

PROSQUASH

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The country's premier event for School and College Squash players turned out to be a SUPERHIT yet again. Improvements over the last year's event were promised at the conclusion of that event. They came by way of (a) Draws being sent to all participants by email (b) matches being held on schedule despite a large number of entries and (c) Prizes getting better every year. Even when one Squash Court was rendered non-functional for 2-3 hours by a heavy downpour that flooded the passage to the courts, the backlog of matches was soon cleared. All this was despite the absence of Tournament Director Ashish Gupta. As usual, players were welcomed with snacks and soft drinks and gifts including a T-shirt, bandana and a towel.

There was keen competition and many players displayed some excellent squash. Mahesh Mangaonkar turned out to be amongst the most improved players. He caused not just one, but two upsets- beating higher rated Aditya Gupta and Amay Merchant. Dheeya Somaya avenged her defeat to Sachika Balwani at Pune by beating her twice, as well as higher seeded Anika Sharma. Aditya Jagtap fought bravely with the eventual runner-up in a higher age group Naishad Lalwani, losing at

AIRTEL - KHAR GYMKHANA ALL INDIA SCHOOL/ COLLEGE SQUASH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

(11/09/2005)



Winners at the prize distribution function from Left to Right : Mahesh Mangaonkar (Boys U-13), Dheeya Somaya (Girls U-13), Vikram Malhotra (Boys U-17), Shivangi Paranjpe (Girls U-19), Aditya Jagtap (Boys U-15), Ishaan Advani (Boys U-11), Sandeep Jhangra (Boys U-19).



Winners along with Mahendra Agarwal (Director, ISP), Jayant Khosla (CEO, Airtel), Noreena (PRO, ISP), Hari Mehra (President, Khar Gymkhana), Shiv Malhotra (Vice President, Khar Gymkhana), Dushyant Singh, Dr. Gul Bhatheja (Gen. Secy., Khar Gymkhana) and Ashok Nagpal (Hon. Member, ISP).

precisely close scores. Rahul Fazlzhobay made a mark by finishing 3rd in the U-11 event. Though Abhinav Sinha from BCS Shimla lost to Aditya Jagtap as in Herald Maritime Open, he demonstrated a great improvement made in two months. Sadiq Madraswala extended Vikram Malhotra to five games, showing a quantum leap in his standard of play. Cyrus Vakli turned out to be a more focussed and determined player by avenging earlier defeats to Laxman Joshi. Finally, Naishad Lalwani displayed his character as a former National Champ by doing exceedingly well by finishing Runner up and third in U-17 and U-19 respectively.

The victory ceremony was a gala event once again. The fantastic prizes included Televisions, Music Systems, I-Pods, Computers, Travel bags, Wrist Watches etc and of course, fabulous crystal trophies.

Next year, we hope to improve further by creating a method of displaying match schedule details on a screen. This should improve efficiency and allow participants to prepare and warm up conveniently for their matches.



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Ripley's believe it or not???

Poachacharya

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Did you know Titanic

had a squash court ???

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Madhura Paranjpe (Runner up - Girls U-19), receiving trophy from Mr. Jayant Khosla (CEO, AIRTEL)

RESULTS

FINALS

Boys U-19 : 1-Sandeep Jhangra bt 2-Vikram Malhotra 11-10 (3-1), 11-10 (2-0), 11-10 (5-3)

Third Place: 4-Naishad Lalwani bt Laxman Joshi 4-11, 11-8, 11-5, 3-11, 11-2;

Boys U-17 : 1-Vikram Malhotra bt 2-Naishad Lalwani 11-3, 8-11, 11-2, 11-6;

Third Place: 4-Cyrus Vakil bt 3-Laxman Joshi 11-6, 11-6, 3-11, 11-4;

Boys U-15 : Aditya Jagtap bt Abhinav Sinha 11-4, 11-8, 11-4;

Boys U-13 : 1-Mahesh Mangaonkar bt 2-Abhishek Pradhan 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 8-11, 11-8;

Third Place: Caran Arora bt Viraj Nayar 11-5, 11-5, 8-11, 11-5;

Boys U-11 : 1-Ishan Advani bt 3-Arjun Kochhar 11-10, 11-6, 11-9;

Third Place: Rahul Fazelbhoy bt 2-Aviroop Ghosal 11-10, 6-11, 11-4, 11-4;

Girls U-19 : 2-Shivangi Paranjpe bt 1-Madhura Paranjpe 11-5, 11-10, 11-10;

Third Place: Dheeya Somaya bt 4-Shaheen Madraswalla 11-7, 3-11, 11-5, 4-11, 11-3;

Girls U-13 : Dheeya Somaya bt 2-Ankita Sharma 11-8, 8-11, 11-5, 11-5;

Third Place: 1-Sachika Balwani bt 3-Saumya Karki 11-2, 11-4, 7-11, 11-4;

SEMIFINALS

Boys U-17 : 1-Vikram Malhotra bt 4-Cyrus Vakil 11-4, 11-8, 11-4

2-Naishad Lalwani bt 3-Laxman Joshi 11-13, 12-10, 4-11, 11-6, 11-6.

Boys U-15 : Abhinav Sinha bt Rahul D'Cunha- 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-2,

Aditya Jagtap bt Mahesh Mangaonkar 11-3, 11-6, 11-7

Boys U-13 : 1-Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Viraj Nayar 11-8, 11-1, 11-4

2-Abhishek Pradhan bt Caran Arora 11-10, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8.

Boys U-11 : 3-Arjun Kochhar bt 2-Aviroop Ghosal 11-3, 11-4, 11-9;

1-Ishan Advani bt Rahul Fazelbhoy 11-4, 11-6, 11-6.

Girls U-19 : 2-Shivangi Paranjpe bt 4-Shaheen Madraswalla 11-3, 11-3, 11-1

1-Madhura Paranjpe bt Dheeya Somaya (Indore) 11-4, 11-4, 11-3.

Girls U-13 : Dheeya Somaya bt 1-Sachika Balwani 10-11, 10-11, 11-7, 11-4, 11-5.

EXCELLENCE IN COACHING AWARD

A new award for Squash coaches by ISP was initiated this year to honour coaches. Unlike awards that can be bought (if you know what we mean!) this award is deserved by coaches who have been dedicated to promoting Squash for several years.

It takes into account efforts in introducing large number of players to Squash, developing them into top level competitors (and not stealing other coach's players and claiming undue credit), encouraging development in players' overall development, not just in squash and also for facilitating creation of squash Infrastructure (new courts, academies, tournaments etc).

The inaugural award was shared by Dushyant Singh and Sunil Verma.

Dushyant Singh has successfully organized several Inter School Tournaments at Mayo College, Ajmer. He is the driving force behind creation of several courts at Mayo, including glass back courts.

Dushyant was delighted at being honoured thus, and came specially to Mumbai to receive the award. In his address to the gathering, he expressed his wish that all coaches in the country should work together to promote the game. His award will be displayed at the Mayo College Museum, since it is the first time in the School's long history that a Coach has been honoured, that too by a body (SRAM) outside the School's state (Rajasthan).

Sunil Verma, in addition to being behind the churning out of champions from the Jindal Squash Academy, has facilitated the construction of excellent squash courts. He is also the brain behind forming Thane Rackets Squash Association.



Mahendra Agarwal (Director, Indian Squash Professionals) flanked by the super coaches Sunil Verma (left) and Dushyant Singh

RAJU CHAINANI AWARD 2005 : MOST PROMISING JUNIORS

(11/09/2005)



SACHIKA BALWANI



ADITYA JAGTAP

For those youngsters who have just joined squash and are unaware, Mr. Raju Chanani was the world's most well known squash journalist. He was based in Mumbai and wrote articles in many leading newspapers. He wrote about international events too, and had launched a Squash magazine with the legendary Australian World Champion Geoff Hunt. He always encouraged junior players, and always stood against those who worked against the game and players. He was a Junior National Champion too. He died an untimely death in 2001.

This year's Raju Chainani Award for Girls went to Sachika Balwani. The highlight of her achievements last year were winning the Girls Under-11 National Title (for the record third time) and the Scottish Under-11 title. She was Quarter Finalist in Girls Under-13 at the British Junior Open.

For Boys, the Raju Chainani Award went to Aditya Jagtap. He was National Runner-up in Boys Under-13, and winner in Malaysian All Star Milo Junior Open and Penang International Junior Open, and Runner-Up in Hong Kong Junior Open in Under-13 events. He was part of the Silver Medal winning Under-15 team at the Qatar International Junior Team Championship held at Qatar.

The prestigious Raju Chainani awards are given to Junior Squash players in Maharashtra every year during the Victory Ceremony of Khar Gymkhana School / College Squash Championship. Players are selected on the basis of their performance in the last year, and the award is given only once to a particular player.



Apparently, our squash courts are causing quite a racket



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THE LITTLE MASTERS JUNIOR SQUASH TOURNAMENT 2005

(17/09/2005)



All winners at the prize distribution function from Left to Right : Dipika Pallikal (Girls U-19), Aditya Jagtap (Boys U-15), Vikram Malhotra (Boys U-17), Arjun Kochhar (Boys U-11), Kunj Rawani (Boys U-9), Sandeep Jhangra (Boys U-19) and Mahesh Mangaonkar (Boys U-13) along with sponsors and Pesi Wadia (Squash Sec., Willingdon Club)

The fireworks witnessed on the squash courts of Willingdon Sports Club just about matched those heard outside on the streets of Mahalaxmi.

Incidentally, it was the concluding day of both — the SKF Bearings India Ltd-sponsored All India Little Masters Junior Squash tournament as well as the festival of Ganpati.

Dipika Pallikal stole the thunder from the rest with a double sweep of the girls under-15 as well as the under-19 titles. In both finals, her victim was second seed Anvesha Reddy. After having won the under-15 final in straight games, 9-2, 9-4, 9-4 Pallikal maintained her supremacy in her second summit clash of the day with a 9-5, 9-2, 9-0 win against an erratic Reddy.

It was the combination of poor shot anticipation, unforced errors and an in-form opponent that led to Reddy's downfall. A satisfied Pallikal later said: "Everything worked out perfectly for me. I was not too tired for the second final as I made her do more of the running in our earlier match. Having lost to her in last year's u-19 final, this time it's pleasing to have won both."

In boy's action, Vikram Malhotra had the chance to emulate Pallikal's astounding feat. But in spite of a valiant effort, he managed to get the job only half-done. In the U-17 final, he fought back from a game and 2-6 down to win 6-9, 9-6, 9-0 and 9-6 against Naishad Lalwani. But to complete the double, he was up against fatigue and a fresh-looking Sandeep Jhangra.

Malhotra began confidently, racing to a two-point lead, but from then on it was all Jhangra. The top-seed almost knew he had his opponent's number as he walked-off the court with a wry smile after taking game one. Jhangra eventually won 9-2, 9-2, 9-2. In the boys U-15 final top seed Aditya Jagtap was made to toil before overcoming Delhi's Ravi Dixit 1-9, 10-9, 10-8, 9-3.

RESULTS

FINALS

Boys U-17: 1-Vikram Malhotra bt Naishad Lalwani 6-9, 9-6, 9-0, 9-6.

Boys U-13: 1-Mahesh Mangaonkar bt 2-Abhishek Pradhan 9-4, 9-0, 9-10, 9-2.

Boys U-11: 3-Arjun Kochhar bt 1-Ishan Advani 9-4, 5-9, 9-6, 9-4.

Girls U-19: 1-Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt 2-Anvesha Reddy (TN) 9-5, 9-2, 9-0.

Girls U-15: 1-Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt 2-Anvesha Reddy (TN) 9-2, 9-4, 9-4.

Boys/Girls U-9 : 1-Kunj Rawani bt 2-Aditya Khatri

SEMIFINALS

Boys U-19: 1-Sandeep Jangra (Jindal Squash Academy) bt 4-Naresh Kumar (Delhi) 9-1, 10-8, 9-6;

2-Vikram Malhotra bt 3-Parth Sharma (TN) 6-9, 9-5, 1-9, 9-4, 9-0.

Boys U-17: 1-Vikram Malhotra bt Cyrus Vakil 9-6, 9-0, 9-4; 3-Naishad Lalwani bt 2-Parth Sharma (TN) 9-5, 9-3, 9-7.

Boys U-15: 1-Aditya Jagtap bt 4-Radi/D'cunha 9-1, 9-0, 9-4; Ravi Dixit (Delhi) bt Sujat Barua (TN) 9-5, 9-1, 4-9, 9-3.

Boys U-13: 1-Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Akash Borvankar 9-1, 9-2, 9-0;

2-Abhishek Pradhan bt 3-Caran Arora 9-2, 9-2, 9-6.

Boys U-11: 3-Arjun Kochhar bt 2-Aviroop Ghoshal 9-6, 9-1, 9-2; 1-Ishan Advani bt Shravan Kaul (TN) 9-1, 3-9, 9-1, 9-0. **Boys/Girls U-9**

1-Kunj Rawani bt Yohan Pandole 9-6, 5-9, 9-4, 9-0;

2-Aditya Khatri bt Karan Kochhar 9-1, 9-2, 9-2.

Girls U-19: 1-Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt 4-Shivangi Paranjpe 10-9, 9-0, 9-0;

2-Anvesha Reddy (TN) bt 3-Madhura Paranjpe 9-7, 10-9, 9-1.

Girls U-15: 2-Anvesha Reddy (TN) bt 3-Shivangi Paranjpe 9-7, 9-4, 9-7;

1-Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt 4-Sachika Balwani 9-1, 9-5, 9-1.

KUNJ MAKES HISTORY



KUNJ RAWANI

BY DEVASHREE VIJAYAKAR

Kunj Rawani made history as the first winner of the Under-9 squash title held at the Little Masters. PRO SQUASH talked with him.

How do you feel about the win?
Great.

Who inspired you to take to squash?

My family. They encouraged me to play at Club Aquaria.

Who guides you?

Ramesh More and Vaman Apte.

What's your next target?

Winning the under-11 title.



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ANOTHER FAMILY SHINES WITH SQUASH PRIDE



ARJUN KOCHHAR

BY PRADEEP VIJAYKAR

Commander VK Kochhar was on Cloud Nine at the Little Masters. At 71, the Services man has 58 years of squash behind him. He won a few titles in Services squash and later at veteran's level but not on the national scene. But here was his grandson proudly proclaiming his ambition to win the national men's title after winning his maiden juniors crown at the SKF Bearings Little Masters. Arjun Kochhar won the under-11 title and grandpa said "he has one more year since he is only 10."

The men's title is yet to come to the Kochhar squash family for Arjun's father Deepak won the National junior title in the 80s. Brother Ravi was a juniors semi-finalist more often than not. Ravi's sons Aditya and Karan were also at the Little Masters. To twist an old phrase, squash races in the Kochhar family.

The premier Indian squash family is the Pandoles, after them the Aptes. "Papa" Phiroze, of the famous Dukes family, began the saga. His son Dinshaw played for India as did Dinshaw's sons Darius and Farokh. Darius' son Yohann has just begun playing. Papa's other son Naval also played at national level and his son Rishad and daughter Shyla also played. Rishad was National Champion in under 14 and 16 categories for three years and represented India at Asian Juniors in Sri Lanka in 1991 and World Juniors (1992) in Hong Kong as team captain and No. 1 player.

In the Apte family, industrialist Laxman Rao played and handed the baton to Test cricketer-sons Madhav (a Western India champ) and Arvind and daughter Kumud (Rajawade), Madhav's son Vaman reached the India Top Ten level and sister Radhika also played. Vaman's son Vikram too plays in U.S.A.. Then there is the Nayak family whose Ananth played for India. Whether son Akhilesh follows in his father's footsteps remains to be seen.

Coming back to the Kochhars, the encouragement comes from all around. Arjun's mother doesn't mind his long hours at the courts. Chanda Kochhar is the executive director of ICICI Bank. She was a basketballer in her school days in Jaipur.

Dad Deepak is sure his son will pursue his dreams. "He has worked hard. This was something we wanted to happen."

DEEPIKA HOPES TO RISE TO NEW CHALLENGES



DEEPIKA PALLIKAL

BY PRADEEP VIJAYKAR

Deepika Pallikal had been in tears at the Little Masters in 2004. She had lost the under-19 final to Chennai teammate Anvesha Reddy after beating her in the under-15. This time around there were no hiccupps. Deepika won the double claiming both titles.

Now they are hailing her as the next Joshna Chinappa. For Deepika this is mid-season. At the start of the year she won the French and Dutch juniors

and won the under-15 title. "I had never been to France before so that was a tough call." At the Dutch event she says it was a little better because she had

company of Ramit Tandon the Kolkata kid. She then played at the Asian Juniors. "It was fun, Anvesha and I had a good time. India finished No. 2." Joshna was his skipper. How will life be without Joshna? "Life without Joshna and Saurav will be really sad for me. Saurav was like a brother for me. Joshna and I have been like sisters. We did everything together, practising, shopping. I will miss the laughter of Joshna and her jokes."

Will she feel the pressure of being talked of as the next Joshna? "Hopefully I shall tackle that and do the country proud as she has done." For Deepika life on the junior circuit is tough but only her mother for company. Her mother Susan was a former India women's cricketer bowling quick. Deepika copes by calling her coaches Cyrus Poncha and Hari Om Tripathi. "They advise me and it works for me."

Does playing with boys work? "I have been playing mostly with boys at the ICL Academy. Anvesha is my level, so I need better competition."

What are her targets? "I am looking forward to the British Juniors and the Asian seniors where I will be with Joshna again." What do her coaches say are the areas of improvement in her game? "My stamina, front court stretching and lunges."

RAHIL FAZELBHOY - THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

BY A-I SINGH



RAHIL FAZELBHOY

Rahil Fazlhbhoy, an upcoming Squash player proved his mettle by finishing 3rd at the Khar Gymkhana Airtel School/College Championships. He was placed 6th in the Milo Malaysia tournament in May where he defeated Aviroop (who was seeded number 2 there) and ultimately lost in the quarters to a local boy who was later disqualified for being over age!!!

A. I. Singh caught up with the 10-year-old prodigy from Rizvi Springfield High School, Carter Road for a chat. Excerpts from interview:-

Where and how did you start playing Squash, and who coaches you?

I started playing 2 years back when my Mom, herself a Squash player, introduced me to the game. Initially, Mr. Prakash Yelwe coached me, and then Brig. Raj Manchanda at Willingdon Sports Club, Mahalaxmi.

Who all encourage you to play and train hard?

My parents, and father's friends. One of them, Mr. Saket who lives in England, chats with me about Squash regularly.

Wow! Maybe he could send you some nice Squash videos from there! What are your other interests?

Table Tennis.

So that's how you spin your dropshots so well. What's your ambition?

I want to be World Junior Champion within 5 years. I want to be better than Jansher Khan, my favorite player. I also want to be a Lawyer, like my Dad.

SOUTH ZONE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2005 NATIONAL DOUBLES SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

Saurav's parting double gift for Chennai

(20/09/2005)



SAURAV GHOSHAL

Playing on home courts doesn't always work for some. The players get tense. But for Saurav Ghoshal and Harinder Singh nothing of the sort happened. Saurav won the singles and partnered Harinder Singh to win the National doubles at the Southern India squash championship at the ICL Academy courts, Chennai in August.

Delhi lad Gaurav Nandrajog couldn't really apply any pressure on Ghoshal though he did engage him in some rallies. Saurav won at 9-3, 9-1, 9-3.

The doubles was a different cup of tea as it was the Nationals. Ghoshal and Harinder beat Niraj Shirgaonkar and Gaurav Nandrajog.

The double that Saurav claimed was a parting gift to Chennai. He is to play the pro circuit moving base to England.

RESULTS

SOUTH ZONE FINALS

Boys U-17: Parth Sharma (TN) bt Cyril Kuhn (TN) 10-8, 5-9, 5-9, 9-2, 9-0.

Boys U-15: Sujat Barua (TN) bt Karan Malik (TN) 9-3, 5-9, 9-7, 9-2.

Boys U-13: Akshay Deepak (TN) bt Yaksh Dawar (TN) 9-7, 9-5, 9-3.

Boys U-11: Sharavan Kaul (TN) bt Varish Sawlani (TN) 1-9, 9-0, 9-2, 9-6.

Girls U-17: Dipika Pallikal (TN) bt V. Anvesha (TN) 9-3, 9-0, 6-9, 9-4.

Girls U-13: A. Anaka (TN) bt B. Aparajitha (TN) 9-1, 9-5, 9-3.

Men over 35: S. Maniam (TN) bt Srivatsan Subramaniam (TN) 9-2, 9-0, 9-2

Professionals: B. Balamurugan (TN) bt Hari Om (TN) 9-1, 9-1, 9-5.

NATIONAL DOUBLES FINALS

Saurav Ghosal and Harinderpal Singh (TN) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (Del) and Niraj Shirgaonkar (Mah) 11-6, 11-2, 11-2.

SEMI FINALS

Saurav Ghosal-Harinderpal Singh (TN) bt Sandeep Jangra-Vikas Jangra 11-6, 11-9, 11-7;

Gaurav Nandrajog-Neeraj Shirgaonkar (Del/Mah) bt B. Balamurugan-A. Parthiban (TN) 9-11, 12-10, 4-11, 11-5, 11-7.

HONG KONG SQUASH OPEN

RISHI THE SAVING GRACE AT HONG KONG

(13/08/2005)

Rishi Tandon turned out to be the sole title winner from the Indian contingent at the Hong Kong Squash Open. He beat Kevin Cheung, 9-2, 9-1, 9-1 for the Under-11 Title. In the boys under-13 event Akshay Deepak ended runners up, losing to Cheung Ka Wah (Mal) 3-9, 2-9, 0-9. Ishaan Advani was the 2nd runner-up under-11 category.

JAGTAP GIVES ANXIOUS MOMENTS

BY DEVASHREE VIJAYAKAR

Aditya Jagtap's parents went through a torrid time before they could celebrate at the Little Masters. Aditya was given a tough fight by Ravi Dixit in the under-15 final. Afterwards he spoke to PRO SQUASH.

How do you feel?

I feel good.

Who contributed to your win?

My parents. My father encouraged me he would play with me. Now Al Singh coaches me.

What does your coach tell you to do?

Develop an all-round game. Plus sharpen my retrieving.

How do you stay fit?

I have started weight training. Have to sacrifice on eating chocolates.

Do you play any other sports?

Indeed, I played football, chess and cricket at school.

Who is your favourite player?

Peter Nicol. He has a very steady game.

Your best shots?

The volley drop, also the straight drop and long boasts.

SAUMYA KARKI - A multi talented Prodigy



SAUMYA KARKI

Saumya Karki is a rising squash player who has shown remarkable improvement in recent tournaments. A student of Hiranandani Foundation School, Thane, she trains under Sunil Verma. She has played squash for 3 years, but has varied interests- Lawn Tennis, Table Tennis, Basketball, and listening to rock music. She sings for her School Choir, and is an expert dancer with 6 years experience!

And she is just 10 years old!

Saumya started playing squash when her Mother, a squash player herself, and Father, a keen Footballer and Cricketer, encouraged her to take up the game. She now wants to be a Pro, and her ambition is to represent India at the Commonwealth games. She wants to win the National Title soon, and trains 2 hours a day, and upto 8 hours a day on holidays!

Saumya's achievements-

Winner

Indian Oil Otters Open (Boys U-11) 2004

Maharashtra Open U-13 Girls 2004

Matunga Gym Open U-13 Girls 2005

Runner Up

Milo All Star Open, Malaysia-U-11 Girls, 2005

Penang Open, Malaysia - U-11 Girls, 2005

Maharashtra Open U-11 Girls 2004

Suburban Inter School Girls U-11 - 2004.

**HARISH CHANDRA GOLECHA MEMORIAL RAJASTHAN OPEN
NATIONAL LEVEL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2005**

 Gaurav, Joshna, Jhangra, Dipika wins the title (28/08/2005)


All winners along with organizers and sponsors.

Delhi's Gaurav Nandrajog clinched the men's title in the Harish Chandra Golecha Memorial squash tournament at Jaipur in July after top seed Ritwik Bhattacharya conceded the final match to him because of a knee injury. Defending champion Joshna Chinappa beat Dipika Pallikal in the women's final. Ritwik won the first two sets but second seed Gaurav came back strongly to win the third set 9-1. Gaurav was leading 3-2 in the fourth set when Ritwik gave up the match and title to him.

Top seed Joshna, who is ranked second in the world among juniors, won 9-4, 9-5, 9-4 against Deepika Pallikal to clinch the women's title. In the boys under-19 category, Sandep Jhangra beat Parth Sharma 9-1, 10-8, 9-7, while in the girls event Deepika Pallikal of Chennai trounced Surabhi Mishra 9-1, 9-2, 9-4.

RESULTS
Boys Under 13:

Karan Tharyamal (Jaipur) Beat Rahul Kumar (BCS Shimla) 9-2, 9-4, 9-1

Boys Under 15:

Sujat Barua (Chennai) Beat Karm Kumar (Delhi) 5-9, 10-8, 9-1, 10-8

Boys Under 17:

Parth Sharma (Jaipur) Beat Gunraj Singh (Mayo) 9-2, 9-4, 9-1

Boys Under 19:

Sandeep Jhangra (Jindal) Beat Parth Sharma (Jaipur) 9-1, 10-8, 9-7

Girls Under 17:

Dipika Pallikal (Chennai) Beat Surbhi Mishra (Jaipur) 9-1, 9-2, 9-4

Women's Open

Joshna Chinappa (Chennai) Beat Dipika Pallikal (Chennai) 9-4, 9-5, 9-4

Men's Open

Gaurav Nandrajog (Delhi) Beat Ritwik Bhattacharya (Delhi) 9-10, 7-9, 9-1, 3-2 (Conceded)

WOMEN'S WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

(26/07/2005)

BY PRADEEP VIJAYAK

Last step proves toughest for Joshna

The last step is always the toughest. Many a big player have found this out the hard way. Joshna Chinappa had done everything to deserve the World Juniors girl's title. But there was a snag somewhere. It was in the form of the Egyptian squash factory, which turns out champs from its conveyor belt.

At Herentals in the final of the World Women's Juniors Championship Egyptian Raneem El Welily beat her 9-3, 9-4, 10-8. In squash it helps if you have some history of winning. Raneem had beaten Joshna in 1999 at the under-13 British Open Juniors.

Worse Joshna chose that day to be off-color. Some players have this trait. Great one-day poor another day. It's the consistent ones who turn out the champs. It's not often that Joshna becomes nervous on big match day. But that was happening in the lead-up months.

At the Asian Juniors she had left her fans gasping both in the individual final and the team final the way she struggled to beat opponents less superior to her. So, even leading 8-3 in the third after losing the first two did not help. Raneem kept picking up all her winners and sometimes sent them back with interest. In the end India had only to consider what might have been. "Had she taken the third game she may have not looked back," father Anjan said.

One felt sorry for this man. He had moved mountains to help his child reach the pinnacle of glory. But he couldn't move something called FATE. After all you will only get what has been written in your 'kundaal'. Joshna thus won't become the first Indian junior, boy or girl, to win a world crown. This was her last year in junior ranks. The Joshna camp where mom Sunita worked hard to keep her in good spirits during a month-long training in Amsterdam, was hoping a piece of coincidence might help Joshna. Egyptian Omeyya Abdel Kawi and Nicol David had both gone on to win the Worlds after claiming the British Junior title.

Joshna couldn't have had any better preparation. Two prominent coaches in her corner Harvard coach and one-time Jansher Khan-manager Satinder Bajwa and Liz Inwing, who runs the academy in Amsterdam and watched the semis. Baj had trained Joshna before both her under-17 and under-19 British Junior triumphs in 2003 and 2005 and had come to scout for talent for his college.

Liz coached Joshna a month before this event. For a month Joshna was hitting with the top players of the world like Nicole David and Co. Now we can only hope that this loss will spur Joshna on to do better at the WISPA circuit. Now that's a tough one for a single girl to handle. But she has the resilience. And the game.

There are the Asian Games medals to be won and who knows, the World title? Isn't it true that God gives with one hand what he takes from another?

Keep trying, Joshna.

RESULTS
Final:

[2] Raneem El Welily (EGY) bt [1] Joshna Chinappa (IND) 9-3, 9-4, 10-8

Semi-finals:

[1] Joshna Chinappa (IND) bt [5/8] Sara Badr (EGY) 9-6, 9-6, 9-2

KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP

(10/09/2005)



Mohamed Azlan Iskander at the Kolkata International Squash Championship

Mohamed Azlan Iskander and Ritwik Bhattacharya train with each other when on the circuit. They are very close to each other. But at the Kolkata International Squash, both had contrasting fortunes. Azlan won the title while Ritwik lost to Pakistan's Khayal Muhammad in a ill-tempered quarter final.

Ritwik had raised hopes when he upset fourth seed Mohammed Essam Hafiz of Egypt in the opening round.

But there was nothing he could do against the obstructionist tactics of the Pakistani and lost 11-10 (2-0) 7-11 9-11 and 8-11 at the Calcutta Racquet club.

The refereeing was below par.

Khayal, had shocked fifth seed Ben Garner of England in the first round. Ritwik's pal Azlan took care of him in the semi's.

RESULTS

FINALS

[1] Mohd Azlan Iskandar (MAS) bt [3] Shahier Razik (CAN) 11-6, 11-7, 11-3 (52m)

SEMIFINALS

[1] Mohd Azlan Iskandar (MAS) bt [Q] Khayal Muhammad Khan (PAK) 11-4, 11-7, 11-0 (24m)

[3] Shahier Razik (CAN) bt [2] Cameron Pilley (AUS) 11-8, 9-11, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8 (90m)

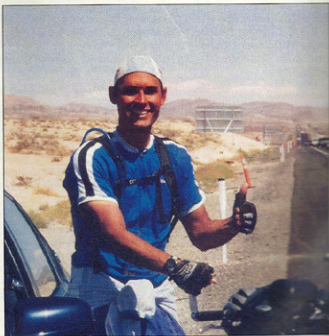
AMAR HAKSAR- A COACH KIDS LOVE

Amar Haksar is running the CCI Squash Academy as Head Coach since a year. He has proven himself to be an effective coach with the top players at the Academy making rapid strides in improving their Squash. Amar comes across as a warm and gentle person, whom kids love to be with. In a chat with Prosquash, Amar revealed some interesting facts about himself.

Whilst in school, Amar was a state level Badminton player, based in CCI. His schoolmate Adrian Ezra (India's youngest Mens National Title holder) convinced Amar to switch to Squash, and in no time at all, he represented Maharashtra in the Inter State Nationals. Amar played several tournaments held within Bombay, and his best result was Top-8 in CCI Western India in 1989-1990. He left for USA to study at the Boston University, but could not play Squash for 4-5 years due to a torn ligament. However, he kept in touch with Squash players at the Boston Athletic Club, and did hit the ball once in a while. He then shifted to California to work there, and resumed playing Squash at the Decathlon Club. He played local tournaments and traveled all across America for tournaments. His best performance in USA was being Runners Up in Florida State Championship in Semi-Pro League. It was in Decathlon Club that he tried his hand at Coaching. To gain knowledge, he attended seminars at Seattle in conjunction with tournaments. Amar returned to CCI in 2003.

Amar feels that the players in the U-19 and U-11 have excellent prospects. His philosophy of coaching is that while progress in the sport is important, coaching must enable players to develop Life Skills. As a teacher, he aims to develop good values and desire to make best effort. He is satisfied that his players share a good rapport with him.

Interestingly, Amar has cycled across USA to raise funds for Leukemia. The motivation for this challenging adventure came from his Mom's survival from Leukemia. He managed to raise US\$8000/-. In fact, Amar's reason for returning to India is to contribute more to his homeland. We wish him the best of luck.



Amar Haksar during his fund raising cycle trip across U.S.A.

RITWIK AS BIG AS SANIA ?



Sania Mirza might be world number 42 in tennis but here's our very own Bengali lad, 25-year-old Ritwik Bhattacharya who is world number 62 in a similar game and that's squash.

Despite his achievements, it's Sania who's hogged the limelight and Ritwik is only revered by sports freaks.

"Had I been a tennis player of the same rank as I am now, then I would have been driving a Ferrari and would have been definitely more famous", he says during his visit to Kolkata for the Kolkata International.

But such things does not perturb the player because he is here with a mission. I want to make squash as popular as tennis or cricket. I will ensure that youngsters take up the game and it is as important as any other game that attracts attention.

Ritwik admits that it does hurt when people still ask him, "You play squash but what do you do for a living?"

When I say I play professionally in London, they get curious, he adds. The champ has learnt to take all this in his stride because achieving the world 57 position hasn't been a cakewalk.

When I won the national championship, I felt great. But soon I realised where I stood in terms of proficiency, when I started playing the PSA tournaments. I was not up to the world standards.

Worst was when I was treated like an untouchable in the international circuit because despite being the best in India no one agreed to train me or play with me because they felt my standard was too low. Things started looking up after I won a couple of PSA tournaments, says Bhattacharya.

Right now, Ritwik is all set to play a string of tournaments that includes the British Open Hungarian Open, the Athens Open that will take him to somewhere around 40.

I believe Indians have tremendous potential. I'm training under Neil Harvey, who has a record of training the world number one. I am 25 and by 28, I have a realistic chance to be at the top, he signs off.

Courtesy : Times of India

THE DALY COLLEGE INDIAN JUNIOR OPEN 2005

(08/10/2005)

RESULTS

- Men** - Vikas Jangra (SSC) beat Dhiraj Singh (RAJ) 9-3, 9-2, 9-2
Mens O-35 - Ronak Patel (MP) beat Bobby Singh (MP) 9-3, 5-9, 9-2, 9-5
Boys U19 - Sandeep Jangra (MAH) beat Nareesh Kumar (ND) 9-0, 9-1, 9-3
Boys U17 - Sikander Khan w/o Praduman Singh
Boys U15 - Ravi Dixit (ND) beat Rishi Jalan (RAJ) 9-3, 9-4, 9-3
Boys U13 - Cheong Kha Wah (MAS) beat Marcus Yuen (MAS) 9-1 9-0 9-2
Boys U11 - Kush Kumar (UP) beat Shравan Kaul (TN) 9-1 9-2 8-10 9-1
Girls U19 - Dipika Palikal (TN) beat Siti Munirah Jusop (MAS) 9-1, 7-9, 9-7, 9-4
Girls U13 - Airin Abd Rahman (MAS) beat Anaka A (TN) 0-9, 7-9, 9-3, 9-5, 10-9
Girls U17 - Anwesha Reddy (TN) beat Surbhi Misra (RAJ) 9-3, 9-2, 6-9, 9-2
Girls U11 - Lakshaya Ragavendra beat Ridhima Kalani 9-0, 9-0, 9-0

LETTER FROM WISPA

(VIA EMAIL)

Dear Khalid,

Thank you very much for sending on a copy of PROSQUASH, together with your report in Mid Day. In regard to the event (Herald Maritimes Squash Open 2005) it certainly sounded like not only was it a superbly run event, but also a great promotional opportunity for our sport. Hopefully it will go from strength to strength and maybe expand into including a women's event in due course. You would be assured of full WISPA support, of course.

As for the magazine, a great production that really covers the ground extensively and I am sure is very well received there. Personally, I was pleased to read that Raju Chainani's name continues to be prominent, as it should not be forgotten.

Thank you again,

Best wishes
 Andrew Shelly
 (Executive Director, WISPA)

MAJOR MANIAM'S REPORT CARD

MAJOR MANIAM SCORES - 2/10

When Major Maniam visited Delhi two months back, we thought he had responded to our article on him in the last Prosquash and was there to conduct a camp. Sadly he was there to renew his contract and burden the Indian exchequer for another three years. However, we still give him 2/10 for promoting players in Chennai. After all Chennai is also a part of India!!! Perhaps Maniam is at a stage in life where only money matters.

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Yes, you wouldn't believe it. There was a squash court at the Titanic the famous cruise liner that went into folklore when it sank to the bottom of the sea on the midnight of April 14, 1912.

The squash court was located well down in the ship on lower deck. Like the gymnasium, it was under the supervision of an attendant who was there to take care of every need. He would supply racquets, balls, and even another player if a passenger were in need of an opponent. The squash court compartment itself was quite large and included an observers' gallery on middle deck above. Unlike the gymnasium, there was a charge of two shillings (50 cents), payable at the enquiry office, for the use of the court and games were limited to one hour if others were waiting. No artifacts have been recovered from this area.

Was the squash court used? You bet it was. It cost 50 cents a session and there was even a professional aboard, a Mr. F Wright. Colonel Archibald Gracie, who survived, writes in his book that he told Wright shortly after the collision "perhaps we had better cancel our match for tomorrow morning".

This gives the impression that they had probably already played on a previous occasion. The court was 30ft long and 20ft wide as against 32 and 21ft of a modern court. This was due to the structural layout of the ship. Again, due to the structure, the court height could not have been more than 15ft 6inches as against the current 18ft 6inches. Lobs would have had to be low ones. The door was in the left side of the back wall.

GHOSHAL FIRST TO QUALIFY FOR BRITISH OPEN SQUASH

Sourav Ghoshal created history by becoming the first Indian to qualify for the main draw of the prestigious British Open men's championship. Ghoshal, a former British Open junior champion, had graduated to the senior level only this season. Another Indian, the higher ranked Ritwik Bhattacharya was edged out in the first qualifying round on Sunday. However he lost to John White (Scotland) in the first round.

Bhattacharya lost to reigning European junior champion Chris Simpson of England, who is more than 100 ranks below the former's 178th position, 11-8, 11-10 (2-0), 11-10 (2-0) in 41 minutes.

FORTHCOMING TOURNAMENTS

6 -12 Nov: Maharashtra State Open & National Championships at Bombay Gym, Mumbai

13 -17 Nov: Inter State Squash Championship

29 Oct - 5 Nov: Western India Championship at CCI, Mumbai
Dec: Poona Open at Poona

8-14Dec : World Men's Team Championships at Pakistan

Dec: Natalia - SRFI Grand Final

MENS WORLD RANKING

Whilst France's Thierry Lincou maintains his grip on the top position in the new October Dunlop PSA Men's World Squash Rankings, published today (3 October) by the Professional Squash Association, Canada's Jonathon Power reclaims second place in the list for the first time since March 2003

The 31-year-old from Montreal has enjoyed one of his best years on the PSA Tour in 2005 winning the Apawamis Open in the USA in January, the PSA Masters in Bermuda in April, and the Super Series Finals in London for the second time in May.

1	[1] Thierry Lincou	FRA
2	[4] Jonathon Power	CAN
3	[3] David Palmer	AUS
4	[2] Lee Beachill	ENG
5	[7] Amr Shabana	EGY
6	[5] Peter Nicol	ENG
7	[6] Anthony Ricketts	AUS
8	[8] James Willstrop	ENG
9	[12] Karim Darwish	EGY
10	[11] Gregory Gaultier	FRA

[] Denotes previous results

WOMENS WORLD RANKING

Victory in last month's Seattle Open has strengthened Rachael Grinham's hold on top place in the new October Women's World Squash Rankings, announced today (4 October) by the Women's International Squash Players' Association (WISPA), as the Australian marches into her 15th successive month in pole position.

The US event's runner-up Vanessa Atkinson, the world champion from the Netherlands, retains her second place in the list, ahead of third-placed Malaysian Nicol David.

1	[1] Rachael Grinham	AUS
2	[2] Vanessa Atkinson	NED
3	[3] Nicol David	MAS
4	[5] Natalie Grainger	USA
5	[4] Natalie Grinham	AUS
6	[6] Linda Elriani	ENG
7	[7] Vicky Botwright	ENG
8	[9] Jenny Duncalf	ENG
9	[8] Omneya Abdel Kawy	EGY
10	[10] Tania Bailey	ENG

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CYRUS PONCHA - DRONACHARYA'S NEMESIS



ACHARYA CYRUS PONCHA

For all those who wondered about Dronacharya's greatness as a teacher being somewhat diluted by his questionable treatment of Eklavya, who was after all only seeking knowledge and education with all due devotion, here is some consolation as seemingly justice has been done eons later. Dronacharya must be turning in his grave at the defiling of his name when Cyrus Poncha received the award named after him! A good prospect for an Excellence in Poaching Award, Poncha's exploits are known to

all on the Squash Circuit. Here are Poncha's achievements that convince all that he deserves the second award.

1. **Obviously- Poaching -** We have repeated a zillion times that a National Federation is supposed to set up a system whereby talented Squash players are nurtured all over the country in a well-planned manner. Thereafter, the players may, if they consider it in their interest, move to a central coaching venue. An example would be players in Australia moving to the Australian Institute of Sports from State institute for further development. The National Coach is responsible for aiding the process, and building and leading a team of coaches all across the country. In our case, the less said about the federation's methodology the better, while the National Coach Cyrus Poncha does his bit- to keep an eye open for upcoming, and needy players, and hounding them to move to Chennai. Cyrus certainly has no hand in development of player before they move, and what he does to the players after they move shows. Saurav Ghosal, the first player to move and produced by Dalip Tripathi, had enough negativity rubbed off onto him so as not to defend his British Junior Open Title for vague reasons. Cyrus should have motivated and encouraged him to defend the most prestigious junior title in true sporting spirit. Harinder Sandhu, Produced by A. I. Singh and India's first boy to win a Scottish title under him, has not won any international title since being poached. Cyril Kuhn, again developed by A.I. Singh at Welham's School Dehradun, has just proven that his two years under Cyrus were wasted by losing to Joran Diwan, as well as Aditya Jagtap, three years younger to Cyril! Likewise with Sujat Barua, Dushiyaant Singh's 'product', who is already entangled in age misrepresentation controversies and set to be the next Parthiban. Paarth Sharma, a Rajasthan player trained by Dhiraj Singh has yet to show signs of Cyrus's influence, but that shouldn't take long. **THE ONE PLAYER WHO DIDN'T MOVE, AS SHE WAS ALREADY IN CHENNAI- JOSHNA CHINNAPA, HAD STATED THAT CYRUS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HER DEVELOPMENT.** Ironically, we have a copy of Cyrus's application for the Dronacharya award in which Cyrus claimed her as his product, but her name has been struck out now!

2. **Treatment of Players-** Cyrus Poncha used to coach at Mumbai prior to moving to Chennai in the year 2001. He was already the National Coach at that time- a position that he obtained not because of merit, but because of his closeness to the Mr. N. Ramachandran, Secretary General, Squash Rackets Federation of India. Cyrus's proximity to SRFI and his manipulative ways created an unfair field for other players. Owing to this and various other episodes where Cyrus behaved in a manner unbecoming of his position, he was declared persona non-grata by Squash Rackets of Maharashtra. Therefore he fled to Chennai.

3. **Failure to encourage players-** he does the dirty work like threatening players/officials not to participate in tournaments not endorsed by SRFI. The players who don't tow the line have been victimized. Players who tow the line are favoured.

4. **Sycophancy instead of performance-** The Asian Squash Federation's Best Coach award was also given to him by his mentor, N. Ramachandran (who is also Asian Squash Federation, President) for loyalty, not performance. This award is an eyewash and was given most undeservingly. The Indian performance has been mediocre in tournaments where competition has been limited or below average, to say the least.

5. **Declared persona non grata -** While coaching in Mumbai, Cyrus was declared persona non grata by SRAM for his behavior that was considered detrimental to the game and players. Though Cyrus submitted an apology, a year later he was banned by SRAM for working against the interest of the game and players.

6. **Attempted to sabotage India's premier squash event -** The Herald Maritime Services Squash Open 2005 was initially to be held under SRFI aegis but SRFI withdrew its recognition to the event. Cyrus attempted to discourage players from across India from participating in the event. As a matter of fact players from Chennai did not play. Despite his threats to the players most of them chose to play anyway.

7. **Accepting what he doesn't deserve -** It's quite obvious that this is an undeserved award and there is no merit involved. It's purely through Mr. N. Ramachandran's influence in the government that the award was handed to Cyrus.

Cyrus getting the Dronacharya Award is perhaps a suitable entry in Ripley's Believe It Or Not.

The fact is that Cyrus is well aware of these points- therefore his silence when the award was questioned by the press. Yet, he could not muster enough courage to refuse a controversial award. Obviously, it proved too tempting to spit out, and too big to swallow. The processes initiated by those who cannot see the award being doctored will surely help him cough it out with a nice thump on the rear. Meanwhile, happy poaching, Drona!

Wishing our readers a very Happy and colourful Diwali.



Editorial Board: Mahendra Agarwal / Bruno Goveas / Noreena / Khyati Naravane / Vidya Rao

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