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NEWS LETTER OF THE INDIAN SQUASH PROFESSIONALS

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Inter State Squash Championship, Calcutta 7-1-2002

State lads make it three in a row

The Services team was a pale shadow of the one of the past. That left Maharashtra little challenge as they swept to their third title in the row in the Inter state squash at Kolkata. India No 2 Manish Chotrani was leading the side. They were favourites and lived up to the billing. The skipper said "We were the favourites, and this time we had better players." The defending champions beat Services 3-0 in the final. Though Chotrani and Mahesh Verma dropped a game the state were seldom in danger of losing the final. On the other hand Bikram Uberoi was in top form winning without dropping a game. Services Capt Navneet Narain went down to Chotrani 7-9 3-6 9-9 7 in the opening tie. Uberoi trounced Rohit Teotia 9-1 9-4 9-7 and Verma put the issue beyond doubt beating Milan Khurana 9-5 9-4 5-9 3-9 9-4.

The state title was in Mumbai for four years in a row, from 1995 to 1998, before they lost in 1999. The winning streak has continued since. The Services are not the same since Arjan Singh left them. Maharashtra beat the Services 5-0 rout in the last league tie in Pool 'B' to finish on top of the pool, while the latter, who also qualified for the semi-finals, were second. Chotrani, the National champion in 2000, went into the inter-state without playing competitive squash since losing the December National final to India No 1 Ritwik Bhattacharya. Having brought glory to the state he now wants to get shipshape for the international events, notably the Asian.

Results of the Finals: Maharashtra bt Services 5-0; Manish Chotrani bt Capt Navneet Narain 7-9 3-6 9-9 7; Bikram Uberoi bt Capt Rohit Teotia 9-1 9-4 9-7; Mahesh Verma bt Capt Milan Khurana 9-5 9-4 5-9 3-9 9-4; Amitpal Kohli and Santosh More go walk over.

SEMI-FINALS: Maharashtra beat Delhi 'A' 4-1: Manish Chotrani beat Abhimanyu Jain 9-6 9-0 9-0; Bikram Uberoi beat Varun Kataruka 9-5 9-6 9-3; Amit Pal Kohli Lost to Amjad Khan 2-9 4-9 1-9; Saket Wali beat Yuvraj Kakkad 9-0 10-9 9-6; Mahesh Verma beat Suhail Sethi 9-0 9-0 9-0.



The victorious Maharashtra team



Vikram Malhotra with Sachin Tendulkar

Budding Squash Champ Meets Cricket Icon

It was a great day for budding squash star Vikram Malhotra when he met cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar at Hotel Regent. Sachin always has time for the young and he said he was happy to run into a young squash champ. He told Vikram that he too played a bit of squash but could not do so at present because of his hamstring problem.

By Pradeep Vijayakar

Cricket and squash.

The connection is old, not so much in India as abroad. In India players like Kapil Dev, Mohinder Amarnath have enjoyed the odd squash game. But abroad, most of the international players have played a lot of squash, especially the Pakistanis, notably like Wasim Bari, Majid Khan, Zaheer Abbas and others at the famous Jahangir Khan Sports Complex of PIA. But the name that comes to mind upper most is that of John Reid. This New Zealand captain of the 50 and 60s not only played the sport but also raised a squash centre that is a landmark in Wellington.

Reid remains New Zealand's all-time great cricketer and is today an ICC match referee. He was here for the India-Zimbabwe series and talked, among other things, about his squash centre. "The centre was opened in 1963, it has been sold in 1978 but remains a landmark in Wellington."

The popularity of squash in New Zealand rocketed after Reid opened the centre. "I opened this centre and a dozen private squash clubs came up in the suburbs. Overseas stars like Heather Mackay and Geoff Hunt played there and Egyptian coach Dardir often ran clinics there."

Before the centre opened Wellingtonians had just three choices-Government House, Wellington Club (on the terrace) and a private residence in Hutt Valley. Reid first played squash on the tour of England in 1949. "It helps cricket, shots like the overhead and crosscourt." He used his cricketing contacts

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Air India 2nd Leg Jr Squash Tournament: 27-1-2002

Chauhan wins all-Jindal final against Jangra

Coach Sunil Verma must have felt rewarded to see two lads from the Jindal complex fighting out the final of the 2nd Leg of the Air India Junior Squash League at the Otters Club courts.

The boys under-15 final ended in an upset with second seed Sarvesh Chauhan beating top seed Sandeep Jangra in four games. The two can be seen sparring day in and day out at the Jindal courts at Vashind. The other finals all went according to form, with the top-seeded players, barring a couple, recording facile victories to lift the titles in their respective age groups.

Chauhan set a furious pace and won the first game in a jiffy. The second saw Jangra coming into his own as he managed to slow down the game, engaging Chauhan in long rallies. Chauhan got impatient and made a series of errors allowing Jangra to level scores. However, it Chauhan again in the next two as he played precious squash to gain the day.

Top seed Karan Bhatthy had to sweat a bit before getting the better of Kunal Jani in the under-19 final. Bhatthy won 9-5, 10-8, 9-6.

The girl finals also failed to live up to the occasion, with the top seeds Nikita Emanuel and Kanika Premnarayan scoring easy wins to lift the titles in the under-13 and under-19 age groups respectively. While Nikita outplayed Shaheen Madraswala 9-0, 9-2, 9-4, Kanika, the daughter of former state badminton player Atul Premnarayan, faced a bit of initial hiccups before defeating Nusrat Madraswala 9-7, 9-5, 9-0.



The juniors with their silvers after the Air-India Jr second leg, tourney at Otters Club

Results of finals:

BOYS U-19: Karan Bhatthy (1) bt Kunal Jani 9-5, 10-8, 9-6; U-17: Vikas Jangra (1) bt Yogin Thakur (2) 9-2, 9-7, 9-0; U-15: Sarvesh Chauhan (2) bt Sandip Jangra (1) 9-3, 5-9, 9-5, 9-5; U-13: Vikram Malhotra (1) bt Laxman Joshi (3) 9-0, 9-2, 9-0; U-11: Zahan Dastur (1) Aditya Gupta 9-3, 9-0, 9-1.
GIRLS: U-19: Kanika Premnarayan (2) bt Nusrat Madraswala 9-7, 9-5, 9-0; U-13: Nikita Emanuel (1) bt Shaheen Madraswala (3) 9-0, 9-2, 9-4.

All India Inter - University Squash Championship (Mumbai) 29-1-2002

Rohan stars for Mumbai varsity

Rohan Gracias did the star turn for Mumbai University as they toppled defending champs Delhi 3-2 in the final of the All India Inter University Squash Championship at the glass-back courts of the Bombay Gymkhana.

Gracias beat Gaurav Tomar 4-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-1 in the concluding tie, after

Mumbai and Delhi were locked at 2-2. He overcame nervousness, gaining in confidence after claiming the second game. The match was always in his grips after that though Gaurav played well.

Results of final: Mumbai bt Delhi 3-2: Junaid Nathani bt Manik Kapoor 9-1, 9-4, 9-5; Vijay Jangra lost to Neerav Tomar 9-10, 7-9, 3-9; Saket Wali bt Abhimanyu Arya 9-0, 9-2, 9-3; Karan Bhatthy lost to Varun Kataruka 3-9, 8-10, 9-4, 4-9; Rohan Gracias bt Gaurav Tomar 4-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-1.



Rohan Gracias... Picture of consistency

Third place play-off: Pune bt JN

Vyas, Jodhpur 3-2: Suraj Shetty lost to Harendrapal Singh 2-9, 10-8, 0-9, 6-9; Swapnil Rajopadhyay bt Sudhir Agarwal 9-2, 9-1, 9-2; Tarundeep Singh Dhillon bt Fanish Kucheria 9-2, 9-3, 9-6; Siddharth Rajopadhyay lost to Gautam Sharma 6-9, 0-9, 1-9; Varun Trivedi bt Taldat Singh 9-7, 10-8, 9-5.
Semifinals: Delhi bt Pune 3-1: Kunal Ravi Singh lost to Suraj Shetty 2-9 6-9 0-9; Neerav Tomar bt Swapnil Rajopadhyay 1-1 9-3 9-2; Abhimanyu Arya bt Tarundeep Singh Dhillon 10-8 9-3 9-4; Varun Kataruka bt Siddharth Rajopadhyay 9-0 9-0 9-2; Mumbai University bt J.N. Vyas, Jodhpur 3-0; Junaid Nathani bt Harendrapal Singh 9-6 9-3 9-3; Vijay Jangra bt Sudhir Agarwal 9-0 9-0 9-0; Saket Wali bt Fanish Kucheria 9-4 9-2 9-0

9TH DDA OPEN SQUASH TOURNAMENT 17-2-2002

Results of finals:

Men Open: Bikram Oberoi (Mah) bt Capt Navneet Narain (Services) 9-6, 4-9, 9-1, 9-3.
BOYS: U-13: Harinder Sandhu (Chd) bt Ravi Dixit (DSM, U.P.) 9-5, 9-0, 9-0; U-15: Harinder Sandhu bt Tejinder Singh (both Chandigarh) 9-0, 9-0, 9-5; U-17: Imran Khan (DSM, U.P.) bt Karan Singh (Del) 9-2, 9-0, 8-10, 9-2; U-19: Shakti Singh (NDA) bt Dhruv Dhavan (Del) 9-6, 9-1, 10-8.
GIRLS: U-17: Radhika Kashyap (Indore) bt Radhika Agarwal (Del) 9-1, 9-0, 9-0.
Women: Mekhala Subedar (Mah) bt Sohini Kumari (Del) 9-1, 10-8, 9-3. Veterans Over 35: Narjeet Singh bt Sameer Thukral 5-9, 9-1, 9-6, 9-6; Over-45: Narjeet Singh bt Swagat Bam 9-4, 9-6, 9-4.

By Amitoj Singh

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2 Cricket and squash.

to build the centre. When they the opening everyone present was allowed to have a go. The ball, rackets and shoes being provided free. Two courts had windows at the back wall, a precursor of our today's glass back courts/ Spectators could watch the game from those windows. He also had a restaurant, and a golf driving range was added. Reid says he was a B grade player but did a little coaching at the centre. Predictably he had trouble with the local association. They didn't like a cricketer straying into their game. So they threatened that they would brand every player playing there as a professional. Any he sold the complex in 1978 and built a built a golf complex. He sold that later and now runs a tourist complex, with house-boats and all at Lake Taupo. But the John Reid Squash Centre remains a landmark of Wellington. Would that we had a Sunil Gavaskar Squash Centre in Mumbai!

Shaikh's boost to local refs

The Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra used Abdul Shaikh's holiday to get some 22 pros, parents, and players better attuned to the laws of the sport. He held a three-day clinic at the Khar Gymkhana.

It is funny how one assumes a few things in the laws of the sport. On the opening day itself Shaikh, trying to test the trainees, asked them what was the purpose of a warm-up. The obvious answer was blurted out. To get the players warmed up for the match. Wrong. Shaikh read out from the rule book giving the real reply: it was to get the ball nice and hot. From then on he had a captive audience. The trainees never took anything for granted after that.

Every law was gone through threadbare. There was good response from the other side as practical problems were put forward for Shaikh to solve. The former Indian badminton professional who became a successful tennis and squash professional and coach in Canada, developed the communicative skills of the trainees.

Towards the end of the programme he began asking the trainees to take up each law for discussion.

A big advantage Shaikh has is that he can converse in Hindi and English. His illustrations were thus easily understood by the professionals. The help of video was used to solve the perennial problems of 'let' and 'stroke'. Refs in India take a lenient view of the stroke whereas abroad it is instantly penalized whatever be the state of the game.

The trainees were shown footage of matches where the 'strokes' and 'lets' were given.

At the end there was a written test and the association felt rewarded when most of the trainees came out with flying colours.

One can now be sure that when the matches are next played in Mumbai the refereeing will be better because the personnel officiating will have had the benefit of the training of Abdul Shaikh.



Abdul Shaikh



Harinder Singh... plenty of promise

17, 15-9, 15-10; U-17: Karan Singh bt Imran Khan - 15-13, 15-17, 15-6, 5-15, 15-5; U-19: Amjad Khan bt Dhruv Dhavan 13-15, 15-11, 15-7, 11-15, 15-13.

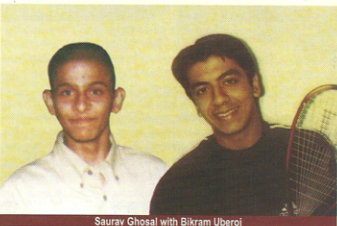
Men: Dhiraj Singh bt Navneet Narain 15-7, 15-11, 15-8. Women: Mekhala Subedar bt Sohini Kumari- 15-8, 15-4, 15-5; Over-35: Narjit Singh bt Sameer Thukral 15-2, 15-12, 15-8. Over-45: Narjit Singh bt Rahul Kumar 12-15, 15-9, 15-9, 15-8.

EAST INDIA SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP: 16-1-2002 Uberoi, Ghoshal best

Bikram Uberoi won something at last. He claimed the East India Squash Championship at the Calcutta Rackets Club beating Dhiraj Singh of Rajasthan with a straight games, 9-1, 9-3, 9-5. Sourav Ghosal had a lot to live up to on his home courts. He lived up to that winning the under-17 and under-19 titles. He beat Amjad Ali Khan of Delhi 9-3, 9-3, 9-0 victory in the under-19 and carved a 9-3, 10-8, 9-3 victory over Delhi's Imran Khan in the under-17 final.

Results:

Men: Bikram Uberoi bt Dhiraj Singh 9-1 9-3 9-5; U-19: Saurav Ghosal bt Amjad Ali Khan 9-3 9-3 9-0; U-17: Saurav Ghosal bt Imran Khan 9-3 10-8 9-3.



Saurav Ghosal with Bikram Uberoi

DHAMPUR SUGAR DELHI OPEN 24-2-2002

Naresh Kumar avenges defeat by Harinder

Ding-dong matches marked the Dhampur Sugar Delhi Open. In the under-13 Naresh Kumar tasted sweet revenge when he beat Harinder Sandhu and reversed the result at the DDA Open in five games. Harinder and Naresh took alternates games in the first three. In the fourth Harinder had Naresh under pressure. With Naresh making several unforced errors and looking low on confidence, Harinder seemed well on his way to his fourth title in two weeks. However, Naresh slowed the pace down. This disturbed Harinder's rhythm, and Naresh took the fourth game. Harinder was unable to lift the pace in the deciding game, and lost the game and match. In the Under-15 section, Karan upset Imran Khan.

Results of finals

U-11: Ravi Dixit bt Maninder Sandhu 15-7, 15-6, 12-15, 15-10; U-13: Harinder Sandhu bt Vikram Malhotra 15-11, 15-12, 15-10; U-15: Naresh Kumar bt Harinder Sandhu- 11-15, 15-9, 14-

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Double crown for Vaidehi

India's Vaidehi Reddy won her first international titles this year, annexing the under-17 and under-19 categories in the Japan Junior Open championship, which concluded in Chiba (Japan) on 4th April 2002. According to a press release from Srivastan Subramaniam, joint secretary, Squash Rackets Federation of India, The Tamil Nadu girl won the under-17 title, beating S Yamada of Japan 9-0, 9-2, 9-1 and then went on to win the under-19 title, defeating A Ozaki of Japan, 9-1 9-1 9-1. Vaidehi Reddy is a 11th Standard student of Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

Free Coaching Camp at Rajkot by ISP

Indian Squash Professional organized a free coaching camp at Indoor Stadium, Rajkot (Gujarat) from 7th to 17th Jan 2002. The motto behind free coaching is to spread awareness of this game in Saurashtra, Rajkot. The camp which was conducted by Mumbai coach Mr. Chandan Jadhav had 20 players including 3 women participating.

In the press conference Mr. Chouhan (manager of Rajkot Indoor Stadium) said, "the court which has wooden flooring is of international standard and fast game like squash is becoming popular thanks to the effort of ISP. Ex. Dy. Municipal Commissioner Mr. K.C. Rathod, Mr. Amit Mehta, Mr. Pankaj Sampat were also present.

Indian lass wins U.S. Jr. Open title

Ruchika Kumar an Indian born and based in Canada is no 1 seed in Under-17 in Canada. Recently she participated in US Jr. Open Squash Championship 2002 at Princeton University in USA and won the tournament easily by defeating Nicolette Fernandes in 3 straight games. She was honoured by the Princeton University and she got admission in the same university for which she will be playing from September 2002. We congratulate her for her achievement in U.S. Jr. Open: Girls U-19 final: Ruchika Kumar bt Nicolette Fernandes 9-1, 9-4, 9-6; Semifinals: Ruchika Kumar bt Diana Huerta 6-9, 9-1, 9-0, 9-0. Q-finals: Ruchika Kumar bt Anne-Christine Lajole 9-5, 10-8, 9-0.

Alisha falls at final hurdle

Mumbai lass Alisha Mashruwala and Vaidehi Reddy of Chennai performed creditably, finishing runners-up in their respective categories in the French Junior Open at Marseille in France. Alisha, the current under-17 Indian national champion, who was seeded third in the girls under-15 category. She lost to top-seeded Chantal Morao of Spain 6-9, 2-9, 3-9.

Vaidehi, on her debut in the French Junior Open (under-17) category, defeated Simona Hubscher (Swi), Julia Schmalz (Swi) and Mard Duplomb (France) in straight sets en route to the semi-finals where she beat Kirsty Mopeha (Eng) 7-9, 9-1, 9-5, 9-4 before losing in the final to Emma Beddoes (Eng - 5th seed) 4-9, 5-9, 8-10. Ishaan Balvani (Mumbai) was the only Indian boy who participated in this championship in the u-13 category. Having lost in the 1st round to Pene Badly (France), he won the Plate event and achieved the 17th position defeating Remi Soria (France) 9-2, 9-1, 10-9. During the awards ceremony, Alisha was given an additional trophy for promoting Indian sport in France, since it was her third successive participation there.

Guess Whose Photograph is this ?



The first 3 winners will get three T-shirts of



This contest is not for Mumbai player.

Winner from Nashik

Winner of Prosquash Vol.6 Issue No. 21 identifying contest is Lt. Col. PL. Zope residing at Stn H.Q., Devlali (Nasik). The answer: Chandrakant Pawar.

FORTH COMING TOURNAMENTS:

- June 25-29: WISPA Indian Open (women, Chennai)
- July 5-7: Andhra Pradesh Open (Mens, Women & Juniors, Hyderabad)
- July 18-21: Inter School Zonals (Boys U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13, Zone)
- August 13-24: 12th World Junior Men (Boys U-19, Chennai)
- August 29-31: Chhatigarh Open (Men, Women & Juniors, Chhatigarh)
- September 4-7: Northern India (Men, Women & Juniors, Jodhpur)
- September 9-12: All India Inter School Finals (U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13, U-11, Mumbai)
- September 18-21: Pune Open (Men, Women & Juniors, Pune)
- September 23-27: WSC Little Master (Boys & Girls U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13, U-11, Mumbai)
- October 2-5: M.P. State Open (Men, Women, Juniors, Indore)
- October 11-13: Karnataka State Open (Men, Women & Juniors, Bangalore)
- October 24-27: Sub Junior, Junior Nationals (B & G U-19, U-17, U-15, U-13, U-11, Indore)
- November 16-23: HSBC Maharashtra State (Men, Women & Juniors Pro, Over 35, 45, Mumbai)
- November 23-30: Western India (Men, Women & Juniors Pro, Over-35, 45, Daly College, Indore)
- December 3-10: Central India & Inter State (Men, Women & Juniors, Daly College, Indore)
- December 16-22: 50th National Championship (Men & Women, Pro, Over-35, 45, TBA)

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