

Carrom Canada's *Kya baat hai*

Manuel deprives Francis of Triple Crown

Francis D'Costa who had earlier won the men's doubles and mixed doubles was deprived of a triple crown by Manuel Coelho. Third seed Manuel scored a fluent 2-0 upset victory over strong favorite Francis in the New Town Square Men singles Canada Open Carrom tournament on Sunday.

Consistent pocketing by Manuel overcame odds to defeat the off-color Francis in both the games – 22-9 & 17-12. In the 1st game he raced to 19-0 in 3 boards thus putting pressure on the seasoned Francis who clawed his way back into the game. And, had he not missed a sitter in the 7th board and losing a 9 points board, perhaps the game would have been different outcome.

In the second game, Francis had another golden opportunity to level the game in the 8th board. Unfortunately he missed his penultimate easy queen shot with Manuel's 5 coins on board. Manuel calmly finished all the coins to win the title. Francis who performs best when he is on the offensive, resorted to defensive tactics due to loss of form and ultimately paid the price.. Manuel was a deserving winner who capitalized on his opponents' lapses and together with a few lady luck shots at crucial moments secured a comfortable victory, thus reaffirming the saying "fortune favors the brave".

In the semifinals, Manuel defeated another favorite and second seed Wajahat Mohammed 20-13 & 23-2. In the first game the scores were tied at 13-13 after 7 boards with Wajahat to break the last board. Wajahat failed to capitalize and Manuel won on an 8 board decision. In the second game, Manuel had a comfortable win and a place in the finals. In the other semis, top seed Francis defeated fourth seed Derrick Silveira 2-0, but not without Derrick giving Francis a tough fight. Derrick failed to take advantage of Francis' poor form thus losing 22-20 & 22-12.



Bridget and Francis Clinch Mixed Doubles



In the mixed doubles, Manuel and Vanita Pais led all the way in the first game which they won 23-14. However, Francis with support from his wife Bridget D'Costa, turned on the heat and leveled the match by winning the second game 14-11.

The third went to the wire, although the game would have been over in the seventh board when Francis' simple finishing cover coin jumped and Manuel finished the board to bring the scores to 17-19. In the 8th board Francis closed the game with a classy 6 coin finish to seal the game 27-17 and the mixed doubles title.



Wajahat ends on a victorious note

Wajahat Mohammed started well and went up 14-0 in 3 boards. Derrick recovered in the next three boards and led Wajahat 15-14. The 7th board changed the game and Wajahat ended winning the game 26-15.

The second game went neck and neck and at the end of 5 boards they were tied at 11 points a piece. In the 6th it was 15-11 to Wajahat. Just like the previous game Wajahat forged ahead in the seventh board and did not look back and secured a comfortable 24-11 win to clinch the third place.

AFTER THOUGHTS...

Moaz Shaikh an excellent player, who was on holidays and missed the tournament and probably a place in the finals, was surprised that the games were played on a best of 8 boards' basis. "I think it's absolutely unfair for better players, because if the opponent gains ground in the first few boards it becomes very difficult to recover and the pressure builds up. I would strongly suggest full games of 25 points instead of 8 boards after quarterfinals, as this will give proper and fair results".

Another formidable player **Derrick Silveira** suggested that Carrom Canada conduct a two division league of 16 players in each division. "This will create competitive play, instead of one sided games".

Francis D'Costa strongly suggests more singles games before we go to play in US thus getting enough tournament playing time. He added "The more we play competitive games the better we will handle the pressure".

Wajahat Mohammed advised that we complete the tournament once started. "With the delay and postponements interest had subsided which resulted in some upsets. I don't see why Manuel did not play the finals after the semis on Saturday, we played for the 3rd place".

The tournament coordinator Francis was very pleased with the response and performance of the players. "There has been a tremendous improvement in the skills and I am absolutely sure that our players will rise up to the challenge of facing formidable opponents" he added. "This tournament was the brainchild of **Vincent Li**, President of **NTS Corporation**; he initiated the idea. On behalf of Carrom Canada, I would like to thank Vincent and also **Albert Guido**, President of **Fiducia Group**, for his tremendous support and going all the way in improving the benefits of the tournament" Both Vincent and Albert want to make this into an annual event.

US CARROM OPEN

Atul Bhawe, Secretary/Treasurer of the United States Carrom Association has announced that the 2nd Carrom Open tournament for the year 2012 will be held in September.

USCA in partnership with New Jersey Carrom Club, co-sponsored by TV ASIA and Dr. Nilesh Mehta will be hosting the USCA National Championship, in New Jersey on the 14th, 15th and 16th of September 2012.

There will be two categories - Singles & Doubles. The tournament will commence on Friday at 12.00 PM and is scheduled to wind up on Sunday by 6 pm.

Carrom Canada once again will be participating and encourage more players to join and support our US counterparts in promoting carrom in North America.

Wajahat, Moaz, Manuel, Khader, Derrick and Francis have confirmed their intent in making this trip. Call Francis for more details and check our website for further information.



Who says there's no free lunch!!!

The total prize money distributed to 40 winners in different categories was \$3,000, golf shirts especially designed for the tournament valuing over \$30 each, were also given to all players and spectators. Lunches were provided on both days, with BBQ in the evenings. Tea and snacks were served in the mornings. All this and lots of competitive fun with **NO ENTRY FEE.**

Myron Canada through **Manuel Coelho** provided Alarm clocks to all women participants who failed to qualify for the quarter finals.

Cougar Court Carrom Club led by **Nayeem Rahman**, arranged a Hyderabad BBQ for the men's singles finals, whilst the semis and mixed doubles finals were hosted by the D'Costas. Overall it was a fantastic and fulfilling event which created a lot of buzz around the GTA area and US too, promoting Carrom and getting more people into our Carrom fraternity as players, spectators and enthusiastic followers.



WINNERS AT A GLANCE

MEN SINGLES

Winner: **Manuel Coelho**

Runner Up: **Francis D'Costa**

Third Place: **Wajahat Mohammed**

Fourth Place: **Derrick Silveira**

Quarter Finalists: **David Gonsalves,**

Derek D'Souza, Diogo Fernandes &

Misbah Khan.

MEN DOUBLES

Winners:

Francis D'Costa & Manuel Coelho

Runners Up:

Shad Ahmed & Abdul Khader

Third Place:

Wajahat Mohammed & Iqbal Ali

Fourth Place:

Derrick Silveira & Desmond Silveira

Quarter Finalists:

Mohammed Nayeem & Kafeel

Kotapali, Abdul Qadeer & Misbah

Khan, David Gonsalves & Manchu

Kanaga and, Derek D'Souza & Diogo

Fernandes.

MIXED DOUBLES

Winners:

Francis D'Costa & Bridget D'Costa

Runners Up:

Manuel Coelho & Vanita Pais

Semi-Finalists:

Wajahat Mohammed & Valene

Cardoso, and Desmond Silveira &

Sangeeta Nair

Quarter Finalists:

Derrick Silveira & Rudelle Silveira,

Mohammed Khader & Kimaron

Silveira, Misbah Khan & Sheryl

Silveira and, Mohammed Nayeem &

Susan Dias.

Carrom Canada to REGISTER

Carrom Canada now with the enthusiastic following has decided to formally register as a nonprofit organization. This will allow us to play in the **world cup in Sri Lanka this year** and stage international tournaments in Canada. We will keep you posted with further development.