

PROSQUASH

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SHIRAGAOKAR DUO KEEP THEIR COOL TO TRIUMPH



Mr Vijay Sethi (Resident Manager, The Leela) giving away the trophy to the doubles winner Shishir and Niraj Shirgaokar

Amitpal Kohli gave The Club the lead by winning the opening with a 15-13, 15-11 win over Rohan Juneja, which left Vishal Kapoor with the onus of bringing Otters back into the match. Playing with a handicap of 8, Kapoor, the winner of the U-19 title in the Singapore Open lost the opening game in dramatic fashion at 14-15 but remained in the fray after winning the second 15-12 against Wali. But he squandered a winning opportunity at match-ball after gaining a substantial 14-7 lead in the decider. Wali put Kapoor under pressure by winning crucial points as he closed in at 14-all before hitting a winner to seal victory.

Results: **Team Event Final:** The Club bt Otters 'A' 2-0: Amitpal Kohli bt Rohan Juneja 15-13, 15-11; Saket Wali bt Vishal Kapoor 14-15, 15-12, 15-14; 3rd/4th **playoff:** Andheri Recreation Club bt Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana 2-1: Bipin Batra bt Pradeep Hebale 15-9, 15-13; Rohan Gracious lost to Deepali Anvekar 14-15, 12-15; Rajesh Sonawane lost to Vijay Sonawane 13-15, 9-15. **Doubles final:** Niraj and S. Shirgaokar bt Xavier Marquis/Bunty Singh 13-15, 15-13, 15-14. **Semi-finals:** Niraj and Shishir Shirgaokar bt Amitpal Kohli 15-13, 15-9. Xavier Marquis/Bunty Singh bt Riyaz Mohd./Sanjay Goel 15-11, 15-9

Lion roars back



Chandrakant Pawar, nine-times national champion, who lost to Santosh More in Dewan Housing Squash Challenge in August

1998, avenged his defeat by beating him in Kanchan Pro Squash & Otters Club Open in May-2000. The 46-year-old Pawar had an answer to every trick of his opponent. At times he appeared spent but somehow gathered all his energy and vitality for the vital points to shut out his confused opponent. We present below the many-splendoured achievements of Pawar: 10 times Western India professional champion; 9-times Nationals pro champ; 5-times Maharashtra State Open; twice Dubai Open; twice Monarch Pro Masters; twice Poona Open; one each: Jindal Pro Masters; S.K. Pro Masters; Transworld Twin Squash; Videocon Squash Classic; Dewan Housing Challenge; Kanchan Pro Squash; Willingdon Pro; Otters Club Open.



Chandrakant Pawar with Sunny Deol an avid squash player

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SRAM takes squash to Aurangabad and Solapur

After the success of SRAM's coaching camp at Sangli in the month of June, a similar coaching camp was held in Aurangabad and Solapur district in Maharashtra State in the month of July to spread the awareness of this game in Maharashtra. The camp at Aurangabad, which has four squash courts from July 8-15, had 18 squash players participating. Mr. Vikas Rastogi (chief executive officer) who took the initiative for the said camp, said SRAM president, Mr. Khalid Ansari, should liaise with the local industries for organising coaching camps on a regular basis and sponsoring tournaments. A good publicity would help getting more and more sponsors. At Solapur the response was very good. As many as 43 players joined in. Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, CEO, said "it is necessary to promote squash in other districts of Maharashtra and I think SRAM has taken this job seriously with both hands and has been successful in Solapur District." Mr. Khalid Ansari, President of SRAM has plans to have similar coaching camps and tournaments in Nanded, Satara, Nashik, Ahmednagar and Pune in future.



Mr Sanjay Agarwal (IAS)



Mr Vikas Rastogi (IAS) fourth from left, Yakoub Shaikh along with players from Aurangabad at the SRAM camp.

A decade of Simply Squash



Mr Khalid Ansari (President, SRAM), Raju Chainani, Mahendra Agarwal (Hon. Sec. SRAM) & Farookh Hansotia (well wisher) at the launching of "Simply Ten".

'Simply Squash' Asia's popular squash newsletter has completed 10 years. The editor, Raju Chainani, celebrated it by launching his 4th book 'Simply Ten' at Bombay Gymkhana.

It was released by Khalid Ansari, president of Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra. He praised Chainani's dedication and devotion to the game which has seen his magazine grow strength to strength. The special publication is embellished with articles from some of squash's leading writers like Richard Eaton and Colin McQuillan. Squash legends Geoff Hunt and Sarah Fitz-Gerald have penned pieces too. 'Simply Squash' prides itself on the fact that it has covered events in 32 cities from Cairo to Yokohama. Former Mumbai Sheriff Nana Chudasama, squash patron M.K. Sanghi, Vanita Bhandari, Gautam Thakkar, Shrikant Ruparel, SRAM secretary Mahendra Agarwal and the squash fraternity of Mumbai were also present on the occasion.

Vikram Malhotra holds sway



The winners show off their silver at the Little Masters.

9-3, 9-5. Delhi lad Gaurav Nandrajog and Calcutta's Saurav Ghoshal do not have the type of training opportunities and opponents as the Mumbai lads. So their reaching two finals was creditable. Bikram Uberoi toyed with Nandrajog for the under-19 title, Gaurav beat Ghoshal in the under-17 final. And Saurav won the under-15 title beating Vikas Jangra. Of all the juniors Saurav looks the most improved and will be a threat at the Chennai Junior Nationals. In a battle between Chandrakant Pawar wards, Deepali Anvekar beat Priyanka Yadav in the under-19 final. But that Priyanka could take a game shows she is improving steadily. And beating Supriya Balsekar means she should make the Indian national side in the near future. A pish Josha didn't enter this event because her dad feels the draw would be fudged so that she would meet Deepali in the semis.

Vikram Malhotra had played nine tournaments and won eight titles in the under-11 section. No junior has made such an impact as Vikram and he proved it when winning the Little Masters title at Willingdon Sports Club. It was a joy to watch him beat Vir Sheth, a year younger than him 9-1, 9-0, 9-0 with total ruthlessness. This is what squash is all about. One must not think of letting down one's guard at any time and Malhotra obviously is a big champ in the making. Alisha Mashruwala, also made a similar impression though she lost the under-15 girls final 9-2, 9-1, 9-1 to Joshna Chinappa.

RESULT ON PAGE - 4

She made brave attempts to pick up the ball from all the corners of the court. One felt sorry for Naishad Lalwani in the under-13 final. His opponent Sandeep Jangra was out of breath but he just managed to vary the pace of his returns using the lob, boast and drop to have the upperhand against the lad coached by Rehmat Khan. One hopes Naishad has learnt the lesson of driving the ball most of the time. Jangra won 7-9, 9-2.

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Khar Gymkhana Inter School

The results of the **West Zone Inter Schools and Junior College Squash Championships**, which was hosted by **Khar Gymkhana**, will be remembered for upsets caused by the players who participated in Team Mid-Day training camp at Kuala Lumpur, May 2000.

Vikram Malhotra in the Under-11 boys event outsmarted all his opponents in the Under-13 event and reached the semi-finals, **Ishaan Balwani** the youngest participant reached the quarter-finals of the Under-11, **Manek Mathur** and **Siddarth Samantray** reached the semi-finals in Under-13 and Under-15 event and **Supreet Singh** reached the last four stage in both the Under-17 and Under-19. In the girls event **Natasha Lal** and **Rachita Vora** were the finalists in the Under-15 and Under-19 event. Rachita defeated former India International **Rhea Bhandari** in the semis. **Shaillee Shelke** lost to Lal in the Under-15 semis.



Mr. Shiv Malhotra (Hon. Sec. Khar Gymkhana), Vanita Bhandari (Tournament Director) Nitin Gadekar (President, Khar Gymkhana), Mahendra Agarwal (Hon. Sec. SRAM), and the winners - runners up at the prize distribution ceremony.

The six days at Khar Gymkhana was full of fun for the children as there was free food and refreshment for the players. The tournament was a grand success. There was a record 185 entries and there were 50 prizes ranging from MacDonald vouchers, Blues London Jeans, Toys, gift coupons from SRAM and Cartoon Network.

RESULT ON PAGE - 4

The event was a joint effort of **SRAM, ISP and KHAR GYMKHANA**. At the venue **Shiv Malhotra** (squash secretary of Khar Gymkhana), **Vanita Bhandari** (Tournament Dir.) and **Chandrakant Pawar** (Director, ISP) did a wonderful job ably assisted by participants and squash professionals. Perhaps the best way to sum it up are the words of a parent, "This has been the best Inter-School Event till date and we hope Khar Gymkhana will host it next year also." **Mr Baba Siddiqui** (MLA and President, BHADA) presented the trophies to the winners.

Yashwardhan Singh turns the tables on Vishal Kapoor

By **Pradeep Vijayakar** The variations in cut-off dates of birth for tournaments didn't make the **Rabo India Finance Indian Junior Squash Open**, the first such event in Mumbai, the right preparation for the Junior Nationals in Chennai. The cut-off date for the Nationals is October 15. But the one for the Bombay Gymkhana event was January 1, 2000. So quite a few of the winners at this event would not be there in the same events at the Junior Nationals.



Trophy time for the two Chandrakant Pawar proteges, Priyanka and Deepali (right)

Though they won the titles, one wonders how much the winners enjoyed it. You can be sure the losers didn't. Thus **Vikram Malhotra**, who has been on a roll in under-11 events for the last year both at home and

the ball in forecourt. He should have known that northern players are strong there. A tiring Kapoor lost this match which had plenty of obstructions, straight. There is no doubt that **Yashwardhan**, under coaching from Indian international **Gajendra Singh**, has improved his fitness and lasting power. He gave a good fight to **Uberoi** in the under-19 semis. There was an upset in the under-17 final where **Joshna Chinappa** lost to **Vaidehi Reddy** for the first time. It was an evening when the Chennai lass just couldn't focus. Maybe she was a little complacent in the wake of her win over her opponent the previous day in the under-15 semi-finals.

RESULT ON PAGE - 4

Joshna however claimed the under-15 girls title outplaying **Supriya Balsekar**. With **Deepali Anvekar** almost out of the junior ranks, the final defeat could be just the sting **Joshna** needs to claim her first under-19 title on home courts. Her opponent could be either her statermate **Vaidehi Reddy** or **Priyanka Yadav**. **Priyanka** has shown remarkable improvement in the new year. Some boasts from back are played with such ease that they evoke sighs of delight from the crowd. **Priyanka** took a game off **Deepali** at the Little Masters. With a little luck she could have won the opening game in the Bombay Gymkhana final. But she didn't and **Deepali** wrapped up the next two with ease to end her under-19 career on a winning note. With **Deepali** out of the fray **Priyanka** could be in the title hunt at the Junior Nationals All depends on the draw, which in the past has stood between her and the top slots.

Bikram Uberoi is nigh unbeatable among the under-19 lads now that **Mihir Kapoor** is no longer around. He toys with his opponents. He beat **Vishalraj Kapoor** in the final. His opponent was dead beat after playing the under-17 final earlier. In this form, the Nationals should be a piece of cake for the lad. Training under **Rehmat Khan** looks like getting him fitter then ever before. He sure knows how to hustle his opponent for points both legal and otherwise. He keeps adding to his repertoire of shots.

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NEWS NEWS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

H and R Insu. Prof. Challenge, Aberdeen, 24-09-2000

Final: Peter Nicol (SCO) vs Paul Lord 15-12 15-13 15-11

Semi-finals: Peter Nicol vs Ben Garner

17-14 17-15 16-17 15-11 Paul Lord vs John Dale

Singapore Open, Singapore, 24-09-2000

Final: Sarah (AUS) vs Claire Nichol (RSA) 9-1 9-1 9-4

Semi-finals: Claire Nichol (RSA) vs

Vicky Botwright (ENG) 6-9 8-10 9-7 9-7 9-5

Sarah-Gerald (AUS) vs Maha Zein (EGY) 9-1 9-1 9-5

Rennes Open, Rennes, France, 21-09-2000

Final: Mens: Olli Tuomien (FIN) vs Davide Bianchetti

15-6 15-13 10-15 14-15 15-8

Women's: Sue Wright (ENG) vs Rebecca Macree (ENG)

2-9 9-3 9-3 9-4

Semi-finals: Mens: Olli Tuomien (FIN) vs Tony Hands

(ENG) 15-11 11-15 15-15 15-7

Women's: Sue Wright (ENG) vs Agnes Muller (SWI)

9-2 10-8 9-5

CAS International, Islamabad, Pakistan, 20-09-2000

Final: Amjad Khan (PAK) vs Shahid Zaman (PAK)

15-10 15-9 15-9

Semi-finals: Amjad Khan (PAK) vs Mansoor Zaman

(PAK) 15-9 15-12 15-12

Women's: Shahid Zaman (PAK) vs Zarak Jahan Khan (PAK)

15-13 9-15 15-8 15-12

Australian Squash Open, Melbourne, 7-09-2000

Final: Mens: Anthony Rickotts (AUS) vs Paul Price (AUS)

15-6 12-15 15-2 11-15 15-13

Women's: Leilani Joyce (NZ) vs Carol Owens (AUS)

9-7 9-5 9-3

Milo South African Challenge, Johannesburg, 03-09-00

Final: Lee Beachill (ENG) vs Rodney Durbach (RSA) 15-10

15-12 15-11

Semi-finals: Rodney Durbach vs Peter Genever (ENG)

15-2 15-12 17-14

Women's: Leilani Joyce (NZ) vs Carol Owens (AUS)

15-8 15-12 15-12

OSK Malaysian Women's Open, Kuala Lumpur, 12-09-00

Final: Stephanie Brind (ENG) vs Maha Zein (EGY)

9-6 9-1 9-1

Semi-finals: Maha Zein vs Shelley Kitchen (NZL) 9-0

10-8 9-2 9-9 9-7

Women's: Stephanie Brind vs Claire Nichol (RSA) 9-4 9-1 9-4

Women's Heliopolis Open, Cairo, Egypt, 28-08-2000

Final: Leilani Joyce (NZ) vs Carol Owens (AUS)

9-6 7-9 9-3 9-2

Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Open 03-09-2000 Final:

Peter Nicol (SCO) vs Jonathan Power (Can)

15-11 15-10 15-6

AI AHAM 2000 INTERNATIONAL, August

Final: Men: Peter Nicol vs Ahmed Barada

15/14 9/15 15/3 15/12

Women: Leilani Joyce vs Carol Owens

8-10 9-7 9-5 3-9 9-5

Exterior Open, Royan, France, Aug 5

Final: Men: Jean-Michel Accucci vs Laurent Elirani

15-11 15-14 10-15 12-15 15-9

Women: Linda Charman vs Fiona Geaves 9-2 9-3 9-2

Oklahoma City Open, 30-07-2000

Final: Shabier Rizki vs Viktor Berg

14-15 15-6 15-11 15-9

Himmerland/Tuborg Danish Open, Farso, Denmark 27-7

Final: Men: Renan Lavigne (FRA) vs Juha Raumolin (FIN)

15-8 15-2 15-1

Kuala Lumpur Open, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 27-7-2000

Final: Women: Nicol David (Mas) vs Elm Bikra (Nor)

9-2 9-5 9-5

Men: Ajaz Azmat (Pak) vs Mansoor Zaman (Pak)

15-9 15-8 15-11 15-6

Wellington Open, New Zealand 26-7-2000

Final: Men: Adrian Grant (ENG) vs Liam Kenny (AUS)

7-15 12-15 15-12 15-17 14-7

Women: Leilani Joyce (NZ) vs

Shelley Kitchen (NZL) 9-6 9-0 9-4

American Airlines Jamaica Open, Negri, Jamaica, 23-07

Final: Men: Omar Elborlosky (EGY) vs Juha Raumolin

(FIN) 15-11 15-13 9-15 15-6

Central Open, Wanganui, New Zealand, 14-07-2000

Final: Men: Adrian Grant (ENG) vs Michael Robertson

(AUS) 15-12 13-15 15-11 15-7

Women: Leilani Joyce (NZL) vs Louise Crome (NZL)

9-0 9-3 9-5

10TH Asian Seniors Squash Championship (Hong Kong), 8-7-2000

Final: Men: Ong Beng Hee vs Mansoor Zaman

9-3 9-2 9-6 3-9 9-4

Women: Nicol David vs Rebecca Chui

9-3 9-4 0-9 10-9 9-2

Team Men Semi-finals: Malaysia vs Hong Kong 3-0;

Pakistan vs India 3-0

Final: Malaysia beat Pakistan 2-1; Ong Beng Hee beat

Mansoor Zaman 10-9 9-1 9-6; Yap Koo Four lost to

Shamsul Islam Khan 4-9 2-9 4-9; Kenneth Low beat Ajaz

Azmat 9-1 9-3 4-9 9-5

Women's Team Semi-finals: Malaysia vs Singapore 3-0;

Hong Kong vs Japan 3-0

Final: Hong Kong beat Malaysia 2-1; Rebecca Chui beat

Nicol David 2-9 9-10 8-6 9-1; Dawn Olsen lost to Tricia

Chuah 2-9 9-1 9-1; Christina Mak beat Sharon Wee 1-9 3-9

9-7 10-8 9-6

Men's World Junior Championships, Milan, July

Final: Men: Karim Darwish (Egypt) vs Gregory Gaultier

(Fra) 9-1 9-3 9-7

Team: England vs Egypt 2-1; Daryl Selby vs Akram

Youssef 9-6 9-3 10-8 9-0; James Willstrop lost to Karim

Darwish 10-8 2-9 10-8 9-0; 2-9 Philip Barker vs

Mahmoud Abdel Kader 5-9 2-9 9-5 9-5 9-2

3rd place play-off: Pakistan vs France 2-1; Majid Khan vs

Luc Elard 9-3 4-9 9-1 9-3; Shahid Zaman lost to Gregory

Gaultier 8-10 7-9 0-9; Farukh Zaman vs Cham Larvine 9-3

9-2 9-3

INDIAN

WISPA Indian Squash Open, August-2000, Chennai

Final: Rachael Grinham (AUS) vs Salma Shabana (EGY)

9-2, 9-2, 9-1

Semi-finals: Rachael Grinham (AUS) vs Natalie Grinham

(AUS) 9-0, 9-3 (conceded); Salma Shabana (EGY) vs

Senga MacFie (SCO) 5-9, 9-2, 9-7, 4-9, 9-7

Mumbai Inter School Championship 9-8-2000

BOYS: Under-11: Vikram Mahotra (Maneck Cooper) vs

Nitin Chauhan (Jindal, Vashind) 15-7, 15-7, 15-7; Under-13:

Sandeep Jangra (Jindal) vs Naishad Lalwani

15-5, 15-8, 13-15, 15-11; Under-15: Rishab Singhvi

(Scottish) vs Ritesh Sharma (Jindal) 15-12, 17-16, 15-9;

Under-17: Vishal Kapoor (HR) vs Sahil Vora (HR) 12-

15, 15-13, 13-11, 11-15, 15-14; Under-19: Junaid Nathani

(HR) vs Sahil Vora (HR) 15-3, 15-17, 15-9, 15-11.

GIRLS: Under-15: Alisha Mashruwala (Bombay

International) vs Natasha Lal (Cathedral) 15-11, 15-4, 15-11;

Under-19: Supriya Balsekar (Bombay International) vs

Rachita Vora (HR) 15-9, 15-6, 15-5 **Team finals:** Under-

13: Cathedral vs Jindal 2-1; Nikhil Seth lost to Sandeep

Jangra 15-13, 15-10; Naishad Lalwani vs Anup Sharma

15-7, 15-13, 15-4; Jay Bhagat vs Nitin Chauhan 15-4,

15-13, 15-10; Under-19: Bombay Scottish vs Cathedral 2-1;

Rishab Vora 15-6, 15-5, 15-13; Karan Pal Sethi vs Gautam

Kalani 15-4, 15-8, 15-6; Liana Deboo lost to Manek

Mathur 15-4, 15-7, 15-9; Under-17: HR Commerce vs

Cathedral 2-1; Anurag Gill vs Hrishkek Prasad 15-2,

13-15, 15-5; Sahil Vora vs Sharang Mughe; Vishal

Kapoor vs Mihir Seth Under-19: H.R. Commerce vs Jai

Hind 2-1; Junaid Nathani vs Animesh Kejriwal 15-7,

15-11, 15-3; Vaidh Gupta vs Swapnil Gandhi 15-9,

13-15, 15-8, 8-15, 15-13; Sahil Morarjee lost to Neville

Madon 6-15, 9-15

Indian Junior Open 4-10-2000

Results of Finals BOYS Under-11: Jay Bhagat vs Vikram

Mahotra 9-5, 9-10, 10-9, 9-4; Under-13: Gautam Kalani

beat Sandeep Jangra 9-3, 9-9, 7-9, 9-4; Under-15: Vikas

Jangra vs Saurav Ghoshal 9-5, 6-9, 9-1; Under-17:

Yashwardhan Singh vs Vishalraj Kapoor 9-7, 9-6, 9-6;

Under-19: Bikram Uberoi beat Vishalraj Kapoor 9-7, 9-9,

6-9, 7-9 **GIRLS Under-11:** Nikita Emanuel beat Shivaling

Lohakare 9-1, 9-10, 9-9; Under-13: Alisha Mashruwala vs

Tehani Guruge (Sri Lanka) 9-4, 9-0, 9-3; Under-15:

Joshna Chinappa beat Supriya Balsekar 9-2, 9-4, 9-3;

Under-17: Vaidhi Reddy beat Joshna Chinappa 9-0, 9-5, 9-6;

Under-19: Deepali Anvekar beat Priyanka Yadav 9-7, 9-1,

9-2

Little Masters 29-9-2000

Results of Finals: BOYS: Under-19: Bikram Uberoi beat

Saurav Nandraj (Del) 9-3, 9-0, 9-0

Under-17: Saurav Nandraj (Del) beat Saurav Ghoshal

(Cal) 9-5, 9-3, 9-4

Under-15: Saurav Ghoshal beat Vikas Jangra 9-0, 9-3,

7-9, 9-4, 9-13; Sandeep Jangra beat Naishad

Lalwani 7-9, 9-3, 9-5

Under-11: Vikram Mahotra beat Vir Sethi 9-1, 9-0, 9-0

GIRLS: Under-15: Joshna Chinappa (Chennai) beat

Alisha Mashruwala 9-2, 9-1, 9-1

Under-19: Deepali Anvekar beat Priyanka 9-7 9-3 5-9 9-3

Coaching Camp for Civil Servants at Mussoorie

The Indian Squash Professionals for the first time conducted a coaching camp for the country's elitist service consisting of IAS (Indian Administrative Service) IPS (Indian Police Service), IRS (Indian Revenue Service) IRIS (Indian Railways), RPF, ICACES, IRPS, IAAS, IRAS, and the faculty members of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. The one-month coaching for the 68th foundation course was done by ISP coach Yakub Shaikh at the officer's academy in Mussoorie. As many as 35 officers participated in the said camp at the academy, which has two squash courts. The participants promised the ISP that they would spread the awareness of this game throughout the country.

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