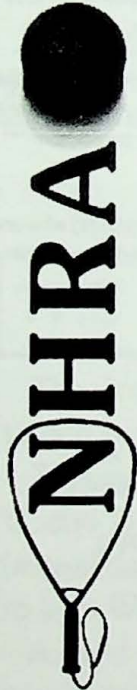


ROLLOUT



January, 2003

THE USRA AFFILIATE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

USRA

Volume 6 Issue 1

Happy Holidays!

I am writing this just before the holidays and know you won't be receiving it until early January, but hopefully you will still be in the holiday spirit! I have two quick things I would like to relate to you that are in the spirit of Christmas, but could and should apply to us all year round.

The first thing I would like to tell you about has to do with the New England Doubles we just hosted in Nashua. *By the way, what a great event and huge response - thanks!* After the tournament was finished we realized that we had ordered way too many sub rolls and had about 70 left over. In addition to the sub rolls, we had chips and some other condiments left. The thought had crossed my mind to take them to the food bank here in Manchester, but it was a cold Sunday night and I was exhausted after the tourney (having just beaten Heather and Justin in the Pro Mixed Doubles finals!). I got home, thought about unloading my truck, and finally convinced myself (rather than feeding the rolls to the birds) that I needed to go downtown and drop off this food at the food bank. So, off I went, finally found it, and went up and rang the bell. The response I got at that point was just overwhelming. They came out, unloaded my truck, and were just so very thankful for all the goodies. They said it looked like they would be having meatball subs for dinner and couldn't thank me enough. It was a great feeling driving away thinking of the good we had done.

My second story is a little corny, but along the same note. I just returned from taking my new kitty "Ms. America" over to the assisted living home that my parents live in. My Dad always lights up when I take her and she really makes a big difference. I take her around and let all the elderly pat her and hold her, and you should see just how happy it makes them. It's a small thing to do, but is so big in terms of what it does for them.

So, I guess what I am trying to say is I hope you had a great holiday, and try to give to those who are not as fortunate as us; not necessarily

with money, but it is sometimes greater to give in other ways at all times of the year - not just at Christmas...

Kelley

This ROLLOUT Edition includes these & more

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UPCOMING NH TOURNAMENTS: Support New Hampshire R-ball! Upcoming January tournaments:
- NH State Doubles Championships, January 10th - 12th at the Racquet Club of Concord
- B/C Challenge, January 17th - 19th at the Great Bay Athletic Club, Newmarket
- Mitch Nathanson Classic, Jan. 31st - Feb. 2nd at the Executive Health & Sports Center, Manchester

SUPER RAFFLE TICKETS: The 2003 Mitch Nathanson Super Raffle tickets are now on sale! \$1000 1st place prize. 1 in 8 tickets win - only 100 tickets to be sold. Proceeds to benefit NE Junior racquetball programs. \$50 / ticket (tax deductible); drawing to be held 2/2/03 (at the EHSC). Tickets available by calling Kelley Beane at 759-2729.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jean Lerch of Exeter (and the Great Bay Ath. Club), for having several articles about her and her B/C Challenge tournament in the Portsmouth Herald, Exeter News, and several other seacoast newspapers.

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS WANTED: *THE NHRA NEEDS YOU!* We need people to work on committees such as: fund raising, awards, rules & policies, junior programs - many more! If you've got some talent, the energy, and/or time, we could use whatever you have to offer! We especially need sponsors for State events in a big way... For more information on the many ways you can help out, please call Kelley Beane or contact her through the web site: www.nhracquetball.com.

NATIONAL RANKINGS: Congratulations to the following NH players (and NH club members) who are nationally ranked among the top 25 players in the country (taken from www.racqmag.com, the current issue of 'Racquetball Magazine'):

Scott Robinson: Men's A, #19(T)

Bob Guidaboni: Men's C, #9

Todd Anderson: Men's Novice, #1(T); Men's D, #17(T)

Sid Bird: Men's 50+, #26(T)

Dick Lowell: Men's 65+, #12(T)

Ron Bouchard: Men's 60+C/D, #4

Mike Keddie: Boy's 14-and-under, #4(T)

Patty Thomas-Danos: Women's B, #11(T)

Judy LaFrance-Foote: Women's C, #15T

Judy Bress: Women's Novice, #5(T); Women's 50+, #23(T)

Susan Hutchinson: Women's Novice, #10(T)

Jean Lerch: Women's C, #12; Women's D, #1; Women's 40+C/D, #2

Kelley Beane: Women's 25+, #15(T); Women's 30+, #4(T), Women's 35+, #10

Gary Walsh: Men's B, #12(T)

Bob Burgess: Men's C, #20(T)

Ron Wik: Men's Novice, #29(T)

Mitch Milewski: Men's 60+, #10

Ken Hardman: Men's 70+, #17

Beau Breton: Boy's 10-and-under, #25

Pat Sims: Women's A, #6; Women's Elite, #21(T)

Deb Irvine: Women's B, #15(T)

Sharon Shapiro: Women's D, #17(T)

Martha Robinson: Women's Novice, #5(T)

Nan Higgins: Women's 45+, #23(T)

ADVERTISING: Newsletter Ad Rates - \$100. Full page, \$50. 1/2 page, \$25. 1/4 page, \$15. Business card, and now introducing 'Personal' ads for \$5 (send your info thru the web site!). The newsletter goes out to the full NHRA membership plus all the clubs, former members and many RB friends - *so advertise here!* Yearly rates are also available.

NEWSLETTER RATES: Subscription is available to non-members/non-residents for a \$10.00/yr. rate.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER: When your USRA membership card states a 12/02 expiration date, that means your membership expired on the 1st day of the month - *not at the end of the month!* Stay on the mailing list and keep your 'Racquetball' magazines coming by keeping your membership active!

JUNIORS THRIVE ON FUN IN SALEM

What a great feeling it is to show up at Salem Athletic Club every week and see 10 to 12 juniors waiting eagerly to get on the racquetball courts!

For one afternoon a week the courts are filled with kids. Youngsters that range in age from 7 to 12 are excited to get on with the game of racquetball.

The kid's involvement is just the boost this sport needs. In one hour we spend time going over the basic fundamentals of the game, but with a fun twist!

Everything is made into a game: From hanging hula hoops on the front wall for the younger kids — and seeing how many times they can hit the ball into it; to placing boxes in corners for the older kids — and having them hit the front wall to see how many times they can get the ball into the box. What they do not realize is that they are learning how to play, but to them they are having a ball.

Their favorite part of the hour is the sibling's relay race at the end of the lessons. Who could resist the urge to beat their brother or sister -- the candy prize for the winners has nothing to do with it! The parents all think that the races are a riot and love the fact that we pit siblings against each other to end the lesson.

The kid's racquetball program at the club is the most attended of all the kid's activities -- just what we need to keep racquetball strong! Junior Instructors at SAC: Tony Bruzzese and Lee Monks

By Tony Bruzzese

THE 2003 'B/C' CHALLENGE, JANUARY 17th - 19th

The Great Bay Athletic Club in Newmarket NH is proud to be hosting their first sanctioned racquetball tournament on January 17th - 19th, 2003.

This open level tournament is designed for those players who are eligible to play in the 'B', 'C', and 'D' skill level divisions. Doubles divisions will also be offered for both men and women (mixed doubles too!), as well as junior divisions. This special tournament format should prove to be a lot of fun and be quite competitive.

A word of caution - the draw will be limited to the first 75 entries, so sign up soon to ensure a spot! Application information may be obtained in several ways:

1. By going to the GBAC web site — www.greatbayathleticclub.com/RBinformation
2. Go to the NHRA web site — www.nhraracquetball.com/bcchallenge
3. E-mail me at lerchrc@rcn.com, or
4. By leaving a message for me at the club (603-659-3151 ext. 2108).

So plan on join us at Great Bay the weekend of January 17th - you don't want to miss out on a great time!

By Jean Lerch

2002 CAPITOL OPEN

At The Racquet Club of Concord, Nov. 1st - 3rd

| DIVISIONS | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| MENS OPEN | Scott Reiff | Jeff Hill | Mike Cole | Dave Barnes |
| MENS A | Jim Lucci | Rick Sledzik Jr. | John Badger | Dan Story |
| MENS B | Jared Mansur | Chris Andrew | Dave Lane | Dave Smith |
| MENS C | Jared Mansur | Jerome Jackson | Ken Scherer | Jason Dupuy |
| MENS D/NOV. | Robert Ferreira | Jason Lyon | Scott Depner | Louis Day |
| MENS 35+ | Ralph Grillone | Paul Wallace | Dave Breton | Don Barrows |
| MENS 45+ | Paul Wallace | Ed Barlow | Scott Robinson | Dave Breton |
| WOMENS B | Jane McClung | Judy Lafrance-Foote | Cathy Desmarais | Lisa Paladino |
| WOMENS C | Suzanne Ewert | Jean Lerch | Chris Sabbow | |
| WOMENS D/NOV. | Jamie Desmarais | Deb Kadlec | Lisa Walker | |
| MENS OPEN DOUBLES | Scott Reiff | Dave Barnes | Jeff Hill | Mike Keddie |
| | Ralph Grillone | Ed Barlow | Mike Cole | Bruce Gagnon |
| MENS 'A' DOUBLES | Owen McGarrahan | Rick Sledzik Jr. | Murray Aldous | Scott Robinson |
| | Tom Christy | John Badger | Dick Dyer | Dan Story |
| MENS 'B/C' DOUBLES | Dave Lane | Joe Reddington | Stan Sowle | Ron Bouchard |
| | Peter Oliver | Brad Voltaro | Steve Foote | Bob Hall |
| MIXED A/B DOUBLES | Cathy Desmarais | Jane McClung | Judy Lafrance-Foote | Suzanne Ewert |
| | Stan Sowle | John Tousignant | Steve Foote | Bob Hall |

2002 HOLIDAY CHARITY OPEN

December 14th, at the Nashua Athletic Club

| DIVISION | 1st | 2nd | 3rd-tie | 3rd-tie |
|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Mens Open | Nate Gagne | Jeff Hill | Dave Barnes | Joe Palazzo |
| Mens A | Lee Horwitz | Ramon Enciso | Jared Mansur | Ron Dellagatta |
| Mens B | Chris Andrew | Jon Dyer | Ray Govotski | David Lane |
| Mens C | Ken Scherer | Matt Chabot | Todd Anderson | Greg Steeves |
| Mens D | John Pepin | Jordan Lawrence | Josh Chabot | Aaron Beers |
| Womens B | Patty Barrows | Patty Thomas-Danos | Teresa Labrie | Suzanne Ewert |
| Womens C | Teresa Labrie | Suzanne Ewert | Karen Zielinski | Sharon Shapiro |
| Mens Open Doubles | Mike Cole | Jeff Hill | Joe Palazzo | Dave Barnes |
| | Paul Wallace | Frank Gibson III | Ed Barlow | Ben Mendoza |
| Mens A Doubles | Carl Savage | Kip Jackson | Chris Andrew | Ben Mendoza |
| | Steve Provins | Josh Husson | Bob Guidaboni | Ed Marfeo |
| Mens B/C Doubles | Jon Dyer | Greg Steeves | Bob Burgess | Jay Kempton |
| | Jason Dyer | Todd Anderson | Ray Govotski | Jay Eichman |
| Mixed Open Doubles | Heather Dunn | Kim Skerry | Deb Ernst | Gail Valuk |
| | Nate Gagne | Dave Barnes | Lee Monks | Lee Horwitz |
| Womens Open/A Doubles | Heather Dunn | Cindy Hamilton | Gail Valuk | Patty Barrows |
| | Marsha Kazarosian | Carmen Dyer | Kim Skerry | Diane Taylor |

2002 REGIONAL DOUBLES

At The Nashua Athletic Club, November 16th & 17th

| DIVISION | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| MENS OPEN | Nate Gagne, ME | Mark Bouchard, MA | Joe Husson Jr., NH | Ralph Grillone, MA |
| | Steve Hayden, ME | Jim Grant, MA | Chris Zalegowski, NH | Scott Reiff, NH |
| MENS 'A' | Tony Crespo, CT | Dave Breton, NH | Scott Robinson, NH | Ron Dellagatta, NH |
| | Lee Horwitz, CT | Steve Provins, NH | Dan Story, NH | Jared Mansur, NH |
| MENS 'B' | Bob Guidaboni, NH | Peter Cooper, NH | Josh Husson, NH | Bob Burgess, NH |
| | Rob Smith, NH | Al Riley, NH | Kip Jackson, NH | Ray Govotski, NH |
| MENS 'C/D' | Pat Geoffroy, NH | Matt Chabot, NH | Bob Sippel, NH | Tim Whitcomb, NH |
| | Rich Nevius, MA | Mike Santa, NH | Bob Hall, NH | Todd Anderson, NH |
| MENS 25/30+ | Joe Husson Jr., NH | Nate Gagne, ME | Mike Cole, NH | Dave Barnes, RI |
| | Chris Zalegowski, NH | Steve Hayden, ME | Jeff Hill, MA | Ed Marfeo, RI |
| MENS 35+ | Frank Gibson, MA | Bob Hainey, RI | Tony Crespo, CT | Jim Grant, MA |
| | Jim Lukeman, NH | Russ Palazzo, CT | Lee Horwitz, CT | Vinny Maccarone, MA |
| MENS 40+ | Paul Pierce, MA | Dave Breton, NH | Jay Marrone, CT | Tom Christy, NH |
| | Paul Wallace, NH | Steve Provins, NH | Bob Norton, CT | John Varrill, NH |
| MENS 45/50+ | Ron Argenbright, ME | Carl Savage, NH | Murray Aldous, NH | Scott Robinson, NH |
| | Paul Pierce, MA | Paul Wallace, NH | Dick Dyer, NH | John Varrill, NH |
| MENS 55/60+ | Steve Monsein, MA | Ron Bouchard, NH | Carl Buschner, MA | |
| | Howard Peele, MA | Bob Hall, NH | Frank Trask, ME | |
| WOMENS 'OPEN/A' | Lorraine Feeney, MA | Heather Dunn, MA | Kelley Beane, NH | Patty Barrows, MA |
| | Roz Petronelli, MA | Marsha Kazarosian, MA | Joanne Pomodoro, MA | Lisa Koolman, NH |
| WOMENS 'B/C' | Deb Irvine, NH | Ana Viega, NH | Ceci Carpenter, NH | Sue Hutchinson, NH |
| | Susan Serfass, ME | Patty Thomas-Danos, MA | Jean Lerch, NH | Sara Shultz, NH |
| MIXED OPEN | Kelley Beane, NH | Lorraine Feeney, MA | Lisa Koolman, NH | Heather Dunn, MA |
| | Chris Zalegowski, NH | Mark Bouchard, MA | Mike Keddie, NH | Marc Moccia, MA |
| MIXED 'A' | Carmen Dyer, NH | Pat Sims, ME | Ester McNanny, CT | Lynn Smith, NH |
| | Paul Pierce, MA | Jim Sims, ME | Mike Normand, NH | Tony Bruzzese, NH |
| MIXED 'B' | Patty Thomas-Danos, MA | Sue Lee, NH | Susan Serfass, ME | |
| | Pat Geoffroy, NH | Jeff Lee, NH | Frank Trask, ME | |
| MIXED 'C/D' | Jean Lerch, NH | Ana Viega, NH | Judy Nevius, MA | Donna Przybyszewski, NH |
| | Ron Bouchard, NH | Joe Richards, NH | Rich Nevius, MA | John Chesnulevich, NH |
| PRO MIXED DOUBLES | <i>Kelley Beane & Chris Zalegowski defeat Justin Wallace & Heather Dunn in a close tiebreaker</i> | | | |

NH RACQUETBALL RANKINGS

| MENS OPEN | | MENS A | | MENS B | | MENS C | | MENS D | |
|-------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|-------------------|------|
| REIFF, SCOTT | 410 | ROBINSON, SCOTT | 250 | WALSH, GARY | 300 | GUIDABONI, BOB | 335 | ANDERSON, TODD | 280 |
| ZALEGOWSKI, CHRIS | 185 | BRETON, DAVE | 150 | DELLAGATTA, RON | 135 | BURGESS, BOB | 250 | SMITH, PETER | 160 |
| KEDDIE, MIKE | 130 | LABONTE, MARCO | 140 | WILKEN, TOM | 125 | RUSSELL, KEVIN | 150 | BYE, RON | 100 |
| DEMERS, JACQUES | 60 | MCGARRAHAN, OWEN | 115 | SILVA, SKIP | 100 | SCHERER, KEN | 120 | TAYLOR, DEREK | 100 |
| DREW, ARON | 50 | BREZINA, MARK | 100 | PODOLEC, ADAM | 75 | BYE, RON | 60 | LYON, JASON | 65 |
| COLE, MIKE | 35 | KEDDIE, MIKE | 75 | GUIDABONI, BOB | 60 | CHABOT, MATT | 50 | KEDDIE, MATT | 60 |
| BOUCHER, JAIME | 30 | RODENBERG, KEVIN | 60 | ANDREWS, CHRIS | 60 | GEOFFREY, PATRICK | 50 | DANOS, SAVAS | 55 |
| LARIVEE, RICHARD | 20 | SAVAGE, CARL | 60 | TARANOVICH, BILL | 55 | MANSUR, JARED | 50 | JOSEF, PETER | 50 |
| ROBBINS, PHIL | 20 | SIMS, JIM | 50 | GOVOTSKI, RAY | 50 | STEEVES, GREG | 50 | STOUDLEY, SCOTT | 50 |
| BLOOM, TROY | 10 | WALLACE, PAUL | 50 | LANE, DAVID | 50 | WHITCOMB, TIM | 40 | LALIBERTE, DAVID | 45 |
| MENS NOVICE | | MENS <24 | | MENS 30+ | | MENS 35+ | | MENS 40+ | |
| ANDERSON, TODD | 400 | KEDDIE, MIKE | 100 | MCGARRAHAN, OWEN | 150 | LABONTE, MARCO | 150 | WALLACE, PAUL | 210 |
| LAWRENCE, JORDAN | 180 | MENS 25+ | | COLE, MIKE | 100 | BRUZZESE, TONY | 100 | VARRILL, JOHN | 105 |
| WIK, RON | 125 | ZALEGOWSKI, CHRIS | 150 | SMITH, ROB | 100 | RYAN, DAVE | 75 | LUKEMAN, JIM | 100 |
| HARDMAN, KEN | 75 | MCGARRAHAN, OWEN | 100 | BLOOM, TROY | 50 | BRETON, DAVE | 40 | PEREZ, RICK | 100 |
| PAQUETTE, TIM | 50 | LABONTE, MARCO | 75 | MENS 35+A/B | | WALLACE, PAUL | 30 | BRETON, DAVE | 65 |
| BAYLISS, BILLY | 25 | SMITH, ROB | 50 | JACKSON, KIP | 150 | BOUCHER, NORM | 10 | LARIVEE, RICHARD | 50 |
| BRETON, BEAU | 25 | | | | | GIORGETTI, PHIL | 10 | NORMAND, MIKE | 50 |
| BENNETT, GAVIN | 20 | | | | | RAFFA, ROBERT | 10 | ROBBINS, PHIL | 30 |
| MENS 45+ | | MENS 45+A/B | | MENS 50+ | | MENS 55+ | | MENS 60+ | |
| WALLACE, PAUL | 230 | PIERCE, PAUL | 250 | BIRD, SID | 255 | FITZGERALD, CARL | 225 | MILEWSKI, MITCH | 550 |
| PIERCE, PAUL | 180 | SAVAGE, CARL | 150 | PACE, BRANDT | 160 | MILEWSKI, MITCH | 200 | BISCHOFF, BILL | 100 |
| SAVAGE, CARL | 100 | SIMS, JIM | 75 | KRYSIK, DENNIS | 155 | PACE, BRANDT | 200 | HALL, BOB | 100 |
| VARRILL, JOHN | 95 | FOOTE, STEVE | 50 | SAVAGE, STEVE | 50 | LANGLOIS, RICK | 50 | LOWELL, DICK | 75 |
| LARKIN, GREGG | 75 | MENS 45+C/D | | DYER, RICHARD | 20 | MENS 65+ | | BOUCHARD, RON | 50 |
| BRETON, RON | 60 | BYE, RON | 150 | HARDMAN, KEN | 15 | LOWELL, DICK | 400 | FALBE, JIM | 25 |
| BREZINA, MARK | 50 | MENS 60+C/D | | MENS 65+A/B | | BOUCHARD, RON | 150 | MENS 70+ | |
| NORMAND, MIKE | 25 | BOUCHARD, RON | 200 | LECOMPTE, NORBERT | 250 | LECOMPTE, NORBERT | 125 | HARDMAN, KEN | 225 |
| SIMS, JIM | 25 | | | HARDMAN, KEN | 150 | DALTON, ED | 100 | | |
| BOUCHER, NORM | 20 | | | | | TOWLE, PARKER | 100 | | |
| JR. <8 | | JR. <10 | | JR. <12 | | JR. <14 | | MENS ELITE | |
| KOOLMAN, CAELEN | 50 | BRETON, BEAU | 170 | KEDDIE, MATT | 200 | KEDDIE, MIKE | 400 | COLE, MIKE | 50 |
| | | LARKIN, CONNOR | 50 | BRETON, BEAU | 80 | BENNETT, GAVIN | 20 | BOUCHER, NORM | 30 |
| | | LARKIN, SHANNON | 30 | BENNETT, GAVIN | 20 | LAWRENCE, JORDAN | 15 | MORSE, JEFF | 20 |
| | | LAURENCE, KRISTEN | 30 | GATH, KYLE | 20 | KINDL, ZAK | 10 | BRETON, DAVE | 10 |
| | | KINDL, KATIE | 20 | BAYLISS, BILLY | 10 | ANDROS, GRETCHEN | 10 | BREZINA, MARK | 10 |
| WOMENS OPEN | | WOMENS A | | WOMENS B | | WOMENS C | | WOMENS D | |
| BEANE, KELLEY | 200 | SIMS, PAT | 385 | THOMAS-DANOS, PATTY | 330 | LERCH, JEAN | 310 | LERCH, JEAN | 1000 |
| DOUCETTE, ANN | 140 | TAYLOR, DIANE | 180 | IRVINE, DEB | 315 | LAFRANCE-FOOTE, JUDY | 250 | SHAPIRO, SHARON | 200 |
| WEISSBACH, DIANNE | 75 | MCCOLE, JUDY | 160 | PALADINO, LISA | 135 | PALADINO, LISA | 180 | CARPENTER, CECI | 100 |
| TAYLOR, DIANE | 25 | SMITH, LYNN | 100 | SMITH, LYNN | 75 | GAMAGE, JULIE | 150 | HUTCHINSON, SUSAN | 100 |
| | | BRADSHAW, LINDA | 50 | EWERT, SUZANNE | 60 | EWERT, SUZANNE | 120 | LARKIN, KIM | 75 |
| | | THOMAS-DANOS, PATTY | 50 | COPE, ANN | 50 | SABBOW, CHRISTINA | 110 | SABBOW, CHRISTINA | 75 |
| | | WEISSBACH, DIANNE | 30 | MCCLUNG, JANE | 50 | LARKIN, KIM | 95 | ROBINSON, MARTHA | 55 |
| | | IRVINE, DEB | 20 | LAFRANCE-FOOTE, JUDY | 40 | SHAPIRO, SHARON | 95 | BRESS, JUDY | 50 |
| | | GOBAR, GRETCHEN | 10 | DESMARAIS, CATHY | 30 | GOBAR, GRETCHEN | 60 | DESMARAIS, JAMIE | 50 |
| | | | | SHAPIRO, SHARON | 30 | COPE, ANN | 50 | BENTON, BRIE | 30 |
| WOMENS NOVICE | | WOMEN 25+ | | WOMEN 35+ | | WOMENS 40+ | | WOMENS 45+A/B | |
| BRESS, JUDY | 200 | BEANE, KELLEY | 150 | BEANE, KELLEY | 300 | SERFASS, SUSAN | 100 | SIMS, PAT | 250 |
| ROBINSON, MARTHA | 200 | | | TAYLOR, DIANE | 100 | WOMENS 40+C/D | | | |
| HUTCHINSON, SUSAN | 150 | | | | | LERCH, JEAN | 400 | WOMENS 50+ | |
| WOMENS ELITE | | WOMEN 30+ | | WOMEN 35+A/B | | WOMENS 45+ | | | |
| SIMS, PAT | 75 | BEANE, KELLEY | 375 | IRVINE, DEBORAH | 150 | WOMENS 45+ | | | |
| | | WEISSBACH, DIANNE | 100 | | | | | | |
| | | TAYLOR, DIANE | 50 | | | | | | |
| | | KOOLMAN, LISA | 30 | | | | | | |

* UPDATED USRA POINTS AS OF 12/13/02 * (12 month cumulative)

STATE DOUBLES ELIGIBILITY

If you want to compete in a particular skill level division in the NH State Doubles tourney in Concord this coming January, there are some special eligibility rules you need to be aware of.

You may play in the skill level division (A through Novice) you were eligible to play in as of September 1, 2002, as long as (1) that division is not more than one division lower than your required Open tournament division as of the first day of the State Doubles tournament, and (2) you have not won a State Singles or Regional title with a "legal" draw (8 or more players) at that skill level, or higher.

For example, let's say you started the season (Sept. 1, 2002) eligible to play B's, then you win twice in the B's (with "legal" draws) in Open tournaments before the start of the upcoming State Doubles. Because you've won twice in the B's, you are no longer eligible to play B's in an *Open* tournament. However, because you started the season eligible to play B's, you *would* be eligible to play B's in the State Doubles tournament.

Here's another example. Let's say that as of September 1, 2002, you were eligible to play C's in an Open tournament, and on the first day of the State Doubles in January, you are still eligible to play C's in an Open tournament (because you have not yet won the C's twice). But let's say you had won the C division (or a higher division) with a "legal" draw in a previous *State Singles tournament*. Because you've won a State Singles title in C's, you would not be eligible to play C's in State Doubles (even though you are still eligible to play C's in an Open tournament). Again, if you've won a State Singles title (with a legal draw) in a particular division, you are not eligible to play in that division in State Doubles.

Another NHRA eligibility policy that applies to State Doubles is the following: If you and your partner have won a skill level division (A through Novice) with a "legal" draw (8 or more players) in a previous State Doubles tournament, you are not allowed to compete with that particular partner at that skill level again in a State Doubles tourney. For example, if you and a particular partner won the B doubles division in a previous State Doubles, you and that partner cannot play B doubles again in State Doubles. If you want to play

State Doubles with that partner again, you'd have to move up to at least the A division. (In this instance, you could still play State B doubles with a different partner, as long as both of you are eligible to play the B division in Open tournaments.)

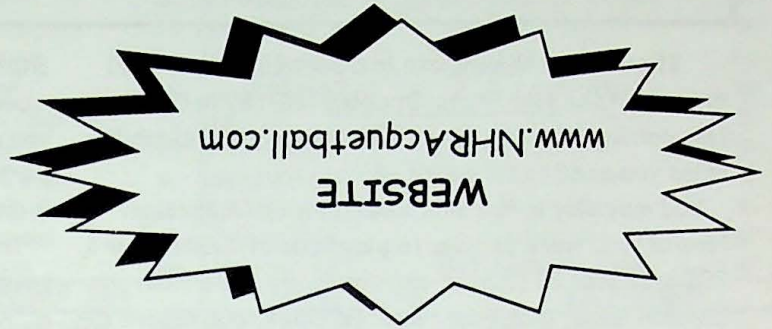
The exception to the latter policy is when you and your partner have won a combined skill level division (e.g., A/B, B/C, C/D) in a previous State Doubles. Under NHRA rules, "A combined skill level division will not be considered as a sanctioned skill level event." Therefore, if you win a combined skill level division, it does not count as a win in either skill level. For example, let's say you and a particular partner won B/C doubles in a previous State Doubles, and let's say you both are still eligible to play B's (but not C's) in Open tournaments. You could still play B/C doubles, or B doubles (but not C doubles) with that same partner in the upcoming State Doubles tournament.

If you want to play in an adult age group division in the State Doubles - <24, 25+, 30+, etc. - you and your partner both must meet the age eligibility requirements of that particular division. For the <24 division, both you and your partner must be 24 years old or younger as of the first day of the tournament. For all the other adult age group divisions, both you and your partner must be that age or older as of the first day of the tournament. For example, if you want to play in the 40+ division, both you and your partner must be 40 years old, or older, as of the first day of the tournament. If you and your partner are different ages, you have to play in the division that the younger partner is eligible for. For example, if one partner is 36 and the other partner is 49, the team is eligible to play 35+, 30+, or younger age groups, but cannot play in the 40+ or older age group divisions.

One last eligibility rule: Both NH residents and non-residents may play in the NH State Doubles. However, in order for a nonresident player to be eligible to play in the NH State Doubles, he or she must be a member of a New Hampshire club. Points earned in sanctioned tournaments will be added to your USRA points without regard to your state of residence.

John Varrill

Racquetball — fun & fitness for life!



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A HOLIDAY POEM — BY DIANE TAYLOR

*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year,
and would like you to enjoy the upcoming season with cheer.*

*The season will be bright with competition and fun,
Please be sure to practice your backhand and lob-serve some!*

*Come one, come all, to every tournament you can,
It will be the best racquetball season; beat the competition if you can.*

*The games will be decorated with colorful racquets and balls too,
Please bring along a new player - a loved one, a friend and you.*

*The games are on, come rain, sleet or snow,
We hope to see all players and spectators with a bright New Year's glow!*