

PRO SQUASH

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ISP lobs into cyberspace

Indian Squash has a website, www.squashindia.com. Thanks to the initiative shown by **Indian Squash Professionals** it has beaten practically all other sports barring cricket in getting on to the information highway.

The website was launched with fanfare with leading players, coaches and officials poring over the terminals to see the latest information offered on the site.

Mr Subhash Wali, a director of ISP, a nonprofit organisation formed with the promotion of squash as its aim, told a press conference that the website would go a long way in providing a piece of information to the players. An entrepreneur who has helped professionals gain international exposure, Mr Wali said that the website would be constantly updating data on players and their rankings. In due course, it will also carry articles on the game, coaching tips and training methods. The website is the brainchild of **Mr Mahendra Agarwal**, another ISP director, who was disappointed by not finding any information about Indian squash while surfing the Net and decided to fill the lacuna.

Mr. R. K. Bhuta, director, Sonra Net, who helped launch the website, said that in this age of information technology it was essential to get on to the internet as it greatly helped interaction and exchange of news and views. **ProSquash** can also be read on the website. The response to the site was tremendous with interaction from fans from abroad. Within a week the ISP website was listed by the **International Squash Federation**, whose earlier listing was merely the name of secretary/ Squash Rackets Federation of India. A few days later there were several visitors to the guestbook and people wanting to link-up with our website. Among the first ones to do so was the **United State Squash Racket Association (USSRA), United Condo Squash Club (Singapore) & University of California.**



Deepali Anvekar, Kavita Nalavde and Chandrakant Pawar seen surfing ISP's newly-launched squashindia website.

Disappointing farewell for Akhil Behl



The Dewan Housing Classic prize-winners snapped at the prize distribution function at the Haveli

The Dewan Housing Squash Classic which carried Rs. 1.4 lakhs in prizemoney had a heady climax with **Manish Choitrani** winning a classic battle against **Akhil Behl**, the national champion, in an eagerly awaited men's final.

Choitrani had scored over Behl, at the **Leela Switcher** but that was about one year ago and Behl had since become India's top player. Choitrani was thus understandably eager to reassert himself. And Behl as the reigning national champion had a lot at stake. And as he was leaving for the U.S. for studies he would have liked to end on a winning note. The match was fought tooth and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WRITE TO WIN

Calling all students. Write an essay on 'What Squash means to me' and win attractive prizes. Word limit 400 words. Best entry will be published in the next issue.



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In the wake of **Rhea Bhandare** who won a Spalding circuit tournament in Austria and England two young ladies are making news on foreign fields. **Joshna Chinappa**, a seventh standard student of Lady Andal School, Chennai won the under14 event in the Singapore Open in July. Joshna, who was seeded third, crushed Tan Yee Lin of the host country in the quarterfinal. She then beat the second seeded Malaysian Lim Yoke Wah 9-5, 10-8, 9-6 and scalped top seed Malaysian **Sally Luo** 9-0, 9-3, 9-6 in the final. Joshna had made the under14 final of the Junior nationals losing to Rhea Bhandare. Thanks to encouragement of her father **Anjan** she took to the sport at the age of eight. She is also a good athlete having won her school's championship.

The other girl to make news was **Alisha Mashruwalla** who won the under10 title in the Hong Kong Open. Alisha was runner-up in the schools under 14 final losing to Supriya Balsekar.

She is the daughter of **Tushar** and **Jyoti**. Her father plays squash at the CCI where Alisha picked up the game under **Madhu Weelingkar**. **Madhu's daughter, Rama**, was a well-known national level player.

Later **Rahmat Khan** and the emerging coach **Cyrus Poncha** worked on her and the process of sharpening her up has begun.

Alisha's favourite shot is the drop and she goes for retrieving the drop come what may.

She has taken to the sport as early as at the age of seven and with the advantage of knowing swimming and athletics, she is bound to make it to the top of the ladder in the years to come.

THEY SHOW PROMISE



Joshna Chinappa, Alisha Mashruwalla and Akansha Hazari with their trophies in the Hong Kong Open.

Suchde has a bright future



Siddharth Suchde... from strength to strength.

under-14 events. He followed it up with the national title in the under-12. Then came titles in the Little Masters, Pix and the schools events.

At such a young age he has so many titles that he cannot remember how many. Asked if he feels there are some particular players against whom he has a block or who he finds difficult to beat, he replies in the negative. That's a good attitude for starters. With such an attitude he can only go far.

Siddharth is of a slight build and needs to put on a little weight to bring power into his shots. "I must eat accordingly and strengthen myself," he says. Coaching with Rahmat Khan has seen him improve his stamina and lasting power. He realises his future lies in this department more than anywhere else.

While most Indian juniors make a beeline for American universities, Siddharth says he hasn't yet thought about it.

Who knows Indian squash may have turned the corner with a flourishing local circuit that will make them think twice before leaving the country and being lost to the sport in the country.

Siddharth Suchde is the next in line of champions from the schools. He won the under14 interschools title beating **Sahil Vora** and was the under16 finalist losing to **Junaid Nathani**.

He has picked squash as his parents play the sport. Siddharth began his title rush winning the under-12 event at the Western India. He has four titles in this event in under-12 and

DEWAN HOUSING CLASSIC

CONTD FROM PAGE 1 Disappointing farewell for Akhil Behl

mail. Behl did not give up even when Choitrani was two games up. Behl took the third and led 14-12 before Choitrani clinched the fourth and the match at 17-16.

It all boiled down to one point at 16ball in the fourth. In a tactical move, Choitrani set the game at one point realising full well that even if he lost it he still had the fifth. It was not the only tactical manoeuvre by Choitrani. Through the match he cleverly employed the drop to have Behl securing back and fourth. It was possibly the only way Choitrani could have gained the day.

National champion **Mekhala Subedar** convincingly asserted her supremacy in the women's event. In the final she conceded no more than 14 points in three games to the up and coming **Deepali Anvekar**. **Santosh More** recorded his maiden triumph in the professionals event. A 26yearold from the Otters Club, More was full value for his success as he downed top seeded **Rajesh Varma** and the redoubtable **Chandrakant Pawar** in the last two rounds.

A notable feature of the tournament was the four main events carried the same amounts as prize money: Rs. 7,500 to the winner. Rs. 5,000 to the runner-up. Rs. 2,500 each to the semifinalists and Rs. 1,500 each to the quarter finalists. The under 16 were rewarded with squash equipment.

Mr Kapil Dewan, executive director of Dewan Housing, who had readily come forward to the tournament at a time of all round recession, was the chief guest at the glittering prize distribution function followed by dinner at the Haveli, Juhu.

Results of the finals:

Under 16: Junaid Nathani beat Siddharth Suchde 15-7, 15-11, 15-10.

Under 19: Amitpal Kohli w.o. Avish Jayswal.

Women: Mekhala Subedar beat Deepali Anvekar 15-6, 15-3, 15-5

Men: Manish Choitrani beat Akhil Behl 15-10, 15-11, 11-15, 17-16

Professionals: Santosh More (Otters) beat

Chandrakant Pawar (The Leela), 13-15, 15-13, 15-6, 15-13.

SUNDER RAJAN



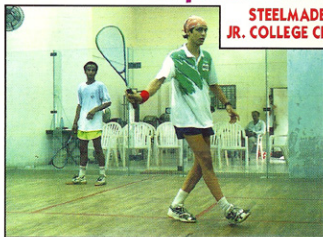
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Deepali underlines her progress

STEELMADE SCHOOLS JR. COLLEGE CHAMPIONSHIP



Parth Doshi (left) and Deepali Anvekar, who claimed the under19 titles in the Steelmade schools and junior college squash tournament at Otters Club.

Deepali Anvekar, who is being supported by Indian Squash Professionals, underlined her progress with a resounding 9-4,9-0,9-1 victory over international Rhea Bhandare in the girls under 19 finals of the Steelmade Furniture Inter-School and Junior Colleges Squash Tournament. Much interest centred around the match as Deepali had beaten Rhea in five games in the selection trials to pick the fourth player for India's team for the Asian championships. Unfortunately, Deepali could not make the trip and Rhea went instead.

Following coach Chandrakant Pawar's advice to the "T" Deepali judiciously mixed her powerful strokes with delicate drops to have Rhea on the run throughout. There was no stopping her once Deepali made up a 04 deficit in the opening game. Siddharth Suchde had a fine tournament winning the boys under 14, finishing the runner-up in the under 16 and helping Cathedral take the under 14 team honours. Cathedral underlined the depth in their ranks by claiming the under 16 team event as well and producing both finalists in the under 12 and under 14 individual events. Jindal who provide free equipment, a coach and all the encouragement they need to their juniors did, extremely well to reach the final of all the three team events. Perhaps they could have won the under 19 honours had Vijay Jangra not been injured and forced to concede his match. All the same they left no doubt that Sunil Verma has churned them into an emerging force.

Results of the finals:

Boys under 12: Rushab Vora (Cath.) beat Gautam Kalani (Cathedral) 9-7, 7-9, 6-9, 9-6, 9-1.

Boys under 14: Siddharth Suchde (Cathedral) beat Sahil Vora (Cathedral) 9-4, 9-5, 9-4.

Boys under 16: Junaid Nathani (Scottish) beat Siddharth Suchde 9-7, 9-5, 9-1.

Boys under 19: Parth Doshi (Podar) beat Abhijit Kukreja (H. R. Commerce) 9-0, 9-0, 9-2.

Girls under 14: Supriya Balsekar (BIS) beat Alisha Mashruwala (BIS) 9-2, 9-0, 9-0.

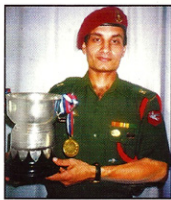
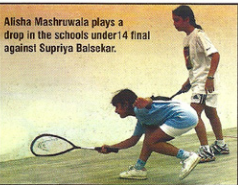
Girls under 19: Deepali Anvekar (Mithibai) beat Rhea Bhandare (Cathedral) 9-4, 9-0, 9-1.

Team events : Under 14: Cathedral beat Jindal 2-1. Under 16: Cathedral beat Jindal 2-1.

Under 19 : H.R. Commerce beat Jindal 3-0.

SUNDER RAJAN

Alisha Mashruwala plays a drop in the schools under14 final against Supriya Balsekar.



Capt Rajdeep Brar...best in the Services

BRAR MAKES IT FOUR IN A ROW

The XXXVIIth Services Squash Championship, featuring a galaxy of stars of National level including reigning three-time champion, India player and coach Major Rajdeep S Brar, Capt Navneet Narain, Capt Anuj Kalia, Capt S. Rajamani and Capt M. Khurana was held during August at the beautiful seaside location of Western Naval Command IMSC Squash Complex.

The championships were dominated by the Army players who were too good for their Indian Navy and IAF opponents. In the end it was a straight contest between the Maroon Boreet Paratroopers' Major Brar and Capt Rajamani and the Armoured Corps tankmen Capt Narain and Capt Kalia. The Paratroopers reigned supreme, getting past the tankmen in well contested semifinals of the prestigious individual event.

In the final the senior paratrooper, Major Brar, was too experienced for Capt Rajamani, romping home an easy 9-1, 9-6, 9-1 winner. Major Brar lifted the glittering Field Marshal Sir Birdwood Cup (instituted in 1927) for the fourth straight year.

He also led the Army Red team to the Championship in the team event.



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NEWS NEWS NEWS

Mahindra World Open in Qatar

Bangalore will not get the taste of big-time squash. The Mahindra Open, which has been staged their in December has been shifted to Doha, Qatar. The decision was taken by the PSA in view of the uncertainty over the reaction in India over participation of Pakistani players.

Misha wins Arjuna Award

Misha Grewal was honoured with the Arjuna award, the country's highest sporting honour in September. Misha won the national women's crown from 1993 to 1996. She then gave up the game to take up a career as TV presenter on star news. But the award appears to have fired her up to come back to the sport. She may be back for the next Nationals and who knows the Bangkok Asian Games.

Singapore Jr. Open Squash Tournament 6.7.98:

Girls under 14. (final): Josha Chinnappa (India) beat Sally Loi (Malaysia) 9-0, 9-3, 9-6.

Boys under 16 (semifinals): Bikram Ubeeroi (India) lost to Vincent Chueng (HK).

Asian Seniors Squash Championship 18.7.98:

Women: Mekhaa Subedar (India) lost to Kenneth Low (Mal) 0-9, 1-9, 1-9.

Prequalifier finals: Akhil Behl (India) lost to Kenneth Low (Mal) 0-9, 1-9, 1-9; Ritwik Bhattacharya (India) lost to Zarak Jahan Khan (Pak) 0-9, 0-9, 6-9; Arjan Singh (India) lost to Jackie Lee (HK) 3-0, 0, 9, 2-9.

Asian Seniors Squash Championship (team Event) 20.7.98:

Merris quarterfinals: India beat Jordan 20: Akhil Behl beat Hameed Saeed 5-0, 10-8, 9-6, 9-1; Ritwik Bhattacharya beat Yazeed Adas 8-9, 9-3, 9-0, 9-5.

Semifinals: Pakistan beat India 3-0: Zarak Jahan Khan beat Arjan Singh 9-6, 9-3, 6-9, 9-3; Shamsul Islam Khan beat Gajendra Singh 9-1, 9-0, 9-5; Mansoor Zaman beat Akhil Behl 9-1, 9-2.

Malaysia beat Hong Kong 3-0.

Final: Men: Pakistan beat Malaysia 2-1. Women: Malaysia beat Singapore 3-0.

Indian women beat Philippines 3-0 to finish fifth.

Indian men finished fourth as they lost to Hong Kong 0-3.

Australia Women's Open 16.8.98:

Martin beat FitzGerald 9-4, 2-9, 9-6, 9-5.

Geoff Hunt Open 16.8.98:

Paul Price beat Rodney Eyles

Singapore Open 23.8.98:

Men: Martin beat FitzGerald 9-10, 9-7, 9-4, 9-3.

Women: Paul Price (Aus) beat Omar Elorossoly (Egypt) 155, 1510, 1513

10th World Jr. Squash Championship 20.8.98

Final: England beat Egypt 3-2. 3rd place: Pakistan beat France 3-0. 17th place: India beat South Africa 2-1.

Hong Kong Open 1.9.98:

Jonathan Power (Canada) beat Peter Nicol (Scotland) 15-14, 15-11, 15-14.

Nicol, Michelle claim Commonwealth gold

World no. 1 Peter Nicol of Scotland claimed gold at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur beating Jonathan Power of Canada 3-9, 2-9, 1-2, 9-5, 9-2 in the final. Nicol beat Paul Johnson of England 9-2-9, 3-9, 1 in the semi final. Jonathan Power dispatched Alex Gough of Wales in three straight games in the other semifinal.

The women's final saw Michelle Martin upset Sarah Fitz Gerald 9-0, 6-6, 9-5 in an all Australian affair. Sara beat England's Cassie Jackson 9-2, 9-0, 9-2, while no. 2 Martin ousted another Englishwoman, Sue Wright, 9-7, 9-1, 9-2 in the semifinals.

Quiz-1



1. Identify the player shown above?
2. Which is the place in Pakistan from where World Champion Jahangir Khan comes from?
3. Who defeated Jahangir Khan in 1986 to end his unbeaten run of five years?
4. At which famous English school was squash invented?
5. Who won the first Indian national men's title?

1st prize 10 T-shirts, 2nd prize 5T-shirts, 3rd prize 3T-shirts by Switcher

Head ranking system launched

Indian squash now has a ranking system of its own based on the Professional Squash Association world rankings. It has been launched by Head, the Austrian squash racquets manufacturers. The rankings cover ten major categories in the sport — men, women, over 35, professionals, under 19, 16, 14 and 12 (all boys), under

19 and under 14 (both girls). Tournaments having a minimum total prizemoney of Rs 50,000 (Rs 30,000 for juniors) would be graded and the ranking period would be from August 1 to July 31. The national championship would have the highest grade of 'N', independent of the prize money schedule, while grade 1, 2, 3 and J (juniors) would be accorded to tournaments offering prize money of Rs 1.5 lakh or more. Rs 11.49 lakh, Rs 50,000 Rs 99,599 and Rs 30,000 Rs 49,999 (juniors). Each tournament should have a minimum of 16 participants (men and junior boys) and eight for women and junior girls. It has to be an open event with all the matches best of five game contests. A zero score would be given to a player for nonparticipation in an event without prior notice, it was announced.

The rankings (as on August 25):

- Men: 1. Manish Chotrani, 2. Akhil Behl, 3. Abhijit Kureja, 4. Saket Wali, 5. Nitaj Shirgaonkar, 6. Cyrus Foncha, 7. Clint Pereira, 8. Amitpal Kohli.

Women: 1. Mekha Subedar, 2. Deepali Anvsark, 3. Rhea Bhandare, 4. Parinita Choudhary, 5. Sarita Jstvani, 6. Kavita Navalade, 7. Charisma Juneja, 8. Sunita Choudhary.

Under 19 boys: 1. Amitpal Kohli, 2. Avish Jayswal, 3. Abhijit Kureja, 4. Parth Doshi, 5. Korak Sharma, 6. Jaikaran Juneja, 7. Aftab Muthur, 8. Mahesh Verma.

Under 16 boys: 1. Junaid Nathani, 2. Siddharth Suchde, 3. Jaikaran Juneja, 4. Sahil Vora, 5. Auloke Mather, 6. Vijay Jhangra, 7. Mhir Sheth, 8. Karanpal Sethi.

Professionals: 1. Santosh More, 2. C S Pawar, 3. Rajesh Verma, 4. Ananth More, 5. Rajesh Sonawane, 6. Riyaz Mohammed, 7. Sunil Verma, 8. Ramesh More.

PSA RANKING FOR MEN AS ON 1-9-98

RANK	(PREV)	NAME	COUNTRY
1	(1)	Peter Nicol	SCO
2	(2)	Jansher Khan	PAK
3	(3)	Jonathan Power	CAN
4	(4)	Rodney Eyles	AUS
5	(6)	Simon Parke	ENG

PSA RANKING FOR WOMEN AS ON 1-9-98

RANK	(PREV)	NAME	COUNTRY
1	(1)	SARAH FITZGERALD	AUS
2	(2)	MICHELLE MARTIN	AUS
3	(3)	CASSIE JACKMAN	ENG
4	(4)	SUE WRIGHT	ENG
5	(5)	SUZANNE HORNER	ENG

ISP loses a wellwisher

Indian Squash Professionals lost a friend when Leyland de Sousa, a veteran sport scribe of The Times of India, passed away at the age of 76. Leyland was on the editorial board of Pro Squash and contributed articles on most local events. He had covered the game in the 70s and 80s being closely that famous squash family, the Pardollé. Leyland himself hailed from a family of hockey players and was a cousin of India's football stars Neville and Deryck De Souza.

Join the ISP Club

The ISP announces the formation of the ISP Club. Members of this club will be able to interact with fellow members in other cities. They can avail of facilities at clubs in the cities of the fellow members using their contacts.

Contact Subhash Wali for enrollment details. Ph: 6439515/6/7. Fax: 6435518/7



Editorial Board:
Mahendra Agarwal—Sunder Rajan—Sameer Wali

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