

The Philly Boast

Gossip Corner by Molly Pierce

Congrats to Steve Gregg (Executive Director SquashSmarts) and Shapley Stauffer on their recent engagement. Wedding is set for September 2007.

Weddings: Peter Schrieber and Vicki tied the knot on Feb 9, 2007. Peter Pierce, Jr. and Lindsey Marshall were wed in Jamaica on Feb 3, 2007.

Get Well wishes to Jim VanBlarcom (Kat's husband) on a speedy recovery. You can visit Jim's website that was set up by the family. www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimvanb

Heard Kathy Carson is back on the squash court/court tennis after surgery in December...glad to hear your feeling better. Tom Harrity back playing squash after popping his achilles in August. Amazing recovery!!!! An avid singles player who has played doubles maybe 2 times showed up on the doubles court for the Merion Member Guest doubles tournament....Chase Lenfest. Chase and Lisa Stokes went on to win this tournament. Maybe Lisa converted Chase to play more doubles.

SquashSmarts Corner by Steve Gregg

The 2007 **SquashSmarts** Raffle will be held at the PSRA doubles finals on Friday, March 23 at the Merion Cricket Club. Tickets can be purchased at the event or in advance [\$100 for 6 chances]. This Raffle is the single largest fundraiser held in the spring, and 100% of the proceeds directly benefit **SquashSmarts** players.



Open Position: **SquashSmarts** is seeking a Director of Development. This is a unique opportunity for a highly qualified man or woman with extensive fundraising experience to work closely with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors to manage a year-round development campaign centered on a current major capacity-building opportunity. The individual will be responsible for strengthening the program's existing base of support through the cultivation of individual, foundation, corporate and government support. Candidates must have a proven track record in grant-writing and development work, impeccable writing, verbal and interpersonal skills. Contact Steve Gregg for details.

"Save the Date" Update: **SquashSmarts'** "Best Shot Ball" has been moved to Saturday, October 20 to coincide with the official opening of the new Lenfest Community Center in Hunting Park. **SquashSmarts** is the second urban program nationwide that will have a dedicated facility. Construction is well underway, and the Lenfest Center, which will also house a PAL program, will feature a full court gym, multiple classrooms, eight glass backed courts and a fitness center. This facility, coupled with the home base at Drexel, will allow **SquashSmarts** to expand its reach to another Philly neighborhood, provide for a structure of the high school program, and permit camps and training of its players year round. More details on the grand opening celebration will follow.

PSRA Doubles Tournament by John Makransky

John Makransky [john.makransky@axa-advisors.com] has volunteered to direct this year's tournament. Match play will begin Monday, March 19 and conclude on Friday March 23 with the finals played at the Merion Cricket Club. Entry forms will be emailed to the membership and available on line at www.PhillyBoast.org. The finals will be followed by the Annual Awards Reception free to all PSRA members. Awards for winners of last year's PSRA Doubles Tournament [spring 2006] and the Fall 2006 League Winners should attend to claim prizes.

Upcoming National Tournaments at Local Venues

Three Upcoming National tournaments in our region. Please participate and support the host clubs and players.

Entry forms are available at

<http://www.us-squash.org/championships/>

March 23-25, 2007

U.S. Junior Championships (Bronze)

Presented by Harrow Sports [Berwyn Squash & Fitness Club - host club]

March 30 - April 1, 2007

Sotheby's International Realty

U.S. Doubles Championships [Fairmount Athletic Club - host club]

Featured Tournament Results

DAVENPORT AND MCNEELY WIN MERION MIXED

[reprinted with permission from SquashTalk]

Grand Dame of Philly Squash Reigns Supreme



While Prince Charles and Camille graced the City of Brotherly Love last weekend to celebrate the Academy of Music's 150th Anniversary, the real buzz in the City surrounded a "squash royal" who continued to amaze players and spectators alike. Joyce Davenport, one of the most decorated squash players in America, teamed with David McNeely to win the 2007 Merion Mixed Doubles tournament. "Joyce is simply amazing" remarked Philly Squash VP Molly Pierce, while tourney chair Tracy Greer pointed to the many plaques adorning the walls of the venerable Merion Cricket Club bearing Davenport's name that memorializes her many successes.

Her first national title was captured in 1969, and almost 40 years later, she continues to win major events and is likely to add a few titles to complement her 30 plus national titles. McNeely joins a wide array of talented squash players who have partnered and won US titles with Davenport over a span of almost four decades, including Carol Thesieres, Barbara Maltby, Julie Harris and Sharon Schwarze in women's events and Ralph Howe, Peter Briggs, Victor Harding, David Procter and Morris Clothier in mixed nationals.

Well-known as the harbinger for the US National Mixed Doubles tournament, Merion drew the usual top doubles players seeking the country's most prestigious mixed title. Few predicted that unseeded Davenport would once again capture the crown. After early round wins, Davenport/McNeely came close to losing in the quarterfinals to Merion Pro Dani Davis and Germantown Pro James "Buck" Rogers who took the duo to five. The semi-finals proved an equally daunting five game match.

Top seeded Kat VanBlarcom and Canadian champ Alan Grant, who scored a recent win at the Dubin Mixed, were tantalized by Davenport's high cross courts and precise reverses. The bottom half of the draw also experienced upsets. In the semis, an Episcopal Academy duo of teacher Tim Kent and Girl's Varsity coach Dawn Grey fell to Berwyn Pro Amy Milanek and Merion Cricket Pro Scott Devoy as they used crisp drops, rolls and reverses to win the match. The finals expected to be won in the front of the court where Milanek/Devoy had bested all their other opponents. But Milanek/Devoy's short game did not faze McNeely, a former Episcopal Academy standout, junior national champ and Amherst star who is part of a breed of young hardball doubles players who now compete in the amateur events and on the pro circuits, as he returned even the tightest drops and reverses that Milanek/Devoy could deliver.

In the end, Davenport/McNeely took the championship in three and yet another title belonged to the queen of patience as Davenport waited for just the right moment to bury a final reverse for a winner.



Penn Charter Boys/Episcopal Girls Wins US-Squash National High School Championships



EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

The powerful Penn Charter Boys Varsity Squash and Episcopal Academy Girls Varsity Squash teams rolled over the competition and captured the fourth annual National High School Championships. The tournament, hosted by Yale University, was founded by Merion's Melinda Justi. There were 67 teams in the tournament and there were 2 draws for boys and girls (A&B).

PC played Loomis Chafee in the first round (6-1); Haverford in the 2nd round (7-0); Philips Exeter in the 3rd (6-1), and Brunswick in the final (5-2).

- 1 - Chris Callis 3, James Clark 0
- 2 - Alex Domenick. 3, Travis Judson 0
- 3 - Matt Domenick. 2, Robby Berner 3
- 4 - Stephen Harrington 1, Clay Blackiston 3
- 5 - David Hilton 3, Will Browne 0
- 6 - Ross Harrow 3, Craig Matthews 0
- 7 - Pat Brady 3, Wesley Wynne 0
- Alternate - Hunter Beck
- Team Coach – Geoff Shields

The EA Girl's Varsity team captured the crown with a decisive 5-2 win over two-time defending champion Greenwich Academy. Dawn Gray and Erica LaCerde coached the team that included players Logan Greer, Anne Madiera, Lexi Van Arkel, Sarah Mumanachit, Libby Eyre, Emily Halpern, Monica Stone, Liza Walling, and Kim Kirkpatrick.

Pros on the Move

Adam Hammill (GCC) appointed US Junior Men's team assistant coach. The team will compete in Zurich in the summer 2008.

Ron Koenig, Gavin Jones, and Brian Callahan have joined Cynwyd as Assistant Squash Pros. Brian also coaches EA's Boy's Varsity squash team.

Fall League Playoff Results

Highlighted Match: Greate Bay [formerly Shore Racquet] vs. RCOP in the "C" Singles Finals

For the fourth consecutive year, Greate Bay advanced to the "C" Singles finals hoping to repeat its earlier season victory over the seasoned Racquet [RCOP] team. RCOP advanced to the finals by defeating former league champs Cherry Hill, while Greate Bay won defeating the strong and deep Germantown Cricket Club team. The finals resulted in 2-2 in matches [see below] , 9-9 in games, with the tiebreaker decided on points: 130 to RCOP versus 117 to Greate Bay, with RCOP winning by edging Greate Bay by the slightest of margins. Another terrific finals for all competing teams.

A1 Singles:

Merion defeated Chestnut Hill
 Imran Khan (3) Joe Russell (2)
 Iago Cornes (3) Shannon Hazel(1)
 Scott Devoy (3) Peter Lubowitz (0)

A2 Singles:

Penn defeated Gwynedd
 CJ Camillo (1) Trip Davis (3)
 Rob Gross (3) Jim Gingrich (0)
 Jim Brodo (3) Lakota Kruse (2)

B Singles:

Racquet 1 defeated Merion 1
 Ryan Bray vs Will Greer (not played)
 Norris Jordan (3) George Edwards (0)
 Stewart Keener (3) Andy Nehrbas (2)
 Rich White (3) Matt Panarese (2)

C Singles:

Racquet defeated Greate Bay
 Drew Brock (1) Duane Demaree (3)
 Jeff Miller (3) Al Jewitt (2)
 Steve Warren (2) Tony Canuscio (3)
 Yves Quintin (3) Beverly Rayfield (1)

Vet Doubles

Merion defeated Berwyn 2
 T. Kent/A. Nehrbas (3) E. Spofford/J. Spofford (0)
 Page/J. Heldring (3) B. Strong/E. Shuman (2)

Mixed Doubles A

Berwyn 2 defeated Berwyn 1
 A. Milanek/J. Spofford (3) J. Davenport/A. Baskin (0)
 D. Gray/J. Welsh (3) I. Benton/E. Shuman (0)

Senior Doubles

Germantown 1 defeated Cynwyd 1 (by points)
 P. Day/T. Oxholm (3) E. Bresnitz/G. Maguire (2)
 P. McGonigle/J. Keir (2) D. Keating/J. Schellenberg (3)

Mixed Doubles B

Gwynedd defeated Germantown 1
 P. Lutes/J. Wales (3) J. Corelli/H. Frankel (0)
 I. McIntosh/B. Buba (3) B. Gottshall/J. Jackson (0)

Tournament Results [as reported by tournament chairs]

PSRA Vet Doubles: Todd Anderson/Pete Moran won 3-1 over Chris Wright/Bill Strong.

PSRA Senior Doubles: Joyce Davenport/Andy Baskin won 3-0 over John Schellenberg/Kirk Heilbrun.

Dubin Mixed Doubles:

A division: Kat VanBlarcom/Alan Grant won 3-1 over Amy Milanek/Trevor McGuinness.
 B division: Hilary Armstrong/John Frazer won 3-0 over Sharon Heiusler/Wolfgang Jaeger.
 C division: Pam Rende/Ty Meredith won 3-0 over Whitney Thain/Harry Erney.

Philly Boast

Open Doubles: Trevor McGuinness/Whitten Morris over Shane Coleman/Scott Devoy

Philadelphia Districts Juniors

BU11 - Iain Rothweiler [BER] over Brendan Welsh [MCC]
 BU13 - Barton Mackey [WCC] over Alex McCall [PCK]
 BU15 - Dylan Ward [PCK] over Sam Conant [PCK]
 BU17 - Brad Thompson [PCK] over Charles Loesch-Quintin [GCC]
 BU19 - David Hilton [GCC] over Stephen Wetherill [CHA/SS]

GU11 - Jennifer Davis [WCC] over Amanda Beck [PCK]
 GU13 - Olivia Fiechter [PCK] over Tara Harrington [PCK]
 GU15 - Margie Saunders [WCC] over Caroline Sawin [MCC]
 GU17 - Alexandra Glassman [GCC] over Katherine Savage [PCK]
 GU19 - Hannah Conant [PCK] over Alexis Saunders [WCC]

National Junior Singles Championships

GU19. Logan Greer (winner). Also, winner of the Deroy Sportsmanship Award.
 BU13. Sam Conant (finalist)
 BU17. Thomas Mattson (winner)
 BU19 Todd Harrity (winner); Chris Callis (finalist).



2007 U.S. Doubles Championships at the Fairmount Athletic Club

The Philadelphia squash community and Fairmount Athletic Club, opening just in time to host the event, look forward to having you participate in the Sotheby's International Realty U.S. Doubles Squash Championships in this, the 100th year of hardball doubles. The Tournament Committee is seeking patrons for the event.

The Tournament Committee has decided to keep the entry fee at \$100 in order to attract large participation, particularly from the younger players who represent the future of our game. As a result, in order to put on a fun event, we are relying on a good number of long-time national stalwarts to support this event as patrons. The tournament will feature a festive Saturday evening party and attractive jackets as player gifts, in addition to all of the usual amenities associated with this prestigious national event.

We look forward to seeing you once again vying for your national doubles title and hope that you will consider supporting the overall success of the event.

Sotheby's International Realty U.S. Doubles Squash Championships
Tournament Committee Members:

Tripper Heckscher
Molly Pierce
Margaret Rux
Chris Wright
Demer Holleran

Membership Reminder & Yearbook Update

US Squash allows members to manage their memberships through RailStation. To manage your membership Log In using the email and RailStation password you chose when you joined or renewed online.

If you didn't join or renew online or if you can't remember your Log In information, you can still manage your membership online. RailStation allows you to create and change your Log In information. To do this, you will need to enter either your US Squash ID number or your Date of Birth.

The new 2007 PSRA Yearbook had been mailed. Our SRA is one of the few in the nation that continues to publish an annual Yearbook. The production is a daunting and time consuming project. Our thanks to Fred Clement for the many hours spent each year in producing a quality Yearbook.. This year, the PSRA database was merged with the USSRA database, so some errors in information may have escaped our careful scrutiny. Our apologies in advance for any errors, deletions or omissions. Please notify Fred [fclement@clempub.com] with any changes or edits so he can update the information in next year's Yearbook



SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd annual "Squash Pediatric Cancer"
 This event has raised over \$50,000 for pediatric cancer research at
 The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia over the past two years.

WHEN: Sunday, March 11th, 2007

WHERE: Ford Squash Pavilion at The Haverford School

Substance Abuse "E-Alerts" #1 – Steroids

As a public service to our membership, we will provide periodic "alerts" in this newsletter highlighting dangers associated with substance use and abuse, profiling both legal and illegal drugs as well as those that are proscribed by our organization. All substances profiled have an adverse impact on player performance, and the objective of these "alerts" is to remind players of the hazards and consequences of using or abusing these substances. We welcome any comments from the membership on our reports.

At the 1988 Olympic games, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, who easily defeated Carl Lewis, was stripped of his gold medal after it was confirmed that he used "performance enhancing" steroids. Surprisingly, steroid use by world class athletes did not decrease following the Johnson incident, prompting organizations like the USOC and USSR to pass "anti-doping" policies banning more than 17 anabolic steroids and related compounds. Steroids, a synthetic version of the human testosterone hormone, have become easy to procure over the Internet and across the border in Mexico. The hazards of steroid use are multiple, including, in men, impotence, baldness, shrinking of testicles, urinary pain and breast growth, while women experience facial hair growth, reduction in breast mass, and deepening of voices. Both sexes can suffer from acne, high blood pressure, liver damage and cancer. The dangers are heightened with adolescent use, with users stunted growth, organ failure and death as unintended consequences. Recent medical studies suggest that there is little compelling scientific evidence to support the concept that steroids enhance athletic performance. While users may experience lean muscle mass, strength, and endurance, there are no studies that show that these substances enhance performance, and the data clearly establishes that they do not improve agility. Steroid use is illegal, and violators may be subject to disciplinary action upon detection.

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Committees:

Web Site - Matt Ellinger

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Scheduling - Jim McConeghy & Ken Jaffe

Yearbook - Fred Clement & Jake Greenbaum

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Ranking - Jody Law

Adult & Jr Dbls Tourney-Jim Domenick & Doug Whittaker

Dubin Mixed - Shane Coleman & Louisa Dubin

Membership - Bill Strong

Communications - Geri Heldring

Junior Inter-Club - Bill Lane

Recording - Leo Pierce