



**INTERNATIONAL  
FEDERATION OF  
PICKLEBALL**

The World Governing Body for the Sport of Pickleball <http://www.ifpickleball.org>



## **Conclusion of the India World Bainbridge Cup Tournament Event**

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INDIA - December 9, 2022 - The International Federation of Pickleball (IFP) in collaboration with All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) under the leadership of its Chairman Shri Arvind Prabhoo hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of World Pickleball Tournament, popularly known as 'Bainbridge Cup' at National Sports Club of India (N.S.C.I.), Worli, Mumbai from 29<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

The earlier edition of the Bainbridge Cup was held in the year 2016 in Italy followed by Spain, Germany and USA respectively.

A grand colorful opening ceremony was held in the NSCI Dome on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. Shri Aditya Thackeray, Member of Legislative Assembly of the constituency and Ex-Environment Minister of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest. Mr Thackeray unveiled the Bainbridge Cup before the audience and declared the event open. The event was also attended by Mr Sunil Valavalkar, President of the International Federation of Pickleball and also Mr Carl Burnett, the Vice President who flew all the way from the USA to attend the event.

Besides India, players from the USA, New Zealand, Japan, Nigeria, Peru, Taiwan, Egypt, Thailand, Singapore and the Philippines participated in this 5 day event.

An unprecedented 435 players registered for the event. There were 50 various age and skill categories like 18 & under, 19+, 40+, 50+ & 60+ in both intermediate and advanced skill levels. Separate Prize Money categories in both Open age group and 50+ were held. The prize money purse was \$50,500 for the winners, which was the highest amount ever in any Pickleball Tournament.

In the team game held on the last day, seven teams participated. The Bainbridge Cup was won by Team India which defeated Pickleball United 7-6 in a closely fought final. The Pickleball United team consisted of a mix of players from India, USA, Japan, Singapore. The team members for India were Mr Armaan Bhatia, Mr Harsh Mehta, Mr Gaurav Rane, Mr Kashyap Baranwal, Ms Vrushali Thakare, Ms Naimi Mehta, Ms Bhakti Adivarekar, Mr Mohd. Zaid and Mr Gopal Tikmani. The Pickleball United were represented by Mr Aditya Ruhela, Mr Johannes Vance, Mr Daniel Moore, Mr Dhiren Patel, Mr Udai Singh, Mr Pranav Kohli, Mr Zahaan Singh, Ms Pini Lee, Ms Varsha Majumdar and Ms Rakshikha R.

In the Individual events, in Men's Singles Prize Money categories, Aditya Ruhela defeated Mr Vanshik Kapadia to clinch the Gold whereas Tejas Mahajan got the Bronze. In the Men's Doubles, Armaan Bhatia paired with Harsh Mehta to win the gold by defeating Himansh Mehta and Mayur Patil. The Bronze was won by Daniel Moore of Japan and Jai Grewal of New Zealand. The Taiwanese girls reigned

supreme in the Women's Singles by clinching all three medals. Yu Chieh Hsieh, Chao Yi Wang and Kao Pei Chan got the Gold, Silver and bronze respectively. In the Women's Doubles, the Taiwanese pair of Chao Yi Wang and Ko Tadpole defeated their counterparts Yu Chieh Hsieh and Pei Chuan Kai to win the Gold. The bronze medal was won by Pini Lee and Varsha Majumdar, both players from Singapore. In the mixed doubles event, Armaan Mehta and Vrushal Thakare defeated Vanshik Kapadia and Rakshika Ravi to win the Gold whereas Aditya Ruhela and Pini Lee won the bronze. The prize money for winning Gold, Silver and Bronze in the singles event was \$3000, \$2000 and \$1000 respectively whereas for the doubles event, it was \$5000, \$3000 & \$1500 respectively.

In the 50 plus age group Prize money category, in Men's single, Mr Ajeet Bharadwaj won the Gold whereas Hari Mohan of Singapore won the Silver and Sandeep Tawde won the bronze. In the Men's Doubles, Thakurdas Rohira and Pradeep Ramnani defeated Atul Edward to win the Gold whereas Ajeet Bharadwaj and Hari Mohan won the bronze. In the Women's Single Pini Lee of Singapore won the Gold whereas India's Shakuntala Devnani and Denise Burchette of USA won the silver and bronze respectively. In Women's Doubles Bela Kotwani pairing with Shakuntala Devnani defeated Denise Burchette and Sushma Thakore to clinch the Gold whereas Manita Gujral and Rashmi Kant won the bronze. In the 50+ mixed doubles category, the Singapore duo of Hari Mohan and Varsha Majumdar won the Gold by defeating Atul Edward and Sujay Parekh whereas Thakurdas Rohira and Shakuntala Devnani won the bronze.

Shri Dhanraj Pillay, Former India Hockey Captain, Arjuna and Padma Shri awardee handed over the prizes to the winners during the closing ceremony held on the last day, i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Pillay congratulated all the winners and said that they should continue to work hard and compete successfully with the best players of the world. He said that all the players are fortunate to have Shri Arvind Prabhoo, who has been a constant supporter of sports and looks after the welfare and training of the budding sportsman.

Mr Carl Burnett, Vice President of IFP said, *"The benchmark of organizing the 5th edition of the Bainbridge Cup World tournament set by AIPA will be hard to break by subsequent organizations. The Team led under the dynamic leader of AIPA, Mr Arvind Prabhoo has created a history which is a road map for any future organizations. Congratulations Team AIPA."*

*Submitted by; Chetan Sanil, Tournament Director*