



MINNESOTA SQUASH NEWS

MARCH 2016

2016 Minnesota State Singles and Doubles Squash Championships

The Minnesota Squash Association will host the Minnesota State Singles, Doubles and Juniors Squash Championships, starting April 11, 2016 through April 17, 2016. Hardball Doubles draws will start on April 11th. Singles will start on Thursday April 14th at The Commodore Squash Club and Life Time Athletic Minneapolis Athletic Club. The Juniors division will be held on Saturday April 16th at Life Time Athletic Minneapolis Athletic Club. Our Saturday Social will happen as always on Saturday night--April 16th--at The Commodore Squash Club.

Sponsorship opportunities for this year's tourney are still available. Advertise your business and support the Minnesota Squash Association! Contact us at squashmn@gmail.com or ask any current MSA board member.

Divisions: Singles: Skill level – 2.0 to 5.5(Open)*; Women's Open and/or Age group - 50+, 60+ and 70+

Doubles Skill level - A, B, C, Mixed Open, Women's Open, and/or 60+, Century

Host Venues:

Singles and Doubles: Thursday – Sunday

The Commodore Squash Club
79 Western Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55102

Singles: Thursday – Friday; Juniors on Saturday

Life Time Athletic-Minneapolis Athletic Club
615 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55402

Entry Deadlines (Sorry, no exceptions.)

Noon on Friday, April 8 2016

Entry Fees

First Racquet: \$50 (\$25 students with ID)

Additional Entries: \$20 per division (\$20 fee waived if playing Women's Open as an Additional Entry)

All players are guaranteed two matches in each draw they enter, a commemorative tournament T-shirt, and unlimited food and drink at the Saturday night social at The Commodore Squash Club.

Restrictions: Limit of three (3) Divisions, no more than two (2) of which may be doubles events.

For more information, contact us at squashmn@gmail.com or ask any current MSA board member.



Visiting Professional Completes Local Training

Vivian Rhamanan, Singapore's No. 1 men's squash player and PSA professional (pictured playing against Shoby Gul) has finished his training in Minnesota and is moving on with his professional career. Vivian has been training since February with local squash pro Mubashir (Shoby) Gul, Head Squash Professional at Life Time St. Louis Park and Minneapolis Athletic Club.

On February 28 Shoby and Vivian played one another in an Exhibition match on February 28, 2016 at Life Time St. Louis Park. With approximately 60 squash enthusiasts in attendance, Vivian held off Shoby 2 games to 1 in the best of 3 games Exhibition. After jumping off to an early lead in the first game, Vivian was able to control the tempo and went on to win 11 -4. In

the second game Shoby came storming back to win 11- 8, while executing his trademark touch drop shots from all over the court. The third game began with a ferocious pace which included diving pick-ups from Vivian and tremendous back and forth rallies. In the end, Vivian was able to outlast Shoby and control the final points to take the third game, 11 - 5 and the match 2 -1.

Following the match Vivian flew to Atlanta for the Atlanta Open where he played sixth seed Cameron Stafford of the Cayman Islands on March 3, 2016 and was victorious in 5 games (2), (6), 10, 6, 4. Vivian was eliminated from competition the following day against No. 1 seed, and eventual tournament champion, Abdulla Mohd Al Tamini of Qatar (6), (7), (9).

On March 9, 2016 Vivian enjoyed a send-off at Life Time St. Louis Park before flying back to Singapore. Vivian thrilled some of the St. Louis Park squash regulars by playing games with several of them. Vivian told participants that he was impressed with the enthusiasm of the local squash community and that he had truly enjoyed his time in Minnesota. He remarked that he will make plans to visit again soon.



JUNIORS' CORNER

Coming Soon....

MSA Hosted National Junior Bronze Tournaments

The MSA is working with US Squash and local clubs in an effort to bring US Squash sanctioned national tournaments to the Twin Cities. Watch this space for further developments coming soon!

Junior Spring Sessions At The U Of M

Arturo Manzur has announced the dates for the junior spring session at the U of M. The dates are: March 12, 26 and April 9, 16, 23, and 30 from Saturdays from 8:45am-10:00am

Please note that there are a few dates we are skipping due to U of M and Minneapolis spring breaks which fall on different dates. If needed, I will plan a make up session at the end for those of you with different breaks. There might be a junior tournament on April 16(state championships) if that creates a conflict, I make up session will be scheduled.

The link to register is:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/umnrecwell/Activity_Search/1940

Contact: Arturo Manzur manzurarturo@gmail.com

Weekly Jr. round-robin is happening Saturdays @ The Commodore Squash Club

Jeff Mulligan at the Commodore Squash Club in St. Paul is starting a weekly Saturday round robin exclusively for juniors. His intent is to get junior players of all levels to play each other in a fun and relaxed atmosphere with some but not too much structure. He has graciously opened up this round robin to all MN juniors on a trial basis. All non-member juniors are welcome to attend 1 - 2 sessions at no cost. If they enjoy it, you can then talk to Jeff about his junior membership program which is really reasonably priced. The kids will have access to the doubles court as well when it is available.

Round robins are scheduled each Saturday from 11 am - 1 pm. You can drop off your junior player or stay and watch or help. This is a great opportunity to expose your junior players to other juniors as well as tips and tricks from a great teacher.

What: Junior Round Robin

Day: Saturdays Time: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location: Commodore Squash Club
79 Western Ave N.
St. Paul, MN 551021

Contact: Jeff Mulligan
651-228-0501
jeff@commodoresquashclub.com

The Commodore Squash Club's Travel squads recently finished competing in multiple national and international Doubles Championships. The Commodore is the only squash club in country that has had someone play in ALL of the following National Championships!(including The Canadian Nationals). The following players participated:

US Century Doubles, NYC

*Glenn Baron
Kevin Scanlon
Kumar Dasani
John O'Brien
Eric Larson*

US National Doubles, Buffalo, NY

*Jeff Mulligan
Aaron Zenner
Kumar Dasani*

Canadian National Doubles, Calgary

*Jeff Mulligan
Kumar Dasani
Tony Lusiba
Aaron Zenner
Brad Palm*

US Father/Son National Doubles, Boston

*John & Merrick Thompson
Ivan & William Martinez*

US Mixed Doubles National Doubles, Philadelphia

*Evan Krawczyk
Mary Dougherty*

Congratulations to all of the above players!

The University of Minnesota Squash Teams Are Recruiting!

Both the men's and women's teams at the University of Minnesota are recruiting players for the teams - no experience is required! With expert coaches like Arturo Manzur, Dave Baker, Matt Hildebrand, John Stever, Kevin Cochran and Vince St. Clair ALL players will get tons of individual coaching.

The teams travel to tournaments in New York City, Stanford, Los Angeles, Chicago, Hartford playing schools like Fordham, USC, Northwestern College, Smith, Colgate, University of Washington

Please forward this message to students, graduates, squash players, etc. We're trying to spread the word out about the great opportunity to play collegiate squash, whether a 5.0 player or a beginner! All levels are needed.

Check out the Facebook page: UMN Squash Team.

Contact John Stever at 612-242-3224 or jstever@comcast.net

LifeTime State Tournament Tune Up

LifeTime will be hosting s State Tournament Tune Up Event at Life Time St. Louis Park on April 1st and 2nd. Please contact Shoby Gul, MGul@lifetimefitness.com or John Wilinski, JWilinski@lifetimefitness.com, for details.

Send Us Your Squash News!

The Minnesota Squash Association is pleased to announce that we will be continuing the regular publication of this “***Minnesota Squash News***” newsletter to be distributed to our email lists of squash enthusiasts.

But we need your help! Can you provide us with any news, events of interest or other squash related matters at your club/program?

We want to know about local players’ success in tournaments or events, etc. If you know of any interesting stories to share with the squash community, we want to hear from you. We can also publicize upcoming events at your venue if desired.

Contact any MSA Board member or email us at squashmn@gmail.com or

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