

PROSQUASH

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Vol 9 No. 3 Issue No. 35
July 2005

**Heralding
a new Squash era**

HERALD MARITIME SERVICES SQUASH OPEN 2005

(by Pradeep Vijayakar)



Capt. Jamshed Appoo and Zavary Poonawalla presenting a silver plaque to Squash Legend Jansher Khan (Chief Guest) at Herald Maritime Services Squash Open 2005 Victory ceremony

It was all glitz, glamour and glitterati at the 'Victory' ceremony of the Herald Maritime Services Squash Open 2005, India's premier squash event sponsored by the Poonawalla Stud Farm, co-sponsored by Chemistry fashion apparel at the Grand Banquet hall of hotel Taj Land's End. The grandeur of the celebrations complemented the magnitude and quality of squash witnessed at the championships. This was the best squash the city had seen since the World Championships held in the late 90's.

Squash fans came away from the tournament held at Otters club, convinced that they had seen a world champ or two of the future. Ramy Ashour was the current world junior champion. He feasts on Pakistanis, having beaten six of them in the world juniors in Islamabad. He beat three here - Khalid Atlas, Aamir Atlas Khan and Farhan Mehboob on his way to the title.

His body language was great. In the final, he knew his opponent Farhan was tiring, and would serve quickly giving him little time to catch his breath. He used his splendid court coverage to the full. From picking a ball off the back wall he would spring to the front wall in a flash to pick up a drop. He mixed up his shots, plus he killed the ball hard and often found the Nick. He had the stamina of a horse. With such talent at his disposal there was little doubt about his superiority. Ramy earned a whopping winner's cheque of Rs 2,17,500. Farhan won Rs 1,08,750 for his efforts.

The only one who dictated terms to him was Aamir Atlas. Here is another player who can retrieve the ball till the cows come home. He had won a game against Ramy. But Ramy's early interceptions and his reach made the difference from game three onwards. But Squash great Jansher Khan, whose presence was an incentive for the players to surpass their limits, said both Aamir and Ramy could be world champs if they worked hard. This work hard thing is a little tough to understand for us Indians who can only dream of our kids coming into the top ten of world squash. But working hard means breaking the pain barrier. Something legends like Jahangir and Jansher did on a daily basis.

Aamir and Ramy look like they can break this barrier. It was tough luck for our Indian champ Ritwik. Capt Jamshed Appoo had invited players ranked below him so that he might win the booty and other Indians might be encouraged to emulate him. But Ritwik was beaten by Colombian Bernardo Samper, the Trinity College No 1 with a rosy future. It was great to see Jansher, at the prizes dinner at Taj Land's End, talking to the mother of under-19 champ Sandeep Jangra and telling her that he would be happy to help Sandeep reach the top. Sandeep, trained at the Jindal Squash Academy, beat Vikram Malhotra for the biggest paycheck any junior in the world would have got-Rs One lakh! But the biggest gain is that thanks to Jansher, kids like Sandeep, Vikram and Gaurav Nandrajog will go to Pakistan and get a feel of how the eternal champs of squash train.

Aditya Jagtap beat second seed Abhinav Sinha from (UP) 11-4, 11-4, 11-5 for the under-15 crown. Mumbai veterans took a back seat as Delhi's Dr. Bharat Inder Singh knocked out the top two seeds on his way to the title. At 53 years of age, he displayed

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**Quit
India
Maniam**

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Herald Maritime Services Squash 2005 Champion Ramy Ashour is all smiles receiving the winners trophy & cheque from Jansher Khan



Mahendra Agarwal, Jansher Khan, Zavy Poonawalla, Capt. Jamshed Appoo, Khalid A-H. Ansari, Navneet Soni, along with the winners.

RESULTS

Men's Open : Ramy Ashour(Egy) bt Farhan Mehboob (Pak) 11-5, 6-11, 11-5, 11-0

Boys U-15 : Aditya Jagtap bt Abhinav Sinha 11-4, 11-4, 11-5;

Boys U-19 : Sandeep Jangra bt Vikram Malhotra 11-8, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9

Mens Over 35 : G. S. Rathore bt Darius Surti 11-4, 11-6, 11-7

Mens Over 45 : Dr. B. I. Singh bt Rahul Kumar 11-7, 11-10 (2-0), 11-10 (2-0)

Semi-finals :

Mens : Farhan Mehboob bt Bernardo Samper 11-9, 11-7, 11-9
Ramy Ashour(Egypt) bt Aamir Atlas Khan (Pak) 11-9, 10-11 (2-4), 11-6, 11-2.

Boys U-15 : Aditya Jagtap bt Rishi Jalan 11-9, 11-7, 4-11, 11-3
Abhinav Sinha bt Rahul D'cunha 6-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-6

Boys U-19 : Sandeep Jangra bt Manek Mathur 11-8, 6-11, 11-10, 3-11, 11-8
Vikram Malhotra bt Rushabh Vora 6-11, 11-10 (3-1), 11-2, 11-10 (4-2)

Mens Over 35 : G. S. Rathore bt Rohit Thawani 11-4, 11-4, 11-4
Darius Surti bt Deepak Kochhar 11-9, 11-1, 9-11, 11-5

Mens Over 45: Dr. B. I. Singh bt Vaman Apte 11-9, 11-9, 4-11, 6-11, 11-9

Rahul Kumar bt Chandrakant Pawar 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6;

remarkable fighting qualities, court craft and stamina to claim the over-45 title beating another Delhiite Rahul Kumar who runs a rival Delhi squash body. India's Gajendra Singh Rathore beat Mumbai's Darius Surti, former state player now a race horse trainer, in the over 35. The players took their fabulous antique sterling silver trophies at a glittering prize distribution at Taj Land's End. The luminaries who gave away the prizes were Khalid Ansari, Chairman Emeritus, SRAM, Nana Chudasama, Zavy Poonawalla, Lt. Gen. Ashok Kapur (Chief of Staff Southern Command) and of course the great Jansher. Raageshwar regaled the audience with her songs, and some of the foreign players joined her on the stage to try their dancing skills. This was followed by Seema Khans fashion show. The models included Dia Mirza and Aditi Govitrikar. The guest list included who's who from the film industry- Bindu, Helen, Gauri Shatrugh Khan, Malaika Arora, Amrita Arora, Manish Malhotra, Shawar Ali and Farah Khan. After the show a fabulous jazz band entertained the crowds into the wee hours of the morning.

Jansher Khan commented that in all his life, he had never seen a tournament like this which had so much prize money (amongst invitational tournament which, included Junior players), covered invited players airfare, accommodation in a luxury hotel, extensive press and TV coverage, fashion show, and above all, overwhelming warmth and hospitality.

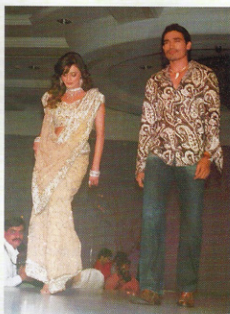
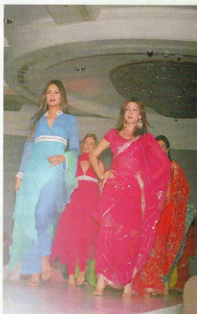
There was non-stop entertainment for the participants, which included dinners hosted by the Otters club and also by Khar Gymkhana management felicitating the great Jansher Khan. Lot of friendship and camaraderie was seen among players from different countries.

Indeed post Herald Maritime squash in India will never be the same. Rs 11 lakh plus in prize money, razmatnaz and sizzling world-class squash. What else can we ask for?



Khalid A-H. Ansari (Chairman Emeritus, SRAM) honoring Capt. Jamshed Appoo on behalf of the squash fraternity

PHOTO GALLERY



JANSHER LIGHTS UP HERALD MARITIME SQUASH

(by Pradeep Vijayakar)



Jansher Khan

Last year it was the great Jahangir Khan who came to the Herald Maritime Services Squash. This time it was the other great, Jansher Khan. If Jahangir aims for squash to get into the Olympics while he is the president of the World Squash Federation, Jansher hopes to help the kids in his country regain Pakistan's lost glory and also help Indians come up, as he tell in the interview. Excerpts.

How did it feel to come back to India?

This is my third visit. I always like to be here since we are neighbours and people are friendly.

How's been life after retirement?

Half the year I am in Pakistan, the other half I am abroad playing in exhibitions and invitation tournaments.

People talk of your rivalry with Jahangir. Has it been really intense?

On the court he tries to beat me and I try to beat him. Off the court we are friends. We come from the same region play for the same country. There's not much difference between us.

You beat him quite regularly after that first win in 1987 so which was the best win?

Obviously the first time at the Hong Kong Open since I had proclaimed publicly that I would beat him.

We saw Amir Atlas win the Asian juniors title at Chennai how do you see his future?

He has good talent and at 17 he has age on his side. If he works hard he could be the next World champ from Pakistan.

I saw Maria Toor show promise at the Asian juniors, what about women's squash in Pakistan?

They have begun sending women's team to tournaments. I hope that can take them to Asian level at least.

Pakistan International Airlines' involvement in squash has come down since the days of Nur Khan and so has the squash standard of the country.

Nur Khan was a sportsman to the core. After him we had another MD, Mohammad who encouraged Jahangir and myself. After him things are not the same. But squash will continue to get encouragement.

But is Pakistan squash going in the right direction?

No, it is because the young talent that they have is made to play junior tournaments too long. They should be targeting the PSA circuit around 17-18. I stopped playing junior events after 17. By the time the kids get to the circuit it is too late.

Your coach Fahim Gul put you through the pain barrier tell us about it.

Yes it was painful but there was no go. Fahim remains the best coach I have seen. I have been telling the Pakistan federation to use his services. I think he is pricey and that's the hitch.

Jahangir wrote a lot of books on the sport, what about you?

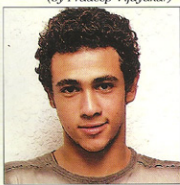
In the next two months a book of international standard on my life will come out.

Jahangir is planning an academy in Pakistan what about you?

I have my coaching schemes, I look after the kids and the four players that I brought here. I too have plans. I also want Indian kids to benefit.

RAMY ASHOUR HAS A TRADITION TO LIVE UP TO

(by Pradeep Vijayakar)



Ramy Ashour

Squash fans of Mumbai liked what they saw about World junior champ Ramy Ashour at the Herald Maritime Services Squash. They found that that he could retrieve as well as the Pakistanis but had that something extra, the incisiveness to win rallies. Ashour says the coaching of his back-up team has made him what he is in the interview. Excerpts.

What was it coming to India for the first time?

I felt good I had heard about this great country and was happy to have come here finally.

How did you find the conditions?

They were good. I liked the Otters Club, very homely & friendly.

How did it feel beating six Pakistanis on way to the World junior title?

It felt great. You know their coaches are good. But I followed the instructions of my coaches to the T.

Tell us about the tradition of squash in Egypt.

For forty years now Egypt has been producing world champs regularly. It's the third most popular sport in the country. At junior level Omreya emulated me by winning the world title.

How's it for a lad playing in the PSA circuit?

You have to be a man to play on the circuit, adapting to conditions in various countries.

What has been your biggest win?

Obviously the PSA title in Athens I jumped from 76 to 62 in the space of a month.

Any near misses?

I was 2-1 and 8-6 up against Graham Ryding, a former top ten player from Canada. But lost the match 3-2, just bad luck.

Who are guiding you?

My coaches plus my brother who hits with me every day monitoring everything I do.

What game you like, rallying or strokeplay?

Depends on the situation. I can play both & have no problems

Email from Australia

To the Organisers of the Herald Maritime Open, Just wanted to write to say thank you for your hospitality. I had a fantastic time in Mumbai.

The event you ran, the functions (especially the fashion show), the variety of the Indian Food and the accommodation were all at the top of its class and I felt privileged to be involved. There are so many stories and experiences for me to talk to people about.

Thank you for all of your hard work. It was greatly appreciated.

kindest Regards,
Paul Davis

SAMPER IS THE STANDARD BEARER OF COLOMBIA

(by Pradeep Vijayakar)

Squash fans would not have seen what talent there is in South America but for the request of Cyrus Appoo to his dad Capt. Jamshed to let his Trinity College teammate Bernardo Samper play.

Play he did and knocked out Indian champ Ritwik Bhattacharya in the quarter-finals. PRO Squash spoke to Samper about his game.

How did you start playing squash.

It was soccer first then I went to the US and it was squash. I am happy that when I graduated I left my mark being No 1 at Trinity who won the collegiate title beating Harvard our arch-rivals.

You had several Indians in your team.

Yes we had three or four. They were very helpful, Sahil Vora played at No 7 and won Vishal Kapoor at No 9 and won too. Cyrus was there behind the scenes, always supportive. He was No 17 and can come up since he is a freshman. Collegiate squash is big over two thousand watch whereas PSA events barely draw 200 fans.



Bernardo Samper

What will you do after graduation?

It will be the PSA circuit. I was happy to be runner-up at a PSA event in my home country just before I came here.

How popular is squash in South America?

Football is No 1 in Colombia like cricket is here. Squash is popular but we don't have foreign coaches. We have been taking the bronze at Pan American Games. Brazil and Argentina are No 1 and 2.

What is your ambition?

To take part in the Olympics. That can happen only if US and China take to squash. US is doing a great thing by getting players from all parts of the world to play in US universities That way the standard will go up.

SRAM announces Maharashtra ladder

According to information received from the Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra players in the junior categories in Maharashtra will be ranked on their performance in the following tournaments besides the junior Nationals.

1. Otters Open- Otters club, Bandra
2. Khar Gymkhana Inter school/college- Khar Gymkhana
3. Little Masters- Willingdon Sports Club
4. Western India- CCI
5. Maharashtra State- Bombay Gymkhana



Apparently, our squash courts are causing quite a racket



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SUNIL DUTT- THE SPORTS MINISTER WHO SET NEW STANDARDS

(by A.I.Singh)



Following the sad demise of Mr. Sunil Dutt, several news items and articles appeared in the media, highlighting his achievements. While his attributes as an accomplished actor and as a politician devoted to his subjects were detailed, we as sports lovers with specific concern for Squash were impressed by the vision he had and what plans he was initiating.

First and foremost, he changed the image of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports from an insignificant 'also is' ministry to a level where an entire session of parliament was dedicated to discussions on what is required for uplifting sports. Diametrically opposite to earlier ministers, Mr. Dutt meant business and his actions spoke louder than words. He started by improving the conditions for athletes at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and the episode was covered on television, shaming the concerned authorities. There were several other initiatives that convinced the Indian sportspersons that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Sadly, he died on the day he was scheduled to meet past and present champions in various sports and directly enquire about their needs for training. The heads of related federations were obliquely asked to stay away from the meeting. Mr. Dutt knew jolly well who the culprits were who necessitated such a meeting in the first place.

Clearly, Mr. Sunil Dutt has set benchmarks that his successors will find hard to ignore- they will either meet or attempt to surpass them, or invite condemnation from the country's sports fraternity in failing to make such an effort, if that happens, God forbid. We do hope that not only is the former done, but his successor takes the process a step further by whipping the Federations into shape, or finding an alternate system which enables sports to flourish in our country.

SPORTS MINISTRY ACKNOWLEDGES ISP'S EFFORTS



Smt. Sheila Dixit (Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi) felicitating Joshna Chinappa with Mahendra Agarwal (Director, ISP), Ashish Gupta (Hon. Member, ISP) and Anjan Chinappa



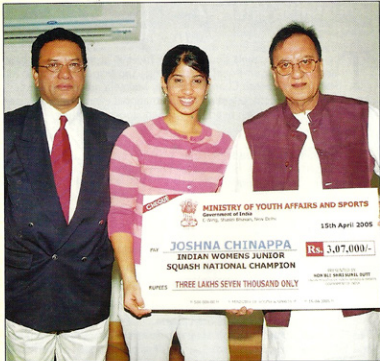
Late Mr. Sunil Dutt along with Anjan Chinappa, A. I. Singh, Rahul Kumar, Shrikant Ruparel (Vice President, SRAM), Mahendra Agarwal, Joshna Chinappa Meenaxi Anand Chaudhary (Sec., Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)


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Shri. Sunil Dutt (Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports) felicitating Joshna Chinappa with Anjan Chinappa

Indian Squash Professionals feels proud that the Indian sports ministry is lauding its efforts. Its portal acknowledges that the sports minister overruled the national squash federation and cleared Joshna's proposal for training abroad. ISP's Mahendra Agarwal had convinced the sports minister that teen squash star Joshna Chinappa needed the funds which were due to her and were not sanctioned by the national federation, the Squash Rackets Federation of India.

The story in the sports ministry's portal is headlined thus: "Want funds? Come straight to ministry."



Joshna Chinappa with Mrs. Louise Khurshid and Nafisa Ali

The story follows: "A slew of decisions recently taken by the Sports Ministry aim to make it more accessible to sportsmen and help them cut through red tape. Most significant and the one likely to draw most flak - is the approval of direct funding, bypassing the federations.

The plan, cleared by Sports Minister Sunil Dutt, allows 'champion athletes' to directly approach the ministry for funds to train abroad or even engage a personal coach, as the case may be.

The procedure so far was that an athlete had to route a request to the ministry through the federation; it effectively left the athlete at the mercy of the federation.

The new rule already has a beneficiary: Joshna Chinappa, the British junior squash champion. Ministry sources said she had some time ago approached the ministry for funds to engage a personal coach and train abroad. The ministry, as a matter of routine, asked the Squash Racquets Federation of India for its opinion. The SRFI did not recommend Joshna's case, the minister overruled the federation and cleared Joshna's proposal.

This bold step by the sports ministry is bound to be hailed by sports persons. One can only hope it will continue.

But that's for the future. For now sports folk can enjoy the largesse of the single window for sporting funds.

Source: Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs Website
[Http://sportal.nic.in/showarnews.asp](http://sportal.nic.in/showarnews.asp)

JOSHNA CHINAPPA BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR HEALTH MINISTRY

Had Anjan has been dreaming that squash queen Joshna Chinappa will be talked in the same terms as tennis queen Sania Mirza. While that it still to happen as Joshna prepares for to win the World Juniors girls title in Belgium in July where she is the top seed, Joshna has been honored the way Sania was last year, by the ministry of health. She succeeds Sania as the brand ambassador for the ministry. Joshna will have to lend her name and support to the campaigns for women empowerment, save the child, gender bias and immunisation. The ministry gives Rs 5 lakh for the campaign.

Joshna was not there to receive the honour as she had proceeded to Amsterdam to train at Liz Erwing's academy. She said on phone from Amsterdam: "I am thrilled by the news and will lend all support to the cause."

The threats to Joshna at the World Juniors will come from No 2 seed from Egypt Raneem El Weleily and Tenile Swartz the South African fourth seed who gave her a fright in the final of the British Open Juniors. Joshna has not met the Egyptian before. Another Egyptian, Omneya, has been the bugbear for Joshna at previous World and British Open events.

HERALD MARITIME SERVICES OPEN 2005 - ONLY ONE LOSER.

The Herald Maritime Squash Open this year was a resounding success by all standards. India has never seen a Squash event of such proportions before, the Mahindra/PMG events considered. There was, however, a sore thumb that started sticking out after the entries were received and all was set for smooth sailing—a sore loser called N. Ramachandran.

With the intention of leaving no stone unturned in extending a hand towards a cordial relationship with SRFI, ISP and SRAM requested that the event be held under SRFI aegis. SRFI agreed, perhaps not wanting to be left out of the event completely. However, it wasn't long before SRFI started feeling its chronic itch to boss around again. Earlier, when SRAM had requested SRFI to invite foreign players, SRFI had bluntly told SRAM that this request should have come 3 months in advance! We fail to understand why the players playing the Chennai Open could not be asked to make their visit to India interesting by visiting Mumbai and playing a richer event. It is difficult for us to comprehend why the foreign players could not have been informed about the Herald Maritime Services Squash Open and encouraged to participate. When requested for the All-glazz court funded 75% by Government of India and meant to be used all over India, SRFI demanded a fee of US\$25000/- for its use, but never put the demand in writing.

Then at the 11th hour the SRFI got into its act and demanded that a Pakistani participant, supposedly banned in his country, be dropped from the event. Else, SRFI would withdraw its players and discourage participants it could influence from playing in the event. SRAM clarified that it had no intimation of any ban applicable on the player in question. Further they backed the sponsor's decision that as the player had already arrived in Mumbai and it would be against all etiquettes to ask him not to play. Instead of being reasonable, SRFI did in fact stop other players from playing. Those who chose not to participate obviously lost out on an excellent event, the exposure and experience they would have gained, and of course the fun as well. However, the silver lining was that some players chose to rise above petty politics, personal relations and proved that the game is larger than any individual. In upholding the true spirit of the game, established champions like Vaman Apte chose to play. Gajender Singh Rathore too played and won the O-35 title and the prize money of Rs. 50,000/-.

As for the venue provider Otters Club, the Squash management and markers closed ranks with the organizers to ensure clockwork precision in conducting the event. There were no hitches despite the fact the Chief Referee Yogendra Singh (Tubby) backed out from his commitment and responsibility without any intimation to the organizers. The SRFI did not even show basic courtesy to inform the organizers on Chennai players withdrawals creating unnecessary confusion and complication with the draw.

The only loser in the whole episode was SRFI and its Boss. The Lord and Master of Indian Squash needs to understand that the SRFI Aegis was sought only to make the tournament stronger in all ways a 'governing body' can. Instead, we learnt that apart from the value addition from SRFI being NIL, all it gave was problems, hitches and hurdles. It seems SRFI wants to stick to its tradition whereby it never spends any money or effort in tournaments outside Chennai, but takes full credit for them. Maybe its just that the SRFI Big Boss cannot tolerate anyone doing anything better than him.

SQUASHING INTEREST

Mid-Day: 16/5/2005 By: Amitoj Singh

The Squash Racquets Federation of India is at its notorious best again. Four players from Delhi, looking to participate in the Milo All Star Junior Squash Championship in Malaysia are facing hurdles. As per an arrangement, organizers of international events have a clause wherein players' entries need to be sanctioned by their national associations.

This arrangement is made so that players and organizers will be convenience by way of efficient compilation of entries, travel arrangements, reservations etc.

SRFI, in its myopic and dictatorial style has misused the provision to coerce players instead of facilitating them.

They have refused the sanction to the four Delhi players because the entries were not endorsed by Delhi Squash Association, now an unpopular body which pays obeisance to SRFI and is therefore recognized by it.

The players in Delhi have chosen to be subjects of Squash Rackets Federation of Delhi (SRFD) because the association does more for them and the game. Despite the fact that DSA has twisted players' arms and even ordered players not to participate in SRFD events, SRFI wants the players to join DSA.

SRFI refusing sanctions is not new. The most blatant instances being the refusal of permission to a leading squash coach to attend a course on coach education. There was also a ban inflicted on Chennai based player Joshna Chinappa before an international tournament.

English and Australian associations do not insist on entries being endorsed for Indians.

Where players' interest is involved, everyone except SRFI is cautious. This time however, the Malaysian Association too is insisting on the sanction. The players' interest is paramount, and SRFI fails to understand this even as complaints against it mount in the Sports Ministry and courts of law. The Delhi players have filed a court petition. The hearing is on 18th July.

DELHI SQUASH CAMP

An intensive coaching camp was held by Dushyant Singh at the K V R K Puram, Sector VIII Squash Centre from 3rd to 12th May. It consisted of about 24 players amongst them about one-third were from Mayo College and the rest were leading juniors from Delhi. There were two sessions— from 9am to 1pm; and from 3pm to 8pm. though many players continued practising during the lunch break and some even after 8 pm.

Dushyant, assisted by Vijay Jangra, concentrated on strenuous in court drills and physical exercises, to perfect shot-making and increase speed and stamina. At the end of the sessions the players were physically drained by the intensity of the training. Their hard work was rewarded by good results in the Milo open in Malaysia. Strangely, during the camp Dushyant received some calls from Chennai discouraging him from holding a camp in Delhi!

A. I. Singh conducted a coaching camp preceding Dushyant's camp from 10th to 17th April. He was assisted by Puneet Singh of Chandigarh who also brought about 6 leading juniors from St. Johns and YPS.

Around 18 top juniors were from Delhi. A. I. Singh focused on tactical training, making players aware of the relevance of thinking and playing in other words- decision-making. There were inputs on specific fitness training, as well as a talk on Nutrition for parents. On the last day, Joshna Chinappa had a hit with some of the players.

Coaches and Markers from various club in Delhi attended some of the sessions and enhanced their awareness about scientific coaching.

Surprisingly, Puneet Singh had also received calls from Chennai warning him not to participate in coaching camps or inter school tournaments in Delhi unless approved by SRFI. A. I. Singh was disappointed that he was the only one left out as far as 'calls from Chennai' are concerned and resents this biased treatment.

THE INDIAN JUNIOR TEAM AT THE QATAR INTERNATIONAL JUNIORS OPEN

The QSF, Qatar Squash Federation hosted the first Qatar International Juniors open at Doha between 21st and 27th February 2005. The Indian team participated in the Boys U-13 & the Boys Under-15 teams and individual event.

The boys Under-13 team comprising of Ramit Tandon, Adit Zaveri, Mahesh Mangaonkar and Aditya Jagtap displayed a remarkable performance securing the second place (silver medal) under the able

guidance of the official coach Sunil Verma and the Boys Under-15 team comprising of Cyril Kuhn, Karan Malik, Ravi Dixit and Paramjit Singh secured the 4th position. Overall the Indian team displayed immense talent carving a niche for themselves at the International event.



The Indian Juniors Team along with coach Sunil Verma & the chairman of QSF, Nabeel Ali Bin Ali.

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MILO- ALL STAR JUNIOR SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

(31st May to 4th June 2005)

Joshna, Anaka best at Kuala Lumpur.

Joshna Chinappa won the under-19 title, while A Anaka got the under-11 crown in the Milo All-Star Open Championship at the Astaka Courts in Jalan Duta, Kuala Lumpur.

Like Joshna, local Malaysian lass Loo Wee Wern got a timely boost ahead of the next month's World Junior Squash Championships when she won the under-17 title. The 15-year-old Wee Wern took less than 30 minutes to blow away the older and bigger Kimberley Bessel of Australia 9-2, 9-2, 9-2 in the final.



A. Anaka

Malaysia also swept the girls' Under-13 and Under-15 titles in the All-Star meet that had attracted a total of 476 players from 10 countries. Tan Yan Xin of Selangor outclassed Ankita Sharma of India 9-3, 9-0, 9-1 to win the girls' Under-13 title.

RESULTS

BOYS

- U-11:** Bilal Zakir (Pak) bt Rishi Tandon (Ind) 9-1, 9-2, 9-1;
U-13: Danish Atlas Khan(Pak) bt Marcus Yuen (Mas) 9-0, 9-0,
U-15: Nousherwan (Pak) bt Farhan Khan(Pak) 7-9, 9-6, 9-4, 3-9, 9-6;
U-17: Waqar Mehboob (Pak) bt Shohaib Hassan (Pak) 1-9, 9-2, 9-6, 9-3;
U-19: Farzan Rashid (Pak) bt Nathan Stevenson (Aus) 9-2, 9-1, 9-4

GIRLS

- U-11:** A. Anaka (Ind) bt Saumya Karki (Ind) 9-2, 9-4, 9-6;
U-13: Tan Yan Xin (Mas) bt Ankita Sharma (Ind) 9-3, 9-0, 9-1;
U-15: Zuhijah Azan (Mas) bt Nessrine Ariffin (Mas) 9-3, 9-6, 9-6;
U-17: Loo Wee Wern (Mas) bt Kimberley Bessel (Aus) 9-2, 9-1, 9-2;
U-19: Joshna Chinappa (Ind) bt Annie Au (Hkg) 9-2, 9-2, 9-2

ATLANTA OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

Ritwik bows out in quarters

Ritwik Bhattacharya failed to continue his momentum and went down against sixth seed Matthew Giuffre of Canada in the quarterfinal of the Atlanta Open Squash championship in the United States

The top Indian squash player, who upset top seed Mohd Essam Hafiz of Egypt in the earlier round, lost 10-12 11-4 10-12 11-4 4-11

By: PTI : May 15, 2005

July 2005



Ritwik Bhattacharya

PENANG INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

(6th to 9th June 2005)

Indians Impress at Penang

Indian players made their presence felt at the Penang International Squash Championship, held at Penang, Malaysia from 6th to 10th June.

Following are the positions they attained.

RESULTS

BOYS

- U-11:** Avitroop Ghosal 4th, Aditya Prakash Khatri 10th
U-13: Akshaya Deepak- 2nd, Abhishek Pradhan 3rd,
 Yaksh Davar 7th, Rohan Vora 10th
U-15: Karan Malik 2nd, Sujat Barua 3rd,
 Jagnesh Shukramani- 18th
U-17: Gunraj Singh 2nd, Nikhil Jain 15th,
 Ashwin Sidar 18th

GIRLS

- U-11:** A. Anaka 1st, Saumya Karki- 2nd
U-13: B. Aparajitha- 4th, Ankita Sharma 5th,
 Shriya Prakash Khatri- 9th, Namrata Purohit 12th
U-15: Surbhi Mishra 3rd, Harita Om Prakash 6th



Abhishek Pradhan

CHENNAI OPEN 2005

22nd to 25th June 2005

Siddharth Suchde's giant killing streak was ended by Ritwik Bhattacharya in the finals. Siddharth Suchde once again proved that he is the best Indian player to immerse from the junior ranks when he convincingly beat Saurav Ghosal 3 to 1 in the Quarter Finals. Thereafter he knocked out top seed and world ranked 57 Kashif Shuja of New Zealand in the Semifinal.

RESULTS

Final

Ritwik Bhattacharya (IND) bt Siddharth Suchde(IND) 11-5, 11-5, 11-7

Semi-finals

Siddharth Suchde (IND) bt Kashif Shuja (NZL)
 10-11 (3-5), 6-11, 11-3, 11-6, 11-7
 Ritwik Bhattacharya (IND) bt Dylan Bennett (NED)
 11-9, 11-5, 6-11, 11-3

RAJU CHAINANI'S FREE JUNIORS COACHING CAMPS

The "Raju Chainani's FREE Junior coaching camp" was organized by Squash Racquets Association of Maharashtra (SRAM) at 4 different clubs Bombay Gymkhana, Mandpeshwar Civic Federation Club, Andheri Sports Complex, Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana for a month each. More than 40 players from each club participated in this camp.

Riaz Mohammed, Santosh Kharat, Gopi Mohite, Baban More, Devdas, Manish, Sachin Jadhav, Prabhakar, Anil Mohite, Jogi Singh, Anil Rawat, Deepak Singh, Ajaz Shaikh, Siraj Mohammed and Solanki were the professionals at this camp.

INDIAN OIL OTTERS SQUASH OPEN 2005

1st to 7th May 2005

Ghoshal, Joshna supreme

(By Pradeep Vijayakar)



A. N. Jha (Chief guest) along with all the winners of Indian Oil Otters Squash Open at Otters club, Mumbai

Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa claimed the main titles in the Rs 3-lakh Indian Oil Otters Squash Open. The 18-year-old Saurav Ghosal bagged a magnificent double winning the boys under-19 and men's titles.

While Saurav eased past Manek Mathur 9-5 9-6, 9-2 in the under 19 age group final, he brushed aside No 3 seed Gaurav Nandrajog 9-0 9-4 9-2 in the men's final.

Ghosal, ranked a career high No. 74 on the Professional Squash association (PSA) rankings can pick up the balls for hours together. And he hits the ball hard, which is a virtue in squash. Left-hander Manek Mathur who was playing the best squash of his career was troubling Ghosal at times with his persistence. But he was up against a returning machine and had to wilt. Vikram Malhotra was another player who established his supremacy in an age group he has just entered.

Nandrajog tried to slug it out but Ghosal's experience is such that he can get the better of even Ritwik Bhattacharya as he proved in last year's final here. Ghosal won Rs. 68,000 for his twin triumphs. He said "The new

things I have been trying out are working out pretty well."

Deepali Anvekar the former international, has become Dr Shruti Parikh. She kept Joshna guessing with her hard and soft shots in the first game. But her body was not up to it for a longer tussle and Joshna claimed the title with a winning 10-8, 9-5 and 9-5. The Otters club has consistently organized this event splendidly. As a result the Otters Open is an event that players look forward to keenly.

RESULTS

BOYS

U-19: Saurav Ghosal (Chennai) bt Manek Mathur (Mah)

9-5 9-6 9-2.

U-17: Vikram Malhotra (Mah) bt Parth Sharma (Mah)

9-6 9-2 9-1.

U-15: Ramit Tandon (Kolkata) bt Ravi Dixit (Dhampur)

9-6 9-3 9-5.

U-13: Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah) bt Abhishek Pradhan

(Mah) 9-4 10-8 9-3.

U-11: Saumya Karki bt Arjun Kochar 9-4, 9-7, 1-9, 9-2.

GIRLS

U-17: Shivangi Paranjpe (Mah) bt Madhura Paranjpe

(Mah) 9-1, 9-3, 9-2;

U-13: A Anaka bt Sachika Balwani 9-5, 9-3, 9-2.

Professionals: B Balamurugan (Chennai) bt Vijay

Sonawane (Mah) 9-1, 9-3, 9-2.

Men Over-35: Deepak Kochar bt Chetan Ladiwala 9-3, 9-

0, 9-3.

CHELMSFORD DELHI OPEN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

10th June To 15th June 2005

RESULTS

Boys U-11: Kush Kumar bt Shravan Kaul 9-3, 1-9, 9-6, 10-9

Boys U-13: Karan Tharyamal bt Umer Balaj 9-6, 9-7, 9-3

Boys U-15: Ravi Dixit bt Wajid Khan 9-5, 5-9, 9-2, 9-1

Boys U-17: Parth Sharma bt Naresh Kumar 4-9, 9-5, 9-3, 0-9, 10-9

Boys U-19: Sandeep Jangra bt Manik Mathur 9-2, 9-7, 9-3

Men's Open: Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Gaurav Nandrajog

9-2, 9-0, 9-3

Professionals: Dhiraj Singh bt B. Balamurugan 10-9, 10-8, 6-9

Men's O-35: Gajendra Rathore bt Mukhtiar Ali 9-1, 9-4, 8-10, 9-0

Girls U-15: Aakriti Sehgal bt Dheeya Somya 9-7, 9-3, 4-9, 3-9, 10-8

Girls U-17: Dipika Pallikal bt Anwesha Reddy 9-1, 9-2, 9-10, 6-9, 9-2

Women's Open: Mekhla Subedar bt Dipika Pallikal 9-1, 10-9, 9-4

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QUIT INDIA - MANIAM

Maj. Maniam hasn't shown much movement since he came to India, so perhaps he need to quit. Brought in by N. Ramachandran with much fanfare as a 'Consultant Coach' almost 4 years back, we are still trying to figure out what consultation and to whom!!!

Maj. Maniam had built a reputation for himself as an excellent administrator for the coaching set up in Malaysia, where he was, before the Indian exchequer was burdened with his pay reportedly, US\$30,000/ p.a. His efforts did pave the way for good players to emerge from Malaysia, but contrary to popular belief, he had nothing to do with Ong Beng Hee the most illustrious player from Malaysia. The point is proven when we consider that ICL Academy/Chennai has not produced any genuine player in Maniam's tenure. Saurav Ghosal was self motivated, and coached by Dalip Tripathi, as is Ramit Tandon who SRFI is eyeing for coaching. A. I. Singh produced Harinder Sandhu, taking him from beginner level to winning India's first Scottish title in boys category and Australian Runner Up positions. Since moving to Chennai, Harinder has only basked in past glory. We all know that Sunil Verma has been the coach, mentor and the person responsible for Sandeep Jangra making the top grade. Sandeep's coaching plan in Chennai was short lived as he took a faster train back home than the one to Chennai. The less said about Parthiban, albeit age controversy etc, the better. Any shadow of doubt about the coaching attraction Maniam might provide is wiped out by the fact that India's best Squash player Joshna Chinappa has chosen to train abroad rather than in her hometown.

Notwithstanding this, Ramachandran, in an effort to improve his image in world Squash, needed a man of reputation to prop it up. So he recruited Maj. Maniam for that job, under the facade of 'Consultant Coach'. Since then, Maniam has conducted only one meaningless coaching clinic outside Chennai, and besides that has not even stepped out of the mecca of hownot-to-run- Squash i.e. Chennai. No player outside Chennai has benefited from his presence, and even the ones imported to Chennai are confused on whom to give credit for whatever performance they might have since SRFI needs them to say something nice about Cyrus Poncha and justify his presence as a National Coach- his abilities being highly questionable. Maniam meanwhile serves as a link to Ramachandran and world Squash. In return, he enjoys Indian hospitality and is happy in his retirement mode. He is happy to be aloof from the turmoil in Indian Squash, is non-committal, and only expresses sympathy when controversial issues are raised with him. The primary question is- what is he doing here anyway?

With a strong track record as an able administrator established while in Malaysia, it was reasonable to expect that Maniam would bring together and strengthen the coaching setup in India. Nothing of the sort has happened, and there is no integrated coaching programme in place. The pathway for players to move up from beginner to PSA level remains what it always was- start learning the game on your own, make a mark without any support from SRFI, get victimized by the powers that be in Chennai, and finally get poached- migrate from wherever you are to Chennai if you want to benefit from their facility and setup. Maniam has failed completely to change this 'pathway' or foster confidence in upcoming players. As a



Extended holiday ?
Major S. Maniam

consultant coach, he has failed to address, or get addressed, basic niggling issues of coaching, age fudging, team selections, training camps location and convenience of players to attend them.

The net result of his presence is that Ramachandran's reputation is none the better since Maniam arrived, while Maniam has totally lost his credibility and gained the status of 'just another puppet', and only the two of them best know the benefits of this misadventure, which is at the cost of the Indian exchequer.

STOP PRESS
DIPIKA TOPS IN TULIP COUNTRY

Dipika Palikal proved beyond doubt her potential to make it big on the International Squash arena by winning the Dutch Junior Open 2005 in the girls under-15 event. Having won the girls under-13 category in the same tournament last year, Dipika showed great determination and held her nerve to claw back from a two game deficit beating Welsh girl Natalie Prichard 4-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-3, 9-7 in the nail biting final. Dipika won the French Junior Open 2005 girls under-15 title in February this year and is presently the No.1 in the European Squash rankings in her age category. Meanwhile Ramit Tandon did well to take 3rd place in the Boys under-15 category in the same tournament.



Dipika

ASHOK NAGPAL JOINS ISP

Indian Squash Professionals welcomes our new committee member, Mr. Ashok Nagpal on our team from July 2005. Mr. Nagpal is a squash enthusiast and he himself plays 5 times a week. A Mumbai businessman, he says that squash, keeps him fit and looking young.



Ashok Nagpal

His strong belief that "THERE IS NO SPORT, WITHOUT COMPETITION" has helped in developing the Interschool Tournament at Khar Gymkhana into a most sought after event that children prepare for every year. His strong financial acumen and organizational skills will go a long way in supporting the cause at Indian Squash Professionals.

FORTH COMING TOURNAMENTS

Rajasthan Open Jaipur - 24th to 28th August 2005

Hong Kong Junior Open - 10th to 13th August 2005

Southern India & National Doubles - August 2005

Little Masters Junior Squash - 12th to 17th September 2005

Khar Gymkhana - Airtel All India Inter School/College Open - 7th to 11th September 2005

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