



THE JESTERS CLUB (ONTARIO)

“ FOR WHEN THE ONE GREAT SCORER COMES TO MARK AGAINST YOUR
NAME, HE MARKS NOT THAT YOU WON OR LOST BUT HOW YOU PLAYED THE GAME”

Spring - 2008 A BI-ANNUAL, SOMETIMES, NEWSLETTER OF THE JESTERS CLUB (ONTARIO)

Ontario Executive

We finally decided to make a change at the top and as of this past September Michael Hobart replaced Cass Quinn as the Chair of the Ontario Jesters.

We would point out that Quinn went quietly and we might add, quickly.

As of now, your Ontario Executive is

Michael Hobart – Chair

Ed Bracht – Finance

Bob Mundy – Secretary

Vinnie Taylor

Ron Aldridge

John Boynton

Murray Christison

Bert Keene

Jon LeHeup

Ted Clarke

This writer tried to take a picture of the group and then decided it wasn't worth it.

We would be delighted if a Jester in London would be willing to join the group and help provide direction in this area of Ontario.

We don't bite and now that we got rid of Quinn, the meetings are quite cordial.

NEW JESTERS

We are pleased to announce that the following six people have been elected to the Jester ranks. All of them are exceptional people who have been involved in the game; from player

organizer, supporter, committee member, tournament chairman, coach, teacher, friend, promoter and referee. We welcome them to our Club and are sure they will assist in helping our game prosper in the future.

Steve Belman - Toronto

Steve was proposed by Mike Costigan and seconded by Fred Reid, Scott Leggat, Alan Hunt and Bert Keene.

Steve is an individual who does many things well. He has excelled on the court winning his share of doubles events. These include both the 2000 World Doubles Championships as well as the 2005 Canadian 40+Doubles Championship.

In the past year he has been the driving force of the Toronto "A" Doubles League, Steve has pushed for innovative and positive changes including a league web site, raising new sponsorship money, adding new rules to promote junior participation as well as working on new venues to promote the game of doubles.

As stated by Mike Costigan, " Steve has a strong commitment to squash and he will bring the same level commitment to help the Jesters grow the game".

Penny Glover – Ottawa

Penny was proposed by Vinnie Taylor and seconded by Rob Brooks, Mark Scahvie, Bert Keene, Richard Young, Jack Cornett and Paul Wilson.

The best way to summarize Penny's commitment to the game is take a paragraph from a letter provided by Paul Wilson.

Paul Wrote " I have known Penny for many years and during this period of time she has been totally involved with the game of squash in every capacity imaginable : player to organizer to coach to running events to referee and examiner."

"The other qualities that Penny exemplifies are the spirit of fair play, sportsmanship and game etiquette. She really must be one of the game's finest ambassadors and I believe she will bring these qualities and unbridled enthusiasm to the Jesters".

Need we say more.

Peter Ward - Burlington

Peter was nominated by David van Wely and seconded by Norm Crook, Tony Swift, Taylor Fawcett and Fred Reid.

Peter, we believe, was born with a squash racquet in his hands We say this because one only need see him play and one gets the idea that he sees the game in slow motion.

Prior to coming to Canada, Peter won his fair share of junior events in Europe.

Peter saw the light and came to Canada some 15 years ago. Since his arrival, he has worked at the game; teaching, coaching and playing.

He has also found time to do the following:

- President of Squash Ontario from 1998 to 2002
- President of Squash Canada from 2003 to 2006
- Represented Canada at WSFA meetings.

Peter will be a welcome addition to our ranks. Having grown up in England, he understands the history of the Jesters and has a good understanding of what we are trying to do for junior squash.

A welcome addition.

Scott Stoneburgh – Toronto

Scott was nominated by both Ted Clarke and Bert Keene. I guess that TRC members at times have trouble communicating with each

other. Scott was seconded by either or both of the above gentlemen plus Mike Manley, Norman Seagram, David Bogert and Brian Murray.

To say that Scott is an accomplished player would be a bit of an understatement.

Lets see:

- 4 Canadian Open Doubles Championships
- 2001 US Open Doubles Championships
- 3 Canadian Open Singles (Hardball) Championships
- 2 Canadian 35+ softball titles

In addition to his playing ability, Scott has worked as a professional at TRC and the Denver Club. He also coached at Cornell University. It should be noted that when Scott took over the coaching duties, Cornell was ranked # 25. A couple of years later, # 5.

Scott , now out of the squash professional ranks, continues to work with juniors in the Toronto area.

We look forward to Scott going on a Jesters tour along with Peter Ward. They would do slightly better on the court, than Jon LeHeup and a host of other aging Jesters who recently traveled to South Africa.

A welcome addition to the Club now and in the future.

Lolly Gillen - Toronto

Lolly was proposed by Sam Nisenboim and seconded by Mike Manley, Tim Bovaird, Rob Brooks and Clive Caldwell.

Lolly is currently President of Squash Ontario and has been an active member of the Organization for the past number of years. In addition to these duties, Lolly is the major reason for the success of many doubles tournaments; both in Ontario and across Canada. Lolly has arranged more partnerships on the courts that the rest of us put together.

Lolly has developed a squash-player data base, second to none, that she uses to cajole, push, beg and encourage people to come out and play.

Lolly has also won her fair share of Ladies and Mixed Doubles events. These include both Ontario, Canadian and US championships.

Sam Nisenboim states in his letter of recommendation that “ I can personally attest to her outstanding character, reputation and dedicated effort in promoting the game of squash. We strongly encourage Lolly be added to the Ontario Jesters.”

Well said Sam.

John Hickey – Toronto

John was proposed by Cass Quinn and seconded by Ted Clarke, David van Wely, Jon Leheup and Bert Keene.

As Cass Quinn stated in his letter of recommendation. “ I do not take the nomination of a person lightly. I feel very strongly that we want to add people that have contributed, are contributing and will continue to do so in the future. I believe that John is such an individual”

John has been around squash since 1973; and has played in many events; from junior to Ontario to Canadian, to World Doubles to various club events in both Canada and the USA. He may even win one of them one day.

He is a Director of the TRC and heavily involved in fund-raising as well as the hiring of current professionals. He has helped to revitalize the Club and made the TRC a great place to play squash and enjoy friendships.

John is also an Organizer. For example:

- Chair of the 2008 Ontario Seniors
- Co-Chair of the 2008 Canadian Doubles Championships
- Has served on the Lapham-Grant Committee
- Current Chair of the Canadian Doubles Competition Committee
- Sits on Doubles Rules Committee

We believe that John will bring this same sense of commitment to the Jesters.

Welcome aboard John.

We look forward to introducing them at the Spring Party on Friday, May 23, at The Toronto Lawn & Tennis Club.

South African Tour

One of the great benefits of being a Jester is the opportunity to go “on tour”. Just ask any of your fellow Jesters about the experience and the response is always the same; “ If you get the chance, go, as it is the experience of a lifetime.”

Just look at the happy faces below; they went to South Africa in May of 2006, lost every game but one and were still smiling. Need we say more.

By the way, the view is from the home of Rien Hofmeyr in Knysna. Just another day in South Africa.



The South Africans will be coming to Canada for 2+ weeks, arriving in Halifax on May 16 and departing Vancouver on May 31.

During the visit they will be in Halifax, Moncton, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Kelowna, Vancouver and Victoria.

They will play matches in every city. We will introduce them to doubles and hopefully get even for South Africa.

Too, in Toronto, we would hope (if necessary) to introduce them to Scott Stoneburgh and Peter Ward.

In Ottawa, Vinnie Taylor and his fellow Jesters will show our friends the beauty of Ottawa, feed them and play squash.

In Toronto, Michael Hobart, will host a match and the annual Spring Party at The Toronto Lawn, take them to Niagara Falls, another match in Burlington followed by a BBQ, a final brunch on Sunday and get them off to Calgary.

**Please plan on attending the Spring Party.
We will be in touch with you**

The Spring Party this year will include a buffet "Dinner". Michael Hobart assures the writer that there will be enough food for everyone.

Another shot at your ex-Chairman.

Van Wely Doubles

These two world-class events were once again held in Burlington this past Christmas and late March. We normally hold it during Easter weekend, however with School break, many of our players opted out to get out of a cold winter, snow and freezing rain

To summarize the events. They came, some played, a few won, beer and wings were consumed, those with thin skins went home early, the banter at the event was world class, and the Jester junior fund is a little richer.

More to follow on what was done with the \$ 1,000 raised by this event.

Jesters Web Site (Repeat)

Many of you probably still do not know that the Jesters have an international website. The site is managed by **Gareth Quarry** in England and **Michael Melvill** in South Africa. Ah, the wonder of technology.

The web site is: www.thejestersclub.org

The user name is: **jester**

The password is: **jock**

On the site you will find all types of information from tour summaries to our newsletters to names and addresses to pictures and to information on Jester related activities.

We have added the names and address of all Canadian Jesters to the site. This will make it easier to find people as long as a computer is nearby.

Once you have an opportunity to see the site, look up your name. If any of the information is incorrect, email the revised data to Ed Bracht at bracht@sympatico.ca

3rd Annual MacKay Doubles



The event started at 5:00 PM on February 1 with some 63 teams playing in various categories, from players with skill to old, hairless legs, bulging tummies, drooling men to women with "game".

It did not start well simply because of the weather; some people cancelled, their loss, while others made arrangements to play at Clubs closer to home. In any case, games got played and the MacKay was off to a snow start. Love the pun.

One must remember that players and guests were fed on Friday evening, given lunch on Saturday, enjoyed a wonderful cocktail party and dinner on Saturday evening with our unique silent auction and finally Sunday brunch.

The silent auction again proved a hit. As we said at the auction: " If you want to ski, snowboard, play golf on some of the finest courses in Ontario, take a trip, use a condo, go to a hockey or basketball game, get new clothes, get a new racquet, tools, a wedge, camera, BBQ or go out to dinner all you need do is bid, win, then take it home. They did buy and our junior fund grew by \$12,000 as a result.

There were 54 items auctioned off, 39 of which were donated by Jesters. Thanks to all of them.

Sunday started with Bloody Caesars, while the "cannon fodder" watched the finals. Matches were hard fought and deserving winners emerged in all categories. We could mention the names of the winners but it does not matter. Junior squash will be the big winner.

Thanks to Bob Mundy, Rick Freeman, Tom Nederpel, Doug Jury, Cass Quinn, Bev and Frank MacKay Jr.. Without your hard work, this great event would not have happened. Well done.

Lapham / Grant Matches - A Toast

We do not know of any other racquet competition that has had such a long and wonderful association between two countries.



The 86th Lapham – Grant matches were held in Wilmington, Delaware in mid-February. Barney Lawrence was asked to toast the event on the Saturday evening, and did so with the following poem.

Nine-teen hundred and twenty-two
"Henry Lapham" did something new
Presented a trophy for annual play
Between Canada and the U.S.A.

Eighty-six years later this trophy remains
A monument to its "birthing" pains
And so our flag are now unfurled
To the oldest continues Racquets Games in the world

Though singles is a very fine game
For our losses we have ourselves to blame
And the finest thing about Squash Doubles
You blame your partner for your troubles

And since singles make us old guys pant
A cheer for our late friend "Alistair Grant"
In '44 near the end of the war
His Doubles Cup added something more

Some of you will remember when
Squash was a game for younger men
In 2001 we received a shock
A seniors trophy from Eddie Bracht

Howard Wilkens who has passed away

Was honoured by the U.S.A
Our committee was very kind to me
And the "Lawrence-Wilkens" came to be

Later to raise the level VP
We have the "Crawford" Ladies Cup
But it is also a sadder day
As our dear friend Bill has passed away.

As one who shared "Our Finest Hour"
Serving under "Eisenhower"
Nothing is more dear today
Than Canada's bond with the U.S.A.

Please rise with me and drink this toast
To friends whom we admire the most
To the dearest friends in the world today
To Canada and the U.S.A.

Thanks Barney, you hit the nail on the head.



Barney, a Jester of 49 years with Don Leggat, a Jester for 50 years. It should be noted that Barney has taken part in over fifty Lapham-Grant weekends. He is really old but a Canadian squash treasure.

Next year the matches move back to the Atwater Club in Montreal, home to one of the great traditions in North American squash.

Who won the matches; I do believe that it was Canada and the U.S.A.

Financial Summary.

To quote Ed Bracht, we are in great shape. We owe nothing and people are up-to date in paying dues. Want more info, call him.

What Have We Done in 2007-2008

As golf season approaches, about time and looking at the snow, we should be able to get on the courses by June.

We can look back at this past winter as a successful one for the Ontario Jesters.

We now have six new Jesters

We supported junior and university squash via some \$10,000 in donations. These included:

- Five (5) Gold events in Ontario. These events took place in Ottawa, Toronto, and St. Catharine's.
- Ontario Junior Team Championships .
- Ontario Junior Open Championship.
- Ontario Junior Closed Championship

These donations mean that the Jesters Club have contributed in excess of \$30,000 to further squash in Ontario over the past three years.

In addition, we had Jesters once again donate air miles so we could provide air transportation for two juniors to the British and Scottish Junior Opens as well a young lad to the Canadian Championships in Victoria.

**Remember to Attend The
Spring Party – May 23
Toronto Lawn & Tennis Club
7:00 PM**

Have a Safe and Healthy Summer.



Pictures to Fill a Void



Lapham Grant

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly at The Lapham
You decide
Paul Yaphe, Dick Rice & Dennis Bishop



MacKay Doubles

Your ex-Chairman sure looks young
Molson Robertson, Tony Swift, Cass Quinn, Jim
Bruce & Peter Hall



MacKay Doubles

Bob Mundy, Frank MacKay Jr., Donna
MacKay & Cass Quinn