



# MINNESOTA SQUASH NEWS

## MAY 2016

### *MEMBER SPOTLIGHT*

Beginning this month, we are starting a regular Member Spotlight highlighting local squash community members. This month's inaugural Spotlight Member is long-time MSA Board member and past President Paul Bischel. Paul, who will be retiring from Board service this year, has long been instrumental in the operations of the MSA and development of Minnesota squash.



Paul Bischel

**MSA:** *When and where did you first start playing squash?*

**Paul Bischel:** Northwest Athletic Club - What is today Life Time-Target Center. I started the same time as Jay Del Carmen. Jay has progressed a little more than I have!

**MSA:** *Where do you play now?*

**PB:** Anywhere I am still allowed to get past the entrance desk, but mostly Life Time SLP and MAC downtown.

**MSA:** *What is your squash game style?*

**PB:** I suppose most would describe it as the way not to play. I play because it's a great work out. Since I am not that skilled with shot making, my goal is to hopefully keep the ball in play long enough for my opponent to either tire or make an error.

**MSA:** *Who has inspired you the most in squash and why?*

**PB:** Kurts Strelnieks got me onto the court for the first time. I loved the fact that you stopped play before you got hit by the ball - unlike racquetball! My first coaches were Jon Flannigan who is now in Chicago and Elizabeth O'Brien who is in Canada. I don't really follow the pros. When I first started out I was always intrigued by the "older" players and how they could still play the game against us youngsters and play so well. I now fall into the "older player" category. I guess seeing that led me to believe squash could be a life long sport - kind of like golf. Plus most of the people I have ever played are good people!

**MSA:** *What do you like most about the sport of squash?*

**PB:** I love the workout it gives me. As I am slowing down, seeing newer players giving the sport a try and continuing to steadily improve now gives me the most enjoyment.

**MSA:** *What is your favorite squash memory?*

**PB:** I was once rated the #1 player nationally in the 3.5 division a number of years ago and it was published in *US Squash Magazine*. The sad part of it was that I never had won any squash tournament of any kind. Not quite sure how the ratings were ever determined and no, I never paid anyone off!

## ***CONGRATS TO FATHER-SON DOUBLES PARTICIPANTS***



The twelfth annual U.S. Father & Son Doubles Championships was held in Boston, Massachusetts in April. Thirty-six teams competed across Open, Century, 15/17 & under, and 13 & under divisions.

Several local squash players travelled to Boston, including the following father son teams from the Commodore Squash Club: Ivan Martinez/William Martinez; Kumar Dasani/Elesh Dasani; Kumar Dasani/Vishal Dasani; John Thompson/Merrick Thompson and William Hickey/William Hickey.

The locals faced strong competition against the primarily east coast draw yet all teams played well and had a good showing. The players enjoyed the event so much they are planning on

returning next year and bringing how some hardware. Congratulations to these intrepid teams in their representation of Minnesota squash!

## ***CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS***



The Minnesota Squash Association Board is making a call for potential new Committee members. The Association is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. We are looking for additional volunteers to serve as committee members for the upcoming year. The following committees are in need of volunteers (you do not need to be a Board member to participate on a committee):

- State Tournament committee
- Juniors committee
- Communications committee
- City League committee

This is a great opportunity to meet like-minded squash enthusiasts, socialize and have input into planning and strategy for MSA events and programs for the next year. If you love squash this is the ideal time to get involved and provide leadership for our great sport. Please contact Todd Iliff, Communications Chair, 952-239-9747; [todd@boastsquash.com](mailto:todd@boastsquash.com) or [squashmn@gmail.com](mailto:squashmn@gmail.com).

## ***JUNIORS' CORNER***

***Coming Very Soon....***

***Junior Touring League***

The MSA is working with local clubs and programs to create an ongoing touring league for junior players (19 and under). The concept would include regular team and match play between teams from each club/program. The teams will travel to “home and home” series among participating clubs/venues. This program will kick off with the first match in September 2016.

For more information, please contact your club pro/program director or the MSA: Todd Iliff, Communications Chair, 952-239-9747; [todd@boastsquash.com](mailto:todd@boastsquash.com) or [squashmn@gmail.com](mailto:squashmn@gmail.com).



*And...*

### ***MSA Hosted National Junior Bronze Tournaments***

The MSA plans to host US Squash sanctioned Junior Bronze national tournaments in the Twin Cities. We have tentatively scheduled a September 2016 tournament at Life Time Athletic-St. Louis Park and another tournament in March 2017 at The Commodore Squash Club. Check this space for more details coming soon.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

***ATTENTION: LADIES!***

### ***HOWE CUP TEAM***

Minnesota will be sending a team to the Howe Cup competition to be held in November 11-12, 2016 at Chelsea Piers, Stamford, Connecticut. <https://www.ussquash.com/women/howe-cup/>. The Howe Cup is the United States’ largest squash event for women and an annual team championship tournament run by US Squash. The team is looking for players who might be

interested and *sponsorship opportunities are available*. Let's help out the Howe Cup team!  
Contact: Team captain, Nicole Kirchhof, [nkirchhof@comcast.net](mailto:nkirchhof@comcast.net).



## ***STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE***

Jealous of all those stylish trendsetters at the Club wearing past MSA Championship t-shirts? Washing machine just ate your old favorite?

We have 2014 and 2015 MSA tourney shirts available for purchase!!! ONLY \$5.00-2014: S, M, and L or Youth M only. 2015: L and XLs only. Contact: [squashmn@gmail.com](mailto:squashmn@gmail.com).

## ***SEND US YOUR SQUASH NEWS!***

The “*Minnesota Squash News*” newsletter is a regular publication of the Minnesota Squash Association and is 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’ participation and 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](mailto:squashmn@gmail.com) or

Todd Iliff  
Board Member/Communications Chair  
952-239-9747; [todd@boastsquash.com](mailto:todd@boastsquash.com)