

The Racquetball Reporter

Fall 1991

Quarterly Publication of the Racquetball Association of Michigan

Racquetball One Series begins

Competitive racquetball in Michigan is booming as an exciting new tournament series begins. The Racquetball One Tournament Series, put together by Ken Bonnett, is replacing the former tournaments sponsored by the Grand Rapids Racquetball Patrons Association (GRRPA).

Unlike the former GRRPA tournaments, the Racquetball One Series is not limited only to West Michigan, but encompasses the entire state with eight tournaments scheduled in Tren-

ton, Lansing, Muskegon, Grand Rapids and Livonia.

Highlighting the series is \$15,000 in prize monies and awards as well as focusing special attention to various divisions throughout the season. For example, two of the eight tournaments are seniors/masters events which will offer round robin play and prize money in all age groups. In addition to these events, the remaining tournaments will focus on a specific division. At the September 20th, kick-off tournament at the Livonia

Racquetime Fitness Center for example, mens and womens "C" players received \$100 in prizes for winning their divisions. And, the Grand Finale promises to encourage junior players as over \$500 in awards will be given to junior players who compete.

Entry forms are enclosed in this issue of the RAM newsletter. These forms can be used for any one of the eight events. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to call Ken at (616) 956-0050.

Bonnett accepts scholarship; heads to Memphis State

Michigan tournament players will miss watching Joel Bonnett's photon serves and diving gets as he will be playing racquetball in the Tennessee area most of the season. Recently, the former No. 1 ranked junior player, decided to transfer from Michigan State University to Memphis State University to

study and play more competitive racquetball.

Unlike MSU, Memphis State offers a very strong racquetball program, which will only enhance Bonnett's intense game. As he explains, "At Memphis State I will be training daily and I think that is what it will take to stay sharp and at my highest ability level."

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The Racquetball Reporter
thanks PENN, a continuing
sponsor of the RAM
newsletter

The new president speaks

Thoughts from the top...

by Christopher Cole

Greetings, Michigan racquetballers, this is my first column as President of the Racquetball Association of Michigan's Board of Directors and I will not kid you by giving you some lame political statement about how great it is to serve you and how I will promise things to you with a blank check kind of deal. I would like to honestly say that I will do my best to continue, in the best interest of the amateur player, to promote and develop our sport. I know not how good of a job I will do, there are many things I must do as president that I am not fully aware or comfortable of, but I can tell you that by being a player in Michigan for 14 years I have a unique perspective on the game and feel it will help me in my new position.

I am leery of making mistakes but with a capable board behind me, hopefully we will keep it down to but a few small ones. Watching

Tom Blakeslee as President has offered me an excellent opportunity to watch and learn from someone I respect and feel did an outstanding job as President for our state. Tom was not without controversy granted but neither was Franklin Roosevelt and he may go down as our greatest President ever.

Elsewhere in the state: best of luck to Ken Bonnett of Grand Rapids who is running the new Racquetball One series of tournaments. It will be great for those die-hard tourney players out there who just don't get enough during the season. On a personal note, thanks Ken, this gives me a chance to win some more cash!

One bad thing about this year will be the loss of Joel Bonnett to Memphis State University. Joel says he will try to come up for some of his dad's tournaments but that's a long haul to come and play for two days. This will be bad for our state because tourney players will not be able to see Joel's crowd pleasing game each month and they will not be privy to the excellent rivalry between myself, Joel and Jim Floyd. As three of the top 12 ranked players in the country, we push ourselves to remain at top form and I will miss the rivalry for its uniqueness:

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Newsletter

The Racquetball Reporter

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Flushing, MI 48433

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published quarterly by the Racquetball Association of Michigan (RAM). Additional supplements are distributed twice yearly. Information and articles are submitted by individuals and clubs and do not necessarily reflect the view of RAM. We welcome information, photos and letters for publication. Advertising rates are available upon request. Thanks to those who contributed to this issue:

W.T. Blakeslee

Ken Bonnett

Christopher Cole

Jim Easterling

Jim Earley

Lou Ellen Fecher

Lynda Meade

and also the

AARA Media Guide

SPALDING

PROFESSIONAL
RACKET SPORTS

*RAM rankings to come in
Winter 1991 issue*

Regional tournaments adopt new format

by Jim Easterling

AARA has announced changes in its regional format for the 1991-92 season. Gone is the position of Adult Regional Director and

Seniors/Masters series begins

by Jim Easterling

The third annual Seniors/Masters Invitational Racquetball Tournament will be held on November 8-10, 1991, at the new Michigan Athletic Club in East Lansing, Michigan.

This tournament is open to men and women 35 years of age and older by the starting date of the tournament. It is run in a round robin format where players are guaranteed a minimum of five matches (at times as many as nine may be played) over a three day period. All matches are two games to 11 points and everyone plays all the participants in their division. Due to this nature, almost everyone is required to play Friday.

On Saturday, the tournament features a banquet and auction that will benefit the United States National Racquetball Team, of which Joel Bonnett, Chris Cole and Jim Floyd are members.

Please mark this date on your calendar and entry forms will be forthcoming!

the concept of the 15 different Regional tournaments as a requirement for participation in the Houston Nationals.

A series of Metro Tournaments has been created and in the upcoming season there will be 22 held without any boundaries. Thus, players can compete in any or as many tournaments as they choose. This is an advantage to the player because it allows more flexibility in tournament dates and more hands-on tournament direc-

tion from the newly created position of Metro Tournament Director.

The closest site to Michigan this season is Columbus, Ohio on February 29 through March 1, 1992 at the Sawmill and Westerville Athletic Clubs under the direction of Steve Learner.

At this time other dates and clubs have not been selected but further information regarding the new system can be obtained by contacting Kevin Joyce at the AARA office in Colorado Springs.

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Referee clinics and exams offered

There will be three Rules/Referee Clinics and Referee Certification Examinations scheduled between now and January 1, 1992.

A Rules/Referee Clinic is a lecture/question and answer session that lasts about three hours. The clinic deals with the interpretation of the rules, new rules and an in-depth look at refereeing.

A Referee Certification Examination is a 100 question multiple choice test dealing with rules and refereeing situations. Certified referees receive discounts

on some tournaments, including the State Singles, and will also receive top consideration at tournaments that are paying referees.

All previously certified referees in the state need to attend both a clinic and then re-take the exam before certification expires on January 1, 1992. The above clinics will be run by Jim Easterling and Gary Phipps. For additional information on the clinics, exams or the certification procedure, call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459.

The following clinics have been scheduled:

October 12, 1991
Flint

Davison Racquet and Fitness Club

November 16, 1991
Grand Rapids
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December 1, 1991
East Lansing
Michigan Athletic Club

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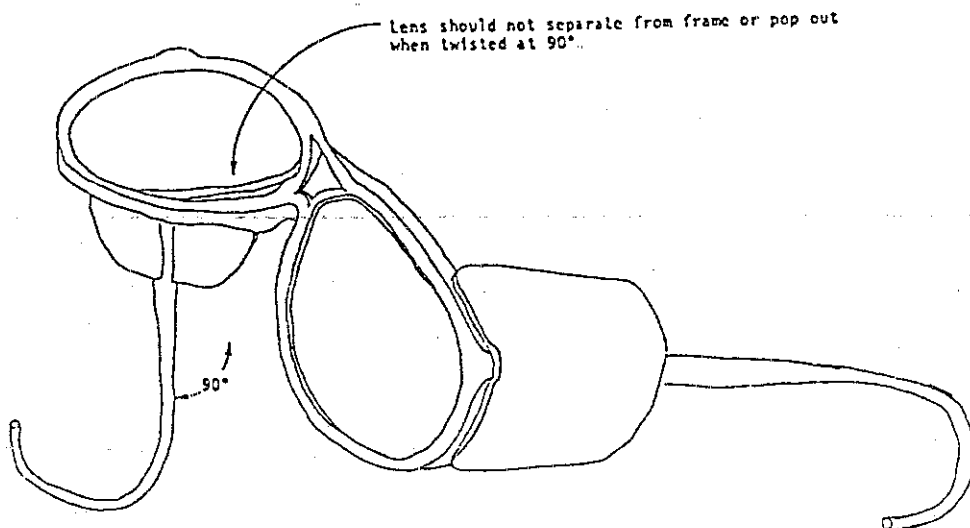
Clubs needed to host referee certification clinics/exams

Clubs are needed to host Rules/Referee Clinics and/or Referee Certification Examinations after January 1, 1992. It does not cost a club any money to host a clinic, as only the participants pay a small fee. All one needs is an area to set up a few chairs and a table or two. The clinics will be run by either Jim Easterling or Gary Phipps. For information, please call Jim Easterling at (517) 887-0459 or write to: Clinic/Certifications, 321 Village Dr., Lansing, MI 48911.

Beware of product defect — Ektelon

Ektelon, the leading manufacturer of racquetball and squash equipment, has discovered the potential of a product defect in a small percentage of its **Interceptor** protective eyewear.

In a limited number of pieces, the lenses were installed improperly. Consequently, on these specific pieces, when the lens is impacted, it could dislodge and pop inward. Below is a detailed description of how the **Interceptor** eyewear with the defective lenses can be identified. Ektelon will accept all returns of **Interceptor** eyewear with defective lenses and replace them immediately. Consumers can return their defective product direct to Ektelon, Customer Service, 8929 Aero Drive, San Diego, CA 92123.



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State Singles results in:

Bonnett defeats Cole; new champion

In the last eight years only three people have captured the Michigan Men's Open State Championship: Brian Mitchell, Jim Floyd and Chris Cole, all have held the title of being Michigan's best. Mitchell won his title way back when the original CBK was the rave on the racquet market. Floyd triumphed three years ago to put his name in the record books, and Cole has won the title six times since losing to Mitchell in the 1982 finals.

Now a fourth name can be added to this select group: Joel Bonnett. The Grand Rapids photon-man denied Cole his seventh title by making a thrilling come-from-behind victory at the 1991 State Singles Championships, 6-15, 15-14, 11-6.

Game one saw Bonnett start out slowly, unable to get his deadly drive serve to be effective and thus his rhythm never got going. Cole, on the other hand, capitalized on this and consistently re-killed and pinch killed everything he hit. Game two began with more of the same as Cole bolted out to a 10-4 lead, seemingly ready to take the title in two quick games. However, the turning point of the match came when Bonnett's sister and mother came up with an idea to help their son and brother

get back into it:

"They made me a bet, but I needed to win the match in order to receive the prize," Bonnett explained with a sly grin. Whatever the bet was (no one in the Bonnett family has revealed it!) it certainly made a difference as he began rocketing his serve to force himself back in the match. Back and forth, the two went until Bonnett won game two with a backhand pass 15-14.

The tie breaker was not as close, as Bonnett leaped out from the first point get-

ting nearly all of his photon serves in and cruised to an 11-6 win and his first ever Men's Open State Championship.

"Growing up," Bonnett reflected, "I always watched Chris win the States, beating guys like Mike Anderson, Bob Wilhem and Jimmy Floyd. It was one of my goals to beat him because he had won it so many times and it feels great to do it by beating him here. Plus, I've got to thank my sister and mom

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Michigan trio falter at festival

The 1991 United States Olympic Festival, held in the greater Los Angeles area, June 14-17, was disappointing for the trio from Michigan who ventured westward with visions of Gold Medals dancing in their heads.

Grand Rapid's Joel Bonnett (singles), Davison's Chris Cole (singles) and Jim Floyd (doubles) all had high hopes and expectations heading into the competition at the University of Southern California campus, but could not come up with the right combination of luck and good play to reach the gold medal rounds.

Of the three, Floyd fared the best winning the bronze medal with partner Tim Hansen of Atlanta. Normally, a bronze would not be too bad of showing, but for the reigning National Doubles Champions it was. Said Floyd: "It had been a long season for Tim and I and I think we had lost a little bit of our edge, that intensity that has gotten us out of tight situations before. We won National Doubles, took the gold at the Tournament of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, and took the gold at the Pacific Rim International Games in Hawaii. Burnout is not a good word but something was definitely missing from our

game at the Festival."

In the preliminary rounds to determine seeding for the medal matches, Floyd and Hansen compiled a 1-2 record against the other three doubles teams. They started off well repeating their National Doubles victory against, Texans Drew Kachtik and Mike Guidry. However, then came two defeats that began signaling trouble for the champs. Consecutive losses to Doug Ganim (Ohio)/Brian Hawkes (California) and New Mexico's Louis Vogel/Tom Neill damped Floyd/Hansen's confidence while heightening their competitor's. Because of seeding Floyd/Hansen met Kachtik/Guidry in the first medal round catching the hungry Texans at the wrong time. Winning three in a row over someone is tough

enough and by not playing their best, Floyd/Hansen were indeed vulnerable.

Using revenge as a motivator, the Texans played an inspiring match and advanced to the gold medal round with a tie breaker win.

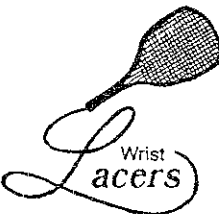
Bonnett took a different road to his fourth place finish than most expected. He was considered by many to be a stiff challenge to #1 seed and National Champion Tim Sweeney and the gold was surely in his sights. Bad luck and a sore shoulder were his main combatants in the prelims: after easily defeating Oregon's Jeff Evans Bonnett squared off against Sweeney in one of the most anticipated early matches. In each game, Bonnett jumped out to an early 13-8

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National Racquetball

Penn Pacific Rim Racquetball Championships

Honolulu — June 22: The U.S. National Racquetball Team ran away with a clean sweep of singles and doubles gold medals in the PENN Pacific Rim Racquetball Championships, plus brought home the overall team award ahead of Canada, Japan and Mexico.

In Men's Singles, Andy Roberts of Memphis, Tennessee defeated teammate and recent winner of the U.S. National Singles title Time Sweeney of Chicago, Illinois in a tiebreaker 15-12, 9-15, 15-9. Canada was guaranteed a third place finish in the men's division, with a playoff between Sherman Greenfeld and Simon Roy for the bronze. Greenfeld took the win in straight games 15-4, 15-7.

In Women's Singles, Michelle Gilman of Ontario, Oregon took her revenge against long-time Canadian rival Heather Strupp in two games of 15-10, 15-4. Strupp defeated Gilman at the 1990 World Championships in Caracas, Venezuela last summer. For the bronze medal, Toni Bevelock of Santa Ana, California also took a win over Canadian Carol McFeteridge, 15-14, 7-15, 15-3.

In doubles, current U.S. National Doubles champions Tim Hansen of West Palm Beach, Florida and **Jim Floyd** of Davison, Michigan defeated top ranked Canadian team of Ross Harvey and Mike Ceresa in a tiebreaker, 5-15, 15-10, 15-3. For the women, the 1990 world championship doubles team of Jackie Paraiso Gibson (El Cajon, California) and Malia Kamahoahoa Bailey (Norfolk, Virginia) also went up against Canada for a close tiebreaker win over Josee Grandmaitre and Vicky Brown 14-15, 15-3, 15-14.

Penn U.S. Outdoor National Championships

Brian Hawkes of Santa Ana, California and Martha McDonald of Gainesville, Florida each won gold medals in the open singles divisions of the first official AARA sanctioned U.S. Outdoor National Racquetball Championship at the University of Florida on June 30. Hawkes and McDonald are long-time outdoor champions, and had a little trouble winning the first AARA titles in the tournament against Florida challengers. Hawkes took an impressive tiebreaker win over Tim Hansen of West Palm Beach, 14-15, 15-12,

11-0, while McDonald won her title in two games over Mary Lyons of Jacksonville, 15-1, 15-8.

With play rained out from noon Saturday, Hawkes had a full schedule of matches on Sunday, including the televised final of the Men's Open doubles division with partner Greg Freeze of El Toro, California. To reach that final, Hawkes and Freeze defeated local players Gary Harrell of Gainesville, and Randy Pfahler of Jacksonville in a tiebreaker 14-15, 15-8, 11-9. On the other side of the draw, Hansen paired with Jason Waggoner of Gainesville to advance past Greg McDonald and Ed Field of Gainesville, 15-13, 15-8. In the final, Hawkes and Freeze defeated Hansen and Waggoner in a straight game win of 15-10, 15-14.

A new pair-up for the Florida team of Lauren Sheprow of Coconut Grove and Robin McBride of Gainesville resulted in an upset win over Mary Lyons and Susan Morgan-Pfahler of Jacksonville in a tiebreaker 7-15, 15-14, 11-7. Sheprow won the Women's 25+ division of the 1991 U.S. National Singles (indoor) in Houston, and partner McBride is the 19+ champion for the region, and only one of the

Continued on page 9

events and highlights

Continued from page 8
four with experience in the outdoor, three-walled courts Lyons and Morgan-Pfahler were the 1989 National Doubles champions in the Women's 30+ division, and Lyons is the current Women's 30+ singles champion.

United States Olympic Festival

In its third year as an U.S. Olympic Festival sport, racquetball played to standing room only crowds at the University of Southern California in July. As expected in singles, Michelle Gilman of Ontario, Oregon didn't lose a game as she dominated the women's field to secure her third consecutive Festival gold medal. In preliminary rounds Michelle took straight game wins from Elaine Hooghe of Columbus, Ohio, Malia Bailey of Norfolk, Virginia and Marcy Lynch of North Wales, Pennsylvania to advance into a semi-final rematch against Jackie Paralso Gibson.

In the men's final, the 1991 Junior Olympic champion John Ellis of Stockton, California hoped to repeat his preliminary round upset over long-time U.S. Team member Andy Roberts of Memphis, Tennessee. But Roberts had recovered from the loss, and reversed the earlier upset by slowing

the youngster down and tiring him out with long rallies. By the time the tiebreaker was underway, Ellis was having difficulty returning serves and Roberts took advantage of the situation with an unerring forehand for an 11-1 win.

In doubles, the field was wide open for a new women's pair to be added to the U.S. Team, and several men held out hopes for a first, second or third appointment. As it happened, two newly formed teams were successful in their bids for the team spots, with three of four players receiving repeat appointments. Former 1988 and 1990 intercollegiate champions Robin Levine of Sacramento and Kim Russell of Marietta, Georgia (respectively) took the women's doubles gold over Kay Kuhfeld of Indianapolis, Indiana and Lynne Coburn of Baltimore, Maryland.

For the men, three of the four players were shooting for the team position. Former doubles world champion Doug Ganim of Columbus, Ohio was also playing with a new partner for the first time at the Festival. He and current team member, Brian Hawkes of Santa Ana took an exciting tiebreaker final win over Texan Mike Guidry of Arlington and Drew Kachtik of Austin. Although more experienced

as a team, Guidry and Kachtik were late in fine-tuning their game, despite having improved steadily through the preliminaries.

The North Team, coached by U.S. Team Coach, Jim Winterton of Syracuse, N.Y., finished first in the overall competition, with the most game wins by its players from opening rounds. The South Team, coached by Mary Lyons of Jacksonville, Florida, came in a close second, followed by the East in third position and the West finishing fourth.

Rule Changes

Effective September 1, 1991: Any equipment that is lost during a rally will result in an automatic avoidable hinder call. For instance, if a vibration dampener comes out of a racquet, eyeguards fall off, shoe comes off, etc., an avoidable hinder will be called on the owner of the equipment. However, if a player causes any of these things to happen to his or her opponent, no such call will be made, but rather the point be played over. Look for the 1991-92 rule book for the exact wording of the rule.

The National Racquetball events and highlights section printed courtesy of the AARA Media Guide.

State championships draw 350

Continued from page 6

for giving me the incentive I needed to comeback and win!"

In defeat, the vanquished champion was gracious to his young conqueror. As he commented, "I've always told people that when Joel is on his game he is unstoppable; I just try to keep him from getting there. I can take solace in saying this was my ninth straight finals, but then again that also makes me feel kind of old, Joel wasn't even in his teens yet when I reached my first Men's Open final in '82."

Elsewhere at this year's State Championships, nearly 350 people participated in the event and as usual, the gallery was featured our State's best racquetball. Thanks to the host club, Coliseum II Racquet Club, and its manager Wayne Holman, for putting on such a large event. Congratulations to all divisional winners, it is always something special to tell others you are the best in your state in your division. Better luck next time to those second place finishers, too bad your mother or sister were not around to offer you a bet, it might have helped. Just ask the 1991 Men's Open State Champion, Joel Bonnett, he'll tell you all about it.

Editor's note: Our apologies for the delay in delivering the results. Congrats to all.

RAM STATE SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Coliseum Racquet Club

Taylor, MI

April 26-28, 1991

<u>Division</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Finalist</u>
Men's Open	Joel Bonnett	Chris Cole
Men's A	Mike Voorheis	John Kundrot
Men's B	Mike Foley	Lenny Chaltraw
Men's C	Jim Rankin	Don Stadnika
Men's D	Mark Ohs	Jim Wink
Men's Novice	Greg Colton	Richard Worobec
Men's 19/25	Jim Hamilton	Pete Ruhala
Men's 30A	Jack White	Greg Hodges
Men's 30B	Tony Barra	Dan McAlindon
Men's 35A	Stu Hastings	Jim Easterling
Men's 35B	Dan McAlindon	Mark Mrocca
Men's 35C	Tim Copeland	Kevin Sorenson
Men's 40A	Doug Toth	Jim Santino
Men's 40B	Lenny Chaltraw	Mike Young
Men's 45A	Ed Barter	Joe Tomlinson
Men's 45B	Art Murphy	Sixto Calvo
Men's 50	Paul Becker	Art Murphy
Men's 55	Lynn Hahn	Ron Pudduck
Men's 60	Richard Caretti	J.D. Driver
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Women's Open	Val Springer	Joetta Hastings
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Women's B	Stephanie Wiet	S Wolodkiewicz
Women's C	Diane Pearson	Rae McIntyre
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Women's 25	Tracey Troszak	Sandy White
Women's 30A	Beth Gutowski	Diane McCauley
Women's 30/35B	Fran Morris	S. Wolodkiewicz
Women's 35A	Cindy Sieders	Lesley Kishigian
Women's 35C	Karen Green	Paulette Brown
Women's 40A	Betty Ann Gilliland	Julie May

Comments from RAM's new president

Continued from page 2

though we battle our way through matches against each other, we always play fair (something other top players in other states cannot always say), and we remain friends off the court, leaving the notion of killing each other inside that 20' by 40' room. Good luck at Memphis State, Joel.

Some people have written to the newsletter about the lack of information on lower skill division or the

amount of copy devoted to top players such as Joel, Jim Floyd and myself. Everything published in the paper is submitted voluntarily by people from around the state. If anyone has something they want printed in the paper by all means send it to the editor. I don't get paid for anything I write, but I like to keep the membership informed with what is happening outside of the state. When I write an article on an event,

I simply write it trying to give as much information as I can and if I make a mistake or have an omission of names, I apologize. Hopefully, more people will contribute to the newsletter so the core of stories will not come from the same people all of the time.

Well until next issue's column, keep hitting those passing shots and go for that crack ace every so often!

Bonnett to play at Memphis State University

Continued from page 1

Bonnett will be attending Memphis State on scholarship, which is not easily attained in the realm of racquetball. "There are not too many of them given," he said about collegiate racquetball scholarships. "There are only a few and you have to be one of the best players in the United states to get one."

He has a long list of accomplishments in racquetball, from his two National Junior titles to fine showings at the last two Olympic Festivals. Finishing third at the World Intercollegiate Championships last year, his sights are set on the gold medal this year. Good luck Joel!



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RAM Board of Directors

Date: June 24, 1991

Attendance: Tom Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Jim Earley, Gary Phipps, Ken Bonnett, Chris Cole, Mark Werthman, Jean Chastain and Lou Ellen Fecher.

Treasurer's Report: Submitted May's statement for audit. For Sanctioning Dianne needs the Super Seven Finale and we will be up-to-date. Jean is all set to take over sanctioning. She will be sending out information sometime this week.

Tom: before you leave Dianne, I need a grant up date as well as a report from Lou Ellen on your membership drive.

Tournaments: Scheduled are: September 6-8 at Petosky; November 8-10, Seniors/Masters; December 7-8, State Doubles; April 3-5, Regionals and April 24-26, State Singles. Tournament dates should be turned in to Jean by July 20th to be put on tournament card.

Secretary: no report.

Regional director: Jim handed out information on the Senior Olympics. Racquetball is an event for the first time. Where was the article on the State Championships? (Chris will write and submit for the next newsletter). Labels will not be sold - clubs have to have a sanctioned tournament in order to receive the labels. Anyone is more that welcomed to put an article or flyer in the newsletter to reach our AARA members. Jean Chastain was put on a committee for the National Scholarship fund. Congratulations!

Went over constitutional changes. Results:

- 1) Passed. RAM was formed by the merger of the Michigan Racquetball Association (MRA) and the Michigan Amateur Racquetball Association (MARA).
- 2) Opposed.
- 3) Opposed.
- 4) Motion made and seconded to make changes Passed. In the event of a tie for the election of RAM officers the officers of the board (current officers) would vote again to break the tie. Any ties would be resolved at that meeting.
- 5) Passed. The President may not make a motion or vote unless there is a tie on the RAM Board of Directors. The only exceptions to this: a) the changing of the constitution or by-laws. b) voting on board members and board officers and c) voting for the removal of board members and board offi-

cers.

6) Passed. Men cannot play in women's divisions and women cannot play in men's divisions at the State Singles Championships and the State Doubles Championships.

President's Report: National Junior team to be sent to Colorado Training Camp are: Allison Thomas of Ohio, Brent Zimmerman of Michigan and David Hamilton of Ohio and Ryan Covell of Michigan are to be considered at large team members.

Tom asked for a motion to elect a treasurer at this meeting. Dianne made a motion to vote on all officers. Jim Easterling seconded. Discussion - everyone gave their opinion before voting. There was a tie - tabled.

Motion was then made by Jean to make the annual meeting and voting of officers to be held in May. Seconded by Jim Easterling. Discussion - April would be the nominating month. Passed by 2/3 vote. Also discussed was three year terms and when they expire.

Jim Earley made the motion to vote for the treasurer. Chris Cole seconded. Passed. Jim Easterling nominated Jean Chastain. Dianne seconded. Jim Earley nominated Lou Ellen Fecher. Chris Cole Seconded. Jean, Lou Ellen and non-board members were asked to leave the room. A vote was taken upon their return resulting in a tie. The current board officers then re-voted with Lou Ellen becoming the new treasurer.

Since we will be voting next month for new board officers, everyone should be considering what office they would like to hold. You should make your intentions known to the President and the Board by either letter or right here tonight. Gary Phipps is interested in becoming the new president.

Next meeting will be held July 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Davison Racquet and Fitness Club.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Ellen Fecher.

Date: July 22, 1991

Attendance: Tom Blakeslee, Jim and Dianne Easterling, Chris Cole, Gary Phipps, Jean Chastain, Mark Werthman, Jim Earley, Ken Bonnett and Lou
Continued on page 13

Meeting Minutes

Ellen Fecher

Treasurer's Report: Dianne and Lou Ellen gave the treasurer's report for the month of June. Report was accepted and filed for audit. Lou Ellen was given the go ahead to write herself and Jim Earley \$200 each in grant money.

Secretaries Report: Flowers were sent to the family of Steve Elliot along with a note of sympathy in his death.

Regional Director: Mike Ray, editor of "Kill Shot" requested labels for the distribution of his free magazine to all Michigan AARA members. Tom stated that he did send him the labels because he would be contacting Sandy about advertising in the newsletter.

The last lock-in was held with 9-10 people becoming new members from the Racquetime Racquet Club. This concludes the grant obligation with all monies spent. A letter was sent to John Mooney at the AARA offices re: each of the lock-ins that were held plus articles put in newsletter.

A recent article was read regarding the Interceptor eyewear and the fact that they are hazardous. Received a letter from Kevin Sorenson regarding the last newsletter and the fact that the State Singles were not covered in the issue. A letter should be sent to him explaining why and that they will be covered in the next issue.

No contact from the AARA concerning the Junior Regionals as of yet.

Dianne: Rap up of treasurer's office. Gave check to Lou Ellen this evening and will close out the account once Racquetball Racquet Club cashes their check.

Sanctioning: Jean handed out the tournament schedule. Ken Bonnett, Chris

Cole and Jim Earley went over the schedule and added their respective tournaments. August 9th will be the deadline for schedule in order to get it to the printers.

Jim Earley: Has sponsor for the card if we accept his proposal. Las Vegas Golf and Tennis printers would like the chance to do all of RAM's printing. They will be contacting Sandy to advertise in the newsletter whether we accept his proposal or not. Motion was made that we accept them and seconded. Passed.

President's report: Jerry Eldred is hosting a non-

sanctioned tournament in Alpena, August 17-20 in which proceeds will be going to the Kidney Foundation.

State Singles and the AARA Intercollegiate may be the same weekend in April. Maybe we should move the state to May 1-3 so that we will not be competing with the Intercollegiate's and make the tournament available for those open players that may want to compete in both. It was decided if they fall on the same weekend, State Singles be moved to 1-3.

Ken Bonnett brought up what to charge Juniors at sanctioned events. It was discussed and decided that it was up to the tournament director's themselves. Also do entrants have to receive a tournament shirt as per the constitution? No, once again it is left up to the discretion of the tournament director.

Tom: Sanctioning guideline should be reviewed prior to next year before they are sent out for the 92-93 season.

Since the Davison Pro stop will not be held again this year, when and where should the awards be handed out? Are you working on them Lou Ellen? Jim Easterling suggested that the best time would be at the end of the State Singles. General agreement of the board. Gary Phipps suggest that we just print them in the next newsletter for the 90-91 season. Discussion was then concentrated on when does the season begin and end? Nationals? States? Decision - the 90-91 season will put together and printed in the next newsletter.

Chris Cole: Chris made a motion that we vote on Mark Werthman becoming a board member prior to the elections. Lou Ellen seconded.

Jim Earley: Entry forms will be out this week for the August tournament at Racquetime. No referee's until the semi matches and then refs will be paid. What if they demand a ref (Gary Phipps) No refs and if they cannot get along, then the game is to be forfeited by both players.

Tom: read a letter from Rick Hall resigning his position of Vice-president but wants to stay on the board. Jim Easterling motioned that Rick be removed from the board. Gary Phipps seconded the motion for discussion purposes. After discussion Jim withdrew his motion.

Continued on page 15

Racquettime Club kicks-off season

by Jim Earley

Racquettime kicked off the racquetball season again this year with their Annual Invitational. The response was good with 81 first entrants and 23 second entrants.

The Invitational was a test to see if eight weeks of relaxing and switching to summer sports was really worth it. As is expected in the first tournament, many players found themselves fatigued early in the weekend. To those, the weekend provided incentive to get in shape and put the polish on their strategy and stroke

for the new season.

However, as the finals drew near it became apparent which players had remained true to racquetball throughout the summer.

They are:

Women's Division

1st place Stacy Barbas
2nd place Pam Parkhurst

Men's Open

1st place Chris Cole
2nd place Joel Bonnett

Men's A

1st place Jim Earley
2nd place Scott Hale

Men's B

1st place Scott Duryea

2nd place Doug Callow

Men's C

1st place Tom Elliot
2nd place Robert Fourniers

Join Racquettime in other tournaments to come:

November 15-17
Super Seven #2

December 6-8
State Doubles

Oak Park YMCA selected as training site for national program

The Oak Park YMCA in Lansing, Michigan has been selected as a national training site for a Youth Racquetball Program Clinic. The YMCA of the United States has been working with the American Amateur Racquetball Association to promote the program. This effort has been funded by a grant from the United States Olympic Committee.

Clinics will be provided free of charge in 20 YMCA's throughout the country. Enrollment will be open to all YMCA directors, staff or volunteers. All clinics will be held in October 1991. For more information contact Lynda Meade at (517) 694-3901.



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Michigan trio falters in quest for gold

Continued from page 7
lead but could not hold on and lost in two close games to the champ.

Despite the tough loss, Bonnett still qualified for medal play by beating Brian Rankin of Missouri the following day to finish with a 2-1 record. His first match of the medal rounds was against hot John Ellis of California who had swept through his bracket compiling a 3-0 record. Ellis, who Bonnett had beaten before to win the Junior Nationals, continued his Cinderella story by defeating the aching Bonnett in two games. Bonnett then completing his disappointment by los-

ing the bronze medal match to Sweeney who had lost an 11-9 tie breaker to Andy Roberts of Tennessee.

The third installment of the Michigan trio wanted to show his 1990 Silver medal was no fluke. Cole, also playing singles in the opposite bracket as Bonnett, knew he was in for a long week when he barely escaped his 11-9 tie breaker win with California's Bill Sell. Playing cautiously, he then proceeded to lose in two games to a fired-up Roberts. Due to the tie breaker rules in the Festival, Cole not only needed to beat Ellis in his final pre-

lim match, but needed to do so in two quick games. Ellis however, started out with a 7-0 lead and looked as if it would be all over before it had begun. Cole crawled back in with six crack aces and served three times for game point before losing 15-14.

Going in, everyone knew the road to the gold would have to travel through Michigan and the trio of Bonnett, Cole and Floyd. Though none of them were able to ride out the storm, they all represented Michigan admirably and they all will be back to go for it again.

Board meeting minutes

Continued from page 13

Elections: All non-board members were asked to leave. Jim Easterling made the motion that we except Mark Werthman to the board. Gary Phipps seconded. Voted in.

Results of board elections: Jean Chastain, secretary; Tom Blakeslee, vice-president; Chris Cole president. Next meeting: Saturday, August 24, 11:00 a.m. at Racquetime Racquet Club during the tournament. Adjourned 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Ellen Fecher

Penn
RACQUETBALL



Mark DeAngelis
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