

League provides exciting fare

By Mike Clark

THIS is the penultimate week in the MMI-sponsored Men's Squash League and some crucial matches were fought out on the courts around town.

In Division One, Silver Sands I met Indian Sports Club. Last week's results left ISC two points ahead of SS at the top of the table so this was a real crunch match for both teams.

It turned out to be an extended battle long into the night with most matches going to five and the last player staggering off the court at 1.15 a.m.

Steve Grigg's encounter with Naresh Bhatia was a real ding dong affair with Steve just managing to win 10-8 in the fifth.

Steve Bennet had an easier time in the fourth string position with Sunil Oberoi and won 3-1.

Sunil is a powerful player but Steve kept his head and his excellent range of strokes saw him through.

Malcolm Gregory simply ran out of steam against Bharat Karani after taking an early lead and Bharat took the match 3-2.

Dean Marcini had a relatively easy game to beat Danesh Mans 3-0 to put the number ones, John Rycroft and Pawar onto the court just after midnight.

John was leading 2-1 when Pawar summoned up just that little bit more to come back strongly and take the match 3-2.

In Division II, leaders Chicago Beach had a comfortable win over Golden Sands (14-4). This means that Golden Sands slip to third position and CBH have a seven point lead over Al Ain Hilton who move up to second.

Fountain Court had a good win over DCC Falcons with Peter Dale working well to win 3-0 against Ray Kelly.

In Division III, MMI gave DCC Cavaliers, (otherwise known as Dot's Jesters after last week's brief appearance of a mystery player (Paul Hendry) in the team, a sound thrashing (15-1). Long Jon Pardoe got off his sick bed to play but didn't have too much trouble with Guy Harvey-Samuels (3-0).

Andrew Ead had the distinction of being the only MMI player to drop a game, (against Gerry Murray) and

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Chris Steibelt won comfortably against a subdued Dot Higgins.

Mike Fay had obviously been watching Adrian Davies and produced a couple of good backhand volleys into the nick, much to Mark Carpenter's frustration and Simon Lee 'showed no mercy for Heather Totten. Division III supremos Indian Sports Club maintained their lead at the top of the table with their nearest rivals Chicago Beach Hotel losing 7-9 to Hilton Beach Club.

In Division IV, DCC Kestrels were hoping to stay off the bottom of the table but were convincingly beaten by an in-form Hilton Beach Club side. David Fairweather (small but with beautiful markings) started strongly but faded under relentless pressure from Errol Bateman and eventually succumbed 3-1 despite all his protestations to the umpire (who retired after the second game).

Malcolm Clark looked stylish against Australian Crocodile Nick Gibson but Nick consistently found the better length and also won through 3-1. Mike Clark (this one, not the other one) had a lengthy tussle with another ozzy, Bruce Ryan.

Both players seemed to be feeling the pace at two-all but Bruce's very accurate drop volleys were too much for Mike. Bruce won 9-6 in the fifth.

Ray Thorpe called himself all sorts of names in his brief match with Paul Collins but never really got going enough to worry fitness fanatic Paul.

David Eley, making a rare appearance, met Gentleman Jim Wright in the final match of the evening. This proved to be a marathon (8/10, 10/9, 7/9, 9/1 9/3).

Jim's penetrating drives and delicate drops were too much for Eley who may have his mind on other things these days as I hear he has been seen around town on the arm of a raven-haired beauty.

At the top of the table, Fountain Court had an excellent win over Emirates Golf Club (12-5) and stay well clear of Sharjah Wanderers who also had a good result against DCC Hawks (12-6).

Lots of squash events coming up

with the Orient Irrigation Tournament taking place at Emirates Golf Club today, the Divisional Championship finals tomorrow evening and the Squash League end-of-season dinner on Thursday, June 14 at Emirates Golf Club. (Contact Ashley Durman 221818 for tickets).

Hope you were all at the DCC 3's tournament last weekend to watch the stars. This tournament is getting better and better and Dittmar, Davies, Williams and Maclean certainly played some remarkable and entertaining squash.

Man of the tournament, for my mind, was Adrian Davies who must be one of the most entertaining men on the circuit. In Friday's final, he unleashed a bewildering array of smashes and angles against Geoff Williams, most of which seemed to find a nick.

Isn't it strange how, the higher up the rankings they are, the luckier they seem to be.

Comment of the tournament had to be from the bewildered spectator who, watching Phil Greenhaugh and Keith Hendry staggering around the court early on Thursday morning, turned to the man beside him and asked: "Which one is Dittmar?"

We were all saddened to learn of the tragic death of Fred Soulsby who had played league squash for Hilton Apartments for many years.

He was much-liked character both on and off the court and will be greatly missed. The matches between Chicago Beach Village/Marbella (Division III) and Trade Centre Apartments/DCC Veterans (Division II) were postponed to allow players to attend the memorial service for Fred at Holy Trinity and those matches that were played, stopped for a minute's silence at 9 O'clock.

Division I:
Silver Sands 1 13-10 Indian Sport Club: J. Rycroft 2-3 C.Pawar; D. Marcini 3-0 D Mans; M. Gregory 2-3 B. Kharani; S. Bennet 3-2 S. Oberoi; S. Grigg 3-2 N. Bhatia. Al Ghurair 4 -12 Silver Sands 2: S. Qureishi 0-3 G. Trutch; Ahmed 0-0 A. Deakin; S. Butt 3-3 A. Blaylock; H. Ansari 0-3; N. Kanda; Ishrat 1-3 I. Johda. Al Nasr bye; Sharjah Wanderers Bye; Standings (under P W D L PA PF): Silver Sands 1 4 4 0, 0, 27, 51; Indian Sports 4 3 0 1 29 50; Silver Sand 2 4 2 0 2 31 42; Sharjah Wanderers 4 1 0 3 43 32; Al Ghurair 4 2 0 2 45 30

Al Nasr 4 0 0 4 49 20.
Division II:
Golden Sands 4-14 Chicago Beach Hotel: D. Langmead 1-3 P. Rivers; W. Walkers 0-3 L. Robinson; P. Jarvis 0-3 N. Jones; D. Mackay 0-3 B. Vohra; R. Hamilton 3-2 C. Newns. Al Ain Hilton 12-7 Marbella: A. Khan 3-1 J. Heartland; L. Glavin 3-1 N. Franjeh; R. Collins 3-0 D. Kapila; L. Smith 0-3 N. Haradine; M. Smith 3-2 D. Bailey.
DCC Falcons 7-11 Fountain Court:
R. Kelly 0-3 P. Dale; C. Hallack 1-3 T. Marrian; A. Mukerjee 0-3 D. Proctor; P. Sweeney 3-1 R. Smith; R. Billington 3-1 J. Pascoe. DCC Veterans v Trade Centre Apts postponed.
Standings: Chicago Beach 6 5 0 1 31 78;
Al Ain Hilton 6 5 1 0 49 66;
Golden Sands 6 3 0 3 56 59;
D. C.C. Falcons 6 2 1 3 58 56
Fountain Court 6 3 0 3 65 54;
Trade Centre Apts 5 2 0 3 55 48;
D.C.C. Veterans 5 2 0 3 51 44;
Marbella 6 0 0 6 76 36.
Division III:
MMI Grey Mackenzie 15-1 Dots Jesters: J. Pardoe 3-0 G. Harvey-Samuels; A Ead 3-1 G. Murray; C. Steibelt 3-0 Dot Higgins; M. Fay 3-0 M. Carpenter; S. Lee 3-0 Heather Totten.
Marbella 0-0 Chicago Beach VI Cancelled; Hilton Beach Club 9-7 Chicago Beach Hotel: J. Hodge 0-3 Das; A. Roberts 0-3 M. Hadi; F. Dalgard 3-1 K. Brown; T. Elliot 3-0 Shane; W. Tanimi 3-0 A. Welkans.
Standings: Indian Sports 5 5 0 0 24, 67;
Chicago Beach Ho 6 2 2 2 45 58;
Hilton Beach Club 6 4 1 1 51 56;
MMI Grey Mackenzie 6 3 0 3 48 53;
Chicago Beach 5 2 0 3 50 46;
Hyatt Fitness 5 2 1 1 47 42;
Marbella 5 1 1 3 50 40;
D.C.C. Cavaliers 6 0 1 5 76 34.
Division IV:
DCC Kesteels 6-15 Hilton Beach Club; D. Eley 2-3 J. Wright; E. Thorpe 0-3 P. Collins; Mike Clark 2-3 B. Ryan; Malcolm Clark 1-3 N. Gibson; D. Fairweather 1-3 E. Bateman.
Jebel Ali R.C. 9-10 Dutco: J. Valencia 3-1 J. Young; B Watson 0-3 A. Bonar; D. Keenan 3-0 P. Kirkman; A. Marriott 2-3 I. Maggs J. Maybankes 1-3 P. Naughton; Sharjah Wanderers 12-6 DCC Hawks: P. Taylor 3-0 P. Lydiard; P. Holt 0-3 T. Wildsmith; M. O'Neil 3-1 I. Cameron; I. Mitchell 3-0 N. Rickerby; Babs Habayeb 3-2 A. Muir.
Fountain Court 12-5 Emirates Golf Club: Ian Parfitt 3-2 S. Pudney; Danny Garvey 3-0 E. Harries; Dev Reddy 3-0 S. Blackstock; Barry James 0-3 N. Lovett; Julian Tindall 3-0 P. Summersgill.
Standings:
Fountain Court 6 6 0 0 29 78;
Sharjah Wanderers 6 5 0 1 38 67;
Emirates Golf 6 3 0 3 38 64;
Hilton Beach Club 6 3 1 2 54 62;
Dutco 6 3 0 3 58 55;
D.C.C. Hawks 6 1 0 5 68 42
Jebel Ali Rec Cl. 6 0 1 5 77 37;
D.C.C. Kestrels 6 2 0 4 73 35.

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Participants of the Orient Irrigation Squash Tournament at the Emirates Golf Club yesterday. The following are the results: England beat Scotland 125-108, Australia beat Scramblers 131-128, India beat Scotland 102-114, India beat Australia 128-113, R of W beat Pakistan 143-91, Ireland beat Wales 134-125, R of W beat Africa 113- 52, Pakistan beat Wales 103-98 - GN photo