

# PROSQUASH

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## SQUASHING NEW YEAR

### WSF WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS, CHENNAI

IT'S AN AUSTRALIAN SWEEP

(17/12/2004)

**M**ission accomplished. For Australia that was what mattered finally. Winning all the three titles men, women and mixed the Australians left Chennai on a happy note at the end of the second World doubles squash championship.

For Rachael Grinham, the world number one player from Australia, Chennai will remain a special destination. It was here that she won a WISPA title a few years ago and on Friday she collected a double, winning the doubles with sister Natalie and the mixed with David Palmer.

India would also have been satisfied having reached the men's final for the first time and making history in the process. The title round saw Ritwik Bhattacharya and Saurav Ghosal putting up a game fight for 100 minutes against Byron Davis and Cameron White. But the dream run could not be extended as they lost 9-4, 9-3, 8-9, 9-7. There was no disgrace in the loss as the Indians gave the goodly crowd enough to cheer.

#### Superior Aussies

**C**onsistency in stroke-making, variations in the length of returns and above all total focus were the prime needs. Both teams struggled here but where the Australians excelled was in their superior game plan. If Byron, considered by the team's head coach Geoff Hunt as a 'special coach' himself, was deceptive and facile in his forecourt play, then Cameron's elasticity was amazing. Twice he went diving full length, once backwards, to return and what is more win points much to the awe of the gathering.

Ritwik and Saurav started tentatively, with both taking turns to hit the tin. Even if an occasional drop caught Byron short the Australian duo managed to keep up and won two games in quick time. Ritwik and Saurav are fighters and that quality came to the fore in the third. With near unending rallies and quick reflex returns the movement of scores was checked for some time. India led 7-4 before two faux pas by Saurav saw the Australians catching up. Soon a fall by Byron in negotiating a return gave game ball to the Indians at 8-6. The Australians then made it 8-8 all before Saurav shot found the nick and a lunging White failed to pick the ball up. India won the game, its only gain.

An early lead kept Australia in good stead in the fourth and even though Ritwik and Saurav put everything in defeat stared at them at 5-8. On match ball now for Australia, Saurav played two lovely points, one off a trickle boast to bring the scores closer. But it was only thus far and no further.

#### Low key

**T**he other finals were comparatively low key. After his unbecoming demeanour on Friday, when he gave vent to his anger against the refereeing in the men's semifinal, David Palmer was cool and collected in Rachael's company in the mixed doubles to win easily. Meanwhile it is learnt that Palmer had apologised to the organisers as well as the WSF representatives for his poor conduct. Whether WSF will view the incident seriously and penalise him has to be seen.

The Grinham sisters then came on to ensure the women's doubles. Ms. Joyce Buckley, vice-president, WSF was the chief guest and gave away the medals and trophies.

Source : The Hindu (Chennai)

### RESULTS

**Mens :** Byron Davis and Cameron White (Aus) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya and Saurav Ghosal (Ind) 9-4, 9-3, 8-9, 9-7.

**Women:** Rachael Grinham and Natalie Grinham (Aus) bt Louise Crome and Lara Petera (NZ) 9-7, 9-4, 9-2.

**Mixed:** Rachael Grinham and David Palmer (Aus) bt Shelley Kitchen and Glen Wilson (NZ) 11-8, 9-8, 9-8.

### 52ND NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS AND 1ST NATIONAL DOUBLES SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(7/12/2004)

#### Saurav, Joshna corner glory

**S**aurav Ghosal had served notice of his threat to Ritwik Bhattacharya when claiming the **Herald Maritime Squash title and Rs one lakh** prize money at Otters Club. Now he is making a habit beating Ritwik. He beat him at the nationals at Chennai and is arguably India No 1. Of course, Ritwik was not hundred per cent fit but that does not detract from Saurav's show. He joined the list of greats of Indian squash winning senior and junior titles in the same year emulating **Adrian Azra** and **Joshna Chinappa**.

**J**oshna Chinappa underscored the **Tamil Nadu** domination which was complete when **Bala Murugan** wrested the professionals' title from **Mahesh Verma** of Maharashtra. hat Ritwik was not at his physical best, having just come back from a lay off but that did not take away anything from the merit of Saurav's grand show.

Ritwik tried to deny Saurav the speed he needs for domination but Saurav found a way out. The efforts drained Ritwik for the fourth game and he was a spent force. Joshna earlier swept aside the 14-year-old **Anvesha Reddy** in 28 minutes to make it her fourth national title. It was easily her easiest for she has been tested and even beaten by the likes of **Mekhala Suibedar** (now **Shrivastav**), who didn't come to the nationals.

The nationals will be remembered for the first doubles being held. Ritwik did not play and it was the TN pair of Saurav Ghosal and **Harinder Pal Singh** who won beating statemates Bala Murugan and **A. Parthiban** 9-2, 4-9, 4-9, 4-9, 9-8. Coach **Cyrus Pocha** played and reached the semis.

### RESULTS

**Men:** Saurav Ghosal (TN) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (ND) 9-4, 6-9, 9-7, 9-2.

**Women:** Joshna Chinappa (TN) bt V. Anvesha Reddy (TN) 9-3, 9-0, 9-2.

**Professionals :** Bala Murugan (TN) bt Mahesh Verma (Mah) 9-5, 9-3, 9-0.

**Doubles Men:** Saurav Ghosal and Harinder Pal Singh (TN) bt Bala Murugan and A. Parthiban (TN) 9-2, 4-9, 4-9, 4-9, 9-8.

**Doubles Women:** Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt Surobhi Misra (Raj) and Shivangi Paranjpe (Mah) 11-10, 9-3, 11-10.

## KHAR GYMKHANA - ISP MUMBAI OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(17/12/2004)



Xavier Marques (Sponsor of Khar Gymkhana - ISP Mumbai Open Squash Championship) giving away the trophy to Rohan Gracias (Winner of Doubles Semi-Finals)

The Khar Gymkhana - ISP Mumbai Open Squash Championship 2004 got off to a great start at the Khar Gymkhana Squash Courts. Over 41 teams entered for the double's event. The top 12 teams were segregated and were put in a separate draw titled Doubles Open, whereas the balance 32 were slotted in the Doubles Handicap event. This made the game more exciting to the players as they would be then evenly pitted making it possible for almost anybody to win.

As witnessed, the doubles game is a game of attrition. Mistakes are expensive, and at the end of the day, it is not necessary that the better stroke player wins. The team which can keep the ball in play and doesn't make unforced errors is more likely to win. This was aptly demonstrated in the results of the event.

A Rs.100/- entry fee returned a free t-shirt to all players and a full fledged cocktails/dinner victory ceremony with their spouses, turned out to be a good investment for many of the players.

A Men's Top 8 invitation event was also conducted simultaneously. There were many candidates requesting the organisers for an entry, whereas at the same time the real Top 8 were busy in another city for the World Doubles. Top billing was received by Darius Surti, and second billing to Rohan Gracias. But it was the plucky professional Sachin Jadhav who played a brilliant game to almost steal the thunder from the second seed after easily defeating the top seed in the first round.

Two junior teams deserve a mention were Sachika Balwani/Ankita Sharma the all girls team to play the Doubles Handicap, and Ishaan Balwani/Rahul D'Cunha in the Doubles Open, who gave a fright to their opponents before bowing out. Another promising junior Abhishek Pradhan supported his partner ably reaching upto the 3rd place in the Doubles Handicap Event.

The highlight of the event was the win by the team in the Doubles Handicap Event. Additional Commissioner of Police Mr. Parambir Singh teamed up with the new Secretary General of SRAM Mr. Shiv Malhotra to take the title, beating many a fancied team on the way. This was the first tournament played by Mr. Singh. His association with squash bodes well for the game and this win may spur him to help take squash to greater heights in Mumbai.

An event where over Rs.1,21,800/- was given out in the form of prize money was sponsored by Mr. Vicky Kalludi, of Ashwini Jewellers and Khar Gymkhana. Mr. Kalludi is a keen squash enthusiast, and also participated in the tournament. Associate Sponsors was Winmark Enterprises, the importers and distributors of the "Official Squash Racket

of Indian Squash Professionals" manufactured by "PRO SUPEX" of Taiwan. All the quarter-finalists were offered the Blaster-II, a versatile squash racket from their range imported. Associate organiser was the SRAM.

With over 36 individual players receiving awards upto the quarter final level in the doubles events, and each of the Top 8 players having a confirmed award, a glittering Prize distribution ceremony was held at the poolside terrace of the Club, where over 175 people attended the Victory Ceremony. The highlight of the evening was awarding of the Appreciation award to the Maharashtra Squash Team U-15 (Vikram Malhotra, Laxman Joshi, Nitin Chauhan & Naveen Jangra) for winning the National Team Championships held at Ajmer recently. Also felicitated were the Individual National Champions for 2004 viz. Sachika Balwani, Girls U-11, Mahesh Mangaonkar Boys U-11, Vikram Malhotra Boys U-15 and Sandeep Jangra Boys U-17. A special tribute was offered to the coaches of the National Team U-15 viz Mr. Sunil Verma of Jindal, and Mr. A. I. Singh for guiding the boys to glory. The President of Khar Gymkhana - Mr. Hari Mehra, Gen Secretary of SRAM - Mr. Shiv Malhotra, Founder-Director of ISP Mr. Mahendra Agarwal, the sponsors of the event Mr. Vikram Kalludi and Mr. Marquis Xavier, gave away the prizes.

Riaz Mohammed the referee's team captain alongwith Jogi, Vijay, Vilas and Kishan ably handed out the handicaps keeping the competition fair and maintaining the edge in each and every match.

This was the 59th event organized by the Indian Squash Professionals.



Vikram Kalludi (Sponsor) giving away the trophy to Shiv Malhotra (Winner, Doubles)

## RESULTS

## Men's Top 8 (Singles)

**Finals:** Sandeep Jangra (Jindal) bt Sarvesh Chauhan (Jindal) 9-3, 9-4.

**Semi-Finals:** Sarvesh Chauhan (Jindal) bt Sachin Jadhav (Juhu Gymkhana) 9-5, 4-9, 9-4;

Sandeep Jangra (Jindal) bt Rohan Gracias (Khar Gym.) 9-7, 9-0.

**Doubles**

**Finals:** Sanjay Goyal & Rohan Gracias (Khar Gym.) bt Tushar

Bambani & Mohammad Merchant (Otters Club) 9-7, 10-8.

**Semi Finals :** Tushar Bambani & Mohammad Merchant (Otters Club) bt Gopi Mohite (Bombay Gym.) & Sunil Lalchandani

(Mandpeshwar Club) 9-5, 4-9, 9-2;

Sanjay Goyal & Rohan Gracias (Khar Gym.) bt Riaz Mohammad

& Ajaz Mohammad (Tulip Star) 9-4, 9-4.



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## 61ST C.C.I. WESTERN INDIA OPEN SQUASH TOURNAMENT

Gaurav goes down fighting to Ritwik (27/11/2004)



The winners along with Adrian Ezra (Legendary squash player) and Raj Arora at the prize distribution function held at CCI, Mumbai

**Saurav Ghoshal** was in Mumbai for the wedding of his coach **Cyrus Poncha** but not at the squash. Presumably, he had a diklat from higher-ups not to play in the Mumbai squash fortnight.

That meant his arch-rival, **Ritwik Bhattacharya**, having a field day. The Delhi player, who is recovering from injury, disposed of the challenge of third-seeded **Gaurav Nandrajog of Delhi** 9-2, 9-3, 9-0 in the men's open final of the **61st CCI-Western India Open Squash Tournament**, co-sponsored by **Lifebuoy**. It took Ritwik just over 35 minutes to claim the title.

Bhattacharya had to face some resistance from the Delhi lad who tried to prove that he is more than an amateur. It is to the credit of Nandrajog that he provoked some breathtaking shots from his rival who raised his game several notches to deliver the sucker punch.

**Deepali Anvekar** surprised everyone by taking a game off **Joshna Chinappa**. After becoming a homeopathic doctor, Deepali is not training as much as in her days with the ISF. But **Deepali** has always been a resilient player and she proved it once again.

There was a doubles exhibition match pitting the Ezra's brothers, **Adrian** and **Daniel** against **Arif Paul** and **Rishad Pandole**. The Ezra's won. But Adrian was unhappy about the response at the CCI. "It was like a funeral out there, hardly anyone cheering." That was a sad comment on the fan following for the sport. He wants to whip life into the game with an event in January involving foreign players.

## RESULTS

## Open

Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Gaurav Nandrajog (Delhi) 9-2, 9-3, 9-0.

## Women

Joshna Chinappa (Chennai) bt Dr Deepali Anvekar 9-2, 9-10, 9-5, 9-6.

## Girls U-19

Joshna Chinappa bt Shivangi Paranjpe 9-1, 9-5, 9-1.

## Girls U-15

Shivangi Paranjpe bt Shaheeda Madraswala 9-7, 9-0, 9-1.

## Boys U-19

Manek Mathur bt Sandeep Jhangra 9-2, 9-7, 9-3.

## Boys U-17

Sandeep Jhangra bt Manek Mathur 9-5, 9-3, 9-6.

## Boys U-15

Laxman Joshi bt Naveen Jhangra 9-3, 7-9, 9-7, 9-2.

## Boys U-13

Aditya Jagtap bt Ravi Dixit 10-8, 1-9, 0-9, 9-3, 9-4.

## Professionals

Rohit More bt Anant More 9-0, 9-3, 10-9.

## THE 29TH BOMBAY GYM MAHARASHTRA STATE OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2004

(27/11/2004)

## Jangras bring to delight to Jindal camp

Officials of **Bombay Gymkhana** thought they would emulate Wimbledon by having the Open semi-finals at 2 p.m. when usually they have been held in evenings when the squash addicts gather.

Champ and top seed **Manish Chotrani** wasn't aware of it. The other seed, **Gaurav Nandrajog** also couldn't make the date. This proved a blessing in disguise for **Vikas Jhangra** and **Supreet Singh** who got walkovers and met each other in the final.

Vikas, the player from **Jindal Squash Academy**, by virtue of his efforts, pocketed a cash prize of Rs 50,000 while Supreet Singh had to settle for **Rs 25,000**. Making amends for the disappointment of having failed at the final hurdle in the under-17 category, top seed **Sandeep Jhangra**, unleashed commanding performance to gain the top honours in the under-19 group.

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Third seed **Manek Mathur** had no answer Sandeep won 9-3, 9-5, 9-1. Third seed **Saumya Karki** caused the lone upset: stunning the top seed **Rinky Soni** 9-5, 7-9, 9-6, 9-3.

## RESULTS

## Open

Vikas Jhangra bt Supreet Singh 1-9, 6-9, 9-8, 9-5, 9-5.

## Women

Deepali Anvekar bt Madhura Paranjpe 9-1, 9-0, 9-0.

## Boys U-19

Sandeep Jhangra bt Manek Mathur 9-3, 9-5, 9-1.

## Boys U-17

Manek Mathur bt Sandeep Jhangra 10-8, 9-7, 5-9, 9-7.

## Boys U-15

Laxman Joshi bt Naveen Jhangra 9-0, 9-2, 9-6.

## Boys U-13

Ravi Dixit bt Abhishek Pradhan 9-7, 9-2, 9-2.

## Open U-9

Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Tarun Nambiar 9-0, 2-9, 9-1, 9-6.

## Open U-9

Anrudh Nambiar bt Aditya Khatri 4-9, 9-4, 9-5, 9-3.

## Girls U-17

Madhura Paranjpe bt Shahnaz Dastur 9-6, 9-0, 6-9, 9-4.

## Girls U-15

Shivangi Paranjpe bt Shaheda Madraswala 9-0, 9-1, 9-1.

## Girls U-13

Saumya Karki bt Rinky Soni 9-5, 7-9, 9-6, 9-3.

## Girls U-11

Ankita Sharma bt Saumya Karki 9-5, 9-4, 6-9, 6-9, 9-1.

## Seniors over-35

Darius Surti bt Deepak Kochhar 9-4, 9-1, 9-2.

## Senior over-45

Vaman Apte bt Chandrakant Pawar 7-9, 8-10, 9-3, 9-6, 9-2.

## Over-55

Raj Manchanda bt Harry Melwani 9-4, 9-0, 9-4.

## Professionals

Mahesh Verma bt Sachin Jadhav 9-2, 9-3, 9-6.



All winners of The 29th Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Open Squash Championship

**CLUB AQUARIA - ISP  
(MEN'S TOP 8 & DOUBLES OPEN)**

(10/10/2004)

*Jangra wins all-Jindal final*



Mr. Sanjay Chebriia (Chief guest and Sponsor) along with (from L to R)- Sanjay Goyal (Winner Doubles), Shiv Malhotra (Treasurer, SRAM), Sandeep Jhangra (Winner Men's top 8), Mahendra Agarwal (Director, ISP) and Rohan Gracias (Winner Doubles)

In a final between two leading lights of the ever-growing Jindal Squash Academy, Sandeep Jangra beat Sarvesh Chauhan in the summit clash of the Club-Aquaria-ISP Men's Top 8 & Doubles Open Squash Championship, organised by the Indian Squash Professionals, at Club Aquaria, Borivali. Sandeep won 9-3, 9-4.

Khar Gymkhana's Sanjay Goyal and Rohan Gracias wore down the Otters pair of Tushar Bambani and Mohammed Merchant to win 9-7, 10-8. The championships carried a total prize money of Rs 27,000.

**RESULTS**

**Men's Top 8 (Singles)**

Sandeep Jhangra (Jindal) bt Sarvesh Chauhan (Jindal) 9-3, 9-4.

**Doubles**

Sanjay Goyal & Rohan Gracias (Khar Gym.) bt Tushar Bambani & Mohammad Merchant (Otters Club) 9-7, 10-8.

**THE LITTLE MASTERS JUNIOR SQUASH  
TOURNAMENT 2004, MUMBAI**

(10/10/2004)

It was riches for Mumbai's juniors to see the world class Saurav Ghosal rubbing shoulders with them at the Forbes Gokak Ltd.-sponsored All-India Little Masters Junior Squash Tournament at the Willingdon Sports Club, Mahalaxmi.

Sourav and Anvesha Reddy were crowned champs in the under-19. Vikas Jangra, who trained with Saurav in Chennai did well to take the opening game before Saurav won the final at 7-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-3.

Anvesha had lost to Chennai teammate Deepika Pallikal in the under-17 but she learnt from her mistakes and claimed the under-19 final at 4-9, 9-3, 9-1, 10-8. The results of the other categories i.e under-17, 15 and 13 went according to the script with the top seeds laying their hands over the trophy, without much fuss. Second seed Tarun Nambiar was the only one who created an upset, asserting his supremacy in the under-11 section after he ousted top seed Mahesh Mangaonkar 9-4, 9-4, 5-9, 10-9.

For the record, Ghosal and Reddy for their efforts apart from the trophy fetched a cash prize of Rs. 30,000 and 18,000 respectively.

**RESULTS**

**Boys Under-19:** Saurav Ghosal (Chennai) bt Vikas Jangra (Jindal Squash Academy) 7-9, 9-2, 9-1, 9-3.

**Boys Under-17:** Sandeep Jangra (Jindal Squash Academy) bt Vikram Malhotra 9-1, 9-1, 9-1

**Boys Under-15:** Vikram Malhotra bt Laxman Joshi (Jindal Squash Academy) 9-3, 9-0, 9-8.

**Boys Under-13:** Aditya Jagtap bt Tarun Nambiar 9-2, 9-1, 9-0

**Boys Under-11:** Tarun Nambiar bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 9-4, 9-4, 5-9, 10-9

**Girls Under-19:** Anvesha Reddy (Chennai) bt Dipika Pallikal (Chennai) 4-9, 9-3, 9-1, 10-8

**Girls Under-15:** Dipika Pallikal (Chennai) bt Anvesha Reddy (Chennai) 9-1, 9-5, 9-7



All winners of The Little Masters Junior Squash Tournament 2004, Mumbai

**POONA INTER CLUB MEET  
RESIDENCY CLUB SQUASH CHAMPIONS**

Residency Club beat Poona Club 3-2 in the inter club squash meet held at Poona Club Squash courts. Nine clubs took part. Pool A comprised of Residency A, NDA, RSI, Poona Club, AFMC, while Pool B consisted of Poona Club A, CME, AIT, Residency B. Residency A topped Pool A with NDA second. In the other Pool B Poona Club A topped with CME close behind as second. In the semifinals Residency A beat CME 3-2 and Poona Club A beat NDA by the identical score.

The teams met on a rainy Wednesday to fight for championship trophy. Residency A consisted of Ravneet Singh, Tanmay Govil, Deepak Moolani, Mohanish Sawant and C K Rao. The Poona Club A consisted of Rohit Thawani, Arvind Chaturvedi, Balwant Singh, Paul Ipe and Vayu Garware. The sponsors of the event were Olive Tree, Manish Jain, Sharat Nath, Rohit Thawani, Harish Thadani, Just Casuals. The prize distribution and dinner was held at Poona Club and prizes were given away by Mrs. Shivani Agarwal.

**RESULTS**

**Poona Club**

Vayu beat CK Rao 3-0;

Deepak Moolani beat Balwant Singh 3-0.

Ravneet Singh conceded Rohit Thawani 1-0.

Moanish Sawant beat Paul Ipe 3-0.

Tanmay Govil bt Arvind Chaturvedi 3-0.

**2ND JUNIOR INTER STATE SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP 2004, AJMER**

(2/11/2004)

**Maharashtra takes Gold in Boys Under-15**

In a befitting climax what the participants rate as the best ever organized **Junior National Squash** event in terms of the venue, facility and atmosphere created, Maharashtra and Rajasthan vied for the 1st place in the Boys Under-15 Final. The first match between third seeds **Laxman Joshi** (Mah) and **Sahaj Gulati** (Raj) began amidst beating of the Rajasthanis' drums and Maharashtra's bugles- rubber pressure horns acquired from the local motor market- setting up an electric atmosphere within the spectators hall filled to capacity. Laxman subdued his opponent 3-0, and it took the top seed **Vikram Malhotra** (Mah) considerable effort to vanquish a determined **Gunraj Singh** (Raj) 3-0 before the tie and the gold went to Maharashtra and the drums fell silent.

In the Boys Under-19 Final, defending champions Maharashtra had to settle for silver. Third seed **Dhiraj Nagpal** (Mah) put up a brave fight against **A. Parthiban** (TN) but lost 1-3. Top seed **Vikas Jangra** (Mah) could not match the speed and punch **Saurav Ghosal** (TN) had and lost 0-3.

**RESULTS**
**Boys U-19**
**Tamil Nadu beat Maharashtra 2-0**
**A. Parthiban** beat **Dhiraj Nagpal** 3-1

**Saurav Ghosal** beat **Vikas Jhangra** 3-0

**Boys U-15**
**Maharashtra beat Rajasthan 2-0**
**Laxman Joshi** (Mah) beat **Sahaj Gulati** (Raj) 3-0

**Vikram Malhotra** (Mah) beat **Gunraj Singh** (Raj) 3-0

**Girls round robin**
**Girls U-19**
**Tamilnadu beat Maharashtra 3-0**
**Girls U-15**
**Tamilnadu beat Maharashtra**
**SENIOR INTER STATE SQUASH  
CHAMPIONSHIP 2004**

(11/12/2004)

**Double delight for TN**

When **Ritwik Bhattacharya** groped in vain to return another one of those innumerable cross-court drives from **Saurav Ghosal** the curtains came down on the **Inter-State** competition of the **Senior National Squash Championship** with the defending men's champion, **New Delhi**, bowing out and a new powerhouse, **Tamil Nadu**, taking its place.

Significantly it was a Saturday to remember for the host with the women too cornering glory to make it a complete sweep. An elated national coach, **Cyrus Poncha**, who handles the **Tamil Nadu** teams in the **ICL Academy**, put the state's success to the systematic and structured training. The difference was there for all to see be it in stamina or in the exhibition of skills. If **A. Parthiban** signified staying power then **Ghosal** gave an insight of his precocious talent with a stand out show against **Ritwik Bhattacharya**.

Barring an occasional drop or a drive that eluded **Saurav**, the **Tamil Nadu** collegian was the master on court. There were the delicate drops, the stiff drives both straight and cross-court, the clever lobs and the amazing reflexes to keep the small audience spellbound.

Probably the moment of the match came in the first game which he won without conceding a point, when he glided back to pick the ball virtually millimeter from the floor and what is more win the point.

At no stage could **Ritwik** challenge the young rival for so sure was **Saurav's** court movement and anticipation. The end result achieved in 47 minutes must rank as one of **Saurav's** best displays in his career.

That win came after **Harinder Pal Singh** had put **Tamil Nadu** ahead with his win over **Amjad Khan** in under 30 minutes. Then came **Parthiban** who gave a glimmer of hope to **Delhi** by his waywardness to start with against **Yashvardhan Singh**. But **Parthiban** is a great retriever and thrives on rallies. **Yashvardhan** was not made of that stern stuff. With **Saurav** getting the winning margin the tie ended without the need of the remaining two singles.

In the women's section the competition was a friendly affair with **Tamil Nadu** 'A' side beating the 'B' side.

**Ms Lorraine Harding**, Administrator, **World Squash Federation**, gave away the prizes in the presence of the Secretary-General, **SRFI, N. Ramachandran** among others.

**RESULTS**
**Men:**
**Tamil Nadu bt New Delhi 5-0**
**Harinder Pal Singh** bt **Amjad Khan** 9-5, 9-0, 9-4;

**A. Parthiban** bt **Yashvardhan Singh** 9-5, 9-5, 9-5, 9-7;

**Saurav Ghosal** bt **Ritwik Bhattacharya** 9-0, 9-6, 9-2;

**Rajat Johar** w/o **Naresh Kumar**; **Bala Murugan** bt **Gaurav Nandrajog**.

**Women:**
**Tamil Nadu `A` bt Tamil Nadu `B` 3-0**
**Harita Omprakash** bt **Jesheila Mani** 9-7, 9-5, 9-10, 7-9, 9-6;

**V. Anvesha Reddy** bt **Shibani Philip** 9-2, 9-2, 9-1;

**Ritika Reddy** w/o **Sruati Ashok**.

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**SUB JUNIOR / JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2004, AJMER**

*The best Junior Nationals- ever*

(5/11/2004)



Vikas Jhangra (Runner-up, Boys U-15) receiving the trophy for Sub Junior/ Junior National Squash Championship 2004

Just as Chennai was becoming monotonous as the venue for Nationals (Seniors and Juniors), the Junior players were happy to know that the venue this year (2004) for the individual and Inter-State Team Junior Nationals would be **Mayo College, Ajmer**. Several Juniors had already traveled to Ajmer and enjoyed the hospitality of Mayo College during Inter School events in recent years, while for others, it would be their first visit. What neither knew was that this would turn out to be an exceptionally enjoyable and memorable experience.

The awesome splendour of the main school building, the vastness of the school campus and the superb Squash courts at both the Boys' school (four courts, including one glass-back) and Girls' school (three glass-back courts) got the players excited as soon as they arrived. An elaborate menu at the food stalls arranged by the school through an established local restaurant was a hit with the players. For those staying at the official hotel- **Maan Singh Palace**, the evenings' relaxation meant a nice get together at the Buffet Dinner in the hotel lawn.

What made the Inter State Team event part of the matches remarkable was the cheering methods devised by competing teams. Knowing full well that

**RESULTS**

**Boys U-19**

Saurav Ghosal (TN) bt Vikas Jhangra (Mah) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1;

**Boys U-17**

Sandeep Jhangra (Mah) bt Harinder Sandhu (TN) 9-5, 9-7, 9-4;

**Boys U-15**

Vikram Malhotra (Mah) bt Laxman Joshi (Mah) 9-3, 9-1, 9-3;

**Boys U-13**

Ramit Tandon (Bengal) bt Aditya Jagtap (Mah) 9-1, 9-2 10-8;

**Boys U-11**

Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah) Tarun Nambiar (Mah) 9-4, 7-9, 10-9, 9-5.

**Girls U-11**

Sachika Balwani (Mah) bt A. Anaka (TN) 9-1, 9-7, 10-9;

**Girls U-13**

Harita Omprakash (TN) Rinki Soni (Mah) 9-1, 9-2, 9-4;

**Girls U-15**

Surbhi Misra (Raj) bt Deepika Palikali (TN) 5-9, 9-5, 4-9, 9-4, 9-6;

**Girls U-17**

Anvesha Reddy (TN) bt Madhura Paranjpe (Mah) 9-4, 9-0, 9-2;

**Girls U-19**

Joshna Chinnapa (TN) beat Sonali Phillips (TN) 9-1, 9-1, 9-1

Mayoites are known for their vociferous cheering- scores of them squeezing into the cramped spectator galleries and shouting themselves hoarse. Maharashtra broke new ground when it procured Bugles and Pressure Horns (Bhonpoos!) to out-do them. Next day, not to be left behind, the Mayoites arranged Drums to add to the decibel levels nearing human tolerances- all going full blast in the confined viewers area behind the Boys' school glass courts. (Somehow all the brats from Maharashtra and Mayo were rather subdued and at their best behaviour in the Girls' school!). Before long, TamilNadu joined in with empty mineral water bottles- banging them on the floor- can't say how much they scored for creativity though. The net result was electric!!! Though the players who were being cheered for by their respective teams appeared to hold their nerves, most confessed later to being really jittery. The support though egged them on, and their performance was commendable.

The stupendous atmosphere of the venue which simply cannot be replicated anywhere else, the host's hospitality, the traditional ceremonies and dinners, the participation levels, the resultant keen competitive spirit that participants generated all make us wonder why Mayo College cannot be the venue for all Junior Nationals for about a century or two!

**Ups and downs of Junior Nationals**



downs



ups

Jhagrada Singh Rathore, Coach- Daly College, assaulting (threatening to slap, verbally abusing) a player while he was playing a match with his trainee. Then claiming to be the best coach in India! (Despite not having produced any noteworthy player in 8 years of 'coaching')

M.P. Squash, failing to sparkle at all.

Cyrus, national coach, for attempting to import promising players to Chennai from other states.

Mayo College for organizing the best ever Junior Nationals.

SRFI for finally rotating the National's venue.

Dushyant Singh, Coach- Mayo College and Mayo College for being caring hosts.

Rajasthan players for making their mark.

'Mango Curry' for their excellent food.

**Know more about- DUSHYANT SINGH**

Dushyant Singh, the driving force of **Mayo College** success story- being at the forefront of Indian School level Squash since almost a decade. The cool, calm and collected coach has churned out several classy players from the school. He believes in broad-basing the game by getting a maximum number of students to train with him. He was the first coach to take players for International tournaments to expose them to Squash there. Speaking to him, **ISF** found out a bit about his personal background during the **Junior Nationals** at his alma mater. His family is from Kota, being Jagirdars from a place known as **Koela**. His ancestry is from the services background, and his Father, Grandfather- everyone were keen sportsmen. His grand uncle was an expert Shooter. In school, Dushyant played all sports, and took Squash part-time and played for Rajasthan. In 1983, he lost to **Darius Pandole** in the Junior National Final. He remained in the Top-8 of the Open section as well. He left for Assam in 1986 for 8 years, and returned to Mayo in 1995, where he had studied, as did four earlier generations. He started teaching and coaching there. The rest, as they say, is history.

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## PRO SUPEX The Official Racket of Indian Squash Professionals

In a market dominated by imports and no local manufacturing, quality rackets start at **Rs. 3000/-** upwards and are getting expensive. High costs of equipment and the knowledge that all squash rackets are prone to breakage, increases the resistance to join the sport, or sponsor your ward to the game.

Prospective parents of first time squash players are reluctant to invest in a squash kit for the fear that if their ward does not like the game, the money will go waste. Kids breaking their expensive rackets while playing are reluctant to ask for a replacement fearing parental wrath.

At the same time, players are getting used to high quality, low weight rackets and are not willing to purchase cheaper but heavier or less competent rackets.

Indian Squash Professionals has recognized this urgent need to bring to existing and new players, quality rackets at affordable prices. With this intention, a worldwide hunt for a manufacturer of quality squash rackets at affordable prices was undertaken last year. After a lot of discussions and testing, **PRO SUPEX** a quality manufacturer of rackets having an expansive facility in Taichung, Taiwan was short-listed to supply squash rackets to Indian Squash Professionals.

Beside squash, PRO SUPEX also manufactures tennis and badminton rackets, grips, strings, kit-bags, stringing machines, etc, is already supplying rackets to **Argentina, England, Chile, Poland, Sweden, Canada,**


**Venezuela, Peru, Korea, Germany, and Africa.** This is their maiden foray into India.

A feather in their cap is the endorsement of the racket by **Swedish National Champion and PSA ranked player Mr. Daniel Forslund.** PRO SUPEX also holds the world patent for **PTC Technology** the anti twist balance system for squash rackets.


**Mr. Jong**, their General Manager commented that while **Taiwan** is the world leader in manufacturing technology for squash rackets, the game does not enjoy the support of the local government. He was overwhelmed with ISP's activities in promoting the game, and has gone out of his way to ensure the top quality standards are maintained in the shipment that have been sent to India.


**Indian Squash Professionals** is happy to announce the introduction of "Pro Supex" squash rackets in India through **Winmark Enterprises** on an exclusive basis for ISP as the "Official Racket".

We showed the **proto-models** to many players, parents & coaches and allowed them to hit the ball with these rackets (see their messages below). Their response helped us select three models from their vast range of models. These three models offer a fantastic value for money to players at prices in which you can buy two rackets instead of one comparable better-known brand.



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INDIAN SQUASH PROFESSIONALS**





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**Junior Camp Composite** is a shorter length racket suitable to children under 10 years of age. Manufactured in an aluminum-carbon composition.  
Invitation price Rs. 1100/-\*

**Blaster II** is a versatile 140 gms 100% graphite racket with excellent maneuverability and stroke play.  
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**Carbono 120** is a lightweight 120 gms 100% carbon racket, with good balance, control and power.  
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## THE THREE SELECTED ARE

The **Junior Camp Composite** brought in for the first time in India, is the only racket available so far in a shorter length suitable to children under 10 years of age, who find it difficult to adjust to an adult size racket. Manufactured in an aluminum-carbon composition, makes it tougher to break for the new and inexperienced players. This racket will be offered at an invitation price of Rs. 1100/-\*

The **Blaster II** is a superbly balanced mid range 140 gms 100% graphite racket with excellent maneuverability and stroke play and a delight for touch players. It is the most versatile racket in the range suitable for younger players to veterans, will be offered at an invitation price of Rs. 1600/-\*

The **Carbono 120** is a lightweight 120 gms 100% carbon racket, with a good balance, control and powerful punch offering extra strength for power players, and will be offered at an invitation price of Rs. 1900/-\*

We are sure that the squash players will appreciate the availability of these rackets, which will be done only through direct channels eliminating the middlemen and the stores to help keep their prices highly affordable in relation to comparable models available across the shelf in stores around the country.

These rackets will be available through the professionals registered with ISP, clubs, and direct order by phone, fax or email to Winmark Enterprises Office and at the venue of various tournaments organized by ISP.

\* price shown is indicative only and is subject to final calculations based on sales tax and other levies.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

**Carbono 120:** Head Size: 78 sq. in.  
Cross Section: 18-20mm Straight Beam,  
Composition: 100% Carbon  
Weight: 120 gms

**Blaster II:** Head Size: 78 sq. in.  
Cross Section: 14-20mm Straight Beam  
Composition: 100% Graphite  
Weight: 140 gms

**Junior Camp:** Head Size: 74 sq. in.  
Cross Section: 19-20mm Straight Beam  
Composition: Aluminum-Carbon  
Weight: 170 gms

## ONE MAN ARMY OF DELHI SQUASH

(Compiled by A.I.Singh)



Rahul Chadda

Junior Squash in Delhi is on an upswing like never before (and I am considering the glorious days in the late 80's when SRAD organized various camps and tournaments that I enjoyed as a Junior). And there is a hyperactive busy-bee behind this upswing. Encouraging several youngsters to join the game and to participate in tournaments, reviving Squash where old courts exist, encouraging schools to build courts and make Squash part of their activities is a man described as a 'one man army' by Chadda. Engrossed in escorting his players at the Junior Nationals and ensuring their welfare throughout, ISP's A.I.Singh had to wait till the last day before an interview could take place. Here are the excerpts-

## A.I. Tell us about your playing background.

**Rahul-** I started playing Squash at the Defence Services Officer's Institute, Delhi, when in 11th standard. I won a Handicap tournament there, beating the then Naval No-1- Cdr Subaya and remained the champ at DSOI for 3 years in Squash as well as Tennis. I played for the Hindu College team for 3 years. Then went to UK for further studies and business in 1976. There, I

played the N.W. Middlesex League for Wembley Stadium. My best performance was taking a game off world No. 13 Mohd. Ali Somjee, six times Irish Champion. (Rahul has done exceedingly well in Over-45/senior events off late, and is known for his gritty determination).

## A.I.- And background in promoting the game?

**Rahul-** When in UK, I met coaches Rehmat Khan and Mohd. Yasin, and Jehangir Khan. When Unsquashable launched its rackets, I took up the agency for Germany, Switzerland, Austria and Luxembourg. This entailed tours around Europe to promote the brand as well as Squash with Jehangir after he became Amateur Champ. I helped in placement of several players as coaches in Germany- such as Karimullah Khan, Zahir Khan, Hassan Khan etc. I arranged an exhibition match between Geoff Hunt and Jehangir Khan at Bavaria Squash Centre in Munich. Also, I arranged the first live match coverage on TV in Germany of matches between Rehmat Khan, Jehangir Khan and Capt. Ali Raza at Berlin through Unsquashable. Later, I returned to India in 1996 and joined Squash Rackets Association of Delhi (SRAD) as Executive Committee Member and organized several tournaments. Delhi Squash Association (DSA) emerged in around 1999, of which I was Secretary in 2003-2004. Dhampur age fudging and other matters diluted DSA's credibility and I formed an association with Sandip Dixit, (M.P.) a Squash enthusiast.

## A.I. What motivates you to toil so hard for the game of Squash?

**Rahul-** My son being a Squash player is one motivating factor!

## A.I.- Do you ever feel intimidated by the sorry state of affairs in Indian Squash politics?

**Rahul-** Never. But I feel for the players at the receiving end.

## A.I.- What's your vision?

**Rahul-** We have the right committee for Delhi. More courts are in the pipeline for kids outside the club system. This augurs well for Delhi Squash.

NORTHERN INDIA SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP  
2004, NEW DELHI

## RESULTS

(30/11/2004)

## Boys Under 11 :

Tarun Nambiar beat K.Tharyaml 4-9,7-9,9-6,9-1,9-4

## Boys Under 13 :

Ravi Dixit beat Saatyviky Joshi 9-4,9-1,9-4

## Boys Under 15 :

Vikram Malhotra beat Gunraj Singh 9-0,9-0,9-6

## Boys Under 17 :

Vikram Malhotra beat F.Khan 9-0,9-1,9-4

## Boys Under 19 :

Vikas Jhangra beat Imran Khan 9-0,9-5,9-5

## Mens Open :

Ritwik Bhattacharya beat Dhiraj Singh 8-10,9-3,9-0,9-5

## Mens Over 35 :

Muktair Ali beat Samir Thakral 9-2,7-9,9-3,9-1

## Girls Under 15 :

Surbai Mishra beat Aakriti Seghal 9-2,9-3,9-1

## Girls Under 17 :

Deepika Palikal beat Surbi Mishra 9-4,10-8,9-1

## Womens Open :

Mekhla Srivastva beat Deepika Palikal 9-1,9-6,9-1

ABOVE 60 SQUASH BRIGADE

**K**halid A-H Ansari,

*Well played, Kaha*

**K**halid A-H Ansari, who has been made Chairman Emeritus of the Squash Rackets Association of Maharashtra, after ending his term as president, is a fitness freak. Kaha as he is popularly referred to by the Mid-Day staff, can play squash, sprint and his waistline belies his age which is sixty plus. He travels far and wide and never misses to file his copy for his paper Mid-Day. PRO-SQUASH caught up with him after he handed over the SRAM baton to Ranjan Sanghi.



**Khalid A-H Ansari**

**What does squash mean to you?**

It's a way of life.

**How do you feel after a game of squash?**

Top of the world. Re-invigorated. Ready to take on the world.

**Should everyone emulate you playing when past 60?**

It's not advisable for people who have not played the game before. As for me I shall play the game until my death.

**Where do you play?**

At the Willingdon Sports Club daily when I am in Mumbai.

**When did you start?**

Ever since I can remember. Perhaps from age 20.

**Did you suffer any health problems after taking up the game?**

Not at all. On the contrary, I think I enjoy the state of health I am in largely because I play squash.

**What's your message to the young generation?**

Keep playing the game for a healthy mind in a healthy body (mens sana in corpore sana). If you have not experienced the euphoria and exhilaration that squash induces, start TODAY.

**M**ohan Natthani

*Over sixty and still squashing around.*

Mohan Nathani is 62 but still whacking the squash ball around. He tells us about his passion for the ball game.



**Mohan Natthani**

"I play Squash because it keeps me fit and energetic all day long and I feel good and relaxed after the game. I play squash seven times a week at the CCI. It's been 27 years since I started playing this game i.e when I was 35 years old. Till date I haven't suffered from any health problem. I think squash is commended in your old days only if you don't have any history of health problems. For the younger generation my message is to play squash regularly and have a control over your food habits.

My message to all the readers is to warm up sufficiently before playing. Do not eat junk food and if possible they turn vegetarian."

SINGAPORE SQUASH RE-VISITED

*By Pradeep Vijayakar*

**O**n a recent visit to Singapore it was great to catch up with their squash. I had gone there some 20 years ago with Indian juniors and seniors for the ASEA 'Test' matches. Singapore was then No. 2 in Asia. Maj Raj Manchanda led the seniors and among the juniors were the likes of Darius Pandole and Meherwan Daruwalla.

When I went to the office of the Singapore association at the national stadium Imet Gopal who played for Singapore at the first Asians in 1981. He is the vice-president of the association, which is headed by Charles Ng.

I found that they had no great plans for squash. They depended a lot on the sports council for funding. They were not making big efforts to get the sponsors. As a result the country has very few stars on the international circuit.

I met former Singapore No 1 Zainal Abidin. There was positive stuff here. This man was working round the clock to produce champions. He was training them at school, as the Kalland complex and taking the most promising one, Kenneth, to the Scottish Junior Open.

I watched Zainal train the girls. He was very patient, full of positive reinforcement. And when he played with them he acknowledged their good points when he lost a rally. Zainal was known for his trick shots. And he still has them. But the question was can his wards pick up those? Easier said than done. Zainal emphasised that deception was very important and the way to the top was through hard work, hours and hours of toil.

Zainal was so popular that in his lunchtime he had to play just to please a friend from Jakarta. This man was travelling and wanted a game of squash. He too was playing some trick shots. But Zainal wisely didn't allow him to. But he let him also win some points. After all those rigours, Zainal found time to join me for dinner where the Singapore women's champ joined us. Unfortunately, she doesn't play on the circuit as she is a teacher.

One person I didn't meet was Munir Shah. The former secretary is now in the Asian federation. He was going on a holiday.

WORLD SQUASH DAY ON 19TH MARCH 2005

As organiser **Alan Thatcher** points out: "SQUASH is one of five sports short-listed for possible inclusion in the **2012 Olympics Games**. And NOW is the time for squash players all over the world to unite behind the bid and start making plans for **World Squash Day 2005.**"

SRAM also celebrated World Squash Day last year on 24/5/2004 where **Sunil Verma** (number 1 coach in India) organized 1-day tournament in **Thane** where more than 100 squash players participated.

**WSF President Jahangir Khan** said "If you do only one thing, please take a friend who has never played squash on to a court and give them a taste of the thrills to be had from our sport. Good luck with all your efforts."

For full details, see the World Squash Day website: [www.worldsquashday.org](http://www.worldsquashday.org)

## COACHING CAMP WITH ARBAZ KHAN

Arbaaz's fine art

(10/11/2004)



Arbaaz Khan (Chief guest) along with all the participants of "13th ISP Squash Awareness Clinic" (10 days free coaching camp) at Springs Club, Kandivali

Squash received further boost in the city when a free coaching camp organised by the Indian Squash Professionals saw 60 participants taking to the game. ISP professionals Joginder Singh and Pratesh Yelwe were the coaches at the camp held for the first time at the Springs club in Kandivali. The ten-day camp that began from November 1 had more than its share of beginners queuing up for lessons. But the number had to be restricted to 60 to allow everyone to get proper coaching. "We have two courts and two coaches and practice everyday for three hours. If we had more than 60 entries, it would have been difficult for the coaches to concentrate on everyone equally," said Ronnie Pinto, General Manager of the club. Pinto also said that the involvement of the participants was overwhelming. "They all took a very keen interest in the game. They were intent on learning and many are also looking at taking up the game on a regular basis," he said.

Actor Arbaaz Khan also paid a visit to the club. The actor, himself a squash player, spent time with the children and encouraged them to play the game regularly.

Source : Mid-Day

**AMBASSADOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP,  
AURANGABAD**

(3/10/2004)

Organised in association with Aurangabad Police Krida Mandal from October 1-3, 2004 at Sports Planet at Ambassador Ajanta, Aurangabad.

Shailendra Vyas beat the resistance of Nishit Gupta in the

second game to win 9-0, 9-4, 9-1 the Ambassador Squash Cup. In the semis, Gupta beat Bipin Kaurani and Vyas got past Yogesh Rai. Players from Aurangabad District Squash Association and Sports clubs like A.S. Club, The Benchmark where the squashes played, joined to make this event a success. In 1998 Ambassador Ajanta introduced 'Sports Planet', one of the finest health spa in the city of Aurangabad along with the squash facility and within the last few years number of squash players has increased considerably.

This tournament was held for the third year running and this year it was organised in association with Aurangabad City Police Krida Mandal. The response was overwhelming and 35 participants were seen. Due to the sad demise of veteran freedom fighter Vijendra Kabra, the formal inauguration was cancelled. Instead, the gathering paid a tribute to the great freedom fighter by observing two minutes silence in the presence of the General Manager of Hotel, Mr. N. B. Deshkar.

CP Mr. Ramrao Wagh and DCP witnessed all the match with keen interest. The match officiator M.H. Khan and referee Sanjay Mane were felicitated. The winner Vyas was also presented a gold chain sponsored by Kishor Nathani, Hemant Landge, Amol Gadge and M.H. Khan put in efforts to make this tournament successful.

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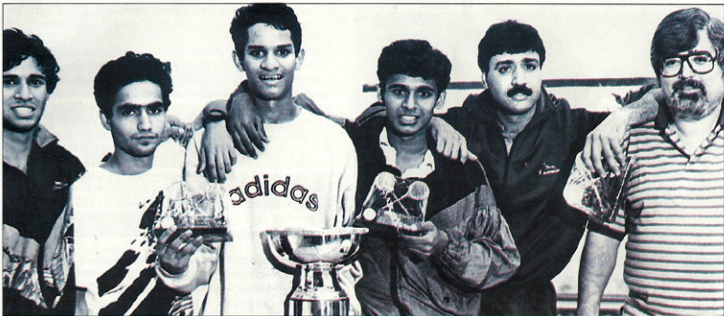
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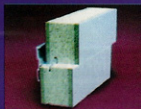
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