



PROSQUASH

NEWS LETTER OF THE INDIAN SQUASH PROFESSIONALS

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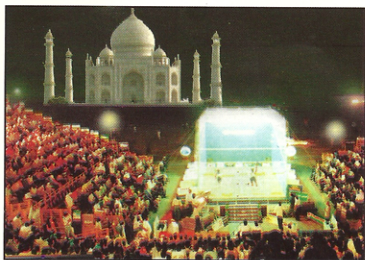
October 1997

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LOOK AT THIS PICTURE. Surprised?

Well it could happen in India if the right people do the right things. That's the way to sell the country and its image.

If they could get Yanni to perform near the Taj why not get a world class squash event as Egypt had their event near the famous pyramids?

The Mahindra Open gets hardly two to three hundred spectators in at the Brabourne. The Giza pyramids glass courts saw 1,500 people watching during the Al Ahram international.

We could see Jansher Khan make it to India only to be near the Taj and be part of history. Let's hope it happens one day. Just as the Indian Squash Professionals have a dream to produce an Indian Squash world beater. Let's have a tournament to beat all tournaments..

Commander K. S. Radhawa is the new president of the Squash Rackets Federation of India. The other office bearers are Vice presidents: Shiv Hazari (Karnataka), Secretary Gen.: N. Ramchandran (TN), Treasurer: Dr. Ravi Santoshan (TN), Joint Secretaries: Bhuvaneshwari Kumari (Delhi), Mahan Mashruwala (Maha), Srivatsan Subrameniam (TN), Executive members: K. J. Vohra (Chandigarh) & Binod Kankaria (Bengal)

BIKRAM UBEROI

Bikram Uberoi is going great guns this season. The 15-year old sensation from Mumbai won the under-16 title in the Hong Kong Open and finished third in the Milo Dunlop Malaysian Open, in August. On both occasions beat city mate Abhijit Kukreja 3-1 Uberoi has improved vastly after his coaching stint with Jansher's manager, Satinder Bajwa last year. This year Robert Edwards put him through his paces during a three week stint in Wales in June.

He is now being coached by Pakistani Rehmat Khan.

If Uberoi can keep his head on his shoulders, he will definitely go places. Uberoi, who sports a earning has a wide range of strokes but he needs guidance. In the last six months his game has picked up and he should be a force to reckon with in the Junior National in Delhi.



SQUASH PLAYERS UNITE

Not long after he won the Videocon Classic title, Uday Singh was seen in a different role, that of a motivator for players to unite and fight for their rights.

The common complaint was that the players got the rough end of the stick when it came to forwarding invitations, entries for tournaments abroad.

The players make the game so they should have a right to call the shots. The organisations, both at state level and national, had done precious little to broad base the game. Luckily there were private people like the ISP with a vision to take the game forward.

Subhash Wali supported the players' cause. He told of how at the international level players fought for the right to see the ranking were fair and that seedings were done with their consultation. He pleaded for a proper calendar and a fair procedure of selection.

So the players body was formed called the Indian Squash Players Association. One hopes there is no recrimination over this. We don't want squash to go the way Indian badminton went with Prakash forming a rival only to fuse with the main body. There's place for two in squash.

Mr. Narendra Gour has agreed to serve the ISP by becoming the Director from 1-9-97

VIDEOCON CLASSIC Bonanza for Uday Singh

Four lakh for a squash tournament. Strange but true. That was the Videocon Squash Classic in June at the Ottens Club's glassback courts. Playing before a packed house, Uday Singh beat Akhil Behl 9-4, 6-9, 9-3, 9-2 to win the Rs. 25,000 first prize.

Uday had the better strokes and dictated terms. Both ran well and covered the court with ease. What gave Uday the edge was his shots from back court which went low over the tin. Akhil couldn't return those and faded away after a rally practically for every point. Uday thought he prevailed because he attacked at crucial times. Rohan Bhappu had been unable to play in the Malaysian Juniors circuit event because of a mix-up with the entries, courtesy the SRFI. So he decided to come from Singapore and play here. It proved profitable for him for he won the under 19 title beating Gaurav Juneja 10-8, 7-9, 9-4, 9-7. Bhappu was angry with a few decisions of referee Parth Doshi but actually it didn't matter in the end. Bhappu had long reach and great stamina and his power play was awesome.

In the women's final, it was surprising to see Rhea Bhandare not moving out of the way as quickly as she should and conceding several strokes to opponent Mekhala Subedar to lose 9-3, 9-5, 9-0. Mekhala was richer by Rs. 15,000.

Chandrakant Pawar weathered the storm in the opening game over extra points and then had the measure of Gopi Mohite in the final, winning 10-8, 9-6, 9-6 the professionals event. The party was memorable at Sea Princess. Santosh More's dancing skills were evident. The chief guest, Revenue Minister Narayan Rane promised to extend government housing scheme and Shiv Chhatrapati Awards to the professionals.



At the prize distribution of the Videocon Classic (from left) Vijay Kumar Gautam, chief guest Narayan Rane, revenue minister, Mahendra Agarwal, Chandrakant Pawar, Jacob Mathews of Videocon, Mekhala Subedar and Uday Singh.

BODYSCAPE CORPORATE SQUASH CUP

Squash is inextricably linked with the corporate world. The reason could well be that squash is perceived as a high profile sport. Only the most privileged can play it as the courts can be found in the exclusive elitist clubs alone. At the same time the fact remains that about 10 minutes of squash should suffice for the top level decision makers to sweat out the previous evening's indulgence and stay fit and fresh the whole day. Squash thus easily fits into a busy schedule.

The Bodyscape Corporate Squash cup went a step further. Organised by the Maharashtra Squash Professionals in conjunction with Resort Hotel it at once provided the Chairmen, Managing Directors, Directors or Chief Executives of 40 companies in Mumbai an opportunity to test their skills as well as relax in the calm, balmy surroundings of Madh Island.

The corporate bosses responded by devoting an entire day to squash and thoroughly enjoying themselves even if they got a little winded in the process. The competition was both fierce and friendly. No quarter was given. At the same time a spirit of joie de vivre prevailed.

At the end Vaman Apte proved to be the big boss. The president of The Squash Racket Association of Maharashtra, Apte showed that he is a force to reckon with on the courts as well by emerging triumphant. Apte nearly fell at his first hurdle. In the one - game, 21 point American scoring system that decided each round he had to bring to bear all his skill and fighting qualities to squeeze past young Sanjay Goel of Juhu Centaur 21-18. All the better for the close encounter Apte virtually breezed through the subsequent rounds. He successively defeated P. Khurana of Preet International, 21-7, Bharat Shah of Aurico Textiles, 21-10, and Ashish Gupta of Winmark Trading, 21-8, in the last three rounds. Gupta could perhaps have given a better account of himself in the final had he been prudent enough to take a break between the quarter-final and the semi-final.

Such small details make as big a difference on the squash court as in the Corporate World. Apte earned two nights stay at the resort as reward for his labours while Gupta gains the privilege of ordering for two at The High tide restaurant. Most important of all, everyone had a sumptuous feast of squash.

THE RESULTS: BODYSCAPE CORPORATE SQUASH CUP quarter-finals: Bharat Shah (Aurico Textiles) beat Jay Shroff (United Phosphorous) 21-11, Ashish Bhagra (Jindal Group) beat Pradeep Heble (Jamina Trading) 21-16, Ashish Gupta (Winmark Trading) beat Atul Khatri (Kaytex International) 21-7.



At the Bodyscape Corporate prize distribution (from left) Brian Sobber, director Health Spa, Chandrakant Pawar, Ashish Gupta, Vaman Apte, Anuj Prakash, GM The Resort, Narendra Gaur, director ISP, and Mahendra Agarwal.

SHYAMLAL VERMA - A MODEL PRO

Watching Sunil Verma mould the lads at Jindal Squash Complex in Vashind brought memories of his uncle, the great professional of Indian squash, Shyamlal Verma.

Sunil shows the same dedication as his uncle and maybe he could turn out a better communicator than his uncle because of greater exposure to upper strata players at the complex. Coming back to Shyamlal, he won the national professional title a record 14 times. He learnt the game from watching the army officers of the British times at the College of Military Engineering, Pune. His observation was such that he could coach after a few years. A lot of Services players learnt from him right from Manchanda to the present Arjan Singh.

Shyamlal's battles with Yusuf Khan in the professionals final would be talked about and were a feature of the CCI championships of western India. Yusuf's superiority could never be challenged though he did give him a run for his money sometime, in the period between 1961 and 1969. Today until the ISP gave a boost to the professionals game, people hardly stay to watch professionals play. But in those days they would stay back especially to see the Yusuf vs Shyamlal battle. Verma had to clean pair of heels and fluid movements about court and though he had no education he conducted himself as a gentleman raising the image of professionals. Shyamlal still teaches at Dhampur Sugar Mills, (Uttar Pradesh). His sons have taken after him. Rajesh is a pro at Delhi Club. And Sunil is continuing the good work.



S. Verma with the pride of Services, national champ Arjan Singh.

Continental Contractors

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The participants at the Jindal inter club with K. Kumar vice-president Jindal Plant (standing eighth from right), Subhash Wali (standing seventh from right) and Ashish Bhagra, manager Jindal Strips (standing fifth from right).

PLENTY OF SQUASH, LOTS OF FUN.

The inaugural Jindal inter-club squash combined fun with fierce competition. For three days about 60 players from the 10 teams that took part were able to get away from the tensions and pressures of maddening Mumbai and breathe the fresh air and relax in the green surroundings of the Jindal Recreational Complex at Vasind, nearly 75 km, away from the city. The handicapping ensured that everyone had a fair chance. Organised by the Indian Squash Professionals and sponsored by Jindal Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. The tournament was an unqualified success as players had both plenty of squash and lots of fun. The first part was ensured by the fact that the teams were divided into two groups of five each and had to play a round robin on the first two days. The top two qualified for the semi-finals and the final which were gone through on the third day.

The fun element was provided by the presence of a swimming pool adjoining the squash courts and the fact that all the players were comfortably accommodated and well looked after at the Jindal rest house.

Sure, a few players were a bit unhappy that they had carry a rather heavy handicap. This was the price they had to pay for their excellence. At the same time those who took the handicap as a challenge succeeded in the end. Class, coupled with application, will always be a formidable combination. Otter Club B underlined the point when they rallied from a 0-2 deficit to overcome Jindal A, 3-2, in the semi-finals. The defeat sustained by their key players, Amit Pal Kohli and Gaurav Juneja, in the first two matches did not deter them one bit.

In the final, Otters B swept aside the surprise packet of the tournament, Navi Mumbai Sports Association, 3-0, even though both Kohli and Juneja carried handicaps that were progressively made stiffer after each game, they won in the best of five games affair.

For their admirable effort Otters B were rewarded with the winner's purse of Rs. 20,000 out of the Rs.51,000 that was at stake as prize money.

Navi Mumbai Sports Association gained Rs. 15,000 as the runner-up while Otters A who clinched the third place, took home Rs. 10,000.

It was a day to remember and cherish from Navi Mumbai because they were taking part in a competition for the first time.

For Inder Singh, Leon Emmanuel, Hari Shenava, Sandeep Mirani and Shyam Wadekar squash is a passion. They unfailingly turn up at every tournament in the city, big or small, and make mental notes of how the game is played then they go back and try out stroke and tactics employed by the leading lights. All of them belonged to when they call the "PLUS 100 CLUB". It is a reference to their weight. They began playing primarily to shed excess flab. Some lost 10kg. Others even more. More significant, they fell in love with the sport. They were nick-named as Sri Lankans of squash.

It is the love of the sport that promoted Mr. Sajjan Jindal, an avid squash player, and others in the Jindal Group like Mr. Kerkar, Aashish Bhagra, Sunil Verma to come forward and host a novel event. Judged by the fine response it bids fair to become an annual feature.

Meanwhile, the Jindal Group have thrown open their two squash courts at Vasind to players in the city. It is a fine gesture because those aspiring to make it find it hard to get sufficient court time in the clubs and gymnasiums of Mumbai.



CROSS TRAINING IS INVALUABLE, SAYS EVERGREEN Deepika

A tomboy from childhood, I was always into physical activity... and being surrounded by a lot of boy cousins it was always langdi (running with one leg), running races, chor police etc. My father was an avid squash player at the CCI and also ranked on the Indian circuit. This led me into taking up squash at the age of fourteen although I had been playing badminton, table tennis, swimming etc.

At school, ballet and gymnastics were also part of my curriculum at this time. I mention this only because the suppleness and leg strength I developed at this time still stands me in good stead.

Squash had me hooked within a year and with Yusuf Khan, the driving force and motivation, there was no looking back. In the next few years I won the Western India two or three times. During my college days I did not play a lot as I was doing my B.Sc after which I went to England to do Ph.D.

In 1974, the nationals were held in Mumbai and it coincided with my holiday at home and that was the year I won the Nationals.

In England, although I was requested to play on the University of Manchester team, I could not due to the research I had undertaken in biotechnology. After I completed my studies, I returned to India in 1976, got married in 1977 and played sporadically due to problem of membership. Then I had a daughter and moved to south Mumbai and got membership at CCI. Thereafter I have been regular at squash, entering all tournaments though unable to travel outside because of family commitments.

I have also been fascinated by martial arts. I studied judo at the age of 40 and acquired a blue belt but did not finish my black belt. Again, family responsibilities. The innumerable falls on the judo mat almost completely eliminated sprains and hurts on the squash courts. After a fall I just bounce up and play the next shot. Just shows how cross training in an invaluable aid for sport. For the aspiring youngsters, I can only say that there is no substitute for hard work and dedication and if you have to excel you have to discipline yourself for regular workouts everyday in spite of the heavy burden of studies imposed by schools these days.



Gaurav



Rohan

DOUBLE TROUBLE ON COURT

When the Juneja twins walk out on court you are in for double trouble. The Junejas have been making waves on the junior circuit. Recently, the unexpected happened when the two faced off in the inter-school (under-19) final. On that day, Rohan got the better of Gaurav. As proud dad Tony puts in "Rohan always plays better when he faces Gaurav."

Both the twins took to the game on the insistence of their father. At first both enjoyed playing tennis, but they soon forgot about tennis and pursued squash. They both started playing at the age of 12.

Gaurav at first did not like squash because of the excessive physical exercise involved in the sport. The father would take the boys regularly for jogging at the Joggers Park. Both boys often would cheat and skip their rounds. Gaurav began growing fond of the game when he reached a final.

Gaurav tasted success by winning the inter-school U-14 title.

Both of them have done pretty well in the Asian junior circuit Rohan reached the final of the Singapore Open and later won a bronze medal at the Milo Dunlop grand final in Malaysia.

Gaurav won the Singapore open (Under -16 title) and finished runner-up at the Malaysian grand final in June 96. A stint later with Bajwa did wonders for Gaurav's game. His game has improved by several notches after attending Rehmat's coaching.

The Juneja's are sharpening their mental skill at H. R. College. The Juneja's are also thankful to their sponsors Amit Mahtani of Lalchand Jewellers who have sponsored their trips abroad. For these two phenoms the sky is the limit.

WEST ZONE INTER-SCHOOL & JUNIOR COLLEGIATE SQUASH TOURNAMENT 14-9-97

BOYS U-12	KARAN SETHI (Bombay Scottish) BEAT RISHAB SINGHVI (Scottish) 9-2, 9-3, 9-0
BOYS U-14	SIDDHARTH SUCHDE (Cathedral) BEAT SAHIL VORA (Cathedral) 7-9, 9-7, 9-0
BOYS U-16	ABHJIT KUKREJA (H.R. Commerce) BEAT JUNAID NATHANI (Scottish) 9-0, 9-1, 9-5, 9-2
BOYS U-19	ROHAN JUNEJA (H.R. Commerce) BEAT GAURAV JUNEJA (H.R. Com.) 9-4, 0-9, 9-5, 9-2
GIRLS U-14	RHEA BHANDARI (Cathedral) BEAT SUPRIYA BALESEKAR (BIS) 9-3, 9-2, 9-5
GIRLS U-19	RHEA BHANDARI (Cathedral) BEAT DEEPA ANVEKAR (Mithiba) 4-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-4

UDAI WINS SINGAPORE TITLE 9-9-97

India's number two squash player Uday Singh won the Singapore national squash title beating the host country's top player Jin Ji Wei in a five-game thriller 9-7, 9-6, 5-9, 3-9, 9-3. According to the information received here, it was the first time foreigners were permitted to play in the national championship.

VIDEOCON SQUASH CLASSIC - JUNE

MENS:

UDAI SINGH BEAT AKHIL BEHL 9-4, 6-9, 9-3, 9-2

BOYS U-19

ROHAN BHAPPU BEAT GAURAV JUNEJA 10-8, 7-9, 9-4, 9-7

WOMENS:

MEKHALA SUBEDAR BEAT RHEA BHANDARI 9-3, 9-5, 9-0

PROFESSIONALS:

CHANDRAKANT PWAR BEAT GORI MOHITE 10-8, 9-6, 9-6

JINDAL'S HANDICAP SQUASH (TEAM EVENT) AUGUST

OTTERS "B" BEAT NAVI MUMBAI CLUB (1ST & 2ND PLACE) 3-0

OTTERS "A" BEAT JINDAL "A" (3RD & 4TH PLACE) 3-0

KINGFISHER DIET SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP SEPT.

BOYS UNDER-19

RITWIK BHATTACHARYA BEAT AWISH JAISWAL 9-3, 9-4, 9-2

BOYS UNDER-16

ABHJIT KUKREJA BEAT JUNAID NATHANI 9-0, 9-1, 9-1

Army Red retained the title in the Services squash championship ahead of runners-up Army Green and third placed Navy and Air Force who were placed fourth. The event was conducted by the IIS Angre.

The individual championship was clinched by Major Rajdeep Brar, who prevailed over Major R. Malik in a keenly contested final at the Dhanush integrated mess complex at Navy Nagar.

Brar, in his semi-final, had survived seven match points against supremely fit Lt. A. Kalia, while Malik used all his guile to outwit Capt. Narayan in five games.

Vice Admiral A.R. Tandon, the flag officer commanding - in - Chief Western Naval Command, who was the chief guest of the final, gave away the prizes.

NEWS NEWS NEWS

SERVICES SQUASH

PSA RANK AS ON 1-9-97

PLAYERS NAME	NEW RANK	PLAYERS NAME	NEW RANK
JAGDIP KARNI	1	DEL. HARRIS	8
RICHIE EYLES	2	BRETT MARTIN	9
PETER NICOL	3	ZUBAIR JAHAN	10
JOHANN POKOR	4	ARJAN SINGH	11
SIMON PARKIE	5	DAVE MALANI	103
JAMES BARRICK	6	AKSH. DEHL	117
CHRO. WILKINER	7		

National runner-up Mekhla Subedar improved from 124th place to 97th in the rankings.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. ITALIAN CIRCUIT-97-No.4 1-6-97	14-15, 10-15, 15-7, 15-3, 15-9
JOHN WHITE BEAT TIM TOWNSEND	
2. ITALIAN CIRCUIT-97-No.3 28-3-97	15-12, 13-15, 15-12, 9-15, 15-13
BILLY HADDOELL BEAT JOHN WHITE	
3. ITALIAN CIRCUIT-97-No.2 22-3-97	8-15, 15-9, 15-1, 15-11
HADRON STEY BEAT MARCUS BERRETT	
4. ITALIAN CIRCUIT-97-No.1 15-3-97	17-14, 15-12, 12-15, 15-11
JOHN WHITE BEAT AMAD KHAN	
5. MANTA MUGLE INTERNATIONAL (19TH AUSTRALIA 25-3-97)	17, 15-10, 15-6, 15-6, 15-7
JOHN WHITE BEAT STEWART BOSWELL	
6. LUXEMBOURG OPEN 97 8-4-97	9-4, 9-1, 9-1
OMAR ELBORLOUSY BEAT MARTIN HEATH	
7. AL. ARHAM INTERNATIONAL-97 17-4-97	12-15, 15-14, 15-12, 15-11
PETER NICOL BEAT JANSHER KHAN	
8. OPEN CROADE LISBOA -97 (PORTUGAL) 15-4-97	3-1
NATHAN PUGAN BEAT ADAM TILES	
9. INDIAN SQUASH OPEN 97 (GERMANY) 29-4-97	15-5, 15-6, 15-9
PETER MARSHALL BEAT MARK VICOTTI	
10. WESTERN AUSTRALIA OPEN 97 15-6-97	8-15, 15-9, 15-11, 15-13
PAUL PRICE BEAT STEWART BOSWELL	
11. SERRAVALLO CUP JAPAN OPEN 97 29-6-97	9-4, 9-1, 9-1
STEWART BOSWELL BEAT MATTHEW BENJAMIN	

BOYS UNDER-14

SIDDHARTH SUCHDE BEAT AULOK MATHUR 9-4, 9-7, 10-9

BOYS UNDER-12

KARANPAL SETHI BEAT VISHAL JHANGRA 9-0, 9-2, 9-0

CLASSIC:

AKHIL BEHL BEAT PAUL FERREIRA 9-6, 4-9, 9-3, 9-2

MENS:

RAJ ARORA BEAT JANAK MADHAVDAS 9-2, 9-2, 9-5

MASTERS (OVER 35)

VAMAN APTE BEAT ANANT MORE 9-3, 9-0, 9-5

WOMENS:

AISHA SHAH BEAT KARISHMA JUNEJA 9-1, 9-4, 1-9, 9-3

LITTLE MASTERS SQUASH TOURNAMENT OCTOBER

GIRLS U-19

RHEA BHANDARI BEAT DEEPA ANVEKAR 9-0, 9-4, 9-3, 9-7

BOYS U-19

RITWIK BHATTACHARYA BEAT AWISH JAISWAL 9-3, 7-9, 9-3, 9-5

BOYS U-12

K. SETHI BEAT R. SINGHVI 9-5, 9-1, 9-5

BOYS U-14

S. SUCHDE BEAT M. SETHI 9-6, 9-1, 9-5

BOYS U-16

JUNAID NATHANI BEAT S. SUCHDE 9-3, 9-3, 10-8

CENTRAL INDIA SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 4-10-97

MENS:

ARJAN SINGH BEAT MAJOR R. BRAR 9-0, 9-4, 9-1

BOYS U-19

ROHAN JUNEJA BEAT GAURAV JUNEJA 9-10, 10-9, 3-9, 4-9, 9-2

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TO OUR READERS

How did you find Pro-Squash? Send your views to the ISP and please send us the name & address of squash players known to you, who are not getting our Squash News Letter to spread the awareness of this game in India.

