



**Summary of Winter MBA Board Meeting Minutes
Terre Haute, Indiana January 18, 2004**

**End of my Reign
by Jess Morgan**

It's been a long run, but after nearly ten years of serving on the MBA Board of Directors, I am resigning. My term is not up, but it is time for me. When I first joined the Board, my first responsibility was to maintain the MBA website. I will continue to serve the MBA in that regard. However, I will not be editor of the Flick, nor will I maintain membership.

More information about these changes will be announced at the General Meeting of the MBA at the Midwest Closed Championships in March. For now, what you need to know as members is that your membership information will be handled by Mary Ann Bowles from March onward. Note that the MBA membership form will have her name and address instead of mine. For this reason, please try to use the most current version of the newsletter when you fill out the membership application to renew or join!

The new editor of the Flick will be Tod Tyslan, of Yellow Springs (near Dayton), Ohio. We're still working out the details, but we hope to have him start with either the March or April issue. Tod (one d, not two) is an Art Director at Chisano Marketing Communications in Dayton. He has plenty of experience in the areas of publishing and design and his writing skills are phenomenal. If you want to submit material for the Flick, his information will be listed on the left side of page 2 in coming issues.

I've enjoyed my years on the Board and I hope that someone else will take my place and work hard to help the MBA reach its goals. The Board has to provide a strong backbone to support badminton in our region. There are a number of hardworking individuals that do this already, but the Board also needs fresh faces combined with motivated personalities. It's not enough just to have a good idea. To be an effective Board member, you have to be willing to follow the idea through and see it come to life. If you think you can do that, please consider joining the MBA Board of Directors.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Kristin Artman, Mary Ann Bowles, Dan Kosierowski, Dawn Patel, and Alice Wunderlich. Elke Haefke was absent—Mary Ann Bowles held her proxy. Ken Alwine, Jess Morgan, and Katharina Prax were absent, and no one held their proxies.

President Dawn Patel called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM EDT in the lobby of the Indiana State University-Terre Haute recreation building. She welcomed all and thanked them for their attendance.

Application for Regional Funding: Kristin Artman had created an Application for Regional Funding. Board members reviewed the application. A report on the spending of the funding will be included in the application, due within thirty days of the funding being spent. Applications will be addressed at both the summer and winter board meetings, but need to be received two to three months before Board meetings so applications may be thoroughly reviewed and considered.

Outstanding MBA Junior Plaques: Kristin Artman had contacted previous Outstanding MBA Junior recipients to see if they were interested in having a plaque to commemorate their honor. Four players were interested in plaques—Dawn will see that they get them. Kristin agreed to take nominations for the 2004 Outstanding MBA Junior award winners and Sandra Norton award winners. She will handle the Junior awards presentations.

- USAB Report:** Mary Ann Bowles reported on USA Badminton activities including:
- 2004 Regional USAB Funds - \$5K (\$4K in cash, \$1K in VIK)
 - USAB Board of Directors election coming – Dudley Chen, Don Chew, and Kevin Han up for re-election
 - 2004 Junior Nationals -June 30/July 3 in Marblehead, MA
 - 2004 Senior Nationals - April 28/May 2 in Miami Lakes, FL
 - 2004 USAB Walk of Fame Induction Ceremony January 15th at OCBC Tom Carmichael and Stan Hales inducted from our region
 - 2004 Adult Nationals – June in Shreveport, LA. USAB Board meeting to be held during the tournament
 - Preliminaries of Thomas/Uber Cup Zonal Qualifier. February 17-21, 2004, in Barbados
 - Thai Open – January 20-25, 2004: U.S. players Kevin Han/Howard Bach seeded #8
 - USAB Athlete Funding Proposal: Funding to be based on trials held this spring. \$36K to be dispersed to top two athletes in each event.

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The Flick is published by the Midwest Badminton Association 10 times a year, monthly between September and April, with May/June and July/August being combined.

Submitting Information:

Tournament entry forms will be printed and distributed with The Flick for a \$75 fee. Website publishing is included in this fee. Please submit forms to the Editor at least eight weeks before your entry deadline.

Tournament results and drawsheets should include full names of participants and match scores. An article would be nice, too.

Send material with little or no formatting to the address or email below. Please include your phone number or email address.

Deadlines:

Articles and entries and other material may be submitted at any time. But to guarantee that your submission will be in the next issue, it should get to the editor by the 15th of the month prior (e.g. to be in the April issue, send by March 15th). Otherwise, it will be printed at the editor's discretion.

Advertising rates per issue:

Full Page: \$55 (\$40 if 6 or more issues)
 Half Page: \$35 (\$25 if 6 or more issues)
 Quarter Page: \$25 (\$20 if 6 or more)

Payment:

Make checks payable to the Midwest Badminton Association and mail to the address below.

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Tournament Calendar

MARCH 2004

Date	Tournament/Location	Contact Information
Mar 12-14	Midwest Closed Championships Terre Haute, IN	Dawn & Bharat Patel 765-349-0662 dbpatel@rnetinc.net

APRIL 2004

Date	Tournament/Location	Contact Information
April 3-4, 2004	Rufus Tilden Mem/Wisc Open West Allis, WI	Russ Janowski 414-382-3291 rtjanowski@ra.rockwell.com

MAY 2004

Date	Tournament/Location	Contact Information
May 7-9, 2004	2004 Stephen Race Mem Badminton Tournament Northville, MI	Dan Leung dan43632@aol.com Northville Parks & Rec (248) 349-0203

**For updates regarding tournaments, check out the Event Calendar page on our website:
<http://www.midwestbadminton.com>**

As soon as your tournament/camp has been scheduled, please send dates, location, and contact person to the Flick, and it will be listed here at no charge to you.

Entry forms and event information will be distributed with *The Flick* for a \$75 fee (see left).

They will also be made available on the MBA's website (<http://www.midwestbadminton.com>) at no additional cost, unless you specify that you do not want it to be published on the website.

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Minutes continued from page 1

- USAB Administrative Coach: Mohan Subramaniam from Malaysia – will work in National Office ½ time for USAB and ½ time for IBF To handle coaching development and coaching certification program
- Olympics in Athens, Greece, August 14-21
- U.S. Open, September 21-25, in L.A. area

Junior Committee and Junior Tournament Divisions: USAB Junior Committee Chair Fred Coleman is asking the five USAB regions to create a regional Junior committee to encourage Junior development in the regions. Would there be MBA members interested in serving on such a committee?

Suggestion was also made to include Junior divisions in regional tournaments. Junior events could be held on Friday evenings or along with adult events on Saturday and Sundays if court space is available, but run from a separate desk. Players would be divided into Under-19 and Under-13 groups, all players get a participation medal, and trophies are awarded to the winners. Though not feasible at the Classic and Adult Championships, would regional tournaments be willing to try this suggestion?

Was a Junior MBA Championships in the plans for the spring in Chicago? Dawn will check with Jess Morgan on that issue.

Nominating Committee: Board members up for reelection in March are Ken Alwine, Elke Haefke, and Alice Wunderlich. Ken Alwine will not run for reelection, but Xianhua Wan, father of Hanlin Wan, a promising Junior player, is interested in serving as a Board member. Anyone interested in running for the Board should contact Dan Kosierowski, Nominating Committee Chair.

Communications: Website and Flick articles are needed from the Board and MBA members. Send to Jess Morgan.

Senior MBA Championships: Entry numbers were down again, but the facility is available, and Rick Dawson is willing to host the tournament. It was the Board consensus to try the Senior tournament one more year in Dayton, and encourage more Seniors to consider playing, especially those from the Chicago area.

Region 2 Classic: This year's Classic drew 113 entries although many top U.S. players did not attend. The Patel's are willing to host again in 2005. Checking will be done on black plastic sheeting to


enhance visibility in the Terre Haute facility.

Adult MBA Championships: Tournament set for March 12-14 in Terre Haute. Medals will be awarded to winners. Matt Wrobel and Serge Penksik have volunteered their classical guitar skills for entertainment during and following dinner. Duane King will be producing artists' drawings of players in action (for a contribution) during the tournament.

Ken Alwine had suggested that a former champion be invited to present the winners with their trophies. The MBA would cover the cost of the Saturday night dinner for the champion and spouse, and a Saturday night stay at the host hotel. Top title-holder of MBA open titles will be researched and invited.

Rankings: Tournament results were needed for the Omaha and Kalamazoo tournaments. (Ed. note: at time of print, Kalamazoo results have been submitted).

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM EDT.



MIDWEST
BADMINTON
ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

MBA Membership allows you to participate in MBA Closed Championship tournaments (if you meet residency requirements) and to be eligible for MBA rankings (if USAB member too). You will receive a subscription to the MBA newsletter, The Flick. You have a choice to receive this online or via postal service. Check the box next to your email address to receive the Flick online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Area Code and Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ Home Club: _____

Email Address: _____

I want to (check one):

Join the MBA as an individual member (\$15 for year membership July - June)

Get my Flick! Please verify membership and correct info above.

Be a patron for the year (\$30, \$50, \$100... or more! It's tax deductible!)

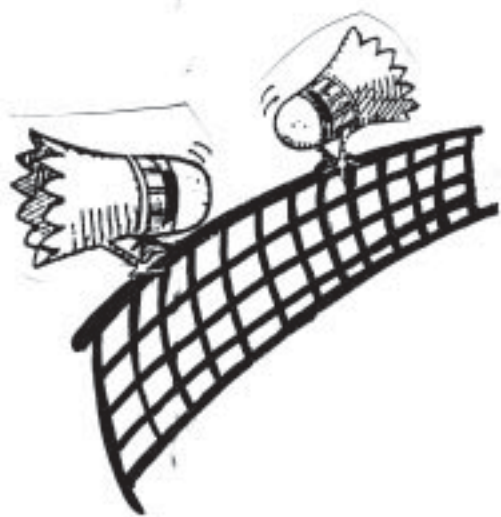
Make a tax deductible donation to _____ (ex. Jr. Development)

Register an MBA Club. Please send me forms and information.

Make check payable to Midwest Badminton Association and send to:
MBA c/o Jessica Morgan
1106 N. Hermitage Ave. Apt. 2F Chicago IL 60622

bird.chat.net

Drop and Smash are chatting up a storm again on bird.chat.net. What do you want them to chat about? Let us know - they love to chat, no matter what the topic!



Drop: Hey, you remember hearing about the USAB Walk of Fame Plaza?

Smash: Yeah!

Drop: Well, the Midwest region has two new inductees into the WOF!

Smash: So when and where did this happen and why wasn't I invited?

Drop: Thursday night, January 15th, at the Orange County Badminton Club in Orange, California. Your invitation must have got lost in the mail.

Smash: Oh well. Who are the new inductees?

Drop: Tom Carmichael of Clarkston, Michigan, elected to the former USAB Hall of Fame in 1993, received his tile in the Walk of Fame.

Smash: Good for him - what a player! And?

Drop: Stan Hales of Wooster, Ohio, was just elected to the Walk of Fame on his service record for the USAB.

Smash: Stan is the man! Who else was inducted?

Drop: Along with Tom, Judianne Kelly, James Poole, and Lois Alston also received their tiles. The other new inductees were Ken Davidson, Linda French, and Patsy Stephens.

Smash: So how often does this induction happen?

Drop: An election is held annually for new inductees, and some of the former Hall of Fame members are also inducted annually. The next induction may be held during the 2005 World Championships in Anaheim.

Smash: Well, let's congratulate these two deserving Walk of Fame members!

Results from Midwest Sr. Closed Championships Dec 13-14, 2003 - Sinclair College, Dayton, Ohio

Event: "Junior Senior" (35+)

MS (RR) Pratap Naick def. George Daley 15-3, 15-8

MD (RR) Pratap Naick/Tom Carmichael def George Daley/Dave Obert 15-4, 15-11

XD (RR) Bharat Patel/Dawn Patel def. Don Ross/Norma Trusler 15-12, 15-8

Event: "Seniors" (40+)

MS George Daley def. Bharat Patel 7-15, 15-9, 4-4 def

MD George Daley/Dave Obert def. Bharat Patel/Don Ross 15-12, 15-12

WD (RR) Dawn Patel/Mary Ann Bowles def. Helen Weyand/Linda Downey 15-6, 15-3

XD George Daley/Helen Weyand def. Bharat Patel/Dawn Patel 15-13, 17-15

Event: "Seniors" (40+) Consolation

MS Dave Obert def. Claus Weyand 15-4, 15-4

MD Terry Downey/Rick Dawson def. Duane King/Anthony Artman 15-7, 15-9

XD Terry Downey/Linda Downey def. Anthony Artman/Mary Blandino 15-9, 15-11

Event: "50+"

MS (RR) David Gladwin def. Don Ross 15-12, 15-5

MD David Tomberg/David Gladwin def. Stephen Wang/Iggy Yee 15-4, 15-2

WD (RR) Mary Ann Bowles/Mary Blandino def. Helen Weyand/Linda Downey 15-1, 15-5

XD Len Williams/Mary Ann Bowles def. Stephen Wang/Helen Weyand 17-16, 15-3

Event: "50+" Consolation

MD Terry Downey/Charles Norton def. Phil Kropp/John Johnston 15-11, 13-15, 15-8

XD Terry Downey/Linda Downey def. Peter Cheng/Rana Seal 15-6, 15-5

Event: "60+"

MS Herschel Ownbey def. Morton Katz Default

MD Herschel Ownbey/Bob Ericson def. Anatoly Berdichevsky/Charles Norton 15-12, 7-15, 17-15

WD (RR) Eilly Bhuyan/Alice Mohr def. Barbara Ownbey/Clara Gamble 15-9, 15-7

XD Len Williams/Alice Mohr def. Wolfgang Arlt/Gloria Eli 15-7, 15-3

Event: "60+" Consolation

MS Terry Downey def. John Johnston 15-9, 15-10

MD Wolfgang Arlt/Harvey Mason def. Ron Gross/Morton Katz 15-11, 12-15, 15-11

XD Bob Ericson/Bea Zimmer def. John Mohr/Constance Ecklar 15-4, 15-8

Event: "70+"

MS (RR) Wolfgang Arlt def. John Mohr 15-8, 15-4

2004 Midwest Closed Championships

Friday March 12 - Sunday March 14, 2004

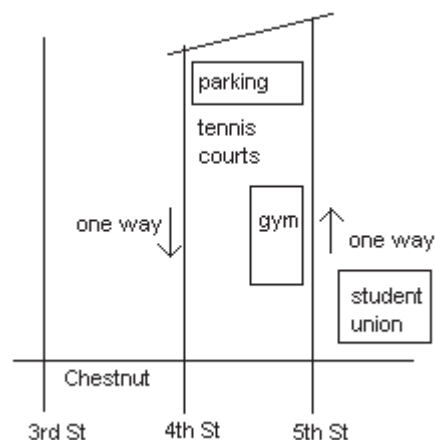
Terre Haute, Indiana

Sanctioned by USA Badminton. USAB Rules: When you register, you MUST sign USAB release form. You MUST show your USAB membership card or pay \$25 fee.

- Location** Indiana State University Recreation Center, 5th Street, Terre Haute, Indiana
- Eligibility** You must have resided in the USAB Region 2 since July 1, 2003 or you must have played in 3 Midwest Tournaments since moving to the Midwest Region. You must be a member of USAB and the MBA to participate. MBA membership expiration date is on the mailing label of your Flick or after logging on to view the Flick online.
- Events** Open (any age) Men's and Women's Singles, Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.
- Format** Open: Enter A with Feed-in Consolation or BCDE Drop Flight.
Note: If fewer than 8 entries in A for any open event, the format will be ABCD (combined).
- Entry Fee** \$30 for the first event (includes Saturday night banquet), \$10 for each additional event.
Note: Entries postmarked before February 13th may deduct \$5!
- Entry Deadline** Entry form **must be postmarked by February 20, 2004**. Late and/or telephone entries accepted only under extenuating circumstances; late fee additional \$5.00 per event. Phone entry fee additional \$5.00 per event. No refunds will be given after March 4th!
- Schedule**
- | | | |
|---------------|--------|--|
| Fri. March 12 | 6:00pm | Registration |
| | 6:30pm | Men's & Women's Open Singles |
| Sat. March 13 | 8:30am | Registration |
| | 9:00am | Men's and Women's Open Doubles |
| | | Open Mixed Doubles after Doubles |
| | 8:30pm | Banquet and General Meeting
(ISU Student Union across the street from gym). |
| | | Limited number of additional tickets can be purchased for \$20 each |
| Sun. March 14 | | Finals times will be announced at Banquet |

- Mail entries to** Dawn Patel
5390 State Rd. 37N
Martinsville, IN 46151
- Questions** Call Bharat Patel
Home 765-349-0662
Work 317-233-8086
- Make Checks Payable to:** Midwest Badminton Association

- Lodging**
- Drury Inn 812-238-1206**
Special rate \$64.99 + Tax
- Days Inn 812-235-3333
Holiday Inn 812-232-6081, 800-HOLIDAY
Signature Inn 812-238-1461, 800-822-5252
Knights Inn 812-234-9931, 800-843-5644
Pear Tree Inn 812-234-4268, 800-AT-A-TREE
Motel 6 812-238-1586
Super 8 Lodge 812-232-4890, 800-800-8000
Best Western 812-234-7781, 800-528-1234
Terre Haute Travelodge 812-232-7075
Dollar Inn 812-232-8006



Additional Maps & Directions can be found at <http://www.mapquest.com>

- Umpire Clinic** There will be an Umpire's Clinic hosted by Mary Ann Bowles on Friday and Saturday. There is no cost for this training to become a Regional Umpire. Call 314-487-7187 or email MABowles@worldnet.att.net to register.
- Miscellaneous** Shuttles will be sold at the tournament desk for \$1.50 each. Facility has 15 courts. Showers available (bring own towel, lock, etc)

2004 Midwest Closed Championships - Entry Form

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(s) _____ USAB# _____ Exp Date _____

Home Club _____ Email: _____

Singles		Doubles			Mixed Doubles
Men	Women	Men	Women	Partner	Partner (or Request male, female)
___ A ___	___	___ A ___	___	_____	___ A _____
___ BCDE ___	___	___ BCDE ___	___	_____	___ BCDE _____

If BCDE, please rate your ability. Don't be modest. This will help us make the draw. B C D E

T-Shirt Size S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____

Total Events entered: _____ I would like _____ extra banquet tickets at \$20 each.

Applicable USAB/MBA fees: _____ \$25 Temp.USAB fee (must pay if you don't have USAB#)

_____ \$15 Annual MBA (must pay if you do not get The Flick)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Make checks payable to: Midwest Badminton Association
Mail to: Dawn Patel, 5390 State Rd. 37N, Martinsville, IN 46151

Waiver: It is agreed that all entrants waive any and all claims against Indiana State University, USA Badminton, and the Midwest Badminton Association for injury to themselves or others, or for property loss or damage incurred during this tournament.

Signature _____ Date _____
(If under 18 years old, parent or guardian signature required)

HELP WANTED!
By Dan Kosierowski

Yes, help is wanted! No experience necessary, just the love of badminton.

Have you even thought of being on the MBA Board of Directors? If so, this year can be your chance. There will be at least one opening on the Board. The elections will be held at the banquet during the Midwest Championships in March.

I have been on the board for one year, and I LOVE IT !
If this is something that you might like to do? Please send me a email (see page 2). Or just come to the Midwest Championships, and when I ask for people who want to run for the board, raise your hand. My inbox on my computer is empty. Please fill it. I want to hear from you.

Triskaidekaphobia

By Dawn Patel

The MBA has hosted several USAB Classic events over the years, but this is just the second time it has been held in conjunction with the Indiana Badminton Open. Since this year was the 13th Annual Indiana Badminton Open several people commented on the superstition surrounding the number 13.

Triskaidekaphobia is the fear of the number 13. The idea that the number 13 is unlucky is a superstition. There are many different kinds of superstitions, based on things in nature, charms, spirits, objects, colors, accidents and so on. But there is probably no superstition that has so many people observing it, in one way or another all over the world, as the one that the number 13 is unlucky. Hotels often don't have a 13th floor — the count goes from 12 to 14. Hotels also may not have a room 13. And many people would never have 13 persons at a dinner table. Yet there is no single, accepted explanation for the origin of the superstition about 13. There are many different ideas about the origin of it, though. Some experts say 13 was unpopular from the time when humans learned to count. By using 10 fingers and two feet as units, a person came up with the number 12. But beyond that — 13 — was unknown and frightening.

Another source may be the Valhalla banquet in Norse mythology, to which 12 gods were invited. Loki, the spirit of evil and mischief, intruded, making 13. As a result, Balder, the favorite of the gods and spirit of light and peace, was killed. Alexander wanted to be a God and accordingly made a 13th statue on the place of his capital. He died and people considered that his will to be a 13th God (12 gods, one for each month were known) was the reason of his death. After that this number was considered as unlucky.

According to historians, there were 13 people at Christ's Last Supper, Jesus and his 12 apostles. One of which was Judas, who soon-after betrayed Jesus. Christ was crucified on Friday 13th. The Last Supper was held on the 13th of Nisan so, Friday 13th is considered as Unlucky.

There was an explosion of an oxygen tank of Apollo 13, which was on its way to the moon. The explosion occurred on April 13, 1970.

Sometimes what is unlucky for some might be lucky for others, for example, SADDAM HUSSEIN contains 13 letters in his name and was captured on the 13th of December, 2003. This was very unlucky for him and

his followers, but very lucky for most of the rest of us.

Where am I going with this? Well, I'll tell you. I am one of those people who take notice of her surroundings, sometimes in minute detail. I have noticed that when the number 13 occurs in my life it is NOT an unlucky number. It is the opposite, most of the time. My birthday occurs on the 13th and I like to celebrate! I always choose the number 13 for my athletic uniforms. I am going to tell you some of the lucky and unlucky happenings during the tournament weekend and let you decide if there should be cause for superstition.

Before the tournament even started poor Melinda Keszthelyi and Marc Lai had arrived at the airport without their luggage. For some reason Marc had told Melinda that they should put a few items they might need in their carry on luggage just in case something happened, but Melinda felt comfortable with just carrying the rackets. Luck for them they had Linda and Terry Downey taking care of them for the weekend. In spite of waiting many hours and making many phone calls their luggage did not arrive until Saturday evening. Melinda still played some pretty good matches even in shoes that were 2 sizes too large. Melinda and Marc both have a great story to share now. (Bruce Pontow has a trick from his past he can share with you about adjusting shoe sizes!) In spite of her misfortune Melinda Keszthelyi was the only triple crown winner. Marc was the runner-up in the men's singles, as well as the mixed doubles champion with Melinda.

Another major event that occurred Thursday, just prior to the start of the tourney was the addition of Norma Trusler to the 40's age group. We had fun celebrating her birthday throughout the weekend. Most of the time another birthday is better than the alternative! Norma is proud to be a member of this new senior crowd.

On Friday Herman Batelaan from Lincoln, Nebraska had to pull out due to an injury. On Saturday Leo Bland came to the registration desk to tell us that his men's doubles partner, Alvin Chiang, would not be at the tournament due to a car wreck. We hope Herman and Alvin have very speedy recoveries!

While Pam Bailey was calling matches at the desk the microphone lost volume for some unknown reason. This was adjusted, but happened to Tony Artman again on Saturday. We still haven't figured that one out, even with the help of the Indiana State University staff. We are fortunate to have such a great tournament desk crew which included assistance from Norma Trusler and Kristin Artman.

We were all a bit relieved when Bobbie and Charles Norton

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Phobia continued from page 7

arrived to set up the Louisville Badminton Supply items late Friday evening. They had gotten caught up in traffic problems, but made it safely. They provided such a great service to all the tournament players.

Don Ross was a great help handing out t-shirts to all the participants as they registered with Bharat Patel on Friday night, as well as Saturday morning. Now that Don is retired he has even more time for tournaments and socializing. I didn't hear of any unlucky karma that came his way, unless you want to count playing against the growing Ben Hussy and Hanlin Wan in the "D" Men's Doubles final on Sunday morning.

One of the hotel rooms reserved for our officials was for Lynn Maund and Beth Sopka to share. When they arrived separately it was a bit too much for the front desk to handle and so they each ended up with separate rooms. I was completely unaware of this and quite surprised when Beth came up to me late Friday night in the gym and said, "Here is your room key to room 210." Lucky for Bharat and me she hadn't had time to trash the room yet.

It is always a good idea to have qualified emergency personnel on hand just in case they are needed. The athletic trainer provided by Indiana State University did a wonderful job. She kept the ice water, PowerAde, ice bags and cups supplied, as well as provided necessary assistance as needed by the players for all 3 days of our event. Speaking of injuries and treatment...several individuals made it thru the tourney without adding any new injuries. (Mark Hecquet, Kevin Hussey, Bharat & Dawn Patel, Bruce Pontow, just to name a few!)

A great group of individuals that are always well respected and appreciated are the USAB officials. Chris Lawrence was the head umpire and kept his crew of Jim Greenlees, Lynn Maund, Beth Sopka, Rajeev Trehan with assistance from Qin (Arthur) Zhu, Dan Kosierowski, and Mary Ann Bowles performing professionally. They sure put down a lot of pizza on Friday night between officiating matches. Saturday was a good time at the Texas Roadhouse, as well as in room 625.

Speaking of room number 625 and hotels, on Sunday morning when Bharat Patel was taking care of more administrative duties and trying to pay the bill for our hotel room and the officials' rooms the lady at the hotel front desk was charging us one room too few. Bharat was very patient and let her look thru all her paperwork several times, but she still came up one room short. I came over to the desk and tried to help Bharat confirm

the room numbers. The lady said she had 210 and 211, but showed no third room on our bill. I told her I knew that the other room was 625 (the cooler room). She told Bharat and me that this was impossible because their hotel doesn't have any rooms with numbers that high! I left to go get the tournament started. Bharat soon came to the tourney without resolving the problem. We went back to take care of it after the tourney. They apologized for the confusion and said that this room did exist. (*Ed. Note: Note that if you take that room number, 625, and add up the digits... 13*)

The weather was good for a change, especially when you realize we could have been hit with all the snow, ice, snow, ice, snow mixture that has blanketed and crippled the Midwest for the past week. The weather has helped me sit down and write this article just as the deadline for our FLICK approaches.

The "A" draw was not as strong this year as in the past. Here are a few speculations made by "people in the know".

1. It is an Olympic Year and 6 top players attended the Thai Open at the same time.
2. There was another USAB major tournament in another region at the same time.
3. The economy has caused players to make more choices about expenses this year.
4. Some players heard the Midwest Classic was canceled, but in fact it was the Mid-Atlantic's Region Classic that is struggling with a facility.
5. Dates in the USAB magazine tourney were incorrect. We had a few calls wondering if we were actually having the tourney Saturday thru Monday. One person said since Monday was a holiday it would work out better.
6. The US Senior International is held the same week this year at the OCBC.

This was a little disappointing since some people traveled with high hopes of getting to see a strong group of our top players. Some were looking forward to getting autographs and photos. The players participating enjoyed the tournament, the prize money provided by the USAB and the MBA and the t-shirts. There were a lot of fun matches to play and watch during the weekend.

Jennifer Coleman was the only repeat champion in the Region 2-Midwest Classic. She was crowned as the women's doubles champion this year with Melinda Keszthelyi. It is always a special treat to be able to watch Jen compete, especially in the Midwest, since she is one of our own. Jen was the runner-up in women's singles, as well as in mixed doubles partnering with Phillip Troke. Phillip won the men's singles event and was runner-up in men's doubles with Vinay Atluri.

Other champions from outside the region include the men's ***continued on page 9***

Phobia continued from page 8

doubles team of Daniel Gouw and Daniel Ko from San Jose, California. It is great to have them playing an event in the Midwest. Ruth Menchaca from San Antonio, Texas partnered with Katie Monahan and was the runner-up team in women's doubles.

An extra special thank-you and feeling of appreciation goes out to Len and Judy Williams. Her mother passed away the week prior to the tournament. Len still managed to get the matches all timed. There are so many players and spectators that comment about how the timing of matches allows them to enjoy this tournament even more.

Another fortunate encounter for Bharat and me has been having Simmi Rani available to assist us with this tournament, as well as play in it. She was the one with the tennis looking strokes, because she still has one more season to play for the women's team at the University of Indianapolis. We appreciate her effort and attitude with all that went into making this event happen.

We are working with Kent Wright and the Indiana State University administration to improve the facility by adding black plastic to the bottom of each divider and then raising it between the courts. We hope to be able to accomplish this by the Midwest Closed Championships this March. Keep your fingers crossed, if you believe in such things!

When it comes to running tournaments, Bharat and I are fortunate to have one another. We seem to work well together on and off the court. We enjoy providing this service to the badminton community. It's great to see players – new and known, young and old, beginning to top national level. We look forward to hosting the 2005 USAB Classic (Region 2) in conjunction with the 14th Indiana Badminton Open. Mark your calendars now for January 14-16, 2005. May good fortune follow you here next year!

Nominate Your Favorite Junior By Kristin Artman

That's right...it's time again for you to nominate your choice for the Sandra Norton and MBA Junior of the Year Awards. These awards are presented each year at the Midwest Championships Banquet. All recipients will be given an engraved plaque. The MBA Junior of the Year awardees are also funded by the MBA to represent the Midwest at the US Jr. Nationals and given an MBA T-shirt.

Here are some of the qualifications for juniors to receive the MBA Jr. of the Year Award:

- They must be an MBA member (of course).
- They must be eligible to compete in and want to represent the Midwest in the US Jr. Nationals.
- Good sportsmanship and love for the sport of badminton should be included in all the wonderful characteristics of the nominee.

Here are some of the qualifications for juniors to receive the Sandra Norton Award:

- They must have shown significant improvement in their badminton game over the past year.
- In addition, they should work extremely hard and be devoted to making themselves a better player.

Feel free to submit your nominee(s) at anytime to me, Kristin Artman, via E-mail @ krisartman@hotmail.com. All juniors must be nominated by Saturday, March 13 (before the evening board meeting) in order for the MBA Board to vote on the recipients. If you are still thinking or it is too close to the deadline, you may give me your nominations at the Midwest Championships. Please include the junior's name, name of the award, and explain why you feel they deserve that award. Thank you and see you at the Champs!

Badminton Has Arrived in Spencer, Indiana By Linda and Terry Downey

Thanks to a gracious grant from the Midwest Badminton Association, the shuttles are up and flying in our new YMCA, which opened in June of 2003.

We asked the MBA for some help in starting a badminton program in our little town. They said yes and now we have a class that meets four times per week. You can catch a workout on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings 8:00 to 10:00 or on Monday nights from 7:00 to 9:00.

As of December 31, 2003, we have had 82 classes, which lasted two hours per session. Thus far, 423 people have come to join us on the court. Many of these folks are repeats, but we are definitely growing in numbers.

We have designed the class to include teaching of the skills and drills of the game, plus rules and etiquette of the sport and last but certainly not least the social and physical benefits of our great sport.

Our students seem to leave the gym with smiles on their faces and sweat on their brows. So if you are ever in our peaceful, quiet little hamlet here in south central Indiana stop in with your racket and togs and enjoy a workout with the friendly folks here in Spencer, Indiana. Thanks again to the MBA for an opportunity to spread the good news.

We would also like to thank Bobbie and Charles Norton and Louisville Badminton Supply for helping us obtain the equipment needed to start our program.



Melinda Keszthelyi, triple crown winner at the Region 2 Classic/Indiana Open, and partner Jennifer Coleman (More pictures from the Classic are on the MBA website)

In Your February Flick:

Results from Midwest Sr. Closed Championships & Kentucky Open

At the YMCA with the Downeys

Winter MBA Board Meeting Notes

Triskaidekaphobia

Entry Form for Midwest Closed Championships

Midwest Badminton Association

1106 N. Hermitage Ave. Apt. 2F, Chicago IL 60622

Thanks to our MBA Patrons

Have I forgotten you? Let me know!

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