



## Squash for all...

A fitting final to the RUBiS Divisional Handicap Squash Tournament last week was watched by a packed auditorium at the Bermuda Squash Racquets Association. The final featured two of Bermuda's top players battling it out for the title, both of whom have come through the junior squash program that RUBiS helps support. Tommy Sherratt was the eventual winner overcoming the talented, recently crowned Caribbean Junior Squash Champion, Robert Maycock in a thrilling match.

For the 2nd year running RUBiS Energy Bermuda have proudly sponsored the Divisional Handicap Squash Tournament featuring players aged between 8 and 56 years old. The format is simple, players are handicapped according to their playing standard and the stronger the player, the more points they have to win in order to beat their opponent and progress in the tournament.

This year entry levels increased again with 90 competitors widening the field to include four skills graded divisions as well as a junior division. Prizes for the finalists included travel vouchers, gas vouchers, sports gear vouchers and the most sought after prize of them all, The RUBiS Junior Scholarship enabling the junior winner to claim a free BSRA Membership, sportswear vouchers and a series of free lessons with the National Coach.

Six days of hard competition produced many great matches and the Junior Final was no exception. Beckett Simmons was able to wrestle the title and take the scholarship from older brother and defending champion Laird Simmons in a close match. The 4th Division produced surprises all through the week with Joanne Bielby proving to be the find of the tournament. Joanne almost went all the way before just losing out to a strong David Franks in the final. Division 3 was the longest final of the night featuring the experienced Mike Harvey against the raw talent and speed of 17 year old Elijah Simmons. Harvey appeared to have the measure of Simmons taking a 2-1 lead however, the younger legs helped Elijah eventually come out on top in a fantastic match. Elijah was thrilled with his first tournament win and his prize, which he said will go a long way in helping him get to The Canadian Junior Open which is next on his list of titles to bag. The popular Joe Budzynski took the Division 2 title beating Peter Barrett in another close match before the main final of the night took to the court. The Sherratt/Maycock match up was talked about all week by squash enthusiasts however very few felt confident in predicting a winner. In the end it was Sherratt's experience that paid off as he won all the big points at the end of each game putting more and more pressure on his opponent and rightly taking the title.

BSRA Director of Squash, Patrick Foster said "This is just one of many tournaments we run throughout the year but the RUBiS Handicap really does seem to attract players of all levels and ages. It's great to see newcomers to the game have the chance to match up against more experienced players and be part of a great social week of squash. We're already looking forward to next year's RUBiS Divisional Handicap Squash Tournament"

**Anybody wishing to find out more information about squash in Bermuda should check out [www.bermudasquash.com](http://www.bermudasquash.com)**