

## **The Perfect Tournament Weekend**

### **October in Annapolis – The 2<sup>nd</sup>. Annual Annapolis Open A great warmup for the Howe Cup.**

by Melanie Heim

If you're the type of competitor who likes the non-playing hours of a tournament weekend to be as interesting as the time spent at the courts, the Annapolis Open might be the perfect event for you.

This isn't the sort of tournament where all you do is spend two-and-a-half days immersed in the smells of muscle balm and sweat, the sounds of shoes squeaking on wooden floors, and the uninteresting flavors of energy bars and sports drinks. Not by a long shot.

When you're not playing a match during the Second Annual Annapolis Open, to be held October 4-6, you can enjoy the sights and sounds of early fall in one of America's most beautiful coastal towns: Annapolis, Maryland.

To fill time between matches, wander the impressive campus of the US Naval Academy, site of the tournament, or take a five-minute walk to the center of old Annapolis. There, you'll find cobblestone streets lined with a variety of interesting shops and historic buildings. For a quick taste of local fare, stop by the Annapolis market, picturesquely located next to what are among the most beautiful city docks on the east coast.

In the evenings, enjoy local brews, world-famous Chesapeake Bay oysters, and other Annapolis favorites in the casual setting of its many pubs and restaurants. On Saturday, October 5, tournament organizers will be throwing a party at a favorite local establishment. Besides giving you the opportunity to see

fellow squash players fully dressed for a change, the party will feature a fine variety of drinks, foods, and raffled prizes.

For women squash players, the Annapolis Open serves as the perfect warmup for the Howe Cup, to be held in nearby Washington, DC two weeks later. And for anyone who likes company when traveling to tournaments, ask yourself this: How often do you find a tournament that's set in such a perfect location you can bring friends or family without worrying they'll get bored? As they leave you at the Naval Academy's impressively maintained courts and head across campus to town, you'll wonder which of you is having the most fun.

For more information about the Annapolis Open or to register, visit the Maryland State Squash Racquet Association website at [www.mssra.net](http://www.mssra.net) or email questions to [tournament@mssra.net](mailto:tournament@mssra.net). You may also contact the tournament director, Jack Hollick, at 410-752-7848.

The tournament plans to feature men's softball A, B+, B, C, D , 40, 50, 60 and women's softball A, B, C, D. Entry fees are \$55 for USSRA members and \$65 for nonmembers. (Second draw \$10). Play begins 5 p.m. on Friday, October 4 and concludes at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 6.

Annapolis has numerous hotels, bed & breakfasts and inns, many within walking distance of the Naval Academy. For more information, contact Annapolis Accommodations at 410-280-0900.