



PROSQUASH

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Khar Gym lift Jindal title



The overall superiority of Khar Gymkhana saw them capture the winner's crown in the 3rd Jindal Handicap Squash Tournament, organised by the Indian Squash Professionals at the Jindal Recreation Center, Vashind, Thane, recently. In the final, Khar Gymkhana got the better of dark horses Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana 4-1 to lift the top prize of Rs 6,000. WCG had to be content with Rs 4,000. After Karan Malhotra and Saket Wali had given Khar Gym a commanding 2-0 lead with wins over Jay Thapa and Rohan Gracious, Willingdon pulled one back through Rakshak Malhotra, who got the better of Shiv Malhotra in three games, winning 15-6, 14-17, 15-6. The tie could have gone the other way had Mohit Gaba not won a thriller for Khar Gym in the fourth rubber. Gaba beat Avinash Bhatija 14-15, 15-14, 15-14 in a 40-minute thriller to knock the stuffing out of Willingdon. In the fifth tie, which was only of academic interest, Amitpal Kohli drubbed Rajesh Sonawane 17-15, 15-13 to extend Khar Gymkhana's lead. In the semi-finals, Willingdon had created a flutter when they got the better of the fancied Officers Club 3-2, while Khar

Gym were convincing 4-1 winners over Nashik Club. The Jindal handicap Tournament was the 37th tournament organised by the Indian Squash Professionals and was a huge success, with the players enjoying the facilities offered by the Jindal Recreation Center. The lodging and boarding needs of all the competitors and officials was taken care of by the hosts.

Following are the results: Final: Khar Gym bt WCG 4-1 (Karan Malhotra bt Jay Thapa 15-9, 5-15, 15-11; Saket Wali bt Rohan Gracious 12-15, 15-10, 15-13; Shiv Malhotra lost to Rakshak Malhotra 6-15, 17-14, 6-15; Mohit Gaba bt Avinash Bhatija 14-15, 15-14, 15-14; Amitpal Kohli bt Rajesh Sonawane 17-15, 15-13). Semi-finals: WCG bt Officers Club 3-2 (Jay Thapa bt Bipin Batra 13-15, 15-9, 15-5; Avinash Bhatija bt Vikram Malhotra 15-5, 11-15, 15-13; Rajesh Sonawane lost to Karan Bhatija 4-15, 15-8, 4-15; Rakshak Malhotra lost to Sanjay Pawar 5-15, 11-15; Rohan Gracious bt Vijay Sonawane 12-15, 15-7, 15-13). Khar Gym bt Nashik Club 4-1 (Mohit Gaba lost to Anil Verma 11-15, 13-15; Saket Wali bt Devraj Kalani 10-15, 15-11, 15-12; Shiv Malhotra bt Tarun Verma 17-14, 15-7; Karan Malhotra bt Vikram Kalani 15-11, 15-14; Amitpal Kohli bt Mahesh Verma 12-15, 15-13, 15-11).

Candy and Khalidbhai get their due



The President of India's Republic Day honours list was richer by names of squash personalities, 16-times women's national champion Bhuvaneshwari Kumari and President of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra, Khalid A-H Ansari. The two were awarded the Padma Shri. Bhuvaneshwari hung up her racket 10 years ago after an amazing run at the Nationals which she won sixteen times in a row. India's Heather Mackay hails from a sporting family. Her brother Yogendra Singh is a former India No.2-turned national coach and is currently India's only international referee. Younger sister Sohini Kumari has been a national-level tennis player and was also runner-up in the women's squash nationals. Bhuvaneshwari's father, Yashwant Singh, is widely respected as one of the best administrators in sport. He has been a Davis Cup selector and is presently working with the Indian Olympic Association.

Khalid A-H Ansari is chairman of the MID-DAY Group of Publications. He is a versatile journalist and plays squash regularly. Two years ago he took over as President of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra. Ansari and his team have concentrated their efforts on junior development. Sponsors like Air-India, Khar Gymkhana and Petra Foundation (Malaysia) have come forward and the juniors have never had it so good. The game has expanded into the suburbs and interiors of Maharashtra (Kolhapur, Solapur, Sangli & Aurangabad) with the help of ISP. At the national level, Maharashtra won five of the

seven junior titles. The seniors did equally well, winning the Inter-State championship. The SRAM's public courts dream has become a reality, as Andheri Sports Complex (3 squash courts) have signed agreement with SRAM to repair and maintain their squash courts for 5 Years. Efforts are on in several directions to build eight to ten such courts in the next couple of years. All this and more has come about under the leadership of Ansari.



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AIR-INDIA-SRAM JUNIORS CIRCUIT 2001

Two-horse races in most age groups



All the champs in the Air-India-SRAM Circuit

In the under-11, **Vir Seth** and **Jay Dalal** contested all four finals with Jay winning only the last leg. Vir could be said to be the most improved of the players on view.

In the girls, **Alisha Mashruwala** claimed the under-17 title beating **Satchi Mehta**. Natasha Lall won two legs.

Alisha won the first leg of the under-13 but left the remaining ones to be fought by **Nikita Emmanuel** and **Shanaz Dastur**. Nikita claimed the title and the second leg while Shanaz won the third. **Shailee Shelke** did not keep the promise of the first leg where she had reached the final.

RESULTS Air India - SRAM Junior Squash First leg at Khar Gymkhana, 20-12-2000. BOYS: U-17: **Mihir Seth** bt **Supreet Singh** 9-5 3-9 10-8 9-4; U-15: **Karampal Sethi** bt **Rishabh Singhi** 9-7 4-9 4-7 9-5 9-1; U-13: **Vikram Malhotra** bt **Naishad Lalwani** 9-4 10-9 9-7; U-11: **Vir Seth** bt **Jay Dalal** 6-9 9-3 9-6 9-7

GIRLS: U-13: **Alisha Mashruwala** bt **Shailee Shelke** 9-1 9-0 9-6; U-17: **Natasha Lall** bt **Shubika Blika** 8-1 (conceded). **2nd Leg at Bombay Gymkhana, 9-1-2001** Finals: **GIRLS** U-13: **Alisha Mashruwala** bt **Shailee Shelke** 9-1 9-0 9-6; U-17: **Natasha Lall** bt **Vikram Malhotra** 9-4 5-9 9-6 9-1; U-15: **Karampal Sethi** bt **Rishabh Singhi** 10-8 9-7 9-2; U-12: **Vir Seth** bt **Jay Dalal** 9-4 9-3 9-7

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FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

Paul, Kukreja make their mark

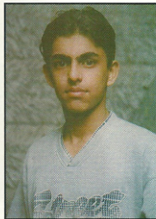


Arif Paul with his mentor Pawar

Arif Paul received his fourth All-American and All-Tournament honours at the awards banquet of the National Inter-Collegiate Squash Racquets Association. Paul, who finished sixth among the nation's 400 intercollegiate squash players, lost to Harvard's **Tim Wyant** (son of Jack '68) in the quarterfinals of the individual competition. Their five-set match lasted one hour and 45 minutes and was decided by three points. Paul, who interned at **Deutsche Bank of Scotland** during the fall of his senior year, is now working in the global diversity division of Deutsche Bank in **New York City** team at the number three slot for the national team champions this winter.

Abhijit Kukreja topples country's best in **Price Bullington Tournament** Abhijit Kukreja, a sophomore from India, won the consolation event of the **Price Bullington Tournament** in **Richmond Ted and Carol Price**, parents of **Squash Alumni Dyer '96** and **Winston '99**, host this tournament which has attracted the country's best college players for many years. The Prices have been kind enough to host Denison players

who have done very well in past competitions. Denison's Arif Paul was a finalist among the country's 16 best intercollegiate players when he participated three years ago. Abhijit Kukreja placed fifth among the 16 players this past year. Denison alumnus **Scott Harrison'90** was also the lone qualifier from the non-collegiate group. Abhijit tackled William's number one, Harvard's number two, and Dartmouth's number one on way to the finals of the consolation. There, Harvard's number one retired against him due to an injury. Abhijit has continued to represent Denison well at the number one slot with wins against Navy, Cornell, Dartmouth and Bates. He also won both the Under-19 and Open divisions of the Denison Open this past December. Abhijit is an honors student who tutors in astronomy, communications and economics.



Abhijit Kukreja ... On a roll

Accent on fitness takes Supreet to a new high



Supreet Singh
Filler than before

The most improved player of the 2001 juniors circuit has been **Supreet Singh**. The lad from Vashi won two of the four titles in the **Air-India-SRAM** juniors circuit. He may have won a third but he did not take part in the third leg. Supreet won the second leg and the grand finals in the under-17 group. He then went to Delhi and won two events—the Indian Sugar Open and also the DDA Open.

In the first event, he beat **Digvijay Singh** in the under-17 and in the DDA he beat **Dhruv Dhawan**, who had won the under-19 title.

Supreet attributes his successes to greater stress on fitness. Coached by **Chandrakant Pawar** in his formative days at Otters Club and later by **Amit Chinoy**, Supreet then took the assistance of the great **Rehmat Khan**. This was before the Delhi event. Rehmat got him to go through the fitness regimen. He also impressed upon him the need to play tighter—length, play from the back and breaking the rhythm of the opponent with a drop to the front or crosscourt. "When the opponent is off-balance, one must attack him," Supreet recalls Rehmat's advice. Supreet didn't have it on a platter in the Air-India event. "The three straight scores of the final are misleading. **Anurag** made me fight for every point. It could well have gone to the decider." The son of an encouraging dad, **Indrapal Singh**, Supreet has appeared for his 12th from **Sainath School, Vashi**. He is through with the under-17 and will start from scratch in the under-19. But he is sure of acquitting himself well in the higher group. He has already scalped a few and a few encores are in store.

PRADEEP VIJAYAKAR

Marquis Resorts-Juhu Centaur double squash Chotrani underlines supremacy

Former National champion **Manish Chotrani** reiterated his dominance over the game of squash in the city when he defeated closest rival **Bikram Uberoi** for the men's singles title in the **Marquis Resorts-Juhu Centaur handicap doubles & Men's Top-8 squash tournament**, which was played at the glass-back courts of the Hotel

Juhu Centaur, here, recently. Chotrani, a never-say-die player, even at the late age of 30, fought back splendidly after losing the first two games to Uberoi, ten years his junior. Uberoi set a quick pace to win the first two games 15-10, 15-12, but he was taken aback by the ferocity of Chotrani's comeback in the next two. Chotrani won the next two 15-12, 15-4 and on the very first point of the decider, Uberoi fell heavily on court and injured his knee, after which he conceded the match. In the semi-finals, Chotrani had an easy outing against **Amit Chinoy**, winning 15-6, 15-11, but Uberoi was made to struggle before getting the better of state mate **Saket Wali** 17-15, 15-4. In the final of the handicap doubles event, the duo of **Chandrakant Pawar (The Leela)** and **Neeraj Shirgaonkar (Otters Club)** won a tough five-setter against **Jehangir Surti** and **Siddharth Thakker**. The combination of

veteran and youngster proved a winning one against **Surti** and **Thakker** and the scoreline of 15-14, 10-15, 15-12, 13-15, 15-13 tells its own tale. In the semi-finals, while **Pawar** and **Shirgaonkar** beat **Riyaz Mohd** and **Sanjay Goyal** 17-14, 15-11, the combination of **Surti** and **Thakker** got the better of **Bikram Uberoi** and his coach

Rehmat Khan 15-10, 14-15, 15-12.

Results: Men's singles

(Final): Manish Chotrani

beat Bikram Uberoi 10-

15, 12-15, 15-12, 15-4,

conceded. **Semi-finals:**

Manish Chotrani beat

Amit Chinoy 15-6, 15-

11; Bikram Uberoi beat

Saket Wali 17-14, 15-4.

Quarter-finals: Saket

Wali beat Neeraj

Shirgaonkar 15-7, 15-4;

Amit Chinoy beat

Amptal Kohli 15-11, 11-

15, 15-11; Manish

Chotrani beat Supreet

Singh 15-9, 15-14;

Bikram Uberoi beat

Vishal Kapoor 15-10,

11-15, 15-12. **Doubles**

(Final): Chandrakant Pawar and Neeraj Shirgaonkar beat Jehangir Surti and Siddharth Thakker 15-14, 10-15, 15-12, 13-15, 15-13. **Semi-finals:** Jehangir Surti and Siddharth Thakker beat Bikram Uberoi and Rehmat Khan 15-10, 14-15, 15-12; Chandrakant Pawar and Neeraj Shirgaonkar beat Riyaz Mohd and Sanjay Goyal 17-14, 15-11. **Quarter-finals:** Bikram Uberoi and Rehmat Khan beat Rajesh Sonavane and Douglas Goudinho 17-15, 15-7, 15-12; Riaz Mohd and Sanjay Goyal beat Hillary Fernandes and Yakub Shaikh 15-10, 13-15, 15-14; Jehangir Surti and Siddharth Thakker beat Vijay Sonavane and Karan Bhatti 8-15, 15-11, 15-4; Chandrakant Pawar and Neeraj Shirgaonkar beat Vijay Jhangra and Tarun Verma 17-15, 15-12.

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INTERNATIONAL

■ **Asian Juniors Feb 2001 Chennai Boys Finals Team Event:** Pak **Malaysia** 3-0. Shahid Zaman bt Mohd Azlan Iskandar 9-5 7-9 9-3 9-6 Arshad Iqbal Burki bt Marcus Yip Y-Chong 9-2 9-3 9-6 Farrukh Zaman bt Kelvin Ho Mun Kit 9-7 9-1 **Third place:** Kuwait bt India 3-0 Mohd Yaqub Hajiyah bt Varun Kataruka 9-5 9-6 9-3 Ahmed Fayez Marzouk bt Abhinav Jain 9-7 10-8 9-10 9-0 Zeyad Al-Owaseh bt Gaurav Nandraj 9-2 9-7 **Semifinals:** Pakistan 3-0 India. Shahid Zaman bt Gaurav Nandraj 9-1 9-2 9-0. Arshad Iqbal Burki bt Sahil Vora 9-1 9-3 9-4 Farrukh Zaman bt Abhinav Jain 9-5 9-0 **Malaysia bt Kuwait** 3-0. Mohd Azlan Iskandar bt Mohd Yaqub Hajiyah 9-1 9-1 9-7. Marcus Yip Y-Chong bt Ahmed Fayez Marzouk 9-7 9-7 5-9 9-7. **Boys final:** Mohd Azlan Iskandar (Mal) beat Shahid Zaman (Pak) 1-9 10-9 4-9 9-7 9-1. **Semi-finals:** Mohd Azlan Iskandar (Mal) bt Arshad Iqbal Burki (Pak) 9-2 9-3 9-5 Shahid Zaman (Pak) bt Farrukh Zaman (Pak) 9-2 9-4 9-3 **Girls final:** Nicol David (Mal) beat Tricia Chuah (Mal) 9-5 9-6 9-0. **Semifinals:** Nicol David (Mal) bt Vaidehi Reddy (Ind) 9-0 9-1 9-0 Tricia Chuah (Mal) bt Joshua Chinappa (Ind) 9-4 9-3 **Quarterfinals:** Nicol David (Mal) bt Sally Looi (Mal) 9-0 9-2 9-0 Vaidehi Reddy (Ind) bt Karen Lau Si Ying (HK) 9-10 9-4 7-9 9-7. Joshua Chinappa (Ind) bt Poon Oeian (Mal) 9-4 4-9 9-2 9-2. Tricia Chuah (Mal) bt Rachita Vora (Ind) 9-2 10-8 9-5

■ **Austrian Junior Open, Austria: 18-3-2001 Finals:** Men's **U-19:** Alister Walker (ENG) bt Jan Koukal (CZE) 9-7 2-9 9-3 9-9 **Women's U-19:** Birgit Crottel (AUT) bt Dagmar Federn (DEN) 9-10 5-9 9-9 7-9 9-0

■ **Prince Grand Prix Wimbledon Cup, London: 16-3-2001 Women's final:** Sue Wright (Kent) bt Wendy Midland (SCO) 9-8 9-2 9-7

■ **Womans' OMC Open, Canada: 16-3-2001 Final:** Rachael Grinham (AUS) bt Nicol David (MAS) 9-4 9-2 9-4

■ **Munich Open, Germany: 11-3-2001 Final:** Sarah Fitz Gerald (AUS) bt Lailani Joyce (NZL) 9-1 9-2 9-6

■ **Swiss Open, Switzerland: 11-3-2001 Final: Mens:** Hadrian Stiff (ENG) bt Lars Harms (SWI) 15-6 15-11 13-15 15-8 **Women:** Cheryl Beaumont (ENG) bt Sharon Wee (MAS) 9-7 9-6 9-2

■ **Saravali Women's Finnish Open, Finland: 5-3-2001 Final:** Salma Shabana (EGY) bt Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) 10-8 9-4 9-2

■ **Windy City Open, Chicago: 4-3-2001 Final:** Thierry Lincou (FRA) bt John Williams (AUS) 17-16 15-12 13-15 15-13

■ **Windy City Open, USA: 4-3-2001 Final:** Thierry Lincou (FRA) bt John Williams (AUS) 17-16 15-12 13-15 15-13

■ **Maadi Open, Cairo: 3-3-2001 Final:** Kareem Darwish (EGY) bt Omar Elborlosy (EGY) 15-9 15-9 15-7

■ **Coderner Belgian Open, Belgium: 25-2-2001 Final:** Stefan Costăescu (BEL) bt Mika Mörö (FIN) 15-12 15-11 15-10

■ **British National Championships, Veldrome: 25-2-2001 Finals: Men:** Lee Beachill (Yor) vs Nick Taylor (Lancs) 15-13 15-5 15-8

■ **PIA Open, Pakistan: 16-2-2001 Finals:** Amjad Khan bt Ajaz Azmat 15-13 15-7 15-13

■ **Esso Flanders Open, Antwerp: 17-2-2001 Final:** John White (SCO) bt Paul Price (AUS) 15-10 13-15 13-15 15-7

■ **Rohas-Euro Kuala Lumpur Open, Malaysia: 10-2-2001 Mens final:** Tommy Berden (NED) bt Kenneth Low (MAS) 15-12 15-2 17-16 **Women's final:** Rachael Grinham (AUS) bt Natalie Grinham (AUS) 7-9 9-0 ret.

■ **CSFBdirect Tournament of Champions, USA: 9-2-2001 Mens Finals:** Peter Nicol (Sco) bt Jonathon Power (Can) 15-9 15-12 13-15 15-13 15-11

■ **Dutch National Championships, Netherlands: 28-1-2001 Finals: Mens:** Tommy Berden bt Lucas Buit 9-1 9-3 9-5 **Women's:** Vanessa Atkinson bt Daphne Albeda Jellema 9-0 9-0 9-1

■ **Greenwich Open, Connecticut: 28-1-2001 Finals:** Mens: David Evans (WAL) bt John White (SCO) 13-15 15-11 15-10 15-11 **Women's:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS) bt Linda Charman (ENG) 9-5 9-2 9-4

■ **El Albi Open, Cairo: 25-1-2001 Final:** Amr Shabana (EGY) bt Kareem Darwish (EGY) 15-12 15-12 17-15

■ **Rocafort Open, Barcelona: 22-01-2001 Final:** Hadrian Stiff (ENG) bt Mark Heather (ENG) 15-8 15-12 8-15 15-6

■ **Pittsburgh Open, USA: 21-1-2001 Final:** Lee Beachill (ENG) bt Olli Tuominen (FIN) 15-9 15-8 15-6

■ **Marsh McLennan Apawamis Open, New York: 15-1-2001 Mens final:** Olli Tuominen (FIN) bt Nick Taylor (ENG) 17-14 6-15 15-9 15-6 **Women's final:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS) bt Tania Bailey (ENG) 9-2 9-3 9-3

■ **Merrill Lynch Snowflake Open, USA: 8-1-2001 Final:** Lee Drew (ENG) bt Mark Heather (ENG) 8-15 16-17 15-14 15-5 15-13

■ **Vassar Women's Class of '32 Open, New York: 7-1-2001 Final:** Suzanne Horner (ENG) bt Rebecca Macree (ENG) 9-4 9-1 9-4

■ **British Junior Open: 6-1-2001 Mens' finals: U19:** Gregory Gauthier (FRA) bt James Willstrop (Glo) 9-5 9-7 9-4 **U17:** Yasser El Halaby (EGY) bt Dylan Bennett (NED) 8-9 9-1 9-1 9-6 **U15:** Rami Ashour (EGY) bt Tom Richards (Surrey) 5-9 9-1 9-5 **U13:** Tarek Mohd Mohamed (EGY) bt Omar Abo Zaid (EGY) 9-3 10-9 9-2 **Women's finals: U19:** Omneya Abdel Kawy (EGY) bt Jenny Duncall (Yorks) 9-4 9-2 6-9 9-4 **U17:** Michelle Quibell (AUS) bt Kasey Brown (AUS) 9-1 9-1 9-4 **U15:** Sara Badr (EGY) bt Nihal Yehia Ahmed (EGY) 9-2 9-2 9-1 **U13:** Ranim El Wally (EGY) bt Shahenda Ossama (EGY) 8-9 9-4 9-3

Do you know?

That Indian Railways gives following concession to squash players all over India.
1. If AC Sleeper: 50% for State Level Championship & 75% for National & India Open.
2. 2nd Class Sleeper: 75% for all tournaments. Squash players are required to take letters from their respective association.
■ **Power East India Squash Championships-Dec-2000, Calcutta Mens Final:** Ritwik Bhattacharyya bt Bikram Oberoi 7-9 9-5 9-2 5-9 9-0 **Under-19 (Boys):** Dhruv Dhawan bt Shakti Singh 9-2 9-1 9-4 **Under-17 (Boys):** Dhruv Dhawan bt. K Mansata 9-0 9-0 9-5

47th Merchant Cup Squash Tournament 20-01-2001



McLeod and Co won the title in the 47th Merchants Cup Squash Championship, defeating J Thomas 3-0 in the final at the Calcutta Rackets Club. In the Losers' Play, Bakers Square beat Kalmiti Tea 2-1 in the final. Alisha loses in Final Mumbai's Alisha Mashruwala lost to Luci Pavlova of the Czech Republic 10-9 9-2 9-7 9-4 9-9 in the final of the French Open junior squash tournament. Earlier, Alisha had beaten Wales' Rachel Green in the semifinal 9-2 9-0 9-3

■ **DDA Open Squash Tournament, Delhi: 8-3-2001 Mens' final:** 0-45 Winner: Dr. B. I. Singh R.U. Brig. Raj Manchandani 0-35: Sameer Thakral R.U. Dr. B. I. Singh Open: Ritwik Bhattacharyya R.U. Bikram Oberoi U-19: Abhinav Jain R.U. Varun Kataruka U-15: Supreet Singh R.U. Dhruv Dhawan U-15: Imran Khan R.U. Naresh Kumar U-13: Naresh Kumar R.U. Farman Khan **Women:** Mekhla Subedar R.U. Sohini Kumari

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