

PROSQUASH

NEWS LETTER OF THE INDIAN SQUASH PROFESSIONALS

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Otters, Otters everywhere

JINDAL CUP

Over 50 squash players from Mumbai had an ideal weekend. They got away from the city and played to their heart's content. They got the opportunity during the Professional Squash Association's handicap team event for the Jindal Cup at Vasind, about 75 km. away. The handicap, revised after each game on the basis of a player's performance, made for a level-playing field. The fact that it was a team event added to the fun and involvement.

Almost inevitably every match was keenly contested. Most, including a semi-final and the final, were decided on the fifth and final match. As the teams had to compete on a league-cum-knock-out format which had clearly been inspired by the recent World Cup the players hardly got a respite. When they did have a break they relaxed by jumping into the nearby pool. It was all invigorating, the squash as well as the swim.

Club underlined the wealth of talent in their midst as all their three teams reached the semi-finals unimpaired of the handicap: Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana took the fourth spot. Eventually Otters A took the title and the top prize of Rs. 6,000 by defeating Otters B, who received Rs. 4,000, in a tip-roaring final. Vikas Jangra of Jindal was adjudged the most promising on view and awarded a trophy. Mr. T. Kalbhor of Jindal Iron and Steel Co., who gave away the prizes, assured that the tournament would be an annual affair. Such was the fun and the hospitality that the players would look forward to it.



The Otters Club A team, from left, Gaurav Mittal, Rohan Juneja, Gaurav Juneja, Vijay Sonawane, Abhijit Kulkre and Sanjay Pawar, snapped after receiving the Jindal Cup from Mr. T. Kalbhor (D.G.M.)



ISP adopts one more player

The Indian Squash Professionals has adopted one more player. She is Priyanka Yadav who took to the game barely one year ago but shows considerable promise because of her athletic background. Priyanka was a good tennis player before she switched to squash and started playing at the Cricket Club of India in April, 1998. She was a member of the Maharashtra tennis squad that won a silver at the National Schools Championship. Before that Priyanka was good at badminton and won a number of certificates and medals at school meets. Her interests extend to martial arts where she is the recipient of a green belt. Thanks to her athleticism and ball sense, Priyanka has risen rapidly to be fifth in the Head Indian Squash ratings for girls under 19. The 17-year-old, who stands five feet, four inches, has just passed her higher secondary examination with flying colours. The daughter of Mr. S.P.S. Yadav, additional commissioner of police (traffic) and Dr. Usha Yadav who is posted at the G.T. Hospital, Priyanka has also set her sights on the civil services examination. Like Deepali Arvekar, the first to be adopted by the ISP, Priyanka gets free membership at The Leela and will be coached by Chandrakant Pawar who has moulded most of Mumbai's top players.



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MOTILAL SANGHI INTER-CLUB

Novel format adds colour



Chief guest Suresh Kalmadi, president of the Indian Olympic Association, and SRAM president Khalid Ansari with the members of the victorious Bombay Gymkhana team.

A novel format added colour and excitement to the 26th edition of the popular Motilal Sanghi Inter-Club squash tournament. The objective was to provide an opportunity to young and old alike and make it a fun event. Thus each team was required to field one player in the 20 to 30 age group, two in the 30 to 40 category and one each in the 40 to 50, 50 to 60 over 60 and professionals categories.

Bombay Gymkhana emerged triumphant for the fourth year as they could field a good player in practically every group. They had Maharashtra captain Niraj Shirgaonkar in the 20 to 30 category, former national champion Meherwan Daruwala and Yogesh Panchal in the 30 to 40 group and national veteran's champion Vaman Apte in the 40 to 50 group. They were well supported by Harry Melwani (50 to 60), Khalid Ansari (over 60) and Gopi Mohite (professionals).

Eager to put forth their best, Bombay Gymkhana virtually swept aside all opposition in the six-team league. The Cricket Club of India were their closest rivals but they simply could not match

the Gymkhana's all-round strength and lost 2-5. The format posed problems to a few, particularly the United Services Club who could not find players for certain age groups.

Runners-up in the men's, the CCI had the satisfaction of claiming the juniors event, introduced for the first time. They came through a triple tie after being beaten 2-3 by Otters Club. The upset of the event was provided by Jindal Sports Club whose players travelled 72 km daily from Vashind. The two-hour each way trip did not stop them from downing the fancied Otters, 3-2, Mahesh Verma providing an inspired display to overcome national champion Junaid Nathani. Their under-15 players, Ashwini Bhosle and Supreet Singh, brought the other two wins for Jindal.

However, Jindal lost to the CCI. The triple tie was resolved on the basis of matches won and lost. The CCI were through on a 20-5 score, Jindal and Otters finished level with 18-7 but Jindal were adjudged the runners-up as they had been Otters.

The five-team women's league had an even closer finish as The Leela, Wellington Sports Club and the CCI all finished with a 3-1 record and the number of matches won and lost were the same (6-3). Thus the number of games won came into the reckoning. The Leela, spearheaded by Deepali Anvekar and supported by Kavita Nalwade and Sarita Jethwani, were well ahead (29-9) on this count. Wellington came second as they had been the CCI though both had identical scores of 27-10 in the number of games won and lost.

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SUNDER RAJAN



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SUMMER CAMP UNEARTHS FRESH TALENT

For the first time the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra organised a month-long coaching camp purely to popularise the game and attract fresh talent. The camp, conducted at two centres in association with the Professional Management Group, evoked a splendid response. As many as 53 players registered themselves at the Cricket Club of India and 20 at the Andheri Sports Complex. All the trainees were juniors, many were having their introduction to the game. Such was the enthusiasm of some that they registered themselves for every day of the month though they were required to attend only on alternate days.

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Rahil Shah, the under-16 runner-up of the tournament amongst trainees, gets a pat on the back from ISP directors Mahendra Agarwal, Subhash Wali and SRAM official Sumedh Shah.

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GIRLS: Alisha Mashurwala bt Natasha Lal, 15-11, 17-15, 15-12.

SUNDER RAJAN



Winners all... Gulshan Singh and Sashi Gupta (extreme left and right), over-35 doubles, Avish Jaiswal (under-19) and Supreet Singh (under-16) in the Navi Mumbai Squash Spectacular

A BREAKTHROUGH FOR SQUASH

The Navi Mumbai Squash Spectacular marked a breakthrough for the sport because for the first time a tournament was conducted at the fast-developing and no longer so distant Vashi. Organised by the Indian Squash Professionals under the auspices of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra and sponsored by the Vasi Mumbai Sports Association, the event carried Rs. 20,000 in prize-money.

As only one court was available at the NMSA and since the tournament had to be gone through over a weekend there were just 3 categories-- under-19, under-16, over-35 doubles handicap. Such was the response that entries had to be limited to 16 per event.

The tournament was the culmination of the enthusiasm displayed by the likes of Inderpal Singh, Leon Emanuel, Raj Bhatija, Vasant Bhadra, S.S.Suri, Balakrishnan, Noshir Mistry, G. Khatri and Hari Shenava who have not only been regularly taking part in every competition organised in the city but have also spared no efforts to promote squash at Vashi.

The presence of talent in their midst was underlined by Supreet Singh's triumph in the under-16 event. Though he trains at the Otters Club, Supreet hails from NMSA. Supreet stopped the splendid run of 13-year-old Yogin Thakur, also of Otters, who edged out Bipin David after 16-all in the decider of their quarter-final and played third-seeded Rahil Shah in five games in the semi-final.

One point made all the difference as Avish Jaiswal staged off Amitpal Kohli's challenge in the under-19 final. The rivals were locked together at 14-all in the decider before Jaiswal took the next point, the title and the top prize of Rs. 2,500.

Similarly, the over-35 doubles final too went to the wire before Shashi Gupta and Gulshan Singh clinched an all-NMSA clash against Shyam Wadkar and Raj Bhatija at 15-14 in the fifth.

Needing one point to win their quarter-final at 14-2 in the decider Wadkar and Bhatija saw to their mortification, Chandrakant Pawar and Mahendra Agarwal catching up at 14-all. They heaved a big sigh of relief as they finally won a point and the match. Dr. Dilip Rane, Vice-President, NMSA, who gave away the prizes, assured that the Navi Mumbai Squash Spectacular would become an annual feature. He also announced playing membership of NMSA to Yogin Thakur, Avish Jaiswal and Amitpal Kohli.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

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Squash academy at Chennai

The country's first ever integrated squash academy, the India Cements Squash Academy, is being set up in Chennai. The academy at the Nehru Park Sports Complex is expected to be ready by October before commencement of the Asian junior championships.

Pivish Saraf wins:

The Gautam Karan handicap squash tournament was held at Calcutta Racquets Club from April 30 to May 7. There were over 60 participants. The trophy was won by Pivish Saraf. The losers plate was won by Samir Ladsaria bting Anurudh Kano.

Deepali in World Junior Squad

Mumbai's Deepali Anvekar and Supriya Balsekar were picked for the World Junior Squash Championship to be held in Antwerp, Belgium from July 26. She is being joined by Prita Abraham and Vaideti Reddy both from Chennai while Rhea Bhadane is the reserve.

NMSA OPEN SQUASH:

Semi-final Scores: Under-16: Supreet Singh bt Aditya Manjrekar 15-7, 15-7, 15-11; Yogin Thakur bt Rahul Shah 16-17, 15-12, 11-15, 15-13, 15-12. Under-19: Amitpal Kohli bt Abhijit Kulkre 15-4, 13-15, 15-11, 15-13, 15-13. Over-35 Doubles: Bhaskar Gupta And Gulshan Singh bt Riaz Shaikh and G.C. Dubey 11-15, 15-10, 15-11, 15-13. Raj Bhatia and Shyam Wadkar bt Indrapal Singh and Vasant Bhadra 17-14, 15-12, 15-13. **Finals:**

Under-16: Supreet Singh bt Yogin Thakur 15-12, 17-15, 15-11. **Under-19:** Avish Jaiswal bt Amitpal Kohli 15-13, 5-15, 7-15, 15-11, 15-14. **Over-35 Doubles Handicap:** Shashi Gupta and Gulshan Singh bt Shyam Wadkar and Raj Bhatia 15-13, 11-15, 14-15, 15-11, 15-14.

INTERNATIONAL

Milo Open - Malaysia:

Men: Ong Beng Hee (Mal) bt Kenneth Low (Mal)

17-15/5-15/15-8/11-15/15-9.

Women: Senga McFie (Scott) bt Natalie Grimham (Aus)

9-1/9-4/9-6.

PSA Tournaments - May

Magic Sports International '99, W. Australia

Prize Money \$3,500:

Cameron White bt Tim Manning 15-12, 145-12, 15-10.

1999 Tis De Clement-Ferrand, France \$18,000:

Thierry Lincou bt David Palmer

13-15, 15-12, 15-8, 13-15, 15-11.

9th Open Citta '01 Catellanza, Italy \$4,000:

Ong Beng Hee bt Nick Mathew

17-16, 17-16, 10-15, 15-6.

Versilia Open '99, Italy \$4,000:

Oli Touminen bt Olle Poutanen

15-5, 15-9, 11-15, 15-13.

1st Nova Friburgo Squash '99, Rio, \$4,000:

Adrian Grant bt Peter Pastijn

9-15, 15-5, 9-15, 15-9, 15-7.

Mega Italia Open '99, Brescia \$8,000:

David Palmer bt Lee Beachill

15-10, 11-15, 8-15, 9-15, 15-10.

Città Via Boitron Open '99, Italy \$12,000:

Stewart Rosewell bt Mark Cairns 15-7, 15-11, 15-8.

Outfield Morson International:

Men: Joseph Knipp (Aus) bt Paul Lord (Eng)

15-7, 15-8, 15-10.

Women: Tania Bailey (Eng) bt Alison Wray (Eng)

9-4, 9-0, 7-9, 9-3.

Finnish Open final:

Omar Elborossy (Egy) bt David Palmer (Aus)

12-15, 15-11, 15-11, 15-7.

Women's Citron Classic final:

Michelle Martin (Aus) bt Cassie Jackman (Eng)

7-9, 9-3, 9-5, 9-5.

Wissap World Grand Prix final:

Women: Michelle Martin (Aus) bt Carol Owens (Aus)

9-4, 9-7, 2-9, 9-4.

Greek Open:

Men: Mark Chaloner (Eng) bt Martin Heath (Scott) 10-8,

9-3, 9-3, 9-3.

Women: Fiona Greaves (Eng) bt Jane Martin (Eng)

9-7, 7-9, 9-6, 9-2.

European Team Championship final:

Men: England bt Scotland 3-1

Women: England bt Germany 3-0.

Bolzano Open final:

Men: Stewart Boswell (Aus) bt Mark Cairns (Eng)

15-7, 15-11, 15-8.

Las Vegas final:

Leilani Joyce (NZ) bt Linda Charman (Eng)

10-8, 9-7, 9-0.

Libertol Open final:

Men: Jonathan Power (Can) bt Peter Nicol (Scott)

15-13/15-12/15-6.

Japan Open final:

Men: Tommy Berden (Ned) bt Ben Gould (Aus)

8-15, 15-11, 15-13, 15-9.

Women: Suzanne Horner (Eng) bt Senga MacFie (Scott)

9-0, 9-4, 9-1.

Quiz



Guess who is this youngster?

Answer to last quiz.

The two players are Mah Li Lian, former Asian champion and a kid named Anshul Manchanda. The winners are Rohit Sharma from Delhi and Shivram Reddy from Andhra Pradesh

PSA Ranking For Men As On 1-6-99

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY
1.	Jonathan Power	Canada
2.	Peter Nicol	Scotland
3.	Ahmed Barada	Egypt
4.	Paul Johnson	England
5.	Martin Heath	Scotland
6.	Alex Gough	Wales
7.	Simon Parke	England
8.	Anthony Hill	Australia
9.	Rodney Syles	Australia
10.	Derek Ryan	Ireland

PSA Ranking For Women As On 1-6-99

RANK	NAME	COUNTRY
1.	Michelle Martin	Aus
2.	Sarah Fitz-Gerald	Aus
3.	Cassie Jackman	Eng
4.	Suzanne Horner	Eng
5.	Leilani Joyce	NZ
6.	Sue Wright	Eng
7.	Natalie Grainger	SA
8.	Sabine Schoene	Ger
9.	Linda Charman	Eng
10.	Carol Owens	Aus



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