



THE CRADLE OF INDIAN HOCKEY QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

No. 23

APRIL - JUNE, 2009

INSIDE

**SPORTS MINISTER M.S. GILL
EXTENDS FULL SUPPORT.....2**

8TH SR. ASIA CUP (MEN)
India Failed to Defend the Title2

9TH JUNIOR WORLD CUP
Germany Regained the Roger
Danet Trophy.....2

**INDIAN EVES SOAR TO NEW
HEIGHT3**

**INDIAN UMPIRES ON TOP OF THE
WORLD3**

**THREE PERSONALITIES JOIN
NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY3**

**JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HOCKEY
TOURNAMENT SOCIETY**

Calendar for the year 20093

**INDIA'S MEN'S TEAM SLIP TO
12TH, WOMEN 14TH IN WORLD
RANKING4**

DO YOU KNOW?4

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITORIAL ADVISERS

Shri Saiyid Hamid
Shri Shiv Kumar Varma
Shri Kukoo Walia

CHIEF EDITOR

Shri M. N. Shome

From the President's Desk



With just over a year to go for the 19th edition of the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi, there have been whole-hearted support for India and its sportspersons from various quarters. Shri M.S. Gill, who was elevated as Union Cabinet Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports in the Manmohan Singh Government, has extended full support to the Hockey fraternity of the country.

Meanwhile, India's bid to host the 18th Asian Games in 2018 received a fillip when President of the Olympic Council of Asia, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah expressed his confidence of India having a good chance of conducting the Asiad. He brushed aside security concerns and reiterated "full faith in India being a safe country".

On the field, India's Men's team slipped to the 12th in World Hockey Ranking. With the first round exit in the Asia Cup in Malaysia, India's Men's team lost the distinction of remaining among the top-10 countries of the world. India's Women's hockey fared no better, content to be placed 14th in World Ranking.

Winning a title may be easy. But defending it is more difficult. India's Men's Senior and Junior Hockey teams found this to their dismay in recent months. While the Senior Men could only finish fifth among seven participants in the Asia Cup, the Junior team only managed a ninth place in the Junior World Cup.

On the home-front, the much-popular Nehru Hockey Tournaments will begin on October 3 this year in Gwalior with the 16th edition of Girls (Under-17) Tournament. The four age-group tournaments will come to an end on November 25, with the completion of the 46th Senior Men's Tournament to be held at Chandigarh.

It is heartening to observe that the Society's Quiz programme is becoming more and more popular with the country's Hockey fraternity.

Our website is open — www.nehruhockey.com

Ram Niwas Mirdha

SPORTS MINISTER M.S. GILL EXTENDS FULL SUPPORT

Shri M.S. Gill, who has been elevated as Union Cabinet Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports in the new Manmohan Singh Government, has extended full support to the Hockey fraternity of the country. After taking over charge of the Ministry a second time, Shri Gill assured that "my faith and support to Hockey will always remain as I am committed to supporting Hockey".

Shri Gill, a former Chief Election Commissioner of India, said that my elevation as Cabinet Minister from MOS (Minister of State) has given me an opportunity to serve the less-fortunate Sportsmen better. He further said that the priorities are clearly to restore the dignity of sportsmen and ensuring the smooth preparations for the next year's Commonwealth Games.

8TH SR. ASIA CUP (MEN) (MAY 9-16, 2009)

India Failed to Defend the Title

India failed to win a medal in the Asia Cup Hockey Championship for the first time in the history of the Continental Championship when the defending Champions could manage only a fifth place (among seven participants) in the eighth edition held in Kauntan in Malaysia. The two-time winners (2003 and 2007) received a major set-back in their inaugural match itself when they went down 2-3 to their arch-rivals Pakistan. India's problems of qualifying for the semi-final were further confounded when they could manage only a 2-2 draw against the fast-improving Chinese team. India's 11-1 thrashing of hapless Bangladesh came as a minor consolation in the classification game. Later, India crushed Japan 5-1 to finish a lowly fifth.

Coming on the heels of their emphatic win in the just-held Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, India began the tournament as strong favourites. But a few lost opportunities against Pakistan in a rain-affected game put them on the backfoot. In a 'must-win' game against

China, India were haunted by their 2006 Doha Asiad nightmare. The Chinese denied India a place in the last four stage for the first time since its inception in 1982 at Karachi. India squandered a two-goal advantage at half-time in their pool-B game to crash out.

Asian power-house South Korea won its Third Asia Cup after beating Pakistan 1-0 in a hard-fought final on May 16.

Korea won its previous two titles in 1994 and 1999. The team's win here saw them equal the three won by Pakistan (1982, 85 and 89). By dint of this win, Korea has also gained an automatic berth to the 2010 World Cup to be held in Delhi. Pakistan will join China, Malaysia and Japan in the qualifiers in November, this year.

Earlier, China claimed the third place after a 7-6 penalty shoot-out with Malaysia in the bronze medal play-off.

Final Standing : 1. South Korea, 2. Pakistan, 3. China, 4. Malaysia, 5. India, 6. Japan, 7. Bangladesh.

9TH JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Germany Regained the Roger Danet Trophy

It was ironical that India finished ninth among 20 participating nations in the 9th Junior World Cup Hockey Championship held in Singapore and Johar Bahru (Malaysia). Despite a convincing 4-2 victory over Poland in their pool match, India who has finished fourth in the last edition at Rotterdam (Netherlands), tumbled out of the medal round. The verdict hinged on the outcome of the game between the Netherlands and New Zealand, who played 2-2 draw to push India out of contention. India's Coach A.K. Bansal accused Netherlands and New Zealand of 'fixing' their match (a draw) to keep India out. India, however, did not lodge any official complaint.

Nevertheless, India dished out some high-class hockey in the tournament to beat hosts Singapore (10-0) and Poland (4-2) in their preliminary pool matches. Despite losing 2-3 to Netherlands,

their 2-2 draw against New Zealand in their five-team group-D, was a serious set-back. However, the former champions (2001 in Hobart) frittered away many goal-scoring opportunities to settle for a draw against the Kiwis and thus failed to qualify for the quarter-final league.

In matches for minor placings, India thrashed Belgium 4-0 (for 9-16 positions) and steam-rolled England 9-0 with Skipper Diwakar Ram's three goals being the highlight. India finally took the ninth spot by beating Poland again (4-0). This, in fact, was one of the worst placings for India in this tournament.

Germany regains the Roger Danet Trophy with a 3-1 win over the Netherlands. Australia secured the bronze beating New Zealand 4-1. In the Semi-final, Germany beat Australia 3-2 while the Netherlands scored a comfortable 4-1 win over the Kiwis.

INDIAN EVES SOAR TO NEW HEIGHT

The Indian eves have come out with flying colours in the inaugural Champions Challenge-II, the first 8-nation qualifying event for the next year's Challenge-I. It was held during June 21-27 this year at

Kazan (Russia). India crushed Belgium 6-3, in the final. India were placed in Pool-A along with Belgium, Belarus and Canada. India topped the pool with nine points having beaten all the teams.

INDIAN UMPIRES ON TOP OF THE WORLD

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society congratulates the three top Indian Grade-I International Umpires, who have achieved the great distinction in the field of umpiring in the world.

Shri Satinder Sharma, World/Olympics list umpire has supervised two World Cups, two Olympics, two Asian games, Champions Trophy and Champions Challenge Trophy. He has supervised more than 100 international matches. He has been appointed as an Umpire by the FIH in the Oceania Qualifiers to be held at Invercargill (New Zealand) during Aug. 25-29, 2009 for the World Cup.

Shri Raghu Prasad started his umpiring career in the year 2002 in the Nehru Hockey tournaments and in a span of seven years has achieved the distinction of Grade-I Umpire. Raghu Prasad has supervised more than 60 International matches. He has recently supervised the Junior World Cup final between Holand & Germany at Johar Bahru in Malaysia. His next assignment is to supervise the 31st Champions Trophy to be held in the month of November this year at Melbourne (Australia).

Shri Javed Sheikh has also started his umpiring career in the year 2002 in the Nehru Hockey Tournaments. On his debut in the Nehru Hockey Tournament, he had the distinction of supervising the final of the Senior Nehru Hockey Tournament held between Punjab Police and Indian Airlines in the year 2002. He is also a Grade-I Umpire in the FIH Panel. He has recently supervised the final of the Asia Cup at Kauntan (Malaysia) between Pakistan & Korea. He had also supervised the final of the Asian Games held at Doha in 2006, an achievement which no other Indian has so far achieved. He has now been assigned to supervise the Champions Challenge-I to be held at Quilmes (Argentina) during December 8-13 this year.

These three umpires began their umpiring career under the direction and advice of Shri Kukoo Walia, an international Grade-I umpire, who is also at present Umpire Manager FIH and Umpire Development Officer Asia. He is at present the Joint Secretary and Organising Secretary of the Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament Society.

THREE PERSONALITIES JOIN NEHRU HOCKEY SOCIETY

The Nehru Hockey Tournament Society will be benefited in more ways than one with the joining of such vibrant personalities in the Society as

Shri Sukhbir Singh Dhupia as Treasurer, Shri I.D. Kapur as Assistant Treasurer and Shri Rohit Chauhan as Assistant Secretary.

JAWARHARLAL NEHRU HOCKEY TOURNAMENT SOCIETY Calender for the Year 2009

16th Nehru Girls Hockey Tournament
(Under 17 years)

27th Nehru Sub-Jr. Hockey Tournament
(Boys under 15 years)

38th Nehru Junior Hockey Tournament
(Boys under 17 years)

46th Nehru Senior Hockey Tournament
(for men)

October 3-12, 2009 at Gwalior (M.P.)

October 16-27, 2009 at Shahbad (Haryana)

Oct. 30 Nov. 13, 2009 at Chandigarh

November 14-25, 2009 at Chandigarh

INDIA'S MEN'S TEAM SLIP TO 12TH, WOMEN 14TH IN WORLD RANKING

India are no more among the top 10 Men's hockey playing nations in the world. India lost that distinction after the first round exit from the recently-held the eighth edition of the Asia Cup in Kauntan (Malaysia) and are now ranked 12th amongst the 76 FIH-affiliated hockey-playing countries in the world. Defending Champions India could finish only a poor fifth in the Asia Cup.

India now have aggregated 1075 points. Germany lead the table with 2530 points, followed by Australia (2365), Spain (2295) and the Netherlands (2158) in that order. Asia Cup Champion South Korea with 2003 occupy the fifth position while runners-up Pakistan (1710) are placed sixth. England became 7th with 1565 points, New Zealand (1488) 8th, Belgium (1363) 9th and Argentina (1147) 10th. Canada with 1076 points in just one point ahead of India and placed 11th.

Performance in the last four years in FIH-organised tournaments and Continental Championships is taken into consideration for world rankings. The FIH has officially announced the ranking on May 18 this year.

India's Coach Harender Singh lamented the poor show in Asia Cup to the nation's slip to world ranking. He said, "our failure to reach the final of the Asia cup this year cost us nearly 500 points. My target was to move upto 8th position." However, he was confident that a better show in the forthcoming BDO Champions Challenge-I to be held in-Quilmes (Argentina) in December this year, India could return to the top-ten position again. Besides India, other teams in this mega event will be Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa.

Insofar as our fair sex is concerned in respect of world ranking, they are ranked as low as 14th amongst the 60 FIH-recognized women Hockey playing nations of the world. Of the 14 toppers out of them, Indian eves have been able to aggregate only 905 points. The Netherlands are on the top of the world aggregating 2655 points, followed by Argentina (2330), Germany (2145), China (2135), Australia (2070), Japan (1768), Spain (1638), England (1612), USA (1560), Korea (1488), New Zealand (1398), South Africa (1105) and Azerbaijan (948).

DO YOU KNOW? Answer if you know

The Nehru Hockey Society's Screening Committee in respect of the Society's Quiz Programme is glad to announce the names of persons, who have won the gorgeous RAKSHAK track-suit prizes in the last quarter. They are Ms Naina Singh, Shri Amarjeet Singh and Virender Bahadur Singh. The questions were:

Question 1 : Which countries have won Olympic Gold in both Men's and Women's Hockey?

Answer : Australia, Germany and Netherlands

Question 2 : When was the last time the Men's Olympic Hockey Gold medal match did not feature a single European country?

Answer : Montreal 1976 when New Zealand

defeated Australia 1-0.

Given Below are the two questions to be answered.

Question 1 : Which match was the first Olympic men's match to be decided after a penalty stroke competition?

Question 2 : Hockey first appeared at the Olympic Games at London in 1908. Who were the participating teams?

The answers should reach the Society through e-mail (nehruhockey64@hotmail.com) or (kukoowalia@usa.net) on or before the 15th of August, 2009. The decision of the Screening Committee is final and binding.

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 L Cable : 'NEHRUHOKY' New Delhi | Website : www.nehruhockey.com

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