

Shuttlers serve up Malaysia's second gold

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KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia clinched its second gold in the 16th Commonwealth Games last night when the men's badminton team defeated England 4-1. *S 15-9-98*

Although the win was expected, it was nevertheless a moment to cherish as it meant Malaysia had surpassed its total medals haul in Victoria four years ago.

And to cap the night, the Malaysian women's team, which was not given a ghost of a chance by many, came within a whisker of making it a double but had to settle for the silver behind England on a countback.

The Malaysian men took to the court without leading player Ong Ewe Hock, who injured his hamstring on Sunday, but still proved too strong for England.

Yong Hock Kin set the pace with a 15-8, 15-4 win over former European champion Darren Hall in 30 minutes.

Choong Tan Fook and Lee Wan Wah followed up by beating Julian

Robertson and Nathan Robertson 15-12, 15-13.

Newly-crowned national champion Wong Choon Hann then sealed it for Malaysia with a 15-8, 15-8 victory over Mark Constable.

Cheah Soon Kit and Yap Kim Hock took the score to 4-0 by beating Simon Archer and Christopher Hunt 15-8, 15-5.

Malaysia gave a walkover in the last match that was supposed to feature Choong Tan Fook against Peter Knowles in the third singles.

"Sometimes you know you just have to win," Malaysia's head coach Morten Frost said.

"I had no worries even though we were a leading player short.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, congratulated the teams - especially the women's saying: "They are all still very young, which means they have a bright future in badminton."