



# THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## *From the President's Desk*

"Home ....Sweet Home" was how both the organisers and the participating teams felt as the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's chain of annual tournaments were played at the renovated Shivaji Stadium, the birth place of the Society, after a long gap of six years. It was not just the venue this year but the Society added another feather to its already-decorated cap by holding the finals of all tournaments under floodlights.



The season began with the Nehru Girls (U-17) tournament which was won by Kiddies Corner School (Gwalior) outshining their opponents from Govt Sr Sec School (Shahabad, Haryana) 4-0. It was a sweet revenge for the girls from the fort city who had suffered a loss in the final last year to the same opponents. The Nehru Society took another lead by appointing women as officials, from Tournament Director to the support staff. The Society's energetic Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia must be complimented for this novel and bold step. Other tournament organisers can take a lead from this idea.

The second in the series of tournaments was the Sub-Junior Boys (U-15) tournament that saw a repeat of last year's summit clash. Defending champions Town High School (Sundergarh) took on Govt Sr Sec School, Ladowali (Jalandhar) and retained the title with a 3-2 verdict. Birsa Munda Vidyapitha, Rourkela were crowned champions for the fifth time as the Nehru Junior (u-17 years) concluded. In the final, the Rourkela boys beat Springdales (Amritsar) 7-1. The Amritsar team was making its maiden entry in the tournament.

The fourth and the most eagerly-awaited tournament of the season, the 49<sup>th</sup> edition of Senior Nehru Tournament began at the Shivaji Stadium on November 14, coinciding with the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister and in whose name the tournament is being conducted. The Senior tournament has been considered the nursery of Indian hockey for the past five decades. In a battle between two petroleum units, Indian Oil emerged the winners by beating Bharat Petroleum via golden goal (3-2).

The Society takes this opportunity to thank all its well-wishers, including sponsors, patrons, players, officials, media persons and spectators for making Nehru Tournaments a grand success this year, as in the past 49 years.



**Arun Subhashchandra Yadav**



## **19<sup>th</sup> Nehru Girls (u-17 years) Hockey Tournament (Oct 8-18, 2012)**

### **Kiddy's Corner win flood-light final**



It is always a happy moment when one comes back home after having stayed away from it for a long time. The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society feels the same as after a gap of six long years, the Society's chain of five annual age-group tournaments were successfully conducted this year at the Shivaji Stadium in the Union Capital, the birthplace of the Society. The Nehru Hockey Society and the Shivaji Stadium have been synonymous with each other for decades. The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society added another feather to its already heavily-decorated hat by becoming the first organisers to hold a flood-lit match at the renovated Shivaji Stadium in the heart of the Capital, with the conduct of the final of the 19th edition of Nehru girls (Under-17) tournament during Oct 8-18 this year.

The tournament, first of the Nehru Society's five annual competitions, was sponsored as usual by the NDMC. It was inaugurated by Ms Archana Arora, IAS, Chairperson, NDMC, in the presence of distinguished personalities, including the Society's President Shri Arun Subhashchandra Yadav, M.P., and a large number of other hockey enthusiasts and spectators. The tournament attracted 20 teams. The final, played under floodlights, saw the girls from Kiddy's Corner School, Gwalior, outshine their counterparts from Government Senior Secondary School, Shahabad (Haryana) 4-0. The Gwalior team thus avenged the defeat suffered at the hands of the Haryana girls in the final last year. Prizes were distributed by Shrimant Yashodhara Raje Scindia, MP, in the presence of distinguished guests and a large number of hockey enthusiasts.

## **30<sup>th</sup> Sub- Junior Boys (u-15 tournament (Oct 18-28, 2012)**

### **Sundergarh Boys Keep Title**



The second in the series of Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's annual calendar of competitions the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of Sub-Junior Boys (Under-15) was held at the Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi. The tournament was sponsored by Hockey India.

The final, a repeat of last year's summit clash, was played under flood lights. Defending champions Town High School (Sundergarh) retained the trophy thanks to a brace by Sushil Ekka (including the golden goal). They beat Govt Sr Sec School, Ladowali. (Jalandhar) 3-2. The teams were locked 1-1 at the breather after Punjab equalised through Navjot Singh's penalty corner conversion.

Shri Subhash Kapur, Vice-President of the Nehru Hockey Society and Chairman, Steebird Hi-Tech India Ltd, presided over the prize distribution function in the presence of triple Olympian and Vice-President of the Society, Shri Harbinder Singh, Shri Ramesh Kapur, Chairman Souvenir Committee, and Shri Dilip Chenoy, Member of the Society and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). Shri Chenoy declared the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of Sub-Junior Boys tournament closed and simultaneously declared the 41<sup>st</sup> Junior Boys (U-17) open. The Society's Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia gave a vote of thanks to all concerned for making the tournament a grand success.



## 41<sup>st</sup> Nehru Junior (u-17) Hockey Tournament (Oct 29 – Nov. 9, 2012)

### Birsa Munda crowned 5<sup>th</sup> time



The 41<sup>st</sup> edition of Nehru Junior Boys (Under-17) tournament, the third in the series, was conducted on the heels of the successfully-held Sub-Junior Boys (Under-15) competition.

The Boys tournament this year was sponsored by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), who are known for promoting sports at all levels. The competition was inaugurated by Shri Dilip Chenoy, member of the Society and Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), in the presence of distinguished guests. This year, the tournament attracted as many as 24 State champion teams of which six were seeded.

Birsa Munda had made it to the final for the sixth time, having won the trophy four times in the past (1995, 1997, 1999 and 2010). They had finished runners-

up on two occasions as well (2008 and 2011). Springdales were making their maiden summit entry. The final played under floodlights like the previous two finals played earlier in the month, turned out to be an one-sided affair with the Rourkela boys humbling their opponents from Amritsar 7-1. Incidentally, the only goal for the Punjab team was a 'gift' from the opponents who scored a 'self goal.'

The prize distribution function was presided over by Ms Vinita Kumar, Group General Manager, ONGC, in the presence of Guest of Honour Shri Virendra Kr Mahendru, Head Sports, ONGC. Nehru Society's energetic Secretary Shri Kukoo Walia presented a vote of thanks at the conclusion of the function.

### Olympian Cdr. G. Nandy Singh's fine gesture

Cdr G Nandy Singh has been synonymous with Indian hockey, having represented the country in two Olympics, having received the prestigious Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the promotion of hockey. For over three decades, Cdr Nandy Singh has been serving Nehru Hockey Society as its General Secretary. Although the ageing celebrity hasn't been keeping good health of late, he has been keeping in touch with the game in general and the activities of the Society in particular. Recently, he made a fine gesture towards the Society and the game of hockey with a donation of Rs 2 lakh, in the name of his late wife Mrs Prem Nandy Singh. While accepting his gesture, Nehru Society wishes Cdr Nandy Singh speedy recovery so that he can continue to serve the game for long.



### Spectator Award

The Society introduced a novel scheme for awarding a NOKIA Mobile every day to the spectators during the tournament by issuing a lucky draw coupon. This scheme of the Society was very much liked and appreciated by the large number of spectators.



## 49<sup>th</sup> ONGC-Nehru Sr Hockey Tournament (November 14-25, 2012) In battle between petroleum units, Indian Oil emerge winners



The Senior Men's competition has always been the major highlight of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's series of annual tournaments for various reasons. Considered the nursery of Indian hockey for almost five decades now, Nehru Hockey Society has been hunting, nurturing, inspiring and motivating talent at all levels with great success. It will not be out of place to mention here that dozens of players had first participated in tournaments organised by the Nehru Society before making it to the national or international arena.

The 49<sup>th</sup> edition of the ONGC-Nehru Senior Men's tournament (Nov 14-25, 2012) brought curtains down to the 43-day long grand extravaganza of thrilling and edge-of-the-seat encounters of four of the five annual Nehru Society-conducted competitions, at the renovated Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi.

Sponsored by renowned sports promoters of the country, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the tournament was inaugurated by Cdr. R.K. Srivastava, Executive Director, Hockey India.

Indian Oil beat BPCL 3-2 in the final. Indian Oil received the prestigious Nehru Gold Cup and the Japan Trophy along with a cash award of Rs 2,50,000. Runners-up BPCL had to be contended with the Nehru Silver Cup and a cash award of Rs 1,25,000. ONGC received the Hero Honda Hardline Trophy and Rs 75,000. Indian Oil's drag-flicker Gurjinder Singh was declared the Best Player of the tournament and awarded Rs 11,000. Army XI received the Lt Gen Harbaksh Singh Trophy while the Bangladesh XI got the Foreign Team Participation Trophy. Besides encouraging participating players and coaches, Nehru Society has always been in the forefront to honour on-field officials. This year's Sardar Gian Singh Best Umpire Trophy and the cash award of Rs 10,000 that goes with it was jointly presented to Ripudaman Sharma and M. I. Alam.



The award presentation ceremony was presided over by Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey, Member of Parliament and triple Olympian and Arjuna Awardee, in the presence of a large number of distinguished guests, including the Society's Vice-Presidents Shri Harbinder Singh, Dr D R Saini, Shri H S Hanspal, Shri Subhash Kapur and the Chairman of the Souvenir Committee Shri Ramesh Kapur. Besides, a large number of players who had represented the country in Olympics, World Cup and Asian Games also graced the occasion.



## Padma Shri Dilip Tirkey joins Nehru Society as V.P.



It is with great pride the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society announces that triple Olympian, Arjuna and Padma Shri Award recipient Dilip Tirkey has joined the Nehru Society as a Vice-President. Tirkey began his hockey career by representing B S High School, Sundergarh in the Nehru Sub-Junior tournament in 1989. Later he went on to represent the country in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, 1997 Milton Keynes Junior World Cup, 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, 1999 Kuala Lumpur Asia Cup, 2000 Sydney Olympics. He also led the country in the 2004

Athens Olympics. The Nehru Society had the pleasure of having Dilip Tirkey preside over the award presentation ceremony of Senior Nehru tournament in 2012. Shri Tirkey is the only Indian player who has played 412 International competitions. Shri Gyan Chand National Hockey Player and Umpire has also joined the Society as Asstt. Secretary. He is presently working in NDMC.



## Chief Editor M N Shome honoured



The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society honoured its Chief Editor Shri M N Shome for his outstanding contribution as a senior journalist for more than five decades with the Lifetime Achievement Award. A beautiful shawl and a glittering memento were presented to Shri Shome who has been involved with the activities of the Nehru Society for a longtime. At present he is serving the Society as Chief Editor.

## JNHTS honours Sardar Singh and Harendra Singh



Living up to its tradition of honouring players and coaches for their outstanding performances and achievements in the field of hockey, Nehru Hockey Society honoured two contemporary hockey personalities Shri Sardar Singh (ace midfielder and vice-captain of the national team at the London Olympics and recipient of Arjuna Award in 2012) and coach Harendra Singh (recipient of Dronacharya Award) -- at an impressive function, held on October 8, 2012 at the Russian Culture Centre in the national Capital. While Sardar Singh was presented a purse of Rs 51,000 Harendra Singh received Rs 11,000.





## CHAMPIONS TROPHY (Men) AT MELBOURNE

### Many positives for India despite finishing 4 with new-look team

Playing the first major international event after their disastrous last-place finish in the London Olympics, India went to the elite eight-nation Champions Trophy with a new look team after dropping several ageing stars. Even though Team India could not gain its first medal in the tournament after its bronze in 1982, the side managed to restore some pride after the London fiasco and finished fourth.

In fact, Pakistan's last four medals in the Champions Trophy have come at the expense of India, who have lost bronze medal matches to Pakistan in 2002, 2003, 2004 and now in 2012.

"Champions Trophy is the biggest tournament after Olympics and World Cup and this success has given us new confidence," skipper Sardar Singh said. "It is certainly the beginning of a new era in Indian Hockey," he added. Indian team's was a massive success considering the fact that the Indians came into the event as the lowest team in the FIH World Ranking, at No.11. The team did well to beat England (3-1) and New Zealand (4-2) but went down 2-3 to

Germany, yet topped Group A with six points. In the quarter-final, India beat Belgium 1-0 but were outplayed by Australia 3-0) in the semifinal.

Pakistan got off to a bad start in the bronze medal match and India scored through a penalty corner after just seven minutes. Pakistan were successful in levelling the scores on the counter attack in the 21st minute when Mohammad Rizwan (Sr.) scored from the top of the circle to ensure both teams go into half time with the scores level.

Shafqat Rasool gave Pakistan the lead in the 40th minute with a great assist from Abbasi and Ateeq doubled it through a penalty corner with just four minutes to go. Pakistan brought on Imran Shah in place of Imran Butt when the score was 3-1 and Shah repeated his show of the Olympics, resulting in the final score of 3-2.

The next challenge for India would be to defend its title in the Asian Champions Trophy, to be held in Doha from December 20-27.

### Ajay Kapoor joins Nehru Society

Shri Ajay Kapoor, Managing Director Kapoor Brothers joined the Nehru Hockey family as Member of the Society. Shri Kapoor's vast influence in the Delhi Social Circle will be of immense help in raising the financial resources of the Society. Shri Kapoor's induction as a Member of the Society will benefit the Society in a large way to promote and serve the cause of our National Game of Hockey.



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Phone : Office : 26178793, Telefax : 26178792, Mobile : 9811175233

E-mail : nehruhockey64@hotmail.com | kukoowalia@usa.net | Website : www.nehruhockey.com