

Issue Date: January 2013, Posted On: 1/22/2013

Pakistan National Squash Team visits Massachusetts



Dover Squash and Fitness Center hosted a special reception for the Pakistan National Squash Team on Jan. 14 at its facilities in Natick, Mass. According to organizers, the event gave guests the chance to meet individual players and wish them well as they embarked on their United States tournament circuit tour.

"I am very excited to have the players train at the club and am looking forward to training them," said Paul Mathieson, head squash professional and director of Dover Squash and Fitness.

In addition to celebrating the team, this event also introduced a new program, spearheaded by Mahmud Jafri, owner of Dover Squash and Fitness Center and CEO of Dover Rug & Home and the Pakistan Squash Federation through which several Pakistani players in their teens or early 20s are given the opportunity to compete in the United States for several months a year. The intent of this program is to give international exposure and tournament experience to these young players, Jafri said. Although Pakistan was a world leader in squash in the 1950s through the 1990s, political instability has increasingly discouraged the country's players from competing at the international level.

Jafri, who grew up playing squash in Pakistan, came to the United States in the 1974 and has been a strong supporter of the sport ever since. He introduced it on a local level through the Dover Squash Academy he founded in 1987 and most recently, with the state-of-the-art Dover Squash & Fitness facility he opened in early 2012, located adjacent to the new Dover Rug & Home showroom on Route 9 in Natick.

In addition to Jafri and Mathieson, the host committee included Barry Hoffman, Consul General of Pakistan; Shazia Bashir Khan, president of the Pakistan Association of Greater Boston; Feroz Mahmood, chairman the Pakistan Association of Greater Boston; Pakistan Association of Greater Boston board members Ghulam M. Chaudhry, Stephen Columbia, Nadeem Afridi, Jamila Khalil and Ali Merchant; Arshad Burki, professional player at Dover Squash Academy; and Hasan Jafri, intern at Dover Squash Academy.