

PROSQUASH

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"PROSQUASH" TURNS FIFTY

By: Khalid A-H Ansari



The 50th edition of the PROSQUASH, the News Magazine of Indian Squash Professionals, was released at BMC Headquarters by Mr. Anil Diggkar (Additional Commissioner of BMC, Projects) along with Noreena (VP, ISP), Mahesh Mangaonkar (British Junior Champion), Anjali Mangaonkar (Mahesh Mangaonkar's mother) & Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP)

If you apply the expression "give till it hurts", that is popular with charity organisations, to Mahendra Agarwal's contribution to Indian squash over the past 16 years, you will have to conclude that the self-effacing Kerry Packer of Indian squash has a superhuman threshold of pain.

It would be no exaggeration for me to say that in all my 40 years' association with Indian sport in different capacities at various levels all over our country, I have not come across a sports patron and organiser as visionary, large-hearted, selfless and devoted as Mahendra.

He is the fulcrum that gives the Indian Squash Professionals (ISP), as also the Squash Racquets Association (SRAM), of which I am privileged to be Chairman Emeritus, balance and power.

If the game of squash has reached its present level of popularity in terms of number of players, courts, tournaments, coaching facilities and prize money (not to mention the magnet-like attraction that draws to it students aspiring to go abroad on

squash scholarships), a great deal of credit must deservedly go to largely to Mahendra Agarwal, his band of dedicated workers in ISP and his colleagues in the SRAM.

Having started PROSQUASH, his expensive hobby, under the guidance of the late Raju Chainani, the trail-blazing squash correspondent of the Times of India and Sportsweek (his contribution in popularising the game of squash in Maharashtra was immeasurable) and Pradeep Vijayakar, the Times all-round Sports Journalist. Mahendra has taken the game to never-dreamt-of heights nation-wide through his unique publication.

Although Mumbai-based, the coverage of PROSQUASH is nation-wide; its reach and influence among players, coaches and administrators, as also in the corridors of power in New Delhi, considerable.

Those of us in the business of newspaper and magazine publishing know only too well what it takes in terms of blood, tears, toil and sweat to regularly bring out any publication of consistent quality.

For Mahendra to have published 50 issues of PROSQUASH, a journal of record for posterity, which zealously spreads the gospel of squash to more than 3000 members of the burgeoning fraternity at his own expense and no cost to squash lovers in India and abroad with impressive regularity, is remarkable by any yardstick.

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As is well known, the unassuming Mahendra has gathered around him a dedicated band of workers who assist in bringing out the professionally produced publication. Having witnessed their contagious labour of love, I have no doubt that all of us, who eagerly look forward to receiving copies of PROSQUASH, will have the pleasure of reading its 100th issue.

Those of us who realise the enormity of his contribution to the game of squash are also hoping that recognition in the form of state and central government awards will soon come his deserved way.

LIFEBUOY'S BOMBAY GYMKHANA – SRAM SQUASH LEAGUE

Samantray, Aishwarya cornerstone of Team Ashour's triumph

(20/06/2009)



Ravi Puri receiving the best senior award from Ashish Gupta (President, ISP)

By Pradeep Vijayakar

Sanjay Goyal won his deciding match of the Lifebuoy sponsored Bombay Gymkhana-SRAM squash league against Ravindra Jagtap and as the winners' group picture was being taken kept looking for Ardehl Ninan, the youngest member of the side. That showed the bonding that happened in the league with an eight year old playing as well as a 64-year-old.

There was a curious sight on the final day of another kid Yohan Surti playing the deciding tie against Riaz Varawalla. Yohan lost giving Shabana the third spot.

The league had eight teams named after the world greats. Team Ashour, named after the world champ Remy, had a 5-4 win over Team Lincou in the final. The winners took home Rs 66,000.

The way Jagtap and Goyal played it would have inspired youngsters half their age.

Goyal gave credit for the triumph to Siddharth Samantray and Aishwarya Kulkarni for their consistent displays. The others to win in the final were professional Gopi Mohite, on his home courts, and Rohan Zaveri. Team Shabana beat Willstrop 5-4 for the third spot while Darwish finished fifth beating Gaultier.

For British lady Mandy Kennedy it was her last tournament after a three-and-a-half-year stay in Mumbai where husband Simon was consultant for Reliance Retail. Their son Ben played squash before moving to tennis.

Mandy won several titles in Mumbai and was adjudged the best captain in the league.

Ravi Puri was adjudged the best senior. The 64-year-old was the oldest in the event. "I won all my five matches," he said with pride. A former Bombay Dyeing executive he has the choice of three courts--Bombay Gymkhana, Navi Mumbai Sports Association and The Acres Chembur. He makes the most of it. Squash is a must-do for him."

Rajat Agarwal was adjudged the best player of the tourney.

The Podar International kid plays at Khar Gymkhana and has honed his talent under coach Amitoj Singh. He has about seven-eight titles to his name but the inter-school one has eluded him being runner-up in the u-11 event. His favourite shot is the boast.

Rajat plays cricket and football also. "He was enthusiastic, he won all his matches and he is one for the future," said Raj Arora about Rajat's selection ahead of Samantray for the best player slot.

Aishwarya Kulkarni was named the best girl player. The Hiranandani Schoolgirl from Thane has been coached by her dad and Sunil Verma of Jindal.

It was while watching Jindal lass Saumya Karki that Aishwarya



Winners (Team Ashour) of the Bombay Gymkhana-SRAM squash league title along with their Captain Sanjay Goyal

developed a love for squash. She was earlier doing swimming and skating and winning titles too! She has done well in her early years in squash winning the Otters U-13 title and the Bombay Gymkhana U-19 title. She lost to Chennai's Saimira in the last eight of the Nationals.

Chaitanya Shah won the best junior prize. At eight he was the youngest and a bundle of energy.

RESULTS

Results of final:

Team Ashour bt Team Lincou 5-4:
Kunwarpal Singh lost to Abhinav Sinha 0-3
Siddharth Samantray bt Harjinder Singh 3-0
Gopi Mohite bt Deepak Moolani 3-1
Karan Mirchandani lost to Pranay Merchant 0-3
Rohan Zaveri bt Akhilesh Yadav 3-0
Rahel Fazelbhoj lost to Shashi Pandey 2-3
Jayanto Mukherjee lost to J Kuyte 1-3
Aishwarya Kulkarni bt Aishwarya Bhattacharya 3-0
Sanjay Goyal bt Ravindra Jagtap 3-0

GO, RAJ GO

When Ritwik Bhattacharya called Raj Arora 'the Lalit Modi of Squash' he was not off the mark.

Arora, who was director of the Bombay-Gymkhana-SRAM Squash league, ensured the league ran to clockwork precision.

One of the new things he did was to having placings matches on the final day which ensured more people came to watch the final, not just the finalists.

In days of recession Raj got Lifebuoy to sponsor the league and the prize money this year was also much higher than the last year.

Isp wishes him grand success for the 3rd edition which he plans to have in December. There are any number of venues in the city today and hordes of players. What is needed is management and Raj has shown the way.

Hopefully we may have an all India edition soon and later an international one making it an IPL in Squash

Go, Raj, Go.

PROSQUASH TALKS TO CHAITANYA SHAH

(BEST JR. PLAYER OF THE LEAGUE)

Chaitanya Shah is a dynamic Nine year old squash player from Bombay Gymkhana. He was adjudged the 'best junior player of the league' at the SRAM BG League. Here's an interview.

Prosquash- How and when did you start playing squash?

Chaitanya- I started in April 2008. I used to play Badminton, but got bored of it and took up squash.

Prosquash- Yes, we prefer squash too! In addition to the recent award at SRAM BG League, what are your other achievements?

Chaitanya- I won the Maharashtra State Under-9 title last year. I've

played the Nationals and reached the prequaler finals, in addition to other tournaments.

Prosquash- How about your training?

Chaitanya- I train for an hour and a half from Monday to Friday. On weekends, I do a lot of fitness training, in addition to squash. sometimes, I take a day off!

Prosquash- What are your other interests?

Chaitanya- Football and Cricket.

Prosquash- Who motivates you to train so hard, and what is your ambition?

Chaitanya- My Dad! I want to be a pro!



Chaitanya Shah

SQUASHING AGAIN IN NANDED

The second coaching camp at Nanded from May 8-17 was organised by Indian Squash Professionals with coach Sunil Bhandari in charge. There were many who were not aware of the rules of squash. Some dozen players were badminton players. They learnt the fundamentals of squash.

The age group was 10-50. A year ago these people had no awareness about squash. Naresh Nihalani is the one who introduced squash at Nanded Club and he is their No. 1 player. Manohar Kabra was interested in sports since 40 years but didn't know the technique of squash.

Coach Bhandari guided these players. Four-five doctors also attended this camp and said squash is a very good game for fitness. Mr. Amitabh Gupta, Additional Commissioner of Police Western region, Mumbai, took an initiative for this camp; he is also secretary of Nanded Club.

Local media also highlighted the efforts of ISP. Good players like Pankaj Barara, Kunal Malpani and Harinder Singh (state-level badminton player of Nanded) were also there. On the last day the coach arranged for a handicap tournament, whose finalists were Gaggan Chheda and Harinder Singh.



Participants along with the coach Sunil Bhandari and Naresh Nihalani (Squash Secretary, Nanded Club)

MILO ALL STAR JR. SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

PETALING JAYA, SELANGOR - MALAYSIA

(02/06/2009)

Ravi Dixit makes history in Milo Open

It is surprising but none of India's juniors had won the U-19 title at the Milo All Star Malaysian Junior Open. The first to do so was Ravi Dixit, of the ICL academy. The top seed won six rounds before defeating home favourite Jo Wen Ng 11-8, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9 in the final.

In the semi-final, Ravi defeated compatriot Karan Malik 11-7, 1-11, 11-8, 12-10 and faced a tough competition from Australian Julius Krauss in the quarter-final before winning 11-6, 5-11, 11-4, 4-11, 11-9.

It was Ravi's third international title after winning the Scottish Junior and Penang Junior Open.

Last year, Ravi was the runner-up in the Boys U-17 category at the same event. Ravi was naturally delighted after his victory and thanked the Squash Rackets Federation of India, the Delhi Squash association, his coaches and the Indian government for supporting him. Karan Malik finished in fourth position in the Boys under-19 category. Ramit Tandon secured third position in the Boys under-17 section after losing his semi-final match to Ng Long Fung from Hong Kong 9-11, 11-9, 3-11, 11-8, 11-5.

Robin Mann finished third one ahead of Solomon Ravi playing in his maiden international tournament in the Boys under-11 category.

Ravi Dixit, Karan Malik and Ramit Tandon along with coach Gautam Das participated in this event with support from the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sport under the scheme for "Preparation of Indian teams for the CWG 2010".

Malaysia equalled last year's feat when they won five out of the 10 gold medals at stake.

Of the nine finals which saw at least one Malaysian representative, Low Wee Wern stood out as the undisputed champion as she bagged the crown for the fourth year in succession. The Malaysian No 4 had no problems in disposing of her younger sister, Wee Nee, 11-6, 11-3, 10-12, 11-3 in the final of the Under-19 category.

Wee Nee was totally outclassed by the reigning British Junior Open champion as she fell short and never looked really in the game. Wee Wern could have beaten her sister on any day but Wee Nee's constant unforced errors made it only easier for her older sibling.

FORTH COMING EVENTS

Tournament	dates
● 16th World Junior Men's Individual Championships	29th July- 2nd Aug 2009
● Hongkong junior squash open 2009	12th- 16th Aug 2009
● 57th Senior National Squash Championship 2009	16th- 20th Aug 2009
● Interstate Squash Championships 2009	20th to 24th Aug 2009
● Pune Open - Seniors & Juniors	TBC
● Karnataka State Open - Bellari - Seniors & Juniors	TBC
● Jaipur Club Harish Chandra Golcha C'ships, Jaipur	TBC
● 10th MP State Open, Gwalior - Seniors & Juniors	TBC
● Andhra Pradesh Open - Secunderabad- All Jr. age groups	TBC
● Maharashtra State Open - Men, Women	TBC
● WSC Little Masters, Mumbai - All Junior age groups	TBC

TBC : dates to be confirmed

PENANG INTERNATIONAL JR. SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

BUKIT DUMBAR, PENANG - MALAYSIA

(08/06/2009)

Kush, Solomon catch the eye at Penang

Kush Kumar who on the eve of the tournament met with a road accident and hurt his playing arm, and shoulder overcame the odds to win the U-13 title in the Penang International Junior Squash.

ICL Squash Academy, Chennai trainee Solomon Ravi playing on his maiden international tour, defeated Robin Mann from Delhi for the U-11 title.

In fact, all the top three positions in the boys under-11 went to India. Abhay Singh also from Chennai lost in a five-set marathon against Solomon in the semi finals. In the girls under 11 Ryna Kishanchandani from Mumbai attained the fourth position. Sandeep Ramachandran of Chennai finished 4th in the Boys under 13 category.

The Khatri siblings who recently shifted to Delhi from Mumbai played had a good outing.

Indian results

Girls Under 11 – Ryna Kishanchandani 4th position
Adiya Advani 5th position

Girls Under 13 – Pankhuri Malhotra 7th position
Nandini Agarwal 12th position

Girls Under 15 – Shria Khatri came 2nd while in the same category Sachika Ingale returned an admirable 5th

Boys Under 11 – Ravi Solomon 1st position
Robin Mann 2nd position
Abhay Singh 3rd position
Divyanshu Sharma 17th position

Boys Under 13 – Kush Kumar Winner
Sandeep Ramchandran 4th position

Boys Under 15 – Saw Deepak Misra came 5th while Aditya Advani came 32nd

RAJASTHAN OPEN

(19/04/2009)

Final :

Under 13 : Vijay Kumar beat Ranjeet Singh 11-2, 11-4, 11-5
Under 15 : Sajid Hussain beat Vijay Kumar 11-5, 7-11, 11-6, 11-5

Under 17 : Tushar Kothari beat Abhijeet Malik 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-4

Under 19 : Parmeet Singh beat Ashray Ohri 11-5, 7-11, 11-5, 11-3

Mens : Vikas Jhangra beat Naveen Jhangra 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 11-8

Over 35 : Deepak Moolani beat Anand George 11-6, 11-3, 11-2

PROSQUASH SPOKE TO FILM ACTRESS NEHA DHUPIA ABOUT FITNESS, SQUASH AND MOVIES

Prosquash: You're regarded as one of the fitter actors in Bollywood. Tell us about your training regime. And a bit about your nutrition.

Neha: Staying fit and fitness is a way of life for me. I work out 5 to 6 days a week with my fitness trainer, Ahmed Youssef and try and do an additional 3 sessions of yoga every week with my yoga teacher Vinayak. I also have a great dietician, Puja Makhija who keeps a strict watch on what I eat. I am very conscious about eating 'healthy' and also exercising regularly.

Prosquash: Have you ever actively played a sport? You come from a "Services" background? How important has discipline been in your success so far?

Neha: Yes, I was actively involved in sport when I was at school where I played a lot of basketball. Since then I have swum regularly. I think it's very important to be extremely disciplined, as that is one of the key ingredients for success in every sphere of life.

Prosquash: You've been seen around squash courts for some time now. Have you ever played the game? What about it appeals to you most?

Neha: Yes, I have been around squash courts for a long long time now. My dad was a squash player and represented the Indian Navy on several occasions. My brother played the sport too. And finally now that I am in a relationship with a squash player I think one doesn't have a choice but to be in a relationship with squash too. On a more serious note, I think it's a great game, very exciting for both, the spectators as well as the players who move so fast over such long periods of time. I am constantly amazed at the number of decisions a squash player makes at lightning speed during the course of a game.

Prosquash: What are your views on the importance of playing team sports. Are they essential do they contribute to success in individual sports such as squash as well?

Neha: I think team sports are great as they help to develop the all round character of a sportsman. At the highest level in any individual sport or for that matter in any walk of life the skills that one has acquired playing team sports always shine through.

Prosquash: What parallel can you draw between the factors required for success on the squash court and the silver screen.

Neha: It's very similar as it's all about your hard work and discipline and off course your preparation and attention to detail. On both stages one has to be able to turn on one's best performance when required. Constantly striving to raising the bar and honing skills is also common ground. There are no short cuts.

Prosquash: You were present for ISP's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at the Fashion Show. Do you think our game needs some glamour to get more visibility in the eyes of potential sponsors?

Neha: It is an extremely appealing sport. The nature of the game appeals to all sportspeople and as we have seen more and more youngsters are taking to the game in clubs all over the country and the world. Having said that marketing the game better can only help the process. Potential sponsors need to be shown the value proposition in a structured manner. Scaling the size of the events and also the profile of the participants could help give the game more visibility and contribute to it's growth.

Prosquash: Who are your friends/colleagues from the industry

who play the game?

Neha: Squash is a very popular game in all circles and likewise for the film industry. Some of the actors who play the sport often are... Aamir Khan, Akshaya Khanna and Arbaaz Khan

Prosquash: Do you think it's a good idea to try and get some celebrities to play a fun tournament over one evening at one of the leading squash facilities? Would you come and play.

Neha: Yes off course it would be a great idea to organize something like this. I would definitely come and play, but please remember to give me enough notice so I can brush up my skills. Halha!

Prosquash: What are the movies we can expect to see you in soon?

Neha: Well I have a lot of movies releasing soon, starting with Pappu Can't Dance Sala, Raftaar, De Dhana Dhan, Raat Gayi Baat Gayi, I Am 24 and Action Replay. I also have my first international release on 6 August in the U.S. called Bollywood Hero. I am really looking forward to the rest of the year as all my work will be releasing shortly.

Prosquash: Thank you for your time. We wish you the very best for your forthcoming releases and look forward to seeing more of you at the squash courts.

Neha Dhupia



Interviewed by Raj Arora for PROSQUASH

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FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI

Mid-day 1/8/1999

Asian invasion in America



Raju Chainani

TWO sporting legends have been in the news during the last few days. Rod Laver had a heart attack and Jack Nicklaus has called in some experts to look into an apparent fraud in his Golden Bear Inc.

Whilst all this has taken up space in the main papers like The New York Times, Jahangir Khan's arrival at Princeton as coach of the Pakistan junior men's squash team hasn't even got a line.

Yes, Tom Jones, the editor of Squash News, who is based in Rhode Island and runs a very good circuit, was quite pepped up about the legendary player coming down in an official capacity.

Jahangir has intentions of vying for the post of Vice-president at the next AGM of the World Squash Federation in November. His colleague Qamar Zaman tried his luck at becoming Vice-president of the Asian Squash Federation two weeks ago at Kuala Lumpur but managed the least number of votes.

Jahangir is a different kettle of fish. The debate still rages as to who is the best player of all time. Jahangir never won the world junior title but had six World Opens and 10 British Opens to go alongside. Jansher was

world junior champion in 1988, has eight World Opens under his belt and six British Opens.

Jahangir, the man with the classic backhand and an allround game pitted against the superfit Jansher. Perhaps it was poetic justice that the final scoreline between them stood at 21 wins apiece.

With the exception of Jansher, no other player has won the World junior and senior title. Australia's Chris Robertson (champion in 1984) got to number two on the PSA list, Egypt's Ahmed Barada who won at Christchurch in 1994 had made the top five but that's as far as they have got. Chris Dittmar lost two World Junior finals and it was to be a similar story for him in the men's.

Junior squash has come a long way in the last two decades. It's happening in all the five continents. To see it do so in a state better known for its Dodgers Stadium is extraordinary. Talk about baseball, basketball, the Goodwill Games and it's all acceptable.

But squash? A relatively unknown racket sport making a big splash at Princeton University. The all-glass court is being set up in the Jadwin Gymnasium which has a seating capacity of 3,000. It's not been designed for Nadia Commanche. Instead the world will be watching what looks to be an Asian invasion.

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'PROSQUASH' SPEAKS TO THREE BUDDING JUNIOR PLAYERS FROM JINDAL SQUASH ACADEMY

Jaya Pandey - Thane District No.1 in U-11 Girls

Daksha Pathak - Thane District No.1 in U-9 Girls

Aishwarya Bhattacharya - She is ranked second in the U - 11 girls category in the National circuit and was runner-up in the Sub Jr. National Championship 2008.

PROSQUASH - Tell us about how you took up Squash?

Jaya - I took up squash at Jindal Squash Academy because my elder sister was playing it. By seeing her play, I also got encouraged to play squash.

Daksha - I started learning squash at the age of 5 years. Being obese my parents put me in this sport. It has kept me fit and healthy always.

Aishwarya - I took up swimming first but left soon. My 1st grade teacher Mrs Suchsmita Ghosal informed my mother about squash camp being organised at Hiranandani Club in Jan 2006 by SRAT (Squash Racquets Association of Thane) and Sunil sir. I attended that camp and since August 2006 I train under my coach Mr. Sunil Verma and I have been engrossed in the game.



Jaya Pandey

PROSQUASH - How do you train? How do you balance training with studies?

Jaya - I train for 2 hours after school and balance training with studies by studying for 2-3 hours after playing.

Daksha - My training includes learning technical skills, building stamina, endurance and speed and lots of match practice at JINDAL SQUASH ACADEMY at Vasind that builds up my confidence in the court. This game disciplines me and helps concentrate better in studies.

Aishwarya - Sunil sir takes regular coaching on weekends and he gives a weekly schedule which I follow. I also go and train in Jindal Squash academy at least once a week. As for balancing studies with squash, I am only in 6th standard, whatever time I get I manage to study regularly, play squash, read various books and also watch a bit of TV. I also study in advance during summer holidays and other school holidays just to keep pace with squash and studies. Sunil sir also encourages me to balance studies with squash. With his and my parents effort I find it easier to balance studies and my training.



Daksha Pathak

PROSQUASH - You've made a good progress to win SRAT Thane Squash Championship. What is your secret of such great improvement?

Jaya - The secret of improvement according to me is hard work, sincerity towards the game and good match play.

Daksha - Reason for my improvement is support and motivation from my coach from day one and self practice to deliver the best.

Aishwarya - I have just started and want to learn and improve. As for my runner up position I just played a few good games to reach the final in last Junior national at ICL Chennai. It is definitely an encouragement. The secret of this is just my hardwork, practice, encouragement from my parents and regular excellent coaching of Sunil sir.



Aishwarya Bhattacharya

PROSQUASH - What is your ambition?

Jaya - My ambition for now is to become a national champion and make J.S.W Steel Co. Ltd and Jindal Squash Academy proud.

Daksha - My ambition is to see my self on the top in future

Aishwarya - To be among the top 5 players in the world and represent India in International tournaments. After my retirement I would prefer coaching kids and encourage them to play squash.

PROSQUASH - What are your other interests apart from squash?

Jaya - My other interests are reading books and watching T.V.

Daksha - My other interests are drawing, painting and reading.

Aishwarya - My favorite hobby is to read. People may tease me by calling me a bookworm but one can never separate me from books. I also have interests in art and games like Basketball. I also enjoy solving riddles and puzzle.

PROSQUASH - Anything else you'd like to say?

Jaya - I would like to thank my J.S.W management, also my coach Sunil sir, Shanti m'am and my parents for encouraging me to play this game.

Daksha - I would like to thank my coach Mr Sunil Verma for all his efforts in shaping my game.

Aishwarya - I want to thank my mother for her calm approach, encouragement and support. She helps me in my studies and corrects me when I am wrong. Her motivation is another quality thoroughly admired by me.

ISP SUPPORTS SQUASH BID FOR INCLUSION IN 2016 OLYMPIC GAMES



Squash 2016 Day produced a resounding rallying cry all over the globe to support squash's bid for inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Games.

In a worldwide festival of squash, the day began with rock star Phil Buscke of The Datsuns performing a bungee jump live on TV from Auckland Harbour bridge in New Zealand and continued with an amazing array of events as Squash 2016 Day moved through the various timezones.

Another musician to lend her support was Brazilian superstar Daniela Mercury, who joined a fantastic squash carnival in Sao Paulo.

Leading squash professionals lent their support to the bid by joining in hundreds of Olympic-themed events, all taking place on the same day.

The biggest event of the day was held at the Apawamis Club in Rye, New York, where squash legends Jonathon Power and John White took part in a 100-a-side Battle Of The Border fixture, joined by US number ones Julian Illingworth and Natalie Grainger.

They were joined by fellow pros from around the world including David Palmer, Bernardo Samper, Rafael Alarcón, Raj Nanda, Chris Walker, John Russell, Ryan Cuskelly, Mike Ferreira, Stuart Crawford, Mark Price, Phil Barker, Peter Briggs, Suzie Pierrepont, Kasey Brown, Lisa Camilleri and Narelle Krizek.

World No.2 Grainger, a Squash 2016 Ambassador, said: "It was fantastic to see so many leading players supporting the event and more than 500 people came through the club's doors on the day. The event raised money for the bid, showcased squash in the most positive way and helped to raise the profile of the sport."

From the professionals of North America, through Europe and Asia to the townships of Soweto in South Africa, thousands of children were entertained to free coaching lessons and a vivid introduction to squash on a very special day for the sport.

Rio, Chicago and Tokyo, three of the cities bidding to host the 2016 Olympics, held special events



India

throughout the day. As well as open days at every squash club, enthusiasts took to the streets in numbers to be photographed waving their Squash For 2016 banners at prime locations in each city.

The Japan Squash Association hosted a press conference in Tokyo attended by more than 20 members of the National media.

Organiser Miyuki Adashi said: "The coverage afterwards in various newspapers described the

launch of the JSA's efforts to help with the bid to have Squash included in the 2016 Olympics.

"As well as the conference, a squash clinic gave the journalists the opportunity to try out the game on court with some of the top players in Japan. All in all a very successful and enjoyable day."

Other open-air events took place in India (with photographs outside the Taj Mahal and the Gateway to India), Malaysia (Petronas Towers), South Africa (Table Mountain) and London, where a London bus toured the city and stopped off for photographs at the Tower of London, Tower Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, the London Eye, Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

Leading the party on the iconic red London double-decker bus were three of the sport's up-and-coming stars - Joe Lee, the British U19 champion, Charles Sharpes, the British U17 champion, and Charlie Lee, the England U10 number one - all of whom could be in their prime by 2016.

"I was delighted to have been involved in World Squash Day and the campaign to get Squash its rightful place in the Olympic Games," said Joe Lee. "The sport deserves the global recognition and extra benefits that would come from Olympic inclusion - and it would be a huge honour for me to, one day, compete for my country in the world's greatest sporting event."

In Cape Town, South Africa, Villager Squash Club hosted a "Last Man Standing" Tournament. It

turned out that the tournament should have been titled "Last Person Standing" since a woman, Siyoli Lusasen, was crowned the Champion, after five hours of squash and 24 games with different squash enthusiasts.

Fittingly, Siyoli is an Olympic Ambassador for the World Squash Federation. She said: "It was a brilliant day for the game of squash and a wonderful picture was taken of a group of squash enthusiasts at the Cape Town V and A Waterfront with the backdrop of Table Mountain."

Another Olympic Ambassador, Samantha Teran, headed the celebrations in Mexico, which featured activities at many of Mexico's most important clubs and concluded with a gathering at the Angel of Independence in



India

Tokyo

the centre of the capital.

Another huge event in terms of participation was in Mumbai, where Indian ace Ritwik Bhattacharya was the star turn in a programme of State League fixtures with 128 players from Maharashtra between the ages of eight and 65.

Illustrating squash's cultural diversity, Iran and Nepal held massive squash conferences, arranged national TV

g legendary Australians Geoff Hunt, the eight-time British Open champion, and record five times world champion Sarah Fitz-Gerald.

The 'Squash for 2016' cry rang out in all 14 States of Malaysia where more than 53 squash venues at squash centres, clubs, colleges, universities and schools - even Armed Forces centres and Police Squash Clubs - joined in this worthy effort.

The national level programme started at the Royal Lake Club, where Squash first took root in Malaysia - and where dignitaries assembled that morning including WSF Patron and IOC Member HRH Prince Tunku Iman; Dato' A. Sani Karim, President of the Asian Squash Federation; Dato' Mohd Shukri Hussin, CEO of CIMB Foundation, SRAM's Sports Partner; and two Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General of the Olympic Council of Malaysia.

A 16-vehicle motorcade, supported by four police outriders, made its way to seven iconic buildings in Kuala Lumpur (including the Parliament House, National Museum, Sultan Samad Building, City Hall, Royal Selangor Club, KL Tower and Petronas Twin Towers) where group photographs were taken.

The day rounded off in sensational style with a press conference at which CIMB Investment Bank announced a 4 Million Malaysian Ringgit sponsorship deal with the Squash Racquets Association of Malaysia to extend the current agreement by a further two years.

coverage and invited prominent IOC guests.

In Tehran, more than 600 guests of the Iran Squash federation visited the historical Sadabad palace with special guests including Mr. Ali Abadi, Head of the country's Physical Education and President of International Olympic Committee of Iran, and Dr M.S.H. Malek Zadeh, President of Iran Squash Federation.

Women's world No.1 Nicol David hosted an open day at her training base in Amsterdam, while back home in Penang, she raised 10,000 dollars towards the Olympic Bid by auctioning off her collection of clothing and rackets which she had worn and used to win major tournaments during her career.

Without doubt the most exhausted supporters of the event were at the Leñadura Country Club at the southern Chilean city of Punta Arenas, and at Thurles Squash Club, County Tipperary, Ireland, where club players held 24-hour squash marathons.

In Hong Kong the 9th World Squash Coaching and Development kicked off with speakers and delegates welcoming the Hon. Timothy Fok, IOC Member and President of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China, who delivered a very encouraging speech to all the participants of the conference in support of World Squash Day.

Malaysia

Delegates included WSF Vice-President Gerard DeCourcy and Hong Kong Squash Chairman and David Mui - as well as leading figures from the sport includin



San Diego



"Never in the history of squash in Malaysia had we witnessed the entire squash fraternity nationwide coming together to support a worthy cause," commented K. Sivanesen, Hon. Secretary of SRA Malaysia. "All through the length and breadth of the country, Squash For 2016 Day was a day of squash festivities, fun and joy."

At the end of an exhausting but successful weekend, World Squash Day founder Alan Thatcher said: "The event was

massively supported by national federations, and some extraordinary individuals came to the fore to organise amazing events in so many different countries.

"The energy and commitment from so many sources was almost overwhelming, and clearly illustrated the passion we all have to see squash gain its rightful place in the Olympic Games."

London



INDIAN'S IN INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Siddharth Suchde loses in first round at Movida International Toulouse Squash Open, France : 18th June 2009
1st Round: Chris Ryder (ENG) bt Siddharth Suchde (IND) 11-4, 11-7, 11-6

Harinder Pal Sandhu lost in quarterfinals of Cloudy Tour Kranj Squash Open, Kranj, Slovenia : 14th June 2009
Quarter-finals: [5] Adrian Waller (ENG) bt [4] Harinder Pal Sandhu (IND) 9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-3
1st Round: [4] Harinder Pal Sandhu (IND) bt Alex Ingham (ENG) 11-5, 7-11, 14-12, 7-11, 11-9

Ritwik and Siddharth knocked out in first round of Seegarten Vitis Open 2009 in Switzerland: 22nd May 2009
1st Round: Nicolas Mueller (SUI) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (IND) 11-9, 12-10, 11-9
 Jorge Isaac Baltazar Ferreira (MEX) bt Siddharth Suchde (IND) 14-12, 11-4, 11-4

Ritwik Bhattacharya loses in quarters at Roma Est Open, Rome : 10th May 2009
Quarter Finals: Mark Krajcsak (Hun) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya 8-11, 7-11, 11-6, 11-9, 1-4
Round One: Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Kristian Frost (Den) 11-9, 5-11, 7-11, 11-4, 12-10

Gaurav loses in Quarters At Festina Open, Italy : 25 April 2009
Quarter Finals: Luca Mastrostefano beat Gaurav Nandrajog 11/3, 7/11, 11/7, 11/8
1st Round: Gaurav beat Marco Vercesi 11/5, 11/3, 11/7

Dipika Pallikal & Joshna loses in qualifying finals of Irish Open at Dublin : 25 April 2009
Qualifying Finals : Manuela Manetta (Ita) beat Dipika 11-4, 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-5
 Lauren Siddall (Eng) beat Joshna 11-8, 11-9, 11-5
1st Round : Dipika Pallikal (IND) bt Kerri Lancaster (IRL) 11/8, 11/6, 11/6
 Joshna Chinappa (IND) bt Carrie Hastings (ENG) 11/4, 11/7, 11/5

Dipika loses in first round of Heliopolis Open at Cairo : 9th April 2009
Round One: Rachael Grinham (Aus) bt Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 11-4, 9-11, 11-6, 11-6

Qatar International Open 2009, Doha : 10th April 2009
Final Positions: Kush Kumar lost to Omar Elatms (Egy) Runners Up 11-6, 13-15, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8
 Deepak M 3/4 beat Matt Sidaway (Eng) 3/4 3rd-16 11-9, 13-11, 6-11, 8-11, 12-10

Ramit Tandon 5/8 bt Mahesh Mangoankar 7th/8th 9-11, 11-5, 11-3, 13-11

Ravi Dixit 5/8 bt Abdulrahman al Malki (Qat) 9th/14 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-7

Rahel Fazelbhoj 5/8 Lost to Ho Wa Yeung (HK) 10th/16 6-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-6

Sandeep Ramachandran 11th/16
 Paramit Singh beat Heiko Schwarzer (Ger) 13th/14 11-8, 12-10, 11-9

Semifinals:
 Kush Kumar (1) beat Abdel rahman Elgarhy (Egy) 3/4 12-10, 13-11, 11-9
 Deepak Mishra beat Oliver Holland (Eng) 11-0, 11-5, 11-3

Quarterfinals:
 Kush Kumar (1) beat Matt Bedwell (Eng) 11-4, 11-6, 11-3
 Deepak Mishra beat Abdullah Al Tamimi (Qat) 16-14, 9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-8

Ramit Tandon 5/8 Lost to Nathan Lake (Eng) 11-4, 11-4, 11-8
 Mahesh Mangoankar Lost to Merhwan El Shorbagi (Egy) 7-11, 11-4, 11-9, 11-7

1st Round:
 Kush Kumar (1) beat Konstantin Blach (Ger) 11-4, 11-3, 11-4
 Sandeep Ramachandran Lost Omar Elatms (Egy) (2) 11-4, 11-3, 11-3
 Deepak Mishra beat Ian Yeung (HK) 11-9, 14-12, 11-8

Rahel Fazelbhoj Lost to Fady Mina (Egy) 11-4, 11-5, 11-4
 Mahesh Mangoankar beat Simon Vaciahovsky (Ger) 11-6, 11-8, 11-6, 11-3 (0)

Ramit Tandon CWG beat Khalid Hindawi (Qat) 11-7, 11-5, 11-1
 Ravi Dixit CWG 5/8 Lost 9-11, 11-4, 11-8, 11-6 (3-1)
 Paramit Singh Lost Amr Khalifa (Egy) 11-8, 8-11, 12-10, 11-3

Dipika lost in the first round of Hurghada Squash International, Cairo, Egypt : 30th March 2009

Women's 1st round: Jenny Duncalf (Eng) bt Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 11-8, 11-4, 12-10

Qualifying Finals: Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Nouran El Torky (Egy) 11-7, 11-8, 11-8

Qualifying Round One: Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Eliza Kargioti (Gre) 11-4, 11-0, 11-8

Saurav Ghosal lost to Ong Beng Hee at Kolkata Open : 21st March 2009

Quarter-finals: Ong Beng Hee (MAS) bt Saurav Ghosal (IND) 3-11, 11-8, 8-11, 12-10, 11-6

Round One: Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Naresh Kumar (Ind) 11-8, 13-11, 11-0

Mohammed Abbas (Egy) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 7-11, 11-4, 11-4, 11-5

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KHAR GYMKHANA AND NSCI LAUNCH SQUASH ACADEMIES

Pradeep Vijayakar on two new state-of-the-art courts in the city



Squash courts at NSCI club, Mumbai

Khar Gymkhana's swanky state-of-the-art squash courts were inaugurated recently. Three immaculately made courts, ample spectator area in two levels, four changing rooms, and more allied facilities in planning set it apart. The facility provided Khar Gym with an excellent opportunity to set up a coaching program for its junior members.

Commensurate with the splendid quality of the squash complex, it decided to attempt having the best possible program. KG have engaged A.I. Singh, India's highest qualified squash coach to set up the Khar Gymkhana Squash Academy. Rayna Kishanchandani, Gayatri Raheja, Dev Vazirani, Veer Chotrani, Rajat Agarwal who are competition players



Participants along with coach A.I. Singh at the new squash courts of Khar Gymkhana

are in the academy which has a present strength of 60 players, with a waiting list of over 30.

Meanwhile, in downtown also a new facility has come up. World's National Sports Club of India are having squash for the first time. Col Choudhuri of the NSCI said, "Of the four courts one is a doubles court which is the first of its kind in the city."

The courts were inaugurated by the NSCI president, Subash Chopra in the presence of the likes of BC Chawla and others.

Chandrakant Pawar had begun coaching there. Riaz Mohammed followed suit. Riaz's popularity was such that Col Choudhuri said they had to take two more coaches to tackle the increased load.

Mahendra Agarwal, of the ISP said, "ISP was the first to have doubles matches and they were a hit but they were played on normal courts and we would be scared of injury. Now with the specialist doubles court there we will have no more worries and we hope to have a major event there."

CONFUSION REIGNS OVER PIO SPORTSPERSONS

(2/06/2009)

The People of Indian Origin (PIO) issue is back to haunt the Sports Ministry. After the ministry's order in December that no PIO or Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) could don the national colours in international competitions or be entitled to monetary assistance, comes the letter from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) that it was not consulted on the issue.

A letter written by the Diaspora Services Division of the MOIA to the secretary, Sports Ministry, says: "In terms of allocation of business, this ministry is to be consulted by the concerned ministries in all matters concerning overseas Indians handled by them. It may be pointed out that the MOIA, being the ministry created specially to look after the interests of PIOs and NRIs, has not been consulted while taking the above action."

Interestingly, J. Srinivas, Joint Secretary, Sport Ministry, said on Monday that the MOIS had been "extensively consulted" on the issue. "There is some misunderstanding but the MOIS was consulted," he said.

The MOIA letter, written by its Diaspora Services Division Joint Secretary, D.N. Srivastava, on May 21, further says: "The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is requested to consider review of its guidelines in respect of PIO/OCI sportspersons who have represented India earlier so as to make them eligible for representing the country in international sports events, etc."

The Sports Ministry, under MS Gill, had dropped a bombshell on PIOs/OCIs stating that the honour of representing the country should not be given to foreign citizens. "When it is a question of Indians versus others (read PIOs/OCIs), the government's priority is Indian citizens," the Sports Ministry had said in December.

Sports persons of Indian origin like tennis players Prakash Amrithraj, Sunitha Rao, Shikha Uberoi besides a host of others in other disciplines including medal prospects in swimming, shooting and squash overnight became ineligible to play for the country despite

having donned India colours in the Asian Games, Davis Cup, Fed Cup and the Olympics earlier. The move was severely criticised by the affected parties but the Sports Ministry had struck to its stand that everyone including the MOIA, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Sports Federations had been consulted.

Now it transpires that the MOIS was in the dark all along. A Right To Information (RTI) application submitted to the MOIA by an aggrieved OCI, squash player Karm Kumar, on March 23, demanding copies of all the responses received from the Sports Ministry regarding PIO/OCI status to represent the country got this response. "The MOIA has not received any documents from the Sports Ministry...this ministry has not issued any notification on the subject of PIO/OCI," said the MOIA letter.

Karm, born and brought up in India, has a British passport because of his father. He is now fighting for his right to represent the country in the World Juniors. On Monday, he was declared 'stateless' and the WSF vice-president Gerard DeCourcy stated that the 16-year-old's entry could not be accepted for the World Juniors in July since he "is not represented by any country".

"I have been denied the right to compete in an individual capacity too and rendered a human rights violator by the Sports Ministry," he said in disgust.

By Ajai Masand, *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi



Anika Sharma was the only Indian who played in the semi's of the ATCO junior open at Cairo, Egypt beating a seeded player in the quarter finals (29th June 2009)

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS ALL FINALS

25/05/2009 : FASSP ST LUKE'S OPEN NEW CANAAN, USA
Mens: Ryan Cuskelly bt Shahid Zaman 15/17 11/9 11/3 11/9
Womens: Miranda Ranieri bt Victoria Lust 11/6 7/11 13/11 11/1

01/06/2009 : GOLDEN OPEN KALGOORLIE, W. AUSTRALIA
Mike Corren bt Nathan Stephenson 11/7, 11/2

02/06/2009 : HEMUBO TROPHY ALMERE, NETHERLANDS
Gilly Lane bt Joe Lee 11/5, 11/7, 12/10

08/06/2009 : SEOUL OPEN SEOUL, KOREA
Nicol David bt Jenny Duncalf 11/6, 3/11, 11/6, 11/4

12/06/2009 : ALEXANDRIA OPEN ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
Camille Serme bt Omneya Abdel Kawy 11/7, 11/9, 11/4

14/06/2009 : MOTE CLASSIC PRO/AM MAIDSTONE, UK
Chris Ryder bt Aaron Frankcomb 11/13, 13/11, 11/2, 11/6

17/06/2009 : CLOUDY KRANJ OPEN, KRANJ, SLOVENIA
Adrian Waller bt Neil Hitchens 11/6, 11/4, 11/3

17/06/2009 : SCANDINAVIAN OPEN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN
Dylan Bennett bt Laurence Delasaux 11/8, 11/6, 11/3

MENS RANKING JULY 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Karim Darwish	EGY
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
3	Ramy Ashour	EGY
4	Amr Shabana	EGY
5	Nick Matthew	ENG
31	Saurav Ghosal	IND
56	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND
112	Siddharth Suchde	IND
135	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND
154	Nareesh Kumar	IND
181	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND
305	Ravi Dixit	IND
383	Karan Malik	IND
383	Aditya Jagtap	IND
383	Ramit Tandon	IND

WOMENS RANKING JULY 2009

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grainger	USA
3	Natalie Grinham	NED
4	Rachael Grinham	AUS
5	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
41	Joshna Chinappa	IND
48	Dipika Pallikal	IND
168	Anwesha Reddy	IND
189	Surbhi Misra	IND

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