

# PROSQUASH

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Committee Members

## Matunga Gymkhana Junior Squash Open 2012

At Matunga Gymkhana, Mumbai

(26/01/2012)

**Samir, Kunj, Siddhant, Yohan, Jui, Tushar and Joshi's are champs**



Winners All: Sameer Mistry (U-19), Siddhant Iyer (U-13), Yohan Pandole (U-17), Neel Joshi (U-9), Nikita Joshi (U-13), Tushar Sahani (U-11), Jui Kalgutkar (U-19) & Kunj Rawani (U-15)

The brother and sister duo of Neel and Nikita Joshi of Otters Club helped themselves to the boys under-9 and girls under-13 titles, respectively, to take away the championship honours, in the Matunga Gymkhana Junior Open Squash Tournament.

Neel kicked off a rewarding day for the Joshis when as the top seed he overcame Arman Darukhanawala of CCI 11-5, 11-7, 11-7, while Nikita beat second seed Daksha Pathak of Bombay Gymkhana 11-8, 11-7 11-6 in exciting finals.

Both, Neel and Nikita are the recipients of most titles on the local circuit in their respective categories and are emerging as top juniors.

Top seed Siddhant Iyer of Jindal Squash Academy has also begun taking giant strides as the India No. 4 in his category beat second seed Dev Vazirani of Khar Gymkhana 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-5 for the boys' under-13 crown in the most absorbing final. In the only contest that went the distance, a gallant Vazirani drew level on two occasions before Iyer held on in the decider. The other title winners were Yohan Pandole, Samir Mistry, Kunj Rawani, Tushar Shahani and Jui Kalgutkar.

Top seed Pandole of CCI rallied to beat third seed Arman Sheikh of Willingdon Sports Club, who shocked No. 2 Ishaan Advani of Bombay Gymkhana in the semi-finals, 5-11, 11-3, 12-10, 11-6 for the boys' under-17 title, after enduring a stiff challenge in an exciting encounter.

### FINAL RESULTS

**Under-9:** 1-Neel Joshi (Otters Club) bt 2-Arman Darukhanawala (CCI) 11-5, 11-7, 11-7  
**Girls U-13:** 1-Nikita Joshi (Otters Club) bt 2-Daksha Pathak (Bombay Gym) 11-8, 11-7 11-6  
**Girls U-19:** 1-Jui Kalgutkar (Bombay Gym) bt 2-Daksha Pathak (Bombay Gym) 11-4, 11-5, 11-2  
**Boys U-11:** 1-Tushar Shahani (Khar Gym) bt 3-Tanay Punjabi (Otters Club) 11-1, 11-2, 11-3

**Boys U-13:** 1-Siddhant Iyer (Jindal) bt 2-Dev Vazirani (Khar Gym) 11-8, 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-5  
**Boys U-15:** 1-Kunj Rawani (Country Club) bt 2-Harsh Wadhwa (Otters Club) 11-4, 11-6, 11-7  
**Boys U-17:** 1-Yohan Pandole (CCI) bt 3-Arman Sheikh (Willingdon SC) 5-11, 11-3, 12-10, 11-6  
**Boys U-19:** 1-Samir Mistry (Otters Club) bt Dattaraj Nadkarni (Matunga Gym) 11-7, 11-2, 11-3

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## Junior Champs felicitated by Ministers from Maharashtra



All Junior National Champs from Maharashtra along with Mahendra Agarwal (Founder Director, ISP), Ranjan Sanghi (President, SRAM), Shri Padmakar Valvi (Hon. Minister for Sports, Govt of Maharashtra), Shri Harshvardhan Patil (Chief Patron of ISP & Minister Govt of Maharashtra), Shri Govindrao Adik (MP) & Sudhir Sood (Secretary Squash, Bombay Gymkhana)

the proliferation of squash courts in the city.

In 2011, the State Government recognized SRAM as the official body representing the sports of Squash in Maharashtra, and concerted efforts are now on to gain as much financial and infrastructural support as possible to help players who have played at an international level, besides all the National champions who are harbouring aspirations of turning professional in the near future.

Players who crowned themselves National champions are Mahesh Mangaonkar (Boys U-19), Yohan Pandole (Boys U-15), Aryaman Adik (Boys U-13), Veer Chotrani (Boys U-11), Urvasi Joshi (Girls U-17), Daksha Pathak (Girls U-13) and runners-up are Tushar Sahani (Boys U-11), Aditi Raheja (Girls U-11), Nikita Joshi (Girls U-13), Saumya Karki (Girls U-19).

Besides winning the National titles, most of the players have also made a name for themselves on the junior international stage. Mahesh Mangaonkar has been British Open Junior Champion 2009, Scottish Open Junior Champion 2007, German Open Junior Champion 2008 and the Indian Open Junior Champion 2011. Saumya Karki has participated in the World Junior women's team Squash Championship 2011, held in Boston, USA and was an U-19 semi-finalist. She also won an U-17 silver medal in the Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship 2011 in Amman, Jordan. Aryaman Adik represented India in the Boys U-13 and finished in the top 8 in the Asian Juniors in Jordan, besides being the Plate Event Winner in the Milo All-Star in Malaysia. Nikita Joshi was selected to represent India at the Asian Squash Junior Open, Girls U 13, held at Jordan in June 2011, and won 3rd place at the Scottish Junior Squash Championship, Girls U-13, at Edinburgh in Jan 2012. Veer Chotrani was runner up at Milo Junior Squash Championship 2011 and ranked No.2 in Aisa (Boys U-11).



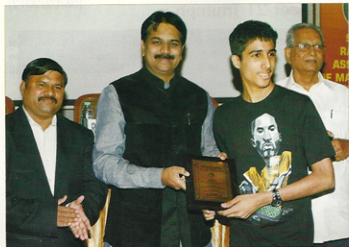
Under-11 finalist Aditi Raheja



Under-13 finalist Nikita Joshi

## Shri Harshvardhan Patil &amp; Shri Padmakar Valvi

At Bombay Gymkhana, Mumbai (01/03/2012)



Under-15 winner Yohan Pandole



Under-17 winner Urvashi Joshi



Under-13 winner Aryaman Adik



Under-19 winner Mahesh Mangaokar



Under-11 finalist Tushar Sahani



Under-11 winner Veer Chotrani

# World Under 21 Squash Championship 2012

## At Chennai

### Egypt Deny India World Cup Under-21 Triumph

(06/02/2012)



Indian team from left to right : Karan Malik, Ramit Tandon, Dipika Pallikal, Ravi Dixit and Anaka Alankamony

In a dramatic clash which went the full distance, favourites Egypt eventually overcame surprise opponents India 2/1 in the final of the SDAT WSF Under-21 World Cup to deny the hosts a historic first world title in the inaugural World Squash Federation event before an ecstatic crowd at the Express Avenue Mall in Chennai.

It was a tall order for India in the opening match where team number one Ravi Dixit, ranked 183 in the world, faced Egypt's world No.33 Marwan El Shorbagy, the highest-ranked man in the tournament. But El Shorbagy, still only 18, stamped his authority to win 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7 in 58 minutes - and put Egypt into the lead.

But the match of the championship then followed - in which the star of Indian squash Dipika Pallikal, the highest-ranked woman in the event, faced Egyptian rival Nour El Sherbini.

Chennai born-and-bred Pallikal took the opening game, but to the dismay of the crowd, Sherbini won the next two to move ahead. The Egyptian maintained her control of the match to march on to match-ball at 10-6. But Pallikal was not about to concede and, urged on by the exuberant crowd, clawed her way back into the game - saving four match-balls to draw level.

The crowd erupted - shouting and screaming more than ever before - and it as some time before the local heroine was able to resume play. Twice more Sherbini moved to within a single point of the title - and twice Pallikal fought back before finally converting her own first game ball - having saved six match-balls - to win the game 14-12.

With crowd scenes and screams rarely witnessed before at a squash event, Pallikal returned to the court inspired. After losing two points from 8-3 up, she returned the next serve into the nick, delivered a delicate back hand drop shot again into the nick before winning the third on a "no let" to claim a sensational 11-7, 4-11, 8-11, 14-12, 11-5 victory after 74 long minutes.

Later, the Indian champion who is now coached by Australian legend

Sarah Fitz-Gerald, admitted that the match had been her toughest of all-time. "I spoke to Sarah this morning and I knew she'd be watching - and all I could think about, when I was match-ball down, was what would I tell her when we next spoke.

"She had told me to keep going until the very end - the game's not over until somebody wins - and that's where I got my strength and confidence," explained Pallikal.

"And I didn't want to lose in front of my family and friends."

With the crowd now sensing a shock victory, the semi-final hero Ramit Tandon took to the court to face Egypt's Karim Abdel Gawad in the decider. Gawad, a 20-year-old ranked 42 in the world, took the first game after a tie-break and then moved 2/0 ahead. But spurred on by the increasingly noisy crowd, Kolkata-born Tandon - ranked almost 300 places below his opponent - battled hard and took the third game to reduce the deficit.

But as the Egyptian reclaimed the advantage in the fourth, the crowd became more muted until Gawad eventually clinched his third match-ball to win 12-10, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8 after 67 minutes to earn the title for Egypt.

"It was a quality match for both sides - but I'm happy we did it for the second time," said Egyptian coach Amir Wagih, making reference to his country's victory almost 12 months earlier in the senior World Cup in Chennai.

## RESULTS

### Final: [1] EGYPT bt [4] INDIA 2/1

Marwan El Shorbagy bt Ravi Dixit 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-7  
Nour El Sherbini lost to Dipika Pallikal 7-11, 11-4, 11-8, 12-14, 5-11

Karim Abdel Gawad bt Ramit Tandon 12-10, 11-4, 6-11, 11-8

### Semi-finals:

[1] EGYPT bt [2] ENGLAND 2/1

[4] INDIA bt [3] FRANCE 2/1

Ravi Dixit lost to Lucas Serme 6-11, 11-8, 6-11, 7-11

Dipika Pallikal bt Chloe Mesic 11-3, 11-4, 11-5

Ramit Tandon bt Geoffrey Demont 11-5, 6-11, 11-2, 14-12

### 5th - 8th place play-offs Round robin :

[4] INDIA bt [5] AUSTRALIA 3/0

Ravi Dixit bt Jamie McErvale 11-4, 11-3, 10-12, 11-9

Dipika Pallikal bt Sarah Cardwell 11-6, 11-4, 11-5

Ramit Tandon bt Walter Koteka 11-1, 11-2, 11-4

### 2nd qualifying rounds:

[1] EGYPT bt [4] INDIA 3/0

Marwan El Shorbagy bt Ravi Dixit 11-7, 6-11, 11-4, 12-10

Nour El Sherbini bt Anaka Alankamony 11-6, 11-4, 11-3, 11-7

Karim Abdel Gawad bt Karan Malik 3-11, 11-9, 11-0, 11-3

### Pool B: 1st qualifying rounds:

[4] INDIA bt [8] GERMANY 3/0

Ramit Tandon bt Rudi Rohrmuller 11-2, 11-5, 12-10

Dipika Pallikal bt Franziska Hennes 11-2, 11-4, 11-7

Karan Malik bt Valentin Rapp 11-8, 11-6, 11-4

## PSA World Series JP Morgan Tournament of Champions

At New York, USA

## Dipika loses in the finals

(26/1/2012)



Natalie Grinham and Dipika Pallikal in the finals

**T**op seed and current world no 2 Nick Matthew won his first J.P.Morgan Tournament of Champions title defeating his long-time rival James Willstrop, current world no 1 and the second seed 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7 before a jam packed crowd that was glued to their seats in Vanderbilt Hall at Grand Central Terminal, New York.

It was an especially jubilant victory for the 30-year-old Englishman who was in his fourth Tournament of Champions final and playing his first tournament after two months off the tour to recover from an injury.

In the women's event squash mom Natalie Grinham beat her 20 year old opponent Dipika Pallikal in 3 straight games.

"Dipika is quite handy with the racquet and she volleys quite well, so I

made sure not to put the ball where she could easily reach it," said Grinham, who was relentless in picking up every offensive effort that Pallikal threw at her.

The former world no 2 also used length and width to keep her opponent out of the middle of court. Grinham's crosscourt drop from the front left wall proved especially effective.

"I just didn't have any strength left in my legs," said the rising star from India who was playing her ninth match in 10 days.

However, Dipika Pallikal became the first Indian ever to reach the final of Tournament of Champions when she clinched a three-set thriller against New Zealand's Jaclyn Hawkes.

## RESULTS

**Women's Finals:** [2] Natalie Grinham (Ned) bt [5] Dipika Pallikal (Ind) 11-4, 11-3, 11-3

**Semi finals:** Dipika Pallikal beat Jaclyn Hawkes 11-5, 14-12, 11-9

Natalie Grinham beat Nour El Sherbini 6-11, 11-5, 11-5, 7-11, 11-4

**Quarter finals:** Dipika Pallikal beat Donna Urquhart 11-9, 11-5, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9

**Round 1:** [7] Dipika Pallikal (IND) bt. Olivia Blatchford (USA) 11-5, 11-3, 11-7

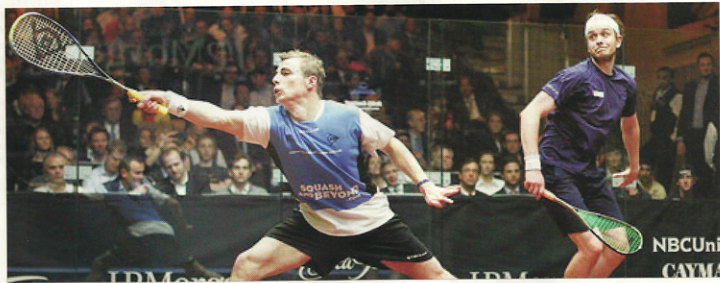
**Men's Finals:** [1] Nick Matthew (Eng) bt [2] James Willstrop (Eng) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7

**Semi finals:** Nick Matthew beat Gregory Gaultier 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 11-4 James Willstrop beat Daryl Selby 11-2, 11-3, 11-3

**Qualifying finals:** Mohammed Abbas (EGY) bt Siddharth Suchde (IND) 11-9, 11-4, 11-1

**1st qualifying round:** Amr Khaled Khalifa (EGY) bt Ramit Tandon (IND) 7-11, 11-6, 12-10, 11-5

Siddharth Suchde (IND) bt Matthew Karwalski (AUS) 11-6, 11-5, 11-6



Top seed Nick Matthew won his first J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions title defeating Willstrop

**British Junior Open 2012**

At Sheffield, England (6/1/2012)

**Anaka loses in quarterfinals**

Marwan El Shorbagy and Nour El Sherbini with their trophies

**W**hilst players from 42 nations competed in the Tecnifibre British Junior Open Squash Championships in Sheffield (England), it was Egyptians who once again dominated the world-renowned England Squash & Racketball event - winning seven of the eight finals.

Anaka Alankamony (Ind) was beaten by Egyptian Salma in the quarter finals while Mahesh Mangaokar (Under-19), Abhishek Pradhan (Under-19) and Kush Kumar (Under-17) in the boys singles and Aparajitha Balamurukan (Under-19) in the girls section lost in the Qualifying rounds.

**RESULTS****All Final Results :**

Habiba Mohamed [Egy] bt Amina Youssif [Egy] 11-8, 11-8, 11-3  
 Ziad Sakr [Egy] bt Kashif Asif [Pak] 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8  
 Nouran Gohar [Egy] bt Hana Ramadan [Egy] 11-7, 11-3, 11-6  
 Israr Ahmed [Pak] bt Youssef Soliman [Egy] 11-4, 6-11, 11-8, 11-7  
 Yathreb Adel [Egy] bt Salma Hani [Egy] 11-5, 11-3, 11-3, 11-6  
 Shehab Essam [Egy] bt Ashley Davies [Eng] 7-11, 13-11, 5-11, 11-9, 11-6  
 Nour El Sherbini [Egy] bt Kanzy El Dafrawy [Egy] 11-8, 11-8, 11-4  
 Marwan El Shorbagy [Egy] bt Mohd Abouelghar [Egy] 11-3, 11-2, 11-7.

**Quarter-finals:**

**Women's Under 19 :** [5/8] Salma Hatem Youssef (EGY) bt [3/4] Anaka Alankamony (IND) 11-9, 11-6, 11-9

**Qualifying Round:**

Anaka Alankamony beat Victoria Temple-Murray(Eng) 12-10, 11-9, 11-8  
 Mohamed Abou El Ghar (Egypt) beat Mahesh Mangaokar 11-7, 11-7 11-5  
 Syed Ali Bukhari (Pak) beat Kush Kumar 11-7, 11-9, 10-12, 11-9  
 Emily Whitlock (Eng) beat Aparajitha 11-8, 11-2 11-1  
 Damien Volland (FRA) beat Abhishek Pradhan 5-11, 4-11, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12

**Windy City Open**

At Chicago (13/02/2012)

**Ghosal biggest PSA TITLE in Windy City Open**

**S**aurav Ghosal celebrated the biggest PSA World Tour title win of his career at the METROsquash Windy City Open, the PSA International 25 squash event at the University Club of Chicago in Chicago, USA.

The top seed from Kolkata faced Pakistan qualifier Yasir Butt, a 23-year-old from Lahore whose giant-killing run in the event included the scalps of three higher-ranked opponents.

Ghosal recovered to win the first two games, but Butt reduced the deficit after the third. The six-time Indian champion neutralised Butt from the start of the fourth, quickly establishing a 5-1 lead. Butt was unable to close the gap as Ghosal powered on to secure his title-winning 11-8, 15-13, 10-12, 11-5 victory.

"Won 3-1 today!" tweeted the world No27 after the biggest win of his career. "Yasir was really good...he CAN play! Great final! I'm so happy to be the METRO WINDY CITY CHAMPION! Woohoo"

The success marks the fifth Tour title of Ghosal's career.

**RESULTS****Final :**

[1] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [Q] Yasir Butt (PAK) 11-8, 15-13, 10-12, 11-5

**Semi-finals:**

[1] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [4] Alan Clyne (SCO) 11-4, 11-5, 11-6  
 [Q] Yasir Butt (PAK) bt [3] Mohd Ali Anwar Reda (EGY) 9-11, 11-2, 8-11, 12-10, 11-3

**Quarter-finals:**

[1] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [Q] Olivier Pett (ENG) 5-11, 11-7, 11-4, 14-12

**1st round:**

[1] Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt Cesar Salazar (MEX) 6-11, 8-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-6 (76m)



Saurav Ghosal

## SCOTTISH JUNIOR OPEN

At Edinburgh, Scotland (10/1/2012)

## Akanksha makes India proud



Runner-up of the girls Under-13 event Akanksha Salunkhe

**D**empo Goodwill Ambassador Akanksha Salunkhe stole the thunder in the Scottish Open Junior Squash tournament with a commendable second-place finish, which was much above her overall 9th standing in the preceding British Open Junior Squash tournament.

In the semi-finals was supposed to be a tough arena for the young Akanksha and having thus far not dropped a set till the quarters, the Goan lass had to counter a rated opponent in Nikita Joshi of India. Having won the first two sets 11-6, 12-10, Akanksha lost the third 7-11. However, showing nerves of steel, the Dempo Ambassador kept her sponsors' flag flying high and came up trumps in the fourth set winning it 11-7 and thus making a historic entry into the finals of the competition with a 3-1 sets win.

That set the Goan challenger up for the final clash against Satomi Watanabe of Japan and what a final it proved to be as Akanksha fought tooth and nail to go for her maiden Scottish title. But in the end, the Japanese had the last final hurrah and won the match in three straight sets 11-7, 11-5, 11-6.

Satomi who had the reputation of being a fine player from Japan had stood overall fourth in the British Open whilst Akanksha was ninth, but that did not matter as the Goan fought all the way till the end and ensured that she at least kept her hopes alive of winning the title with an entry into the finals.

What was truly commendable was the fact that Akanksha's performance was consistent and she played well without being

under pressure. She played to be better player every time she took centre stage and raised the bar a notch higher and in the end put Goa on the world map, showing one and all that yes here was a quality player from a tiny Indian state that had the potential to make it big and the one who held a great deal of promise.

Akanksha's father Cdr Hemant Salunkhe pointed out that Akanksha's steady rise up the ladder by finishing 9th in the British Open and claiming the second place in the Scottish tournament can be attributed to her sheer hard work and more importantly her coach, Mr Rehman Saiyed who while being in small place like Goa had succeeded in moulding his ward into such a formidable player that the world is taking note of.

"I can once again reiterate that in case of Akanksha, her crowning as Dempo Goodwill Ambassador has made a huge difference and made it possible to train well and participate in tournaments. Participation in tournaments is absolutely critical to improve your game and it shows abundantly in her case," Mr Salunkhe reminded, signing off on a positive note.

At the same time, Sandeep Ramachandran and Dev Vazirani also stood 2nd in their respective category of U-15 and U-13 while Nikita Joshi stood 3rd and Aishwarya Nambiar stood 4th in the girls U-13 and U-15 category, respectively.

Harshit Kaur Jawanda stood second in girls U-15.

## RESULTS

## Girl Under-13 :

**Finals:** Satomi Watanabe (Jap) bt Akanksha 11-7, 11-5, 11-6

**3rd Place :** Nikita Joshi

**Semi Finals:** Akanksha beat Nikita Joshi 11-6, 12-10, 7-11, 11-7

**Quarter Finals:** Akanksha beat Vedika Arun (Ind) 11-1, 11-4, 11-6

**2nd Round:** Akanksha beat Ellie Mc Veigh (Scot) 11-1, 11-4, 11-5

**1st Round:** Akanksha beat Maddie Orr (Scot) 11-0, 11-0, 11-0

## Boys Under-15 :

**Finals :** Omer Allaudin (PAK) beat Sandeep Ramachandran 11-9, 11-9, 11-2

## Boys Under-13 :

**Finals :** James WYATT (ENG) beat Dev Vazirani 11-8, 9-11, 9-11, 11-8, 13-11

## Girls Under-15:

**2nd Place :** Harshit Kaur Jawanda

**4th Place :** Aishwarya Nambiar



At Santacruz (W) : 26184422/26631874, Juhu : 66946782/66946781, Thakur Complex, Kandivili (E)

## Swedish Open 2012

At Linköping Sporthall, Linköping (6/02/2012)

**Saurav Ghosal loses in 1st Round**



Gregory Gaultier and Karim Darwish with their trophies

A high quality performance by top seed Gregory Gaultier saw the Frenchman win the Case Swedish Open title and notch up the 20th PSA World Tour title of his career at the long-established PSA International 70 squash event at the Linköping Sporthall in Linköping.

Gaultier, described by PSA COO and former world number one Lee Beachill as being "in indescribably good form at the moment", took on second seed Karim Darwish.

### RESULTS

#### Final:

[1] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt [2] Karim Darwish (EGY) 11-3, 11-6, 11-8 (46m)

#### Semi-finals:

[1] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) bt [3] Peter Barker (ENG) 11-1, 11-3, 11-2 (34m)

[2] Karim Darwish (EGY) bt Daryl Selby (ENG) 11-2, 11-2, 6-11, 11-8 (47m)

**Round one:** [1] Gregory Gaultier (Fra) beat Saurav Ghosal (Ind) 11-8, 11-3, 11-6 (49m)

## PROSQUASH speaks to squash Professionals of Mumbai

Prosquash interviews dedicated coaches- Mohd. Saquib and Shiraj Mohammed Shaikh.



Mohd. Saquib

### Mohd. Saquib

**Prosquash- When and where did you start coaching?**

**Saquib-** I started my coaching career in 2005 at Delhi.

**Prosquash- At present where are you working?**

**Saquib-** At present I'm working at CP Club, Nagpur, thank to Mr Rizaz.

**Prosquash- Which are the prominent students you have coached or help develop?**

**Saquib-** Pankuri Malhotra, Robin Mann, Shruti Sahni, Harshit Jawanda etc.

**Prosquash- Any favourites amongst them?**

**Saquib-** According to me, Pankuri Malhotra is the best player.

**Prosquash- In your view, how has the life changed for squash professionals over the years?**

**Saquib-** Coaches nowadays are getting more chances to show their skills, and there are more opportunities as professionals. There are many players from Jindal who have made their career because of squash.



Shiraj Mohd Shaikh

### Shiraj Mohd Shaikh

**Prosquash- When and where did you start coaching?**

**Shiraj-** I started coaching about 25 yrs back at Hotel Sea Rock, Mumbai.

**Prosquash- Which are the prominent students you coach?**

**Shiraj-** I mainly coached celebrities like Sunny Deol, Bobby, Anil Kapoor who use to frequent Sea Rock hotel in those days. Now I coach students in Cathedral School in Lonavala. Ali Merchant is my best student- he plays very well, but unfortunately, from my point of view, he went to USA for further studies!

**Prosquash- Do you play and compete in tournaments?**

**Shiraj-** Not anymore, but I used to. My best game would be in the year 1983 which I played against Sunil Verma in a Mens open Category match!



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## PROSQUASH speaks to upcoming squash players

### Abhishek Kumar, Romario Pavan, Janet Vidhi and Sankalp Anand



Abhishek Kumar

**Abhishek Kumar** – U-17, Modern School Vasant Vihar New Delhi 11th Standard, DOB – 8/8/96

**Romario Pavan** - U-15, Pathways World School – Gurgaon 9th Standard.

**Janet Vidhi** – U-17, Air Force Bal Bharati School, XII standard.

**Sankalp Anand** - U-11, Delhi Public School (DPS) R K Puram (5th Standard).

**PROSQUASH : What do you aim to achieve by playing squash and what are your targets ?**

**Abhishek** – I want a squash scholarship to an Ivy College in the US which would benefit my career and game like many of the top Delhi and Mumbai players but do not intend to become a PSA player. I would love to represent India in an Asian or World tournament and train very hard, if given an opportunity. My ambition is to be ranked in the top 4 of India in the U-19 category.

**Romario** – I want a squash scholarship to a good college in USA where I can improve my squash and get a valuable degree, but have no desire to turn professional. I received the Pathways squash excellence award 2011. I was a pre quarter finalist in the Junior Nationals at Jodhpur but unfortunately a walkover was given to my opponent Kunj Rawani due to misinformation of match timings otherwise who knows I may have made the quarters. My target is to reach the first 4 in the U-17 category by 2014.



Romario Pavan



Janet Vidhi



Sankalp Anand

**Janet** - Squash is a great sport. I have enjoyed every moment of it...the training, competing, all of it. I hope to play the game as long as I can, and win laurels for my country.

**Sankalp** - I want to become the National champion of every age group. I don't want to become a professional but hope to get on Ivy League College education through squash. I also want to beat my elder brother Sambhav who keeps on nagging me and stating that he is a better player!

**PROSQUASH : Who inspired you to play squash ?**

**Abhishek** – I was initiated into squash by my colleague Divij Mathur who unfortunately left the game while I have progressed beyond expectations. Both my parents are supportive of my hobby and make every effort to send me for as many tournaments as they can.

**Romario** – My classmate Shishank Bhandari introduced me to squash but now I have become better while he is not serious about training. Then I encouraged others like Harsh Jain, Vedant Aggarwal, Abhay Mehta etc to take up squash and all of us are in the Pathways school team, which beat Mayo College in the final of the inter school U-15 team championships last year. Though my

parents have never played competitive sports they have encouraged me and even sent me for Milo Juniors to Malaysia in 2010.

**Janet** - Initially I was more into badminton. But watching my father play squash everyday at the club, I also took to it. Soon, the leisure time turned into focused play, and I haven't looked back since.

**Sankalp** - My father Sanjeev Anand inspired me. He himself is a competition player.

**PROSQUASH : Since you have played cricket and badminton why did you choose squash and which player do you admire the most ?**

**Abhishek** – I admire Nick Mathews as he is technically very sound and plays the conventional game to perfection. I took up squash in 2007 and preferred it over cricket as it was more physical and though my father was a university level badminton player there were no indoor courts available unlike for squash at the Vasant Vihar club.

**Romario** – My favourite player is Ramy Ashour as he is unpredictable and it is very difficult to predict where he is going to place the ball.

**Janet** - I really enjoy the fast pace and quick thinking required in squash. To me badminton somehow never provided that thrill and excitement. As they say, squash is chess with a racquet! My favorite players include Nick Matthew, James Willstrop, Nicol David and Jenny Duncalf.

**Sankalp** : I enjoy squash the most as it is the toughest game and I like to deceive my opponents by making them run the wrong way. My favourite player is James Willstrop.

**PROSQUASH : Tell us about your ranking and best result?**

**Abhishek** - I have had many great matches with top players including a 5 setter with Kush Kumar which I lost but my best moment was winning the Delhi Open U-13 event in 2008. I have also represented Delhi in 3 inter state championships.

**Romario** – I am amongst the top U-15 juniors of Haryana and have represented it in the U-15 inters state in the 2010. My best result was taking a top U-17 Delhi Junior Rajat Sharma to 5 sets at the tournament at Srifort in 2011.

**Janet** - I am a top Delhi player and reached the top four of the u17 category in the India junior nationals, 2011. I have also won the ISP All India in 2009 and Delhi open titles in 2009.

**Sankalp** : I am among the top 2 in Delhi U-11. My best tournament was the Northern India 2011 where I won the U-11 title and my win over Shlok Makhija a top ranked Mumbai junior at the Junior Nationals in Jodhpur.

**PROSQUASH : Who have been your coaches ?**

**Abhishek** – My coaches have been Gautam Sood, Mukhtair Ali, B Singh, Rahul Kumar and Amjad Khan.

**Romario** - I have been coached by Subhash, and presently by Gyanendra P and Rahul K.

**Janet** - I am currently being coached by myself. I also appreciate Rahul sir's frequent inputs.

**Sankalp** : Amjad Khan, Rahul Kumar and my parents

**PSA Challenger 5 Barwa Bank PSA Challenger, Doha, Qatar****Mahesh, Ravi loses in Quarter finals, while Kristian Olesen Banks Qatar Crown (25 March 2012)****Final:** [1] Kristian Frost Olesen (DEN) bt [3] Bader Al Hussaini (KUW) 11-6, 11-7, 11-4**Semi-finals:** [1] Kristian Frost Olesen (DEN) bt David Haley (WAL) 11-3, 11-6, 11-5

[3] Bader Al Hussaini (KUW) bt [Q] Fallah Mohammed (KUW) 11-9, 13-11, 11-7

**Quarter-finals:** [1] Kristian Frost Olesen (DEN) bt Mahesh Mangaonkar (IND) 11-8, 13-11, 2-11, 11-9

[Q] Fallah Mohammed (KUW) bt Ravi Dixit (IND) 11-5, 11-5, 11-2

**1st round:** Mahesh Mangaonkar (IND) bt James Earles (ENG) 11-2, 11-8, 3-11, 9-11, 11-6

Ravi Dixit (IND) bt Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT) 11-7, 11-1, 11-9

[Q] Fallah Mohammed (KUW) bt [2] Chris Truswell (ENG) 8-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-5

**Canary Wharf Classic****Nick Mathews claims hat-trick (26 March 2012)****Finals:** [1] Nick Matthew (ENG) bt James Willstrop (ENG) 11-7, 11-8, 11-9**Semi-finals:** [1] Nick Matthew (ENG) bt [3] Peter Barker (ENG) 8-11, 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-3

[2] James Willstrop (ENG) bt [4] Mohamed El Shorbagy (EGY) 11-6, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5

**1st round:** [2] James Willstrop (ENG) bt Saurav Ghosal (IND) 11-7, 7-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-5**Motor City Open****Siddharta loses in Final Qualifying round and Beng Hee beat top seed Hisham Ashour in Final : USA (30 January 2012)****Finals:** Ong Beng Hee (Mas) bt [2] Hisham Ashour (Egy) 11-8, 11-9, 11-7**Semifinals:** Ong Beng Hee beat Mohamed El Shorbagy 11-9, 11-7, 13-11

Hisham Ashour beat Steve Copping 8-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-9

**Qualifying Finals :** Max Lee (Hkg) bt Siddharth Suchde (Ind) 13-11, 11-8, 14-12**Qualifying Round :** Siddharth Suchde(Ind) bt Scott Arnold (Aus) 12-10, 11-9, 11-8**PSA World Series Davenport North American Open 2012, Richmond , USA****King James Rules In Richmond****(26 February 2012)****Final:** [1] James Willstrop (ENG) bt [4] Rami Ashour (EGY) 11-7, 11-8, 11-7**Semi-finals:** [1] James Willstrop (ENG) bt [3] Gregory Gaultier (FRA) 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-5

[4] Rami Ashour (EGY) bt [2] Nick Matthew (ENG) 12-10, 13-11, 11-3

**1st Round:** Amr Shabana (Egy) beat Siddharth Suchde 11-3, 11-5, 11-5

Shahier Razak (Can) beat Saurav Ghosal 13-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-6

**Qualifying finals:** Siddharth Suchde (IND) beat Kyamran Khan (MAS) 7-11, 11-4, 11-2, 11-2**1st qualifying round:** Siddharth Suchde (IND) bt Yasir Butt (PAK) 12-10, 11-3, 11-5**Brisbane Open****Mahesh loses in 1st round while Adnan Wins Epic Brisbane Final: 19 February 2012****Final:** [1] Mohd Nafizwan Adnan (MAS) bt [4] Ivan Yuen (MAS) 12-14, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10**Semi-finals:** [4] Ivan Yuen (MAS) bt Rex Hedrick (AUS) 9-11, 11-7, 11-3, 9-11, 11-4

[1] Mohd Nafizwan Adnan (MAS) bt [Q] Evan Williams (NZL) 7-11, 11-3, 11-2, 11-15

**1st round:** [1] Mohd Nafizwan Adnan (MAS) bt [Q] Mahesh Mangaonkar (IND) 11-7, 12-10, 10-12, 11-2**PSA Challenger 5 Doha Bank PSA Challenger 2012, Doha, Qatar****Mahesh Mangaonkar loses in 1st round while Yousaf takes Doha Title (26 February 2012)****Final:** Muhammad Saqib Yousaf (PAK) bt Ahmed Hawas (EGY) 11-8, 11-9, 9-11, 13-11**Semi-finals:**

Ahmed Hawas (EGY) bt Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT) 12-10, 11-6, 6-11, 14-12

Muhammad Saqib Yousaf (PAK) bt Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) 8-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-9

**Quarter-finals:** Abdulla Mohd Al Tamimi (QAT) bt [Q] Ahmed Atef Abdel-Fattah (EGY) 11-7, 9-11, 11-5, 12-10  
Ahmed Hawas (EGY) bt [4] Bader Al Hussaini (KUW) 12-10, 11-7, 11-7

Muhammad Saqib Yousaf (PAK) bt [3] Waqas Mehboob (PAK) 11-9, 6-11, 11-3, 11-5

Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) bt [Q] Carlos Cornes Ribadas (ESP) 11-6, 11-7, 11-6

**1st round:** Muhammad Saqib Yousaf (PAK) bt Mahesh Mangaonkar (IND) 11-2, 11-8, 9-11, 11-5**SRAM NSC Series No3 trophy at the Bukit Jalil National Squash Centre , Kuala Lumpur****Harinder, Ravi loses in 1st round, Sabry Celebrates SRAM Series Success (4 March 2012 )****Results :****Final:** [4] Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY) bt [3] Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) 11-7, 8-11, 11-3, 11-4**Semi-finals:** [3] Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) bt [Q] Michael Harris (ENG) 11-3, 11-7, 5-11, 11-2

[4] Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY) bt [2] Karim Ali Fathi (EGY) 7-11, 3-11, 11-7, 11-6, 14-12

**Quarter-finals:** [Q] Michael Harris (ENG) bt Sanjay Singh (MAS) 11-8, 11-8, 6-11, 11-8

[3] Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) bt Robert Downer (ENG) 11-11

9, 11-4, 7-11, 11-8

[4] Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY) bt Khawaja Adil Maqbool (PAK) 11-6, 11-4, 9-11, 11-5

[2] Karim Ali Fathi (EGY) bt Aqib Hanif (PAK) 11-7, 11-7, 6-11, 11-3

**1st round:** Sanjay Singh (MAS) bt [1] Harinder Pal Sandhu (IND) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7

[Q] Michael Harris (ENG) bt Carlos Cornes Ribadas (ESP) 8-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-3, 11-5

Robert Downer (ENG) bt [Q] Tarek Salah Shehata (EGY) 11-1, 11-8, 11-4

[3] Alejandro Garbi Caro (ESP) bt Tsukue Shinnosuke (JPN) 7-11, 11-1, 12-10, 13-11

[4] Mazen Hesham Ga Sabry (EGY) bt Ravi Dixit (IND) 11-7, 11-4, 11-9

Khawaja Adil Maqbool (PAK) bt [Q] Valentino Bon Jovi Bong (MAS) 11-9, 11-8, 11-7

Aqib Hanif (PAK) bt Gurshan Singh (MAS) 11-6, 11-7, 12-10

[2] Karim Ali Fathi (EGY) bt [Q] Amir Farhan (MAS) 11-3, 11-3, 11-6

6-11, 11-13, 11-7, 14-12, 12-10 (122m)

**Women's finals:**[1] Nicol David (Mas) bt Annie Au (Hkg) 11-4, 12-10, 11-9 (36m)**Quarter finals:**[1] Nicol David beat [Q] Dipika Pallikal 11-5, 11-2, 11-6 (25m)

Women's 1st Round:[Q] Dipika Pallikal (Ind) beat [8] Kasey Brown (Aus) 11-6 11-7, 11-9 (40m)

**Qualifying Finals:** Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Nour El Tayeb (Egy) 12-10, 5-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-6 (60m)**Qualifying Round One:** Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Zuljijah Binti Azan (Mas) 11-2, 11-5, 11-7 (26m)

## Squash Star Sue Wright Appointed Olympic Ambassador

(23/02/2012)



Squash Star Sue Wright

**S**ue Wright, a Commonwealth Games squash gold medalist, has been appointed an Ambassador for the London 2012 Olympic Legacy Programme Sport Makers.

The only Ambassador who has established her sporting reputation in squash, Wright believes that her appointment is a significant coup for the sport which is currently preparing its bid to become part of the programme for the Olympic Games for the first time in 2020.

Phil Smith, Director of Sport at Sport England, commented: "We're delighted to have Sue as one of our ambassadors. Everyone who chooses to become a Sport Maker is invited to an informal event that aims to inspire them to make sport happen in their communities."

"She has shown she has the knowledge, passion and the experience to motivate others and to increase participation in sport."

### HKFC Meco Invitational 2012, Hong Kong Siddarth Suchde loses in round 2 (17/3/2012)

**Final:** [1] Omar Mosaad bt [2] Olli Tuominen 3-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-4 (55m)**Semifinals:** Omar Mosaad (Egy) beat Leo Au (HK) 8-11, 11-1, 11-3, 11-4 (38m)

Olli Tuominen (Fin) beat Muhd Asyraf Azan (Mal) 11-5, 13-11, 11-7 (46m)

**Round 2:** Olli Tuominen beat Siddarth Suchde 11-5, 6-11, 11-3, 11-8 (67m)**Round one:** Amr Khalid Khalifa (Egy) beat [Q] Harinderpal Sandhu (Ind) 11-5, 11-8, 11-6 (43m)

Siddarth Suchde (Ind) beat Mohamed Abouelghar (Egy) 11-7, 11-3, 11-4 (38m)

### PSA International 50 CIME Nicol David KL Open

#### Nicol David & Omar Mosaad claims KL Crown (31 March 2012)

**Final:** [3] Omar Mosaad (EGY) bt [4] Adrian Grant (ENG) 11-6, 12-10, 12-14, 6-11, 11-8 (112m)**Semi-finals:** [4] Adrian Grant (ENG) bt [1] Karim Darwish (EGY) 12-14, 11-8, 13-11, 11-9 (80m)

[3] Omar Mosaad (EGY) bt Ong Beng Hee (MAS) 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 11-7 (52m)

**Quarter-finals:**[3] Omar Mosaad (EGY) bt Saurav Ghosal (IND) 11-7, 11-9, 4-11, 11-7 (56m)**Men's 1st round:** Saurav Ghosal (IND) bt [Q] Abdullah Al Muzayen (KUW) 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6 (45m)**Qualifying Round One:** Leo Au (Hkg) bt Siddarth Suchde (Ind)

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## Top Players Lead WSF Ambassador Programme

(30/03/2012)



Mohamed El Shorbagy

Malaysia's record six-time world squash champion Nicol David will lead this year's WSF Ambassador Programme visit to Malawi and Namibia, from 7-13 June, accompanied by Egypt's former world junior champion Mohamed El Shorbagy.

The Ambassador Programme international promotional initiative was launched by the World Squash Federation last year - taking two of the world's leading players, plus an international coach and referee to Latvia to highlight the appeal of Squash to the public and media in the Baltic country.

While the players integrated with the local squash community, providing clinics and exhibition matches in the capital Riga, coaching and refereeing workshops attracted interested parties both from Latvia and neighbouring countries.

The 2012 WSF Ambassador Programme will visit Lilongwe, the capital and largest city of Malawi, before moving onto the Republic of Namibia capital Windhoek.



Nicol David

## Sunil Verma RIP : Maharashtra Squash loses a pillar.



Late Sunil Verma

The sad demise of Sunil Verma, who lived by the Motto "Life is Squash" comes as a shock for everyone who knew him, and the hundreds of young players he produced at the Jindal Squash Academy.

Son of Shyamlal Verma, a multiple time National Champion from 1961 to 1984, Sunil Verma had it in his genes to become one of the prominent coaches in India. Beginning his career with Jindal Recreation

Centre in 1995, and working with utmost dedication for all these years, he taught his players the value of hard work. As an obvious result, the Academy churned out champion after champion- Vikas Jhangra, Sandeep Jhangra, Laxman Joshi, Saumya Karki, Urvasi Joshi, Aishwarya Bhattacharya and many other who sought his guidance in progressing at squash. Sunil worked with enthusiasm to promote squash in the vicinity of the academy at Vashind, and the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra could always rely on him to manage the state team at national events. At Jindal, Sunil steadily moved up in his career and was in charge of all sports at Jindal, Vashind, Thane District.

In a country where professional coaches with a good education and will to choose a 'non conventional' profession for the love of it are few and far between Sunil's absolutely untimely loss will be deeply felt by the squash fraternity. As the news sinks in, one struggles to maintain the same calm, composed, graceful demeanor that Sunil exemplified while watching even the toughest matches his wards played.

May his soul rest in peace.

## WOMENS RANKING APRIL 2012

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Jenny Duncalf	ENG
3	Laura Massaro	ENG
4	Madeline Perry	IRL
5	Raneem El Weleily	EGY
14	Dipika Pallikal	IND
53	Joshna Chinappa	IND
92	Aparajitha Balamurukan	IND
94	Anaka Alankamony	IND
208	Surbhi Misra	IND

## MENS RANKING APRIL 2012

RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	James Willstrop	ENG
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA
3	Nick Matthew	ENG
25	Saurav Ghosal	IND
45	Siddharth Suchde	IND
92	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND
144	Mahesh Mangaonkar	IND
165	Ravi Dixit	IND
347	Ramit Tandon	IND
389	Kush Kumar	IND

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