

## MISS WORLD LIGHTS UP SQUASH CAMP

A Miss World at squash! The kids couldn't believe it. It happened at the 15-day free coaching camp organised by the Indian Squash Professionals (ISP) under the aegis of Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra (SRAM). Miss World 2000 Priyanka



From Right : Ashish Gupta (PRO SRAM), Shiv Malhotra (V.P. Khar Gymkhana) Noreena (ISP), Mahendra Agarwal (Dir. ISP), Mrs. Neeru Mehra (MTC, Sponsor), Priyam Raskapurwala (Winner-Boys), Priyanka Chopra (Miss World 2000), Anika Sharma (Winner-Girls), Mrs. Swikriti Sharma (Sponsor)

Chopra gave away the prizes at the camp. The camp was held for beginners with a view to broadening the sport in Mumbai. And according to the head coach, Chandrakant Pawar, it was a smashing success. "We got more entries than we expected and since we wanted to give individual attention to all we had to select the 75 players systematically," said Pawar. He and his eight assistants worked overtime to mould the talented bunch.

"Out of 75 children, there are at least 10-15 children who can make it big if they work hard. All they need is the right kind of coaching and dedication on their part," he said. But the most surprising aspect of the camp was the keen interest shown by parents. "Often parents would come and tell me that they never thought their child could play so well. They would also seek guidance for improving their game. I have never seen such enthusiasm before this camp," Pawar said.

It was a marvel watching boys ignorant about squash hitting winners in a few days and claiming titles. One such was Priyam Raskapurwala who won the boys title and Anika Sharma who won the girls title. The Arya Vidya Mandir lads aims to make it big in the sport. Hopefully Pawar, ISP patron

Sharma who won the Girls title. The Arya Vidya Mandir lads aims to make it big in the sport. Hopefully Pawar, ISP patron Mahendra Agarwal and Mrs. Swikriti Sharma will help them fulfil that dream.

### FROM THE DESK OF MAHENDRA AGARWAL

## PRO-SQUASH COMPLETES 25 ISSUES



**Mahendra Agarwal**  
Founder Director, ISP

A Silver Jubilee is always an occasion to savour. When we began it was with the intention of bringing a professional outlook to the sport which was grossly amateur in India. We began highlighting the important aspects of the game, not the least the coaching one. In this regard, we began raising the status of the professionals, though our columns. The Indian Squash Professionals was already doing a lot for them by having camps for them, tournaments exclusively for them and Pro-Squash began highlighting these events, thus having a two-pronged programme for their upliftment.

The results are there for all to see, at least three professionals were brave enough to try the Level 1 course of the Asian Squash Federation and did well. The pros are already making to the quarter-finals of Open events. A n d Chennai pro Balamurugan did his community proud by being picked for the India men's team for the Asians.

This is inspirational stuff and Pro-Squash will continue to strive to inspire these players to surpass themselves so that they play on a level field, which was denied to an earlier generation.

Pro-Squash highlighted the work of Rehmat Khan, the famous coach of Jahangir Khan. Thanks to such promotion Rehmat found a niche in the Mumbai squash scene. It was a pity he didn't give back enough by training local professionals but then not everyone is blessed to be magnanimous.

Pro-Squash then moved out of the city precincts highlighting activities of other state units, their tournaments and their promotional work. Today we have come to a stage where a full page could be devoted to such activities, which were overlooked by the National media. These State units, and those from the Army have been our supporters and we are grateful for their involvement which will make the game more broadbased than it has ever been. The Indian Squash Professionals has done all this without any expectations. The media has recognised its efforts. Now it only remains for the Parent Body and the International Federations to acknowledge its contributions so that by the time the Golden Jubilee issue goes to print, the sport of squash would have gone several notches higher, rivaling other sports for attention.

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SILVER JUBILEE ISSUE

Gujarat Open  
Squash Championship  
from  
26<sup>th</sup> Jan - 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2003  
more details on page 6

# 27TH BOMBAY GYMKHANA MAHARASHTRA STATE OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2002 (22/11/2002)

## Vikas Jangra, Manek Mathur, Imran Khan reign supreme

**Manish Chotrani** and **Mekhla Subedar** set the tone for the Mumbai squash fortnight claiming the seniors titles in the 27th Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Open Squash Championship, sponsored by **India Bulls** and **HSBC**.

Mekhla's triumph was significant as she avenged her nationals defeat at the hands of **Joshna Chinappa**. Chotrani outplayed Services **Navneet Narain** 9-3, 9-7, 9-4, while Mekhla defeated Joshna 9-5, 7-9, 9-6, 9-5. Upsets also came from Jindal's **Vikas Jangra** and host club's **Manek Mathur** in the boys under-17 and under-15 categories respectively. While Jangra shut out top seed **Yashwardhan Singh** of Indore in four games, at 8-10, 9-3, 9-5, 9-4, Mathur avenged his earlier defeat at the hands of Delhi's **Naresh Kumar**, defeating the top seed 3-9, 9-2, 9-6, 9-3.

Kolkatta's **Ramit Tandon** beat Delhi's **Ravi Dixit** 9-3, 9-2, 3-9, 9-7 for the boys under-11 title, while **Alisha Mashruwala** completed a double, defeating Chennai's **Shruti Reddy** 9-2, 5-9, 9-0, 9-0 for the girls U-17 crown. Chotrani's strokeplay is still good for practically everyone in the country barring Ritwik. At no stage was he troubled by the fourth-seeded Navneet Narain.

Vikas Jangra and Yashwardhan Singh slugged it out in the boys under-17 age group. The hard-fought match that lasted 22 minutes seemed to have taken more out of the top seed Yashwardhan as he failed to maintain the tempo in the remaining games. Jangra won the 60-minute encounter 8-10, 9-3, 9-5, 9-4.

Following are the results :

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
<b>BOYS:</b>			
U-19	Vikas Jangra	Yashwardhan (Indore)	8-10, 9-3, 9-5, 9-4
U-15	Manek Mathur (Mum)	Naresh Kumar	3-9, 9-2, 9-6, 9-3
U-17	Imran Khan (Delhi)	M. Parthiban (Chennai)	9-0, 9-4, 9-2
U-13	Laxman Joshi (Jindal)	Anup Sharma (Jindal)	9-7, 9-4, 9-1
U-11	Ramit Tandon (Kolkatta)	Ravi Dixit (Delhi)	9-3, 9-2, 3-9, 9-7
Open	Manish Chotrani (Mum)	Navneet Narain (Srvc)	9-3, 9-7, 9-4
O-35	Darius Surti (Mumbai)	Rohit Thawani (Pune)	9-0, 9-6, 9-2.



Winners All

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
<b>GIRLS:</b>			
U-19	Joshna C. (Chennai)	Shaila Pandole (Mum)	9-2, 9-2, 9-2
U-17	Alisha M. (Mum)	Shruti Reddy (Chenn.)	9-2, 5-9, 9-0, 9-0
U-15	Alisha M. (Mum)	Shruti Reddy (Chenn.)	9-2, 9-6, 9-1
U-13	Shivangi P. (Mumbai)	Shaheda Salim (Mum)	9-0, 9-0, 9-2
Wmns	Mekhla S. (Deolali)	Joshna C. (Chennai)	9-5, 7-9, 9-6, 9-5
Prof.	Balamurgan (Chennai)	Dalip Tripathi (Kol.)	10-8, 9-1, 6-9, 9-1

## 59TH C.C.I - WESTERN INDIA OPEN SQUASH TOURNAMENT (30/11/2002)

### Manish, Mekhla and Alisha make it look easy

The absence of the leading Indian juniors training for the **World Juniors** in Chennai took some sheen off the Rs 2 lakh prize money **59th CCI-Western India Squash Championships** sponsored by **Clinic All Clear**.

For instance it robbed us from watching a return clash between **Joshna Chinappa** and **Mekhla Subedar** at the State Open where the Nashik girl had beaten the national champ. The other national champ, **Ritwik Bhattacharya**, was also missing and also **Bikram Uberoi** who had won several titles last year.

That meant top seeds **Manish Chotrani** and **Mekhla Subedar** walked their way to the men's and women's titles. Chotrani, pitted against second seed **Capt. Navneet Narain** of Services, took just 33 minutes to win 9-2, 9-4, 9-1. Mekhla had one of her easiest wins over **Deepali Anvekar** who in the past used to put her through the wringer. Deepali was playing after a big layoff owing to her medical studies and lost 9-3, 9-1, 9-1. Chotrani won Rs 26,000, Narain had to settle for Rs 16,000. Mekhla was richer by Rs 11,000 while Deepali walked away with Rs 6,000. The Juniors provided plenty of thrills. **Aadit Zaveri**, national runner-up, ran top seed **Aditya Jagtap** close in a five-gamer. **Vikas Jangra** won against **Yashwardhan Singh** in four games. It was a second back-to-back victory for Jangra. Alisha Mashruwala was the only player to record a double, winning titles in the girls U-19 and under-15 age categories. In the under-19 final, Alisha toyed around with **Shaila Pandole** before winning 9-4, 9-0, 9-5, while she outplayed **Shahnaz Dastur** 9-0, 9-3, 9-1 for the under-15 title.

Following are the Final results:

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
Open	Manish Chotrani	Capt Navneet Narain	9-2, 9-4, 9-1
<b>BOYS</b>			
U-19	Vikas Jangra (Jindal)	Yashwardhan (Indore)	10-9, 9-3, 9-3, 9-2
U-17	Imran Khan (Delhi)	Ritesh Sharma (Jin)	9-4, 9-0, 9-1
U-15	Manek Mathur	Harinderpal Sandhu	6-9, 9-3, 9-2, 9-2
U-13	Laxman Joshi (Jindal)	Anup Sharma (Jindal)	0-9, 9-5, 9-4, 9-4
U-11	Aditya Jagtap	Aadit Zaveri	9-2, 8-10, 9-6, 6-9, 9-1

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
Wmns	Mekhla Subedar	Deepali Anvekar	9-3, 9-1, 9-1
<b>GIRLS</b>			
U-19	Alisha Mashruwala	Shaila Pandole	9-4, 9-0, 9-5
U-15	Alisha Mashruwala	Shahnaz Dastur	9-0, 9-3, 9-1
Prof.	Balamurgan (Chennai)	Santosh More	9-7, 9-0, 9-1
O-35	Darius Surti	Rohit Thawani	2-9, 9-4, 9-4, 9-3
O-45	Vaman Apte	Kishan Lal	9-2, 9-1, 9-3.



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## COMPLAN JUNIOR SQUASH OPEN 2002 (15/11/2002)

This is how a sports event should be organized - by Khalid A - H. Ansari

**MISMANAGEMENT** of sports events in our country is the norm, rather than the exception. It was, therefore, indescribably refreshing to see a tournament conceptualized, organized and conducted in exemplary fashion last week in our own backyard here in Mumbai.

Apply any yardstick number of **entries, prize money, all-round organisational efficiency, suitability of venue and media relations** and you will be constrained to conclude that the **Complan Junior Squash Open tournament** that concluded recently was a good example of HOW to organize a sport tournament.

For one thing, the number of entries **209** was record for any such event, as was the **Rs.25,000** prize money put up by sponsors **Heinz**.

And it was reassuring to hear from **Heinz managing director Pradeep Poddar** at the prize distribution ceremony that his organization does not believe in flatteries (my interpretation) but in lasting relationships.

You have given the increasingly popular sport of squash in Maharashtra a huge Complan, Mr Poddar. More power to your elbow and may your tribe increase! The facilities at the spanking new squash courts at the **Juhu Vile Parle Sports Club** were excellent and support of club officials, especially **Anil Mahesh**, unstinting.

Most importantly, arrangements for players, spectators and media right from the pre-tournament press conference, communications, player well being (the generous food packet given daily to players was a most welcome innovation) up to the prize distribution function were flawless.

Take a bow, chief organizer **Sanjeev Saran Mehra** for considerably raising the bar of efficiency in sports event management. Yours will be a hard act to follow anywhere in India.

If I may be forgiven the injection of a personal element in the proceedings: my apologies to Sanjeev Saran Mehra for my impatience in driving him relentlessly to fulfill his promise to me to organize a junior sponsored event for the **Squash Racket Association of Maharashtra (SRAM)** and event, for sometime, writing him off as an achiever.

As the Persian expression goes, "**der ayad durust ayad**" (it is never too late to mend). It's a pleasure for me to have been proved wrong.

**All Final Results:**

Courtesy: Sunday Mid-day

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
BOYS			
U-17	Sourav Ghosal (Kol)	Siddharth (Mum)	9-0, 9-0, 9-3
U-15	Nareesh Kumar (Delhi)	Sandeep (Jindal)	5-9, 3-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-7
U-13	Vikram Malhotra (Mum)	Laxman Joshi (Mum)	9-6, 9-7, 9-5
U-11	Ravi Dixit (Delhi)	Ramit Tandon (Kol)	9-1, 3-9, 9-4, 9-0

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
GIRLS			
U-17	Joshna Chinappa (Chen)	Sonali Philip (Chen)	9-2, 9-1, 9-2
U-15	Alisha (Mum)	Shruti Reddy (Chenn)	9-6, 9-2, 9-5
U-13	Surbhi Mishra (Raj)	Shivangi (Mum)	4-9, 9-4, 9-5, 6-9, 9-3.

## THE LITTLE MASTERS JUNIOR SQUASH TOURNAMENT (4-10-2002)

**Sahil, Sandeep, Vikram & Ramit at their best**

One saw squash at its best in the U-19 final of the Rs 1.85 lakh prize money **Little Masters Squash Tournament**, sponsored and organized by the **Willingdon Sports Club** at their own squash courts. **Sahil Vora** played his heart out to edge out Chennai's Gaurav Nandrajog in the final.

**Alisha Mashruwala** stands in solitary splendour in the juniors events and won the under-19 girls title. **Gaurav Nandrajog** didn't know what hit him as Vora kept up a stream of winners, picked up everything and dominated the T to perfection. There were endless rallies for the major points and Vora's tactical superiority was remarkable. He sent warnings to **Chennai** that they could not take the **Maharashtra players** lightly. What a pity Vora had to miss the junior nationals because of exams.

Alisha had the rare experience of dropping a game before getting the better of **Indore lass Radhika Kashyap** in four games. Had the referee ruled in Radhika's favour then the end result may have been different a few points going in her favour.

**All Finals Results:**

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
BOYS			
U-19	Sahil Vora	Gaurav (Delhi)	9-2, 9-4, 10-8
U-17	Vikas Jangra	Prateek Patni (MP)	9-2, 10-8, 9-0
U-15	Sandeep Jangra (Jindal)	Nareesh Kumar (Delhi)	9-3, 9-0, 6-9, 10-9
U-13	Vikram Malhotra	Laxman Joshi	9-3, 9-1, 9-0

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
GIRLS			
U-19	Alisha Mashruwala	Radhika (Indore)	9-4, 2-9, 10-9, 9-7
U-17	Alisha Mashruwala	Shahnaz Dastur	9-6, 9-1, 9-2

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# JUNIOR / SUB-JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2002 (1 / 11 / 2002)

## Sachika, Vikram, Vikas, Sandeep and Alisha renew hope for Maharashtra

When he came to Mumbai for the SRFI coaches course, SRFI Sec. Gen., **Mr. N Ramachandran** had warned Mumbai juniors to watch out for the **Chennai talent at the Junior nationals**. The Chennai lads have been training hard at the academy and would have the edge. But these nationals showed their time will come. **Maharashtra's kids showed resilience and managed to claim five titles**.

**Sachika Balvani** and **Vikram Malhotra** were particularly impressive. **Little Sachika** bagged the first position in the under eleven category making her probably the **youngest national squash champion ever**. She was a tennis player first and it shows in her double-handed backhand! "I just love to play squash," she says having watched brother **Ishaan** play at **Otters** before he went to **Mayo College**. The passion enabled her to defeat top seed **Harita Omprakash**. The triumph won her the '**most promising girl player**' award. The icing came when **Major Retd. Maniam** consulting coach SRFI, made a public announcement of her being the '**Nicole David of India**'. Nicole was the toast of Malaysia winning the is the world junior title. Maniam gives her another three years before she claims the world seniors crown. Twelve-year-old **Vikram Malhotra** was playing his last year in the under-13. And just as well he claimed the **national title** as he had done in the under-11 ranks. With several **National and International** titles under his belt, this was a piece of cake for the **Khar Gymkhana** lad. **Laxman Joshi** was the player he beat. He has the strokes, now he has to sharpen his front court game if he is to hold his own in the under-15 ranks in the next two years.

The prized under-19 crown was claimed by **Saurav Ghosal**. The Kolkata has now plays under the Tamil Nadu banner as he is at the academy there. He won an energy-sapping final against **Gaurav Nandrajog** of Delhi. Both are healthy rivals and have met thrice in National finals. The first time Gaurav had won in the under-15 section. Last year Saurav bounced back from the brink to upset Gaurav in a sensational under-17 final. This time Saurav was the favourite right away and showed why with his tight control on strokes and pleasing flexibility on the court.

The decider showed Saurav's character. Saurav waited for the openings even as the rallies stretched. Both players gave their all, at times gasping for breath. But the exertion took more on Gaurav, and that ended the battle of wits.

Tamil Nadu showed they could overtake Maharashtra with a clutch of titles. **Deepika Palikal** in the under-13 section and **Shruti Reddy** in the under-15 section took the honours much against expectation. **M. Parthiban** of Tamil Nadu was adjudged the most promising player in the boys' section. He did well in the under-17 ranks. The **SAI** Director-General, **Sekhar Dutt** and the **IOA** Life President, **B. Sivanthi Adityan**, gave away the prizes.

### All Final Results:

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
<b>BOYS:</b>			
U-19	Saurav G. (TN)	Gaurav N. (Del)	9-1, 9-5, 7-9, 4-9, 9-3
U-17	Vikas J. (Mah)	Prateek P. (MP)	9-0, 9-1, 9-4
U-15	Sandeep J. (Mah)	Manek M. (Mah)	9-7, 9-2, 6-9, 9-3
U-13	Vikram M. (Mah)	Laxman J. (Mah)	9-1, 9-0, 9-5

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
<b>GIRLS:</b>			
U-17	Alisha M. (Mah)	Sonali P. (TN)	9-5, 9-3, 9-4
U-15	Shruti R. (TN)	Shenaz D. (Mah)	9-6, 9-5, 9-5
U-13	Deepika P. (TN)	Nikita E. (Mah)	9-10, 9-3, 9-3, 7-9, 9-0
U-11	Sachika B. (Mah)	Harita O. (TN)	9-4, 9-3, 9-3
U-9	Joshna C. (TN)	Radhika K. (MP)	9-1, 9-3, 9-1

## ICICI LOMBARD OTTERS NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2002 (22/12/2002)

### Maharashtra win Four out of Five titles

It was the day of the '**senior brigade**' at the Squash Senior Nationals as Mumbai's **Manish Chotrani** and Deolali's **Mekhala Subedar** regained their **men's and women's National titles** respectively with upset victories in the **ICCI Lombard-Otters Club Squash Nationals 2002** at the glass back courts of the **Otters Club, Maharashtra** won four out of five titles.

The 25-year-old **Mekhala** upset the defending champion and top seed **Joshna Chinappa** of Chennai in four games, while the 32-year-old **Chotrani**, playing a level of squash much in contradiction to his age, upset the reigning champion and top seed, **Ritwik Bhattacharya** of Delhi in five games. Trailing by two games, **Chotrani** hung in doggedly to outthink and outplay the 23-year-old **Bhattacharya**, playing on the **PSA Circuit** and ranked **89th in the world**. **Chotrani** prevailed 6-9, 3-9, 9-5, 9-4, 9-6 to take home the winner's purse of Rs 50,000, while **Bhattacharya** had to be content with Rs 25,000.

**Mekhala**, a picture of consistency, preyed on the unforced errors of the 16-year-old **Joshna** to win the 77-minute encounter 5-9, 8-10, 9-6, 7-9 and with it a purse of Rs 20,000. **Bala Murugan** of Chennai lifted the professionals' title, defeating **Kolkata's Dilip Tripathi** 9-3, 9-2, 9-1. The men's over-35 crown went to Mumbai's **Darius Surti**, who defeated Pune's **Rohit Thawani** 3-9, 10-8, 9-3, 9-0, while the **Vaman Apte** triumphed in the over-45 final, defeating **Chandrakant Pawar** 9-4, 9-0, 9-1.

### All Final results:

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
Men	Manish C. (Mum)	Ritwik B. (Delhi)	6-9, 3-9, 9-5, 9-4, 9-6
Wmn	Mekhala S. (Deolali)	Jhosna C. (Chen.)	9-5, 10-8, 6-9, 9-7
Prof	Balamurgan (Chen.)	Dilip T. (Kol)	9-3, 9-2, 9-1

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
O-45	Vaman Apte (Mum)	C. Pawar (Mum)	9-4, 9-0, 9-1
O-35	Darius Surti (Mum)	Rohit T. (Pune)	3-9, 10-8, 9-3, 9-0.



L to R : Manish Chotrani (Men's), Chief Guest, Major Maniam (ASF Coach), Mekhala Subedar (Women's Winner), Vaman Apte (O-45), Mr. Dilip Dandekar (President-Otters Club) and Darius Surti (O-35 Winner)



# SQUASH NATIONALS THRU THEIR EYES

By Pradeep Vijayakar



**Maj S. Maniam, consultant coach of the Squash Rackets Federation of India, watched for the first time the ICCI-Lombard Senior Nationals at Mumbai's Otters Club. PRO-SQUASH got his opinions of the same.**

**What was it like for a foreigner to watch the Indian Nationals?**

Well, it was no different from watching any national, there was some top-class squash. The **Ritwik-Manish** final was an outstanding match. Even the **Joshna-Mekhla** tussle was technically a very good game.

**Now you have seen quite a bit of Indian squash, do we have the numbers to do well on the international level?**

Absolutely. I watched both the juniors and senior nationals. I think looking at the numbers, I have already identified about **fifty-odd names** from the under-13 to 19 ranks to prepare for **Project 2006**. This four-year programme will take us to another level.

That is if there is **no further drain to the U.S.** Unfortunately that is one thing I cannot prevent. I wish we could. People do have priorities and we cannot meddle with their priorities. But if we can retain a solid set of youngsters it will be good for the Indian game.

**Manish Chotrani, at 32, has won back the national title, how do you see it good or bad for the sport talentwise?**

Many people are fixated about the age, I don't see their point. So what if Manish is 31? It is just a number. He has trained hard for this event, it is how hard you prepare and train and how elegant you play that should count.

If Pette Samparas can win titles beyond the age of 30, what's wrong with Manish winning? **Brett Martin, Chris Walker** kept winning well past 30. According to me Manish has got at least **three years of good squash** ahead of him if he continues the way he is doing. **Ritwik Bhattacharya** is our only **torch-bearer** on the **PSA circuit**. At least we have one. And one is better than none.

**Is it like your country, Malaysia, where One Beng Hee was the lone ranger on the circuit not long ago?**

Exactly. But then came **Azian**, then **Kalvin** now we have six on the circuit and six women too. It has been a meteoric rise. **Australia** and **England** have pros a dime a dozen.

Mekhla's triumph was deceptive. She looked spent early in the match. There are two things that characterise Mekhla. One, she has got a tremendous fighting spirit. Two, two she is among the finest thinkers on court. She is very composed and chooses the right shots. She doesn't have the same racket skills as **Joshna Chinappa**. But she chose the right shot at the right time, using the lob very well when she was tiring. Joshna was trapped into playing at Mekhla's much slower pace. That's right. She made unforced errors. Joshna has to learn to play the basic game well. She has been working at it but unable to reproduce it in the match.

## Manish Chotrani - Men's Champion



**What are your feelings about the triumph?**

It's the best thing that happened to me.

**How much of a chance did you give yourself against an opponent playing on the pro circuit?**

Frankly, I didn't think much about the match. I took it like a routine game, just went to play it. At the back of mind there was a thought that I should not be thrashed badly because

the difference between our levels of training is big. He's coming from London, plays fast. I am playing with juniors, mostly.

**What was your game plan?**

I felt the pace in the **first game**. I was just keen to hang in there. The **second game** was the same, my legs began to tire and I could not keep up the pace. In the **third** and **fourth** I began playing a little faster. I found he could not adjust to my pace, when I varied it. He was desperate to win. I **gambled** two or three times with **deep serves** and he **'tinned'**. In the **fifth** though I was tired I attacked with all I had. Surprisingly, he kept defending all the time. He was up in the fifth but I got my serve back at 0-4 and started attacking, never to look back. I was very happy about the points, I won them cleanly. I was thinking and playing. That made the difference. A lot of people wrote you off for the decider. I know the behaviour of the courts well and used that knowledge. Both of us are not the best of killers. We rally well and are fit. Someone with a great finish would have won earlier. There were too many obstructions and 'stroke' calls. When he played the drop he won points. I was moving out after returning the drop. But when I was dropping he was not moving out and I complained about it.

**Two juniors coming to the men's semis is a happy augury?**

I am sorry that there is little opposition in the men's. I won the **State Open** and **Western India** titles without a sweat. The juniors are lucky to be in training at the **Chennai Academy**. **Gajendra** and **Navneet** hardly get any good players to practice with. I put myself under pressure in practice and manage.

**How do you compare this with the earlier triumph?**

Then I was in training and practicing with good players. This time I had to make do with fitness and training. The juniors are doing mind-boggling stuff at Chennai. Indeed when they told me they do **15 sets of one circuit**, I told them I can barely do four or five and asked them how they do it. I have to be a work at nine and play in evenings but cannot do to much gym work as again I have to be up early and at work. The late matches at the **Nationals** suited me fine. I told myself even if I had lost the final, I would be at work at nine the next day.

## Mekhla Subedar - Women's Champion



**What are your feelings on regaining the title?**

I am very happy. I worked hard for it. And planned it. Moreover my parents were there as well as my naani (grandmom).

**What was your gameplan?**

I slowed down the match with lobs. I made her play at my game and she fell into the trap.

**Did the State Open triumph over Joshna earlier in the year give you an edge?**

Not really. I was aware that she was in **peak training** after the recent big events.

**How do you compare this triumph over the previous three?**

All I can say it was very satisfying as I **had worked hard and it paid off**.

**You did a Level I coaching course of the Asian Squash Federation, did it help in this triumph?**

Indeed, in a way. When you are into coaching you are thinking about the basics all the time and that is a big help. If one deviates from the basics then one's game goes down.

**Will this win give you an impetus to try hard at international level?**

It all boils down to sponsorship. I have not been able to get any so far and that's why my **foreign events** are restricted.

**You will try for another title next time around, no doubt?**

There is competition and I like to fight it out.



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## MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP, CHENNAI, INDIA (10/12/02)

### English kid on top of the World

When you are playing on court and being watched by a squash legend like **Jehangir Khan** half your job of winning the match is done. The **70 per cent** inspiration is there. Add to it **30 per cent** perspiration and the title is yours. England's **James Willstrop** will vouch for this. His power and precision game left his compatriot **Peter Barker** standing in the under-19 final of the **12th World Juniors Squash Championship** at the **TNSRA-SDAT complex** in Chennai. Barker had tuned his game but Willstrop didn't give him much leeway. The two had played a dozen times before and Willstrop used that knowledge better.

The final lasted 28 minutes. Willstrop didn't drop a single game during the championship. **Malcolm Willstrop**, his father was also his personal coach. The father said the way his son masked his shots from his opponent made the big difference. Others watching said they were watching a top-ten player in the making.

#### Final results:

Cat.	Winner	Runner-up	Scores
BOYS U-19	James Willstrop (Eng)	Peter Barker (Eng)	9-0, 9-3, 9-1.
Plate Event	Piedro Schweertman (Neth)	Robin Antony Clarke (Can)	4-9, 9-1, 9-1, 9-2.
Classic plate	Ahmed Moshen Hassan (Egy)	w/o Mustafa Essen (Egy).	
Consolation plate	Seif El Dein Mahmoud (Egy)	Mohd Shahril (Mal)	9-5, 9-3, 9-5.

## MEN'S WORLD JUNIOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, CHENNAI, INDIA (15/12/2002)

### Pakistan wrests crown from England,

Down in the dumps for a while **Pakistan** announced its return to **world squash** by winning the **team title** after a gap of **two decades** in the 12th edition of the **World Junior men's championship** at the **TNSRA-SDAT complex**. For one whose legendary status should have attracted a thousand talents to squash in his time, **Jehangir Khan** was witness to the historic moment brought about by his young countrymen as he graced the occasion on the final day. It was a show of collective strength that was remarkable for the depth in talent in the Pakistan ranks as against the deposed holder England which was looking for its fourth straight win and fifth overall but with just one class player in **James Willstrop**, incidentally the only unbeaten player in the whole of the championship.

Where **Peter Barker** was a class above the rest, barring Willstrop, in the individual competition that preceded the team event, a groin injury was to dash his hopes as also England's. Barker presented a sorry sight, an indignant bundle against the sharp moving and fine-tuned **Majid Khan** in the deciding third match of the tie.

**India finishes Fifth** : **India** jumped from 15th to 5th position with a win over **Mexico**, an incredible finish in **Indian squash history**. "The performance of the boys has made everyone proud and augurs well for Indian squash in the seasons to come", said **Maj (retd) S. Maniam**, the Consultant Coach. At the prize distribution function, **Mr N. Ramachandran**, president, **TNSRA** referred to the top quality squash feast in the city and thanked the World Squash Federation for giving the championship to India.

**Final Results** : Pakistan bt England 2-1 (Khayal Muhammad lost to James Willstrop 2-9, 0-9, 1-9; Khalid Atlas bt Jon Harford 9-4, 9-7, 9-5; Majid Khan bt Peter Barker 9-2, 9-3, 9-7.

## HSBC CORPORATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP (22/12/2002)

### HSBC make it three in a row!

HSBC won the prestigious **Ernst & Young Corporate Squash Championship 2002** for the third year in a row narrowly edging out **HDFC Group** in the finals conducted at the **CCI Squash Courts**. The Championship in its **fifth year** is **India's premier corporate squash championship** and attracted players from over thirty companies this year. The event was co-sponsored by **Hotel Marine Plaza** and managed by **Saran Presents**. **Bobby Parikh**, CEO, Ernst & Young India was the **Chief Guest** and gave away the prizes to the winners.

#### Final results:

**Men (25-30 yrs)** : Champions Cup: Vishal Ootam (Kotak Securities) bt Waman Kale (KPMG) 9-15, 15-11, 15-8

**Salver** : Prashant Mehra (Standard Char.) bt Fardeen Nariman (Ernst & Young) 15-4, 15-7, 15-9

**Bowl** : Anand Baldawa (Ernst & Young) bt Rachit Sharma (DSP Merrill Lynch) 15-8, 15-14

**Men (30-35 yrs)** : Champions Cup: Pankaj Ratna (JM Morgan) bt Ashwin Padgaonkar (HSBC) 17-14, 7-15, 15-11

**Salver** : Burzin Dubash (Ernst & Young) bt Vinit Malik (HSBC) 15-5, 15-15, 15-9

**Bowl** : Sharad Asthana (BNP Paribas) bt Ruchir Bansal (Accenture) 15-10, 15-10

**Men (40-45 yrs)** : Champions Cup: Vijay Paranjpe (Global Tele-Systems) bt Ameet Parekh (Ernst & Young) 9-4, 9-5, 9-7

**Men (50-55 yrs)** : Champions Cup: Pranab Datta (Marico) bt Ravi Puri (Alok Industries) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1

**Men (Open)** : Champions Cup: Janak Madhavdas (Mitsubishi) bt Shankar Basu (Credit Agricole Indosuez) 15-8, 15-9, 15-9



L to R : Vinit Malik, Ashwin, Padgaonkar, Vikram Lulla & Aalok Kulkarni

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A COLLECTION OF ARTICLES WRITTEN  
BY RAJU CHAINANI



## LET US HAVE PUBLIC COURTS

Indian Express 4/11/1988

THE concept of **public squash courts** has gathered considerable momentum all over the world. The thought of this game being confined to the rich man has gradually been done away with. Today over 10 million people in 100 countries play squash. Today squash has become a game for the masses. It has grown into an industry.

To the **Indian public** it has unfortunately remained a **club game**, confined to members of establishments. The powers that be have not had the foresight to think of the benefits accruing from taking the game to the masses.

The myth of squash being a rich man's game should be seriously examined. A squash court occupies a mere **672 square feet** of playing area. It costs around rupees five lakh to construct and its maintenance is relatively simple. A reasonable Indian racket would cost you Rs. 100 and a ball Rs. 25, (average life four weeks). Is this expensive?

Given that the government allots land free of cost or at a nominal price, this game can really take off with the common man. Our illustrious neighbors have shown it can be done.

To them squash ranks along with cricket and hockey. Our passions for the latter two sports remain high. For squash, it's a case of being seen and not heard. **MANY** of the **Pakistani stars**, who have come up, are not members of elitist clubs. They come from the **North West Frontier** and are not masters of the English language. The point I am trying to drive home is that unless the game goes to the masses, the possibility of seeing it develop are remote.

Take this a step further. How many, amongst the common man in the street can afford a Rs. 15,000 membership in the clubs? That too, after a long wait and with ever increasing charges. Instead, give them public squash courts with an annual membership of say Rs. 1000 and you will have them lining up from **Nariman Point to Chowpatty**.

There are several examples of how the game has developed overseas due to the public courts. In **England**, particularly in the last decade, courts have come up even in prime city locations.

The concept of providing the **business executives** with a sweat out during their lunch-break or early evening has gathered considerable momentum. A quick game and shower takes around 45 minutes, thus catering ideally for those with time constraints.

Not many people take up exclusive club membership which could burn a hole in the pocket. Instead they play at public courts. Many of **London's squash courts** are fully occupied from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., catering for **schools, housewives, office workers and executives**.

THE concept of "**A healthy body, healthy mind**" has been taken very seriously in Singapore where each new housing complex is required to have a squash court. The Government has stepped in to promote the game.

The results have spoken for themselves. Today, Singapore have become no. 2 in Asia, behind the mighty Pakistanis. They have left the others, including India, runner-up in the **First Asian Championship**, lagging way behind.

A staggering five per cent of the **Australians play squash**. The land of the Kangaroos, with an estimated population of 16 million, have provided some of the world's top players **Can Nancarrow, Ken Hiscoc and Geoff Hunt** in the past decade, **Chris Dittmar and Rodney Marting** today.

To the **Aussies**, squash has become a national sport on par with their rules football and rugby. Again, there has been help from the government to take the game to the common man.

Bombay can and should lead the way towards building India's first public courts. The history of Bombay's squash is a show case of silverware which speaks for himself. **Anil Nayar** won eight national men's titles, the U.S. Open, the North American Open and World Junior crowns, **Fali Madon, Madhav Apte, Dinshaw Pandole, Nick Senapati, Ananth Nayak**... the list of trail blazers goes on and on.

TODAY, we have **Meherwan Daruwalla**, the national champion for the past five years. Alongside are **Adrian Ezra, Darius Pandole** and several others who have bled the Bombay flag high. The dominance in the national juniors is almost complete as our boys have swept just about every thing in sight.

Today, squash in India and in Bombay particularly has seen an influx of money. The public is becoming aware of this game, but much more effort is needed.

Next year, squash has been included in the **South-Asian Federation Games** at **Rawalpindi**. Also, next year, Karachi play host to the world Championships for the first time. In the **1992 Barcelona Olympic Games**, squash has been included as an invitational sport.

The world around us sees this game as suitable for the masses. It costs very little and doctors all over have recommended it. Isn't it time We did, something in Bombay?

As the Festival of Lights approaches let us ask our sports authorities for a special cracker. Allot us the land in **South Bombay**. The rest will take care of itself. Let Bombay lead the way. It always has been regarded as the **Mecca of India squash**. It is time we did something for our pilgrims.

## Guess any two from this Photograph ?



The first 3 winners will get three T-shirts of



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# Asian Games a learning curve for squash prodigies

The **Busan Asian Games** were a learning curve for two young Indians, **Joshna Chinappa** and **Saurav Ghoshal**. One is 15 and the other is 16. "The feeling was quite overwhelming," said Saurav Ghoshal, a standard eleven student of **Lady Andal School**, Chennai who earlier this year won the **German Open** (April) and the **Dutch Open** (July).

"The Busan Games was one of the best things that happened in my life," says Joshna. "Though we may not have done exceedingly well, we now know what it takes to play at that level." Joshna lost in the quarterfinals to **Sharon Wee** of Malaysia while Saurav succumbed in the first round match to **Qatar's Al-Soud**.

Saurav and Joshna along with India's top-seeded **Ritwik Bhattacharya** and third-seeded **Vaidehi Reddy** formed the Indian Squash representation at Bhusan. "My most memorable moment at the Games was when **Leander Paes**, who happens to be friend of Ritwik, decided to join us for dinner. He's such a warm and friendly guy and spoke to us a lot about our career," says Ghoshal.

"Saurav would get all excited everytime he spotted a famous Indian sportsman. **Vaidehi** and me would have to calm him down whenever he got excited," says Joshna, whose past exploits include three Malaysian Open, a couple of Singapore and Scottish Open crowns in various age groups. Being part of such a big Games contingent and the camaraderie that the team enjoyed was what made it special for them. "Everyone was very encouraging.

You really felt a sense of belonging and that feels very special," admits Saurav.

## Gujarat Open Squash Championship 2003

World Women Rankings Jan 2003			World Mens Rankings Jan 2003		
Pos.	Player	Ctry	Pos.	Player	Ctry
1	Sarah Fitz-Gerald	Aus	1	Peter Nicol	Eng
2	Carol Owens	Nzl	2	Jonathan Power	Can
3	Natalie Pohrer	USA	3	David Palmer	Aus
4	Linda Charman	Eng	4	John White	Sco
5	Vanessa Atkinson	Ned	5	Stewart Boswell	Aus
6	Tania Bailey	Eng	6	Thierry Lincou	Fra
7	Cassie Jackson	Eng	7	Anthony Ricketts	Aus
8	Rachael Grinham	Aus	8	Ong Beng Hee	Mas
9	Rebecca Macree	Eng	9	Lee Beacill	Eng
10	Fiona Gieves	Eng	10	Martin Heath	Sco
11	Natalie Grinham	Aus	11	Karim Darwish	Egy
12	Stephanie Brind	Eng	12	Mark Chaloner	Eng
13	Suzanne Horner	Eng	13	Chris Walker	Eng
14	Pamela Nimmo	Sco	14	Amr Shabana	Egy
15	Jenny Tranfield	Eng	15	Joseph Kneipp	Aus

The Newly Formed Squash Rackets Federation of Gujarat (S.R.F.G) headed by **Mr. Narendra Gour** as its President is organising the first ever Rs. 25000/- Prize Squash Tournament in **Karnavati Club, Ahmedabad, Gujarat**. The Gujarat Open Squash Championship is Scheduled From 26<sup>th</sup> Jan To 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2003. Categories are Open / Veteran (Above 35 Yrs) / Women / Children (minimum of 4 Participants)

The entry forms are available at reception of **Karnavati Club, Ahmedabad** or with: **Mr. Narendra Gour** Tel. 079-6583469 (O) / 6858233 (R), **Mr. Jigish Shah** - Tel. 9825007154, **Mr. Saurabh Gulati** Tel. 9825005374.

The **Entry fee is Rs 200/-** for each category of the tournament. Other relevant details of the tournament are available on the entry form, itself. The last date of submitting the entry form (with any of the above referred person only) is **16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2003**. The draw of the matches will be displayed on the notice boards of **Karnavati Club**. The Event is sponsored by **M/s. Camex Colours Ltd.**, and Co-Sponsored by **Karnavati Club, Ahmedabad**.

## Men's World Open, Belgium, 04-14 December 2002

**Final:** David Palmer (AUS) bt John White (SCO) 13-15, 12-15, 15-6, 15-14, 15-11

## Women's Monte Carlo Classic, Monaco, 25-30 November 2002

**Final:** Natalie Pohrer (USA) bt Rebecca Macree (ENG) 9-3, 9-5, 9-3

## Women's Aqua Nova Grasshopper Cup, Switzerland, 19-24 November 2002

**Final:** Natalie Pohrer (USA) bt Vanessa Atkinson (NED) 6-9, 9-0, 9-1, 9-3

## Weymuller Women's US Open, New York, 12-17 November 2002

**Final:** Carol Owens (NZL) bt Tania Bailey (ENG) 9-7, 9-1, 10-8

## YMG Capital Canadian Classic, Canada, 08-15 November 2002

**Final:** Jonathan Power (CAN) bt Peter Nicol (ENG) 9-8, 15-3, 16-17, 15-7

## INTERNATIONAL

### Ottawa Women's International, Canada, 07-10 November 2002

**Final:** Suzanne Horner (ENG) bt Pamela Nimmo (SCO) 5-9, 9-4, 9-5, 9-6

### El Salvador Women's Open, San Salvador, 06-09 November 2002

**Final:** Carla Khan (PAK) bt Samantha Teran (MEX) 9-1, 2-9, 9-3, 9-1

### Women's World Open, Qatar, 26 October - 02 November 2002

**Final:** Sarah Fitz-Gerald (AUS) bt Natalie Pohrer (ENG) 10-8, 9-3, 7-9, 9-7

### Qatar Classic, Qatar, 26 October - 02 November 2002

**Final:** Peter Nicol (ENG) bt David Palmer (AUS) 15-9, 13-15, 15-6, 13-15, 15-7

## CAS International, Pakistan, 17-22 October 2002

**Final:** Dan Jenson (AUS) bt Nick Matthew (ENG) 15-8, 9-15, 15-13, 15-7

## Milo South African Challenge, South Africa, 14-20 October 2002

**Final:** David Palmer (AUS) bt John White (SCO) 9-15, 15-12, 15-12, 9-15, 15-12

## DARE Santa Barbara Open, USA, 03-06 October 2002

**Final:** James Willstrop (ENG) bt Lee Drew (ENG) 15-12, 15-9, 15-10

## 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Games, South Korea, 30 September - 04 October 2002

**Men's Final:** Ong Beng Hee (MAS) bt Mansoor Zaman (PAK) 9-0, 9-7, 9-0

**Women's Final:** Rebecca Chiu (HKG) bt Nicol David (MAS) 9-7, 9-5, 9-7

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