



THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY NEWSLETTER

No. 10

January-March 2006

INSIDE

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Indian Hockey ...2

PREMIER HOCKEY LEAGUE

Bangalore Lions
win PHL ...3

INDO-PAK TEST SERIES

Pakistan win Indo-Pak
Tests ...3

SAIL - NEHRU TROPHY

Jamia Millia Islamia
clinch ...3

MAHARAJA RANJIT SINGH TROPHY

Indian Airlines win ...4

SENIOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Railways win title ...4

PHOTO EXHIBITION ...4

Worldcupper Noor
passes away ...4

EDITORIAL BOARD

Chief

Shri Saiyid Hamid

Editor

Cdr. G. Nandy Singh (Retd.)

Associate Editors

Shiv Kumar Varma

M.N. Shome

From the President's Desk

While Indian shooters returned home from the 18th Commonwealth Games at Melbourne with a rich haul of medals, including the Games' most prestigious "Best Sportsperson Award" to shooter Samar Jung, the poor sixth finish by our men's hockey team at the Games, came as a somewhat disappointment. However, our women's hockey team restored some pride by finishing with the Silver medal although it was one rung below the Gold medal winning effort at the earlier Games at Manchester.

The second edition of the Premier Hockey League (PHL), the brain-child of the Indian Hockey Federation, was conducted successfully in Chandigarh. Bangalore Lions were crowned Champions after beating Chandigarh Dynamos in the three-way finals.

Pakistan continued to dominate against India by winning the six-match home-and-away 'Test' series 3-1. India lost all the three matches at home but found some luck at Faisalabad (Pakistan) with a 2-1 win for their only triumph, the other two matches held at Lahore and Rawalpindi having ended in a draw.

The Champion Colleges Tournament conducted annually by the Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, was held for the second time away from Delhi, at Rourkela. Sponsored by SAIL, the 13th edition was won by Jamia Millia Islamia Faculty of Humanity, who avenged their previous year's loss by beating DAV College, Jalandhar in the final.

The Indian Airlines clinched the second Maharaja Ranjit Singh Tournament in Delhi where the country's 15 best teams along with a team each from Pakistan and Bangladesh participated.

Indian Railways domination among women's hockey team in the country continued with their winning the 54th Senior National Women's Championships held under the auspices of the Delhi Women's Hockey Association.



Ram Niwas Mirdha

Indian Hockey at the Commonwealth Games 2006

Indian men's hockey team finished fourth in the inaugural year of the Commonwealth Games' field hockey competition in 1998 at Kuala Lumpur, but the team did not take part in the subsequent edition at Manchester in 2002. However, the Indian Women's team emerged winners in 2002 beating England 3-2 via a golden goal. At Melbourne this time (March 15-26) while the women's team managed a silver medal after losing by a narrow 1-0 margin to hosts Australia, the men's team finished a poor sixth in the 10-nation' Competition.

With Pakistan, South Africa, Malaysia and Trinidad & Tobago in their pool, India's men's team began their campaign with a fair chance to make it to the final four, but it was not to be. In their opening game against Malaysia, India dished out a cold 1-1 draw. Then against our traditional rivals Pakistan, India got a 4-1 drubbing. India finally managed a win in their third game against minnows Trinidad & Tobago by a convincing 10-1 margin. Later they beat South Africa 2-0 in their last league encounter. Both India and Malaysia finished with 7 points each but Malaysia edged past India for a berth in the semi-finals owing to better goal difference. India then lost to New Zealand 1-2 to finish sixth in the classification. Hosts Australia, who won all their matches annexed their third successive Commonwealth Games Hockey title beating Pakistan 3-0 in the final. Malaysia capped their rapid rise in world hockey by taking the Bronze medal with a 2-0 win over England.

The Indian women began their title defence on a disappointing note when they lost 2-4 to hosts Australia in their pool match. They then drew 2-2 with South Africa. They clinched their first win by decimating Nigeria 8-0. In their last pool match they thrashed Malaysia 6-1. The eves then scored a 2-1 win over New Zealand in the semi-finals to enter the final in the 10-team competition. The other finalist was hosts Australia, who defeated England 3-0 in the semi-finals. A spirited effort by India's women's team went in vain as Australia snatched a narrow 1-0 win to bag the Gold and dethrone the defending Champions. England won the Bronze defeating New Zealand 3-1.



Silver Medalists Indian Women's Commonwealth Hockey team with the Prime Minister and other dignitaries after their return to Delhi – 5.4.2006.

Bangalore Lions Win PHL-2

The Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) successfully organised the 2nd edition of its brain-child, the Premier Hockey League, at Chandigarh during January 14-February 1, 2006. The championship was held in Two-Tiers of five teams each, namely Tier-I: Bangalore Lions, Hyderabad Sultans, Sher-e-Jalandhar, Chandigarh Dynamos and Maratha Warriors and Tier-II comprised Delhi Dazzlers, Lucknow Nawabs, Imphal Rangers, Orissa Steelers and Chennai Veerans.

Bangalore Lions were crowned champions of this year's PHL. In the three-way finals, the Lions beat Chandigarh Dynamos by two matches to one on Feb. 1. With both the teams having won one 'final' earlier, the last 'final' match proved crucial for each other. Lions won the first 'final' 4-2 while Dynamos drew level by winning the second 'final' 3-2. Hyderabad Sultans secured the third position. The championships were organised by IHF in association with ESPN STAR SPORTS & Leisure Sports Management. It carried a prize money of Rs. 70.00 lacs. The main awardees were:-

	Tier-I		Tier-II
1. Winners	- Bangalore Lions	Rs. 30.00 lacs	Orissa Steelers 4.00 lacs
2. Runners-up	- Chandigarh Dynamos	10.00 lacs	Chennai Veerans 2.00 lacs
3. 3rd position	- Hyderabad Sultans	6.50 lacs	Delhi Dazzlers 1.00 lacs
4. Player of the League	- Didar Singh	1.50 lacs	
5. Highest Scorer	- Len Aiyappan	1.00 lacs	

Pakistan Win Indo-Pak Test Series

India lost the six-match home-and-away Test series against its Asian rivals and neighbours Pakistan 3-1. The Indian hockey team's performance in the twin series was none-too-happy in the bilateral Test series held during Feb. 17-26, 2006. While India lost all the three Tests at home, they regained some lost pride by winning the second and drawing the first and the third on the Pakistan-leg. On the Indian-leg (Feb. 17-20), India lost 1-2 at Chandigarh and the second 1-3 also at the same Venue. At Jalandhar, the home team went down 1-2.

However, on reaching the Pakistani soil (Feb. 22-26), the Indians embarked on a damage-control act and they found their luck to some extent. But it was not enough as the damage was too big to resurrect. India drew the fourth Test 1-1 at Lahore and a late resurgence helped them beat Pakistan 2-1 at Faisalabad for their first win. In the final encounter at Rawalpindi, the visitors made a remarkable recovery from 0-3 down to draw level at 3-3. By holding the Pakistanis, India managed to win the second leg 1-0 and thereby narrowed down their series loss to 3-1.

Jamia Millia clinch Sail-Nehru Trophy

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society's new season successfully began with the highly competitive Sail-Nehru Champion Colleges tournament. Sponsored by the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), the 13th edition was played at its Hqs. at Rourkela, Orissa (Feb. 8-14, 2006) under the watchful eyes of the sponsors. As during last year, this year too the tournament attracted eight champion colleges of the best hockey playing universities in the country. In an engrossing final in the presence of a packed capacity crowd at the Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium, last year's runners-up Jamia Millia Islamia faculty of Humanity, New Delhi retaliated its last year's defeat to DAV College, Jalandhar (Guru Nanak Univ.) when they clinched the title after edging the Jalandhar boys out by three goals to two.



Jamia Millia boys – the winners – with the Chief Guest.

The winners were richer by Rs. 96,000 while the runners-up got Rs. 64,000 as prize money. Earlier in the day, the Municipal College, Rourkela (Sambalpur University) thrashed the Arts and Science Faculty (Aligarh Muslim University) 6-3 to bag the third place and along with it Rs. 32,000. The Pepsi Penalty-corner award of Rs. 20,000 was also awarded to the Municipal College.

Indian Airlines Win Maharaja Ranjit Singh Trophy

The National Capital started its annual calendar of hockey programmes this year with the second Maharaja Ranjit Singh tournament held during Feb. 21-March 5, 2006. The tournament played on league-cum-knock-out format had 15 best teams of the country as against 11 last year, and to add foreign flavour, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and a team from the Bangladesh Army joined the fray. In the knock-out phase, Air India and South Central Railways having won top positions in their respective pools qualified to join the Six directly-seeded teams for the league phase where Indian Air lines (IA) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) successfully reached the final. IA won the title by a solitary goal against BPCL.

Railways win National title in Women's Hockey

It was just yet another best-managed show one saw at the capital's Shivaji Stadium as the NTPC-sponsored 54th edition of the Senior National Women's Hockey Championships displayed during March 23-30 under the auspices of the Delhi Women's Hockey Association. The Railways, with almost the entire National team in its ranks, won the coveted Lady Rattan Tata Cup, the symbol of women's hockey supremacy in India, defeating last year's joint holders Haryana 3-0 in the final. This was Railways 21st win since 1980-81 and 14 times in a row since 1986-87. Delhi finished third in the 14-team competition beating Madhya Pradesh 2-1.

Photo Exhibition

The Nehru Hockey Society thoughtfully brought out once again those eventful moments of nostalgic memories of Indian hockey's historic past by holding an exhibition in the Shivaji Stadium of rare of the rarest photographs covering the period of Nehru Hockey Society Since 1964. The exhibition was inaugurated on December 20, 2005 by the Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Oscar Fernandes and Chairman, State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. Dr. Arvind Pandalai. Besides a host of Olympians and world cuppers of the country



Shri Oscar Fernandes making his observations in the Visitor's Book. Dr. Arvind Pandalai is watching.

present on the occasion, the exhibition was also witnessed by a large section of general public at large. The efforts of the Society were warmly appreciated by both print and electronic media.

World Cupper Noor Passes Away

With profound grief and shock the Nehru Hockey Society were sad to learn about the demise of India's former hockey great and a member of the bronze medal winning 1971 World Cup squad Shahid Noor. He breathed his last at the age of 60 at his home town in Bhopal on Thursday, February 23, 2006. May his soul rest in peace

Published by Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society, Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi-110001.

Phone: Stadium: 23365720 • Fax: 91-11-23746586 • E-mail: nehruhockey@vsnl.net • Cable: 'NEHRUHOKY' New Delhi • Website: www.nehruhockeyindia.com
• Printed at Arun & Rajive Pvt. Ltd., 10 DSIDC Scheme-II, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi -110020 • Ph: 26388005 / 6 / 7