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From the President's Desk



I am glad to announce that Shri Naveen Jindal, M.P. from Kurukshetra (Haryana) has joined the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society as one of its Vice-Presidents and Chairman, Tournament Committee, alongwith Shri Kukoo Walia, the renowned International Umpire and able administrator as a Jt. Secretary and Organising Secretary to conduct and control all the five Society tournaments. Their joining the Society fold will, I'm sure, further rejuvenate our national game.

The Umpires at the Beijing Olympic Games were provided with an open microphone communication system, which helped field umpires perform better and improve the quality of umpiring.

The Society was happy to know that two hockey stalwarts, Probhjot Singh and veteran Olympian Mukhbain Singh were honoured with the nation's highest sports awards by the President, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

Meanwhile, the Society has decided to start a quiz programme, which will enlighten the minds of hockey lovers.

The Society mourned the irreparable loss to the game by the untimely passing away of late Shri Pradeep Virendra Singh, an active member of the Society and that of late Shri L.R. Kakar, a founder member.

Ram Niwas Mirdha

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL JOINS THE NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY AS VP

India might have failed to qualify for the men's (women's as well) hockey event at the Beijing Olympics disappointing millions of the game's followers all over the world, yet, there is no dearth of high profile personalities, who time and again come forward to give Indian hockey the much needed filip to put the game back on the right track.

Shri Naveen Jindal, M.P. from Kurukshetra in Haryana is one such personality, who has recently joined the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society as one of

its Vice-Presidents and Chairman of the Tournament Committee. Shri Jindal, Executive Vice-Chairman and Mg. Director of the Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) has announced that he was delighted to be a part of Indian hockey, which needs all-out support of the countrymen at this crucial phase in which it is in.

A national record holder in Skeet Shooting and a prolific polo player and, above all, a true patriot at heart, Shri Jindal's joining the Nehru Hockey Society will undoubtedly rejuvenate the sport in the country.

KUKOO WALIA JOINS THE SOCIETY AS JT. SECY.

Shri Kukoo Walia, the renowned International hockey umpire and an able administrator has also joined the Society as a Jt. Secretary and Organising Secretary for all the five tournaments to be organised by the society. His is a name and fame as a vibrant exponent of hockey culture across the country.

Son of the globally-acclaimed coach and umpiring-Guru late Sardar Gian Singh, the 50-year-old Kukoo Walia has acquired from his illustrious father the very art of conducting flawless games and also patience and energy required for the purpose. He is too familiar with inside-out and outside-in of the game.

Hockey and Kukoo are made for each others couple.

Shri Kukoo Walia presently enjoys the unique distinction of having been in both the panels of the World Body (FIH) and the Asian Federation (AHF) as International Grade-I umpire and also a Member, Umpiring Committee of both these super organizations, a coveted position, indeed! As an able administrator, he has successfully conducted many a domestic and International tournament as Umpire-Manager, the most notable assignment being the recently concluded 15th Asian Games held at Doha and Indoor Asia Cup held at Macau. He was also nominated as Umpire-Manager in the prestigious Azlan Shah Cup.

GERMANY ANNEX MEN'S OLYMPIC HOCKEY

After 16 long years Germany realised their dream by winning the men's hockey crown with a hard fought 1-0 win against European Champions Spain in the final on August 23. This Olympic triumph came as an icing on the cake for the Germans who had been crowned the World Cup Champions two years ago on home soil (Monchengladbach). The Beijing win was also an improvement for the Germans who had to settle for a bronze at the Athens Games four years ago. But for Spain it was their third time 'unlucky' after having lost in the Moscow Olympics final to India and also in 1996 (Atlanta Olympics) to the Netherlands. Athens gold medal winners Australia had to remain content with the

bronze medal with a 6-2 win over the Netherlands this year.

The 12 participating teams were divided into two pools of six teams each. The semi-final line-up was identical to the one at Athens. Spain topped pool-A with 12 points, one ahead of Germany. The Netherlands emerged topper in pool-B with 13 points, two more than Australia. Spain recovered from a 2-goal deficit to beat defending champions Australia 3-2 in one semi-final while in the other, Germany defeated the Netherlands 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out. Of the three Asian nations in the fray, South Korea finished their campaign in the Sixth position, Pakistan eighth and hosts China 11th as the Beijing Games marked the centenary of field hockey in the Olympics.

DUTCHWOMEN WIN OLYMPIC GOLD

Hosts China put up their best Olympic performance to date in women's hockey by entering the final for the first time where they went down 0-2 to the

Netherlands but showed their remarkable rise in the game since their international debut in 1990. From a fourth place finish at Athens to winning the Silver medal at Beijing was

indeed remarkable for China.

The Dutch women, who had finished runners-up to Germany four years ago at the Athens Games, won their first gold medal since the Los Angeles Games in 1984. They have so far won two gold, a silver and three bronze medals. Interestingly, this year they had won all their seven matches in-a-row in this 12-nation competition. In fact, with their first goal in the final on August 22, the Dutch women scored their 100th Olympic goal since the women's competition began in

1980 at Moscow. Argentina retained the bronze with a 3-1 win over last edition's champions Germany, who were relegated to the fourth position after being shocked by the hosts (2-3) in the semi-final. Argentina had lost to the Dutch 2-5 in the other semi-final. While hosts China finished second, two other Asian teams - South Korea and Japan - ended their campaign at the 9th and 10th position respectively. Like the men's team, Indian women's team too had failed to qualify for the Beijing Olympics.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY FOR FIELD UMPIRES

Advanced technology is a great boon to mankind. It should definitely be used whenever and wherever it is necessary to improve in all walks of life. In many sports such advanced technologies are now commonly in practice to get the best results, whether it is cricket, football, tennis, shooting or hockey. Communication between field umpires and bench officials is an important factor in a hockey encounter. The new open microphone communication concept allows the field umpires to talk whenever they want without any interruption as a specially developed noise filter eradicates all external noise, such as that from the

crowd and even the sound of the field umpires' own whistles. The umpires using such devices will be wearing either a customised headset with a personal earpiece or a standard headset with an external microphone.

The new system enables field umpires to consult and advise each other instantly without having to use push-to-talk facility. The umpires at the Beijing Olympic Games were provided with such open Microphone Communication System, which helped field umpires perform better and improved the quality of umpiring. Umpires have admitted that the new system will help them achieve a higher level of consistency in decision-making.

PROBHJOT AND MUKHBAIN HONOURED

August 29 has been designated as the National Sports Day by the Government of India to honour the nation's greatest-ever sportsman, the late Major Dhyan Chand. To commemorate the legend's birth anniversary on this very date, the nation's highest sports awards are presented by none else than the President of India. On this day this year the President, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil gave away the

Awards to 19 sportspersons of various disciplines, including two belonging to hockey. Ace hockey forward Probhjit Singh became the 53rd recipient of the Arjuna Award for the year 2007 while the veteran Olympian and able administrator Mukhbain Singh became the eighth so far to be honoured with the Dhyan Chand Award for Life Time Achievement in Sports and Games for the year 2008.

DO YOU KNOW?

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has decided to start a Quiz Programme to coincide with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the modern Olympic Games held at Beijing this year. Through this Quiz Programme the Society promises to enlighten and refresh the minds of the hockeylovers of the country about the sport, which is our 'national' game. Anyone giving correct answer to all the Quiz questions will earn a special gift packet. The answers should reach the

Society through email only (nehruhockey@hotmail.com) on or before the 10th of November, 2008. Please give your name, full address and telephone number. Confidentiality is assured.

Quiz Questions :

1. Which women's teams have won Olympic gold on home soil?
2. When was the first time the Olympic hockey tournament was played on artificial turf?

Annual Calender of Nehru Hockey Tournaments (2008-09)

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has finalised the calender of its chain of five annual tournaments to be held during the period between October 6, 2008 and February 15, 2009. However, the tournaments this year will take place outside the Union

capital as both the synthetic turfs at the Shivaji Stadium and the National Stadium have been removed owing to the renovation work being in progress for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Date	Tournament	Venue	Sponsor
06-15 Oct 2008	15th Nehru Girls Tournament (U-17 years)	Shahbad Markanda (Haryana)	Co-Sponsor Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. and NDMC
18-31 Oct 2008	26th Nehru Sub-Junior Boys Tournament (U-15 years)	Nehru Stadium Gurgaon (Haryana)	ONGC
31 Oct to 14 Nov 2008	37th ATS-Nehru Junior Boys Tournament (U-17 years)	Nehru Stadium Gurgaon (Haryana)	ATS Infrastructure Ltd.
14-25 Nov 2008	45th Jindal Steel-Nehru Tournament	Nehru Stadium Gurgaon (Haryana)	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.
08-15 Feb 2009	16th Sail Nehru Champion Colleges Tournament	Jalandhar / Ludhiana	Steel Authority of India Ltd.

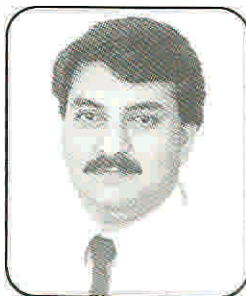
UNFORGETTABLES

Shri Pradeep Virendra Singh (17.1.1961 - 19.7.2008)

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society learnt with profound shock the untimely passing away of Shri Pradeep Virendra Singh, 47, in Delhi on Saturday, July 19. He was ailing for quite sometime and breathed his last in a state of coma.

Shri Singh was a Trustee of Delhi's famous Modern School and Chairman, Mg. Committee of the School's Vasant Vihar branch in South Delhi. He was also successfully running the renowned Cheshire Home with his father, Major Gen. Virendra Singh (Retd.), who is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Nehru Society. Shri Singh made significant contribution in the development and progress of the Nehru Hockey Society also. The national game of hockey was his first love.

The society deeply mourns the death of Shri Pradeep Virendra Singh, whose wise counsel, patronage and guidance will be badly missed by the Society.



Shri L.R. Kakar (12.12.1918 - 18.7.2008)

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is also deeply grieved to learn the sad demise of Shri L.R. Kakar in Delhi on July 18 at the age of 90. He was ailing for quite sometime past and passed away due to cardiac arrest and in a state of coma.

Shri Kakar was not only a valued member of the Society's Managing Committee but also a founder-member of the organisation. In his death the world of sports has lost a great promoter of the game of Indian hockey. A renowned hockey player of his time, he would represent Delhi's famous Khalsa Blues and Delhi State in the Nationals, besides his 'Alma Mater' Delhi University. Shri Kakar was the selector to spot best talented players for the Government scholarships.

The Nehru Hockey Society will badly miss his wise counsel, guidance and patronage.



May their noble souls rest in peace!

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