

SSRA NEWSLETTER

August 2004



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2004-2005 SSRA Squash League

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It is time to get ready for another season of SSRA Squash League. The new season is due to start on Tuesday October 12th and the applications are due by Friday September 17th. Details about the new season, application requirements and league rules will be e-mailed to the SSRA mailing list and posted on SSRA website www.seattlesquash.com by Sunday Aug 29th. These dates are chiseled in stone and will **absolutely not be changed!** ☺ So, start putting your teams together **NOW!**

The format of the league is similar to previous years. There will be three or four

divisions of play. Each division roughly corresponds to skill levels (i.e. division 1 to A, 2 to B etc.). Efforts will be made to place teams in the divisions they have applied for, but this is **not** guaranteed. The goal is to make the divisions as competitive as possible.

Like last year, the league will be utilizing web-based score reporting and standings updates in real time. This year ratings will also be updated in real time.

Each team must have a **host** club in Seattle area, where they can play their home matches. The number of teams allowed from each club will depend on the number of courts provided by that club for league play. Team appli-

cations may be denied due to shortage of courts at the home club. The season will be 18 weeks long, with the first half of the season tentatively ending on December 14th, followed by a midseason break period of two weeks. The league entry fee remains unchanged at \$180 per team.

Below is a summary of some of the changes to the league this year:

USSRA/SSRA membership: In the previous years, players had to be current USSRA members to be eligible for league play. This year, players are given an additional option to become members of SSRA only.

Changes in roster and/or
(Continued on back)

Upcoming Regional Tournaments

Vashon Wooden Racquets Handicap

Sept 11-12, 2004

Vashon Athletic Club
Vashon Island, WA
Gordon Burridge 206 463-5921

2004 DARE Tournament

Sept 10-12, 2004

Santa Barbara Athletic Club
Santa Barbara, CA
Robert Graham 805 966-6147

Seattle City Championships

Sept 17-19, 2004

Washington Athletic Club
Seattle, WA
Steve Furneaux 206 938-5596
(entry form enclosed)

Earlybird Tournament

Sept 24-26, 2004

Vancouver Racquets Club
Vancouver, B.C.
Apply online www.squashbc.com

Pro Club Fall Classic

Oct 1-3, 2004

Pro Sports Club
Bellevue, WA
Azam Khan 425 885-5566
(entry form enclosed)

Oregon State Singles

Nov 12-14, 2004

Multnomah Athletic Club
Portland, OR

For the latest tournament info, check www.seattlesquash.com

SSRA Trustee Nominations Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The SSRA is a volunteer organization responsible for organizing the Seattle Squash League, two major tournaments--Washington State Open and Seattle City Championships-- referee clinics, newsletters and countless other activities that support the Seattle squash-playing community. Without the volunteer participation of players such as yourself, none of this would be

possible.

The Board needs you!!! A number of current trustees are retiring after many years of service, and a new set of trustees will be announced at the September meeting of the SSRA. You can nominate yourself or anyone else to become a trustee. Trustees serve a 3-year term. Nominations should be e-mailed to secre-

tary@seattlesquash.com by September 14th. A ballot containing nominations will then be e-mailed to the SSRA membership on September 16th. Results will be announced at the AGM on the September 30th

**Mark you calendar:
SSRA Annual General Meeting
September 30th, 2004—7 p.m.
College Club, Seattle**

California Junior Open 2004

Seattle Juniors had a great showing at the California Junior Open over the weekend of August 13-15, with 20 Seattle kids participating (which must be a record!)

The girls divisions were all played as round robin format, which gave the girls plenty of squash to play. **Vidya Rajan** made it a strong start for the Seattle girls by winning the U13 without dropping a single game. The U15 was very much a Seattle affair, with the top four positions going to Seattle players. **Daphne Rein-Weston** took the top slot over **Yarden Odinak** in a closely fought final round, with 3rd and 4th going to **Leah Stork** and **Jojo Holman** respectively. In the U17 **Emile Kraft** came in a close 2nd with **Katie Stork** in 4th. **Kristen Lange** showed her usual strong form in the U19 by winning without dropping a single game, and **Nicole Nelson** followed in 4th position.

Most of the boys divisions were played

in the traditional knockout format, with first round losers moving into the consolation, and a Plate round (for 2nd round losers) in the U15 and U17. In the U11, **Lucas Bench** showed great determination while playing his way into 2nd place, while **David Anderson** took 2nd place in the consolation. The U13 was well represented with Seattle players, with **Christopher Jung** taking 1st place and his brother **Andrew Jung** winning the consolation. **David Jamieson** won the 3rd place playoff, and in an all-Seattle 3rd place consolation final, **Reilly Bench** prevailed over **David Anderson**. In a strong U15 division **Thomas Kraft** made it into the consolation finals after a closely fought game with local favorite **Todd Lavine** and took 2nd place, while **Jack Newton** defeated **Elias Bench** in an all-Seattle final for the Plate. In the U17, **Rafik Bhaloo** came in 4th in the consolation, while his brother **Rahim Bhaloo** came in 5th in the U19 round robin.

Congratulations to all the players for

great results, for help with refereeing and scoring, and for representing Seattle squash with great sportsmanship and impeccable court manners.

Many thanks to **Richard Elliott** of the Pacific Athletic Club for a well-organized and well-run tournament. The food (muffins, cookies, bagels, pizza, pasta and hot dogs!) was great, and we were all made to feel very welcome at the beautiful Pacific Athletic Club, with their 5 glass backed squash courts. Thanks also to the Seattle coaches, **Shabana Khan** and **Steve Furneaux** for traveling with their kids and providing much needed coaching, support, guidance and encouragement.

For full results see
[https://www.bcisoft.com/railstation/
TourneyHome.aspx?DrawID=3987](https://www.bcisoft.com/railstation/TourneyHome.aspx?DrawID=3987)

For more pictures see our SSRA website at [http://www.seattlesquash.com/Photos/
CAJuniorOpen2004/CAJuniorOpen2004.
htm](http://www.seattlesquash.com/Photos/CAJuniorOpen2004/CAJuniorOpen2004.htm)



Thanks Mariza!!

The Board of Trustees is losing a valued member, and you, unsuspecting subscriber, are losing the talents and dedication of our long-standing membership secretary.

Mariza Ohlsson, a big picture in the Seattle squash scene over many years, has decided to step down from the Board and vacate the office she has held for almost 10 years.

Squash entered Mariza's life at the Denver Athletic Club, where she took lessons from the great maestro, Hashim Khan. At that time Mariza represented the University of Colorado in tennis, at which she remains formidable (as my wife and others who attended the recent squash/tennis weekend at Mazama Country Inn will attest!).

For eight years Mariza ran the squash program at Gateway Athletic Club, and she continues to coach and encourage aspiring players at the College Club. Her credentials with the SSRA are impressive: a Trustee for five years, Newsletter Editor for three years, and

President for one year. Always a diplomat, Mariza possesses the great social skills to get people motivated. The last two USSRA Nationals in Seattle have seen this lady at the forefront, but not seeking the limelight.

Mariza has traveled widely with her squash racquet, having competed in the Masters Games in South Africa and in tournaments in the Bahamas. And, she has been a consummate ambassador for Seattle squash, with her exemplary sportsmanship and on court skills. (It is my opinion that focus is her strongest asset.)

Over the years, I have seen many enthusiasts of our wonderful game give tirelessly of themselves, without expecting return. No one has given more than Mariza.

Mariza will continue to stay active both on and off court, so you will see her around at tournaments. If you bump into her, please say hello and thank you. (You might also ask her about hiking to Macchu Picchu, Peru, or about

the seventeen 14,000 foot peaks she's bagged in Colorado.

We love you Mariza.

Steve Furneaux, on behalf of SSRA Board of Trustees.

YOUR Newsletter

Do you read your SSRA Newsletter or does it merely accompany the vinyl siding ads into the recycling bin? The basic goal of the newsletter is to give you information, so you can participate fully in the rich diversity of our squash community. Beyond that, we would like the newsletter to be interesting and entertaining. Please make the arrival of the SSRA Newsletter as anticipated as a birthday card from your sweetheart by sending your thoughts and ideas to our newly established e-mail address, newsletter@seattlesquash.com. Thank you.

Membership

Last Spring, the SSRA board approved a change in SSRA memberships. The SSRA is now offering a local membership only option (\$20 for adults, \$10 for students). The SSRA still offers the joint USSRA/SSRA membership (\$55 for adults, \$40 for students). SSRA membership is required to play in the squash league. USSRA membership is required for certain USSRA sanctioned events. SSRA Renewal/Application forms can be found at www.seattlesquash.com. SSRA-only memberships can also be renewed with your league application. If you are unsure of when your membership expires, - check the last four numbers of your USSRA number on your mailing label (MMYY).

Referee Clinics

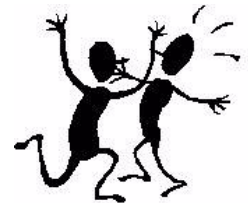
Knowing the rules of squash and how to fairly apply them leads to greater competence, a better playing level, more enjoyment and the respect of your peers. So plan on joining one of the referee clinics provided by your SSRA:

**Sept 7— SACDT
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

Ayub Khan
Open to first 15—register by calling Ayub 206 443-1111 ext 229

**Sept 15— Pro Sports Club
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Azam Khan
Pro Club members only
First 20 people— register by emailing akhan@proclub.com



**Sept 27—Seattle
Tennis Club
6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Steve Furneaux
register by emailing xcourtdrop@aol.com

**October 4—Columbia Athletic Club
7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Steve Furneaux
register by emailing xcourtdrop@aol.com

All clinics are free of charge. Bring your squash playing gear and be prepared to participate. These clinics are especially recommended for new and inexperienced league players uncertain about the rules.

Howe Cup 2004

This year the Womens Team Championship (Howe Cup) is being hosted by New York Metropolitan Squash Racquets Association (MSRA). Matches will be played at the Harvard Club, Yale Club, Princeton Club and the University Club, all in Manhattan. The competition will take place on October 22-24, 2004. For more information check out the Howe Cup website at www.howecup.com or contact Lulu Chou—lu2chou@hotmail.com—206 310-2054.

League Cont'd

order of play: In addition to the mid-season break, a team's roster and order of play can be changed one additional time for the nominal fee of \$30.

Restrictions at Pro Club and Seattle Athletic Club Downtown: At the request of the management and squash pros at these two clubs, league start times have been moved to 8 p.m. at Pro Club and 7:30 p.m. at SACDT. Guest teams may **not** enter these two clubs until 15 minutes before the start of the matches.

Please e-mail league@seattlesquash.com if you have any questions.

Looking forward to another great squash season,
Vafa Ghazi

Expanded SSRA Library

by Steve Furneaux

The following items have been added to your SSRA library:

Books:

Squash Racquets, the Khan Game by Hashim Khan

DVDs:

Jonathan Power Exposed

Super Series 2003

Tournament of Champions 2004

Contact SSRA Librarian, Steve Furneaux (xcourtdrop@aol.com), for information on checking out these items.

For a complete list of SSRA library holdings go to www.seattlesquash.com.

Fall is Squash Time in Mazama

At the **Mazama Country Inn** not only do you have access to hundreds of miles of hiking and biking trails, but also **the only certified, international squash court** between Bellingham and Spokane. So bring your hiking boots and mountain bike for fun on the trails, but also your racquet and court shoes for a little indoor fun. Or play some tennis on our scenic outdoor court. Then take a swim in our **brand new swimming pool** or relax on our out-door deck with a beer and a smile.

The Mazama Country Inn
15 Country Road
Mazama, WA 98833
Toll Free: 800-843-7951
www.mazamacountryinn.com

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