

PROSQUASH

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ISP - THE MULTI FACETED SPORTING NGO



Indian Squash Professionals felicitating Vikram Malhotra

By Pradeep Vijayakar

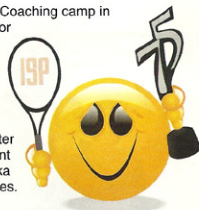
Indian Squash Professionals prides itself on being a unique NGO in sports. While the regular elected federations may or may not do their jobs to the best of their ability and to the satisfaction of the entire fraternity, ISP has always believed in thinking out of the box to help boost squash. That explains how and why the ISP's activities have been so varied. From adopting players, organizing coaching camps, having celebrities involved in the sport as well as bringing new technology for coaching and tournament organisation.

Above all it has made the

humble men at the grassroots, the professionals, the hub of squash activity which has multiplied the interest in the sport over the last decade. Squash in Maharashtra state has never been the same since ISP came on the scene, its pre-eminence being amply proved by the number of tournaments it has staged—a round 75 by February making it a platinum jubilee to remember.

ISP prided itself on its camps, the first being Monarch's first free Coaching camp in 1993, followed by those of Jindal, squash legend Rahmat Khan (for Professionals and women), besides periodic ones by Canada-based Abdul Shaikh at Bombay Gymkhana in 1997, CCI in 1999, Khar Gymkhana in 2003 etc. Camps followed at the Andheri Sports Complex and of late in housing societies and several other clubs.

Squash is a costly sport so ISP began adopting players, looking after their coaching and kitting expenses, and for tournament participation. Arif Paul (1996), Deepali Anvekar (1997), Priyanka Yadav (1999) and Abhishek Pradhan (2003) were the beneficiaries. Amongst others who were sponsored was Sandeep Jhangra.



Contd....2



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Launching of Prosquash Magazine

In order to reach out to fans across the world, ISP launched PROSQUASH, India's leading squash newsletter in December 1996. News from other states began to be highlighted for the first time in Mumbai. The first Indian squash website (www.ispsquash.com) followed in November 1999. It maintains its status as the most popular website in India. Jahangir Khan's cousin and coach Rahmat Khan had made Mumbai his home for a while and ISP got him into the mainstream of the city's squash circuit. The biggest achievement of the ISP was teaming up with the state body SRAM to get squash recognized by the government of Maharashtra. It happened on June 1, 2000.

Squash in Mumbai went hi-tech with a Booster Machine being imported by ISP in 2003.



Indian Squash Professionals felicitating Joshna Chinappa

In 1998 golden pros, Shyamal Verma (14 times national pro champ) and Chandrakant Pawar (9 times pro champ) were given Lifetime Achievement Awards.

National winners Akhil Behl and Vikram Malhotra were felicitated. ISP networked with Herald Maritime to have the biggest prize money event ever in India at Mumbai for which squash greats Jahangir Khan and Jansher Khan came and interacted with the Indian juniors.

As the number of tournaments grew newer clubs began making the scene. There was revival at Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana while the handicap league kept getting better and schools and junior college tournaments began attracting players from outside Mumbai.

The ISP's 75th event at The Club and Juhu Gymkhana will be the icing on the cake!

ISP ISD PLATINUM JUBILEE

All India Squash Carnival 2007
from 26th to 31st January 2007

Singles and Doubles Event
Venue : Juhu Gymkhana and The Club
Deadline for entry : 16th January 2007, 5pm

Category	Winner	Runners Up	Semifinalists	
Boys / Girls U-7	Gift	Gift	Gift	Gift
Boys / Girls U-9	Gift	Gift	Gift	Gift
Mens Over 60	Gift	Gift	Gift	Gift
Boys U-11	4000	2000	1000	1000
Girls U-11	4000	2000	1000	1000
Boys U-13	7500	4000	1500	1500
Girls U-15	7500	4000	1500	1500
Boys U-15	10000	5000	2000	2000
Mens Over 55	10000	5000	2000	2000
Boys U-17	12000	6000	2500	2500
Mens Over 35	12000	6000	2500	2500
Mens Over 45	12000	6000	2500	2500
Doubles Open	12000	6000	2500	2500
Doubles Handicap	12000	6000	2500	2500
Professionals	12000	6000	2500	2500
Boys U-19	20000	10000	5000	5000
Womens Open	50000	25000	7500	7500
Mens Open	1,00,000	50,000	20,000	20,000

All India School College Championship finds a new host



At the prize distribution function winners along with the office bearers of JVPG Club and Indian Squash Professionals.

The most popular Squash event for Juniors in Mumbai—the All India School College Championship moved to Juhu Vile Parle Gymkhana this year from Khar Gymkhana. The preparation time for ISP for organizing the event and the manpower available was limited, so the scale of the event was smaller than earlier. Following the event, a new design of draws which is extremely easy to read, and a panel of members for the seeding has been evolved. In the Entry Forms for subsequent ISP events, a place for comments about the player entering has been created, in addition to space for making suggestions.

Raghav Mehrotra, now a National Runner-up (Boys U-11) won another title in perhaps the toughest Final of the tournament, beating Arjun Kochhar in five games, with a deuce in the climax to add to the suspense!

Karm Kumar overcame an initial scare from Adit Zaveri to lift the Under-15 title. Exhausted from a series of tournaments in Delhi prior to this one, travelling, and playing two categories in all tournaments meant that Karm had to put in a superhuman effort which he did. Here too, the last game went down to the wire, with a deuce going to a total of 8 enthralling points.

Saumya Karki is the lady to beat in the Girls Under-15 category. Owing to her title win, and more significantly her climb from 3rd place not long back to the top position, she won the Raju Chainani Most Promising Player Award this time. For those new to Squash or this magazine, Raju Chainani was the World's leading Squash reporter, known and respected by all in the world of Squash. He

toiled tirelessly for promoting and encouraging Squash and its players the world over. His articles came straight from his heart—a heart that beat only for Squash. Clearly an inspiration for many, he died a tragic, untimely death in 2001, but will always be cherished in our memory.

RESULTS

Boys U-11:

Raghav Mehrotra bt Arjun Kochhar 10-12, 11-9, 11-9, 5-11, 11-10

Boys U-13:

Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Caran Arora 11-5, 9-11, 11-5, 11-9.

Boys U-15:

Karm Kumar bt Adit Zaveri 7-11, 11-2, 11-6, 11-10 (5-3).

Boys U-17:

Vikram Malhotra bt Laxman Joshi 11-3, 11-5, 11-9.

Boys U-19:

Sandeep Jangra bt Vikram Malhotra 11-4, 11-8, 11-9.

Girls U-15:

Saumya Karki bt Sachika Balwani 11-5, 12-10, 7-11, 11-9

Girls U-19:

Shivangi Paranjpe bt Saumya Karki 11-5, 11-6, 11-1.

Boys & Girls U-9:

Rajat Agarwal bt Sandeep Paswan 3-0



Mahesh Mangaonkar (Winner Boys Under 13) receiving the trophy and gift from Harsh Toteja (Chairman Squash Committee, JVPG)

MAHARASHTRA STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

(10/11/2006)

Nandrajog, Mandy Kennedy tops



All winners of Maharashtra State Open Squash Championship 2006

Top seed Gaurav Nandrajog and Mandy Kennedy of England fashioned contrasting victories to clinch the Men's and Women's titles respectively, in the 31st HSBC-Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Open Squash Championship, co-sponsored by Westside and Lee, at the Bombay Gymkhana. Nandrajog ignored the loss of the opening two games to rally to a thrilling 2-9, 7-9, 10-8, 9-0, 9-2 win over Harinderpal Singh in a final that lasted an hour and 11 minutes.

After trailing 0-2, Nandrajog was on the verge of crashing to his second consecutive defeat to Harinderpal, following the previous week's semi-final loss at the CCI-Western India Open. Nandrajog squandered a 2-7 lead in the second game of a two game lead to allow his talented opponent to rest on a comfortable cushion. Nandrajog then put behind the set back to race to a 7-2 lead in the third.

Harinderpal again threatened to take the game and match after storming back to level at 8-8 and force the game into extra points. Nandrajog's powerful strokes though proved decisive and kept his hopes alive. Harinderpal surprisingly threw away the crucial fourth in a bid to reserve his best for the last. But Nandrajog used his experience to surge to a comfortable 7-2 lead in the decider before sealing the game and match with his immense relief.

Mandy Kennedy overcame Shivangi Paranjpe of Maharashtra 7-9, 9-4, 9-6, 9-4 for her second title in Mumbai, following her win over Shivangi in the Otters Open.

Vikram Malhotra was denied a double after bagging the Boys' Under-17 title and losing out in the Boys' Under-19 final. Malhotra beat Cyril Kuhn 3-0 in the Under-17 final, before going

down 1-3 to arch-rival Sandeep Jangra in the Under-19 final. Ankit Sharma added her second successive title following an impressive 6-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-4, 9-1 victory over Soumya Karki in the girls' Under-15 final, after ending a two-year drought with the CCI-Western India Open crown.

RESULTS

Men's Open: Gaurav Nandrajog bt Harinderpal Singh 2-9, 7-9, 10-8, 9-0, 9-2.

Women: Mandy Kennedy (Eng) bt Shivangi Paranjpe (Mah) 7-9, 9-4, 9-6, 9-4.

Boys U-19: Sandeep Jangra (Mah) bt Vikram Malhotra (Mah) 9-1, 9-7, 7-9, 9-4.

Boys U-17: Vikram Malhotra (Mah) bt Cyril Kuhn 9-0, 9-2, 9-2.

Boys U-15: Aadit Zaveri (Mah) bt Abhishek Pradhan (Mah) 9-0, 9-3, 9-0.

Boys U-13: Mahesh Mangaonkar (Mah) bt Shashi Pandey (Jindal) 9-3, 9-1, 9-2.

Boys U-11: Raghav Mehrotra (Mah) bt Yohan Pandole (Mah) 9-3, 9-7, 9-5.

Girls U-19: Shivangi Paranjpe (Mah) bt Madhura Pranajpe (Mah) 9-1, 9-1, 9-1.

Girls U-17: Shaheda Madraswala (Mah) bt Namrata Purohit (Mah) 9-1, 9-7, 9-5.

Girls U-15: Anikita Sharma (Mah) bt Soumya Karki (Mah) 6-9, 5-9, 9-6, 9-4, 9-1.

Girls U-13: Soumya Karki (Jindal) bt Sachika Balvani (Mah) 9-5, 9-2, 9-6, 10-9.

U-9: Rajat Agarwal (Mah) bt Sandeep Paswan (Jindal) 9-6, 9-2, 9-3.

Over-35: Manish Chotrani (Mah) bt Jehangir Surti (Mah) 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

Over-45: Chandrakanti Pawar (Mah) bt Anant More (Mah) 9-4, 9-5, 4-9, 10-8.

Over-55: Kishanlal Passi (Mah) bt Hareesh Malwani (Mah) 9-6, 9-1, 9-4.

Professionals: Dalip Tripathi (W.B.) bt Mahesh Verma (Mah) 9-1, 9-2, 9-1.



Gaurav Nandrajog and Mandy Kennedy winners of Mens and Womens at Maharashtra State Open 2006

WESTERN INDIA SQUASH OPEN 2006

(04/11/2006)

Ritwik, Joshna retain CCI-Western India titles



Ritwik Bhattacharya



Joshna Chinappa



Raghav Mehrotra

Mangaonkar too won in contrasting styles in Under-13 and Under-15. He eased to a 9-3, 9-2, 9-3 victory over CCI's Caran Arora in the Under-13 final, and later overcame a dour Aadit Zaveri 9-4, 2-9, 9-2, 9-4 in an exciting Under-15 championship round.

Ankita Sharma ended a prolonged title drought when she bagged the Girls Under-15 title with an impressive 9-7, 9-3, 7-9, 9-5 win over Sachika Balwani.

CCI Western India Open, India's oldest Squash tournament saw the entire galaxy of Squash stars India has. Ritwik Bhattacharya, Gaurav Nandrajog, Vikas Jhangra, Manish Chotrani, Harinder Pal Singh, Rishad Pandole, Supreet Singh, and Sandeep Jhangra comprised the top eight contenders for the Men's title.

Top seeds Ritwik Bhattacharya and Joshna Chinappa retained the Men's and Women's Open titles.

Bhattacharya, the highest ever ranking Indian in the world at number 38, taught Harinderpal Singh some lessons with a convincing 9-5, 9-1, 9-5 victory in the Men's final that lasted one hour.

The young player from playing his second Men's final after the title win at Olters Open recently, ignored his much fancied opponent's reputation with a good start as he raced to a 5-1 lead in the opening game. But, Ritwik warmed up to level at 5-all and never looked back since.

Ritwik earned Rs 75,000 for his effort, while Harinderpal pocketed Rs 40,000.

In the Women's final, favourite Joshna Chinappa denied Shivangi Paranjpe a double after fashioning a 9-3, 9-3, 9-0 win and earned a cheque of Rs 25,000.

Among the juniors, Vikram Malhotra and Mahesh Mangaonkar of Mumbai enjoyed a rewarding day when they helped themselves to deserving double crowns

Malhotra of HR College and Olters Club won the Boys U -19 and U-17 titles in contrasting fashion. He enjoyed an easy tie while beating Cyril Kuhn 9-5, 9-1, 9-5 in the Under-17 final, but had to endure dogged resistance from the formidable Sandeep Jangra before escaping to a thrilling 10-8, 4-9, 10-9, 5-9, 9-0 victory in the U-19 final.

Shivangi Paranjpe denied Balwani any title in the Girls Under-19 final with a 9-2, 9-1, 9-4 win. Rajat Agarwal scored his title hat-trick, beating Sandeep Paswan in three straight games.



Shivangi Paranjpe



Ankita Sharma

RESULTS

Men's Open: Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Harinderpal Singh 9-5, 9-1, 9-5.

Women: Joshna Chinappa bt Shivangi Paranjpe 9-3, 9-3, 9-0.

Boys U-19: Vikram Malhotra bt Sandeep Jangra 10-8, 4-9, 10-9, 5-9, 9-0.

Boys U-17: Vikram Malhotra bt Cyril Kuhn 9-5, 9-1, 9-5.

Boys U-15: Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Aadit Zaveri 9-4, 2-9, 9-2, 9-4.

Boys U-13: Mahesh Mangaonkar bt Caran Arora 9-3, 9-2, 9-3.

Boys U-11: Raghav Mehrotra bt Kunj Rawani 9-4, 9-5, 9-6.

Girls U-19: Shivangi Paranjpe bt Sachika Balwani 9-2, 9-1, 9-4.

Girls U-15: Ankita Sharma bt Sachika Balwani 9-7, 9-3, 7-9, 9-5.

Prof: Sanjay Pawar bt Sachin Jadhav 9-1, 9-0, 9-4.

Boys & Girls U-9: Rajat Agarwal bt Sandeep Paswan 9-3 9-29-0



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SUB-JUNIOR / JUNIOR NATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

(28/10/2006)



Winners along with their trophies at the prize distribution ceremony of Sub-Junior / Junior National Squash Championship at Kolkatta

The Junior Nationals moved from Chennai to Kolkata this time, but was not much different in terms of being held at a boring city with not much to do in one's spare time. Spare time was available a plenty, since the entire think-tank of the organizers present couldn't put their heads together and figure out that because a lot of effort and money is invested by participants in traveling to distant cities, it is a good idea to organize Plate events. We guess that the effort it entails is a deterrent, and of course Plate events would lead to determination of the Top-8 ranks in various age groups and that may not be desirable for the pro-ambiguity organizers! With only the girls seeing winners from Tamil Nadu except imported players, Parth Sharma was the winner of the tournament. A shining example of what hard work can achieve, he rose from Quarter-final levels to win the Junior Title in just a few months.

RESULTS

- BOYS U-11** : Kush Kumar (ND) beat Raghav Mehrotra (MAH) 9-4 9-1 9-0
BOYS U-13 : Mahesh Mangaonkar (MAH) beat Karan Thariamal (RAJ) 9-6 10-8 9-3
BOYS U-15 : Ravi Dixit (TN) beat Aditya Jagtap (MAH) 9-7 9-1 9-0
BOYS U-17 : Vikram Malhotra (MAH) beat Sujat Barua (TN) 9-0 9-0 9-2
BOYS U-19 : Parth Sharma (TN) beat Naresh Kumar (TN) 9-3 9-5 9-3
GIRLS U-11 : Lakshya Ragavendran (TN) beat Likhitta Dugar (TN) 9-5 9-0 9-5
GIRLS U-13 : Saumya Karki (MAH) beat Anaka Alankamony (TN) 10-8 1-9 10-8 9-6
GIRLS U-15 : Harita Om Prakash (TN) beat Dheeya Somaya (MP) 9-3 9-2 9-3

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JUNIOR INTER STATE SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2006

(01/11/2006)

RESULTS

- BOYS U-11** : Kush Kumar (ND) beat Raghav Mehrotra (MAH) 9-4 9-1 9-0
BOYS U-13 : Mahesh Mangaonkar (MAH) beat Karan Thariamal (RAJ) 9-6 10-8 9-3
BOYS U-15 : Ravi Dixit (TN) beat Aditya Jagtap (MAH) 9-7 9-1 9-0
BOYS U-17 : Vikram Malhotra (MAH) beat Sujat Barua (TN) 9-0 9-0 9-2
BOYS U-19 : Parth Sharma (TN) beat Naresh Kumar (TN) 9-3 9-5 9-3
GIRLS U-11 : Lakshya Ragavendran (TN) beat Likhitta Dugar (TN) 9-5 9-0 9-5
GIRLS U-13 : Saumya Karki (MAH) beat Anaka Alankamony (TN) 10-8 1-9 10-3 9-6
GIRLS U-15 : Harita Om Prakash (TN) beat Dheeya Somaya (MP) 9-3 9-2 9-3

INTERVIEW WITH ABHISHEK PRADHAN

Abhishek Pradhan is an ex-National Champion (Boys U-13). His battles with Mahesh Mangaonkar (another National Champion) are a regular feature at almost all tournaments in Mumbai. Here is what Abhishek shared with Prosquash.



Prosquash - What do you think about Squash game?

Abhishek- Squash is a very fast game & requires a lot of strength to be used in this game

Prosquash-How do you manage your studies?

Abhishek- I fix a timetable for the weekdays and manage to play squash 2-3 hrs in a day.

Prosquash - Which was the most important tournament you won and where?

Abhishek- I won the National Championship at Chennai last year.

Prosquash-What is your aim?

Abhishek- To win the British open.

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PRANAY MERCHANT - A LIT FIRECRACKER

Pranay Merchant

Pranay Merchant, a student of Bombay International is a cheerful enthusiastic boy who has the talent to make it big in Squash. He has progressed by working on his own by and large, and is knocking on the door of the Maharashtra Top-4 team (Under-15). Prosquash had a chat with him.

Prosquash- What are your achievements so far?

Pranay- I have won the CCI handicap Championship. I was Runner-up at The Club-ISP tournament in February this year in Under-15, losing to top seed Akash Borkar who I beat recently at the Indiabulls CCI Western India Open, reaching the Semi-Final. I lost in the Semi-final to Mahesh Mangaonkar.

Prosquash- When did you start playing squash?

Pranay- I started about 3 years back on my own at CCI. I trained for a month with A.I.Singh and for 1 year with Amar Haksar at the CCI Academy.

Prosquash- What are your other interests?

Pranay- Football and music.

AADIT ZAVERI- THE TITLE HUNT BEGINS

Aadit Zaveri is Maharashtra's Boys Under-15 top ranked player. He has recently won his first major title- the HSBC Maharashtra Open Boys Under-15 title. He has won the Rajiv Gandhi Mini Olympic Title in the same age group earlier. He was Runner Up at the SKF Wellington Little Masters and Indiabulls CCI Western India Open. Prosquash's A.I.Singh chased down the elusive and unassuming Aadit for a long pending interview.



Aadit Zaveri

A.I.- Finally, after months of trying, I have the interview pending for so long. Tell us about how you started playing squash?

Aadit- I started playing at age 10 at Bombay Gymkhana. I

saw others playing and loved the game so much that the decision to play was made instantly.

A.I.- That's love at first sight, and this is indeed a beautiful game! How did you then go about learning the finer points?

Aadit- I started with the excellent markers at Bombay Gymkhana, then coached under Brig. Raj Manchanda. I reached the Finals of Under-11 in 2001, and lost to Ramit Tandon. I then joined the CCI Academy with you, and after that with Amar Haksar. Now I'm on my own.

A.I.- You come from a sporting family, isn't it?

Aadit- My Father (Shrenik) is an ex National Champion in Butterfly stroke swimming. Dad's Sister- Falguni Mehta was a National Table Tennis Champ.

A.I.- How would you assess your game?

Aadit- I need to work on my backhand strokes. I've improved on my pace- I can play a fast game comfortably. My Drop shots have improved.

A.I.- What's your goal?

Aadit- To win a National title soon, and carry on from there.

A.I.- What are your other interests?

Aadit- Playing the Guitar, listening to music and Basketball.

SANTOSH KHARAT- UPCOMING COACH

Santosh Kharat is a squash coach based at United Services Club, Navy Nagar, Mumbai. Some of the players he is coaching are Mrenal Dutt, Kabir and Trilok Sadarngani. Trilok was a consistent semi-finalist in the Under-9 age group in recent tournaments.



Santosh Kharat

Santosh started playing squash in 2000 at IMSC, Navy Nagar when he took up an opening there for the position of Squash Marker. Prior to 2000, Santosh was assisting the Tennis coach at IMSC. The break he got



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as squash marker help him turn into a full-time pro, and he practised very hard at becoming a better player and earned the respect of the members at IMSC.

In 2003, Santosh joined United Services Club as Squash Professionals. Over the years he has bettered his game due to his dedication and discipline. In 2005, he was appointed Squash Coach and regularly trains players in the Under-15 category.

Santosh is a regular on the professional circuit in Bombay & regularly participates in tournaments. He has consistently reached the pre-quarterfinals in the CCI and Bombay Gym tournaments since 2004. He hopes to do even better next year and is practicing hard towards that goal, in addition to developing players.

SHAIKH AJAZ FAIZ MOHAMMAD

Ajaz is the Senior Squash Pro at the prestigious The Club, Andheri (W), Mumbai. He is from a well known squash family- his Father Mr. Faiz Mohammad was India No. 2, and Brother Riaz Mohammad is a well known coach. Here is an interview of Ajaz with Prosquash-

Prosquash- When and where did you start playing Squash?

Ajaz-I started playing squash in the year 1995 at Willingdon Catholic Gym.

Prosquash- When and where did you start coaching?

Ajaz-I started coaching at IMSC, Navy Nagar in the year 1997. I've worked as the Squash Coach at Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana as well for 3 years.



Ajaz Mohammed

Prosquash- Tell us about the players whom you coach, or have coached earlier?

Ajaz-The players from Willingdon Catholic Gym are Jonathan Joshi, Mr. and Mrs. Anurag Gill, Bipin Batra, Karan Batra, Rajeev Batra, and the players from The Club are Samved Pradhan, Sharan Mooltani, Soham Shankaran (Juniors) and Deboshish Das, Rohit Goti, Minmoy Mukherjee, Ram Iyer, Ashutosh Shrivastav Anurag.T. Apoorva Choudhary (Seniors) amongst others.

Aditya Grover lost in Semi-final, Under - 19 in the tournament that was held in The Club.

Prosquash- What about your qualifications and playing experience?

Ajaz-I've attended a camp organized by Rehmat Khan. I've played several tournaments-Viz. King Fisher, Hong Kong Open, Videocon Classic, Dewan Housing & Western Indian Open and Nationals.

Prosquash- Do you have any other interests besides squash?

Ajaz-Cricket!

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JAHANGIR KHAN RE-ELECTED AS WSF PRESIDENT

12/10/2006



Jahangir Khan with Susie Simcock and other WSF Officials

Khan dominated the sport two decades ago when he won a record ten British Open titles and established an unprecedented unbeaten record for more than five years. The squash icon from Pakistan, who was first elected President in 2002 following four years as a Vice President, will serve a further two-year term.

"It's truly an honour to continue to serve World Squash in this way," said Khan after his unanimous election at the Cape Town International Convention Centre.

"You are like my family, your support is tremendous and I really look forward to working with you over the next two years in continuing to promote our sport around the world," Khan told WSF member nation delegates.

WSF Emeritus President Susie Simcock said: "After a career in which he became probably the greatest player the sport has ever seen, Jahangir has moved seamlessly into the position of guiding the sport's future with the WSF".

"He is now an outstanding President of the Federation and has played a major role in strengthening our association with the IOC. It is excellent news for Squash that he has been so overwhelmingly reinstated as our President."

60 delegates, representing 35 member nations from the five regions of the WSF, attended the three-day Conference and AGM in South Africa, held in Cape Town on the eve of the World Masters Squash Championships in the city.

Joyce Buckley retired after serving a full six-year term as Vice President.

The former President of the European Squash Federation from Ireland was honoured with a special WSF award for 'outstanding contribution to World Squash', presented by President Jahangir Khan.

In the biennial elections for the additional officers to serve with Jahangir Khan, Heather Deayton (Hong Kong), Gerard DeCourcy (New Zealand) and Frank van Loon (Netherlands, right) were elected as Vice Presidents of the WSF.

A further WSF award was presented to YAM Tunku Tan-Sri Imran ibni Tunku Jaafar, a former WSF President who is now the Federation's Patron.

HRH Prince Tunku Imran, who is President of the Olympic Council of Malaysia, was recently elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee. Retiring Vice President Sani Karim, from Malaysia, received the WSF award from Jahangir Khan on behalf of Prince Imran.

In bids for future world championships, Egypt was awarded the 2008 World Women's Team Championships, while India was given the rights to host the 2008 World Doubles Championships.

The Strategic Plan for Squash 2006/2009, a major WSF initiative presented to the delegates, was discussed and approved at the AGM.

In addition to a number of presentations made at the Federation's pre-AGM Conference the theme of which was "Raising Squash's Profile" - was a WSF presentation and workshop on the 'Re-launch Of The WSF World Championships'.

Source : <http://www.squashsite.co.uk>

WHEEL CHAIR SQUASH

The old adage is don't play squash to get fit, you have to be fit to play squash. But, as Jos Aarts reports from Amsterdam, squash is a game for everyone ...

Frans Otten Stadium in Amsterdam has hosted many squash events, including the European Team Championships, the Women's World Team Championships, as well as major events in many other sports.



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Human spirit triumphs as squash is played on wheel chairs

It recently hosted the NEC Wheelchair Masters, during which Marc Veldkamp organised a tryout wheelchair squash match between Robin Ammerlaan, world wheelchair champion tennis, and Maikel Scheffers, the current world number 8 in that event.

Veldkamp, a former national team player in squash, is also the promoter of the Dutch Open Racketlon this coming December (www.racket4s.com) in Rotterdam. He found out that there are absolutely no rules to be found about wheelchair squash. In fact, despite an intense search on the web he found nothing on the subject of wheelchair squash apart from two pictures of people just hitting a squash ball in a wheelchair. Nothing else.

So, because Veldkamp wants to add wheelchair Racketlon to his event he contacted Robin Ammerlaan.

Ammerlaan, together with his compatriot Maikel Scheffers, was immediately interested in helping out. After a brief instruction about the rules and tactics of squash they sent Veldkamp off the court and they played probably the first wheelchair squash match in history.

Because of their own high standard in tennis it was almost unbelievably good squash. Soon the gallery was filled with interested people to watch the unusual match. And they enjoyed it as much as the players. It was amazing to see how fast both players were in manoeuvring their chairs. From T to backcourt and back to the T as if they had played squash all their lives. And neither had ever held a squash racket before!

Oh, and for the records Ammerlaan beat Scheffers 3/1. And only four let situations in those four games!

Both players will enter the Dutch Open Racketlon in December and they also agreed to play an exhibition wheelchair squash match between the ladies and men's finals at the national championships in February. On the same centre court, so definitely something to look forward to!

Source : <http://www.squashsite.co.uk>

I WANT TO DIE ON THE SQUASH COURTS

If one wants to learn how to live life to the fullest there's no better teacher than Malu Divecha. The 78-year-old has been religiously playing squash for 40 years now.



Malu Divecha

Despite her doctor and her physician asking her to give it up due to the sheer intensity of the game, Divecha is present on the Wellington Club courts every morning at 7.30.

"I have no heart problems or any other physical problems then why should I give it up? Yes, I do have arthritis but that's definitely not because of squash," says Divecha - Daddy's girl.

Divecha says it was her father, the late Dr M Venkatrao, who instilled in her the importance of exercise from a very early age.

"He used to say, 'You should not forget to exercise the same way you do not forget to eat food!'"

Divecha took up squash, as not many badminton courts were available when she started out. And it's been no looking back since then.

"I just love the game. It kind of gives you a high. But, I play a very simple game with the marker due to my age," adds Divecha, who has been featured by Usha Puri in her book, *12 Cosmic Laws* simply for enjoying life with endless zest.

Take it easy

Besides squash, Divecha swims every alternate day depending on the weather, practices yoga and pranayam, attends meditation camps, runs pottery classes and has a successful catering business.

Divecha has never played professional squash and has only participated in inter-club tournaments. However, she is pretty aware of how the sport is faring in the country.

"More and more children are taking to squash today and why not it's a beautiful game. However, the kids should not get carried away as it is a taxing game."

Signing off

Divecha's parting shot too spells the passion she has for the game. "I want to die on the squash court. I can't ask for a better death," says Divecha.

Source : *Mid-day* (16/12/2006)

FROM THE COLLECTION OF LATE MR. RAJU CHAINANI



MENS RANKING DECEMBER 2006

POS	LAST POS	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	[1]	Amr Shabana	Egy
2	[2]	David Palmer	Aus
3	[3]	Thierry Lincou	Fra
4	[5]	Gregory Gaultier	Fra
5	[7]	Nick Matthew	Eng

WOMENS RANKING DECEMBER 2006

POS	LAST POS	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	[1]	Nicol David	Mas
2	[3]	Rachael Grinham	Aus
3	[2]	Vanessa Atkinson	Ned
4	[4]	Natalie Grinham	Aus
5	[6]	Tania Bailey	Eng

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

05/12/2006 : Women's Monte Carlo Classic

Natalie Grinham bt Vanessa Atkinson 9-2 9-6 9-2

05/12/2006: Irish Junior Open Squash Championships, Ireland

Men's U19 : Alex Ingham (ENG) bt Rory Byrne (IRL) 9-1 9-6 9-7
Women's U19 : Victoria Bell (ENG) bt Kirsty West (ENG) 9-2 9-7, 9-1

30/11/2006 : Merritt Properties Baltimore Squash Open, USA

John White (SCO) bt Laurens Jan Anjema (NED) 10-11 11-10 7-11, 11-5, 11-5

05/12/2006 : Women's Monte Carlo Classic

Natalie Grinham bt Vanessa Atkinson 9-2 9-6 9-2

05/12/2006: Irish Junior Open Squash Championships, Ireland

Men's U19 : Alex Ingham (ENG) bt Rory Byrne (IRL) 9-1 9-6 9-7
Women's U19 : Victoria Bell (ENG) bt Kirsty West (ENG) 9-2 9-7, 9-1

30/11/2006 : Merritt Properties Baltimore Squash Open, USA

John White (SCO) bt Laurens Jan Anjema (NED) 10-11 11-10 7-11, 11-5, 11-5

22/11/2006 : Women's World Open, Belfast

Nicol David bt Natalie Grinham 1-9, 9-7, 3-9, 9-5, 9-2

19/11/2006 : Sunset Squash Open, Sarasota, Florida, USA

Dick Lau (HKG) bt Robin Clarke (CAN) 11-5, 11-6, 11-5

25/11/2006 : Men's Pakistan Open, Islamabad, Pakistan

Thierry Lincou (FRA) bt Gregory Gaultier (FRA) 11-8 6-11 11-5, 11-5

12/11/2006 : Women's Meersquash Open, Netherlands

Temille Swartz (RSA) bt Manuela Manetta (ITA) 9-4, 9-3, 9-5

12/11/2006 : US OPEN 2006, Boston USA

Gregory Gaultier bt Amr Shabana 11-5, 7-11, 11-4, 11-9

10/11/2006 : Grand Prairie Squash Open, Canada

Bradley Ball (ENG) bt Matthew Giuffre (CAN) 11-9, 11-8, 11-5

06/11/2006 : Motor City Squash Open, USA

John White (SCO) bt Liam Kenny (IRL) 11-3, 11-4, 11-6

05/11/2006 : CAS Squash International, Pakistan

Borja Golan (ESP) bt Mansoor Zaman (PAK) 9-11 11-8, 11-8, 2-0

03/11/2006 : Bieber Securities Fall Squash Classic, Canada

Jorge Isaac Baltazar Ferreira (MEX) bt Robin Clarke (CAN) 11-9, 11-2, 11-3

26/10/2006 : Saskatoon Boast Squash Open, Canada

Eric Galvez (MEX) bt Jorge Isaac Baltazar Ferreira (MEX) 11-6, 7-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-6

26/10/2006 : McWIL Dunlop Polish Open Squash, Poland

Omar Abdel Aziz (EGY) bt Patrick Gaessler (GER) 11-10 (4-2), 11-3, 11-8

24/10/2006 : British Junior Championships, Millfield

Boys U-17 : Adrian Waller (Herts) bt Alex Ingham (Surrey) 10-8, 9-2, 9-6
Boys u-13 : Oliver Holland (Notts) bt Tom Ford (Glos) 9-4, 9-1, 9-1

Girls u-13 : Emily Whitlock (Cheshire) bt Chloe Pearson (Warwicks) 9-3, 9-0, 9-0

Editorial Board: Mahendra Agarwal / Bruno Goveas / Noreena / Amitoj Singh / Vidya Rao

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