



Newsletter



Quarterly

THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY

From the President's Desk

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is proud to present the 50th Edition of the Society's Quarterly Newsletter, which came into being in 2003. It has come a long way since then and is considered as an iconic News and Analysis feature of happenings in the world of Hockey.

The 23rd Edition of the Nehru-All India Inter-University Hockey Tournament (Inter Zonal Final) held during February 22-29, 2016, once again brought to the fore fresh talents among the top universities of the country. Sixteen top teams drawn from across the country vied for top honours during the eight-day event, which was held in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), M/s Hero Moto Corp. Ltd., Delhi and Jamia Hamdard University.

It goes to the credit of the untiring efforts of JNHTS's energetic Secretary General Shri Kukoo Walia that this year's tournament concluded successfully despite the organizers facing problem of finding suitable alternate venue in the middle of the tournament when the original venue Shivaji Stadium was severely hit by water scarcity because of the Jat agitation in nearby Haryana.

All is well that ends well. The tournament ended successfully drawing curtains to Nehru Hockey Society's annual calendar of seven events for the year 2015-2016.

Last year's runners-up Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) claimed the SAIL Trophy while MG Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi finished runners-up this time. Sambalpur University finished third.

JNHTS's vibrant Secretary-General's broadcasting skills are a well known fact to millions of radio and television listeners throughout the country. Shri Walia wears several caps on his head. Besides being a former national level hockey player, FIH's Umpire-Manager, International Umpire and an able administrator, he is an expert commentator. His vocabulary flow was perfectly used by the organizers of the recent 12th South Asian Games held at Guwahati (Assam). JNHTS is indeed proud to have such a multi-faceted personality as its Secretary-General.

Despite efforts being jointly put up by all members of the Nehru Hockey Society for over 52 years, the Society finds it difficult at present to run its series of annual competitions, due to financial constraints. Despite help from some Corporate and banking sectors like Steelbird Group, ONGC, PNB, PSB, IFFCO, Power Grid, Frick India Ltd., Kanwarji Construction, NDMC, Hero Moto Corps etc. JNHTS is struggling to survive. We make an earnest appeal to all sports loving philanthropists to extend a helping hand to JNHTS to serve India's National Game.



ARUN SUBHASHCHANDRA YADAV

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No. 50 - JAN-MAR, 2016

50th edition of the JNHT Society's Newsletter

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society is proud to present the 50th Edition of the Society's Quarterly Newsletter, which was launched 13 years ago with the July-September, 2003 issue. It has come a long way in the last 13 years and is considered as an iconic news analysis feature of happenings in the world of hockey.

From a humble beginning when this publication was of four pages, it has grown into a full-fledged six-page pictorial, colourful informative booklet, thanks to imagination of our vibrant Secretary-General Shri Kukoo Walia. With the addition of two more pages we have been able to provide more and more information on domestic and international competition results and salient news across the world. Photographs depicting the events have added colour to the Newsletter.

Ever since Shri Walia took over as the Secretary in 2011, he has added several innovative features to make the Newsletter more attractive and newsworthy. JNHTS's Quarterly Newsletter is well appreciated and looked forward to by players, officials and administrators, not only in India but in all hockey-playing countries as well because of its vast and vivid coverage of our national and also international hockey events.

We are grateful to Shri Ramesh Kapur, Chairman of the Steelbird International, for sponsoring the Newsletter. It may not be out of place to mention here that the philanthropic Kapur family, particularly S'Shri Subhash Kapur and Ramesh Kapur, has been a great source of inspiration to the Nehru Hockey Society. They have been assisting the Society in various ways, besides conducting some of the Society's annual tournaments as well.

Pictorial journey of our Newsletter



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
July-Sept., 2003



Mr. Ermanno Silvano, Chairman, Umpiring Committee, F.I.H.
Shri H.S. Dhillon (Middle) and Shri Kukoo Walia -
October-December, 2009



Gauri Shankar Singh, father of Vivek Singh receiving a cheque for Rs 50,000/- from the Union Sports Minister Sunil Dutt -
July-September, 2004



Nehru Hockey Society presented a purse of Rs 5.61 lakhs to Mrs. Santhi Marry wife of Olympian V.J. Peter on 29.8.2011
July-September, 2011



Respectful Homage : Shiv Kumar Varma, Secretary,
Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society,
July-September, 2011



JNHT Society at a function held on June 6, 2011 honoured Shri Saiyid Hamid, IAS Vice-President of the Society for their selfless devotion and dedication for the cause of Indian hockey in popular and the Society in general. - April-June, 2011.



Shri Kukoo Walia, Secretary of the Society presenting a memento to the Chief Guest Vice-Admiral R.K. Dhowan during the final match of Junior Tournament - October-December, 2013



Shri Kukoo Walia, Secretary of the Society presenting a memento to the Chief Guest General Bikram Singh, Chief of the Army Staff during the final of Senior Tournament- October-December, 2013



Chief Guest General Bikram Singh alongwith Shri Subhash Kapur, is presenting a memento to honour veteran Olympian Shri Balbir Singh - October-December, 2013



Shri Kukoo Walia, Secretary of the Society presenting a memento to the Chief Guest Shri Tejender Singh Luthra, IPS, Jt Commissioner of Police during the Inauguration of Sub-Jr Tournament October-December, 2014

23RD NEHRU ALL INDIA INTER-UNIVERSITY HOCKEY TOURNAMENT (INTER ZONAL FINAL) February 22-29, 2016 at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi

Guru Nanak Dev Varsity emerge Champions



Sports play a major role in shaping the character of a student, both at school and college level. Not only do sports keep your body fit and healthy, it offers a great career too. That is the reason university sports are introduced to keep students learn ways to handle pressure in every kind of situation. College and university sports showcase athletic intelligence alongside academic victories. Another important advantage of university sports is the competition between colleges to achieve success. This positive spirit will help students achieve their goals in their career with ease.

The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS), that has been conducting a series of competitions for all age-groups for boys and girls for 52 long years, is probably the only sports society in the country that has been encouraging both school and college/university hockey. The inter-university hockey tournament, organized by JNHTS is one of the best conducted tournaments which bring to the fore the best university talent in the country. School and university sports are the nurseries from which the best talent can be spotted and nurtured. No wonder, several players who had participated in JNHTS's school, college and university tournaments have gone on to represent the country. If Indian Hockey is to regain its lost glory, it is important that facilities are created at grass roots level and young talent encouraged. This is exactly what the Nehru Hockey Society, under its present dynamic Secretary-General Shri Kukoo Walia is doing. For the last so many years, the All India Inter-Universities Hockey Tournament, run by JNHTS has been a grand success as youngsters are given right exposures.

Like in previous years, this year's 23rd edition of universities hockey tournament got off to a colourful start with Shri Harshvardhan Reddy, Chairman, Aura Reddy-HVR Group, inaugurating it in the presence of a galaxy of hockey loving audience. The tournament, as usual, was held in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), M/s Hero Motocorp Ltd (Delhi) and Jamia Hamdard University.

The water crisis that hit the city due to the Jat agitation caused lot of problems for the smooth conduct of the tournament. Water supply at Shivaji Stadium where the tournament was going on was badly hit and matches had to be shifted to Yamuna Sports Complex for a couple of days before normalcy was restored at the original venue. It caused a lot of problems for the teams and officials and the Nehru Society was forced to incur huge additional expenses, as a result. But for the efforts initiated by Secretary-General Shri Kukoo Walia, it would not have been possible to finish the tournament on schedule. He had to knock at every official's door to run the competition without much interruption.

This year's competition was confined to the first four universities in each zone unlike in previous years when each of the four zones of the country had conducted their respective tournaments and the winners of each zone made it to the Delhi competition. This year, North Zone was represented by reigning champions Jamia Millia Islamia University (Delhi), last year's runners-up Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar), Punjabi University (Patiala) and Punjab University (Chandigarh).





The preliminary league saw the 16 teams divided into four groups of four teams each. Two top teams from each group qualified for the quarter-finals. The four semi-finalists were MG Kashi Vidyapeeth, Sambalpur University, Jamia Millia and Guru Nanak Dev University. In the Qr-Final, Punjabi University (Patiala) lost 1-3 to Kashi Vidyapeeth. Sambalpur beat Bangalore University 4-2 (via tie-breaker), Jamia Millia ousted Madras University 3-1 and Guru Nanak Dev University beat Punjab University (Chandigarh) 2-1.

One of the semi-finals saw Jamia Millia whipped 1-7 (0-3 at half-time) by M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth while in the other semi-final Guru Nanak Dev University crushed Sambalpur 9-1 (0-2 at the interval). Last year's losing finalists Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar) beat M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth (Varanasi) 4-3 with the help of a brace from Pawandeep Singh, who was later named Man of the Match, to win the exciting final.

In the play-off for third place, Sambalpur boys beat Jamia Millia Islamia 6-1.

The final ceremony was presided over by Prof. Furqan Qamar, Secretary-General, AIU. The HVR Group, made a fine gesture by donating a sum of Rs.10,000/- to each of the 16 participating teams. Guru Nanak Dev University won the coveted SAIL Trophy and the Runners-up trophy went to

Kashi Vidyapeeth. The Best Player of the tournament was bagged by Shri Shamsher Singh of the GND University. He received a costly Flash Composite Hockey Stick.

With this, the JNHTS's annual calendar of competitions came to a successful conclusion.



KUKOO WALIA SOJOURN AT SAF GAMES

He is a former national level hockey player. He is a former Umpire-Manager (FIH). He is a former International Hockey Umpire. He is a veteran administrator. He conducts regular clinics for umpires. He is a marketing genius. He imbibes in himself one of the best communication skills that an administrator requires to run the sports successfully. He has full knowledge about the game that he loves more than anything. He is dedicated and devoted to his passion. He is an enthusiastic broadcaster.

We are not describing the qualities of a dozen individuals but the rare qualities that one single individual possesses, all rolled into one. Indeed, it is very rare that all the above qualities are found in one single person. Yet, the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS) is very fortunate to have such a personality in its midst.

He is none other than JNHTS's energetic Secretary General, Shri Kukoo Walia. You name any characteristic quality of a true sports administrator; he has them all. No wonder, he is admired and adored by the entire hockey fraternity.



For Shri Kukoo Walia, hockey is more of a vocation as he was a player during his college days. A meticulous administrator committed to his work. Shri Kukoo Walia believes in all round development of players. Warm and jovial, yet a disciplinarian, he has measured the pulse of the hockey players and the game's followers. No wonder, he has continuously succeeded in providing all incentives and encouragement to young hockey talent through the numerous annual tournaments.

His versatility as a television commentator came to the fore once again when Doordarshan invited him to give his expert comments on hockey matches during the recent 12th South Asian Games held at the Maulana Tyabullah Hockey Stadium at Sarasujai, Guwahati (Assam).

JNHTS is proud to have such a multi-faceted personality as its Secretary General, who has been working relentlessly and selflessly for the promotion of the national game.

HELPS JNHT SOCIETY TO SERVE INDIAN HOCKEY

A handful of patriotic and passionate hockey lovers came together in 1964, four years after India lost its first final in 32 years in the Olympics, in an effort to revive the 'national game'. The Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society (JNHTS) was thus formed, named after the country's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru. Inspired by the high ideals, objectives and motto of the Society which is 'Play the game in the Spirit of the Game', several high-ranking government officials and bureaucrats identified themselves with the organization and offered their services by becoming part of the JNHTS. Union Cabinet Ministers A. K. Sen (Law), Y.B. Chavan (Defence), Ram Niwas Mirdha (Communications) and Sharad Pawar (Agriculture) headed the Nehru Hockey Society to give the much-needed boost. H.C. Sarin (Secretary-Defence), S. Ratnam (Secretary-Finance), Maj.Gen. Virendra Singh (DG-NCC), Saiyid Hamid (Chairman, Hamdard University) and Subir Raha (Chairman-ONGC) were also involved with the activities of the Society, which has conducted uninterrupted tournaments for all age groups for 52 years till now. The importance the Nehru Tournaments had over the years can be gauged from the fact that several Presidents of India, including Dr. S. Radhakrishnan (1965-66), Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (1967), Dr. Zakir Hussain (1968), Shri V. V. Giri (1969, '72 & '73), Shri Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy ('78, '79, '80), Shri Giani Zail Singh (83), Shri R. Venkataraman ('84, '85) and Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma ('89, '90 and '92) had presided over Senior Tournament finals in the past.

After the huge success of the Senior Open Tournament which had a few foreign teams participating in the first year, Nehru Society introduced age-group competitions in later years, in consultation with the then Indian Hockey Federation. An exclusive tournament for champion colleges was launched in 1993 in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities. The same year saw the introduction of a school tournament for girls. Recent years have witnessed a couple of tournaments –Nehru Dhyan Chand Cup (exclusively for Delhi Schools) and Sardar Gian Singh Trophy initiated by the present Secretary-General, Shri Kukoo Walia. All this would not have been possible but for the untiring and selfless efforts of its office bearers, both past and present. But for the continued financial support the JNHTS has been getting from some of the philanthropic and hockey loving industrial and corporate houses as well as national banks (Steelbird International, Steelbird Hi-tech India Ltd), ONGC, PNB, PSB, IFFCO, Power Grid, Hero Moto Corp, Frick India Ltd. NDMC, Kanwarji Construction etc.), it would not have been possible to run these tournaments so successfully. The present Secretary General Shri Kukoo Walia is an able administrator with several roles to his credit. He is undoubtedly the brain behind several innovations and incentives introduced in recent years in an effort to provide the necessary boost to the national game. He has single-handedly managed to rope in some hockey-loving industrialists and corporate to sponsor tournaments. He has the passion and shown great enthusiasm and spirit to take the game to a higher level. He has proved to be a trend setter in many ways.

However, passion and enthusiasm for the game are not enough to run tournaments of this magnitude year after year. They require finance for conducting competitions and to provide sports facilities as well. JNHTS is presently struggling to survive. To conduct each one of the seven annual tournaments, the Society requires at least Rs.13-15 lakhs per tournament as the expenditure included (approximate figures): Rs.5000/- per day to NDMC for ground charges, Rs.600/- per day per tournament to umpires as also board and lodging for outstation umpires and other officials and transport to outstation participating teams. Expenditure has to be incurred for live telecast of all Semi-finals and Finals. Over and above, prize money for the first two teams and their coaches have also gone up over the years. Besides, there are several incidental and miscellaneous expenses. These expenditures are increasing every year and the Nehru Hockey Society's reserve funds are drying up fast.

Unless more corporate and industrial houses come up to help run the tournaments by either sponsoring some of them or extending financial assistance, JNHTS may not be in a position to conduct so many tournaments year after year. This is an appeal to all sports-loving philanthropists to extend a helping hand to Nehru Hockey Society, so that it can continue to serve the country's national game of Hockey with the same vigour and fervor in future as well helps

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