

NNJSRA



Squash Central

Northern New Jersey Squash Racquets Association

JULY 2002

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Member,

The NNJSRA recently concluded a successful 2001-2002 season with a very enjoyable Annual Meeting and Reception held at the Short Hills Club with 40 members of the Association in attendance. While it started as a very difficult year as one of our own members was lost in the World Trade Center tragedy, the season concluded on a very positive note with exciting matches at the League Finals and numerous awards presented at the final reception. The following are some of the highlights of the year for the NNJSRA.

Membership - Membership held stable at around 200 during the year. Everyone should check their mailing label for their expiration and renew accordingly.

Website - Our website www.NNJSRA.com continues to be an important tool for the Association, especially with the addition this year of an internet based score reporting system whereby captains are able to enter results directly into the system and team standings and individual rankings are updated instantaneously. Thanks to Michael Barnett and Michael Bain for overseeing efforts with league scoring and the website.

Leagues - The Association changed the league structure this year slightly to include starting the C and D softball leagues in the fall as had been requested and done with A/B division in the past.

Tournaments - The NNJSRA hosted the New Jersey State Championships this year with the addition of several junior divisions and experienced a significant overall increase in participation. Thanks go to Geoff Mitchell and The Chatham Club for helping host and run this important event.

Junior Events - The NNJSRA again hosted the popular Sy Perkins junior squash tournament at The Chatham Club with about 120 participants. Junior squash continues to grow rapidly and the Association is proud that it is home to several nationally ranked juniors.

New Trustees - The Board welcomes new members Richard Kopec of Montclair YMCA and Jeff Russell of the Englewood Field Club. The Board also recognizes and thanks Peter Twombly who served for numerous years on the Board and as President for his many important contributions to the Association.

New Courts - New courts have been completed or will be soon at the Plainfield Country Club and Sea Bright Club. These investments reflect well on the future for squash in New Jersey and congratulations to those clubs.

As always, thank you to all trustees and volunteers who donated their time toward the various activities of the NNJSRA. The success of the Association is based on the involvement of its members, from the trustees to all of the volunteers who assist in many ways. Without these efforts, the Association would not be able to exist. We continue to encourage you to get involved and to help us build our membership. Enjoy your summer.

- David Kerr

PS - Since many of you asked, the answers to last issue's rules questions are:

1 (a), 2 (c), 3 (c).

2001-2002 HARDBALL RANKINGS

Serafin Valdes
 John Cosmi
 Joe Dolan
 Tom Dolan Jr.
 Henry Steinglass
 Michael Bain
 Robert M. Pyle Jr.
 Jonathan Kohn
 Nadeem Hayat
 Tom Dolan Sr.
 Edward Benedict
 Richard Kopec
 Marty Kamens
 Sandy Stempler
 Donald Morrison
 Fred Abraham
 Gerry Fortenza
 Philip Schertz
 Larry Baruch
 Juan Reyes
 Anthony La Sala
 Paul Achenbach
 Paul Weinstein
 Ashish Dixit
 Robert Penotti
 Robert Pinelli

NNJSRA Membership Report

As of May 31, 2002, there were 173 current members of the NNJSRA. Disappointingly, this is a significant reduction from the 212 members as of the date of my last report, which was December 31, 2001.

Over the course of the last 12 months, 47 new members have joined the Association. Many of these new members are juniors, which certainly bodes well for the future of New Jersey squash. However, the total membership has declined since last year. As of April 30, 2002, there were 201 members, which is some 16% higher than the current headcount.

We would like to encourage everyone to pay attention to his or her membership renewal date, and to renew on a timely basis. As a reminder, your membership renewal date is printed on the bottom of the mailing label, and a membership renewal form can be found in this issue. Alternatively, you can go to the membership section of the NNJSRA website, print out the form, fill it in, and mail it along with the appropriate payment to the address shown.

- Liz Stratford

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY SQUASH RACQUETS ASSOCIATION

Squash Central

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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

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2002 Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet

The Annual Meeting of the members of the NNJSRA and the annual Awards Banquet of the Association were held at the Short Hills Club on Friday evening, May 17. Approximately 35 members, spouses and guests were in attendance. Association President David Kerr presided as chairman of the meeting.

The President introduced the trustees and officers of the Association, as well as the area squash professionals who were in attendance, including Geoff Mitchell of The Chatham Club and David Broderick of the Short Hills Club. The Secretary, Bob Pyle, then announced that there were present at the meeting in person or by proxy at least 57 of the 226 members of the Association, or 25%, and thus a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

At the meeting current trustees Paul Achenbach, Michael Bain and Bob Pyle were re-elected as trustees, and Rich Kopec from the Montclair Y and Jeff Russell from Englewood Field Club were elected as new trustees, each to serve three-year terms in the Class of 2005. In addition, current trustee Tom Dolan Sr. was re-elected as a trustee for one year to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2003 created upon the resignation of former President Peter Twombly, who has moved to New York. The trustee candidates had been recommended by the Nominating Committee consisting of John Cosmi, Larry Klink and Mike Barnet, Chairman.

After remarks by the President concerning membership, league participation, the NNJSRA website and other Association matters, Mr. Kerr announced and presented plaques to the winning and finalist teams in the various softball and hardball leagues. On behalf of the Ranking Committee Larry Klink read the preliminary rankings of the first five players in each division for the 2001-2002 playing season. The final rankings, including the names of those players promoted to a higher level of competition for the next season, as well as the names of the successful teams and their captains, are set forth elsewhere in this issue.

The President then announced the selection by the respective league chairs and the Board's Executive Committee of the coveted MVP awards in each league as follows: A/B softball - Hany Zaky; C softball - Roger Plawker; D softball - Pat Herssons; and hardball - Nadeem Hayat.

Messrs. Kerr and Mitchell next presented Alex James of The Chatham Club with the NNJSRA Junior Achievement Award in recognition of his many contributions to the game and exemplary sportsmanship. Finally four Distinguished Service Awards were presented, two for service for many years during the formative years of the Association, and two for contributions more recently. The two awards in the former category went to Sue Carter and Nick Puzo, while Catherine Cropper and Ray Weglein were honored in the latter. More information on the individual awardees is carried elsewhere herein.

Earlier cocktails had been served on the poolside terrace, and now a delicious buffet was served in the newly enlarged and redecorated family room of the Short Hills Club, interrupted only by the drawing of a generous number of door prizes donated by the pros from The Chatham and Short Hills Clubs. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time recounting squash tales with friends and victories over rivals and vowed to spread the word that the Association's Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet is an occasion not to be missed! - Bob Pyle

Softball Rankings Changes

The following are the softball rankings changes for the 2001-2002 year. The full list of participants and numeric ratings appears on the website.

David Broderick	Moved from B to A, adjusted numeric rating to (4.60)
Paul Droar	Adjusted numeric rating to 3.50
Dean Spatola	Moved from D to C
Peter Stein	Initial ranking as A
Hany Zaky	Moved from B to A
Larry Klink	Moved from C to B
Mike Murphy	Moved from C to B
Alex Cisneros	Moved from C to B
Drew Blacker	Moved from C to B
Roger Plawker	Moved from C to B
Nadeem Hayat	Moved from C to B
John Cosmi	Moved from B to C
Ani Bagchi	Moved from D to C

New Squash Reporting System

In January, the NNJSRA rolled out a new squash reporting system called Rail Station. Although the system is being used primarily for league and tournament activity, Rail Station also supports club ladder events as well. The Chatham Juniors are the first ladder to join Rail Station.

The foundation for Rail Station has actually been in place for the past 5 years. During this period, league team captains were e-mailing match results to the league scorekeeper, who in turn, used a desktop version of Rail Station to process the data and publish reports on the NNJSRA website. Now, the latest version of Rail Station enables users to enter match results directly on the website. The new features available to NNJSRA users include the ability to:

- Select league and scheduled team match
- Select players from the scheduled team rosters
- See instant results including team standings, individual rankings based on the USSRA rating algorithm, and match results.
- Provide Tournament draw functionality
- View individual history reports, showing all matches since inception, and how each match changed an individual's USSRA rating.

If you haven't yet checked out Rail Station, come visit www.nnjsra.org, or www.bcisoft.com/saweb.

- Mike Barnett

2001-2002 League MVP Awards

	MVP	Honorable Mention
Hardball	Nadeem Hayat	Michael Bain, Serafin Valdes
A/B	Hany Zaky	Avrin Slatkin, Serafin Valdes
C	Roger Plawker	Larry Klink, Dale Berra
D	Pat Herssens	Ani Bagchi

In the Hardball Division, Nadeem Hayat of Wayne YM-YWHA started out a little slow but finished strong, winning his last 5 matches, including both playoff matches to lead his team to the Championship. In the A/B division, Hany Zaky played on the champion Wayne team mostly at the #2 position, where he had the Team's best record at 14-2 including 2 wins in the play-offs. Teammates Avrin Slatkin (13-3) and Serafin Valdes (12-2) earned A/B Honorable Mention. In the C division, Roger Plawker of the champion Montclair Y team, started out the year at #2 and moved to #1 late in the season. Roger was undefeated for the season at 10-0 and was 2-0 in the playoffs. Larry Kink and Dale Berra were 10-2 and 10-1 in the C division to earn MVP Honorable Mention. In the D division, Pat Herssens of Englewood Field Club played #1 on the champion team with a record of 9-2 and 2-0 in the play-offs. Honorable Mention goes to Ani Bagchi of Montclair Y who was 14-0 in the regular season.

Awards (continued)**Junior Achievement Award**

The NNJSRA Junior Achievement Award is given for enthusiasm, skill, contributions to the sport, and for consistently demonstrating fair play and good sportsmanship. The 2001-2002 Junior Achievement Award was presented this year to **Alex James** of the Chatham Club. Alex recently graduated from the Chatham Club's junior program and will go on to play in college at the University of Pennsylvania.

Distinguished Service Awards

The NNJSRA Distinguished Service Awards are given to those individuals who have gone above and beyond for the NNJSRA and the game of squash. This year two recent contributors were honored as well as two individuals for their efforts in the past.

Catherine Cropper has served the past three years as Editor of Squash Central, which is the voice of the NNJSRA. During that time, she has helped make the publication more professional and timely, and instituted new layouts and other features that have significantly raised the quality of the publication.

Ray Weglein has been involved in many aspects of the game and the NNJSRA for numerous years. He served on the Board for years, acted as team captain, helped oversee the Sy Perkins Tournament at Drew University, ran the Howard Davis Veterans tournament, helped produce Squash Central and volunteered as referee countless times at many tournaments and matches. Ray is in the process of relocating to Connecticut.

Nick Puzo is a former Board member, Officer and Treasurer of the NNJSRA. Nick is a CPA by training and has applied that experience by overseeing the Association's financials and compliance. In particular, Nick had been instrumental in organizing the NNJSRA financial software and in helping establish the Association's non-profit status.

Sue Carter has also been a key individual with the NNJSRA over many years as a Board member and Officer. Sue used her computer experience in particular to set up and manage the membership function and helped organize and oversee the Leagues, both of which are critical and demanding and much harder before the days of email. Sue also helped out with tournaments such as NJ States and Sy Perkins and in myriad other ways such as the annual meeting and with special events.

Junior News**Final Junior USSRA Rankings**

Congratulations to the NNJSRA Juniors whose 2001-2002 final Junior USSRA rankings are as follows:

Girls Under 19

12 Courtney Wallace Chatham, NJ

Girls Under 17

10 Stephanie Barnet Gillette, NJ
 32 Cassie McDonough Madison, NJ
 37 Mary Margaret O'Toole Short Hills, NJ
 38 Katherine Lew Randolph, NJ

Girls Under 15

31 Mary Margaret O'Toole Short Hills, NJ
 45 Alixandra Watson Morristown, NJ
 47 Alexandra M. Zindman Bellemead, NJ

Girls Under 13

18 Aly Kerr Short Hills, NJ
 40 Blythe Kriete Chatham, NJ

Boys Under 19

23 Andrew Pizzi Morristown, NJ
 38 Alexander James Short Hills, NJ
 40 Jimmy Crandell Chatham, NJ
 50 Brian Shiver Morristown, NJ

Boys Under 17

20 Andrew Pizzi Morristown, NJ
 58 Tyler Gaffney Madison, NJ
 77 Jake Leiby Short Hills, NJ

Boys Under 15

4 Drew Blacker Summit, NJ
 15 Andrew Kriete Chatham, NJ
 63 Rusty Feldman Short Hills, NJ
 72 David Funk Short Hills, NJ
 89 Scott Leighton Summit, NJ

Boys Under 13

14 Brian O'Toole Short Hills, NJ

More Junior News

Squash Children's Hunger

"Squash Children's Hunger", under the direction of Junior Directors Stephanie Barnet and Katie Lew assisted by Geoff Mitchell, Head Professional at The Chatham Club, held a fundraiser on April 13, 2002 to benefit Kids' Café.

Barnet, a Long Hill Township resident and two-time National Junior Champion and teammate nationally ranked Randolph resident Lew, coordinated the team for this fundraising event and additional volunteer service.

This is the third annual challenge, and the team will be volunteering for other events including a day serving the New Jersey Food Bank. Approximately ten members of The Chatham Club Junior Squash Team took on challengers of all ages and capabilities for a donation of \$25 per 15 minutes. Layers of all ages and ability took part in the event.

Over \$2000 was raised during the morning's play. The juniors set a fine example of community service. Their athleticism, sportsmanship, and commitment garnered an extraordinary respect from both squash and non-squash members.

Kids' Café is a program of America's Second Harvest, and is the nation's largest after-school meal service, providing free and prepared food and nutrition education to hungry children. Additionally, Kids' Café works with agencies and organizations to provide after-school tutoring, recreation and educational opportunities in a safe environment.

Members of The Chatham Club Junior Squash Team



2001-2002 Leagues

The NNJSRA experienced a successful league season after implementing some exciting changes. Reflecting NNJSRA membership wishes, the fall and spring seasons were merged into one overall season, encompassing all 3 levels, namely A/B, C and D. This year, we had 27 teams competing in the leagues.

During the season, for all three NNJSRA leagues, we experienced high-level, spirited and competitive squash. In addition, thanks to the NNJSRA League Administration System, team captains received timely Web-based reports on match results, team and player rankings. See the Grand Finals article for a description of the playoff final matches.

A/B League

Team	Won	Lost	Win %
Wayne	38	7	.844
Chatham 1	42	19	.558
Chatham 2	22	19	.537
Short Hills 2	9	23	.452
Chatham 3	20	25	.444
Short Hills 1	13	24	.351
Montclair Racquets	7	31	.84

C League

Team	Won	Lost	Win%
Montclair Y	34	5	.872
Chatham 3	27	12	.692
Wayne 1	25	3	.658
Short Hills 2	16	18	.471
Wayne 2	16	23	.410
Chatham 1	11	24	.314
Short Hillls 1	8	21	.276
Chatham 2	7	27	.206

D League

Team Name	Won	Lost	Win%
Montclair Y 2	3930	6	.867
Englewood 1	30	8	.789
Englewood 2	3	11	.738
Wayne	28	16	.636
Chatham	21	22	.488
Delbarton	9	23	.281
Montclair Racquets	7	31	.184
Montclair Y 1	7	32	.179
Racquet Club SH/ Raritan Valley	2	29	.065
Short Hills	1	32	.030

**2001-2002
Winning Team League Rosters**

<p>A/B Champion</p> <p>Wayne YM-YWHA</p> <p>Serafin Valdes, Captain Avrin Slatkin Hany Zaky Michael Bain Nadeem Hayat John Cosmi</p>	<p>A/B Finalist</p> <p>Chatham 2</p> <p>Liz Stratford, Captain Chandy Bramwell Chris Bjorkeson Andress Pizzi Dan Tozzi Jim Rynar</p>
<p>C Champion</p> <p>Montclair YMCA</p> <p>Larry Clink, Captain Ani Bagchi DaleBerra Tom Dolan Roger Plawker</p>	<p>C Finalist</p> <p>Chatham 3</p> <p>Jonathan Kohn, Captain Bart Chase Alex Cisneros Jay Cooney Cesar Elajalde Gordon Gannon Steve Mercer Raj Sondji</p>
<p>D Champion</p> <p>Englewood Field Club</p> <p>Laurence Gagler, Captain Patrick E. Herssens David A. Pasacrita Marc A. Oliff Peter Fisher</p>	<p>D Finalist</p> <p>Montclair YMCA 2</p> <p>Ani Bagchi Fred Guterl, Captain Jeff Stein Marc Levinson</p>
<p>Hardball Champion</p> <p>Wayne YM-YWHA</p> <p>Michael Bain, Captain Nadeem Hayat Don Morrison Bob Morrison Phil Schertz Michael Green</p>	<p>Hardball Finalist</p> <p>Montclair YMCA 1</p> <p>Thomas P. Dolan, Captain Joseph E. Dolan Thomas J. Dolan, Sr.</p>

New Jersey State Tournament 2002

The New Jersey State Squash Tournament, sponsored this year by the NNJSRA, was held at the Chatham Club on April 20th and 21st. 65 players competed in the tournament, which was well run by Geoff Mitchell, head pro at the Chatham Club. During the course of the tournament, results were available on a timely basis on the NNJSRA's website, www.nnjsra.com.

- • **Men's A**
 - Semi's
 - § Vineet Asthana over Ian Brown, 3-0
 - § Geoff Mitchell over Chandy Bramwell, 3-1
 - Finals
 - § Vineet Asthana over Geoff Mitchell, 3-0
- • **Women's A/B**
 - o Semi's
 - § Amalia Londono over Stephanie Barnet, 3-0
 - § Elaine Hinnegan over Anne Mandal, 3-0
 - o Finals
 - § Amalia Londono over Elaine Hinnegan, 3-2
- • **Men's 50+**
 - o Semi's
 - § Carl Weaver over Tony Berg, 3-1
 - § Thomas Crawford over Barrett Lightborn, 3-0
 - o Finals
 - § Carl Weaver over Thomas Crawford, Default
- • **Men's B**
 - o Semi's
 - § Henry Clutsam over Todd Olsen, 3-1
 - § Atilla Agh over Paul Funk, 3-0
 - o Finals
 - § Henry Clutsam over Atilla Agh, 3-1
- • **Men's C**
 - o Semi's
 - § Tony Berg over Richard Soutanian, 3-1
 - § William McDonough over John Manville, 3-2
 - o Finals
 - § Tony Berg over William McDonough, 3-1
- • **Men's D**
 - o Semi's
 - § Dean Spatola over Fabio Coppola-di-Canzano, 3-0
 - § John Krayacich over Diego Hoic, 3-2
 - o Finals
 - § Dean Spatola over John Krayacich, 3-1
- • **Boys Under 17**
 - o Semi's
 - § Andrew McDonough over David Funk, 3-0
 - § Brian O'Toole over Rusty Feldman, 3-0
 - o Finals
 - § Brian O'Toole over Andrew McDonough, 3-0
- • **Boys and Girls Under 13**
 - o Semi's
 - § Tyler Strand over Taylor Sankovich, 3-2
 - § Alex Kurth over Griffith Gannon, 3-0
 - o Finals
 - § Alex Kurth over Tyler Strand, 3-0

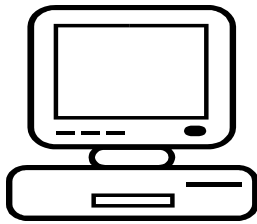
Letters to the Editor

To: David Kerr / Squash Central

As a new NNJSRA Board Member who attended his first board meeting I would like to first thank the membership for my appointment and more importantly let the membership know that the future of New Jersey Squash could not be in better hands. If I can have even 50% of the other board members dedication to the game I would be doing a service to our membership. They are to be congratulated for giving of their time freely.

This has been an exciting time for me in squash once again playing the game I love most, hardball (primarily because of age), and softball. The competition and social aspect has been fantastic. What is important, I believe is that we promote the game of squash and enhance are membership at all levels and in both games. This will bring back players who like all of us need this outlet. Thanks again and please support the NNJSRA..

- Rich Kopec



www.nnjsra.com



**NNJSRA
Squash Central
9 Windermere
Terrace
Short Hills, NJ**

Upcoming Events

Junior Squash Camp at
the Chatham Club.

Join NOW!

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

... and have you heard?

Liz Stafford gave birth to a baby boy, Benjamin Stratford on May 18th.
Congratulations to Liz and Neil!

NNJSRA members enjoying the Annual Meeting at the Short Hills Club.



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