

Dateline April 7th, Chapel Hill, North Carolina **Chifunda and Jain win the A's**

The 6th UNC Hardball and Softball Tournament was completed here in Chapel Hill. There were two full draws of 16 players in the hardball division and four draws in the softball division. In the hardball finals, Patrick Chifunda played Amaand Shaikh in a very exciting four-game match. In addition to the trophies the top 4 finishers in the Hardball A were awarded cash prizes..

Winner and Runner up

Hardball A: Patrick Chiunfda (w) and Armaan Shaikh

Hardball B: Charles Matison (w) and Paul Chan

Softball A: Saurav Jain from NC State (w) and Varun Babbar from Duke

Softball B: Luke Hepler from UNC (w) and Thomas Benjamin

Softball C: Quinn Frenzel from UNC (w) and Ishaan Ray

Softball D: Jeremy Fine from UNC (w) and Yasmine Ackall from UNC

The tournament's objective is to provide students with a view of what squash can be like and provide a perspective of squash as a lifelong game. Not only were there 25 student entrants from UNC and surrounding universities but there were about 10 alumni who came back to play in the tournament. This included Hughes Benjamin and Jeremiah Johnson from NOLA, Sharan Potluri from Boston, and a large contingent from NYC, including Hazim Mukhtar, Chris Gsell, John Lim, Henry Tilghman, and others. We also had participants travel as far out from California to play. Clearly, something exciting is happening at Carolina Squash.

We have more folks deciding to play both hardball and softball next year as they enjoyed seeing hardball being played in this tournament, including our champion, Saurav, and David Hermer.

A second objective of the tournament was to raise money for the UNC Squash teams. This allows the program to flourish for both the men and the women. This year, the tournament netted over \$20,000 for their use to play squash in the 2024-25 season. This is the largest contribution from the UNC Hardball and Softball Tournament to date. It may be possible they will be the first UNC team to play the two new ACC schools, Stanford and Berkley. This support from the donors will help change the trajectory of UNC squash. Where they will proudly wear their new Harrow Sports uniforms.

Off-court, there was golf on Friday and Sunday at Chapel Hill Country Club and Tobacco Road. On Friday and Saturday, there were dinners at the Chapel Hill Country Club and a garden dinner party at the Pages'.

The tournament would not have been possible without the efforts and planning of Noah Mills, Giovanna Chen, Martha Nugent, Charlie Larkin, Elinoura Famsaid, Jessica Attia, and Hazim Mukhtar.



Saturday Group Photo



Charlie Larkin, Patrick Chifunda, Amaan Shaikh, Martha Nugent



Gala Hermer, Saurav Jain, Varun Babbar, Martha Nugent



Saturday Garden Party at the Pages

Rameses' Society Member

Laurie and Peter Grauer

Davie Founders Club Member

The Fast Family

The Hermer Family

Harriet and Edwin Poston

The Townsend Family

Martha and David Slosburg

Harrow Sports

Platinum Donors

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Carter Haley

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Silver Donors

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