

NNJSRA



Squash Central

Northern New Jersey Squash Racquets Association

NOVEMBER 2002

President's Letter

Welcome to the New Season!

While the leaves are just starting to change and many squash players are beginning to think about the new season, the NNJSRA Board has been working hard to get organized for the leagues and other events of the coming season. There are numerous positive developments for squash in our area that will affect current players and bode well for the future of the game.

One exciting development is that two member clubs have new sets of courts and are anticipating active play this year. Plainfield Country Club opened two new 21' international courts at the end of last season and the Seabright Squash Club is cutting the ribbon on November 17th on three new 21' courts that accompany a refurbished doubles court and club facility. We are sure these investments will pay off in renewed interest in the game at these two clubs.

We are also very encouraged for the future by continued strong growth at the junior level. Junior participation in USSRA events has increased over 40% over the past two years and our Association has seen similar levels of increased activity. The NNJSRA is now working on a budget and plan to further develop the game at the junior level.

Leagues

The leagues have just started utilizing a similar format to last year. Thanks to the knowledge and effort of Mike Barnet, the NNJSRA web-based league scoring and reporting database, now operating under the name Rail Station, continues to improve. The new ability to set up and report tournament and ladder play, and have those results automatically count toward individual NNJSRA ratings, may be used by member clubs. Michael Bain is also working on several enhancements to the website which will continue to be a very important communication tool for the Association.

Membership News

Another positive development for the NNJSRA and its members relates to the USSRA. As you know, the NNJSRA is a district organization of the USSRA. For the past six months, as you may have read in Squash Magazine, the USSRA has undertaken an initiative to work more closely with the districts to improve services and mutually build membership. One primary facet of this effort is a new online rating and membership system that would offer many of the features of the NNJSRA's database on a national level. To help support these new efforts, the USSRA has elected to increase the cost charged to the districts for members by \$10, effective December 31, 2002. As a result, the NNJSRA will increase its membership dues by \$10 to \$55 for adults and \$45 for juniors, also effective December 31, 2002. All players should keep in mind that this is the first increase since the early 1990's. While we would prefer to avoid any increase in dues, the NNJSRA Board has decided this is a necessity to continue to support the USSRA and the game of squash.

The Board again thanks all members and especially those who have volunteered to help with one of our numerous events or activities. Without the continued help and assistance of the membership, our activities would not be possible.

Have a great season,

- *David Kerr*

2002 League Championships at The Chatham Club



Camaraderie with C League players pictured above left to right: Raj Sondji, Steve Mercer, Tom Dolan, Alex Cisneros, Roger Plawker, and Larry Klink.



D League Champions from the Englewood Field Club pictured above left to right: Marc Oliff, Captain Larry Gagler, Dave Pasacrita, and Pat Herssens.

NNJSRA Membership Report

As of August 31, 2002, there were 176 current members of the NNJSRA. This is broadly similar to the membership a year earlier, when there were 182 members.

In the last year, 45 new members have joined the Association. Many of these new members are juniors, which is very encouraging for the future of squash in Northern New Jersey.

Since the end of August, many people have turned their attention to squash for the coming winter months, and we have started to see a pick up in the level of monthly renewals of existing members.

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.

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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 J. Barnett, Vice President
Elizabeth J. Stratford, Vice President
Robert M. Pyle, Jr., Secretary
Armand Cosquer, Treasurer

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2002-2003 Softball Leagues

The NNJSRA is about to start its new league season, continuing with the one Fall/Spring season approach introduced successfully last year. This year, we have 27 teams competing in the leagues. The teams and captains are as follows:

AB	Chatham 1	Adrian Buckley
AB	Chatham 2	Carl Weaver
AB	Montclair Racquets	Joe Dolan
AB	Montclair Y	K. Roger Plawker
AB	Odyssey	Peter Stein
AB	Short Hills 1	Paul Funk
AB	Short Hills 2	Stephen Vignolo
AB	Wayne 1	Serafin Valdes
AB	Wayne 2	John Cosmi
C	Chatham 1	Mark Hochberg
C	Chatham 2	Richard Soultanian
C	Chatham 3	Jonathan Kohn
C	Chatham 4	Michael Dundas
C	Englewood	Jeffrey Russell
C	Montclair Y	Dale Berra
C	Short Hills 1	Garrett Sayia
C	Short Hills 2	John Moxley
C	Wayne	Eric Louer
D	Chatham	Fabio Coppola-di-Canzano
D	Englewood	Anton Schermer
D	Montclair Racquets	Stephen Younger
D	Montclair Y 1	Fred Guterl
D	Montclair Y 2	Orsini Gonzalez
D	Raritan Valley	Albert Johnson
D	Short Hills 1	Tom Minter
D	Short Hills 2	Kevin Lowe
D	Wayne	John Borjeson

As in the past, league results are available in a timely fashion on the NNJSRA website. Check out www.nnjsra.com and go to Rail Station 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 Barnett

Short Hills Club Invitationals

The Short Hills Club has scheduled its annual invitational tournaments for the coming year with the Invitational C planned for January 11th and 12th, 2003, and the Invitational B for January 25 and 26th, 2003. Entry forms will be available on the NNJSRA website at www.NNJSRA.com and circulated to current members at the respective skill level. Information will also be available by email to threeracquetpros@aol.com, or by phone to the SHC pro shop at (973) 379-3276. These tournaments are always popular and draw good levels of participants.

Seabright Opens New Courts, Plans Tournament

The former Seabright Squash Club has recently reopened under the new name "Valkyrie Squash Club" following a multi-year construction project. The new club boasts three new 21' international squash courts and a refurbished doubles court, exercise and locker facilities. To help commemorate the opening, the Club plans a grand opening tournament to be held on November 15 through 17, 2002. Sponsored by Wilson Racquets USA, tournament events will include Men's A, B and C and Women's A and B.. On November 17, there will be an official opening of the club ceremony followed by a party. The new club manager is Francis Odeh who is an accomplished pro from New York. Francis may be contacted at the Club at (732) 747-0112 or by email at itobore@aol.com.

2002-2003 Season Hardball Singles Tournament Schedule

Anyone interested in hardball information may contact Charlie Baker of the U.S. Squash Hardball Committee at 610-296-9795 (office), 610-688-5793 (home), or email LWBCPB@aol.com.

Dates	Tournament
11/22-11/24	Cardinal Hardball Fall Invitational, Arlington, Va. Men ages 40 to 70; Kurt Johnson 703-823-9833 (New Tournament)
12/7-12/8	Sleepy Hollow Hardball Invitational, Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., Men ages 50-70; Mike Solin 914-762-3838
1/3-1/5	William White Hardball, The Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, Pa., Men ages 50-85, Women open 40; Charlie Baker 610-296-9795
1/10-1/12	Milt Russ Tournament, Harvard Club, N.Y.C., Men ages 50-70; Richard Chin 212-827-1268
1/17-1/18	Atlantic Coast Tournament, Somers Point, N.J., Men open, ages 50-75; Bill Sykes 609-823-5183
1/24-1/26	Eastern States Tournament, Yale Club, N.Y.C., Men ages 50-75; Servandano Velez 212-716-2128
2/7-2/9	Woodruff Nee Tournament, University Club, Washington, D.C. Men ages 40-80; Howard Day 202-624-1367
2/21-2/23	U.S. Squash National Hardball Tournament, The Merion Cricket Club, Haverford, Pa., Men open, ages 30-85; U.S. Squash 610-667-4006

U.S. Squash Men's Hardball Rankings for 2001-2002

Mens 35+	Clive Spiegler #4
Mens 45+	Richard Kopec #3 Frederic C. Abraham #4
Mens 55+	Henry Steinglass #5 John Cosmi #9 Martin Kamens #10
Mens 60+	Robert M. Pyle #9 Jonathan Kohn #10
Mens 70+	Tom Dolan #3 Robert Penotti #8
Mens 75+	Gerard Forlenza #3 Tom Berry #10

U.S. Squash Softball Rankings for 2001-2002

Men's 5.0	Avrin Slatkin #3
Men's 4.0	Tom Crawford #19
Men's 30+	Francis F. Odeh #2
Men's 65+	Richard J. Mason #9
Men's 70+	Robert Penotti #9
Men's 75+	Thomas J. Berry #7

N.J. High School Squash Tournament Planned for Jan 12

The NNJSRA is hosting the 24th annual N.J. High School Tournament, which is to be held on Sunday, January 12, 2003 at 9AM at Blair Academy in Blairstown, NJ and is open to all high school students. There will be boys and girls divisions with consolation draws. The tournament fee is \$15 for USSRA members and \$22 for non-members. An application will be posted on the NNJSRA web site as well as the USSRA web site. Applications are to be sent to Mac McCaulley at 526 North Ave E., Westfield, NJ 07090. Entry deadline is January 3, 2003.

- Mac McCaulley.

REMEMBER!

Current NNJSRA membership is necessary for participation in all leagues and sanctioned tournaments. Check your mailing label for your expiration date and renew as necessary.

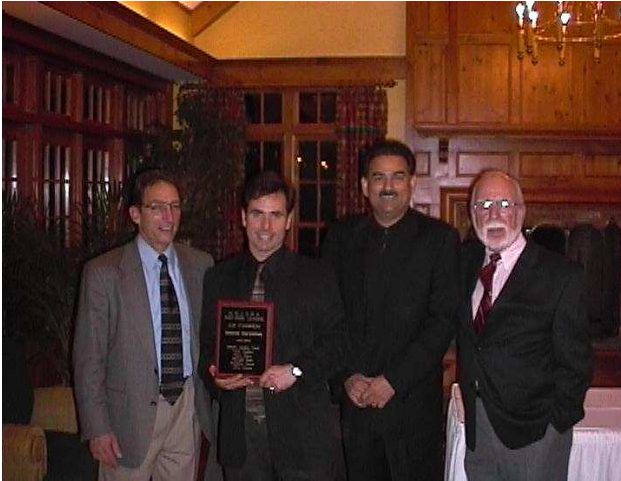
Pictures from the 2002 NNJSRA Annual Meeting



NNJSRA Members enjoying the reception on the patio at the Short Hills Club.



Reception in the Club Dining Room.



Wayne A/B Softball League team left to right: John Cosmi, Serafin Valdez, Nadeem Hayat, and Bob Penotti.



Pictured from left to right, John Cosmi, Bob Penotti, Ray Weglein, Bob Pyle, Tom Dolan, and Mac McCaulley.

Juniors News!

The Chatham Future Stars Tournament, held the weekend of October 4-6, was a big success, as always. Squash players came from all around the tri-state area. In the U17 Boys division, Chatham's own Jake Leiby had an easy time winning all three of his matches 3-0, defeating Alex Salton in the finals. Also entered was Evan Zampella, who made it to the semis in the consolation round before losing to Lonnie Gibbs (1-3).

The U15 Boys had four players from Chatham. Second seed Scott Leighton, made it to the quarterfinals, and Thomas Manville, who defeated first seed Sam Mehta, was defeated by David Funk in the semis (3-0). Rusty Feldman defeated Leighton in the semis (3-0), and David lost to Feldman, the U15 winner (2-3), in an exciting final match. Justin Martin won the consolation round.

In the U13 Boys draw, Chatham's David Kerr lost in the semis (2-3) to the eventual winner, Nico Gurian. In a combined draw for the U17 Girls, first seed from The Chatham Club, Alex Watson, was defeated in the semi-finals. Chatham's second seed Kaitlin Vinci won the consolation round by defeating Madeleine Sullivan 3-0.

The Girls U13 draw had three Chatham athletes as semi-finalists. Chloe Blacker won all of her matches 3-0 and defeated Morgan Smith in the finals. Blyth Kriete reached the semis to be defeated in a five game match against Morgan. Margaret Chapman reached the finals of the consolation in this event. - Rusty Feldman

Englewood Field Club News - Meet the Pros

The Englewood Field Club (EFC) is fortunate to benefit from the skills of highly successful and talented squash professionals Ken Torrey and Jess Berline.

Squash Director Ken Torrey has guided EFC's program for nearly two decades. His Monday night group clinics – a fixture at EFC – have attracted many EFC players to the sport and rekindled a dormant interest in others. Ken is an exceptional mentor and motivator to EFC's many experienced and neophyte players, abetted not only by his squash acumen but also by his educational background: Ken earned his doctorate in Education from Columbia Teacher's College.

Ken has chaired the Physical Education department at Columbia University since 1996, having started at Columbia in 1973 as Intramural Director. Ken was introduced to EFC by longtime member Peter Lasusa, at the time a Columbia student of Ken's.

Concurrent with the anticipated opening of EFC's new international courts in 2000, the EFC Squash Committee aimed to expand the junior program. Weekend junior clinics had begun the prior year under Ken Torrey's aegis, and all saw growing interest among EFC's many family members for a dedicated junior resource. Again, EFC's Peter Lasusa was most helpful through the introduction of Jess Berline.

Jess is a four-time squash All American from 1993-1997 at Franklin & Marshall. In his senior year, he won the Skillman award, given by a panel of national coaches to the outstanding collegiate senior based on quality of play and sportsmanship during a player's collegiate career. That same year he won the Cup, the college national championship for doubles. Jess was selected as the outstanding male athlete his final year at F&M, and still holds the school records of 30 match wins in a season and 90 during his college career. Jess began his professional career at The Apawamis Club under the tutelage of noted coach Peter Briggs.

After a brief corporate career, during which Jess taught weekends at the University Club, Jess accepted the EFC position (based upon a brief look at the steel skeleton and concrete foundations of our new courts!) In the intervening seasons, EFC's junior program has expanded enormously under Jess's guidance. Over 75 juniors participate in group clinics and individual lessons year-round.

Jess's enthusiasm and knowledge of the sport combined with an infectious rapport with EFC's juniors make for a winning combination. Several of EFC's juniors are now playing regional Future All Stars tournaments and enjoyed good success in the recent New Jersey Spring championships at Chatham.

EFC's already strong squash program has flourished since two international courts were completed in 2000, complementing the club's existing hardball courts, believed to among the oldest in North America. EFC has a long tradition of racquets, having been home to national champions Germaine Glidden and Cal MacCracken after whom EFC's signature "A/B" Invitational tournament has been named. EFC's squash community exceeds 175 players. For further information about EFC's programs, please contact EFC squash chair and NNJSRA trustee Jeff Russell (englefang@aol.com) or visit the website www.EnglewoodFieldClub.org. - Jeff Russell

Rail Station Website Update

□ **Membership**

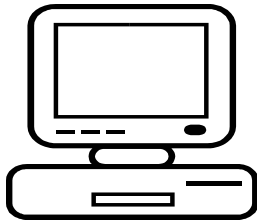
Rail Station now supports maintenance of the NNJSRA membership database.

□ **Leagues**

Team captains can now build their rosters on-line by drawing from the NNJSRA players list.

□ **Ladders**

All clubs affiliated with the NNJSRA can now establish in-house pyramid ladders on Rail Station. Club directors draw names from the NNJSRA players' list, and determine initial rankings. The pyramid is displayed on the Ladder page of Rail Station. (Check out Rail Station from www.nnjsra.com.) Based on the parameters established by the club director, players are allowed to challenge only up to a certain number of rows above their current row. When a player clicks on one of the "player tabs", an e-mail message instantly pops up, enabling easy contact. Thanks to Geoff Mitchell for his input on this new feature. Currently, ladders have been set up for the NNJSRA Juniors and the Chatham Club A/B group.



www.nnjsra.com



**NNJSRA
Squash Central
9 Windermere Terrace
Short Hills, NJ 07078**

Upcoming Events

EyeCare 20/20 Chatham
Open Tournament
Dec. 6 – 8
The Chatham Club
Call (973) 377-1900

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... and have you heard?

Two enthusiastic NNJSRA members, James Laird and Cary Silverman, are sponsoring a new tournament; the EyeCare 20/20 in December, which we hope will become an annual event. Please see the enclosed tournament flyer.

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.