

MICHIGAN RACQUETBALL ASSOCIATION

2808 S. Deerfield, Lansing, Michigan 48910 (517) 882-8789

SEPT./OCT. 1977

ISSUE 3

GREETINGS MEMBERS!

We hope this Fall newsletter finds you healthy and ready for an active 1977-78 season. There has been much happening around the State since our last newsletter, so we'll bring you up to date.

First and most importantly, the Michigan Racquetball Association has received official recognition from the State Capitol in Lansing, as a non-profit organization. We view this as that first big step toward a long and progressive affiliation.

Secondly, because of the tremendous increase of clubs and players throughout Michigan, we have divided the State into three regions, each which will have its' own Regional Chairperson(s). These are the people who will co-ordinate and organize all racquetball activities within their own region, and then feed that information to our Central State Chairperson.

So that MRA members may have easier access to these Regional Chairpersons, we will be using telephone area codes as a basis for sectioning the State. That way, you'll know automatically which region you're in by your area code.

EASTERN REGION-AREA CODE 313

Gil Schmidt Home: 699-4676

Work: 358-0030

Judy Huhta Home: 588-0249

CENTRAL REGION-AREA CODE 517

Dennis Wood Home: 882-8789

Work: 373-4220

WESTERN REGION-AREA CODE 616

Bob Dykstra Home: 669-5343

Work: 942-5190

AND John VanDerwell H: 323-3567

W: 323-0011

1977-78 TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

Because of our affiliation with the USRA, the MRA will be able to officially sanction tournaments for the upcoming season. This will enable us to provide shirts (at cost), balls, and other necessary materials for tournaments.

Our first official year will begin October 1st, 1977 and run through August 31st, 1978.

It is our intention in this, our first season, to officially sanction at least six State Tournaments, beginning in October and running through March. Each region will hold 2 tournaments.

We have been receiving bids for the past few months from various clubs throughout the State and are now able to tell you where and when the tournaments will be from now until March.

Affiliated with the United States Racquetball Association

1977-78 CALENDAR:

October 27,28 & 29	Racquetball Plus Club (Alpine) 1040 Four Mile Rd. Grand Rapids, Mi. 49505 <u>\$750.00 Prize Money</u>
November 18,19 & 20	Sports Illustrated Court Club Ypsilanti, Mich.
December 8,9 & 10th	Court House East 2701 29th St. S.E. Grand Rapids, Mi. 49508 <u>\$600.00 - \$1000.00 Prize Money</u>
January 1978	Date to be decided Oak Park Athletic Club (Long's) Lansing, Mich.
February 1978	Date to be decided Racquet King Courts 1630 Fort St. Trenton, Mi. 48183 <u>\$1000.00 Prize Money</u>
March 1978	Date to be decided Michigan State Singles Sports Illustrated Court Club Lansing, Mich.

Eventually, we would like to build a solid MRA Tour each season, with one sanctioned tournament a month. (On the order of the present Leach-Seamco Pro Tour)

The reasons for a regular tournament calendar are both obvious and vital. Too many tournaments, held too close together only promotes scattered entries, limited funds for players, lack of enthusiasm for tournaments themselves and loss of revenue for clubs.

To assist you in advance regarding any areas in question, we have set forth the following MRA Rules and Regulations for both Clubs and Players: (Subject to re-vote & change at end of season)

I. CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- a. It will be mandatory that each tournament include the following divisions on their entry forms:

Mens' Open (Semi-Pro), A, & B Womens' Open (Semi-Pro), A, & B
Seniors (35 and over) Masters (45 and over)
Juniors (18 and under)

Note: The actual Number of entries per division will be left up to the club itself.

- b. Hospitality will be up to the club.
c. Cash money and/or prizes will be up to the club.
d. Seamco balls, at no cost to the club, must be used.
e. Entry fees for open events will be \$20. All others - \$15.

- f. There must be a consolation round for each division.
- g. 50¢ of each entry fee will go directly to the MRA.

II. PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. Eligibility: Players from out-of-state may enter any tournament except for the State Singles, which will be open to Michigan Residents only.

b. All players must be members of USRA/MRA and be able to show cards upon registration.

c. Players may not enter more than one event.

d. Players must play in at least 2 MRA sanctioned tournaments to be eligible for play in the State Singles Championships in March.

e. For any players involved in the USRA/NRC Pro Tour:

Any player who has won \$500.00 or more in any USRA/NRC tournament will not be eligible to play in State MRA Tournaments.

f. The winner of each match MUST referee the next match on that court or automatically forfeit his or her match.

g. Entry deadlines will be strictly adhered to. Entries will be set up on a 1st come, 1st serve basis. NO exceptions will be made.

h. Limitations on division entrants:

- I. Open/Semi-Pro: No player may play in this division if he has won \$500.00 or more in any USRA/NRC tournament.

Any player, except for the above exception, may play in the Open/Semi-Pro division.

- II. A Division:
 - a. 'A' players accepting \$25.00 cash prize for any tournaments (in any state) must move up to Open. (Tournaments within last 12 mos.)
 - b. 'A' players may refuse cash prizes and remain in A division.
 - c. Any 'A' player may play in Open.

- III. B Division:
 - a. Player may not have been a finalist, (1st or 2nd place) or reached the semi-finals twice in any B division, whether in Mich. or out-of-state.
 - b. Player may not play in 'B' if he/she has advanced past 2nd round of 'A' division.

It is our hope, that through these limitations, the "A" players, will move up to Open, "B"'s to A, and Novice will be the B's.



IT'S ALL OVER NOW

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Capitol City Classic February 1977
Lansing, Mi.

Men's Open: 1st Radiation Man
2nd Ron DeMunter
3rd Kevin Jubera
4th Bob Barr

Women's Open: 1st Irene Ackerman
2nd Judy Huhta
3rd Sue Halsey
4th Kathy Zale

Men's Novice: 1st Harley Davis
2nd John Murphy

Men's Masters: 1st Jim Connor
2nd Jerry Miller

Denny Wood, our State Chairperson and Tournament Director, did a fine job with all the organizing and hospitality. Thanks, Denny . . .

MICHIGAN STATE SINGLES

MARCH 1977

YPSILANTI, MI.

Men's A: 1st Gil Schmidt
2nd Gordon Kelly
3rd Tom Brownlee
4th Larry Jackinovich

Women's A: 1st Carol Stewart
2nd Pat Krise
3rd Irene Ackerman
4th Judy Huhta

Men's B: 1st Mark Richardson

Women's B: 1st Becky Nemeth

A special note of thanks to Gil Schmidt, Manager and Pro, at Court Players Club, and to his entire staff for tremendous energy and organization for our first State tournament.

MOTOR CITY PRO-AM

APRIL 1977

SOUTHFIELD, MI.

Men's Open: 1st Brian McDowell
2nd Radiation Man

Women's Open: 1st Carol Stewart
2nd Irene Ackerman

Men's Seniors: 1st Fred Lewerenz
2nd John Hatcher

MICHIGAN STATE DOUBLES

MAY 1977

KALAMAZOO, MI.

Men's Open: 1st Mike Yellen/Tom Brownlee

Women's Open: 1st Judy Huhta/Pat Krise

State Seniors: 1st Fred Lewerenz

State Juniors: 1st Mike Yellen

THREE DAYS IN MAY

MAY 1977

GRANDVILLE, MI.

Men's Open: 1st Dan McLaughlin
2nd Gordon Kelly
3rd Tom Carpenter
4th Ron DeMunter

Women's Open: 1st Kathy Zale
2nd Mia Bertsch

Men's B: 1st Buzz Carhart
2nd Eldon VanSpybrook

Men's C: 1st Randy Rouse
2nd Will Katerberg

Women's B: 1st Kathy Gibson
2nd Carol VanSpybrook

Men's Srs.: 1st John Raducha
2nd Fred Wiegand

Hats off to all players in Gordon Kelly's Tournament up at Grand Rapids in May. Good weather and great matches seemed to be the order of the day. Special thanks to Gordon and his staff . . .

MICHIGAN AMATEUR INVITATIONAL OPEN SEPTEMBER 1977 PONTIAC, MI.

1st Place: Mike Yellen \$200 + 3 pc.luggage set + trophy + membership
2nd Place: Gordon Kelly \$150.00
3rd Place: Radiation Man \$125.00
4th Place: Tom Brownlee \$100.00
Consolation Winner: Neil Llewelyn \$30.00 + Athletic Bag

Congratulations to Mike on a great win in this tournament. His match with Gordon Kelly proved that the caliber of play here in Michigan has certainly come a long way. Everyone who was invited to play in this tournament deserves a special mention, along with Bob Madole, the manager of the University Racquet Club, and Ron Zilka, the owner. Hospitality was great, as were the prizes and cash prize money, which totaled over \$900.00! Credit goes to Neil Llewelyn also, for his efforts in organizing and inviting all the top players here in Michigan.

OUT OF STATE RESULTS . . .

Did you know that . . .

Irene Ackerman, from the Detroit area, won 1st place in the USRA Mid-East Regionals held in Toledo, Ohio? Irene won a free round-trip air fare to the Nationals in San Diego.

Gordon Kelly took 3rd Place in the Men's Open recently in the Milwaukee USRA Pro-Am? Congratulations, Gordon!

Judy Huhta, from the Detroit area, won 4th place and \$100 in the Cleveland-Vittert Labor Day Open? Steve Keeley took 2nd Place, losing to Jerry Hilecher in the finals. Steve is a native of Michigan and now a professional player. . .

Irene Ackerman placed 3rd in the Women's Open at the USRA Milwaukee Pro-Am . . .

Jim Easterling broke the record for marathon racquetball playing up in Grand Rapids, by staying on the court for 61 hours and 10 minutes. The marathon, at the Racquetball Plus Club, was organized to raise money for charity. Nice work, Jim . .

ONE MORE TO COME . . . 3rd SCOTTISH OPEN TOURNAMENT

November 4,5,6

Alma College at Alma, Mich.

Entries are limited
so don't delay . . .

Entry fee: \$12.00 Deadline: Oct.27th

Call for further info - John Raducha

W: 517 875-2550 H: 517 875-2650

Well, that seems to cover the nucleus of what's been happening with racquetball, both here in Michigan and elsewhere. The next newsletter will be coming out in December. If you want anything put in, the deadline for publication is Nov.15th. GOOD SHOOTING!

Yours for Racquetball

Regional State Co-Chairpersons:

Denny Wood State Chairperson

Gil Schmidt

Judy Huhta

Bob Dykstra

John VanDerwell

Denny Wood

**MUST BE
MEMBER OF
MRA & USRA**

**MICHIGAN
RACQUETBALL
ASSOCIATION**

2808 S. Deerfield
Lansing, Michigan
48910
Phone:
(517) 882-8789

OFFICIAL ENTRY

**BURGER KING & COCA COLA
RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT**

**OCTOBER 27, 28, & 29, 1977
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504**

Site: Racquetball Plus (Alpine), 1040 Four Mile Rd., Grand Rapids,
Michigan 49504

Facilities: 9 regulation courts

Entry Fee: \$20. all open class, \$15. all other

Entry Deadline: October 21, 1977

Official Ball: Seamco 558 (black)

Awards: \$750. prize money for Open class and "A" class winner
Prizes all other classes

Rules: U.S.R.A.

Consolation : All first round losers (must register to play)

Mail entries to: Racquetball Plus (Alpine)
1040 Four Mile Rd.
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49504

Make Checks Payable To: Racquetball Plus

Please Enter Me In:

____ Mens Open ____ "A" ____ "B"
____ Mens Seniors (35 & over) ____ Mens Masters (45 & over)
____ Womens Open ____ "A" ____ "B"
____ Juniors (18 & under)

Shirt Size: () Sm. () Med. () Large () X-L

Starting Time: Call (616) 784-3900, later starting times will be
reserved for out of town entries.

I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, waive
and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have
against the Racquetball Plus (Alpine) Club, their respective agents
or any facility used for this tournament, for any and all injuries which
may be suffered by me in connection with my competition in said
tournament.

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

**Affiliated with
the
U.S.R.A.**