



MINNESOTA SQUASH NEWS OCTOBER 2016

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
- Women's Squash 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 future. 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 or squashmn@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 2016-MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's Minnesota Squash Association Spotlight Member is John Stever.



John Stever

Minnesota Squash Association (“MSA”): When and where did you first start playing squash?

John Stever (“JS”): Twenty five years ago, at the University Club in St. Paul and the Commodore. I had been playing racquetball since college, but when my good friend and neighbor, Ted Farmer, challenged me try his game, I switched immediately. I still play racquetball occasionally.

MSA: Where do you play now?

JS: At the University of Minnesota Rec and Wellness Center. Play, teach and coach six days most weeks.

MSA: What is your squash game style?

JS: I am trying to become the Richard Millman of the Midwest by playing mostly lobs. Not much power left in the arm. Only problem with that is making the rallies longer. I've often been advised to play short more, but that requires defending the front court more which doesn't work so well when one is losing steps to the ball annually.

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

JS: Back to my neighbor Ted. He is ten years older and was beating me for quite some time before injuries got in his way. Whenever I begged off playing for any reason, he'd growl and say "Get your priorities straight, Stever". We had a pact to always play hard and, (eventually) to die on the court (literally). That's still my goal.

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

JS: Let me count the ways: #3 It's the most fun of any sport I know; #2 It's a great workout that allows me to not have to be a runner; #1 Most important, is the infinite variety and complexity of the game. I am always working on improving another aspect of my play.

MSA: What is your favorite squash memory?

JS: Teaming up with best buds Kevin Cochran and Bob Morrison a few years back to compete with each other on who could play the most games against all comers on our respective 50th, 60th, and 70th birthdays. I can't even remember who won the competition in end, but it was a blast taking on the whole club.

2016-17 CITY LEAGUE

CALL FOR TEAM CAPTAINS

The Minnesota Squash Association is now implementing our 2016-2017 City League. We are looking to make this year's City League our best ever.

Are you interested in forming a team and being a Captain of a team in the City League? If so, we need to hear from you ASAP. Please email us your contact information. We will soon be holding a brief meeting or conference call to discuss format, dates etc. for this year's City League.

If you want to participate, please contact the Minnesota Squash Association at squashmn@gmail.com or any Board member. Thank you!

JUNIORS' CORNER

Junior Touring League



Team Commodore



Team SLP

The inaugural match was held for the Minnesota Squash Association Junior Touring League on October 1, 2016. Team Commodore held off Team Life Time-St. Louis Park, 4 to 1 in five very well played, and closely contested matches held at Life Time-St. Louis Park. The crowd saw many games go to tie-breakers with numerous hard fought points. Individual match results were as follows:

1. William Martinez (Team Commodore) def. Nate Iliff (Team SLP) 11-5; 11-7; 8-11; 12-10.
2. Merrick Thompson (Team Commodore) def. Izzy Iliff (Team SLP) 11-8; 11-8; 14-12.
3. Alesh Dasani (Team Commodore) def. Gabe Ueker (Team SLP) 6-11; 11-5; 11-3; 15-13.
4. Vishal Dasani (Team Commodore) def. James Callahan (Team SLP) 12-10; 9-11; 11-8; 11-5.
5. Calvin Vasisek (Team SLP) def. Hailey Hill (Team Commodore) 11-7; 11-9; 18-16.

Congratulations to the winners and to all the players!

Our next Minnesota Squash Association Junior League match date is set on November 12, 2016 at 10:00 am at the University of Minnesota.

Plans are also in the works for a second “developmental” junior league for beginners and less experience players. For more information, please contact your club pro/program director or the MSA: Todd Iliff, Communications Chair, 952-239-9747; todd@boastsquash.com or squashmn@gmail.com.

Date Set For Spring Junior Bronze

The MSA has set the date for the next US Squash sanctioned Junior Bronze national tournament in the Twin Cities: **March 11-12, 2017 at The Commodore Squash Club in St. Paul, Minnesota.** Please save the date! Registration is now open at: https://modules.ussquash.com/ssm/pages/tournaments/information.asp?tournament_id=7583

UPCOMING EVENTS

See the MSA Squash Calendar Here:

<http://www.mnsquash.org/events>

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGIATE MEN'S ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT

When: Sat, October 29, 8am – 6pm

Where: University Recreation and Wellness Center, 123 Harvard St SE, Minneapolis,
MN 55455

Come cheer on the Gopher Squash teams and see some high quality College Squash, live and in person!

3RD ANNUAL MINNEAPOLIS OPEN PSA AND AMATEUR SQUASH TOURNAMENT

November 1 to November 6, 2016

The Minneapolis Open is part of the eight-city Life Time Fitness Grand Prix PSA Tour - One of the top professional squash tours in the world. This tournament includes both pro and amateur events (all skill levels). The amateur event starts Thurs., Nov. 3rd to Sun., Nov. 6th. The Pro event starts Tue., Nov. 1st to Sun., Nov. 6th.

Lifetime Athletic Club Minneapolis
615 2nd Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Life Time Fitness - St. Louis Park
5525 Cedar Lake Rd.
St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416

To register sign up here: <http://www.r2sports.com/tourney/home.asp?TID=18734>



Local coach Shoby Gul is expected to participate in the Minneapolis Open along with his protégé, Vivian Rhamanan, of Singapore. Mr. Rhamanan is currently training with Coach Gul for the Minneapolis Open tournament.

***GOOD LUCK TO OUR OWN
MINNESOTA HOWE CUP TEAMS!***

Minnesota is sending two teams 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 teams, nicknamed the *Purple Reigns*, are sponsored in part by the Minnesota Squash Association.

Here are the teams:

Purple Reign 1

Jennifer Funkhouser (Captain)
Selina Tirtajana
Kim Hill
Niharika A. Bhavsar

Purple Reign 2

Nicole Kirchhof (Captain)
Amy O'Brien
Cilla O'Neill

Best of luck for fun and success ladies!

SAVE THE DATES!

2017 MINNESOTA SQUASH ASSOCIATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

April 24 to 30, 2017

Locations to be Announced

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Jeff Mulligan and wife Ashley Dahl. of the Commodore Squash Club on birth of their new baby girl, Lula Rose Dahl Mulligan on October 12, 2016. Lula is their 3rd child and 1st girl. It's great to have another junior squash player in the wings!

Congratulations to Shai Ingber, born and raised in Minnesota and son of local squash enthusiast Jerry Ingber, in winning the 5.5 Division of the U.S. Squash Skill Level Championships, at Drexel University in Philadelphia the week of October 10-16. Shai won the 5.5 Division crown in 2015 and returned to defend his title again this year. Seeded first, he did so successfully by winning three straight matches over Jason Hua (3-2), Will Carlin (3-0), and prevailed in the finals over Mubarak Mohsin (3-2), a former professional who has played in the Lifetime Minneapolis Open for the last two years.



Shai Ingber (middle), with son Zack (l) and Mubarak Mohsin

MSA 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, 2015 and 2016 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.

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 or

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