario. Neha Kumar and Laura Gemmell are back to back winners, both having taken gold at the Canadian Junior Open the week before. And Chris Sachvie scored the biggest win of his career when he took home the honours in the Boys Under 19. And so, too did Arjun Gupta who brought home a gold medal in the Under 15.

All Ontario athletes were coached by Canada Games coaches Mark Sachvie and Nicole Carroll as well as by Jamie Nicholls, Rob Brooks, and Patrick Hartunian.

What is so encouraging is that Laura, Chris and Arjun are all members of the Canada Winter Games Squad.

Juniors Shine at Pace International

Dear greatly appreciated ushers:

Thanks a million for making this year's PACE Saving & Credit Union Ltd CANADIAN SQUASH CLASSIC a huge success. Organization and professionalism are key in putting on a first class show and you did it. I honestly believe we took showcasing world class squash to another level and obviously there is a demand for more. I can't tell you the number of compliments I received about how well the ushers performed. Congratulations to you!! Special thanks to the new ushers for catching on so quickly to the routine. I would be remiss not to personally thank my big brother Kevin who has been Head usher for all 6 years. Volunteering takes precious time from all of our busy schedules, so dedicating four full nights for one of Toronto's top Commercial Real Estate Brokers does not go unnoticed or appreciated. Kevin I love you! It was also an honour to have the University of Toronto Ladies squash team with us this year. Continue to enjoy the game and once again, a million thank you to you all.

Lolly Gillen, Marketing Director- Pace Canadian Classic



PACE Ushers with Head Usher Kevin Gillen

JUNIOR SQUASH

Kumar and Gemmell....Two Bright Squash Futures

December held more than Christmas for Neha Kumar and Laura Gemmell. Neha won the Girls Under 19 Championship in the Canadian Junior Open, the U.S. Junior Open and the Scottish Junior Open. She lost in the quarter finals of the British to the young woman who would eventually go on to win the title. At the end of January, she will join Seanna Keating and her sister Ruchika as they travel to Ottawa to represent Ontario at the Canadian Women's Teams Championship.



Laura Gemmell



Neha Kumar

Laura Gemmell left many aspiring junior players in her wake as she took home top honours in the Canadian, U.S. Junior and Scottish Open Championships. But perhaps the greatest achievement of her young career, was her appearance in the final of the British Open in the Under 15 event. The only other Canadian to have gone this far in the British was Jonathon Power so Laura is treading in some very large

squash shoes.

TRILLIUM JUNIOR PROGRAMS

The Squash Ontario Trillium program, under the direction of our Junior Co-Ordinator, Matt Easingwood continues to grow the game at the junior level. Through the support and sponsorship of Head/Tyrolia, Squash Ontario is able to provide racquets and eyeguards free of charge to any club starting a new junior program with 10 or more juniors participating. In addition, we also provide a start up grant of \$200.00 to these new programs.

An extremely successful component of the Trillium program is the professionally-designed advertisements which squash facilities can utilize in local and community newspapers to attract young people to their junior program. Squash Ontario will provide up to \$600.00 to clubs taking advantage of the advertising.

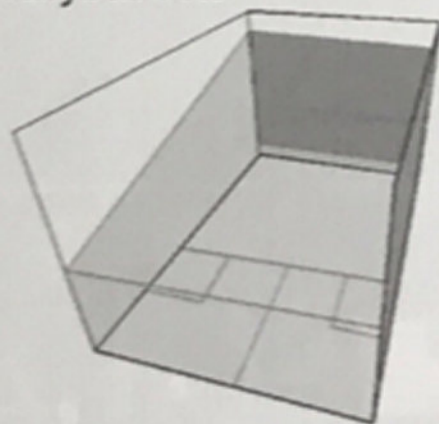
A number of clubs have been the recipients of the Head equipment, grant and/or advertising support including Georgetown Racquet Club, Niagara Falls Y, Town and Country Racquet Club, North Huron Fitness, Riverside Club, Cobourg Y, Espanola, Kingston Y, Rec Plex, Canadian Health and Fitness, Sunshine Club, to name just a few.

For information on the program, please contact Matt Easingwood at measingwood@squashontario.com or go to playsquash.ca

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Squash...It's Our Racquet!

BARRIE RACQUETS HAS A HEART

By Lori Mambella

The Barrie Athletic Club and owner Paul Ryan once again teamed up with the staff at the Heart and Stroke Foundation Barrie office to host the 4th Annual Squash for Heart 50 Hour Marathon. Over 60 members of the club participated in this unique and challenging Fit For Heart fundraising event, which not only builds community spirit but raises camaraderie amongst the members.

Starting on Friday, December 9th at 3:00 pm and not ending until Sunday, December 11th at 5:00 pm, for 50 hours straight, a minimum of one squash court was continuously in play

... even throughout the wee hours of the night!!

A One Million Pound Weightlifting Challenge also took place during the same 50 hour time period. Barrie Athletic Club fitness fanatics lifted free weights and pumped the weight machines, each person adding their work-out totals to the One Million Pound goal, which was shattered by the end of the weekend. Equally challenging, fitness participants worked hard to keep one piece of cardio equipment going for a full 50 hours.

The event was expected to raise just over \$7,000 but with a record number of participants (each pledge raising \$50 or more), donations from local businesses and schools, a very successful silent auction and the generosity of many local sponsors, this year's total surpassed an astonishing \$13,000!! All monies will go to heart and stroke research in Ontario.

This event is fun, attracts media attention, supports an amazing cause and could be done in any small to large size club. Enthusiasm in the squash community is contagious!

KROWN EXHIBITION OF EXCELLENCE

By Patrick Ryding

An email arrived from Graham just after he had begun a six week tour last November inquiring about the possibility of hosting an exhibition with the young Frenchman, Greg Gaultier. "He is young and cocky, he'll put on a good show," he wrote. This seed came to fruition early in the New Year as a sold-out house at the Barrie Athletic Club was witness to a great display of athleticism and showmanship. A few locations around Toronto may also have been fortunate enough to play host to a similar scene before the game's top professionals gathered for the Pace Canadian Classic, yet it was a certain combination that turned the evening of January 6 into a veritable event.

The main sponsor of the event, John Savelli of Krown Rust Control, went far beyond any reasonable expectations to set things in motion. Not only did Krown sponsor the event, but John took it upon himself to oversee radio, newspaper, television and print material promotions, personally made arrangements with Paul Ryan to host the event at the Barrie Athletic Club, custom built bleachers to be able to accommodate suitable numbers and even arranged a bus to carry a contingent from his home club, Glenway County Club. On top of this, rather than think of recouping



Next generation Chris and Nick Sachvie

some costs through ticket sales Krown agreed to direct all proceeds to the Squash Ontario Lee Hanebury Fund for junior squash development.

Forty people arrived from Glenway to meld with the Barrie crowd to over a hundred strong either directly behind or in the bar overlooking the court. Once settled, many with pint in hand, the festivities began. Unless a parent of a competing junior most adults do not get a chance to see elite juniors in action and thus do not appreciate the years and stages of development that go into a top player. It was agreed that a sample of each age category of Ontario's top juniors would not only be an excellent way to warm up the crowd but also

introduce many to an aspect of squash essential for the overall health of the sport. In one evening, as it were, the crowd could watch the development of a top player from age twelve up to a world-beater.

Josh Sekhar of Fabulous Fitness, former U11 #1 in Ontario, and Jamie Baker of Glenway, 2005 Ontario Closed U13 and Canadian Open U13 Champion, opened the night. Tournament play is one thing, but to get in front of a large crowd who have paid for tickets and expect to be entertained is another, and by no means easy. Yet these two youngsters put on a fine show of burgeoning athleticism and skill. To follow, Thomas Spettigue also of Fabulous Fitness, U17 #10 in Ontario, and Nick Sachvie of White Oaks, 2005 U15 Ontario Closed Champion, showed the difference only a few years make for such a physical game as squash. Nick then stayed on court to battle older brother Chris, 2005 US Open U19 Champion. These boys looked very comfortable out there having literally grown up on the squash courts. Chris then acted as segue to the big guns by challenging Greg Gaultier, former World Junior Champion and current PSA #12. Regardless of anyone's junior trophy count the speed and pressure of the pro game is an altogether different level as

KROWN EXHIBITION OF EXCELLENCE (Cont'd)

was made evident by Chris' legs rendered somewhat wobbly after a mere single game with one of the world's best.

After having seen the comparative difference of each stage of development the crowd was all the more appreciative of the highly refined craft squash professionals have honed through years of single minded dedication and sacrifice in the pursuit of excellence. At times Graham Ryding and Greg Gaultier went at each other in full sparring fashion to prepare for the upcoming tour event and yet whilst doing so they both displayed such an exuberance of talent that there was much room left for amusingly rare shots and a general display of physical humour that the crowd was simultaneously awed and entertained. It must have been inspiring for these juniors to see and experience first hand the level of squash that has kept Graham one of the world's best for nearly a decade and is giving the young Gaultier a crack at the highest perches of the game. Greg ended up winning in extra points at the end of a long five games. Graham was right, Greg is young and cocky, and it was a great show.

Through the Lee Hanebury Fund junior squash players in Ontario can thank Mark Sachvie and Rob Brooks for helping to organize the junior line-up, Paul Ryan for agreeing to host the event, John Savelli for his huge efforts and generosity, as well as Graham Ryding and Greg Gaultier for an exhibition of excellence. And thanks to all who attended and for making a contribution of \$800.00 to the Lee Hanebury Junior Squash Fund - a fund which helps support our junior squash athletes.



Krowning off the evening - Graham Ryding and Greg Gaultier



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MASTERS TEAM TRAVELS WEST

By Elka Markus



"The heart of the team", (left) Jane Hicks, Lisa Coates and captain, Elka Markus



"The boys", (left) Royal Metcalfe, Ed Praught, Eric Dunn and Richard Young

The road to the Western Canadian Masters Teams tournament is filled with fun. This is the third year that Ontario was invited to participate, and boy, we didn't want to miss the chance. Teams from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and the Yukon, and players aged 35 to no limit, play their best squash for two and half days to win a championship that no one even knows about. But we know about it, and that's what matters!

For me, this was the third lucky year to represent Ontario. I have seen most of the players from the west year after year. For two and a half days we have breakfast together, we sleep in the same hotel, we have dinner together, we love our squash and our beer, and when we say goodbye, it is with the hope that we will meet again next year.

Of all the provinces, Ontario probably has the most organized and fair system to select its team. All you have to do is play in the Ontario

Closed Masters Championships in November. This is where the fun begins. Win or not, you are guaranteed to have the most fun you'll ever have in any tournament. Dawn Sommerville-Picotte and the clubs of Brockville really know how to put on a great show. If you win your age category and you want to participate in the Western Canadian Masters Teams tournament, you're in.

Masters tournaments are for the kids in all of us and we hope to see hundreds of "kids" in November for the Ontario Masters Closed Championships.

Special thanks to Dawn Sommerville-Picotte and the town of Brockville, Stuart Dixon from Squash Victoria, to Squash Ontario who year after year makes us look the sharpest team in the west, and to all of you who are proud to be Masters of Squash. And to our team:

Ed Praught 55+ - Gets down to business without a word (Who knows what goes on in the seething cauldron that is Ed's brain?)

Royal Metcalfe 50+ - Downplays his talent but don't you believe him. Just watch out!

Eric Dunn 45+ - Loved the level of competitiveness (but shocked by it).

Richard Young 40+ - Our little puppy - Loves to run. He wants to go again! (Someone throw a stick)

Jane Hicks 35+ - Played the toughest position (serves her right for being so young!) Never lost her composure.

Lisa Coates 40+ - Smiles and friendships are left outside the court. (Watch out everyone - this woman is a killer!)

Elka Markus 45+ - Yours faithfully. (Mommy, can I go again?)

ONTARIO TEAMS BRING HOME THE HARDWARE

Congratulations to the Ontario Women's Team of Ruchika and Neha Kumar and captain, Seanna Keating. The team handily crushed Alberta in the final to bring home the Gold medal at the Canadian Women's Teams Championship. The event was hosted in Ottawa by the Ottawa Athletic Club.

And the Men's Team also had a successful

tournament in the Men's Teams Championship, losing a tough final to Quebec to take the silver medal. The Canadian Men's Teams Championship was hosted by Yukon and by all accounts, it was a tremendous success. Congratulations to Dane Sharp, Bertrand Tissot and Juan Jose Jimenez on an excellent result.

Following the conclusion of the Ontario Closed Championships, the High Performance Committee meets and based upon the published criteria, selects the teams which will represent Squash Ontario at the Canadian Men's and Women's Teams Championships at the end of January.



CONGRATULATIONS

To Jennifer Birch-Jones who has just been appointed a national examiner. Jennifer's squash career began as a player where she distinguished herself on court. In 1991, she was selected to and represented Ontario at the Canadian Women's Teams Championship in Yellowknife.

But her love of the game took her beyond the court to the clipboard and she expanded her knowledge of squash by becoming actively involved in officiating. As with everything Jennifer does, she dedicated herself to obtaining her A-1 status as a referee and at the same time, worked to strengthen the officiating system locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. She has refereed in national and international championships over the span of 10 years and just recently held the clipboard at the PACE International Squash Classic. Jennifer is a strong advocate



Newest national examiner, Ottawa's Jennifer Birch-Jones.

for involvement in refereeing; it has provided her with many wonderful travel opportunities around the world.

She is currently a member of the Squash Ontario Officiating Committee and was the lead for both the provincial and national initiative to increase the number of women referees in squash. Not content to rest of her laurels, she spearheaded the provincial initiative to create and introduce the new junior rules clinic program.

She has been a member of the World Squash Federation's Discipline Committee since 1999 and has served as chair of Squash Canada's National Championships Committee, Vice President High Performance for Squash Canada and a member of the Squash Canada Board of Directors. She has been a member at large of Commonwealth Games Canada since 1998 and a member of the Canadian mission staff for the 2002 and 2006 Commonwealth Games.



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COMING ATTRACTIONS Mark your calendars!



World Doubles Coming Home

Every two years, as regular as clockwork, the World Doubles Championships return to their birth place - the Toronto Cricket, Skating & Curling Club. All doubles players should mark their calendars now for the April 24 - 30th because you'll want to be a part of this festival of doubles squash.

A long-time and valued friend of squash in general and doubles in particular, is Ridley Windows and Doors and once again, the company will sponsor this prestigious event.

Judging by past entries, the draws will not only feature quantity but quality and there is a little something for everyone. The Mixed events will be held in open, 40, 50 and 55 and will run from April 24th to 26th. Men's and women's open, 30, 40, 45, 50, and 55 and men's 60, 65, and 70 all guarantee that there is a category for every doubles player.

And for those squash aficionados who may not be doubles players, this is a fantastic opportunity to come and see some of the finest in the world compete at the highest levels.

For further information: www.torontocricketclub.com/worlds

National Championships

Men's and Women's Soft Ball Championships

Did you know that all across Canada there are people just like you participating in weekly city-wide leagues and weekend events? Once a year, Squash Canada puts on an event to bring us all together, to celebrate our sport, our energy, and everything else we have in common. That event is going to take place in Toronto between May 3rd and 7th and you should plan not just to come but to be a part of the experience. There are categories for you and all your friends. And you can see the top men and women in Canada play.

Host venues include the Badminton & Racquet Club, The Fitness Institute and the Wellington Club and shortly all will have their websites linked directly to the Championships website as will the Host hotel, which is the Novotel at The Esplanade.

The entry fee is \$125.00 plus gst.

Squash Canada welcomes its championship partners - Dunlop, Black Knight, Ashaway, Wilson, HEAD, Technifibre, Timex and Sport Canada.

For more information, please go to www.squash.ca/canadianchampionships/2006

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Canadian Men's and Women's Doubles Championships

Mayfair Parkway Racquet & Fitness Club,
Markham

March 10 - 12

To enter: www.squash.ca

Ontario Championships

Ontario Men's and Women's Open Doubles
Championships

Granite Club, Toronto

February 24 - 26, 2006

To enter: www.squashontario.com

Ontario Men's and Women's Open Soft Ball
Championships

Cedar Springs Health, Racquet and Sportsclub,
Burlington

March 3 - 5, 2006

To enter: www.squashontario.com

Jesters/Harder Ontario Junior Open
Championships

White Oaks Racquet and Fitness Club, Niagara
on the Lake

March 24 - 26


To enter: www.squashontario.com

Ontario Men's and Women's Open Masters
Championships

White Oaks Racquet and Fitness Club, Niagara
on the Lake

April 7 - 9

To enter: www.squashontario.com

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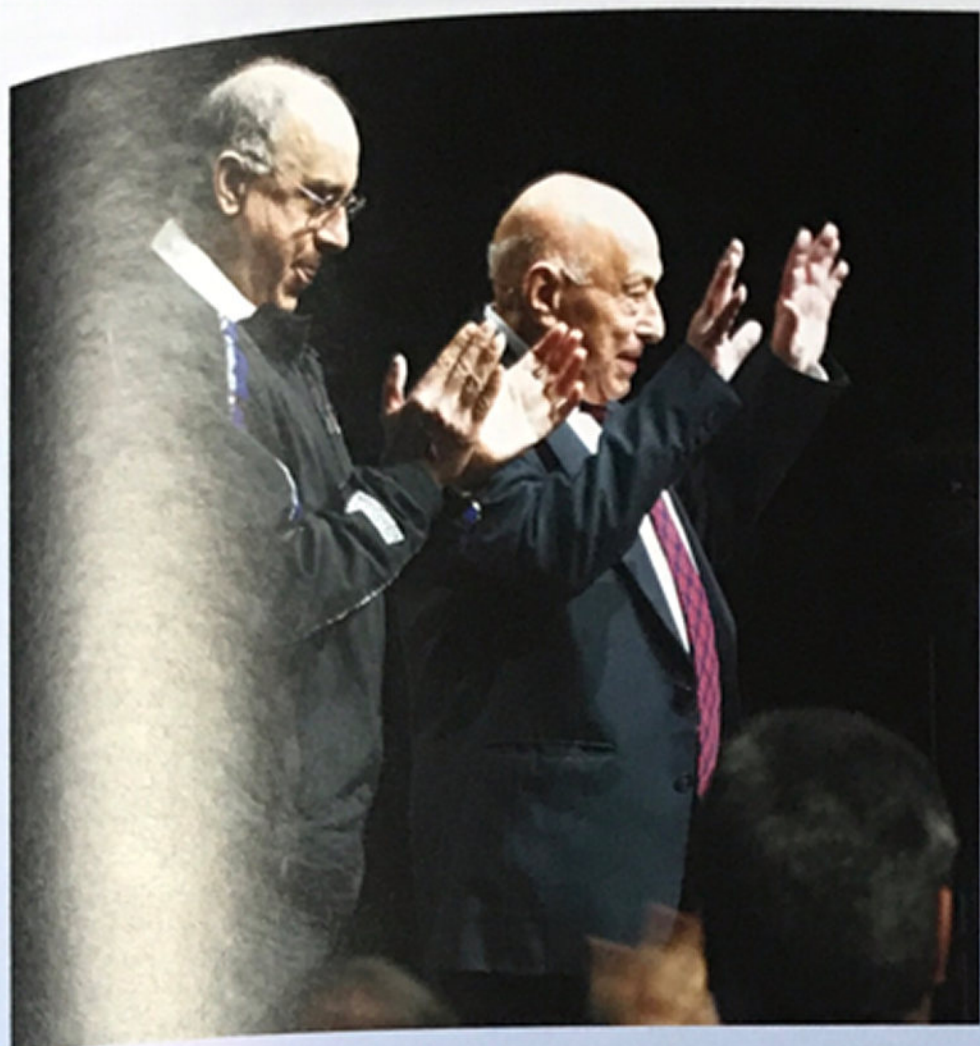
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