Message from Dr. Narinder Batra, Secretary General - Hockey India & Chairman - Hero Hockey India League

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Hockey India Newsletter. 2013 has started with a historical note by conducting the inaugural season of the Hero Hockey India League. With pride, I can say that world over the league has been praised and seen as a game changer for hockey. We in future will endeavour to make this event more competitive and exciting for the global hockey fans. I congratulate Ranchi Rhinos for winning the title of the 2013 season.

My congratulations to Indian senior men and women team who have qualified for the World League Round 3 tournament and wish them goodluck in June as they compete for qualification of their respective 2014 World Cup. I also congratulate the organizers and all stake-holders for the successful conduct of the Hero Hockey World League Round 2 from 18 to 24 February 2013 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.

We also welcome the appointment of Mr Roelant Oltmans as Director, High Performance, who brings with him extensive experience and knowledge that will help to develop hockey at all levels from grassroots to our elite teams.

Our preparations for the conduct of the Junior World Cup from 6-15 December 2013 and World League Round 4 event to be conducted in India in 2014 have commenced and we are excited to be hosting the best teams in the world. On the domestic front, the 3rd Hockey India National Championships have commenced and we thank our members for their support and we wish each team good luck for their participation in the tournaments.

Hockey India is going through an exciting phase and we have showcased all our activities in this 3rd edition of the newsletter that we hope you all enjoy reading.

RANCHI RHINOS, THE CHAMPIONS OF INAUGURAL HERO HOCKEY INDIA LEAGUE - 2013
Inaugural HERO HIL a roaring success...

28 days, 34 matches and 147 goals. One couldn’t have asked for more excitement in the inaugural edition of the Hero HIL, which was held across five cities in January and February.

Symbolically, Ranchi – which is regarded as the hotbed for emerging talents in the country – were crowned the champions of the 2013 tournament which is aimed at creating new stars for India, and also raise the profile of the game internationally. Ranchi Rhinos, led by FIH 2012 Player of the Year Moritz Fuerste and coached by South African Gregg Clark, beat the Delhi Waveriders in a thrilling final to be crowned champions.

With a mega opening ceremony at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in Delhi, the five city-based franchisees - Delhi Waveriders, Jaypee Punjab Warriors, Uttar Pradesh Warriors, Dabur Mumbai Magicians and Ranchi Rhinos - played 34 matches on a home and away basis.

A plethora of international and Indian stars descended on the country for the inaugural edition of the Hero HIL, which was held in five cities in January-February. Apart from Fuerste, players such as Australia’s Jamie Dwyer, Dutch legend Teun de Nooijer, Floris Evers, Ashley Jackson graced the league. And it wasn’t just the players, the high-profile coaching staff, including the likes of Ric Charlesworth, Roelant Oltmans and Barry Dancer, employed by each team ensured the tactical battle on the turf was of the highest standard.
To add to this on-field star power, Bollywood stars such as Akshay Kumar, Katrina Kaif, Nargis Fakhri, Kajol Agarwal, Zarine Khan and Mandira Bedi added the glamour factor to the league, making it more appealing to a wider audience.

All these factors resulted in Hero HIL being one of the most successful hockey league in the world. The league witnessed unprecedented media coverage. The television ratings were more than impressive. More than 41 million people saw the broadcast of Hero HIL in India. The Hero HIL was a big hit on social media as well, with its Facebook page getting more than five lakh 'likes.'

Never before has hockey received such exposure to the players it was the first time that they had an opportunity to earn substantial money from the sport they love. In a revolutionary step, a players’ auction was held before the start of the league, resulting in the players earning big pay cheques, something unheard of before in hockey.

There were plenty of positives for Indian hockey as well. The rise of Mandeep Singh, the young striker from Ranchi Rhinos, showed that the Hero HIL acts as a springboard for emerging players to make a name for themselves. It is for the first time that the youngsters have got an opportunity to play alongside some of the best players and coaches from the world, making Hero HIL a big learning experience for them.
The International Hockey Federation's President Leandro Negre and CEO Kelly Fairweather travelled to India to witness the tournament and visited all five cities and were quite impressed with the professional conduct of the league and the high quality hockey that was on display.

The 2014 edition of the Hero HIL will be bigger and better with a sixth team to contest the title and will commence in January 2014.
Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha hands over the Cheque of Rupees Two Crores Fifty Lakh to Mr. Suresh Chauhan, Owner, Ranchi Rhinos for winning Hero HIL-2013.

Mr. Jan Albers, Executive Board Member, FIH hands over the Cheque of Rupees One Crore Twenty Five Lakh to Sardar Singh, Captain, Delhi Waveriders for Runners-up of the Hero HIL-2013.

Mr. Kelly Fairweather, CEO, FIH hands over the Cheque of Rupees Seventy Five Lakh to Mr. Pradeep Rai, Official, Uttar Pradesh Wizards for winning third place in the Hero HIL-2013.

Mrs. Jatinder Kaur Chadha, Owner, Delhi Waveriders hands over the Cheque of Rupees Twenty Lakh to Mandeep Singh, Ranchi Rhinos for winning ‘Ponny Chadha Trophy’ for Upcoming Player of the Tournament.

Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, Former Union Minister and Ranchi Rhinos Team Management witnessing final of the Hero HIL-2013.

Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha giving good luck to the players of Ranchi Rhinos before the start of the final game.

Mr. Kelly Fairweather, CEO, FIH, Mr. Manpreet Singh Chadha (Monty), Owner, Delhi Waveriders, Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha, Mr. Uday Shankar, CEO, Star TV and Mr. Sanjay Gupta, COO, Star TV India witnessing final of the Hero HIL-2013.

Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha hands over the Trophy and a Cheque of Rupees Twenty Five Lakh to Sardar Singh, Captain, Delhi Waveriders for being declared as Hero Player of the Tournament.
Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman, Hero HIL presenting a memento to
Mr Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha

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Mrs. Sue Catton, Executive Board Member, FIH

Mr Leandro Negre, President, FIH presenting a memento to Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman, Hero HIL for the successful conduct of inaugural season of Hero HIL

Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman, Hero HIL presenting a memento to Mr. Jan Albers, Executive Board Member, FIH
Mr. Anurag Thakur, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL, and Member Parliament, Lok Sabha, Mr. Rajiv Shukla, Member-Advisory Board Hero HIL and Minister of State for Parliament Affairs, in discussion with Mr. Abhay Singh Chautala.

Mr. Jai Prakash Gaur, Owner, Jaypee Punjab Warriors with Mr. Rajiv Shukla, Member-Advisory Board Hero HIL and Minister of State for Parliament Affairs.

Mr. Rahul Bhatia, Owner-Indigo Airlines, Mr. Rajat Sharma, Member Advisory Board, Hero HIL, in conversation with Mr. Praful Patel, Cabinet Minister for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises during Inaugural Hero HIL-2013.

Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman, Hero HIL with Mr. Manoj Gaur and Mr. Sameer Gaur, Owner, Jaypee Punjab Warriors, during Inaugural Hero HIL Dinner Party at The Lalit in New Delhi.
Mr. Navjot Singh Sidhu, former cricketer and Member Parliament- Lok Sabha chatting with anchors of Star Sports before the inaugural match of Hero HIL.

Dr. Narinder Batra, Chairman, Hero HIL presenting a memento to Mr. Rajiv Shukla, Member-Advisory Board Hero HIL and Minister of State for Parliament Affairs.

Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL and leader of Opposition, Rajya Sabha presenting a memento to Mr. Pawan Munjal, MD & CEO Hero MotoCorp Ltd.

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Mr. RPN Singh, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. Pawan Munjal, MD, Hero MotoCorp and Mr. Arun Jaitley, Member-Advisory Board, Hero HIL in discussion with each other.

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Mr. Navjot Singh Sidhu, former cricketer and Member Parliament- Lok Sabha chatting with anchors of Star Sports before the inaugural match of Hero HIL.

Mr. Ayaz Memon, cricket commentator and Mr. Wasiq Akram, former captain, Pakistan Cricket Team witnessing Hero HIL game in Ranchi.

Mr. Sanjeev Dikshit, Member Parliament- Lok Sabha and Mr. Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, New Indian Express during inaugural Hero HIL-2013.

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Mr. Akhilesh Yadav, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Mr Subroto Roy Sahara, Owner Uttar Pradesh Wizards and Mrs Swapna Roy watching Hero HIL match in Lucknow.

Mr Akhilesh Yadav, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh in conversation with Ms Katrina Kaif, Bollywood Actress and Mr Subrata Roy Sahara, Owner Uttar Pradesh Wizards.

Dr Narinder Batra, Chairman Hero HIL and Mr Pawan Munjal, MD & CEO, Hero MotoCorp Ltd with winners trophy of Hero HIL- 2013 during unveiling ceremony at The Lalit in New Delhi.

HERO HIL PLAYERS AUCTION
BIDDING IN PROGRESS

Mr. Bob Hayton, Auctioneer getting bids from franchises during Hero HIL Players Auction.

UTTAR PRADESH WIZARDS during Hero HIL Players Auction

DELHI WAVERIDERS during Hero HIL Players Auction

DABUR MUMBAI MAGICIANS during Hero HIL Players Auction

RANCHI RHINOS during Hero HIL Players Auction

JAYPEE PUNJAB WARRIORS during Hero HIL Players Auction
Brand Ambassador of the Hero HIL and skipper of Delhi Waveriders Sardar Singh who bagged the Player of the Tournament award, believes that Hero HIL is a big success and has given a platform to rebuild our game.

**How do you rate the inaugural season of Hero HIL and will it help Indian Hockey?**

It’s a great initiative where the Indian players have a chance to play with foreign players. Even though most of them are Olympic and World Champions, they are very down to earth and are always ready to help us. For me, personally, I have developed as a Captain and know how to control the team better. I have gained a lot of experience and know exactly when to take risks and when to wait.

**What is the X factor that drew players to Hero HIL?**

All the matches of the league were telecasted live on Star Sports which motivates the players to perform their best and play with full commitment. In other leagues the players do not get properly paid, and the matches are also not telecast live on TV. But with Hero HIL, the players know that they can earn a lot of name and fame if they play well. They even know that if they perform well this season, they might get a better price next season.

**Do you think playing with top hockey players of the world will really help our players?**

The reason Hero HIL has been such a huge success is that the players of Germany, Australia and the Netherlands are playing in it. Playing and sharing the dressing room with top stars like Jamie Dwyer, Teun De Nooijer, Moritz Fuerste, Ashley Jackson really helps to learn and improve our skills. Usually, we don’t get to play with them on a regular basis, but now, not only are we playing against them but we are also playing alongside them.

**What do you have to say about the Indian youngsters in Hero HIL?**

Mandeep Singh and Malak Singh have been excellent throughout the tournament. They’ve learnt a lot from the foreign players and they have used it to good effect. Danish Mujtaba has also been impressive.

**Jamie Dwyer**

Five times FIH Player of the Year and skipper of Jaypee Punjab Warriors Jamie Dwyer feels that Hero HIL will change the game of hockey and its a big chance for youngsters to learn the changing trends of world hockey.

**What is your personal experience about Hero HIL?**

It’s a great tournament and I wish I was 23 and not 33 so that I could have played more in the Hero Hockey India League. I believe the inaugural season is a big success and this league will grow in the coming years. Even though the inaugural season has been disappointing for my team, I hope my team will do better in the next season. HERO HIL would change the game of hockey for the better. Hockey needed something to be attractive, it has been standing still. The game itself has been developing but the money hasn’t been as good, especially in Australia. India has come up with a great tournament, this is what the sport needs.

**What is the X factor that drew players to HIL?**

There was a live telecast of all the games on youtube which has created a lot of interest in the hockey fans not only in India but all over the world. Also the way more than 5 lakh fans have been following the official page of Hero Hockey India League, I think it’s a sign of the rising popularity of the League.
Do you think playing with top hockey players of the world will really help Indian players?
Players from more than 10 countries participated in the league and this kind of tournament is the best opportunity for domestic players to learn and improve their skills. After playing the League I feel that India is rich in talent and players have the ability to improve their game. In our team players like Malak Singh, Dharamvir Singh, Gurmail Singh and some other players have shown a lot of improvement in their game during this one month League.

What do you have to say about the Indian youngsters in Hero HIL?
All youngsters who have played in Hero HIL have shown good interest and performed well. I think playing with European players will really help young talent to improve their speed and learn new tactics. Players like Mandeep Singh and Malak Singh really impressed me.

Teun de Nooijer
Legendary Dutch Midfielder and a brand ambassador of the Hero Hockey India League Teun de Nooijer feels that the Hero Hockey India League will be a big step for India to regain its past glory. Nooijer’s 18-year-long career saw him becoming the highest-capped player in the world representing The Netherlands in 453 international matches before retiring from international hockey.

What is your personal experience about Hero HIL?
It’s a great experience of playing in the league which involved players and coaches from top hockey playing nations. Also the involvement of big money has developed interest in young and most experienced players. After playing in the inaugural season of the league I feel a new interest in tournament and can play Hero HIL for many years. The format of the league will help to improve the standard in the game and has developed interest among the people to watch hockey. We all know hockey is popular in India but this league can be utilized as a rebuilding phase of Indian Hockey.

What is the X factor that drew players to Hero HIL?
Support of crowd at all venues, live coverage of 28 days and their repeated highlights and involvement of big money has attracted players from different countries to take part in the Hero HIL. The way organizers have handled the event very smoothly, I am confident that in the coming 2-3 years this league will be a mega hockey event in the world.

Do you think playing with top hockey players of the world will really help Indian players?
Indian players have learnt from the stars of the top countries like Australia, Germany and The Netherlands. I think it’s always good to learn. Look around and see what are they doing in Australia, Germany and The Netherlands. That will be a case in this league because a lot of players from these countries will be playing in this league and will give the Indian hockey a lot of information about how they can improve themselves. I think it will be good for Indian hockey.

What do you have to say about the Indian youngsters in Hero HIL?
Young players who were part of Hero HIL in the inaugural season have the interest to learn from others. I remember during most of the practice sessions of the league, some junior players of my team keeping a close eye on how I practice, how I tackle the ball and then they also tried practicing the same way. So learning from your seniors is always a good habit and yes I am happy with the young talent available in India.
India Men stay unbeaten, progress to FIH World League Round 3

Indian Men Hockey team completed its Hero Hockey World League Round 2 engagements with a 5-1 victory over Bangladesh in their last match played at Major Dhyan Chand National Hockey Stadium at New Delhi in February this year.

In the seven days of exciting Round 2 action, the Indian team played exceptionally well and finished on the top of the table in the round-robin format to progress to Round 3.

Sardar Singh was adjudged the Player of the Tournament and title sponsor Hero MotoCorp awarded him a cheque of Rs 2 lakhs. Vice-Captain of Indian team VR Raghunath received the award for joint highest scorer of the tournament along with Allen Sothern of Ireland. Both scored eight goals.

India finished top of the table with 15 points, followed by Ireland (12), Bangladesh (9), China (6), Oman (3) and Fiji (0).

The FIH World League tournament is also a qualifier for 2014 World Cup to be held in Hague, Netherlands.

Match Results:

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Defeated Oman 9-1</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 February 2013</td>
<td>Defeated Ireland 3-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February 2013</td>
<td>Defeated China 4-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 February 2013</td>
<td>Defeated Bangladesh 5-1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Awards in Men’s Competition:**

**Top Goal-Scorer:** VR Raghunath (IND) and Alan Sothern (IRL)

**Player of the Tournament:** Sardar Singh (IND)

**Best Goalkeeper:** David Harte (IRL)

**Best Defender:** VR Raghunath (IND)

**Best Midfielder:** Mahmud Rashel (BAN)

**Best Forward:** Allen Sothern (IRL)

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**Hockey India awarded Sardar Singh a cheque of Rs 1 lakh**

In recognition of his achievement, Indian Skipper Sardar Singh is awarded a cheque of Rs 1 lakh by Hockey India for winning Player of the Tournament award. Under the leadership of Sardar Singh, the Indian Team remains unbeaten throughout the tournament.

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**Malak Singh and Gurjinder Singh awarded One Lakh each**

Hockey India awarded one lakh each to debutants forward Malak Singh and defender Gurjinder Singh for scoring goals in their maiden outing for the national team. Both the players scored their debut goals against Fiji in the opening match of the Hero Hockey World League Round 2. Mr Rajeev Mehta, Associate Vice-President, Hockey India awarded cheques to both the players.

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**Senior Men preparing for FIH World League Round 3**

In preparations for the FIH World League Round 3 to be held at Rotterdam, Netherlands from 13-23 June 2013, the training camp of the senior men core probables commenced at Netaji Subhas Southern Centre (NSSC), Bangalore on 6 April.

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**Junior Men National Camp commences in Bangalore**

The preparatory camp of the Junior Men Hockey team for the FIH Junior World Cup to be played in India from 6-15 December commenced at SAI, NSSC, Bangalore on 1st April 2013. The 44 probables selected by Hockey India selectors, Government Observer and Coaches are attending the camp.
India defeated Pakistan 4-2 to take fifth spot in the 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament played at Ipoh, Malaysia from 9-17 March 2013. Young Team India started the tournament with an impressive performance in their opening game when they went down fighting to World Number 2 Australia 3-4. After losing the next game with a margin of only one goal to Korea, India registered their first victory in the tournament when they hammered World No.5 Pakistan 3-1 in their next game. India lost its fourth game to World No.6 New Zealand, but played a draw against the hosts Malaysia in their fifth game.

In the absence of senior players like Sardar Singh, VR Raghunath, SV Sunil, Gurvinder Singh Chandi and few others the young Indian side performed well in the tournament.

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Midfielder Manpreet Singh named in Sultan Azlan Shah XI
Indian midfielder Manpreet Singh was named in the Sultan Azlan Shah XI team on the concluding day of the 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament played at Ipoh, Malaysia. Manpreet Singh played exceptionally well in the tournament and has 67 international caps to his name.

Rupinder Pal Singh named as Joint Top-Scorer
Indian, drag-flicker Rupinder Pal Singh was declared as joint top-scorer of the 22nd Sultan Azlan Shah Cup at Ipoh with Malaysia’s Faizal Saari on six goals.

Rupinder Pal Singh earlier achieved the joint top scorer award with Sohail Abbas from Pakistan in 2011, 20th edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

30 Indian coaches attend FIH-HI Coaching High Performance Coaching Course
The seven-day FIH-Hockey India High Performance Coaching Course concluded in New Delhi in February this year. Total 30 coaches from across the country participated in the second part of this course conducted by FIH Master Coach Mr. Tayyab Ikram and FIH Grade 1 Coach Siegfried Aikman from 16 to 22 February 2013.

During the course FIH successfully launched a new Coaching Development tool as it introduced the Coaching Webinar. The first-of-its-kind FIH Coaching Webinar course included all the participants present during the course.

FIH President Leandro Negre was impressed with the project, saying, “this is an effective way for coaches to learn and develop. With minimal time and money investment, the participants can gain vast knowledge.”

FIH Master Coach Tayyab Ikram addressed the group of coaches through webcam and was supported with various video clips to enhance the learning experience. In the future it is hoped that the concept of presenting and sharing information from distance can reach a multitude of coaches across the globe.

Tayyab Ikram said that besides its Global approach FIH would like to reach 200 Coaches in India as trial by the end of this year and introduce this concept throughout India via webinar where coaches in groups could participate from different parts of India at the same time.

Hockey India Secretary General Dr. Narinder Batra thanked International Hockey Federation (FIH) for conducting the second edition of this course in India. “This course will really help our coaches to enhance their coaching skills and understand new developments in international level of coaching. I am sure that they will bring all these learnings into practice when they return to coaching players and teams” said Dr. Batra.

In the week-long coaching course 30 participants watched matches of Hero Hockey World League Round 2 in New Delhi and did analyses of those games. Former internationals including Dr AK Bansal (Coach, Delhi Waveriders), Baljeet Saini (Coach, Ranchi Rhinos), BJ Kariappa and Sandeep Sangwan were also among the participants.
Indian Women advances to FIH World League Round 3

Indian Women team qualified for Round 3 of the FIH World League after beating Russia 1-0 in Hero Hockey World League Round 2 played at at Major Dhyan Chand National Hockey Stadium at New Delhi in February this year.

Despite losing one game against 9th ranked team Japan with a margin of only one goal, Indian eves showed good performance in the rest four games of round–robin league and defeated their rivals. Jaspreet Kaur was adjudged the Player of the Tournament and title sponsor Hero MotoCorp awarded her a cheque of Rs 2 lakhs. Rani received the award for highest scorer of the tournament. She scored 7 goals.

India finished top of the table with 13 points, followed by Japan (13), Malaysia (9), Russia (7), Kazakhstan (3) and Fiji (0).

The FIH World League tournament is also a qualifier for 2014 World Cup to be held in Hague, Netherlands.

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Awards in Women's Competition:

**Top Goal Scorer** – Rani (IND) – 7 goals

**Best Player of the Tournament** – Jaspreet Kaur (IND)

**Best Defender** – Jaspreet Kaur (IND)

**Best Goalkeeper** – Susana Mudunatagi (FIJ)

**Best Forward Player** – Siti Rahmah Othman (MAS)

Hockey India awarded Jaspreet Kaur a cheque of Rs 1 lakh

In recognition of her achievement Jaspreet Kaur is awarded a cheque of Rs 1 lakh by Hockey India for winning Player of the Tournament award. She was also adjudged best defender of the tournament.

Junior Women National Camp underway in Delhi

The preparatory camp of the Junior Women Hockey team for the FIH Junior World Cup to be played in Monchengladbach from 27 July to 4 August 2013 commenced at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi on 19 April 2013. The 33 probables selected by Hockey India selectors, Government Observer and Coaches are attending the camp. The probables include 4 goalkeepers, 6 defenders, 9 midfielders and 14 forwards.

Senior Women preparing for FIH World League Round 3

The preparatory camp of the Senior Women National team for FIH World League Round 3 to be played at Rotterdam, Netherlands commenced at MDC National Stadium, New Delhi on 19 March 2013. Including India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Germany, Korea, Japan, Belgium and China are the other participating teams in the league. India qualifies for FIH World League Round 3 in February this year at New Delhi.
Hockey India appoints Roelant Oltmans as its Director, High Performance

Hockey India appointed the vastly experienced Mr. Roelant Oltmans as Director, High Performance for Indian Hockey.

Hockey India Secretary General Dr Narinder Batra said that the appointment of Roelant Oltmans is an important step to ensure a strategic program is in place for our senior and junior men and women teams.

Mr. Oltmans who coached the Dutch team for fourteen years has a long list of achievements. Under his coaching, the Dutch team has won one Gold Medal at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, two FIH World Cups, three FIH Champions Trophy and the Euro Hockey League.

The former Dutch coach is currently working with the Dutch Olympic Committee as its Performance Manager for Elite Sports, and is also an International Hockey Federation (FIH) Master Coach.

Mr Oltmans is also the chief coach with the Uttar Pradesh Wizards for the Hero HIL.

Hockey India announces High Performance and Development Committee for 2013-14

Hockey India announced its High Performance and Development Committee for 2013-14. The 15 member committee will be headed by Dr Narinder Batra Secretary General of Hockey India and High Performance Director, Hockey India Roelant Oltmans will be the Vice-Chairman.

The committee has Ajit Pal Singh (former Captain of 1975 World Cup winning team), Col. Balbir Singh (former Olympian and National Selector), Dilip Tirkey (former Captain and Member Rajya Sabha), Sukhvir Singh Grewal, Thoiba Singh, Mukesh Kumar, Dr RP Singh, Surinder Kaur, Saba Anjum, Michael Nobbs (Chief Coach, National Senior Men Hockey Team), Neil Hawgood (Chief Coach, National Senior Women Hockey Team) and Gregg Clark (Coach, National Junior Men Hockey Team) as its members. Ms Elena Norman, CEO, Hockey India will be the Convenor of this Committee. The Sports Authority of India will be the Invitee Members of this Committee.

This committee will work on the high performance and development of hockey at grassroot level in the country. Committee will prepare blueprints and ensures that same pattern of coaching will be followed in the country at all levels.

Since the appointment of Roelant Oltmans as Director, High Performance by Hockey India it was a necessary step to form this Committee so as to ensure that the game of hockey progresses in the country at all levels.

The Committee will meet quarterly to discuss the progress and share new ideas.

Gregg Clark appointed National Coach of Indian Junior Men Hockey Team

Hockey India appointed Gregg Clark as the National Coach of the Junior Men Hockey Team.

Hockey India Secretary General Dr Narinder Batra said that the appointment of Gregg Clark is an important step ahead of the Junior World Cup to be played in India at the end of this year. “Being the hosts of the Junior World Cup I think this is the best opportunity for India to win the title and bring back glory. We are confident that under the guidance of Gregg Clark, Indian team will be better prepared for this mega event” he said.

Gregg Clark who is very excited to take on this new assignment as the coach of the junior national team said India has rich talent in hockey and the team has numerous potential ahead of the World Cup. “I have been to India many times and after coaching Ranchi Rhinos in the inaugural season of Hero Hockey India League, I can say that Indian Hockey has a very bright future” he further added.

Gregg Clark coached the national side of South Africa for 7 years and during this tenure his team has played 120 internationals including two Olympic Games in 2008 and 2012, World Cup 2010 and Commonwealth Games 2010.

Mr Clark is also the chief coach of Ranchi Rhinos who won the title of the inaugural season of the Hero Hockey India League.


Matthew Tredrea appointed Scientific Advisor of National Women Hockey Team

Hockey India appointed Matthew Tredrea as the Scientific Advisor to the Indian Women Senior National team. The 26-year old aims to make the team physically and mentally fit looking ahead the World League Round 3 tournament in June 2013 and the Junior Women’s World Cup in July 2013.

Hockey India Secretary General Dr. Narinder Batra said the appointment of Mr. Matthew Tredrea is an important step towards ensuring the proper fitness level of our national women teams.

Before being appointed to the Indian Women Hockey team, Matthew has worked with the Newcastle Knights (Australian professional Rugby League club) for almost two years as the Assistant Strength and Conditioning Coach, he has also worked on different assignments as the Strength and Conditioning Coach for Australian Rugby League Development and CSHS Rugby League Programs.
India to host Junior World Cup and FIH World League Finals

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) awarded India the hosting rights of the men’s Junior World Cup and the World League Finals. The Junior World Cup will be held from 6-15 December 2013 and it will be followed by the World League Finals from 10-18 January 2014.

Sardar Singh and Ritu Rani wins AHF Awards

Indian Men Hockey Team Captain Sardar Singh and Women Hockey Team Captain Ritu Rani won Asian Hockey Federation’s Player of the Year (Men) and Youth Player of the Year (Women) Awards. Sardar and Ritu won the awards during the mid-term Congress of the AHF held in Kuala Lumpur last month.

HI will be honouring Sardar and Ritu with the trophy given by the AHF, along with a cheque of Rs 1 lakh each.

Cairn India to co-sponsor National Hockey Teams

Hockey India announced Cairns as co-sponsor of National Hockey teams for a period of next three years. This was announced during a press conference held at The Lalit in New Delhi in February this year. Sardar Singh Captain, Indian Men team and Ritu Rani, Captain, Indian Women team were also present during the event.

Announcing Cairn India’s co-sponsorship deal with Hockey India, Dr Narinder Batra, Secretary General Hockey India said “We welcome Cairn for joining Hockey India and being part of the journey to revive hockey in the country. This association will further boost the game and help the sport reach new levels. Hockey India thanks Cairn India for coming on board to become our partner in this exciting journey.”

Dr Sunil Bharati, Head Corporate Affairs & Communications, Cairn India said “Hockey is our national game and we are proud to be associated with this energetic game. The partnership and the journey ahead will indeed be a privileged one for the entire Cairn family.

India bids for FIH Men's World Cup 2018

Hockey India bids to host FIH Men’s World Cup in 2018. The FIH executive Board last month also picked Australia, Belgium, India, Malaysia, England and New Zealand as possible hosts. India last hosted the World Cup in 2010 in New Delhi. A final decision is expected on 8 November 2013.

Upcoming Birthday

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
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<tr>
<td>SV Sunil 6 May</td>
<td>Anupa Barla 6 May</td>
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<td>PR Sreejesh 8 May</td>
<td>Yogita Bali 8 May</td>
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<td>Amit Rohidas 10 May</td>
<td>P Sushila Chanu 25 May</td>
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<td>Pradeep Mor 3 June</td>
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<td>Shivendra Singh 9 June</td>
<td>Deepgrace Ekka 3 June</td>
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<td>Manpreet 26 June</td>
<td>Namita Toppo 4 June</td>
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<td>Rajani Etimarpu 9 June</td>
<td>Sunita Lakra 11 June</td>
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