

PROSQUASH

Website : www.ispsquash.com Email: squashindia@yahoo.com

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A JUBILEE OF UNFORGETTABLE SQUASH

Pradeep Vijayakar looks on an appetising 50 hit by PROSQUASH

The golden jubilee beckons for PROSQUASH. It's hard to believe that 50 issues of the newsletter have reached out to more than 3000 squash fraternity all over the country and abroad.

It seems only the other day that Mahendra Agarwal called me to explore the idea about a newsletter about the project he was embarking on promoting the interests of the squash markers.

We decided to call them professionals since they were making a living from the game. Thus I coined the word PRO and added the word SQUASH. And PROSQUASH was born.

The world of squash was a small compact one. There were the south Mumbai clubs like CCI, Bombay Gymkhana and Willingdon Sports Club and at the other end there was Otters Club. They would organise tournaments and leave it at that. All they got was a mention in some of the newspapers, none in the language papers.

It took the vision of Mahendra Agarwal to go beyond that, provide opportunities for the professionals by first organising tournaments exclusively for them. When people began flocking to these events interest grew five-fold. Agarwal then began having tournaments for them and we had the start of the handicap and doubles events. In time five-star hotels began evincing interest. If The Leela, with guidance of Capt Nair and son Vivek, was the first hub, others came in its wake and even though The Leela courts closed, squash continues to flourish at the other hotels, clubs providing jobs for the pros.

All this pioneering activity needed to be chronicled for posterity. Raju Chainani was bringing out his newsletter "SIMPLY SQUASH" but he was more international and didn't devote much time to the grassroots game. He advised Mahendra Agarwal to come up with Newsletter which had more of Indian squash news. PROSQUASH decided to highlight the activities. As the activities grew the news increased from four to the present sixteen pages.

PROSQUASH began featuring other development activities like coaching camps. When Rehmat Khan, the coach of Jahangir, made Mumbai his home, PROSQUASH featured him, enlarging his image which he capitalised upon to make

big money. PROSQUASH, more than the newspapers highlighted the other great Pakistan player-coach Mohibullah Khan when he stopped over on way back to Karachi.

In time PROSQUASH began featuring the youngsters. Now this is a very important contribution. Youngsters and their parents keep these cuttings carefully and when the time comes for admission for foreign universities and squash scholarships these come useful. There are many number of youngsters who thus benefited. PROSQUASH has played a big role in this.

Then came the tussle with officialdom. It was felt that the national federation was being run in a high-handed manner. Juniors' entries were not allowed to be submitted to foreign events unless the national federation was involved. Draws of tournaments were fudged to favour some players. All this injustice had to be highlighted. PROSQUASH began playing this role. People looked to PROSQUASH rather

than the national papers to take up cudgels on behalf of the aggrieved players.

As the sport of squash spread people in places apart from the metros began having activities. These were not being highlighted by the national media. PROSQUASH began featuring them, events in Chandigarh, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Hyderabad, Pune, Ajmer, Bellary and Indore began getting the prominence they needed.

All in all PROSQUASH has played its role in taking the sport of squash to another level. The more the merrier saying applies to sport. There is the national federation, there are the clubs and there is looming presence of Indian Squash Professionals using its ingenuity to create events that capture the imagination of people beyond the squash courts.

PROSQUASH has reflected this ingenuity and its special issues have been even more special. Let's hope PROSQUASH marches on to the other succeeding jubilees in a manner that will capture the imagination of a grateful squash fraternity.

50th
Issue

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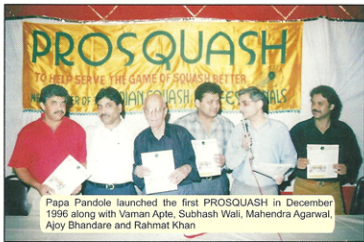
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Papa Pandole launched the first PROSQUASH in December 1996 along with Vaman Apte, Subhash Waili, Mahendra Agarwal, Ajay Bhandare and Rahmat Khan

BRITISH JUNIOR OPEN 2009, SHEFFIELD, UK

Mahesh triumphs in British Junior OpenIndians make best ever finish

(06/01/2009)



Group picture of the Winners and Runners up

Indian players had an excellent run in the 2009 edition of British Junior Open, the most prestigious tournament in the world for juniors.

Mahesh Manganakar became the second Indian boy after Saurav Ghosal to win the in the British Junior Open title when he defeated Oliver Holland from England. This was the first ever title in the Under-15 category for an Indian.

Mahesh Manganakar clinched the title beating favourite Oliver Holland of England 11-5, 7-11, 11-5, 12-10. The win did not come easy but through some high quality display where Mahesh excelled in his accurate boasts. Though he dropped the third set, Mahesh was by far the steadier of the two opponents. He was sure of his movements and perfect in his strokes as he finished off the fourth game and the match with a grand volley.

This was a well deserved title for Mahesh- he has worked hard with dedication for several years.

For Dipika, a former under-17 champion, it was an opportunity missed. The top seed Low Wee Wern of Malaysia had beaten her when the two had met six months earlier. Wee Wern was consistent and frustrated Dipika with her tight length luring her into making errors. Dipika pulled back the third game. But the supremacy continued as she beat Dipika 11-2, 11-8, 8-11 11-8 in 42 minutes. Nevertheless, Dipika has one more shot at the Under-19 title next year and is expected to be top seed.

The fate of Kush Kumar, who was riding high after his recent success in the Scottish Open was not different. He lost to Egypt's Amr Aboul Souad, who was a taller and sturdier opponent 11-7, 7-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-7 in 41 minutes. Kush has the finesse in his shot, but lacked the tactics to see him through.

It is important to note that each of these players have made their mark without any known contribution from Squash Racquets Federation of India (SRFI). Mahesh trains in Mumbai where Vaman Apte contributed to his development and Mahesh also trains in Egypt from time to time. Dipika trains extensively in Egypt and is supported by the Mittal Sports Trust. She has had to take SRFI to court due to its arbitrary and unjust treatment, in leaving her out of the Doha Asian Games squad despite being India No-2. Kush Kumar has trained in Delhi, supported by Dhampur Sugar Mills, and is coached by Amjad Khan at Hamdard School Delhi.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Boys U-15:

Mahesh Manganakar bt Oliver Holland (Eng) 11-5, 7-11, 11-5, 12-10

Boys U-13:

Kush Kumar lost to Amr Aboul Souad (Egy) 7-11, 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 7-11

Girls U-17:

Dipika Pallikal lost to Wee Wern Low (Mal) 2-11, 8-11, 11-8, 8-11

SEMI-FINALS:

Boys U-13:

Kush Kumar bt Omar El Atlas (Egy) 11-7, 11-7, 11-7

Boys U-15:

Mahesh Manganakar bt Mazen Gamal (Egy) 7-11, 11-2, 11-9, 11-4

Girls U-17:

Dipika Pallikal bt Heba El Torky (Egy) 11-9, 14-12, 9-11, 14-12



Mahesh Manganakar (Winner Boys U-15) with his trophy

ASIAN JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP, CHENNAI

Dipika loses to Low Wee in a thrilling five setter

(20/01/2009)

INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Malaysian players swept the girls' and boys' categories at the Asian junior squash championship when their top seed Low Wee Wern defeated Dipika Pallikal to take the girls' crown, while second seed Ivan Yuen beat Hong Kong's Leo Au in four games to claim the boys' title.

Dipika, for the most part, was let down by her own mistakes. By far the more attractive of the two players to watch, she squandered two matchballs at 10-8 in the decisive fifth game, after the first four games had been split.

The first game was a loosener of sorts. Dipika went overboard with her backhand drop shots and hit the tin repeatedly to hand Wern a flurry of points. Wern took the first game without much difficulty.

The second game saw a resurrection of the Indian's shot-making skills. She punched at any short offering and deceived Wern a number of times by going crosscourt when a straight hit appeared to be the normal approach. A drop-dead backhand volley at 10-8 made it a game apiece.

The third game, was played almost shot for shot by both players. But at 9-9, Pallikal ripped one from across the left court, finding, unfortunately, the top centimeter of the tin strip.

Wern, seizing the moment, came out of her defensive mould and let loose a whopper of a forehand that beat her rival at full stretch on the hind court. The third game to Wern 11-9.

Down 3-7 in the fourth, Dipika looked out for the count, before a series of stunning sidewall lickers found the Malaysian a step too slow. Fooled, yet again, by a deceptive cross, Wern handed the game to Dipika at 11-9.

The decider, as pointed out earlier, was a 'who-blinks-first' affair. Dipika cut out the flashiness from her game and stared at two match balls. But the Malaysian, hung in there and reeled off four straight points to take the trophy.

"Dipika played much better today than she did at the British Open (earlier this month). I just kept the ball in play and waited for her to commit the errors," said Wern later.

RESULTS

FINAL:

Boys: Ivan Yuen (Mas) bt Leo Au (Hkg) 11-6, 6-11, 11-8, 11-4;

Girls: Low Wee Wern (Mas) bt Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 9-11, 12-10.

SEMIFINALS:

Boys: Leo Au (HK) bt Ravi Dixit (Ind) 13-11, 11-3, 11-6

Ivan Yuen (Mas) bt Aditya Jagtap (Ind) 11-5, 11-5, 11-9;

Girls: Low Wee Wern (Mas) bt Liu Tsz Ling (HK) 11-8, 11-7, 11-5, 11-5
Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Song Sung-Mi (Kor).

QUARTER-FINALS:

Boys: Leo Au (Hkg) bt Ng Jo Wen (Mas) 11-7, 11-5, 11-9

Ravi Dixit (Ind) bt Kamran Khan (Mas) 5-11, 11-8, 11-6, 11-9

Aditya Jagtap (Ind) bt Nelson Chan (Hkg) 14-12, 12-10, 6-11, 11-6

Ivan Yuen (Mas) bt Karan Malik (Ind) 11-6, 11-7, 12-10.

Girls:

Low Wee Wern (Mas) bt Lee Ka Man (Hkg) 11-5, 11-6, 11-13, 11-2

Liu Tsz Ling (Hkg) bt Tong Wing (Hkg) 6-11, 12-10, 10-12, 11-4, 11-8

Song Sung-Mi (Kor) bt Rachael Goh (Mas) 14-12, 7-11, 11-3, 11-5

Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Low Wee Nee (Mas) 11-1, 11-1, 11-8

Indian juniors go down to Malaysia in Team Event

(24/01/2009)

TEAM EVENT

Malaysia made history and swept the honours by winning four titles at the Asian junior squash championships, 2 in Individual event held earlier and now winning both the men's and women's team event.

India who were eyeing their first ever team title were left licking their wounds when Ivan Yuen of Malaysia beat Aditya Jagtap in the first match easily and then Kamran Khan fought off a resilient Ravi Dixit to win the second match in four games.

In the first encounter Malaysian's dominance completes the only period when Ivan was in deficit came in the third and final game, when Aditya won the opening point on his service.

"I had played him earlier in the singles event and knew what his game was all about," said Ivan of Aditya later.

Down 0-1, India looked to Ravi Dixit to recreate his rallying instincts. Ravi delivered, but only for a game or so. He lost the first game, equalised in the second, and then went down in the next two.

"I had to maintain composure. I lost the second game because I was slow off the blocks. Once I got my composure, I knew I was the better player," said Kamran.

RESULTS

FINAL :

Boys:

Malaysia bt India 2-0

Ivan Yuen bt Aditya Jagtap 11-4, 11-2, 11-6

Kamran Khan bt Ravi Dixit 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 11-8.

Girls:

Malaysia bt Korea 2-0

Low Wee Wern bt Sun-Mi Song 11-8, 11-2, 11-2

Low Wee Nee bt Ji-Hyun Lee 11-4, 11-4, 11-7.

Bronze medal play-off:

Hong Kong bt India 2-0

Tsz Ling Liu bt V. Anvesha Reddy 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 13-11

Tsz Wing Tong bt Anaka Alankamony 11-1, 11-5, 16-14

SEMIFINALS:

Boys:

Malaysia bt Hong Kong 2-1

Ivan Yuen lost to Leo Au 9-11, 11-6, 4-11, 13-11, 7-11

Kamran Khan bt Kit Lun Choy 11-4, 11-9, 11-8

Ng Jo Wen bt Ngo Long Fung 12-10, 11-5, 11-8

India bt Korea 2-0

Aditya Jagtap bt Seung-Woo Jin 11-5, 11-6, 11-8

Ravi Dixit bt Won-Suk Choi 5-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-6

Girls:

Malaysia bt India 2-0

Low Wee Wern bt V. Anvesha Reddy 11-3, 11-8, 15-13

Low Wee Nee bt Anaka Alankamony 10-12, 11-9, 14-12, 11-9

GVK-JVPG SQUASH OPEN 2009

Malhotra downs Mangaonkar for title

(14/03/2009)



At the prize distribution function held at Juhu Gymkhana all winners along with Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP), Ashish Gupta (President, ISP), Vicky Kalluri (Jt. Sec. ISP), Anil Mahesh (Hon. Sec. Juhu Gymkhana), Ms Archana Tyagi (Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai), Sanjay Khanna (GM, Commercial, GVK), Shiv Malhotra (Sec. Gen. SRAM) & Harsh Toteja (Chairman, Squash Committee, Juhu Gymkhana)

junior winner then began getting his winners in and also engaged Malhotra in longer rallies before jumping to a 9-5 lead in the second game. However, two brilliant winners from Malhotra and hasty shots that found the tin saw the scores level at 9-9 and 10-10, taking the game into difference of two, which Mangaonkar won 17-15.

Mahesh's game crumbled again in the third game as Malhotra forced the pace and raced home 11-4 but there was more drama in store in the fourth with scores going neck to neck. Mangaonkar creditably kept the pressure on Malhotra, but the long rallies seemed to have tired the teenager, who gave up after a...

Malhotra was full of praise for his younger rival and said there was not much to distinguish between the two players on court, but the younger player tiring out in the end tilted the scales in his favour.



Mahesh Mangaonkar (Winner of British Open) & Vikram Malhotra (Winner in Under-19, Nationals) being felicitated by ISP-SRAM. Ms Archana Tyagi giving away the trophies.

Top seed Vikram Malhotra, on a spring break from Trinity University, where he is studying on a squash scholarship, helped himself to the men's open title with a hard-fought win over teenager Mahesh Mangaonkar, the second seed, in the Rs 90,000 prize money GVK-JVPG Squash Open 2009, organized by the Indian Squash Professionals at the Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana squash courts.

Malhotra, the under-19 National champion, had to dig deep into his reserves to quell the plucky challenge from the 15-year-old Mangaonkar before winning 11-5, 15-7, 11-4, 11-9.

Mangaonkar took some time to settle down and was easy meat for Malhotra in the first game. However, the British and German Open

RESULTS

FINAL :

Mens Open : Vikram Malhotra bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-5, 17-11, 4-11, 11-9

Doubles Open : Kunwarpal Singh / Arun Sharma bt Vikram Malhotra / Shiv Malhotra 15-8, 17-15

Doubles Handicap : Sanjay Kalati / Sachin Jadhav bt Riaz Mohd / Rameez Mohd 15-8, 13-15, 15-12

Over 35 : Vivek Khanna bt Yudhvir Katoch 8-11, 4-11, 11-3, 11-3, 12-10

Over 45 : Deepak Moolani bt Riaz Mohd 11-4, 12-10, 11-4

SEMIFINALS :

Mens Open : Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Siddharth Samantray 11-3, 11-5, 11-9

Vikram Malhotra bt Sanjay Pawar 11-9, 11-4, 12-10

Doubles Open : Vikram Malhotra / Shiv Malhotra bt Sanjay Pawar / Siddharth Samantray 15-10, 15-11

Kunwarpal Singh / Arun Sharma bt Rajesh Rajani / Mohd. Merchant 15-17, 15-10, 15-9

Doubles Handicap : Sanjay Kalati / Sachin Jadhav bt Ashish Mehta / Nilay Dalal 15-13, 15-9

Riaz Mohd / Rameez Mohd bt Kishore Vanwari / Girish Jadhvani 15-10, 15-8

Over 35 : Vivek Khanna bt Yakub Shaikh 11-7, 11-4, 11-7, 11-5
Yudhvir Katoch bt Anil Mohite 11-4, 11-7, 4-11, 11-9

Over 45 : Deepak Moolani bt Shiv Malhotra 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10
Riaz Mohd bt Jai Thapa 13-11, 5-11, 11-8, 11-1

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THE CLUB SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

Mangaonkar upsets Chotrani for title

(07/03/2009)

RESULTS



All the winners of The Club tournament along with Dinesh Khanna (Director, The Club), Anil Kapoor (MD-South Asia, Western Union Services Pvt. Ltd), Ashish Gupta, Vicky Kalludi & Sanjay Goyal (All ISF officials) & Shiv Malhotra (SRAM)

Talented youngster Mahesh Mangaonkar, the under-15 British Open and German Open Champion wore down the early resistance from former National champion, Manish Chotrani, to emerge the men's singles champion in the Rs 90,000 prize money The Club Squash Championships, 2009, organized by the Indian Squash Professionals, at the squash courts of the Club, Andheri.

In a battle between youth and experience, the 15-year-old Mangaonkar, the better player on the day, won the first game 11-7, but lost the close second 10-11 to his 38-year-old rival before romping home in the next two 11-6, 11-7 to bag the winner's purse of Rs 12,000. Chotrani, who has to be credited for still being a force among the leading squash players in city, was not in the best of form and had to be content with the runners-up purse of Rs. 6000.

The handicap doubles final saw Rohan Gracious and Bipin Batra record a comfortable 15-10, 13-15, 15-10 win over Amitpal Kohli and Anil Mohite to take home Rs 12,000.

The Chief Guest of the evening was Dinesh Khanna (Director, The Club) and Anil Kapoor (MD, Western Union Money Transfer), who give away the Prize Money and trophies to all the winners and runners-up.



Rajesh Sawant (Health Club Manager, The Club) giving away the trophy to Veer Chotrani (Winner in Boys Under-9 category)

FINAL:

Finals :

Boys and Girls U-9 : Veer Chotrani bt Aryan Parekh 11-8, 11-4, 11-9.

Boys U-11 : Aryan Hemdev bt Yohann Surti 11-6, 11-9, 11-8

Boys U-15 : Anuj Bahi bt Yohan Pandole 11-3, 11-6, 11-7

Girls U-15 : Saumya Karki bt Shria Khatri 11-9, 11-7, 11-5

Doubles Handicap : Rohan Gracious / Bipin Batra bt Amipal Kohli / Anil Mohite 15-10, 13-15, 15-10

Mens Open : Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Manish Chotrani 11-7, 10-11, 11-6, 11-7

3RD-4TH PLACE :

Boys and Girls U-9 :

Jash Chheda bt Abhinav Tyagarajan 11-8, 12-10

Boys U-15 : Vardhan Ladiwala bt Mishaal Nathani 8-11, 11-3, 11-8

Girls U-15 : Aishwarya Nambiar bt Kritika Kumar 11-9, 11-8

SEMIFINALS :

Boys and Girls U-9 :

Veer Chotrani bt Abhinav Tyagarajan 11-1, 11-3, 11-2

Aryan Parekh bt Jash Chheda 11-0, 11-4, 11-7

Boys U-11 :

Aryan Hemdev bt Rajat Agarwal 2-11, 11-7, 12-10, 11-8

Yohann Surti bt Dev Vazirani 11-3, 8-11, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7

Boys U-15 :

Anuj Bahi bt Vardhan Ladiwala 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 6-11, 11-9

Yohan Pandole bt Mishaal Nathani 11-3, 5-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-7

Girls U-15 :

Saumya Karki bt Kritika Kumar 11-4, 11-2, 11-0

Shria Khatri bt Aishwarya Nambiar 11-2, 11-2, 11-2

Doubles Handicap :

Rohan Gracious / Bipin Batra bt Leon Emanuel / Dr. Seshadri 11-15, 15-12, 15-10

Mens Open :

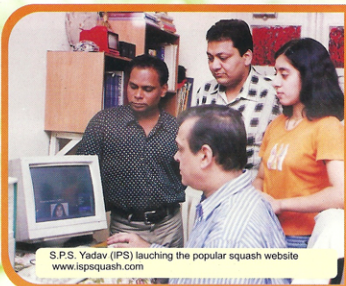
Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Sanjay Pawar 11-15, 11-6, 11-4



Mahesh Mangaonkar (Winner, Men's Open) receiving the trophy from Anil Kapoor



ISP launched in Jan 1993



S.P.S. Yadav (IPS) launching the popular squash website www.ispsquash.com



ISP introduced Rahmat Khan (coach of legendary Jahangir Khan) to the Mumbai Squash fraternity in 1997 along with his wife Salma Aga, Ajoy Bhandare, Mahendra Agarwal, Akhil Behl & Subhash Wali



Hon. Minister Shri Harshvardhan Patil being inducted in ISP as Patron Member in 2007 along with Noreena (Vice President, ISP), Khalid A-H Ansari (Chairman Emeritus, SRAM), late Gautam Thakkar (V.P., SRAM) and Mahendra Agarwal.



Level 1 coaching camp conducted by Coach Abdul Shaikh of Canada at Otters Club, Mumbai in 1999.



Vikram Malhotra being felicitated by Mr Bhusan Gagrani (IAS) for getting award for International Excellence in 2002 along with Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP).

DRY LANE



Prince HRH Tunku Imran (Patron, World Squash Federation) at Khar Gymkhana during the Air India Squash league in 2000 along with Khalid A-H Ansari, Datuk Vinod Shekhar, Jitendra Bhargava (Air India) & Mahendra Agarwal.



World Squash Day being celebrated at Khar Gykhana on 18th March 2005



Silver Jubilee magazine of PROSQUASH launched in Jan 2003.



At the Northern India squash championship 2002 held in Jodhpur from left to right: Mahendra Sanghi (sponsor), HRH Maharaja Gaj Singh of Jodhpur and Shekhar Suman.

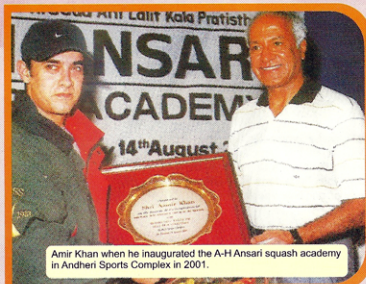


At the function organised to celebrate squash being recognised government of Maharashtra, Narendra Gour (IRS), late Gautam Thakkar, Mahendra Agarwal, Mahendra Sanghi, Khalid A-H Ansari & Ranjan Sanghi at Bombay Gymkhana in June 2000.



A.N.Roy (IPS) along with Mahendra Agarwal, Khalid A-H Ansari & Ranjan Sanghi (sponsor) at the inauguration of squash court at Police Gymkhana in November 2005.

DOWN MEMORY LANE



Amir Khan when he inaugurated the A-H Ansari squash academy in Andheri Sports Complex in 2001.



The winning Maharashtra team (Saket Wali, Amit Chinal, Niraj Shirgaokar, Bikram Uberoi and Manish Chotrani) along with coach Rahmat Khan.



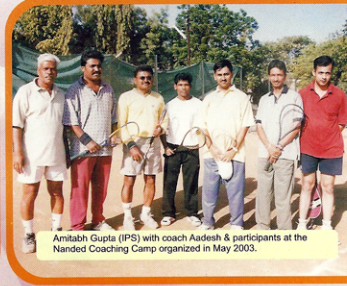
ISP felicitate Joshna Chinappa in Delhi along with Mrs Sheila Dikshit (CM of New Delhi), Ashish Gupta (President, ISP), Anjan Chinappa & Mahendra Agarwal.



Late Mr Sunil Dutt (Hon. Minister for sports & youth affairs, govt of India) organised a function to felicitate Joshna Chinappa along with Rahul Kumar, Shrikant Ruparel (SRAM) & Mahendra Agarwal.



Actor Arbaaz Khan at one of the squash awareness clinic organised by ISP at Spring club, Kandivali, Mumbai in 2004



Amitabh Gupta (IPS) with coach Aadesh & participants at the Nanded Coaching Camp organized in May 2003.

FROM THE COLLECTION
OF RAJU CHAINANI



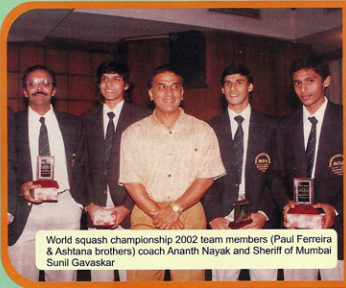
At the prize distribution ceremony of Herald Maritime Services 2003 Open Squash in Olters Club from L to R: Gaurav Nandrajog (Winner, U-19), Mahendra Agarwal, Capt Jamshed Apoo (Sponsor), Chief Guest & hockey legend Dhanraj Pillay, Khalid A-H Ansari (President, SRAM), Ritwik Bhattacharaya (Winner, Mens), Mekhala Subedar (Winner, Women's) & Zavary Poonawalla (Sponsor)



Late Squash Reporter Raju Chainani along with Yogendra Singh, Anil Nayyar, Jahangir Khan, Rohan Juneja, Gaurav Juneja & Ritwik Bhattacharaya.



The winning Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana team along with Noreena (ISP), Standing from L to R: Actor Jackie Shroff, Mahendra Agarwal (Founder-Director of ISP), Superstar Rajesh Khanna, Vivek Nair (VC & MD, The Leela), Safee Jani (ISP) & Mathais Kann (G.M., The Leela)



World squash championship 2002 team members (Paul Ferreira & Ashtana brothers) coach Ananth Nayak and Sheriff of Mumbai Sunil Gavaskar



At the prize distribution ceremony of ISP-Tulip Star Squash Tournament, From L to R : G.C.Dubey (Double's Winner), Sanjay Nirupam (M.P. & Chief Guest), Khalid Ansari (President, SRAM), Sushobhan Banerjee (D.J.G of Madhya Pradesh), Gaurav Nandrajog (Winner Men's Event), R.T. Rathod (DCP, Mumbai), Xavier Marquis (Sponsor), Bunty Singh, Ashish Gupta, Bipin Kumar Singh (DCP, Mumbai) & Mahendra Agarwal



At the launching of Simply Ten Magazine by editor late Raju Chainani along with Mahendra Sanghi, Nana Chudasama, Khalid A-H Ansari & Shrikant Ruparel

BRAVE HEART ASHOK KAMTE SQUASH 2009

ISP and Juhu Gym salute the braveheart Ashok Kamte

(08/02/2009)

(By Pradeep Vijayakar)



All the winners along with Sanjay Goyal (Sec. Gen, ISP), Mahendra Agarwal, Noreena (Vice-President, ISP), Ashish Gupta (President, ISP), Ashok Nagpal (Treasurer, ISP), Ashish Bhagra, Mr Bere, Mrs Revathi Bere (in laws of late Mr Ashok Kamte), Ms Archana Tyagi (Additional Commissioner of Police, Mumbai), Anil Mahesh (Hon. Secretary, Juhu Gymkhana), Harsh Toteja (Chairman Squash Committee, Juhu Gymkhana) and Filmstar Rituparna Sengupta

Former India player Vikas Jangra and talented teenager Mahesh Mangaonkar's 15-7, 15-9 beat Kunwarpal Singh and Nitin Chauhan for a winner's purse of Rs 10,000 in the in the Rs 50,000 Top 8 doubles final of the Rs 50,000 prize money Braveheart Ashok Kamte Squash Tournament, organized by ISP, the Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana.

In the Doubles Handicap event, Samir Mistry and Mukesh Desai got the better of professionals Sanjay Pawar and Virendra Pawar 15-10, 15-10.

Earlier, in the semi-finals, the champions had to overcome a tough challenge from Jindal Squash Academy's young pairing of Laxman Joshi and Arun Sharma, the match going the distance before ending 15-13, 13-15, 15-13 in the favor of Jangra and Mangaonkar.

The prize distribution was one of mixed emotions as people recalled the virtues of Ashok Kamte. Ashish Bhagra, who played squash with Kamte when he was in the SP Rural Police in Thane district said, "He had respect for rules and never argued over points."

Giving away the prizes Archana Tyagi, ACP, west region, gave newer insights into Kamte's life. "Kamte was my first SP when I joined the force at Karad. His mantra was 'phele action, phir section'. He meant one could always find justification for action from the books. He led from the front as we saw when six terrorists, being taken from Thane to Kolhapur, escaped near Satara. Kamte wanted to chase them himself all the way to Karnataka but had to be dissuaded from doing so as his job was to say in charge of his district," said Tyagi adding, "He was the sort of officer I would give my life for. That's the type of respect he commanded from the constabulary. At his farewell at Satara people wept openly on the streets, Kamte too." Tyagi said Kamte would love to play sport with with the constables rather than fellow officers. At recruitment time he would want to be present to interview cops with a sporting background. It's numbing when one thinks of him. One still can't believe he is dead."

Kamte's sister-in-law Revati Dhare said Kamte was jack of all trades (sports) and master of some. "He played individual and team sports: shot put, javelin throw, tennis, swimming, basketball, hockey, football, basketball, weightlifting. He won the best all-round sportsman prize at St Xavier's College in 1983-84, was Maharashtra champ in the shot put, won laurels in junior powerlifting and won the Maharaj Singh trophy at the National Police Academy at Hyderabad and the Akruiti Cup for unarmed combat."

Mahendra Agarwal announced the tournament will be an annual affair



Anil Mohite (Semifinalist, Doubles Handicap) receiving the trophy from Rituparna Sengupta

RESULTS

FINAL:

Doubles Top 8 :

Vikas Jangra & Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Kunwarpal Singh & Nitin Chauhan 15-7, 15-9

Doubles Handicap :

Samir Mistry & Mukesh Desai bt Sanjay Pawar & Virendra Pawar 15-10, 15-10

SEMI FINAL

Doubles Top 8 :

Vikas Jangra & Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Laxman Joshi & Arun Sharma 15-12, 10-15, 15-13

Kunwarpal Singh & Nitin Chauhan bt Vijay Waghela & Rohan Gracias 15-7, 15-12

Doubles Handicap :

Samir Mistry & Mukesh Desai bt Madhav Dingra & Anshul Goyal 15-12, 10-15, 15-13

Sanjay Pawar & Virendra Pawar bt Anil Mohite & Amit Koli 15-13, 15-12

MATUNGA GYMKHANA JUNIOR SQUASH OPEN 2009

Surti, Kalgtkar claim titles

(18/01/2009)

RESULTS



At the prize distribution function all winners alongwith MSSA and ISP office bearers

Yohan Surti of CCI and Jui Kalgtkar of Chembur Gymkhana won thrilling ties to claim the boys' under-11 and girls' under-13 titles, respectively, in the DHFL Junior Open Squash Tournament at the Matunga Gymkhana.

On a day of thrilling final encounters, third seed Surti rallied to upset No. 2 Rajat Agarwal of Khar Gymkhana 11-8, 8-11, 9-11, 11-5, 12-10 in one of the most exciting matches of the day.

Trailing 1-2 after clinching the opening game, Surti, who shocked top seed Aryan Hemdev in the semi-finals, kept his hopes alive by snatching the crucial fourth game with an early lead to force the decider.

In a championship round tie that could have gone either way, Surti survived anxious moments in the fifth and final game before clinching the nail-biting game and match over extra points.

Second seed Jui Kalgtkar ended the winning streak of unseeded Aishwarya Bhattacharya of Jindal following a thrilling 11-8, 11-6, 8-11, 7-11, 12-10 victory.

Aishwarya, the giant killer in the competition who shocked top seed Aishwarya Nambiar and third seed Gayatri Raheja, rallied brilliantly from a 0-2 deficit to force the decider. In another tie that could have gone either way, Kalgtkar struck crucial winners in the decider and snatched the game and match over extra points. In another close final, top seed Aditya Khatri of Hiranandani Club overcame second seed Madhav Dhingra of Otters Club 12-10, 10-12, 11-5, 11-9 for the boys under-13 title.

FINAL:

- MIXED U9 :** Aryan Parekh bt Veer Chotrani 11-2,11-8,11-9
GIRLS U13 : Jui Kalgtkar bt Aishwarya Bhata 11-8, 11-6, 8-11, 7-11, 12-10
GIRLS U19 : Aishwarya Kulkarni bt Kritika Kumar 11-9,11-7,11-6
BOYS U11 : Yohann Surti bt Rajat Agarwal 11-8,11-9,11-5,12-10
BOYS U13 : Aditya Khatri bt Madhav Dhingra 12-10, 10-12, 11-5, 11-9
BOYS U15 : Rahil Fazlhbhoy bt Vardhan Ladivala 11-6, 13-11,11-4
BOYS U19 : Samir Mistry bt Rahil Fazlhbhoy 11-7, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7

SEMI FINALS :

- MIXED U9 :** Aryan Parekh bt Advait Adik 11-5, 11-2, 11-3
 Veer Chotrani bt Daksha Pathak 11-4, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7
GIRLS U13 : Aishwarya Bhata bt Gayatri Raheja 5-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-6, 14-12
 Jui Kalgtkar bt Rayna Kishanchandani 11-10, 11-9, 12-10
GIRLS U19 : Kritika Kumar w/o Shria Khatri
 Aishwarya Kulkarni bt Maanvi Chopra 9-11, 9-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-6
BOYS U11 : Yohann Surti bt Aryan Hemdev 11-5, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9
 Rajat Agarwal bt Dev Vazirani 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 11-7
BOYS U13 : Aditya Khatri bt Dev Vazirani 11-1, 11-1, 11-6
 Madhav Dhingra bt Anshul Goyal 12-10, 11-6, 11-8
BOYS U15 : Rahil Fazlhbhoy bt Armaan Shaikh 13-11, 12-10, 11-4
 Vardhan Ladivala bt Aditya Khatri 11-8, 11-2, 11-7
BOYS U19 : Rahil Fazlhbhoy bt Wqar Pathan 11-7, 11-8, 11-7
 Samir Mistry bt Pranay Merchant 11-3, 11-6, 7-11, 11-9



Aryan Hemdev (Winner, Boys U-11) receiving the trophy



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OPENING LOSS FOR CENTRE'S 'INDIANS ONLY' POLICY

Karm Kumar may have lost in the second round of the Asian Junior Squash Championship, but the fact the 17-year-old played in the event itself was a triumph.

Thumbing his nose at Centre's "Indian Only" policy and armed with a Delhi Court order, Karm a British national was able to represent India at the Asian Juniors, an event he had participated in 2006 too. Protesting against the policy, Karm pleaded with a Bench comprising Chief Justice K G Balakrishnan and justice P Sathasivam for an urgent hearing and a possible stay on the HC order. However, the Bench said it was impossible to accommodate the Centre's plea at the last minute and posted it for hearing only on Monday.

"I am an Indian and I want to represent my country and give my best while doing so. Here I gave my best shot against a much higher ranked player," Karm said. Karm's father, Rahul, however, claims government order says that the players with foreign passports will not be given funding and "they are not banned from representing the country."

"That's how I got the court order to let him play at the Asians," he said. "I spoke to Vijay Amritraj and he too is planning to approach the Indian Olympic Association regarding his son Prakash's eligibility to represent the country," he added.

Article in Times of India, Chennai: 17th January 2009

CENTRAL INDIA SQUASH OPEN 2008

RESULTS FINALS:

Girls U-11 : Rayana beat Shreya Suresh (Daly College) 11-7, 11-2, 11-7

Boys U-11 : Ranjeet beat Abhay 11-6, 11-6, 11-7

Girls U-13 : Anandita Gupta (Daly College) beat Aadya Advani 11-9, 12-10, 5-11, 8-11, 11-5

Boys U-13 : Suyash Sharma beat Abhay Singh 11-4, 11-7, 11-8

Girls U-15 : Sachika beat Saai Meera 11-6, 11-1, 11-6

Boys U-15 : Rishabh Kotian beat Manik Dutta 11-8, 11-4, 11-8

Girls U-17 : Dheeya Somaiya (Daly College) beat Sachika 12-10, 11-6, 11-3

Boys U-17 : Vrashab Kotiyar beat Dhananjay Singh 10-12, 11-8, 11-7, 8-11, 14-12

Girls U-19 : Tanvi Jain (Daly College) beat Konpal Patni 11-7, 11-5, 11-5

Boys U-19 : Parmet Singh beat Navin Jangra 11-2, 12-10, 11-4

Women's Open : Swati Muchhal beat Dheeya Somaiya (Daly College) 14-16, 11-7, 11-4, 7-11, 11-7

Professionals : Bala Murgan beat Farman Khan 11-7, 8-11, 11-5, 11-8

Over 35 : Gajendra Singh Rathore (Daly College) beat Deepak Moolani 11-3, 11-7, 11-6

Over 45 : Deepak Moolani beat Bobby Singh 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

Men's Open : Gaurav Nandrajog beat Sandip Jangra by 3-2

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ALL INDIA INTER-UNIVERSITY SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

MUMBAI University are the champions (30/12/2009)

University of Mumbai defeated University of Delhi 3-2 in the final of the All-India Inter-University squash Men's team championship at Chennai, avenging its defeat in last year's final at Mumbai against the same opponent.

The clash was bitter, but there was an enthralling match between Mumbai's Kunwarpal Singh and Delhi's Varun Prakash, both of whom arguing constantly with the referee over obstruction calls.

The final game of the match was one sided affair as Kunwarpal destroyed Varun 11-3. The first four games were neck to neck fight. Varun's tendency to find the tin in tackling balls above his waist and to go over the sidelines in playing his lobbs, which had shown itself intermittently till then, cost him heavily.

Delhi had lost the first two matches quite easily, with Raghav Behl and Prateek Chalia beaten by Laxman Joshi and Cyrus Vakil.

But Delhi had come back from a similar situation in winning its semi final against Anna and demonstrated its bounciness again.

Gunraj Singh began the revival with a 3-1 win over Nitin Chauhan, and Uday Das prevailed over Arun Sharma.

RESULTS

Team Championship:

FINAL:

University of Mumbai bt University of Delhi 3-2

Laxman Joshi bt Raghav Behl 11-6, 11-2, 11-5
Cyrus Vakil bt Prateek Chalia 11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 11-6
Nitin Chauhan lost to Gunraj Singh 11-8, 6-11, 4-11, 2-11
Arun Sharma lost to Uday Das 12-14, 11-9, 9-11, 3-11
Kunwarpal Singh bt Varun Prakash 12-10, 11-13, 12-10, 8-11, 11-3

THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF:

Anna University bt University of Pune 3-1

Vinayak lost to Abhimanyu 7-11, 7-11, 14-16
Prashanth bt Nikhil Jain 11-6, 13-11, 5-11, 9-11, 11-8
Kalimuthu bt Mann Karan Veer Singh 11-2, 11-7, 11-2
Suneesh bt Tanmay 8-11, 11-8, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9.

SEMIFINALS:

Mumbai bt Pune 3-0

Laxman Joshi bt Abhimanyu 11-3, 11-2, 11-1
Cyrus Vakil bt Nikhil Jain 11-5, 11-2, 11-5
Nitin Chauhan bt Mann Karan Veer Singh 11-1, 11-2, 11-4

Delhi bt Anna University 3-2

Raghav Behl lost to Vinayak 11-8, 8-11, 6-11, 4-11
Prateek Chalia lost to Prashanth 5-11, 5-11, 6-11
Gunraj Singh bt Kalimuthu 7-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-3
Uday Das bt Suneesh 11-5, 11-3, 11-6
Varun Prakash bt Vignesh 11-4, 11-1, 11-2

Individual Championship:

Finals: Laxman Joshi w/o Cyrus Vakil.

Third Place play-off: Abhimanyu Pandey bt Raghav Behl 11-3, 11-7, 4-11, 11-6

Semifinals:

Laxman Joshi bt Abhimanyu Pandey 11-6, 11-7, 11-5
Cyrus Vakil bt Raghav Behl 11-7, 11-7, 12-10.

RARE TITLE AFTER A LONG WAIT



Kunwarpal Singh and Arun Sharma (Winners, Doubles Open) receiving the trophy from Archana Tyagi (Addl. Comm. of Police, Mumbai)

Two lads from the Jindal Squash Academy who tend to get sidelined are Kunwarpal Singh and Arun Sharma. But at the GVK Juhu Gymkhana event the two got their limelight when they won the open doubles title beating the father-son combine of Shiv and Vikram Malhotra. A month earlier Kunwarpal, partnered by Nitin Chauhan, had lost on the same courts the final of the Braveheart Ashok Kamte memorial to Mahesh Manganankar and Vikas Jangra.

Kunwarpal and Arun trained under coach Sunil Verma around the same time as the Jangras, Sandeep and Vikas, Sarvesh Chauhan and later Laxman Joshi and Nitin Chauhan. In doubles, Kunwarpal usually partners Nitin. But he had exams and so partnered Arun and it turned out a profitable union. Kunwarpal's most important feat of the season was winning the deciding fifth title to bring for Mumbai the Inter-University title beating Delhi at Chennai. And it was a five-setter which suggests he has nerves of steel. "It was sweet revenge having lost to Delhi in the final the previous year."

A one-time India No 5 in the under-19 ranks Kunwarpal is now 20 and will try to make a mark in senior ranks. He was semi-finalist losing to Cyrus Vakil in the Bombay University championship. A pity there were no team event for he could have figured in the winning HR team who have a habit of winning this title. Asked whether he will make squash a career, Kunwarpal says, "I will take a call after my studies." He is an FY B.Com student.

Kunwarpal's partner Arun is 22 and pursuing an engineering career. He is busy with his third year B.Tech studies. In ten years of squash he somehow has not landed a title because of the better players around. His best was a No 6 spot in the u-15. So winning the doubles at Juhu was a big thing for him. Like Kunwarpal Arun was in the varsity side which won the title but lost his tie.

(By Pradeep Vijayakar)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- BG - SRAM Maharashtra League 2009 at Bombay Gymkhana, Mumbai from 18th April 2009
- Milo - All Star Junior Squash Championships 2009, Petaling Jaya, Selangor - Malaysia from 28th May to 2nd June 2009
- Penang International Junior Squash Championship at Bukit Dumar, Malaysia from 4th June to 8th June 2009,
- Atco Junior Open 2009 at Egypt from 16th May to 25th June 2009
- 1st International Masters Squash Championships in Cairo, Egypt from 22nd to 27th October 2009

INDIAN PLAYERS IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Saurav loses in 2nd round of North American Open 2009, University of Richmond, Virginia (06/03/2009)

Round Two : Saurav Ghosal lost to David Palmer 10-12, 6-11, 8-11
Round One : Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Yasser El Halaby (Egy) 11-6, 11-5, 11-2

KL Open 2009 Men's Draw (07/03/2009)

Qualifying Finals:

Aaron Frankcomb (Aus) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6

Round One:

Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Elvinn Keo (Mas) 5-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-8

Women Round One:

Delia Arnold (Mas) bt Joshna Chinappa (Ind) 14-12, 11-3, 11-5

Ritwik & Siddharth lose in 1st Round of NSC Series, Mens Draw, Kuala Lumpur (18/02/2009)

Pakistan qualifier Waqar Mehboob claimed the biggest scalp in the men's \$10,000 PSA Tour event. The 17-year-old from Peshawar defeated Ritwik Bhattacharya, the third seed from India ranked more than 50 places higher in the world, 11-5, 14-16, 11-7, 11-7.

RESULTS 1st Round: Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) lost to Waqar Mehboob (Pak) 5-11, 16-14, 7-11, 7-11
 Siddharth Suchde (Ind) lost to Ali Anwar Reda (Egy) 11-6, 8-11, 11-3, 6-11, 8-11

Dipika, Joshna make it to the Semis of Internationaux de Creteil 2009, Creteil, France (15/02/2009)

It was third time lucky for the organisers of the Women's Internationaux de Creteil when home town star Camille Serme upset second seed Joshna Chinappa in straight games to provide local interest in the final of the \$12,000 WISPA World Tour squash event in its third year at Centre Marie Therese Eyquem in Creteil, in the outskirts of the French capital Paris, for the first time.

Top seeded Italian Manuela Manetta, the 2007 champion was taken the full distance by Indian star Dipika Pallikal before beating the 17-year-old fifth seed 11-6, 11-7, 9-11, 8-11, 13-11.

Semifinals :

Dipika Pallikal lost to Manuela Manetta 6-11, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-13
 Joshna Chinappa lost to Camille Serme 5-11, 7-11, 3-11

Quarterfinals :

Dipika Pallikal bt Laura Hill 8-11, 11-6, 11-1, 11-6
 Joshna Chinappa bt Nour El Tayeb 8-11, 11-3, 11-7, 11-7

Round one:

Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Linda Hruzikova (Svk) 13-11, 11-7, 11-6
 Joshna Chinappa (Ind) bt Victoria Lust (Eng) 11-5, 11-7,8-11,10-12,11-8

Sourav knocked out in 1st round of Swedish Open (9/2/2009)

[3] Nick Matthew (Eng) beat Saurav Ghosal (Ind) 11/9, 9/11, 11/6, 11/6

Yaseer El Halaby downs Saurav in Tournament of Champions: Grand Central Terminus, New York (22/1/2009)

Saurav Ghosal of India lost in the Qualifying round of Tournament of Champions being played at grand central terminus, new york to egypt's Yaseer El Halaby. Saurav was 1-2 down but fought bravely in the 4th game and won 11-9. But in the decider he lost very easily to Yaseer.

Score: Yaseer El Halaby (Egy) beat Saurav Ghosal: 8/11, 11/8, 6/11, 11/9, 11/4

Joshna loses to Vanessa Atkinson in finals of Liberty Bell Open, USA, (20/01/2009)

Vanessa Atkinson kicked off her 2009 campaign in great style by winning the Women's Liberty Bell Open in the USA.

The top seed beat fourth seed Joshna Chinappa in the final of the \$11,000 WISPA World Tour squash event at Berwyn Squash & Fitness Club in Berwyn, Philadelphia.

Atkinson, a former World Open champion and ten times winner of the Dutch national title, is celebrating the 21st Tour title - but the first since March 2006.

Score: Vanessa Atkinson (Den) beat Joshna 11-7, 11-7, 11-5

Jagtap & Hodgson Win Welsh Junior Open Titles (09/03/2009)

India's Aditya Jagtap and Robyn Hodgson, from Scotland, prevailed in tough U19 finals in the Kane Mailing Welsh Junior Open Squash Championships in Cardiff to celebrate their first successes on the European Squash Federation Junior Circuit.

Jagtap was top seed in the men's event - but the 16-year-old from Mumbai, now based at Millfield School in England, had to fight from two games down in the final to overcome second-seeded Englishman Anthony Graham 3-11, 8-11, 11-6, 13-11, 12-10.

Final: Aditya Jagtap (IND) bt Anthony Graham (ENG) 3-11, 8-11, 11-6, 13-11, 12-10

Joshna lost in Qualifying round of Harrow Greenwich Squash Open, USA (27/01/2009)

Joshna loses in qualifying round to sixth seed Samantha of Mexico. Joshna only troubled her Mexican counterpart in the second game when she beat her easily 11-6, but it was straight win in the next to games for Samantha.

Score: Samantha Teran (MEX) beat Joshna 11-6, 6-11, 12-10, 11-8

Joshna defeated in the Semi's of SC Series No. 3 Kuala Lumpur (13/03/2009)

Joshna who won the 5 setter marathon in the quarters by beating Donna Urghart of Australia lost to Lauren Briggs of England's in the semi finals of the NSC Series No3 Squash Championship at the Bukit Jalil National Squash Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Semi finals: Lauren Briggs beat Joshna Chinappa 11-9, 12-10, 11-2

Quarterfinals: Joshna beat Donna Urghart (AUS) 5-11, 12-10, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6

1st Round:
Joshna beat Joelle King (NZL) 12-10, 5-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-5

Donna Urghart beat Dipika Pallikal 11-3, 7-11, 3-11, 11-4, 11-7

FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI FROM 1971-2001

ARJAN DELIVERS KNOCK OUT PUNCH

Article in Afternoon : 4th January 1995

ADRIAN EZRA will remember the Calcutta Nationals for a long time. The six times champion was overweight, relatively unfit compared to the past few years and was woefully short of match practice. That he reached the final is a reflection on the state of affairs in the game today.

Capt. Arjan Singh had lost to Adrian in the last two finals but at Calcutta, he came good. Arjan was two games down and trailed 2-4 in the third. But, as Adrian tired and went for the bold and the beautiful Arjan worked his way to a splendid victory.

It was almost an identical reversal of the Madras final in 1992 when Arjan had been in the box seat. This year it was much closer as Adrian had his chances in the fourth and fifth games. There is no substitute for matchplay and Arjan who has trained throughout the year, showed that he can deliver the knockout punch. His 5-9, 2-9, 9-6, 9-6, 9-5 win took all of 79 minutes and the final was one of the best the National has seen in its 41-year history.

Bombay's boys promised much but on the day, they were caught out in the individual event. Vinay Asthana was toppled by the Leela Kempinski professional, Chandrakant Pawar. It turned out to be a good National for Pawar as he won the professionals and the over-35 titles. Vineet Asthana did reach the semis but only after a struggle. He was thrashed by Adrian in a 23-minute encounter.

Akhil Behl reached the quarterfinals, a good showing on his part and Arif Paul lost in the third round. But the boys had something in reserve for the Inter-State event. Adrian was not in the team as he was returning to England. Paul Ferreira, last year's hero, had opted not to make the trip to Calcutta. It was left to the five times National champion, Meherwan



Raju Chainani

Daruvala to lead the way.

Maharashtra duly made the finals of the team event. They stumbled a bit in the semis against West Bengal but were too strong in the end as Daruvala beat Kavi Seth 3-1 to ensure his side was through. The Services had powered their way into the finals and started as the favourites.

Vinay Asthana gave Maharashtra the lead beating Lt. Navneet Narain in four games. It was very close and Asthana just managed to hold on. But, the situation changed as Capt. Ravinder Malik beat Akhil Behl easily and Capt. Arjan Singh routed Vineet Asthana. Then, Capt. Rajdeep Brar led Meherwan Daruvala 9-0, 9-1 and was 5-0 up in the third. It looked all over. But, Daruvala was to have the last laugh as he produced an unbelievable recovery to win the game and also the next two. Maharashtra had drawn level at 2-2 and it all hinged on Arif Paul's match against Lt. Pradeep Singh.

The refereeing wasn't up to the mark. The tension was growing and when Pradeep Singh took the opener 9-0 and won the next game on a very debatable decision, it looked grim for Maharashtra. Arif Paul is a fighter. He hung on and Pradeep Singh tired. Paul won stylishly and his team had scored a sensational victory.

They will remember Calcutta. The juniors had an "under the bed and no breakfast" arrangement thanks to the SRFI but this was put right by the generous organisers. It was Micky Chinoy, president of the Calcutta Racket Club who was in the thick of things, organising accommodation and keeping the teams happy.

As for Daruvala, what can one say. It was his win that paved the way for Arif Paul to deliver the final punch. The champagne flowed at Chowringhee that night. The bells of St. Paul's Cathedral chimed even louder, as if congratulating the Bombay boys. They had stolen the thunder and the Services will not forget this loss easily.

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AND THE PERSECUTION CONTINUES

In yet another instance confirming its parochial attitude, the incorrigible Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has conveyed that only players that have shifted to Chennai (TN) will be treated well, and all others across the country will be victimized. This will be implemented even if the Chennai players are over age or undeserving for selections by merit.

The latest incident is related to Qatar Open. Since the inception of this tournament 3-4 years back, this tournament has been used by SRFI to 'reward' loyalists. Though a tournament of little significance by itself, the participants do technically represent their countries. It consists of individual and team events. While SRFI has termed it as an 'unofficial' tournament in order to justify its own arbitrary selection of players, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is blissfully ignorant, and in reply to an application under Right to Information Act (RTI), stated to the effect that it is unconcerned as ever and SRFI "takes care" of everything. It sure does!

Last year, SRFI did not inform anyone about the Qatar Open, or hold selections/trials/camps for players. It did not even consider National Champions like Vikram Malhotra and Aditya Jagtap, and took other players who were based in Chennai. Laxman Joshi was included in a clandestine manner because his coach Sunil Verma prefers to toe the SRFI line. Laxman has never beaten Vikram or Aditya. Coaches loyal to SRFI are sent for this event- last year Sunil Verma enjoyed a jaunt, and this year the manager cum coach cum acting boss of Dampur Sugar Mills (DSM) squash squad Sharad Sharma is a beneficiary! Sharad is generally seen going overboard in his efforts to please his masters. As with last years and before, this year too no announcement of the tournament was made, and no selection made, leaving out a deserving player Divij Singh from Delhi. Divij has superlative potential, and has made rapid progress in the last few months. He reached the Pre Qualifiers of the last Junior Nationals. As per SRFI's own criteria of inviting Quarter Finalist of last Nationals for selections, 6 of the 8 players have crossed over to the next age group, making Divij eligible for at least a selection trial. Having been left out, he became yet another young player who has had to knock the door of Delhi High Court.

THE GROUND REALITIES

SRFI gets MYAS to remove Brig. Manchanda as Government Observer (GO) for Squash, since he tried to have players selected on merit. This was at the behest of four TN Members of Parliament who wrote to Ministry of Sports to remove Manchanda. SRFI used its influence through these MPs, one of whom supplies cement bags to India Cement Ltd.!!!

Buvaneshwari Kumari reinstated as GO despite her holding office in SRFI simultaneously, and not making any Report/Observation in her last stint of SEVEN years as GO (as revealed under RTI!)

Meherwan Daruwala also appointed GO, but makes no observations on these issues. We are hopeful that national interest will prevail over his proximity with his old buddy and club mate Cyrus Poncha.

Vijay Goel (DSM) buys peace with SRFI for Delhi/Dampur Squash Association (DSA) in exchange for a safe haven in Chennai for his overage players, but at what cost? At the cost of the deserving Delhi players. We hope other DSA officials like Dr. B. I. Singh, Sameer Thukral, can ensure a level playing field for Delhi players.

THE PAROCHIAL ATTITUDE OF THE POWERS THAT BE IN TAMIL NADU HAS AND IS DESTROYING SQUASH IN INDIA. THE PERSECUTION MUST STOP.

STOP PRESS

Following the Qatar Open bungling by SRFI being highlighted in Hindustan Times, SRFI displayed its acrobatic ability by essaying a beautiful somersault. It promptly replaced Karan Malik by Ramit Tandon! While that sorts out the overage issue, it still does not help much because more deserving players are still overlooked. Ramit is more deserving in SRFI's eyes because he moved to Chennai- and rapidly lost most of his squash abilities, proven by his decline from National Champion earlier to nowhere now. For details on other players, their reactions etc, read the follow up article in HT on website www.ispsquash.com. For improving your chances of selection to international tournaments, shift to Chennai!"

As if that were not enough, SRFI has forwarded the name of a Chennai based player Karan Malik in the Under-17 category, despite Karan turning 17 years of age in December. This is consistent with SRFI's 'policy', since another player selected is Parmit Singh, who has shown no performance anywhere, except in changing his name from Paranjit Singh, as well as his date of birth! Does Dronacharya Cyrus Poncha, (India Coach) not know what is happening under his own nose??? Can he act in NATIONAL interest, or will it always be TAMILNADU interest? How many more Eklavyas will it take for him and SRFI to give them a Karmik lesson?

MENS RANKING APRIL 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Karim Darwish	EGY
2	Amr Shabana	EGY
3	Ramy Ashour	EGY
4	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
5	David Palmer	AUS
31	Saurav Ghosal	IND
59	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND
115	Siddharth Suchde	IND
143	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND
145	Naresh Kumar	IND
179	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND

WOMENS RANKING APRIL 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grainger	USA
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS
4	Natalie Grinham	NED
5	Jenny Duncaif	ENG
38	Joshna Chinappa	IND
50	Dipika Pallikal	IND
155	Anwesha Reddy	IND
174	Surbhi Misra	IND

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