



THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

No. 22

JANUARY - MARCH, 2009

INSIDE

JUNIOR WORLD CUP

India in Junior World Cup.....2

CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE I & II

India in Champions Challenge2

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

India in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.....2

2010 WORLD CUP HOCKEY

FIH chief speaks of commitment
to India.....3

SAIL GOLDEN JUBILEE NEHRU CHAMPION COLLEGES HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

DAV Collage, Jalandhar proved their
superiority3

ASIA CUP

Malaysia to host Asia cup.....4

ORIENTAL BANK MAHARAJA

RANJIT SINGH HOCKEY

Bharat Petroleum retain the title.....4

DO YOU KNOW ?

Answer if you know.....4

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITORIAL ADVISERS

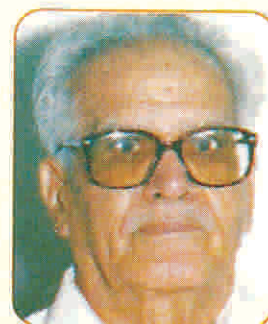
Shri Saiyid Hamid

Shri Kukoo Walla

CHIEF EDITOR

Shri M. N. Shome

From the President's Desk



Forty-six years of continuous service to the game of Hockey in the country : The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society has been silently ushering in a new era in Indian Hockey by encouraging talented youth from all sections of the society and all ages and sex for over four decades. Scores of players who have participated in the five tournaments organised by the Nehru Hockey Society in different age-groups have gone on to represent the country at the highest level.

After showing some steller performances in the past couple of years, the Juniors beat World champions Argentina in Argentina, followed by a second-finish to Australia in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival. India then finished runners-up to Pakistan in the Genting four-nation U-21 Tournament at Johar Bahru in Malaysia.

Now all eyes are on the Junior World Cup to be held in June where India are placed in Pool-D along with the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and Singapore. It is further heartening to note that both the Indian men's and women's teams have qualified for the Champions Challenge-I and II respectively.

On the home front, Punjab Police and Punjab & Sind Bank continued their dominance by becoming joint winners of the 113th edition of the Beighton Cup, the country's 'heritage' hockey tournament. The DAV College, Jalandhar won the SAIL Golden Jubilee Nehru Champion Colleges Tournament for the third successive year, winning the final against All-India University Champions Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar.

The icing on the cake for the Nehru Hockey Society's endeavour has been the instant success of its Quiz Programme, 'DO YOU KNOW?'

Ram Niwas Mirdha

JUNIOR WORLD CUP HOCKEY

India in Junior World Cup

In the ninth edition of the forthcoming Junior World Cup Hockey, which is to take place at Singapore and Johar Bahru (Malaysia) during June 7-21, this year, Asia Champions India has been placed in Pool-D alongwith the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland and hosts Singapore. The defending champions Argentina will be in Pool-A where they will face Belgium, Egypt, Pakistan and Russia. Pool-B will consist of Australia, Chile, Germany, Japan and South Africa. Pool-C will comprise England, South Korea, Spain, the United States and hosts Malaysia. As many as 20 teams, four more than the last edition held at Rotterdam in 2005, will be taking part this year.

The Indian Junior team has shown promise and improvement in the past one year to provide some solace and happiness to the game's followers in the country. After successfully defending the Junior Asia Cup (U-21) crown in Hyderabad in July last year, the Junior boys brought more cheers by beating World Champions Argentina in Argentina (1-0) in their away four-match Test series in December last year.

Later on a visit to Sydney to participate in Australia's Youth Olympic Festival in January this year, the

Indian Juniors reached the final of the four-nation Hockey event where they went down 1-2, to host Australia. Earlier, India beat Australia (2-1) and trounced Great Britain (6-1) before drawing with Malaysia (5-5) in the league phase.

However, one may not read too much into these performances in Argentina and Australia but they surely should boost the confidence of the team for this year's Junior World Cup. All they have to do is to successfully guard their perennial problem of surrendering their early leads by conceding late goals as it happened in the recent past. Most glaring instance was in Sydney where a late golden goal scored by Australia in the dying stages of the extra time dashed the Indian Colts gold medal hopes as they went down 1-2 in a nail-biting final of the Boys Hockey event in the Australian Youth Olympic Festival on January 19.

This problem happened again on March 15 at Johar Bahru (Malaysia) where our Junior boys allowed arch rivals Pakistan two late goals to concede a 2-3 defeat in the final of the Genting Four-Nation U-21, Hockey Tournament, considered a dress-rehearsal for the upcoming Junior World Cup.

CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE I & II HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

India in Champions Challenge Championships

India's men's team has earned a berth to play in the Champions Challenge-I alongwith seven other countries, which have qualified to take part in this mega Championship, to be organised under the auspices of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for 2009. India's men's team's entry has become possible because India finished second in the Olympic Qualifier's at Santiago (Chile) last year.

India's Women's team also finds a place in the Champions Challenge-II by virtue of its obtaining the

fourth place in the Women's Olympic Qualifiers held at Kazan (Russia) in April last year. The teams qualified for these two elite Championships are as under.

Mens (Champions Challenge-I) : Argentina, New Zealand, Pakistan, Belgium, Canada, China, South Africa and India.

Women (Champions Challenge-II) : Belgium, Ireland, Chile, Netherlands Antilles, Ukraine, Canada, Russia and India.

17th SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP HOCKEY

India in Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

The Indian squad for the 17th edition of the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Championship to be held at Ipoh (Malaysia) during April 5-12 this year, has been officially announced. The 18-member squad for the five-nation Championship will be led by experienced drag-flicker Sandeep Singh. The four teams India will face are : New Zealand, Pakistan, Egypt and hosts Malaysia.

In the last edition at Ipoh in 2007, India defeated Korea (1-0) to win the bronze. The team will comprise

Sandep Singh (Capt.), Baljeet Singh, Adrian D'Souza, Dilip Tirkey, Raghunath, Gurbaj Singh, Sardar Singh, Prabodh Tirkey, Vikram Pillai, I. Tignesh, Ajitesh Roy, Tushar Khandekar, Prabhjot Singh, H.V. Sunil, Bharat Chhikara, G.S. Chandi, Shivendra Singh and Arjun Halappa. Stand bys : Bharat Chetri, V.S. Vinay, B.M. Antil, Hari Prasad, Virender Lakra and Sarwanjeet Singh. Coach in-charge Harendra Singh. Assistant Coaches Ramandeep Singh and Romeo James. Manager Dhanraj Pillay.

2010 WORLD CUP HOCKEY IN DELHI

FIH Chief Speaks of Commitment to India

The FIH President, Mr. Leandro Negre had recently visited New Delhi to assess the preparations for the 2010 World Cup Hockey, scheduled to be held in the Indian Capital during March next year, had spoken of the need to have a democratically elected unified body within a period of six months to conduct the tournament. Mr. Negre said that the ad hoc Committee is only a provisional body. As per FIH rule, India has to have a democratically elected body, if the country wants to host the event.

Mr. Negre, a former Spaniard goalkeeper, who had represented his country in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, also said that a 'B' plan was in place in case New Delhi was denied the opportunity to host the event. "Malaysia is prepared to hold the event" he said.

However, he expressed his confidence that the FIH would maintain its full support for the event in India. "My heart is with Indian hockey and I would love to conduct it in India as planned", he emphasised. During his tour, he had visited the venues and was satisfied to see the progress being made at these venues.

Now, with the Union Sports Ministry deciding to abolish the Indian Women's Hockey Federation (IWHF) and paving the way for an unified body within the stipulated six months' time, as demanded by the FIH, there should be no concern about the World Cup being taken away from India. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has also assured that it will carry out the necessary steps to shape up Hockey India within the next six months.

16th SAIL GOLDEN JUBILEE NEHRU CHAMPION COLLEGES HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

DAV College, Jalandhar proved their supremacy

The 16th edition of the Champion Colleges Hockey Tournament was successfully conducted by the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society during February 7-14, 2009 at the Railway Hockey Stadium in Gwalior, thanks to overwhelming cooperation extended by the Sports Department of the Madhya Pradesh Government.

Sponsored by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), coinciding with their Golden Jubilee year, this Flagship tournament of the Society happened to be its fifth and the last event of the annual five-tournament series. This prestigious tournament is conducted with active collaboration of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Twelve best hockey playing universities across the country representing four zones, including last two editions back-to-back champions, the DAV College, Jalandhar and back-to-back runners-up Jawaharlal Nehru PG College, Bhopal were in the fray. The tournament was played on league-cum-knock-out format. These 12 teams were divided into four groups in the preliminary league. Two winners from each group were promoted to play in the Qr.-finals, followed by semis and the final.

The defending Champions DAV College scored a hat-trick of wins when they outplayed the current All-India Inter-University Champions Gurukul Kangri University, Haridwar 7-1 in the final. This was the 10th title win of the DAV College in the last 17 years and performed their second hat-trick, the earlier one being during the years 2003-2005. The last two years runners-up JNPG College, Bhopal failed to proceed further beyond the qr-final stage. The Annamalai University won the third place defeating Municipal College 5-2.

The winners DAV College received the prestigious trophy alongwith a cash award of Rs. 96,000 and the runners-up Gurukul Kangri Rs. 64,000. The third position holder Annamalai University got Rs. 32,000. The coach of the winning team Gundeep Kumar, runners-up team Kapil Mishra and the third position team Dr. K. Sekar Babu received cash awards of Rs.8,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 3,000 respectively. A sum of Rs. 40,000 was also awarded to the best player of each of the 19 matches. Of them, Lakhwinder Singh of the DAV College alone earned Rs. 10,000 having been adjudged the Best Player in the Final Match.

8th ASIA CUP

Malaysia volunteered to host the event

The sudden problem of finding a host country to replace the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for hosting the upcoming 8th Asia Cup Hockey Championship, scheduled from May 8 to 15 this year at Dubai, has since been resolved, thanks to Malaysia coming forward to take up the responsibility. The United Arab Emirates, which was originally awarded the event during a Council meeting of the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) at Hyderabad last year, has since backed out from holding it citing economic recession being presently faced by that country. The Federation at its meeting on March 23

has decided that the event will now take place at Kuantan, the Capital city of the State of Pahang, a resort town on the east coast of Malaysia during May 9-16.

The winner will gain an automatic berth to the 2010 World Cup in Delhi while the next four finishers compete in qualifiers in the month of November. This will be the third time that Malaysia will be holding the event, the previous two occasions being 1999 and 2003, incidentally both at Kuala Lumpur. The last edition was held at Chennai in 2007 where India won the gold defeating Korea 7-2 in the Final.

5th ORIENTAL BANK MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

Bharat Petroleum retain the title

Defending Champions Bharat Petroleum successfully retained the coveted trophy of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Hockey Tournament defeating India Colts in the final of the fifth edition of this prestigious tournament. Sponsored by the Oriental Bank of Commerce during February 16-23, 2009 nine leading teams across the country took part in the week-long programme held at the Nehru Hockey Stadium in

Gurgaon (Haryana). Bharat Petroleum and India Colts having an all-win position throughout in the preliminary stage reached for the summit clash on February 23 before a full house where the oilmen defeated the colts 4-3 and lifted the trophy alongwith a cash award of Rs. 1.45 Lakhs. India Colts remained happy with a purse of Rs. 75,000.

DO YOU KNOW? Answer if you know

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is glad to announce the names of the persons, who have correctly answered the Quiz Questions as given in the Quarterly Newsletter No. 21 (October - December), 2008 issued for the Rakshak Track-suit prize. They are S'Shri Vijay Kumar (Delhi), Intekhab Alam (Jalandhar City) and Ashutosh Verma (Delhi). The prizes have been sent to them. The questions :

(1) Which women's teams have won Olympic Gold on home Soil?

Answer : The women's teams of Spain (Barcelona 1992) and Australia (Sydney 2000).

(2) When was the first time Olympic Hockey Tournament played on artificial turf?

Answer : The first time was in 1975 in Montreal.

Given below are the two questions for the next quarter (Jan-March, 2009, issue):

(1) Which countries have won Olympic gold in both Men's and Women's Hockey?

(2) Which was the last time the Men's Olympic Hockey Gold medal match did not feature a single European team?

The answer should reach the Society through e-mail (nehruhockey64@hotmail.com or kukoowalia@usa.net) on or before the 15 of May, 2009. Please give your name, full address and telephone number.

Published by Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, 31/30, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi - 110 008

Phone : Office : 23355720, Fax : 91-11- 23355719

E-mail : nehruhockey64@hotmail.com | Cable : 'NEHRUHOKY' New Delhi | Website : www.nehruhockeyindia.com

Designed & Printed by Caxton Press , 2-E, Jhandewalan Extn. New Delhi - 110055, Ph.: 41540645, 9818430022