

News From the Courts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We are at the midpoint of the 2006-2007 squash season. As I look back at the events to date, including my meteoric rise to power, I recall many highlights, and notable happenings. Here are but a few.

The 2006-2007 Squash PEI Executive includes: Michele LeClair (Secretary), Allan Hughes (Treasurer), Cynthia Dunsford (Vice-President), Steven Banks (Past-President), and myself as president. Like all would-be leaders, I reap the benefit of being surrounded by great people such as these, past-past presidents Jeremy Stiles and Kenny Power, and all the committee and tournament volunteers. Much thanks to Des Lecky who stepped down after many years as Treasurer. We also gave a fond farewell to Spider Jones, after the shortest presidency in Squash PEI history (two months). Spider answered the call for his services in Yellowknife, NWT, our loss is their gain. We all wish Spider well, and look forward to crossing paths in the future.

Thanks to Cynthia, Squash PEI is the first provincial squash association to have a Blog site (click on "Boasts & Lobs" linked to our website, squashpei.org). It is amazing how often people are reading and contributing to the Blog. Honorable mention to Scott Gamble, our "boy up west", for his insightful and informative contributions.

Awards were handed out for the 2005-06 season. Mike Buchanan and Stephanie Charlton were the Athletes-of-the-Year, and Robert Sharkie was named the winner of the Steven F. Rogers Trophy. Congratulations!

On the tournament scene, I am very

2006-07 Squash P.E.I. EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT: Derek Lawther

PAST "EL PRESIDENTE:" Steven Banks

VICE PRESIDENT: Cynthia Dunsford

TREASURER: Alan Hughes

SECRETARY: Michele LeClair

COMMITTEES

Tournament Officials:

Director: Michele LeClair

Draw Masters: Michele LeClair,
Cynthia Dunsford, Shawn Hughes

Referee in Chief: Bob Aitken

Ranking: Bruce Johnston

Club Reps:

Brian Hall (SPA)

Michele LeClair (AFC)

Carol Wilbert (AFC East,
Montague)

Cheryl (Mill River)

Ron Annear (UPEI)

Melanie Ramsay (Summerside)

Web Master: Derek Lawther

Public Relations: Cynthia Dunsford

Membership: Bruce Johnston

Newsletter: Jeremy Stiles

Squash Development

Juniors: Kenny Power



Squashpei

pleased that we have added the new Summerside Wellness facility with the inaugural Summerside Open. I note as well that participation is up slightly from last year, particularly in the women's divisions. In fact, a women's tournament is in the works for sometime in March. Stay tuned!

Additional promotion and demotion rules came into effect this fall. A player can now apply for promotion to A if draw numbers in the B division are chronically low, thus preventing the issuing of leg-up's. On the flip side, players can now apply for demotion if they meet the criteria. Upon hearing of the new rules, one notable member said, "if only this promotion rule was in effect ten years ago.....I would be an A player today.....on the other hand, I would be applying the new demotion to B rule today anyway".....don't worry Bruce, I will keep that comment a secret. Complete details are published on the website.

Squash PEI is also interested in setting up a "Hall of Fame" on the website. The procedure for electing a member to the Hall are now posted on the website.

Finally, I wish to remind everyone that the 2007 Canada Games are coming up in February. Congratulations to those who made the teams. I have seen first hand how quickly these juniors are improving, and I, on behalf of all our members, wish them, Steven Banks (coach), Michele LeClair (manager), and Bob Aitken (referee) all the best in Whitehorse, Yukon!

Derek Lawther
President, SquashPEI

Tournament Highlights

Summerside Open

The first tourney to be held at Summersides New Wellness Centre was considered a success. The draw (39 in total) included some of the Islands top men and women as well as a good crowd of

juniors. There was a lot of buzz about the new courts and the general consensus was very favourable. In this event Shawn Hughes earns his first Leg up to A by defeating Derek L in the Mens B Finals.

The rest of the divisions went as follows: Winner, Runner Up, Consolation.
Mens A Scott G, Rick K, Steven B
Womens A: Mary A, Stephanie C, and Cynthia D
Womens C: Christina GM, Solange L, Kellie M
Mens C: Stephanie C, Alex Q, Greg M
Womens D: Danielle M, Whitney M, Denise M.

AFC Rust Remover East, Montague

The event is held in Montague and is reasonably well attended (36 in the draw).
The results are as follow:
Mens A: Mike B, Alfredo C, Travis M
Womens A: Jane H, Stephanie C, Cynthia D
Womens B: Hilary H, Kirsten L, Sheri M
Mens B (only 7 in the division): Derek L, Mike G, Jane H
Womens C: Whitney M, Rhonda M, Denise W.
Mens D: Ryan M, Austin M, Tynan M
Womens D: Deanne C, Kellie M, Carolyn Q

UPEI Open (79 in the draw):

Womens A: Tracy M, Mary A, Lorraine M
Mens A: Scott G, Mike B, Lester J
Womens B: Kirsten L, Danielle M, Pam W
Mens C: Matt M, Daniel L, David G
Womens C: Trish T, Christina GM, Denise W.
Mens D: Austin M, Michael Y, Mathew M
Womens D: Micheline L, Carolyn Q, Lynn C
Mens Legends: Chris M, Danny G, Dave G
Junior Boys: Ryan J, Connor J, Darcy W.

Aspin Cup - The Spa Total Fitness Centre

Mens A: Scott G, Travis M, BJ M

Womens A: Jane H, Mary A, Hilary H
Mens B: Derek L, Ryan G, Jeremy S
Womens B: Whitney M, Danielle M, Kirstin L
Womens C: Rhonda M, Jayne W, Trish T
Womens D: Kellie M, Carolyn Q, Danielle S
Mens Legends: Gordon L, Ken P, Cam B
Junior Boys/Girls: Elizabeth M, Darcy W, Grace S

Mill River Open - Mill River Aquaplex

A good draw (57) and a good time had by all. The folks at Mill River moved the date of this event into January, but that didn't seem to deter anyone from making the annual pilgrimage "Up West".

By the end of this event, Scott G had been crowned for the 10/11th time defeating Mike B and Lester J taking the consolation spot. Four mens B player now have legs up to Mens A, with Scott H defeating Derek L in the Mens B Finals. On women's side of the draw Whitney M defeated her older sister Danielle M, to earn her way up to Womens "A".

I did manage a match on Sunday which regardless of the outcome, is always a win in my books. This time I had to be content with playing in the Mens B Consolation Final against the Greg McQuaid, the Boys Canada Games # 1. After dominating the jr. during the first two games I found myself having to work harder and harder to get points in games 3 and 4. In the end the young McQuaid battled back and won the match 10/9 in the fifth. It was a great match which demonstrated Gregg McQuaid's grit and determination to play and not give up.

The rest of the match results follow:
Womens A: Mary A, Stephanie C, Lorraine M
Womens B Whitney M, Danielle M, Kirstin L
Womens C: Christina GM, Denise W, Solange L
Mens C: Chris M, Maurice P, Alex Q
Junior Boys: Colby D, Troy P, Brandon D
Junior Boys/Girls: Ryan J, Connor J,

Brett B

Canada Winter Games 2007

The following are off to the Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse (March, 2007) to represent PEI in squash.

Boys:

Greg McQuaid, Chris Quinn, Matt MacNeill, Alex Quinn

Girls:

Stephanie Charlton, Hilary Hansen, Danielle MacDonald, Whitney MacDonald

Coach: Steven Banks

Manager: Michele LeClair

The Jr's have been working like "dawgs" the past couple of years and they are now ready to represent the province and our association. Many thanks extended to all those who have helped to get them to this point, we wish them all the best!

Updates from the games will be posted on Squashpei's Web Blog so be sure to check there during the games to see how things are going.

On a related note, the 2011 Canada Winter Games were recently awarded to Halifax.

The 32nd Annual Atlantic Squash Championships (AKA the Atlantic Open) The Tower Halifax Nova Scotia April 20-22, 2007.

This year marks the thirty second anniversary of these regional championships. Last years event in Moncton was well attended and provided for some excellent squash. There are many of us on PEI who have been meaning to make a run to Halifax and return some of the support that the Bluesosers provide to us at our events. Well, now is the time to put our money on the table and pack up our kits. Derek L will work his magic with the internet in order

to try and arrange for some ride sharing. The dates are April 20th -22nd As they used to say on the "Big Island" "Book em Dano".

OLYMPIC UPDATE

I did some checking on-line but was unable to find any recent news on the likelihood of having squash recognized as an Olympic sport. As I stated in the last newsletter, 2016 is the next time that squash has a shot at making it. I'll keep you posted.

Commonwealth Games

Halifax is one of three cities left in the running for the 2014 Commonwealth Games. The two other places in the running include Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, and Glasgow, Scotland. A decision is scheduled to be made in November of 2007. Unlike the Olympics, these international games include squash as one of the marquee sports. At this point it is still too early to say what it will mean for squash facilities in Halifax should it win the right to host the event, *ie* would there be any new courts opened. However, I do know that it would certainly provide an excellent opportunity to watch some of the worlds best squash players play for their countries.

Officials Corner

Just a quick note to welcome to PEI our newest Official. Jill Taylor is a certified B-1 Official who has been seen at a many of the tournaments this year with scoresheet and stopwatch in hand. We welcome her and look forward to her continued involvement as an Official here on the Island. "Let Please"!

"SQUASH IS HOT"

The DIVA Invitational has been scheduled for March 29-April 1st at the UPEI Field House. Sponsors include: Just Us Girls, The Inns on Great George St, Queen St Commons, UPEI, Cox and Palmer, and Squashpei. The entry fee is \$30 for adults and \$20 for jrs. Registration must be completed by March 21st. The tournament package includes: a hat and other goodies, a lunch on Saturday, a Social Saturday night which is a PJ Party Sponsored by

Cox and Palmer. The event will include a refereeing clinic hosted by Jill Taylor and each participant is guaranteed a minimum of two matches. Arrange your accommodations at the Inn's on Great George St by calling 800 361 1118. "Diva" rates of \$119 include breakfast!

Question and Answers An excerpt from "The Squash Player" 2006 Issue 6.

How do I get my opponent in the back corners in my matches?

This simple question is the key to good tactical squash play at all levels. The first tactic is to get the ball in the back corner, *ie* achieve length, and the second tactic is to take possession of the T. Hard hitting doesn't necessarily give you length; hitting high does. The short answer to this question is to hit the ball higher up on the front wall. There is another consideration however: you must get the ball past your opponent. Shots close to the side wall are harder to reach, and to hit. These are known as tight shots. The best policy is to hit straight and high enough to give good length. Cross courts are a dangerous shot to make as they will often provide volleying opportunities so they need to be hit wide enough to pass an opponents reach.

If you find that your opponent is intercepting your cross courts the first thing to do is straighten up your game. If you are going to cross court, hit it wide enough to pass your opponent or low and hard to make a volley more difficult. If your opponent is intercepting your straight drives, vary the height and pace of these. Play the shot high over the head of your opponent, or hard in order to get the ball past them before they are ready to intercept it. If a volley threatens, try to put the ball on the side wall at the point where your opponent would wish to volley it.

If you are not getting length - a good indication of this is if you are stuck behind your opponent, or your shots are going through the middle of the court - hit higher and venture lower only when you are choosing to apply pressure or attack.