

The Telltale

**A Newsletter by and for members of Squash Nova Scotia
October 2005**

In This Issue:

- Message from the President – Blair Cook (P.1)
- Message from the Editor – Farley MacLeod (P.3)
- Premier League Update – Ken Canavan and Farley MacLeod (P. 3-4)
- Tower Squash Tournament 2005 – The SMU Mascot (P. 5)
- Membership Has Its Privileges – Jill Moore (P. 6)
- The Boast on the Coast – Patrick Kelly (P. 7-8)
- Introduction by New SNS Executive Director - Lindsey White (P. 8)
- The Feminine Side of Squash - Eloise Contusion (P. 9)
- Squash Nova Scotia 2005-2006 Schedule (P. 10)
- Squash Nova Scotia Sponsors (P. 10)
- Squash Nova Scotia Board Members (P. 11)

Message from the President

Blair Cook, Halifax
(President, Squash Nova Scotia)



Last month I indicated that the Squash Nova Scotia Board was focused on three strategic themes for this season and by way of an update, I hope to demonstrate how we are working towards fulfilling those objectives.

1. Make Squash Nova Scotia More Provincial in its Orientation

This has always been a very challenging goal for any small provincial sport organization, including Squash Nova Scotia. Achieving success is a multi-step process. The first step was to get non-metro regions connected with Squash Nova Scotia. This began back in August when Janet MacLeod (Kentville) and John MacPhail (Sydney) agreed to sit as Members-at-Large on the Board. This provides a line of communication to and from the regions to Squash Nova Scotia.

The next step is to expand that connectivity by having all the squash players and squash clubs in these regions become or renew memberships in Squash Nova Scotia. We can't build an organization in all the regions without a broad membership to draw upon to help implement programs on a province wide basis. It may take a while to get squash resources in place around the province (resources such as certified coaches and officials), but getting active members from regions other than Halifax connected to the Board and Squash Nova Scotia is an important next step.

2. Focus on the Membership

It takes a huge amount of volunteer and paid efforts just to keep our organization running. So at the very least, being a member of Squash Nova Scotia is an indication of your enthusiasm for our sport and the governing organization. However, to me, it is so much more than that.

The renewal or initiation of your Squash Nova Scotia membership serves dual purposes. Obviously, the funding allows us to sustain our paid resources, but more importantly a defined membership keeps squash players connected. We need a strong squash community to rebuild and grow squash, raise our sport's profile, sustain our organization and build on our mandate. Quite simply, I need to know who is on board!

Individuals have every right to demand value for their membership dollars and I believe that the member's benefit package achieves a compelling argument in favor of our members. So don't delay, sign up today.

The focus on our membership has led us toward such initiatives as a more regular and frequent newsletter (thanks Farley for issuing our second edition in less than a month), a new website, and the new Championship Squash Series. The bottom line is that while we exist to serve all squash players, we try to ensure those who formalize their support receive incremental benefits.

3. Rejuvenate the Tournaments

Certainly the Championship Squash Series is one initiative designed to encourage participation in tournaments throughout the province. The series ensures that the results from the beginning of the season are not forgotten once next April rolls around and a final tally is taken.

Another special event this year that is certainly going to be a lot of fun to both watch **AND** participate in is the Bluenose Squash Classic in February. This first ever professional event will see world class players coming to Halifax to compete. The associated amateur event may be as close as some of us ever get to playing a pro, even if it is in the next court over.

And while not a tournament per se, the Black Knight League will be kicking off in November with a new trial format for this season. The revised format will see the replacement of the 'A' level player with a second 'C' level player for each team.

Lastly, I'm pleased to report that Squash Nova Scotia has successfully recruited the capable and skillful talents of Lindsey White to become our Executive Director. Lindsay has extensive experience in running a provincial sport organization and is a welcome addition to Squash Nova Scotia.

So in the meantime, I need each and everyone of you to:

1. Renew or initiate your Squash Nova Scotia membership
2. Sign up for the Tower Invitational, if you haven't already done so.

I encourage you to visit www.squashns.ca for all the latest news and information on any of the matters discussed here or drop me a line at president@squashns.ca .

Message from the Editor

By Farley MacLeod, Halifax

It is now official!! I have doubled my output of last season. Here it is only October and this is the second edition of the telltale published this season. This is a credit to Blair's ability to motivate those around him, he's really whipped me into shape! Blair and I have agreed on a goal of publishing six editions of the TellTale this season, so you have lots of squash information to look forward to. If you have an idea for a submission, please don't hesitate. Send your submissions to: farleymacleod@yahoo.ca

I would like to thank the contributors to this edition. Inside you will find information on upcoming squash events including the Tower Invitational and the Bluenose Squash Classic, as well as updates on the Premier League, Women's Squash, Squash Nova Scotia Membership and an introduction by our new Executive Director.

For those of us involved in the Premier League, competition began on September 27. Although it felt a little foreign to be back on the court so early, it has been an enjoyable return to the courts. For anyone looking to watch some top notch squash, and quaff some beer all the while, Tuesday evenings at the Tower is the place to be (see article below).

Happy reading. Keep your racquet up, and your eye on the ball.

Premier League Update

By Ken Canavan and Farley MacLeod

After four weeks of play here are the results of the Premier League:
(Watch the Chronicle Herald on Wednesdays for weekly results)

Division One:

1. Mike Smeltzer – 20 points
2. Matt Bishop – 18 points
3. Jon Boody – 16 points
4. Chris Petropolis – 9 points
5. Rob Weatherston – 8 points
6. Matt Holland – 7 points
8. Justin McDonough – 1 point
8. Jason Latimer 1 point

Some photos of the Division One players:



Mike Smeltzer



Matt Bishop



Jon Boody



Chris Petropolis



Jason Latimer

Division Two Standings:

1. Chad Edison – 18 points
2. Ken Canavan – 14 points
3. Farley MacLeod – 12 points
5. Richard Khan – 11 points
5. Costa Elles – 11 points
6. Blair Cook – 10 points
7. Ray Souchereau – 4 points
8. Steve Davies – 0 points



Classic "Chaka" Khan

Tower Invitational Tournament 2005

By The SMU Mascot

The city is flooded with students and the Harbour Hopper is up on blocks for the winter. Like Christmas decorations at the mall in September, you can't say you didn't see the signs. The 2005 edition of the Tower Invitational Tournament, the first four day squash-a-palooza event of the year, is set for October 27 – 30.

Class this as the proverbial jumpstart to your best squash intentions for the season. No matter the candles on your cake you're a year older than the last Tower Tournament and whether on your way to your physical peak or, if those days are well and truly behind you, hey, you're all the more "wily". No matter which kind of brilliance you favour, bring it out on that last weekend of the month.

The Tower courts were refinished for the first time in two years this past summer and a new Saint Mary's policy to shoot on sight anyone using them without court shoes is having an effect. They are in solid shape and deserve a thorough going over.

You, the wise participant, get the traditional two games guaranteed, a better-than-traditional entry package that is being assembled to impress and a Saturday night social organized for the Gorsebrook across the parking lot from the courts. The natural pull of liquid coercion scant feet from a win or a loss need not be denied.

Put your name on the list by getting your entry form delivered by Monday, October 24th (6:00pm) to the Tower front desk or by phone with a credit card (420-5555). Please see www.squashns.ca under the *Tournaments* link to download the form, or speak to staff at the Tower. The draw, your road map to winner's glory, will be posted on Tuesday the 25th. As if that weren't enough it is rumoured that the early bird draw, from among registrations received before the 21st, is for a brand new Porsche. In the event that there is a shortage of high performance German automobiles on hand at that time then a different prize, of nowhere near the same retail value, will be substituted.

As the first event of the year, the Tower Invitational is traditionally well attended, within the Halifax area, and by devoted travelers from Cape Breton to the Valley. We look forward to surpassing that inherited enthusiasm with the goal of displacing football, however briefly, from the collective consciousness within the cinder block walls in the south end of Metro.

Membership Has its Privileges...

By Jill Moore

By becoming a member of Squash Nova Scotia you will receive the following benefits:

- Discounts on all tournament entries across Nova Scotia and throughout Atlantic Canada
- Automatic eligibility to participate in the Championship Squash Series (see squashns.ca for Series details)
- Personal ranking services (official Squash NS ranking, Championship Series ranking)
- Eligibility to play in sanctioned leagues (Black Knight League, Premier League)
- Insurance coverage during squash related travel and during competition
- E-mail notification of events and registration forms
- E-mail of newsletter and other Squash NS updates
- Access to Sport Nova Scotia funding programs
- General support of Squash NS

So, after reading about your membership benefits, you ask yourself, "So what?" Well, hopefully you noted the two big changes that are happening this year for Squash Nova Scotia. If you don't sign up for membership, you will not be included in the official rankings. If you have an ounce of competitive spirit in your body, you'll appreciate the significance of this. Still don't care? Unfortunately, your second loss would be exclusion from the Championship Squash Series, where everyone receives a standing based on participation in tournaments as well as number of matches won. It doesn't matter if you're A or D, it's an open competition for Male or Female Squash Player of the Year, resulting not only in fame and glory, but a relatively significant prize. (perhaps that Porsche if it doesn't turn up by next week)

You are highly encouraged to sign up before the end of October to qualify for the Championship Squash Series and the rankings. Just go to www.squashns.ca and sign up either online (easy to follow step by step instructions; pay by credit card or cheque). You can also print off a membership form, fill it out and have your money ready to give to any member of the Squash Nova Scotia executive.

There's one more incentive! Those who sign up before October 31, 2005 will also be entered into a draw for a prize during the Bluenose Squash Classic in February. This is the first PSA tournament to be held in Nova Scotia, an event no squash enthusiast would want to miss. Check www.squashns.ca for more information.

The Boast on the Coast

By Patrick Kelly
[bluenosesquashclassic@
gmail.com](mailto:bluenosesquashclassic@gmail.com)



Take the best live squash you've ever seen in the Maritimes, add a cross section of talented international players, generous sponsorship, diligent volunteers, and then ripple that through a 16 man US\$6000 main draw. The inaugural **Bluenose Squash Classic** is being prepped to take place February 15-19, 2006 at Cole Harbour Place. You should be there.

Professional Squash Association players, ranked between 30th and 100th in the world, will be vying for their share of PSA ranking points and the prize package. For these guys this is what they train and travel for. No round robin format here. Every game counts so expect an uncompromising competitive atmosphere and a lot of gasping with amazement from the rest of us.

Qualifying rounds will be played on the Wednesday (February 15th), followed by the first round of the main draw on Thursday evening. Quarter-finals follow on Friday evening, the semis on Saturday afternoon and the championship match on Sunday.

That's a lot of squash; a lot of good squash, perhaps enough to inspire you to hit a ball like you never have before. To facilitate that feeling the amateur companion tournament, for all levels, will be running simultaneously in the adjacent courts. Registration numbers are likely to be capped so get in early, as soon as the forms are available, and expect an exceptional event souvenir to accompany your efforts avoiding tin.

To put on a show like this obviously draws from the generosity of the immediate community in the form of volunteers and sponsors. The organizing committee continues to welcome anyone interested in contributing under either description.

To those volunteers who have already put their names down to be a part of the effort; thank you in advance. For those still looking to do so please contact us by e-mail to ensure your help finds a home with one of the following functions:

Junior Co-ordination (Melissa Shakespeare), Transportation (Bill MacNeil), Accommodations (Justin McDonough), Sponsorship (Harvey Bishop), Social (Leslie Shakespeare), Budget (Leah Bishop), Companion Tournament (Leah Bishop and Jon Boody), Promotion/Marketing/Results (Patrick Kelly), Referee Co-ordination (Debbie Coles), Cole Harbour Representation (Bill Marshall)

Coordinating the whole are Zal Davar, the Tournament Chair; Graham Waters, the Event Coordinator; and Matt Bishop, the PSA Liaison. If you recognize any of these names and match one with a face around the courts, be sure to inquire. It will be a hectic week but thoroughly worth it. Early congratulations to Jeff Landry of Dal and Blair Cook of the Tower who answered the contest call that was put out during the summer for a slogan for

the event. Both independently came up with “The Boast on the Coast”. Your passes to the tournament finals are reserved guys.

Thank you as well to the sponsors who have already come forward to ensure the work of the volunteers is fully supported. These include *Jim Mitchell Electric, Fossil Power Systems, A.H. Bishop and Associates Inc., Truefoam Limited Insulation Solutions and Coady Filliter Barristers and Solicitors*. Any interested parties looking to support the game this way, please contact us by e-mail about receiving a sponsor information package.

The Bluenose Squash Classic, a not for profit event, is being initiated and organized in memory of Marcella Davar (May 8, 1954 – July 21, 2004) and the opportunity to make a voluntary donation to the Nova Scotia Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society will be available through the tournament’s companion event registration form.

Some of the longer and more discerning memories in the squash community, those who remember a time when the wooden racquet was groundbreaking stuff, are looking forward to being impressed this coming February. Keep an eye on www.squashns.ca/bluenose2006 for updates on professional event progress and registration information for the amateur companion tournament. See you there.

Introduction by New SNS Executive Director

By Lindsey White (Executive Director, Squash Nova Scotia)

Hello Everyone,

I would just like to introduce myself. My name is Lindsey White and I am the newly appointed Executive Director of Squash Nova Scotia. I am a recent graduate from Dalhousie University where I completed my BSc. in Kinesiology. I have been working with Sport Nova Scotia and specifically Triathlon for two years as a Sport Futures Leader (which entailed the promotion and development of the sport to youth) and I am now currently their Executive Director as well.

I have been involved in competitive sports most of my life, recently playing varsity hockey with the Dalhousie women’s program and beginning to participate in triathlons.

I am very excited to be on board with Squash Nova Squash and be involved with the sport and to help work with developing the sport throughout Nova Scotia.

I look forward to working with you. To get a hold of me, you can call our office at 902-425-5450 Ext 358 or drop me an email at Executive.director@squashns.ca .

Sincerely
Lindsey White

The Feminine Side of Squash

By Eloise Contusion

As squash draws closer to its official 2005-2006 season, it'd be almost criminal not to mention the upstart of the third installment of the Metro Women's League, beginning on October 30th.

For those of you previously unaware of the athletic beauties gracing the courts at the Tower, a group of fifteen or so faithfuls, sometimes more, sometimes less, have dedicated their wintery Sunday afternoons to playing a round-robin style of "friendly" (used oh-so-loosely) competition, in hopes of breaking into the elusive "C", or heaven forbid, "B" division. It all started way back when, with a man named William Shakespeare; check your reference books folks, it's true. He guided us through Season 1 and 2 with his words of wisdom, generous nature, compliments, and positive reinforcement, until we felt we just couldn't get any better. It was only on Day Two that we discovered his true personality.

However, we survived (with help from handsome and talented assistant Blair Miller), and have had to make some adjustments for the upcoming Season 3 as we've lost both Bill and Blair to... ummmm, TENNIS????? Anyway, we wish them well and truly thank them both for the time they put into creating a league just for women. I'm certain it has encouraged more squash-curious women to come out and give it a try, resulting in more people to play, more tourneys to experience, and more friendships made. So, here's my official plug... anyone and everyone with two x chromosomes that can curse like a sailor and is prone to laughing at others is welcome; get in touch with the Tower at Saint Mary's University to get the details and you can be a part of it all. The fun begins on October 30th at 3:15 pm, right after the Tower Invitational tournament.

A final note; in anticipation of the 2005-06 season, some of the more keen squash women, that just couldn't wait for the first tournament to show their stuff, put into action a rust-remover tournament/social at Cole Harbour Place on Friday, October 14th. I am happy to report there were no results made public for this little soiree (what happens at CHP stays at CHP); but I can ensure a good time was had by all.

Keep those knees healthy ladies; see you at the courts.

Squash Nova Scotia 2005-2006 Schedule

Referee Clinic	22 October	TBA
Tower Invitational	27-30 October	Tower, Halifax
Moncton Open	11-13 November	Moncton, NB
Greenwood Invitational	17-20 November	CFB Greenwood
Provincial Team Selections	TBA	Tower, Halifax (?)
Nova Scotia Closed	24-27 November	Cole Harbour Place, Dartmouth
Coca Cola Junior Open	3-4 December	Tower, Halifax
Cole Harbour Junior Open	14-15 January	Cole Harbour Place, Dartmouth
Junior Atlantic Open	Jan 20-22	NB
Dalhousie Invitational	19-22 January	Dalhousie University, Halifax
Interprovincial Team Championships	27-29 January	<u>Men's -;</u> <u>Women's -</u>
Referee Clinic	28 January	TBA
PSA Event	15-19 February	Cole Harbour Place, Dartmouth
Jesters Tournament	TBA	TBA
5th Valley Invitational	3-5 March	Acadia University or KCSC
Nova Scotia Junior C'Ships	4-5 March	Cole Harbour Place, Dartmouth
Canadian University & College C'Ships	10-12 March	Toronto, ON
NB Open	?	TBD
NFLD Open	?	St. John's
NS Open	23-26 March	Tower, Halifax
PEI Open	6-9 April	Charlottetown, PEI
Atlantic Open	21-23 April	Moncton, NB
Sydney Invitational	27-30 April	Sydney YMCA
Canadian Junior	27-30 April	Niagara-on-the Lake, Ont.
Canadian Senior	3-6 May	Toronto, ON

Squash Nova Scotia Sponsors



[Opa Greek Taverna](#)

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