



US WOMEN'S SQUASH

Women's Squash Meeting Friday October 2nd

Attendees:

Kim Clearkin – Us Squash

Sally Russell - Buffalo

Janice Segall – California

Mike Calloway - Westchester

AJ Copeland - DC

Sue Greene - Boston

Joyce Davenport - Philadelphia

Lauri Sklar – New York

Julie Kessler - Philadelphia

Kristen Paulson – Austin

Astrid Terry – San Francisco

Jen Gabler - Connecticut

Shabana Khan - Seattle

Orla O'Doherty – Santa Barbara

Hope Prockop – Boston

Lisa Litt – New York

Womens Squash Week

Kim reported that we had posted events for 22 venues across the USA and 2 in Canada, 2 in England.

More were held but great to get feedback on so many. More than we have had in the past. Kim to write an article for the next magazine about WSW.

Feedback for next year:-

1. Improve Sign Up process – the current system is too difficult and not built for purpose. This will enable us to better and more accurately capture numbers
2. Send the logo to organisers so they have more flexibility to design their own posters

Ideas for going forward

WSW has initiated several new programs in clubs and has inspired more people to continue to play.

1. Some clubs have started more day time ladies clinics (or have better attendance)
2. Mike Calloway started a 90 day challenge (more details please Mike1)
3. Austin have more women league players inspired by ESE
4. Boston has a bigger and better distribution list for women
5. Boston finds self-scheduling tournaments better for women
6. Bay Area is going to try a womens clinic for the mums to play instead of watching their kids take lessons
7. Seattle have Mixed Team leagues. 2 men and 2 women for instance – social and fun.
8. We hope it inspires more women to play in Howe Cup! We need all organisers to try to promote HC to their women.



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US Open

Kim explained the two events this year that are scheduled for the US Open.

Women in Sports Day – Wednesday October 14th 5pm-6:30pm

"The tradition continues with the second annual Women in Sports Day at the U.S. Open. There will be a star-studded cocktail reception and ceremony to honor the accomplishments and contributions of women in squash and the broader sports world in the main lobby of the Daskalakis Athletic Center. Reception attendees will then proceed to the glass court to watch some of the best female athletes in the world compete on. Last year more than a dozen national champions, winners of the Achievement Bowl, and even current WSA stars including World No. 1 Nicol David, joined in on the celebrations—don't miss out this year, buy your tickets now!"

Kim confirmed which WSA players will attend this year. Jen Gabler will be recognized as the winner of the Achievement Bowl. Alicia McConnell will be recognized as the winner of the Presidents Cup.

Character in Sports Day – Thursday October 15th 5pm-6:30pm

Character in Sports Day brings attention and focus to the importance of the principles of fair play and sportsmanship by welcoming all past recipients of national sportsmanship awards including the DeRoy Junior Sportsmanship Award, the women's Feron's Wedgwood Sportsmanship Trophy, Men's Sportsmanship Award, and the collegiate individual (Skillman and Richey Awards) and collegiate team (Sloane and Chaffee) Awards.

Orla O'Doherty will be recognized as the winner of the Ferons Woodworth sportsmanship award.

Howe Cup

Planning for this event is going very well thanks to Hope, Sue Greene and Ali Magee. But we need people to enter! Please encourage your captains to start registering teams!

Doubles

A B/C doubles event looks likely with about 6 players already showing interest and some more also from Philadelphia.

Ratings

The guidelines will be enforced – that said it is recognized it isn't a perfect system. Kim, Carole Grunberg and Wendy Ansdell to form a Ratings Review Panel. Players or captains must petition them if they would like a rating review for a player.

Player rosters needn't be in rating order if a captain feels it is not representative of playing level.

College teams are allowed to enter. It was felt it would be a great way to expose the girls to squash life after college.

Referee Clinic will be scheduled for 9:00am Friday

Womens Meeting will be scheduled for 12:00pm Noon, Saturday

Women's Awards

There are two women's awards given out at Howe Cup. A sportsmanhip award and Achievement award. We only have one nomination so far. We need more. Please send in any recommendations with a paragraph backing it up to AJ. We have until October 15th. (ajcopeland@copelandco.com)



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Skill Levels

Few entries so far this year. Starting Thursday is seen as a problem. Kim to consider making the womens part a Friday / Saturday event only.

Social Media

We have a Women's facebook page – which has been used well so far. But we have to keep it going. Kim encouraged everyone to continue to post “relevant” stories. It seems we don't yet have a young person to manage this!

Items to consider going forward:-

1. Helping regions manage a contact list. Google groups has been found to be successful
2. Organising more National Initiative Women's events such as a Kick off the New Year or End of Season event.
3. Somehow engaging the younger players to inspire the older players. Needs more thought but an embryonic idea from Hope.