



# THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## *From the President's Desk*



If the Indian Hockey's men team's failure to qualify for the Beijing Olympics (first time in 80 years) came as a disappointment to the country's hockey fraternity, the women team's loss to make it to this year's Olympic Games was also nonetheless unfortunate. However, the Indian men's hockey made some amends for its failure to qualify for the ensuing Olympic Games by finishing runners-up in the 17th edition of the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Gold Cup Tournament, held at Ipoh (Malaysia) on May 18.

Meanwhile, South Korea completed the formation of the 12-nation women's Olympic Hockey event by filling up the vacant slot. They defeated Ireland in the final of the third and last qualifier, held at Victoria (Canada) on May 4. Similarly in the men's section, World Champions Germany won the third & last qualifier beating Japan in the final on April 13, and with this all the vacant slots in both men and women sections got filled up for onward title clashes in the ensuing mega competitions.

Australia beat Spain to win the 30th edition of the coveted men's Champions Trophy, held at Rotterdam on June 29.

Ric Charlesworth, the Australian hockey legend is confident that Indian Hockey can regain its past glory very soon.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society deeply mourned the untimely demise of four stalwarts, namely P.N. Bahl, Inder M.L. Bhasin, Tarlochan Singh Bawa and Erman Bastin whose selfless services for the promotion of our national game shall always be remembered by us.

**Ram Niwas Mirdha**



## INDIAN EVES 'ALSO RAN' IN OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

After the men team's failure in Olympic qualifier, it was expected that our Olympic-bound women team would be able to claim back lost territory. But that was not to be. The slim chances of their making it to Beijing were dashed to the ground having been placed fourth in the overall ranking in the six-nation women's qualifying competition held at Kazan (Russia) during April 19-27, 2008. Incidentally, the Indian Women having played only once in the Olympics in 1980 when this sport in the women's section made its debut in Moscow.

Earlier in the league stage, India's Women's Hockey, currently ranked 13, began

their campaign beating hosts Russia 3-1, but the joy was short-lived. The girls suffered three defeats in-a-row. They lost to the Netherlands Antilles (ranked 20th) 1-2, Belgium 2-3 and the United States 0-4. The only consolation was that they thrashed France 7-0, the weakest of the six teams. With six points in the league, India stood third. Topping the table the United States (15 points) and Belgium securing second position with 9 points met in the final where the Americans beat the Belgians 3-1. In the 3rd-4th play-off match, the Mamta Kharab-led Indian eves again went down 1-2 to the Netherlands Antilles. The fifth-sixth places went to Russia and France respectively.

## KOREAN EVES WIN THE THIRD OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

The ambition of the Korean eves to book a place in the ensuing Beijing Olympics has been fulfilled. In the final of the third and last qualifier held at Victoria (Canada) on May 4, 2008, Korea beat Ireland 5-0 to win the coveted position. With this the final formation of the 12-nation Women's Olympic Hockey event is completed. Incidentally, a Korean Women's team has been in every Olympic Games since 1988 collecting Silver Medals at home in Seoul and again in 1996 in Atlanta.

In the first woman qualifier, it may be recalled, held at Ajarbaijan in April 2008, Spain beat the home team in the Final. The United States won the second vacant slot defeating Belgium 3-1 in the final held at Kazan (Russia) on April 27, 2008. The nine teams which had already qualified are 1. China, 2. Japan, 3. South Africa, 4. Argentina, 5. Germany, 6. The Netherlands, 7. Great Britain, 8. New Zealand and 9. Australia.

## GERMANY WINS THE THIRD MEN'S OLYMPIC QUALIFIER

The Japan-leg of the third and last Olympic men's hockey qualifier for the ensuing 21st edition of the Olympic Games Men's Hockey, was won by the World Champions Germany. They defeated hosts Japan in the final at Kakamigahara (Gifu), Japan on April 13, 2008. Earlier they concluded a record of five wins in-a-row in the six-team league format. They defeated Italy (8-0), Japan (4-0), Malaysia (3-0), Poland (5-0) and Switzerland (10-0).

It may be recalled that in the first qualifier New Zealand won the Auckland-leg qualifier, held during February 2-10, 2008. This was followed by the Second Qualifier held at Santiago (Chile)

during April 5-13, 2008, where Great Britain overwhelmed the eight-time gold medalists India 2-0 in the final. And now with the filling up of all the three vacant slots, the final formation of the 12-nation event for the Olympic Competition is complete.

Meanwhile, the league phase of the 12-nation event in Beijing Olympics has been announced as follows.

**Poll-A** : Germany, Spain, Korea, New Zealand, Belgium and China;

**Poll-B** : Australia, The Netherlands, Pakistan, Great Britain, South Africa and Canada.



## INDIA WON SILVER IN SULTAN AZLAN SHAH HOCKEY GOLD CUP

The disappointment over the men team's failure to qualify for the Beijing Olympics was somewhat forgotten when India earned a Silver medal at the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Gold Cup Tournament. India finished runners-up to Argentina in the 17th edition of the tournament, held at Ipoh (Malaysia) during May 8-18. Having finished third in the last two successive editions, their reaching the final this year after a decade brought cheers to the Indians. India last won the Cup in 1996, their third gold medal. In 12 appearances so far, India have earned three Gold, one Silver and four Bronze medals.

This year the Indian authorities had dropped nine senior players immediately after the failure at the Olympic qualifier and named eight rookies among its 18-member squad, as it looks for a new beginning. This team's performance was heart-warming. Full credit

goes to the Sardara Singh-led team, which defeated among others as many as three Olympic-bound teams in the league phase! India defeated Canada (3-1), Belgium (6-4) and Pakistan (2-1). The two defeats they suffered were against New Zealand (3-4) and Argentina (1-5). In their last match they beat Malaysia (2-1).

In the summit clash, India with 12 points locked horns with Argentina (14). India took a 10th minute lead but at the end had not only surrendered the lead after four minutes, also conceded a 73rd minute golden goal in the extended match. This put paid to India's hopes to annex the coveted title. In the 3rd-4th place play-off match, New Zealand beat Pakistan 2-1 and Canada beat Belgium 4-3 to win the fifth place. Hosts Malaysia remained last.

**Final Standing** : 1. Argentina, 2. India, 3. New Zealand, 4. Pakistan, 5. Canada, 6. Belgium and 7. Malaysia.

## AUSTRALIA TRIUMPHED IN MEN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Australia crushed Spain 4-1 to win the 30th edition of the Men's Field Hockey Champions Trophy held at Rotterdam (The Netherlands) on June 29. It was Australia's ninth triumph, including a hat-trick during 1983-85. In the last edition held at Kuala Lumpur, the Aussies finished runners-up to Germany. However, for Spain it was for the second time they had made it to the final. They won this trophy in 2004 at Lahore.

Earlier in the preliminary league stage of this six-nation tournament, Spain earned 10 points and topped the points table. But Australia and Argentina also earned equal

points each. However, these two teams were relegated to the second and third position respectively following goal differences between them. Hosts, the Netherlands, stood fourth in the points table with six points. In the end, Spain and Australia clashed in the final where Spain lost to Australia 1-4. Argentina beat the hosts 5-3 to take the bronze medal. In the fifth place play-off match, defending champions Germany defeated South Korea 3-1.

**Final Standing** : 1. Australia, 2. Spain, 3. Argentina, 4. The Netherlands, 5. Germany and 6. South Korea



# INDIA STILL CAN REGAIN ITS PRISTINE GLORY

"There is still some light at the end of the tunnel. Indian Hockey will bounce back and regain its pristine glory." These are some words of comfort coming from a man, who had been watching Indian Hockey from close quarters for over two decades. He was none else than the Australian hockey legend and a globally acclaimed coach, Ric Charlesworth. He has been sponsored by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to break the stagnation of Indian Hockey through the IOC Solidarity Fund. As Technical Advisor to Indian Hockey Confederation, he is currently busy conducting Coaches Clinic for over 40 regional coaches at the SAI Centre in Bangalore.

Reminiscing his childhood days, he said : "As a kid, we grew up playing hockey under Indian and Pakistani Coaches in the 1960s. Today the circle is complete with an Australian coaching Indian players". Joining Charlesworth in recollecting the olden days, M.P. Ganesh, the 1972 Olympian and a former SAI Executive Director, also recalled how two-time Olympian Balkishan Singh (1956-60) and four-time Olympic team Coach (1968, 80, 84 and 92) had travelled to Australia and Europe to train local players in the 1960s and 1970s. "Today we have an Australian to train our Coaches. It's give-and-take policy. There's nothing wrong if it benefits our players", he said.

## UNFORGETTABLES

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society deeply mourned the untimely demise of the following personalities whose selfless services shall always be remembered in its day-to-day functioning.

**SHRI P.N. BAHL** was the Chairman of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in the 80s and by virtue of a mutual arrangement agreed upon between the Society and the NDMC, he also held simultaneously the Chairmanship of the Society's Managing Committee during 1980-81. He also played a vital role in organising successfully the Society's tournaments during 1982-84 as Chairman of its Tournament Committee as also a member of the Society. He expired on May 15, 2008 owing to heart failure.

**SHRI INDER M.L. BHASIN** had served the Society as a member of the Tournament Committee. Closely associated with the Society, he was one of the strong pillars in raising its present stature. He expired on

December 30, 2007 at the age of 81 due to bronchopneumonia.

**SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH BAWA** belonged to the golden era of Indian Hockey. He was a member of the Indian Olympic hockey team, led by Kishan Lal, which won the gold in the 1948 London Olympics. Bawa played a stellar role as the full-back of the team. He breathed his last on April 24, 2008 at the age of 85 due to heart failure.

**SHRI ERMAN BASTIN** represented the country at the Rome Olympics in 1960 under the Captaincy of L.Claudius which won the Silver Medal. He played as the deep defender of the team. He expired on May 23, 2008 at the age of 74 due to recurrent paralytic strokes

May the noble souls of all these four personalities rest in peace!

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