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(22/06/2008)

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BOMBAY GYMKHANA - SRAM MAHARASHTRA LEAGUE

Sauash league a runaway success

he inaugural Bombay



Gymkhana-SRAM Squash League had a four-fold objective:

- 1) To set up a framework of increased match play between players in the state.
- 2) To enhance the camaraderie between the players in the state.
- 3) To encourage our young players to enjoy the experience of playing on a team.
- 4)To enhance the general standard of squash in the state.

After two months of exciting play that involved eight years olds as well as the 64 years old Ravi Puri,

one can say the objective was amply fulfilled.

The league began on April 5 with the following format: 8 teams, 7 players in each team with 2 reserves. There used to be a Motilal Sanghi Inter-club event run by Mahendra Sanghi in memory of his father. There the stronger teams had an advantage. Here the players were spread over eight teams named after contemporary squash greats.

Team Willstrop, named after James Willstrop the England player won the title beating Team Shabana named after the four-time world champ Amr Shabana 4-3. Forty-four-year old Ravindra Jagtap hardly plays competitive squash but takes the court to give to practice to his son India's u-17 champ Aditya. Ravi had a crucial win beating Manish Chavan. Skipper Niral Shirgaokar got the other important win beating younger Cyrus Vakil. But with Manish Chotrani, with a stiff handicap of minus 9, losing to Yudhvir Katoch 2-3, the match hung on the seventh and last tie between Naveen Jangra and the seasoned Raj Arora. Naveen won 3-0. Skipper Shirgaokar paid tribute to Sachin Jadhav who won most of his ties and to the younger kids in the team like Pranay Merchant.

The losers missed Vikram Malhotra who was in Chennal preparing for the Asian Juniors at Busan.

Team Palmer beat Team Mathew 4-1 to claim third spot. Their winners were Rishad Billimoria, Sanjay Pawar. Jehangir Surti and Rohan Vora. Aditya Jagtap pulled off a creditable 3-2 win for Team Mathew over CCI pro Temo Gomez...

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In the semi-finals, Team Shabana turned it on against a struggling Team Matthew with a 5-2 win. The significant winners were Cyrus Vakil, Raj Arora, Rahil Fazelbhoy and Nikhil Jain. Team Willstrop beat Team Palmer 5-1 in the other semi-final. The notable winners were Sachin Jadhav, Naveen Jangra and Dheeray Moolani

Team Shabana's Yudhvir Katoch was adjudged the best senior and Rahil Fazelbhoy the best junior. Coach Amitoj Singh of Team Darwish was adjudged player of the league. 'His spirit and the bonding he ensured among the teams at the Otters Club centre was the clincher, "said tournament director Raj Arora. Team Palmer's Ravi Puri, at 64, got the oldest player prize.

The competition's unique format attracted 88 of Maharashtra's best players aged between 8 and 65 years, including a large contingent from Pune, who were engaged in intense rivalry over seven weeks. "The league was a runaway success and should be a regular feature in the squash calendar," said Raj Arora. ``The enthusiasm of the players was the single most important factor in the success of the competition.

RESULTS

Final results:

Team Willstrop bt Team Shabana 4-3

Sachin Jadhav bt Aouloke Mathur 3-1 Niraj Shirqaokar bt Cyrus Vakil 3-1 Ravindra Jagtap bt Manish Chavan 3-2 Pranay Merchant lost to Rahel Fazalbhoy 2-3 Dheeray Moolani lost to Nikhil Jain 0-3 Manish Chotrani lost to Yudhvir Katoch 2-3 Navin Jangra bt Raj Arora 3-0

Semifinal Results:

Team Shabana beat Team Matthew 5-2 **Team Willstrop beat Team Palmer 5-1**

League tournament director Raj Arora talks to Pradeep Vijavakar about the new league in Maharashtra Sauash

Pradeep Vijayakar: What was the main objective of the League?



Raj Arora: To set up a framework of increased match play between players in the State, to enhance the camaraderie between

the players, to encourage our young players to enjoy the experience of playing on a team and off course to help enhance the standard of squash in the state.

PV: What is the format of the League? How did you go about the formation of the teams? RA: We first categorized all the players in

Maharashtra and then invited entries. Then we tried to balance the teams of to the extent possible with the objective of ensuring that each fixture would be closely contested. For example the team with the strongest No.1 player was given the weakest No.2 player and so on. We decided that we would count the results of the first seven fixtures because it was exceedingly difficult to balance the players ranked 8-11 one each team. However to ensure that each match was played very competitively we announced an award for the team that won the most. League matches thereby giving an incentive to all teams to push hard in all matches.

PV: How would you compare this to the Motilal Sanghi Inter Club event that ran for over two decades?

RA: The Motilal Sanghi Inter Club was a great event and although it was dominated by the CCI for a very long spell, it was a very sought after event on the calendar. The players bonded well and the camaraderie was apparent. Players competed hard, I remember clearly the year when Willingdon was expected to run CCI close. Not only did they run us close but they beat us 10-0. If we draw a comparison between the Motilal Sanghi event and this one this league allows players across the spectrum to compete, we've had several eight year olds and even a sixty four year old, Ravi Puri from the Bombay Gymkhana whose enthusiasm is infectious. Also because each team is made up of players from different clubs in the state, including Pune, Thane, Navi Mumbai and Powai the challenges that each captain is braced with are more exciting. Getting the team together and playing as a unit is without a doubt a very good thing for the game. Our juniors now have the privilege of playing on a team. They have so far only played as individuals and this 'pulling together' has, I believe added a new dimension to their experience. In the earlier Inter Club format we had several years where the team that was expected to win being the only one that was really interested in playing. Also we had several cases where the matches were completely lop sided, e.g a No.7 player of a particular club was just too strong for similar ranked players from other clubs. Here, practically each fixture at the League stages went down to the last match. Also, each player got to play between 3-5 matches with players of more or less equal skills during the course of the competition ensuring some really entertaining and close matches.

PV: What was the response like?

RA: Overwhelming. There are a very large number of players of all shapes, sizes and skill sets playing the game. This number is growing all the time. Initially we had anticipated a league comprising 56 players. That had to be revised in a hurry because the response was fantastic. We soon froze the number 8 teams of 11 players each, i.e. 88 players in all, Sadly we had to disappoint at least about 20 odd players because by then the draws and the planning was in an advanced stage of planning.

PV: Do you plan to make this a regular feature on the squash calendar?

RA: All the feedback has been hugely positive. We've had scores of players call in and say how exciting the concept is. A very large number of players would like this league twice a year. At the moment the plan is certainly to make it an annual event. We are looking at the possibility of doing it twice a year as well. More teams or the same number of teams with more players on each team maybe required.

PV: Will the next edition be much grander, like an IPL? RA: Well we've discussed several options including giving

budgets to each team and then letting the captains bid for each player. We've also discussed the possibility of getting eight or ten corporates to own a team. Sponsorship is going to be the key if we are going to be able to scale this up successfully. Needless to mention that media support will also be critical to the process.

PV: Who were the main sponsors of this event?

RA: The Bombay Gymkhana graciously led the effort, Vikram Kalludi of Ashwini Jewellers is a squash enthusiast and came forward readily. Looks Sport (Shiv Malhotra) did the apparel which was well received by all the players and of course ISP who has supported the effort all through.

(By Pradeep Vijayakar)

July 2008

ASIAN JUNIOR SOUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Anaka bags gold, Dipika and Mahesh Silver

(29/06/2008)

Alankamony did herself and India proud by winning the girls' under-15 title in the Asian junior individual squash championship, which concluded in Busan, South Korea.

Anaka had problem in the 1st two games in which her opponent Ho Ka Po of Hongkong was leading 6-1 but in the last game it was a cake walk for her. She won 9-6 9-6 9-1 justifying her top seed position. This is her 8th international title.

Anaka's was the lone success for India after Mahesh Mangaonkar and Dipika Pallikal, who too were in the final, failed to win the titles.

In the boys under-15 section, Mahesh
Mangaonker met with an uphill task against top-seeded Nasir Iqbal from Pakistan who gave him very little chance while carving out a straight-game victory.

BESILITS

Nasir exhibited a fine display of speed along with aggression to win 4-9, 4-9, 3-9.

Vikram Malhotra bagged a bronze for India in the boys under-19 category after winning the third-fourth place playoff. He had upset fourth seeded Kamran of Malaysia in the last eight.

In the girls under-19 category 2nd seeded Dipika Pallikal had no answer to the consistency of top seed Low Wee Wern of Malaysia. Wern thus retained the title she had won in 2006. Dipika lost 1-9, 6-9, 0-9.



Other Indians finished in the following positions:

Girls U-19: Anwesha Reddy 8th; Harita Omprakash 13th. Girls U-15: Sachika Balyani 4th; Saumya Karki 6th;

Aparajitha Balamurugan 7th.

Boys U-19: Vikram Malhotra 3rd: Ravi Dixit 7th;

Paramit Singh 11th; Karan Malik 15th.

Boys U-15: Abhishek Pradhan 6th; Vivek Dinodia 17th.

DIPIKA HEADS LATEST WISPA WORLD UNDER 19 RANKING

(WIPSA Member Bulletin May/June2008)

Sixteen year old Indian Dipika Pallikal heads the new WISPA Rising Stars ranking list.

Having won the British Junior Open Under 17 title in January, the new world number one is just ahead of Malaysian seventeen year old Low Wee Wern and Pakistan's Maria Toor Pakay who are two and three respectively.

WISPA Rising Stars rankings are published every four months, and the current list features sixty players from nearly twenty countries.

NOIDA JUNIOR INVITATION SQUASH

Double for Kush Kumar

RESULTS

ush Kumar had a double in the the NOIDA Junior Invitation Squash Tournament in April organized by the Gautam Buddh Nagar District Squash Rackets Association - affiliated to the U.P. Squash Rackets Association - affiliated to the U.P. Squash Rackets Association at the NOIDA Stadium complex. He bagged the u-15 and u-13 boys titles. The three-day event received tremendous response and the excitement generated in the sporting circles was for all to see. Days one and two saw intense battles boiling down to intense semi-finals and finals on the last day. Parents and children alike thronged the venue in great numbers and there was never a moment without excitement and expectation. In all 80 children participated in the three-day event. Some 100 numbers of matches were played.

FINAL RESULTS

Under 15 Boys: Winner-Kush Kumar; Runner up - Deepak Mishra Under 13 Boys: Winner-Kush Kumar; Runner up - Divij Singh Under 15 Boys: Winner-Adihya Khatri; Runner up - Divyanshu Sharma Under 15 Girls: Winner-Shria Khatri; Runner up - Sachika Ingle Under 13 Girls: Winner-Pankhuri Malhotra; Runner up - Adya Advani Under 11 Girls: Winner-Adva Advani: Runner up - Nilofer

Under 9 (Boys/ Girls): Winner - Anuraj Jain; Runner up-Shreya Behl

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OTTERS SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP 2008

Ritwik claims elusive Otters title Hatrick for many

(15/06/2008)



In the absence of Indian squash queens Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal, Mandy Kennedy of England clinched her third Otters title in a row, while top seed Ritwik Bhattacharya won the elusive men's crown, in the Otters Open Squash Tournament at the Otters Club, Bandra.

India No. 2 Bhattacharya ended fifth seed Vikram Malhotra's rewarding campaign in the competition with a 9-1, 9-3, 9-3 win in a lop-sided men's final that lasted 45 minutes.

in the world, was fitter and fresher for the occasion that mattered especially after Malhotra endured a gruelling but rewarding week in which he upset third seed and former National champion Manish Chotrani and second seed Harinderpal Singh Sandhu apart from coming through a tough boys under-19 semi-final and final. Malhotra quite naturally ran out of steam and Bhattacharya had little trouble while cruising to victory.

Malhotra made amends for his loss in the men's final and clinched the boys' under-19 crown as the top seed with a thrilling 3-2 win over second seed and German Open under-17 winner Aditya Jagtap.

Tournament top seed and former England international Kennedy overcame the loss of a tight second game that stretched into extra points to prevail over second seed Dr. Deepali Parekh-Anvekar 9-7, 8-10, 9-3, 9-2 in a women's final that had its fair share of excitement early on.



Dr. Parekh-Anvekar ran Kennedy close in the opening game before snatching the second game in dramatic fashion to set the stage for an exciting contest.

But Kennedy utilised her international experience and kept Dr. Parekh-Anvekar busy in long rallies before snatching winners in the third and fourth games to seal a comfortable victory.

It was a rewarding day for Jindal Squash Academy products as boy's Under-11 second seed Sandeep Paswan, girl's Under-15 second seed Saumya Karki and girls under-13 top seed Urwashi Joshi emerged triumphant with i m p r e s s i v e victories.

One of the country's top juniors Abhishek Pradhan also helped himself to a double crown after bagging the boy's under-17 and under-15 titles.

Second seed Dev Vazirani claimed his first major crown when he upset top seed Ben Kennedy



RESULTS

All Finals :

Men: 1-Ritwik Bhattacharya bt 5-Vikram Malhotra 9-1, 9-3, 9-3. Women: 1-Mandy Kennedy bt 2-Dr. Deepali Parekh-Anvekar 9-7, 8-10, 9-3, 9-2.

Boys U-19: 1-Vikram Malhotra bt 2-Aditya Jagtap 9-4, 9-0, 7-9, 7-9, 9-5.

Boys U-17: 2-Abhishek Pradhan bt 1-Karm Kumar 3-9, 9-4, 9-5, 10-9.

Boys U-15: 1-Abhishek Pradhan bt 3-Kush Kumar 10-8, 9-10, 9-1, 9-4. Boys U-13: 1-Kush Kumar bt 1-Arjun Kochar 9-0, 9-1, 9-4.

Boys U-13: 1-Rush Rumar bt 1-Arjun Rochar 9-0, 9-1, 9-4.
Boys U-11: 2-Sandeep Paswan bt Ranjeet Singh 2-9, 9-6,9-6,9-

Girls U-13: 1-Urwashi Joshi bt 7-Anadita Gupta 9-0, 9-0, 9-0. Girls U-15: 2-Saumya Karki bt 1-Sachika Balwani 9-6, 6-9, 9-6, 9-2.

Mixed U-9: 2-Dev Vazirani bt 1-Ben Kennedy 4-9, 9-0, 9-0, 9-2. Professionals: 1-Temo Gomez bt 7-Farman Khan 9-1, 9-7, 9-7. Men's Over-45: 4-Varman Apte bt 2-B.I. Singh 9-6, 9-2, 9-2. Men's Over-35: 1-Manish Chotrani bt 2-Temo Gomez 9-4, 9-2, 9-4

All Semifinals:

Men's Open:

1-Ritwik Bhattacharya bt Parth Sharma (Raj) 9-0, 9-2, 9-3; 5-Vikram Malhotra bt 2-Harinderpal Singh Sandhu 5-9, 8-10, 9-5, 9-2, 9-3.

Women:

2-Dr. Deepali Anvekar-Parikh bt 3-Sachika Balwani 5-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-7;

1-Mandy Kennedy bt 4-Saumya Karki 9-6, 9-1, 5-9, 8-10, 9-2.

Girls U-15:

1-Sachika Balwani bt 4-Ankita Sharma 9-3, 9-7, 9-2; 2-Saumya Karki bt 3-Shria Khatri 9-3, 9-6, 9-5.

Girls U-13:

1-Urvashi Joshi bt Varsha Pandey 9-2, 9-1, 9-2; 7-Anadita Gupta bt 8-Konpal Patni 9-6, 9-10, 9-0, 8-10, 9-7.

Boys U-15:

3-Kush Kumar bt S. Pandey 10-8, 9-5, 9-3;

1-Abhishek Pradhan bt 4-Deepak Mishra 9-1, 9-7, 4-9, 9-1.

Boys U-19:

2-Aditya Jaqtap bt Akshay Deepak 9-4, 9-1, 9-0.

Boys U-17:

1-Karm Kumar ht 4-Akshav Deenak 9-3 9-2 9-3

2-Abhishek Pradhan bt Dhananjay Singh (MP) 9-3, 9-0, 9-1.

Boys U-13:

1-Kush Kumar bt Yohan Pandole 9-2, 9-0, 9-3;

2-Arjun Kochhar bt 3-Raghav Mehrotra 9-4, 9-2, 9-4.

Boys U-11:

2-Sandeep Paswan bt 6-Yohan Surti 5-9, 10-8, 9-3, 9-3; Ranjeet Singh bt Vedant Baheti 9-3, 9-4, 4-9, 9-6.

Mixed U-9:

1-Ben Kennedy bt Jay Gala 9-0, 9-1, 9-1; 2-Dev Vazirani bt Arvamaan Pandva 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

2-Dev vazirani beki yantaan Fandya 9-0, 9-0, 9-0.

Professionals:

1-Temo Gomez bt 4-Sachin Jadhav 9-7, 9-1, 9-3; 6-Farmaan Khan bt 2-Sanjay Pawar 2-9, 9-6, 9-4, 9-3.

Over-45:

4-Vaman Apte bt 1-Deepak Kochhar 5-9, 9-4, 9-2, 9-0; 2-BI Singh bt 3-Chandrakant Pawar 9-1, 9-1, 9-1.

Over-35: 2-Temp Gomez bt 3-Darius Surti 6-9, 10-8, 9-1, 9-3:

1-Manish Chotrani bt 5-Jahangir Surti 9-7, 9-6, 9-7.

SCHOOL 2008

ISP NORTHERN INDIA INVITATIONAL INTER

ISP reaches out to North India

(20/04/2008)

he future of squash in Northern India looks bright. Some 18 teams participated in the ISP Northern India Invitational Inter School 2008 in New Delhi. It was the first ISP tournament in Northern India which attracted 65 players and six coaches.

The event was a resounding success with the stands packed by over a hundred people-players, parents, spectators and coaches. Players from about twenty different schools scattered around north India matched their skils in an amalgamation or feelntless and enervisities team and Individual events. The players from Chandigarh and Mohall coached by Punets Singh showed how relatively small town players an humble the Delhi contingent by winning all the team events and two of three individual ones.

The only exceptions were Abhishek Pradhan who opted to play the U-17 event for lack of stiff Competition in his age group. - Karm Kumar who won the U-17 title and saved Delhi from total ignominy, Divilj Singh who lost a well-contested U-13 final to the rising star Ranvijey Singh (also awarded best male player of the tournament). Janet Vidhi from Delhi was awarded the best gril player of the tournament. The word with stone worders for her game and confidence. Robin Maan was awarded the best upcoming player of the tournament and his tenacity will ensure him a bright future.



Participants with their trophics at ISP Northern India Invitational Inter School 2008 in New Delhi

Sagar School Alwar, a relatively new institution was the surprise package and bagged the 2nd position in the U-13 and Modern Barakhamba who came second in the U-15 team championships.

The icing on the cake was the presence of Harvard coach Satinder Bajwa, a mentor of the squash legend Jansher Khan. His son Pehlaj won the U-15 title. 'Baj' as he is known, gracefully acceded to the request to present the trophies to the individual winners. The KV Vice-Principal Mrs Yasmin Shahid presented the team trophies.

RESULTS

FINAL: Karm Kumar bt Abhishek Pradhan 11-6, 11-8, 11-9

ROYS II-17

SEMIFINALS:

Karm Kumar bt Ameek Sidhu 11-4, 11-6, 11-7 Abhishek Pradhan bt Tarandeep Singh 11-2, 11-5, 11-5

ROYS II-15.

FINAL: Pehlaj Bajwa bt Siddharth Phutela 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 8-11, 11-3

8-11, 11-3 SEMIFNAL :

Pehlaj Bajwa bt Ranvijay Singh 11-4, 11-4, 11-6 Siddharth Phutela bt Divij Singh 11-4, 11-8, 12-1

BOYS U-13:

FINAL: Ranvijay Singh bt Divij Singh 11-7, 12-10, 6-11, 11-4

SEMIFINALS:

Divij Singh bt Robin Maan 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 11-5 Ranvijay Singh bt Paarth 11-2, 11-3, 11-4

Team Event

UNDER 13:

Winners - St Johns High School, Chandigarh Runners up - Sagar School, Alwar Road, Rajasthan

UNDER 15:

Winners - YPS, Mohali

Runners up - Modern School Barakambha road, New Delhi

UNDER 17:

Winners - YPS, Mohali

Runners up - RIMC, Dehra Doon

ISP FREE COACHING CAMPS APPRECIATED IN KOLHAPUR, NAGPUR AND CHEMBUR GYMKHANA



SP had three free coaching camps in different parts of Maharashtra. For the first time people of Nagpur got benefit of ISP's coaching. This was at the Central Province Club from April 13-11. Wing Commander Subhash Agarwal was the co-ordinator and the ISP coach was Ajaz Shaikh.

Agarwal played squash in his days in the Air Force at command level. Those days pilots were allowed to play squash and do swimming as part of their fitness regimen. "The response was good with 35 players above the age of 25 turning up for coaching. Most of them were from the other racquet sports like tennis, table tennis and badminton. The efforts of coach Shaikh were appreciated. Now the number of players has gone up to 45," said Agarwal.

The CP Club's courts were done up two months ago and they have a glass-back facility. The only other squash courts in Nagpur are at the National Direct Taxes Academy. Agarval hopes ISP can organise a tournament with players from Mumbai also coming.

The other free coaching camp was at Kolhapur Residency Club from May 30 to 1st June with ISP coach Yakub Shaikh incharge. Shaikh said: ``The





players had fitness but no knowledge about the game and its technique. Most of them had played tennis before. So it was easy to develop their ball skills. But took time to get the judgement and ball control. Still it was an interesting outing and with the basic drills shown to them the players will improve. Most of them were in the 15-21 age group so we can hope to see some good latent developing in Kolhapur. Unfortunately there aren't any other courts in the city. Someone must do something about this," the coach added.

The third free coaching camp was nearer home, at Chembur Symkhana from May 1-14. Punit Wig, the club's squash secretary, was incharge. It was the second time the club requested ISP to conduct such a camp. The response was quite good with above 50 participants below the age of 18. Anglum Sheikh and Santosh Kharat were the coach incharge. Puneet Wig says the game level of the participants piced up very well after the camp and there is a lot of improvement. "The parents of the camp and there is a lot of improvement." The parents of the have more such camps in the near future, "said Wig. Chembur Gymkhana also had a home tournament for the first time in the month of September 2007 which had 75 participants.

MILO ALL STAR INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR SQUASH TOURNAMENT 2008

(31/05/2008)

This event remains a popular squash-cum-tourism event for players from several countries, especially India. Many junior players benefit from this tournament as their first international exposure. This year too, players from Numbai and Delhi travelled with their parents, played good squash and Delhi travelled with their parents, played good squash and benjoyed a bit of shopping and sightseeing. The package provided by the organizers includes a deal with the Hilton PJ hotel and the total expense for participating in the tournament is attractive, though the amount has climbed from as low as US\$120 a few years ago to US\$200 now. Also, this time there were some hiccups by the organizers in airport transfers, rescheduling of draws and seating capacity at the eala opening

INDIA'S LEADING SQUASH MAGAZINE

ceremony, where several participants had to leave due to lack of seating arrangement.

With the European circuit becoming well organized, accessible and popular, it remains to be seen if the Milo event remains a tournament of choice for players' baptism of fire in the international arena.

The results of players from India who reached the top-eight positions are-

RESULTS

Girls Under 11 : Adya Advani finished 7th Girls Under 15 : Aparajitha Balamurukan Winner

Girls Under 17 : Anwesha Reddy stood 3rd

Boys Under 13: Kush Kumar-Winner Boys Under 17: Ravi Dixit- Runner-up; Ramit Tandon 7th

Boys Under 11 : Roshan Kumarakannan stood 4th; Aditya

Khatri 5th and Rajat Agarwal 7th



RESULTS

PENANG OPEN 2008

Aparajitha, Kush shine at Penang Open

(04/06/2008)

Aparajitha added the Penang Open u-15 title to the Malaysian Open when defeating Shria Khatri 7-9, 3-9, 9-6, 9-0, 9-2 in the final in Malaysia.

Aparajitha has found a place in the Indian team to the Asian junior championship, Kush Kumar won the Under-13 title beating Gurshan Singh of Malaysia 9-4, 9-2, 9-7. Aditya Khatri was runner-up in the Boys Under-11 while Roshan Kumarakannan (Chennai) was third in Boys Under-13. Solomon Ravi (Chennai) was fourth in Boys Under-13.

CHENNAI TO HOST WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS IN DECEMBER

he 2008 World International Doubles Squash Championships, which will be staged in India in December, will be the first international tournament to feature the new wider doubles court.

The 4th staging of the Championships, which were inaugurated in 1997 in Hong Kong, will take place at the ICL Squash Academy in Chennal, from 15-20 December.

Source: http://www.worldsquash.org.uk/worlddoubles08.html

GERMAN JUNIOR OPEN 2008

Mahesh Mangaonkar wins German Open

(27/04/2008)

Imbai ad Mahesh Mangaonkar won the German Open boys-15 title at Munchen-Sokin in April. In the final he beat Oliver Holland of England 4-9, 9-7, 6-9, 9-3, 9-1. In the semis he got past Tim De Hulder of Belgium. Another English lad, Thomas Ford, was beaten by Mahesh in the last eight 9-0, 9-1, 9-1. The grifs u-15 title could not be delimed by India as Anaka Alankamony lost to US girl Amanda Sobhy 5-9, 9-4, 10-8, 6-9, 0-9.

Girls U-15

Finals: Anaka Alankamony (India) Lost to Amanda Sobhy (USA) 5-9, 9-4, 10-8, 6-9, 0-9

Semi Finals: Anaka Alankamony (India) Bt Sophie Lemom (England) 9-1, 9-2, 9-3

Quarter Finals: Anaka Alankamony (India) Bt Llona Lagerweij (Netherlands) 9-1, 10-8, 9-2

Girls U-17

Finals: Millie Tomlinson (England) Bt Kanzy EI Defrawy (Eqypt) 9-7, 1-9, 9-3, 9-6

Semi Finals: Anwesha Reddy (India) Lost to Kanzy EI Defrawy (Egypt) 2-9, 3-9, 3-9

Quarter Finals: Anwesha Reddy (India) Bt Tesni Evans (Wales) 9-2,

Quarter Finals: Anwesha Reddy (India) Bt Tesni Evans (Wales) 9 5-9, 9-7, 3-9, 9-3

Boys U-13

Finals: Jan Ryba (Czech Republic) Bt Anders Larson (Germany) 10-9, 8-10, 9-4, 9-4 Semi Finals: Raghay Mehrotra (India) Lost to Jan Ryba (Czech

Republic) 9-4, 5-9, 6-9, 5-9

Ouarter Finals: Ragnay Mehrotra (India) Bt Alex Noakes (England)

9-1, 9-2, 9-0

Boys U-15

Finals: Mahesh Mangaonkar (India) Bt Oliver Holland (England) 4-9, 9-7, 6-9, 9-3, 9-1

Semi Finals: Mahesh Mangaonkar (India) Bt Tom De Mulder (Belgium) 9-2, 9-1, 9-7 Quarter Finals: Mahesh Mangaonkar (India) Bt Thomas Ford

(England) 9-0, 9-1, 9-1 Boys U-17

Semis Finals: Ravi Dixit (India) Lost to Rudi Rohrmuller (Germany) 1-9, 0-9, 5-9 Quarter Finals: Pari Divit (India) Rt Nicholas Hoperoft (Fooland) 9-

Quarter Finals: Ravi Dixit (India) Bt Nicholas Hopcroft (England) 9-6,8-10,9-1,9-0

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FROM THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLE WRITTEN BY LATE RAJU CHAINANI FROM 1971-2001

SEATTLE SCENE

Mid-day 11/6/1993



REAKFAST TIME at Hillcrest Avenue, Seattle. Vusue Khan, sports Jacket, is ready for the day abead. Shondip Ghosh and Rohan Bappu, India's two top players in the under-14 age group, have got their kit bags together. "Time to go boys," suggests the 61-year-old gum.

It's a twenty minute drive to the Downtown Seattle dub where Yusuf is the head pro. He started off coaching tennis at the Washington dub and had a brief interlude at the College club too. Seven years ago, came the move to his present station.

On the walk are photographs of him with Jahangir, Hashim, Hiddy Jahan and some of the game's other greats. They have all come here. Now it's the charge of the Indian brigade.

Shondip and Rohan have a warm-up session. Then it's time to take the court with Yusuf. Even in his heyday, there was an economy of movement. Yusuf did it all from the T, the centre of the court.

"Racket back, good, move forward, good, down the line, good, sidewall, good..." You could watch for hours and admire. Khan's touch and ball control are simply unbelievable, his delets on, Ayub, is a full time pro and is also attached to this dub. Three of his other children (there are eight in all), have donned the famous red and blue colours. Azam has played in two world team events and his sisters, Shabana and Latosha, have won National Championships. They all took on the Indian juniors and for our boys, it was something out of the ordinary.

The Khan way to the top is a tough one, Shondip and Rohan had a three hour session in the morning which kept them on their toes. Then it was

time for lunch and the Khan wagon took them back for a brief intertude. At a round four o'clock, it was action time again. This routine was followed throughout as Yusuf tred to show them what the word discipline really means. As the evening came to a docse, it was time to go back for another home cooked meal. The boys were staying with Yusuf and they got on famously with the family. So much so that when they left Seatite, here was even a silent tear. "They have been marvellous. I hope they come back," said Yusuf.

The boys had an invaluable experience. They have grown to be stronger physically and have seen what it takes to train seriously. In a few days time, Paul Ferreiro and Rishad Billimoria will take their places and over the next four weeks, they will be under Yusuf's care.

Six hours of squash a day can make Jack a dull boy. For both, Shondip and Rohan, it was quite the contrary. They both want to go back for more.

Yusuf has shown them how to go about things. The on and off court drills, weight training and exercise, have now been instilled into their system. Many a champion came from Yusuf Khan's yard. Hopefully, Shondip Ghosh, Kohan Bhappu, Paul Ferreira and Rishad Billimoria will add their names to this illustrious list.

Dunlop British Open - Liverpool (12/05/2008)
Qualifying 2nd Round: Women's:

Joshna Chinappa (Ind) lost to Madeline Perry 4-9, 8-10, 1-9
Dipika Pallikal (Ind) lost to Kasey Brown 2-9, 0-9, 1-9
Qualifying 1st Round: Men's:

Siddarth Suchde (Ind) lost to Ben Ford (Eng) 7-11, 11-5, 6-11,

Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) lost to Shaun Le Roux (Eng) 7-11, 11-4, 9-11, 11-7, 9-11

Women's:
Joshna Chinappa (Ind) bt Kirsty McPhee (Eng) 10-9, 0-9, 9-2,

Dipika Pallikal (Ind) bt Kerri Shields (Irl) 9-4, 9-1, 9-3

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KUWAITSQUASH OPEN 2008 (22/04/2008) Qualifying Finals:

Julian Illingworth (Usa) bt Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) 11-7, 11-4,

Daryl Selby (Eng) bt $\bf Saurav\,Ghosal\,(Ind)\,11\text{--}8,5\text{--}11,11\text{--}5,11\text{--}6}$ $\bf Round\,One:$

Round One: Ritwik Bhattacharya (Ind) bt Aaron Frankcomb (Aus) 11-4, 11-9, 11-

Saurav Ghosal (Ind) bt Mohd Al-Tuwary (Kuw) 11-5, 11-0, 11-3

ROMA ESTOPEN 2008 (12/04/2008)

Finals: Mark Krajcsak (Hun) bt Tom Hoevenaars (Ned)11-4, 11-1, 9-11, 11-6

Semifinals:

Tom Hoevenaars bt Joe Lee (Eng) 11-6, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9 Mark Krajcsak bt Badr Abdel Aziz (Swed) 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9

Mark Krajcsak bt Siddarth Suchde 11-7, 11-8, 11-8

Qualifying round:

Siddarth Suchde bt Luca Mastrostefano (Ita) 11-3,11-2, 11-5

COAS INTERNATIONAL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP,

PAKISTAN
Final: Aamir Atlas Khan (PAK) bt Yasir Butt (PAK) 11-9, 11-10 (2-0),
11-0

Semi-finals:

Yasir Butt (PAK) bt Farhan Mehboob (PAK) 11-6, 11-8, 11-9 Aamir Atlas Khan (PAK) bt Jonathan Kemp (ENG) 11-8, 11-10 (4-2), 11-10 (2-0)

Ouarter-finals:

Yasir Butt (PAK) bt Ong Beng Hee (MAS) 11-7, 11-5, 11-4 Farhan Mehboob (PAK) bt Robbie Temple (ENG) 11-7, 11-2, 11-10 Aamir Atlas Khan (PAK) bt **Saurav Ghosal** (IND) 11-9, 11-3, 11-10 (3-1)

Jonathan Kemp (ENG) bt Shahid Zaman (PAK) 11-2,11-7,11-3

NSC SQUASH SATELLITE NO3, MALAYSIA (01/04/2008)

Final: Zac Alexander (AUS) bt Elvinn Keo (MAS) 10-11 (0-2), 11-5, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8

8-11, 11-9, 11-8 Semi-finals:

Zac Alexander (AUS) bt Graeme Wilson (NZL) 11-8, 11-7, 11-6 Elvinn Keo (MS) bt Max Lee (HKG) 11-9, 4-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-4 Quarter-finals: Zac Alexander (AUS) bt Nafzahizam Adnan (MAS) 11-9, 11-8, 4-11,

7-11, 11-9 Graeme Wilson (NZL) bt **Gaurav Nandrajog** (IND) 11-8, 11-10 (3-

1), 11-6 Elvinn Keo (MAS) bt Jo Wen Ng (MAS) 11-9, 10-11 (2-4), 11-8, 11-9

MaxLee (HKG) bt Naresh Kumar (IND) 11-5, 9-11, 11-5, 11-8

Men's 1st Round:
Gaurav Nandrajog (IND) bt [Q] Valentino Bong (MAS) 9-11, 11-8,

Naresh Kumar (IND) bt [Q] Malammad Reza Sadeghpour (IRI)

11-7, 11-8, 10-11 (4-6), 11-10 (2-0)

SCOTT WEALTH MANAGEMENT OPEN 2008 (28/05/2008) Qualifying Finals:

Wade Johnstone (Aus) bt Joshua Greenfield (NzI) 9-11, 5-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-3

Jethro Binns (Wal) bt Regardt Schonborn (Rsa) 11-4, 11-7, 2-11, 11-5 Campbell Grayson (Nzl) bt Shaun Le Roux (Eng) 11-1, 11-4, 11-5 Tony James (Aus) bt Gaurav Nandrajog (Ind) 11-1, 11-6, 11-8

GAGGED AND SQUASHED

SRFI bars players, parents from going public with their grievances.

MARTING FROM the recent furore over the omission of British Open junior champion Dipika Pallikal for the Asian championship, the Squash Racquet Federation of India (SRT)) has issued a gag order on players, warning them of stringent action if they air their grievances in the media.

In a letter to all affiliated units, associate members, dubs and colleges, the SSFH has issued an Indian Hockey Federation-style order; a copy of which is with Hindustan Times, in which it says that the federation's disc

The letter, signed by SRFI Secretary General N. Ramachandran, literally questions the fundamental rights of a player / official to air his/her grievances.

It reads: "We wish to bring to your notice that in the recent past we have had several instances of parents/ coaches/ players writing letters to the filmistry of Youth Affairs and Sports to deliberately discredit the functioning of the federation on various issues. In some cases, articles criticizing the functioning have been channelled through the Government of India observer (Brigadier Raj Menchanda)."

Manchanda, reacting to the comments, said he was aware of a letter circulated to affiliated units and said it infringed on the fundamental right to speech.

"If they (SRE)) are not giving any clarification on issues of team selection, holding of camps and other related issues, that's just being nasty. What recourse an I left with if they don't want to call me during team selection and other important meetings? I have to go directly to the Minstry." He said. The letter warms: "The president/secretary-general are authorized to take disciplinary action on a player/players/associations who includge in any understands activity which will bring discredit/ affect the functioning of the federation. There have been instances where parents have directly approached the electronic and print media with false and incorrect information to deliberately discredit the functioning of the federation. Such actions are against the rules and regulations of federation.

The SRT1 has been in the midst of controversy with litigation being filed against them in the Delhi High Court questioning My Pallikal, the secondranked squash player in the country, and Sandeep Jangra, were dropped from the Asian Championships squad recently.

A bigger controversy involves whether the 2006 Doha Asian Games bronze medal, clinched by Saurav Ghosal, was fixed.

The latest development comes at a time when Andrew Shelly, the Women's International Squash Players Association (WISPA) chief executive, was reportedly meeting Ramachandran in Delhi.

All efforts to contact Ramachandran were in vain, while national coach Cyrus Poncha said it would be "Petty of me if I replied to such queries." Chief consultant coach S. Maniam disconnected his phone.

Questioned on the order, I Srinivas, Joint Secretary of the Sports Ministry, said that federations were self-regulatory bodies and framed their rules, "but if there are serious issues with players/parents, there was no restriction on them coming directly to the ministry or going to the Indian Olympic Association."

A matter of squashing the players fundamental rights.

Article in Hindustan times, Mumbai, March 15, 2008

SQUASH PINUP GIRL DIPIKA PALLIKAL IN SAVVY MAGAZINE

Article as appeared in the Magazine



HAVE known Dipika for over three years now. It impressive to how she has taken her game to t h e next level consis tently and conc tantly. Win ning at the high est level, and vēt not getting complacent tha t's Dinikal A fiq hter through n through, she has everything it takes to be a champio." -Mahesh Bhupathi (Globospo rts)

SQUASH PRINCESS

ROM the time I have known Dipika Pallikal, first as a bubby little girl and now as a highly focused teenager, I've seen in her the makings of a truly professional sportswoman. She has the ability, poise, confidence and glamour to excel on the international stage and convert her prowess at squash into a major sports marketling asset. I have no doubt that she will make it, and I wish her well.

-Raj Rajamahendran, Chairman/MD, The Capital Maharaja Organisation Ltd, Sri Lanka , is a one of Dipika's sponsors

HAVE known Dipika for the last couple of years now and in my opinion, she is not only an extremely talented squash player but also a great kild 5he Handles herself very well on and off the squash court, and that is evident as she has more friends on Facebook than any other person I know. We as a trust have

big dreams for Dipika and feel that she is on the right track to achieve more laurels.She has immense talent and is now focusing on establishing herself on the WISPA (Women's International Squash Professionals Association) circuit. She started the year by creating history, and we feel this is just a stepping stone towards even greater achievements in the future"-Manisha Malhotra is CEO, Mittal Champions Trust



For her interview read Savvy Magazine May 2008 issue or visit our website Http://www.ispsquash.com/

manages

Dipika's

SQUASH OBSERVER SACKED FOR SPEAKING TRUTH

Sill has taken a serious view of the observations made by the government observer (CO) on womens hockey regarding the poor fitness of players during the Olympic qualifiers in Kazan (Rusia), another GO in another sports discipline has been shown the door for calling a spade a spade.

Six times national champion and the government nominee for squash- a priority sports now- Brig Raj Manchand has been told his services are longer required. A terse two lineletter written by deouty secretary, (sports) Covernment of India. Deeplak Rachhal, says, "I am directory to inform you that Brig Raj Manchanda will no longer be the government observer in the discipline of squash?"

Even more shocking is the fact that this is the same GO, who was given a pat on the back by the Ministery just a forthingh back. In his letter to the controversy ridden Squash Racquest Federation of India (SRFI), the Ministry Director Joe Sebstian had said on April -1. I would like to bring to your notice that Brig Raj Manchanda has been repeatedly reporting that SRFI is not conducting selection trails and overthin trails and so

The Government Observer is the representative of this ministry and the national sports federation (NSFs) are obliged to inform the GO about selection Committee meetings and important national and international events, Sebastian said in his letter addressed to SRFI Secretary General N. Ramchandran.

In fact, the Ministry has quoted extensively from Manchanda's scathing report on SRFI in its submissions to the Delhi High Court recently in the squash player Dipika Pallikal v/s Union of India and others case.

Manchanda has pointed out in his report that fair opportunity was not being given to deserving players. He has highlighted scores of anomalies over the years in selection procedures for major international events like Asian and World Championships.

He also raised a big question mark over the 2006 Doha Asian Games bronze medal won by Saurav Ghosal.

HT had carried a report titled "Doha Asian Games bronze medal fixed" on february 14 this year highlighting the fact that the Games draw could have been manipulated to ensure India a medal, Only a couple of months back, India's World no.1 ranked player in the U-19 category and British Open champion Deepika Pallikila Was ignored for the Asian in Kuwait.

Manchanda had written in his report, the main aim of SRFI appears to be to promote the Indian Cement Ltd Academy players with a condition that they obey at their diklats, right or wrong, ethical or not at the expense of players from the rest of India.

Apparently those players having a mind of their own and having different

views, also quickly get into the Outsider category. India No.1 Joshna Chinappa and Deepika Pallikal are the blatant examples of this discrimination.

There are quite a few other examples of discrimination and suppression, of lesser players. That does not make those any less poignant since talent was nipped in the bud

Now the GO's sacking has come just five days before the trials for the Asian Junior Championship (in Korea-June) and world junior championships (Switzerland-July), Government guidelines say it is mandatory for the GO to be present at the trails.

Interestingly, what would be the ministry's take on the submissions made to the High Court in the above mentioned case in the aftermath of the sacking of Manchanda? Will they withdraw the submissions?

While M.S. Gill did not take calls despite repeated attempts, the ministry's joint secretary Injeti Sriniva's phone was switched off. Secretary (Sports) S.K. Arora declined to comment on the issue 2 Comments," he said.

Source : Hindustan Times - Delhi, Calcutta, Chandigarh- May 3, 2008

SAUMYA HOPING TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION

Indian Express: Mumbai Newsline (04/06/2008)

It was a fateful day when six years ago, Saumya Karki opted to take up squash as a summer sports camp activity.

Six years down the line, after pocketing the glis U-15 title at the recently concluded Otters Open squash championship 2008, Saumya is all set to leave for Korea on Tuesday to represent the country in the U-15 segment at the Asian Juniors Squash Championship.

"We are eagerly looking forward to the Korea tournament since this would be the first time she would be representing India

at the championship"said her coach Sunil Verma, who has made many a successful names in squash, like Sandeep and Vikas Jhangra and Laxman Joshi. Verma, who is associated with the Jindal squash academy, has been guiding Saumya ever since she stepped into the squash courts.

``She's a very intelligent girl. She wonderfully balances her time between her studies and her game, and neglect neither," He pointed out.



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The coach and his disciple are all upbeat for the forthcoming challenge even though they have found very little time to follow any special training regime for the big event. "She is at the best form currently and her last win has only lifted her morale even more" says the coach optimistically.

Talking about the game that the 13-year old plays very passionately site confesses that it was the speed of the game that really got her involved in the sport. "Intially, I took up the game since it was a racquet sport, but then slowly it became more than a hobby," she added. The aspiring British Open contender looks up to former British Open winney. Saurav Ghosal and commends Ghosal for the perfect balance that he has achieved between his studies and soort.

"I haven't felt the need to make many sacrifices as such for the game until now, but next year I think I'll have to restrain my playing schedule since I'll be appearing for the boards" said Saumya, echoing a common concern of budding sport starts in India. As of now though, Saumya is hoping to replicate her winning ways at her first international evature.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT FINAL RESULTS

06/04/2008: SAKATCHEWAN OPEN, CANADA Torge Ferreira ht Bradley Hindle 11-8, 11-8, 11-9

06/04/2008: WOMEN'S ATWATER CUP, MONTREAL, CANADA Kasey Brown bt Isabelle Stochr 9-2, 9-6, 9-4, 9-0

07/04/2008: DANISH OPEN, HERLEY, DENMARK Daryl Selby bt Simon Rosper 11-7, 11-4, 11-8

07/04/2008: CURITIBA OPEN, CURITIBA, BRAZIL

Miguel Angel Rodriguez bt Tom Richards 11-9, 2-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-8

20/04/2008: IRISH OPEN, DUBLINJohn White bt Azian Iskandar 11-9, 8-11, 11-4, 5-11, 11-8

Sina Wall (GER) bt Olivia Blatchford (USA) 9-4, 10-8, 9-2

24/04/2008: HURGHADA INTERNATIONAL, EGYPT Ramy Ashour bt Amr Shabana 11-10 (2-0), 9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-10 (2-0)

27/04/2008: GERMAN JUNIOR OPEN, MUNICH, GERMANY

16/05/2008: BRASILIA SQUASH OPEN, BRAZIL Miguel Angel Rodriguez (COL) bt Borja Golan (ESP) 11-10 (3-1), 10-11 (0-2), 10-11 (0-2), 11-1, 11-9

21/05/2008: SMOKEFREE WA MERREDAN INT, AUSTRALIA Steve Finitsis (AUS) bt Zac Alexander (AUS) 6-11, 11-6, 11-4, 11-1

21/05/2008: ALANTA OPEN, ATLANTA, USA

Eric Galvez (MEX) bt Dylan Bennett (NED) 8-11, 11-4, 11-8, 8-11, 11-2

21/05/2008:WOMEN'S CARCASSONNE OPEN, FRANCE Lauren Briggs (ENG) bt Line Hansen (DEN) 9-6, 9-6, 9-3 26/05/2008: TEXAS OPEN, DOWNTOWN CLUB, HOUSTON

Natalie Grainger bt Laura Lengthorn-Massaro 9-2, 9-5, 9-6

26/05/2008: CITY OF PERTH OPEN, PERTH, AUSTRALIA Steve Finitsis (AUS) bt Carl Hampson (RSA) 11-5, 11-6, 11-5

01/06/2008: SUBWAY GOSHEN OPEN, USA Samantha Teran bt Sharon Wee 9-1, 3-9, 9-2, 9-2

02/06/2008: HITHERCROFT OPEN, ENGLAND Tom Richards bt Scott Handley 11-3, 9-11, 11-0, 11-6

03/06/2008: FLUIDLINE GOLDEN OPEN, AUSTRALIA
Steve Finitsis (AUS) bt Zac Alexander (AUS) 6-11,11-5,11-7,11-4

08/06/2008: WOMEN'S SEOUL OPEN, KOREA, SEOUL Nicol David bt Rachael Grinham 9-5, 10-9, 9-6

10/06/2008: WELSH OPEN, CARDIFF, WALES David Evans bt Joel Hinds 11-4, 11-9, 11-2

15/06/2008: PRIMAVERA OPEN, HUNGARY Mark Krajcsak bt Rob Sutherland 11-9, 11-7, 12-14, 11-7

MENS RANKING JULY 2008

IIILNO IIMAKING JULI 2000				
RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY		
1	Amr Shabana	EGY		
2	Gregory Gaultier	FRA		
3	James Willstrop	ENG		
4	Ramy Ashour	EGY		
5	David Palmer	AUS		
55	Saurav Ghosal	IND		
57	Ritwik Bhattacharya	IND		
119	Siddharth Suchde	IND		
128	Gaurav Nandrajog	IND		
153	Naresh Kumar	IND		
181	Harinder Pal Sandhu	IND		
226	Parth Sharma	IND		

WOMENS RANKING JULY 2008

WUMENS NANKING JULY 2000		
RANK	PLAYER	COUNTRY
1	Nicol David	MAS
2	Natalie Grinham	NED
3	Rachael Grinham	AUS
4	Natalie Grainger	USA
5	Tania Bailey	ENG
37	Joshna Chinappa	IND
64	Dipika Pallikal	IND
169	Anwesha Reddy	IND
235	Surbhi Misra	IND



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