



NEWSLETTER

Inaugural Issue

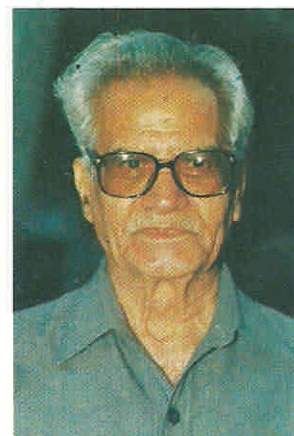


No. 1,

July-Sept, 2003

From the President's Desk

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society established in 1964 has been a trend-setter. It has made a multi-pronged effort for promotion of hockey in India. It is running according to highest standards five tournaments covering different age groups and genders. Its tournaments have helped discover talent, that blossomed time and again into national status. The Society has brought under its promotional care such diverse but related aspects as infrastructure building, coaching and umpiring. The souvenirs the Society brings out every year, contain a mine of statistical and analytical information about the game of hockey. The souvenirs have an archival value also.



What Indian hockey needs, however, is a periodic discussion on live issues. It has therefore been decided to start a quarterly newsletter that will address itself to current issues in hockey at the global as well as national level. The publication is being started not a day too soon. Indian Hockey seems to be on the upswing. The newsletter that is appearing for the first time in July 2003 bids fair to become the organ of Indian hockey. Let us hope that it rekindles interest in hockey that has been hibernating far too long. Although it is reassuring to witness the strides latterly made by our country in cricket, in the final reckoning the highest feather in our cap will be hockey. It deserves a massive countrywide supportive effort. This newsletter is a first step in the direction of rehabilitating hockey as India's premier field game, broadbasing its awareness. The largest group the newsletter is addressing will primarily be the student-sportsmen. We are of course proceeding tentatively in the hope that hockey lovers in the country and even abroad will come forward with suggestions for making it more attractive, informative and useful as we proceed.

Ram Niwas Mirdha

From Editors Desk

Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has many 'firsts' in their activities. The inaugural year of 1964 started with All India Open Hockey Tournament. It gradually gained momentum and became the prime tournament of the country. Not satisfied with the Senior Tournament, the Society acted on popular slogan "catch them young" and started Junior and Sub-Junior Tournaments of under 17 years and 15 years for boys and Junior Tournament for girls. The Society further felt that between boys and senior Tournaments there was a gap of colleges participation and the Champion Colleges Tournament was added to the annual programme. All Tournaments with Prize money are sponsored by Public Sector Commercial Houses.

Participation in Junior Tournaments is restricted to one champion team of a State. States are expected to conduct their own elimination rounds at District/Divisional/State level to select a champion school team. Teams sponsored by other organisations like N.C.C. Dte., Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, C.B.S.E., Army Boys Sports Companies, SAI and recommended sports schools of States are also given entry. The Junior level Tournaments are watched by a selection committee and potential players spotted and recommended to the SAI for award of scholarships. The Junior Tournaments are also a good hunting ground for recruitment in Armed Forces and Para Military Organizations.

To a large extent Society can take credit to generate interest in hockey in all States. Non hockey playing areas, i.e. Gujarat, Kerala, Goa, Pondichery etc., where hockey was hardly played started participating in the Tournaments. The Nehru Society in their humble way acted as a catalytic agent to kindle this fire to illuminate hockey needs. The Junior Tournament is also an effort for integration as teams from all parts of India assemble under one roof and friendships formed.

Umpiring has been a grey area for Indian Hockey. The Society with the co-operation of IHF has been sponsoring clinics where the FIH nominated umpires held discussions and explained rules for the benefit of Indian Umpires. The clinics also helped in upgrading umpires in their classification.

The Society has also started on an ambitious welfare plan to help the needy and economically weaker section of International players. Time and again Newspapers publish a very poor plight of Hockey players who once donned the National colours. The Society wants to create a sizeable corpus to help the needy hockey players in their time of difficulty. The Society has contributed Rs. 5 lakhs to start with and most of the Society members have chipped in to lay the foundation stone of this Benevolent Fund on strong footing.

This quarterly Newsletter is another beginning where we will try and highlight our weak points to improve our standard in the game which we once excelled. The effort is supportive and complementary to the efforts of the Ministry of Sports and the Indian Hockey Federation.

Calendar of Nehru Hockey Tournaments 2003-04

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. 10th Girls Tournament (under 17 years) | October 11 – 18, 2003 |
| 2. 32nd Junior Tournament (School Boys under 17 years) | Oct. 18 – Nov. 1, 2003 |
| 3. 21st Sub-Junior Tournament (School Boys under 15 years) | November 1 – 13, 2003 |
| 4. 40th Main Tournament | November 14 – 25, 2003 |
| 5. 11th Champion Colleges Tournament | February 11 – 20, 2004 |

Nehru Hockey Tournament Society Activities of 2002

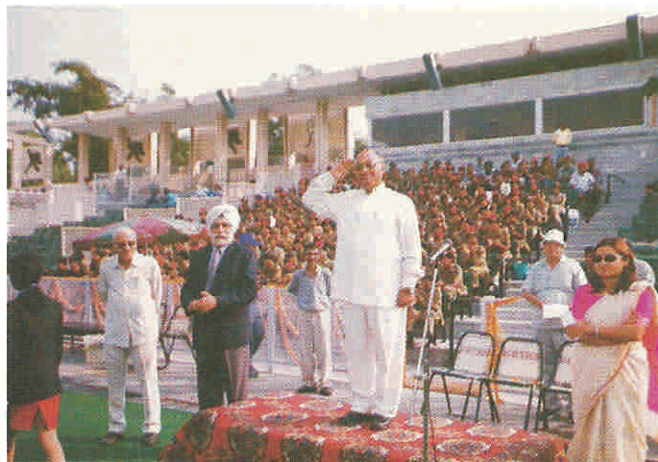
The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society holds tournaments in three segments. They are:-

- a) Sub-Junior Boys (under 15 years), Junior Boys (under 17 years) and Junior Girls (under 17 years)
- b) Champion Colleges Tournament
- c) Main Open Tournament for Men

To conduct these tournaments administrative activities start from July onwards. Letters are written to the Chief Ministers by the President of the Society, Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha to sponsor Champion School of the State for Junior and Sub-Junior Tournaments. This is followed by letters to the Director of Sports to hold Taluka/District/Divisional Championships to identify Champion School. These Competitions also create infrastructure at all levels.

Junior Girls Tournament

The first Tournament of 2002 series was of Junior Girls. This Tournament is sponsored by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation and has a prize money of Rs. 2.30 lacs. The Tournament started on 11th October, 2002 and 17 teams including a team from Sri Lanka participated. SGNP Girls Sr. Sec. School, Shahabad Markanda (Haryana) defeated Karamat Hussain Muslim Girls Inter College, Lucknow in the final.



Shri Ram Bhaj, Vice-Chairman, NDMC – the Chief Guest taking salute at 'March-Past' by participating teams – Inauguration 9th Nehru-NDMC Girls Tournament



Cultural Programme presented by the members of Punjab Academy – Inauguration 9th Nehru-NDMC Girls Tournament

Junior Boys Tournament

This Tournament started from 18th October, 2002. It was sponsored by the Nestle Group. 20 teams from States and NCC sponsored team participated in the Tournament. It was won by the St. Soldier Divine Public School, Jalandhar by beating NCC Bangalore.

Sub-Junior Boys Tournament

It was conducted from 1st November to 13th Nov., 2002 and is sponsored by the ONGC with prize money of Rs. 2.30 lacs. A total number of 24 teams participated in the Tournament. Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Jalandhar won by beating Lyallpur Khalsa Sr. Sec. School, Jalandhar in the finals.



Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Jalandhar team celebrating the victory – Finals 20th Nehru-ONGC Sub-Junior Tournament

Colleges Tournament

This Tournament was held from 11-20 February, 2003 and is also sponsored by the ONGC with a prize money of Rs. 2.18 lacs. The Association of Indian Universities hold their Inter University Championship on Zonal basis. The winning Universities of 4 Zones sponsor three top teams of their individual colleges. The Society gives entry to four known top colleges of Universities as a wild card entry. Championship of individual sixteen colleges of the Country is a well fought competition. A number of new players are spotted who have eventually donned the national colours. The Tournament was won by DAV College, Jalandhar by beating Govt. Brijindra College, Faridkot.

Main Tournament

39th Nehru-ONGC Hockey Tournament with prize money of Rs. 3.20 lacs was held from 14-25 November, 2002. A total number of 30 teams participated in the tournament. 22 teams were put in four Pools of Six teams each and they played on knock-out basis. The team emerging winners in each group joined eight top teams of the country and they were divided in four groups of three teams each to play on league basis. Punjab Police, Jalandhar beat Indian Airlines in the finals by a golden goal during extra time.



Punjab Police Jalandhar, winners of the Nehru-ONGC Hockey Tournament

Souvenir

The Souvenir of the Society apart from articles by the Hockey luminaries publishes information on Hockey affairs of the world. It would be wrong to call it a Souvenir but a reference book would be more appropriate. Kudos to the Souvenir team of the Society.

Current Performance of India Team

The graph of Indian Hockey has shown upward trend. We have done very well in 4 teams Tournament at Australia and Germany. Although we did not beat Germany but showed the team strength against different styles of play. Rajinder Singh coach was incharge of Junior World Cup gold medallists and now he has shown results with the senior team. He has gelled the team well and also prepared them psychologically as they fought better when chips were down. Dhanraj Pillay has proved to be a very versatile player and a force to reckon with. In addition we have improved in penalty corner conversions and healthy part is we have more than one striker which adds to variety. Our goal keeping has shown great improvement and that is a big addition to the team strength. The real test of strength however will be at forthcoming Champions Trophy. Subroto Roy of Sahara coming to back up hockey game financially will enhance encouragement. I hope players will get a good cut of his financial support.



Dhanraj Pillai recipient of Arjuna Award, Padma Shri and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award being felicitated by the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society President Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha and Shri Ashwini Kumar

Chief Editor : Cdr G. Nandy Singh (Retd.)

Published by Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi-110001.

Phone: Stadium: 23365720 • Fax: 91-11-23746586 • E-mail: nehruhoky@now-india.net.in • Cable: 'NEHRUHOKY' New Delhi

• Printed at Arun & Rajive Pvt. Ltd., 10 DSIDC Scheme-II, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi -110020.