adminton tournament has record year

By Tyler Mayforth

The shuttlecocks, nets, and racquets were out in full force at the Fourth Annual MDI Badminton Open Tournament on Sunday.

This year, the format was changed so that the MDI team battled on the parquet with the squad from Colby College. A record crowd watched the 10-member teams go back and forth throughout the day. In the first round, MDI players and Colby players would match up and play regardless of ability. As the day progressed, match-ups were fine-tuned and the top players were paired with each other.

In the women's single final, Line Recholtz of the MDI team and Anna Simeonova from Colby were pitted against each other. Simeonova won the match going away, 21-7, 21-10.

The men's single final went all three games, with Nishanta Rajakaru prevailing over fellow MDI player Taj Mohammed, 21-13, 17-21, 21-18. The title was Rajakaru's fourth straight singles title, as he has won the event each year since its inception.

Mohammed avenged his loss in the singles match as he and Meher Perveen won the doubles portion. Mohammed and Perveen defeated Rajakaru and Sonia Field, 21-20, 14-21, and 21-14.

Rajakaru, who is also match director, said the quality of play on the island is better and is looking to expand the tournament.

"Overall, the quality of players has improved, with it becoming a more popular sport," Rajakaru said. "We are getting some recognition here, which is very nice. We want to try to make it bigger next year, and maybe advertise in Massachusetts."

Jackson Laboratory employee Meher Parveen prepares to serve during Sunday's badminton tournament between MDI residents and Colby College students at the YMCA.

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