

NNJSRA



# Squash Central

Northern New Jersey Squash Racquets Association

NOVEMBER 2001

## President's Letter

Dear Fellow Member:

It has been over a month since the tragic events of September 11, but we are all still feeling the effects. Since we reside within commuting distance to New York, many of us are aware of individuals who have been lost in this disaster. This tragedy has also struck the organization directly, as one NNJSRA member known to many of us, Stephen Roach of Verona and the Montclair Racquets Club, is among the missing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Steve's family as we mourn his loss. At times such as these, communities pull together, whether consisting of family, friends, neighbors or other institutions, and our community of squash players is no different. We hope as the season starts and members return to the court, we can all especially appreciate the joy of playing this game together.

### New League Format

A year ago, the NNJSRA sent out a survey to its members soliciting input on a variety of topics. One repeated request was to start softball league play earlier than mid-January which has been the case in recent years. In response, the NNJSRA is instituting a new format for the softball leagues this year which will include a single season with a fall component from early November to early December, and winter play from January until March. This new structure offers the dual advantage of starting the league in the fall and finishing earlier in the season. This will create the opportunity of a spring/summer league from mid May to mid July which is similar to the summer league played eight years ago. We would be interested in the potential interest in such a spring/summer league. We will monitor the success of this new league format, so please feel free to give us your comments.

### Sportsmanship

Another important initiative that the Board has undertaken since last season is the creation of a Code of Behavior. Fortunately it has been rare, but occasionally problems have arisen on the court during league play. This is somewhat the nature of squash, with its complicated set of rules. The Rules Committee under Trustee Duane Rouba has guided an effort to create a Code of Behavior which addresses both expected behavior on the court as well as providing a set of procedures to follow if the expected behavior is not met. These guidelines appear in this issue and we urge all members to review them carefully. The NNJSRA also recommends that its members consider getting certified which may be accomplished by taking the referee's test on the USSRA website at [www.US-squash.org](http://www.US-squash.org). This is the same test required of all juniors. The Board strongly believes that knowledge of the rules and sportsmanship are critical components of the game and that a member's enjoyment will increase as he or she becomes more knowledgeable of the game.

Finally, I want to continue to encourage all members to assist the NNJSRA by getting involved in one of our many activities, or by helping recruit new members to the organization. The health of our organization continues to be dependent on the contributions and involvement of our members.

Have a great season.

*-David Kerr*

## In Memory

### Stephen Roach

Stephen Roach, 36, was working on the 105th floor of One WTC on September 11. He was VP and Director of Sales for Cantor Fitzgerald Securities' North American division. The Verona resident was a member of the Montclair Racquets Club, was an avid golfer and sports enthusiast, and an assistant coach for boys' basketball and baseball teams. "He didn't care about winning," said son Stephen Jr. "He cared that everyone had a fun time and that everyone played."

Mr. Roach is survived by his wife Isabel, three children Eileen, Stephen Jr., and Mackenzie; his parents, Richard and Lian Roach; a brother, Richard, and four sisters, Mary Jane Roach, Catherine Mullen, Geraldine Frey and Patricia Sullivan.

### David Watts

David Watts, 69, died on February 23, 2001 after a long battle with cancer, during which he returned often to the squash courts at The Chatham Club.

David, Harvard 1953, was a standout on the tennis and squash teams. After his return from the Navy he continued nationally competitive squash achieving a number three national ranking.

David was a true Renaissance man. A highly competitive athlete who in retirement enjoyed painting lessons as well as having more time for his second recreational love, fly fishing, he never lost his love of the stock market which had been his business career.

David, who had absolutely no pretensions, was happiest on the squash courts even with a hacker like me. His death is a great loss to his family, friends, community and the squash world.

- Robert M. Wessel

### ...and have you heard....

Improvements to **The Chatham Club** courts this summer include resurfacing of the walls and floors and changes in the back wall structure of the 20' courts. It is reported that they look great and are playing beautifully. Become a **Certified Referee** - download the official test from <http://www.us-squash.org/squash/rules/clubrefereecert.html>. At the bottom of the web page download the word documents, (Questions / Answer Sheet). All the information you will need is on the web site. Submit for grading via regular mail to USSRA, P.O. Box 1216, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004-1216. **Seabright Squash Club** has a new owner, and will be adding a third singles court and redoing the doubles court. Other additions and improvements will involve the workout room, lounge and bathrooms.

### NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION

#### Squash Central

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#### Correspondence

Please address letters to the editor, tips, requests, other correspondence, as well as subscriptions, membership information, and other NNJSRA-related questions to the address above.

The Northern New Jersey Squash Racquets Association reserves the right, with respect to submissions and letters to the editor, to revise, republish, and edit any received materials. Squash Central welcomes all letters to the editor. Statements appearing and opinions expressed in articles, columns and other materials contained in this newsletter are those of the various authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association, its trustees or officers.

#### About the NNJSRA

The NNJSRA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the sport of squash in the Northern New Jersey area.

David L. Kerr III, President  
Michael Barnett, Vice President  
Elizabeth Stratford, Vice President  
Robert M. Pyle, Jr., Secretary  
Armand Cosquer, Treasurer

Squash Central is published periodically throughout the year by the Northern New Jersey Squash Racquets Association. Prices: Annual NNJSRA membership \$45 (Juniors—\$35). USSRA membership and Squash Central are included in membership.



## Membership Report

There were 182 current members as of August 31, 2001, a drop from 201 members as of April 30, 2001. The reduction is not surprising as many players focus on other activities during the summer months. The good news is that the membership is up compared to 167 a year earlier.

Since August 31, 2001, there has been a flurry of new members. In fact all of the 12 new members who have joined the NNJSRA since August 31 are juniors. Presumably this has been spurred by the need to join the USSRA in order to compete in tournaments. Good luck to all of our juniors who may be competing over the coming months.

We encourage everyone to pay attention to his/her membership renewal date, and to renew on a timely basis. The membership renewal date is printed on the mailing label. A membership renewal form can be found in this issue or printed from the membership section of the NNJSRA website. Complete the form and mail it with the appropriate payment to the address shown.

*-Liz Stratford*



[www.nnjsra.com](http://www.nnjsra.com)



## Webmaster recommends squash links

For those interested in browsing the web for good squash information, here are a few excellent links to visit.

### [www.squashtalk.com](http://www.squashtalk.com)

This site offers the biggest and best archive of squash information on the internet. Ron Beck has redesigned the site this summer and it is easier to navigate.

There is an excellent section on Doubles Squash as well as one of the best web resources for up-to-date information. For Hard Ball enthusiasts, I would especially recommend viewing the "columns" on the right side of the homepage (by James Zug and Rob Dinerman).

### [www.squashpics.com](http://www.squashpics.com)

An excellent archive of squash images can be found at this site. (Also some interesting tidbits called 'goodies'). I would recommend this site as a companion site to [www.squashphotos.com](http://www.squashphotos.com) (by NNJSRA's own Debra Tessier) for a good selection of Squash Windows screen savers, images, and sounds.

*- Michael Bain*

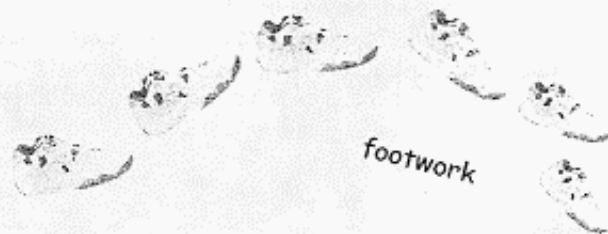
## 2001-2002 Softball Leagues

The NNJSRA has started its new league season after implementing some exciting changes. Reflecting NNJSRA membership wishes, we have merged the fall and spring seasons into one overall season, encompassing all three levels of play - A/B, C and D. Beginning in Fall 2001, 27 teams will be competing in the leagues. Please see page four for team listings and captain names.

League results will be available in a timely fashion on the NNJSRA website. League match and tournament results are now used to derive individual rankings in accordance with the USSRA rating system. Coming soon, team captains will be able to post league match results directly on the web, with instant reports available. Please report results to your team captain as soon as you are able.

Check out [www.nnjsra.org](http://www.nnjsra.org) for the latest team standings, player rankings, and individual match results. We look forward to a full season of exciting and competitive squash matches at all levels.

*- Mike Barnet*



### 2001-2002 Softball Leagues

League	Team Name	Captain
AB	Chatham 1	Jeff Stevens
AB	Chatham 2	Liz Stratford
AB	Chatham 3	Carl Weaver
AB	Montclair Racquets	Joseph Dolan
AB	Odyssey	Phil Rosen
AB	Short Hills 1	Michael Sankovich
AB	Short Hills 2	Paul Funk
AB	Wayne	Serafin Valdes
C	Chatham 1	Mark Hochberg
C	Chatham 2	Michael Dundas
C	Chatham 3	Jonathan Kohn
C	Montclair Racquets	Paul O'Neill
C	Montclair Y	Larry Klink
C	Short Hills 1	Garret Sayia
C	Short Hills 2	John Moxley
C	Wayne 1	John Cosmi
C	Wayne 2	Eric Louer
D	Chatham	Armand Cosquer
D	Delbarton	Craig Paris
D	Englewood 1	Anton Schermer
D	Englewood 2	Larry Gagler
D	Montclair Racquets	Stephen Younger
D	Montclair Y 1	Timothy DeRosa
D	Montclair Y 2	Fred Guterl
D	Racquets Club SH/Raritan Valley	Donald Kessler
D	Short Hills	Tom Minter
D	Wayne	Frederic Abraham

**Many thanks to all of the team captains for volunteering their time.**

**Good luck to all of the teams in the upcoming season.  
May good play and sportsmanship offer rewarding and challenging matches.**

## NNJSRA Code of Behavior

The NNJSRA recommends that all league and tournament matches be refereed if possible. This is beneficial for both players and referees. If a match is not refereed at its start, the NNJSRA **strongly recommends** that a referee should be requested at the **first serious** disagreement/incident during the match.

### Rules of Squash

Members shall be completely familiar with the rules of squash, and they shall adhere to those rules at all levels of competition (including club play). This includes the USSRA requirement of wearing USSRA approved eyeguards. Members shall also adhere to all tournament, event and club/match specifications.

### On-Court Etiquette

Members shall strive to play at the highest level of skill and sportsmanship. They shall always behave in a safe (avoiding injuries at all costs), responsible and courteous manner while on the squash court. In refereed matches, members shall be courteous to tournament officials and accept that a referee's call is final.

Members shall always give their opponent the benefit of the doubt in matches without a referee, including accepting their opponent's calls and keeping their composure at all times. Players should win and lose with grace and let their skills (rather than gamesmanship) determine the outcome of matches.

### Off-Court Etiquette

At all levels of squash competition, members shall act in a courteous manner whether as participants or spectators. They shall make every effort to be hospitable to sponsors, tournament officials and other spectators. Members are also expected to behave in a responsible and courteous manner while watching matches. They shall not take part in any off-court action or behavior that distracts or influences players or referees during match play.

### Coaches, Managers and Parents

The NNJSRA recognizes the special relationship that coaches, managers and parents have with players. Because of this relationship, it is important for coaches, managers and parents to understand that some of the rules and customs of squash also govern **their behavior**. For example, only players and tournament officials are allowed on court except at the discretion of the referee. Coaching shall only take place between games and instructions are not to be offered to players during play. Coaches, managers and parents are **also** spectators and shall refrain from distracting or influencing players or referees during match play.

## NNJSRA Procedures for Violations of Code of Behavior

- 1) Team Captain/Referee is required to document the incident in writing to the NNJSRA. This summary should include details as to the date, time, players involved, witnesses and a description of the incident.
- 2) The Rules Committee, in conjunction with the President of the NNJSRA, will review and investigate the incident, including contacting the involved participants and witnesses.
- 3) If a player is determined to have violated the Code of Behavior, a warning/reprimand will be conveyed to the offending player with notification to the Team Captain.
- 4) A second violation by the same player will result in a suspension of playing privileges in all league and tournament play sponsored by the NNJSRA. The length of the suspension will be determined on a case by case basis by the Rules Committee in conjunction with the President of the NNJSRA.
- 5) A third violation may result in a suspension of playing privileges for the remainder of the season and/or for the next season (or part thereof).
- 6) In order for the player to be reinstated for NNJSRA sanctioned play, the NNJSRA may require the player to pass the basic USSRA rules test available on its Website.

## Buying Squash Equipment on the WWW

For those of you that don't have access to a good squash pro shop there are basically two alternatives for buying squash equipment: the Sports Authority and the internet. In my opinion The Sports Authority's squash products tend to be somewhat overpriced and that company offers a limited selection of racquets (almost exclusively Prince and Head - sometimes Dunlop). With this in mind, I recommend that you give the internet a chance.

For the last five years my standard recommendation has been PlayPro ([www.playpro.com](http://www.playpro.com)), and Holabird ([www.holabirdsports.com](http://www.holabirdsports.com)). Both of these sites have been upgraded and are looking quite good. The sites have an excellent selection of products and will usually reduce their asking prices to win a sale. Two additional sites are WinningSquash ([www.winningsquash.com](http://www.winningsquash.com)) and Squash Design ([www.squashdesign.com](http://www.squashdesign.com)). These sites have been active in marketing their services and also have some very good informational resources. I strongly recommend you check all of these sites before making your next online purchase.

It is worth noting that all of these sites accept credit cards, and have the proper level of security. Usually it takes only a day or two to receive the new equipment at your doorstep. So, for all squash players who have not yet made an online purchase - give it a try. If you are feeling timid, find an internet-savvy friend to help guide you through it. You will find that it is quick, convenient, and except for the dollars you spend - relatively painless!

- Michael Bain

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 18, 2001 - NJ High School/  
Prep School Championships.**  
Information: Sam McCaulley,  
908.232.5775

**Dec. 14-17 - USSRA Jr. Olympics.**  
Information: USSRA, 610.667.4006

The **NJ State Championships** will be held this year in Northern NJ at The Chatham Club under the direction of the NNJSRA and Geoff Mitchell. The tournament is tentatively scheduled for either **late March or April**. Information related to the tournament will be circulated as it becomes available.

## Don't miss out on league play, join NOW!

Check the address label on this issue for your expiration date. Renewal is easy through the website ([www.nnjsra.com](http://www.nnjsra.com)), or by completing and returning the enclosed form.



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