

# SSRA NEWSLETTER

November 2004



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Vafa Ghazi  
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John Towler  
Wendy Weeks  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Peter Langmaid  
newslet-  
ter@seattlesquash.com  
**Webmaster**  
David Brent

## Seattle City Championships

First contested in 1927, the 2004 edition of the Seattle City Championships was held over the weekend of Sept. 17-19, at the WAC.

Given the enormous stakes (the championship of the entire City!), a total turnout of forty players in 5 divisions was disappointing. However, the competition was fierce, the snacks plentiful, the sandwiches thick with carbs, the beverages cold and wet, and many old acquaintances were renewed.

In the men's A final, stiff and sore **Sean Sunderland** overcame exhausted, stiff and sore former champion **Peter Roslander** in an elegant and stylish battle. Sean's name will now be engraved on the historic silver trophy (see p.4), which will then reside in his bulging trophy case until he defends his title next year.

The men's C final pitted **Manav Bhatia** and **Chris**

**Chandler**, with Bhatia prevailing. **Langley Grace** captured the men's D over **Gordon Burridge**.

In the women's A round-robin, **Kathryn Grant** came through without a loss, overcoming tenacious **Lori Cinnimond**, wily **Mariza Ohlsson**, and determined **Carol Odell** along the way.

The juniors division was also a round-robin with **Steve**

**Severson, Zachery Ziegler**, and **Luke Bench** taking the top three spots, respectively.

Special thanks to the **WAC** squash club for holding the event, **Prism Kites** for sponsoring the event, **The Sorrento Hotel**, and the indomitable **Steve Furneaux** for the thankless task of tournament director.

*Complete results on p. 4*

*Former champion Peter Roslander (L) congratulates 2004 champion, Sean Sunderland, after their grueling Men's A final. After 3 matches in 2 days, both players would find walking painfully difficult on Monday!*



## Upcoming Regional Events

**November 25**, Thanksgiving Everywhere in the U.S.  
**Dec. 3-5**, Peninsula Open  
Pacific Athletic Club  
Richard Elliott (squash@pacclub.com)  
(605) 593-4900 ext. 238  
**Feb. 11-13, 2005**, BC Open  
Arbutus Club, Vancouver, BC

**Feb. 18-20, 2005**, David O'Toole Memorial Championships  
S.F. Bay Club  
Dominique Chiquet (dchiquet@pacbell.net)  
**March 11 - 13, 2005** California State Doubles Championships  
University Club  
John Lau (johnrlau@comcast.net) (415) 781-0900.

## Husky Squash

Thanks to the recent addition of four beautiful international squash courts and tireless organizing and promoting by **Mike Bishop**, UW is joining Cal, Stanford, Utah, USC, and Air Force to bring collegiate squash to the West Coast.

Coached by UW alumnus and local squash pro **Ayub Khan**, the UW squash team reflects the global popularity of squash with players from the U.S., India, Korea, Pakistan, Canada, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Nepal. Volunteer local vets **Mike Bishop** and **Peter Langmaid** assist Ayub.

Captained by smooth-stroking **Samuil Gandhi**, the team plays its first

match against Cal on November 13, with future matches planned in the Bay Area, Salt Lake City, Philadelphia, and Boston. Enthusiasm among the players is high and practices are spirited.

Although UW has never had an organized squash team, alumni **Mark Alger**, **Shabana Khan**, and **Latosha Khan** have won individual National Championships.

A club sport in its' first year (our goal is to do at least as well as the football team!), Husky Squash is self-funded. If you would like to help bring collegiate squash to UW, contact **Mike Bishop at bish@u.washington.edu**.

## 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 help us 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.

## Howe Cup 2004...New York, New York!

*by Laura Bachman*

What do you get when you mix women's squash with the Big Apple? You get tough competition, tired feet, bulging shopping bags, and the wonderful fellowship of teammates, friends and family.

The annual Howe Cup tournament was hosted this year by four private clubs in New York City: the Harvard Club, the Yale Club, the Princeton Club and the University Club. The allure of New York drew one of the largest pools of women's teams ever, with 26 team entries, half of which were in the B division. The A division was filled with top players from the US national team, which meant that many of the Howe Cup "regulars" played at lower levels than in the past.

Despite the promise of high level of competition, only one B team from Seattle, and one C player, made the journey. Sadly, our team, plus a team from Houston, were the only participants from west of the Mississippi!

The Seattle B team members were **Laura Bachman**, **Lulu Chou**, **Erin Kelly**, **Dominique Posy** and **Kristin Anderson**. The group had both newcomers and veterans to the New York scene. Mindy Cooper also traveled to the tournament, playing on a New York C team and pretending to be a

native New Yorker. The B division was so large it had to be broken into four pools.

The Seattle team began play at the Harvard Club with a tough match against a top Boston team. While Seattle lost each match, several highlights were memorable: Lefty Erin playing another lefty; Dominique running, running, running; and Lulu delighting everyone by stretching for a ball and ending up doing the splits!

Saturday morning brought a change of venue to the beautiful Yale Club and a match against a New York team. Maybe it was the nice courts, or the colorful Lulu lemon outfits, or maybe it was just superior play, but Seattle showed the New York team what squash is all about. Each match was won 3-0, with commanding play by everyone.

The middle of the day brought shopping, lunch at Grand Central Station, and visits with relatives, before the next round of play at the Harvard Club to determine 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> place. The Seattle team played a group from Washington D.C., in a nail-biter. First, Kristin and Dominique won their matches, confidently controlling the court and sending their opponents to the showers. Next, Erin faced a tough player and lost 3-0, followed by Laura losing 3-1. This left the match up to Lulu, who played a teenage version of herself, both physically and in style of play. Lulu won the first game 10-9. The next

three games were extremely long and intense, with the teenager prevailing (could it have been her belly-button ring which made the difference?). Washington won the match, leaving Seattle in 7<sup>th</sup> place in the final standings.

The Saturday night party was held at the fashionable Beacon restaurant, complete with a DJ and a dance floor. What the west coast squash crowd has always known, the east coast crowd now understands – the Seattle girls sure can dance! As for all the details of the evening's events, well, let's just say that what happens in New York stays in New York.

The weekend ended with a resounding victory by Mindy Cooper in her team's final match. She was in command throughout the match, and better yet, she put on quite a show for her mom and cousins, who had never seen her play before. It was a wonderful way to close out the Howe Cup experience.

## 2004 Phil Smart Mercedes-Benz Pro Club Classic

### Results:

#### Men's A:

Thomas def. LaBossier 3-1

#### Men's B:

Carabajal def. Bohrer 3-0

#### Men's B Consolation:

Kramps def. Reibman 3-1

#### Men's C:

Sibley def. Pacey 3-2

#### Men's C Consolation:

Akam def. Weber 3-2

#### Men's D:

Heuser def. Regio 3-0

#### Men's D Consolation:

White def. Waterfield

#### Novice:

Chatwin def. Sill 3-1

#### Novice Consolation:

Stevenson def. Joshi 3-1

#### Women's A:

Lange def. Martin 3-0

#### Women's A Consolation:

Posy def. Charters 3-1

#### Women's B:

Odinak def. Nelson 3-0

#### Women's B Consolation:

Anderson def. Kraft 3-1

#### Women's C:

Rajan def. McLaughlin 3-0

#### Women's C Consolation:

Whiting def. Thornsberry 3-0

#### Women's D:

Soparlo def. Toyoshima 3-1

#### Under 11 Round-Robin:

1st Sedky

2nd Western

## Seattle Squash Sweatshirts

A distinctive *Seattle Squash* hooded sweatshirt (no zip) will soon be available to all SSRA members. Junior sizes \$10, adult sizes \$30. The sweatshirt will have *Seattle Squash* on the back, the SSRA Web site address on the front, and (probably) our crossed- racquets logo both front & back. They will be a dark color, probably navy blue. These sweatshirts are a great way to let the world know you're a squash player, and a convenient way to show your colors at out-of-town tournaments.

**To purchase**, please send a check (separate checks for each sweatshirt, please) by Dec 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Seattle Squash Racquets Association  
P.O. Box 481  
Seattle, WA 98111-0481

#### Please include:

Your name

Required sweatshirt size (Adult XL/L/M/S  
Child L/M/S)

Phone number

Your club (sweatshirts will be distributed by club contacts)

## 2004-05 SSRA Squash League

by Vafa Ghazi

The SSRA Squash League kicked off its 2004-2005 season on Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup>. This year, there are a total of 31 teams playing in 3 divisions: Division 1 with 10 teams, Division 2 with 14 teams, and division 3 with 7 teams.

The regular season will be played as follows: Division 1 teams will play each other twice (home and away) over 18 weeks. In Division 2, there will be two rounds. In round 1, teams play each other once over 13 weeks. After that, the division will be split evenly into two subdivisions (2A & 2B) based on the standings at the end of the first round. In round 2, teams in each subdivision will again play each other once. In Division 3, teams play each other three times over 21 weeks. The top 4 teams in each division (1, 2A, 2B and 3) will then move to the playoffs.

Matches are played every Tuesday in 12 clubs around Puget Sound area, and the league is scheduled to run

through the end of March 2005, with the finals scheduled for first week of April. No matches are scheduled for the Thanksgiving week or the last two weeks of the year.

Team roster and order-of-play can be changed, free of charge, at the mid-season break. Changes must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 17th and will go into effect for Week 10 (Jan. 4, 2005).

The league is running smoothly. The host clubs have been given team rosters and are posting the match schedules to prevent any confusion. Scores are being reported (mostly) on time and the league standings on the web scoring system show the most updated standings in each division. For more information, please refer to [www.seattlesquash.com](http://www.seattlesquash.com).

FAQ: If a team is shorthanded and #3 position has to play twice, he/she should play the #3 player on the opposing team first, before playing the #4 player.

## Missing Squash Magazine yet?

The only tangible benefit of USSRA membership is the delivery of *Squash Magazine* to your mailbox (10 issues per year). This year, many of you took the opportunity of joining the SSRA only, which means you will **not** receive the magazine automatically. If you miss the informative news articles, helpful training and strategy tips, and spirited commentaries that make *Squash Magazine* a favorite nightstand companion, call *Squash Magazine* at 206-748-0085 and subscribe today.

# Seattle City Championships Results

# The Trophy

## Men's A:

Sunderland def. Roslander 3-0

## Men's A Consolation:

Langmaid def. Halstead 3-0

## Men's C:

Bhatia def. Chandler 3-0

## Men's C Consolation:

Nieberg def. Geny 3-0

## Men's D:

Gace def. Burrige 3-0

## Men's D Consolation:

Dorrington def. Weeks 3-2

## Women's A (round-robin):

Kathryn Zachery

## Junior's (round-robin):

1st- Steve Severson

2nd-Zachery Ziegler

3rd- Luke Bench

The trophy that is awarded to the men's A winner of the Seattle City Championships has been passed from champion to champion since 1927. Standing 24" tall, the large, player-topped silver cup sits on a solid oak base with the names of past winners engraved on plaques that cover all four sides. As such, the names on the trophy commemorate the illustrious history of Seattle squash.

Long before the days of sponsor-donated merchandise prizes, this trophy was the most coveted prize of the Seattle squash season. Competition for the trophy was especially intense during the city's hardball days.

Says 9-time champion Chris Burrows: "I loved having the trophy at my house. I made sure it was the first thing guests saw when they came over. Needless to say, my wife couldn't wait for me to lose!"

Notable past champions include:

Leon De Turenne (8 times)

Ted Clarke (20 times!)

Dick Radloff (7 times)

Chris Burrows (9 times)

Azam Khan (5 times)

Raman Narayanan (4 times)



## Are we missing your name?

Two years, 1989 & 1990, have no champion's name engraved by them. If you won in either or both of those years—or you know who did—please send us an e-mail, so the names can be added.

# Message from the President

by John Towler

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new Trustees who were elected at the SSRA Annual Meeting in September. The SSRA always needs volunteers to keep the association running smoothly, and it's encouraging to have five new faces.

**Tony Halstead, Kawn Law, William Feinberg, Jason Harris-Boundy, and Dave Brent.**

I would also like to extend thanks to the following retiring Trustees:

**Karl Rein-Weston**, for his efforts over the years supporting junior squash and his leadership in creating the SSRA Mission Statement.

**Kara Dyko**, for editing and producing the SSRA Newsletter.

**Mariza Ohlsson**, for her many years of service, including terms as SSRA Newsletter editor, president, and mem-

bership.

**Ray Luiggi**, for being Treasurer

**Jay Prince**, for bringing a wider perspective of USA/International Squash to the board.

The officers for 2004 – 2005 are:  
Gordon Burrige Vice President and  
Competition

Dave Brent Web site

Chris Chandler Marketing

John Frazier Secretary

Peter Langmead Newsletter

Kwan Law Membership

Vafa Ghazi League

Tony Halstead Treasurer

Steve Jamieson Junior Development

John Towler President

## The Roll of a SSRA Trustee:

There can be up to a total of 13 Trustees, and new Trustees are elected each year to replace any that may have re-

tired. The duties of the Trustees are: 1) Elect of the Board officers, 2) vote on proposals presented to the Board, and 3) facilitate communications between the SSRA, its' members, and the squash clubs within the Puget Sound area.

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