



# Southeastern Squash Racquets Association

August 2006

Hello SESRA:

First, squash news:

August DRAGON DOC tourney at Windy Hill promises a PSA event:

I'm told Mark Heather will participate in the \$3,500 PSA challenge event at the annual Dragon Doc squash tournament, scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at Windy Hill.

Heather, 29, is head professional at the University Club of Chicago beginning May 1.



He recently ascended to a career best No. 48 world ranking on the strength of several strong recent performances, most prominently a semifinal finish in the Pakistan Open (in which he knocked off world No. 16 Shahid Zaman in his opening round) and a quarterfinal advance in the Malaysian Open. A native of Portsmouth, England, Heather has played some of his best squash in USSRA national tournaments of late, having won the U. S. 25-and-over flight in Boston last spring and, just past winter, having first defeated reigning three-time Individual Intercollegiate champion Yasser El-Halaby in the final and deciding match of his team's 3-2 win over Princeton in the final round of the USSRA Five-Man Team Championships in

Connecticut and then surged to victory in the Yale Club Invitational with a final-round victory over Jonny Smith. His other noteworthy results in recent years have included winning the 2004 Hyder Invitational (defeating New Zealand star Daniel Sharplin in the final) and the 2003 Minneapolis Invitational and reaching the final round of the 2003 Atlanta Open as well.

This year's Dragon Doc event includes a broad range of skill levels, age groups, juniors and the ubiquitous presence of the Doc himself. Mark your calendars!

## The 10<sup>th</sup> SESRA Golf Tourney Benefiting SESRA Junior Squash

Played on a steamy July day, the tourney was a great success, raising more than \$4,500 for junior squash. 70 players came to Atlanta National, a great golf course.

- First, thanks to our hosts:
  - Sujit Sharma and Atlanta National for hosting us.
- Secondly, thanks to our sponsors:
  - Coca Cola Enterprises
  - Atlanta Brewing Company
  - Ash Cigar Company, a new store opened on Sidney Marcus next to HD.

- Edwin Watts Golf, at their new Piedmont and Peachtree location
- Architectural Signing
- Thanks also to our longest drive and closest to the pin sponsors:
  - Nick Orphan
  - Tom Graddy
  - The Kilgallons
  - Mike Walsh
  - East Andrews Café
  - Bill Basnett
- Thanks also to our hole sponsors:
  - Atlanta Squash
  - Bill Danner
  - US Finance (Bill Villari)
  - Eben Hardie
  - Eric Granade
  - Gary Myerson
  - Ham Williams
  - Hawkins & Parnell
  - IBM
  - Jeff Clement
  - Joe McCullough
  - Lucid Partners
  - Marc Croggon
  - Mike Davis
  - Raj Swami
  - Safemark LLC
  - Steve Odom
  - Tim Osborne
  - Tom Graddy
  - William Cloherty
- And thanks to our worker bees who made it all happen: Michael Gilman, Bonnie and Natalie Alikhan, Tom Rumpler, Andre Maur, Dave Bridges, Bill Kujawa, Leslie Blythe, Michael Gough, Lorraine Gilman, and Eben Hardie.

In typically uncompetitive style, the golfers posted the lowest scores that club pro Sandy Davison had seen in quite a while. In fact, the scores were low enough to generate some whistles at the winners, to which attorney John Collar (on the winning low net foursome) tactfully replied, “No comment.” Bravest golfer of the day: Darrell Guy, who took a lesson and played golf for the first time the day before the tourney, and still wound up on the winning team.

Results included:

- Low Gross Foursome: Allan Post, Rush Barrett, Billy Benedict, Henry Poer, and Chris Mottley, with a 58.
- Low Net Foursome: Sparky Lersch, John Collar, Darrell Guy, and Glen Herschberger, with a 60 net 49.
- Longest drives: John Kostro and Sujit Sharma
- Closest to pins: Tim Carrington and [name lost in post-victory celebration]

How about a few pics?



A splendid crowd at the outset. This was about a third of the carts....



Tournament organizers Bob Burton and Diniar Alikhan. One of them looks like a squash player...



Eben Hardie and Michael Kilgallon celebrate a great day on the course.



Burton displays trophy (WOW) with pros Tom Rumpler and Andre Maur. Do they look sunburned enough, or was it the Atlanta Brewing Blonde?

Have a great end-of-summer and start tightening the core for fall squash...

As always, hope this is of interest.

Bob