



WELLINGTON INDIAN SPORTS CLUB INC

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P.O. BOX 16-120, WELLINGTON

AUGUST 2016

Presidents Report

Well, what a busy time we've had over the past month:

- Quarter Finals - 8 teams played, 3 Mens Teams earned the right to go straight to the Semis.
- Preliminary Semi-Finals - 5 teams played, 2 against each other, 3 teams went on.
- Semi-Finals - 6 teams played, 2 against each other. 2 teams to the finals along with the R2 Womens team who finished top of the table for round-robin.
- Finals - 3 teams – 3 wins!

Read the hockey reps reports for more details on the final results.

But what a great month of hockey - having so many teams involved in each Finals weekend was a pretty good result. My commiserations to the teams who did not make it all the way through but I hope you've had a very enjoyable season. Congratulations to the 3 successful finalists – Mens Indians 2 better known as the C Team, Mens Indian 6 better known as Charlee-J and the Womens Reserve 2 Team, better known as the Social Women's team. From all three team speeches at their winner's presentations the season winner was the great time they had playing and socialising together and winning was the icing on the cake.

Many thanks to all of the supporters who turned out to support our teams, especially in the last two weekends that were either bitterly cold or raining cats and dogs.

Our Awards Night has been re-scheduled for 24th September. Please keep that date free and join the Club in celebrating the successes of the season. It will be held at the Island Bay Bowling Club and more details will follow.

On Tuesday 16 August I joined many of my fellow club members in sadly saying farewell to Thakorbbhai Vallabh, Life Member of the Wellington Indian Sports Club. A tribute to Thakorbbhai is included in this newsletter. To Thakorbbhai's family and friends, many of whom are long-time Club members I extend the Club's deepest sympathies for the loss of someone so special to you all.

Hansa Parbhu
President

Mens Hockey

Kem cho,

Well, what a weekend! You could not have asked for any better, both Indians 2 (Men's C) and Indians 6 were in their respective finals and both teams came out on top to win their grades and bring home the silverware.

Reserve 1: Indians 6 vs. Victoria 4

The first final saw Indians 6 face Victoria 4 in the Reserve 1 final. Weather conditions were atrocious with torrential rain throughout most of the game. Indians came out fast and strong passing the ball well between their players and maintaining possession. Their work rate off the ball was impressive, leading well to receive the ball and tracking back to make turn overs. The early pressure led to a penalty corner which was slotted home with a forehand hit into the bottom corner by Rakesh 'Sammy' Dahya. Shortly after Indians earned another penalty corner which was deflected in at the post by Luke Clifford bringing the score to 2-0. Indians looked to be cruising at this stage.

As the game went on momentum shifted and Indians early work rate seemed to go against them with the team seeming to tire. Victoria capitalised on this scoring 3 unanswered goals. Despite this Indians kept working hard and their second wind kicked in. They were rewarded with a well worked equaliser which was finished at the left post by Jack Clifford.

Both teams pushed for the winner but it wasn't to be and the game finished 3-3 at the end of regular time which meant the game would go into extra time. The first period of 5 minutes was 9 vs. 9 with no goal keeper. Victoria almost scored but were denied by a last second clearance off the line by Sammy. The first period ended with no score. Player numbers dropped to 7 vs. 7 during the second period of extra time and about half way through this Indians had the ball at their 25. The ball was then delivered to halfway on the right hand side to one of the Clifford brothers who then released a through ball towards the circle. Initially there looked to be too much on the ball but with all the rain the ball slowed up which gave the speedy Biren Patel enough time to outrun his defender and tap in the simplest of goals. The sigh of relief on his face was evident as the pressure to finish would have been immense. This was followed by the team's elation at realising they had won the game and with it the trophy.

Indians 2 (Men's C) vs. Hutt 2

The second final saw favourites Indians 2 face an in form Hutt team. The rain had eased up at this point so conditions were a lot better. The game started at a fast pace from both sides with both their midfields looking to control the game. Hutt's early pressure paid off going up 1-0.

Indians most likely did not expect this but it gave them the kick they needed. Their experience showed as they didn't panic or drop their heads and from there the midfield upped their game. 10 minutes later they equalised after a shot at goal bounced up off the keeper and Nitin Bhikha swiped it into the

back of the net from the left post. The insides Umesh Parag and Mitesh Patel, both former New Zealand international players, then put on a schooling evading tackles at will with a show of sublime stick skill creating and setting up most of the team's play. They were backed up by solid defence from stalwart centre half Rakesh Raman (I definitely wasn't told to put that in...) to stifle Hutt's possession. Indians now had the upper hand and went up 2-1 just before half time after a ball was struck across to the left post and swept home by Aashish Patel.

Indians came out strong after the half time break scoring a third from great build up play down the right hand side, finished with a superb diving deflection by Nitin Bhikha. Mid-way through the second half Indians aging or should I say wise bodies seemed to slow down and with 11 minutes remaining Hutt came back scoring a goal to make it 3-2. During this period Hutt had about 5 penalty corners and under normal circumstances their drag flicker would have converted at least one of these. However, he either missed the mark completely or they were saved by imposing goalkeeper Nirmal Naran.

With 7 minutes to go Indians earned a penalty corner and after their first shot was saved by the goalkeeper, Umesh Parag cleaned up the rebound and slotted a forehand shot to make the score 4-2. Hutt's body language dropped and Indians closed out the game to be crowned Premier Two champions.

A great effort from the team to be in Premier 2 for the first time and win it in dominating fashion after like-wise dominating the Premier 3 competition for so long.

Congratulations to both teams for winning their grades! Enjoy the celebrations!

Haresh Bhana
Men's Hockey Rep

Womens Hockey

This season has most definitely flown by with some outstanding hockey being played by our teams. Our P1 women's team finished in 4th place after beating Victoria in double extra time. The 4th place is a feat that has not been accomplished for the last 6 years. This year the team farewell their captain, Sangita Patel who has gone to the UK for a couple of years. The team also farewell another one of their senior players, Anita Patel who has decided to retire.

The B team came away with a win during their 7th and 8th playoff match to avoid promotion relegation and remain in P3. They had a few ups and downs this season but as a new team, it is great that they came away with a win to stay in P3. Well done girls!

A huge congratulation goes to the Women's Social Team who came away with a win to take out the R2 grade. These ladies just missed out on promotion relegation at the beginning of the season but have dominated their grade ever since. Massive congratulations ladies!

Lastly, a huge congratulation to Esther Chan who has made the NHL team this year. The tournament is from the 10th till the 17th September in Whangarei. They have a game on the 27th August in Wellington so come show your support.

Jigna Chikka and Roshni Parbhu
Womens Hockey Rep

Junior Hockey

Well the season is now just over halve way and all the junior competitive teams are sitting nicely on the table ready to make their move in the back end of the season. Currently the P1 boys are second, P1 girls are 3rd and the mixed team is 5th.

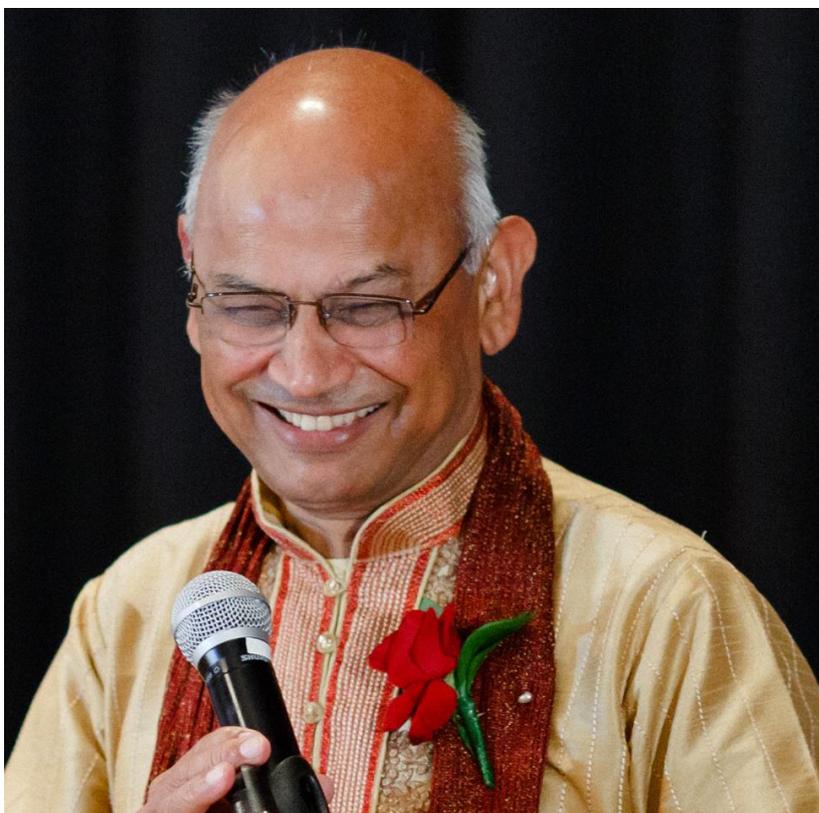
Good luck to all the players who are taking part in Collier and Hatch Cup tournaments.

Anand Ranchod and Neisha Ashaye
Junior Hockey Reps

Thakorbhai Vallabh

Life Member of the Wellington Indian Sports Club (24.01.1946 - 12.08.2016)

In 1994 Thakorbhai was awarded Life Membership of the Wellington Indian Sports Club, having given 20 years of service to the Club. On the administrative side this service included being a Committee Member, Treasurer, Vice President and 6 years as President during a time when the Club made some bold decisions including the purchase of the gymnasium at Hataitai Park. He later joined the WISC Development Committee in 1988 when the purchase of Kemp St was being considered and helped shape the path the Club would take.



Another bold decision Thakorbhai was involved in was the Club's Hockey Supporters Tour to Mumbai to see the 1982 World Cup Tournament. Thakorbhai, Jayant Patel and Javer Naran spent months organising the package tour with over 110 people taking part. It was a trip that grew the Club spirit ten-fold and which created the best of memories for so many who took part.

Fundraising was also a key focus for Thakorbhai, He was a member of the Joint Fundraising Committee from its conception in 1975 and remained an active participant until the year 2000. Can you imagine the commitment and belief Thakorbhai and those on the committee with him needed to have to create a major, untried event like a Bazaar back in 1978? Their innovation provided an event that was to become one of the iconic events on the Wellington City calendar and a massive fundraiser for both the Club and WIA.

1984 saw the Club gearing up to celebrate its 50th Jubilee in 1985. It was an exciting time and Thakorbhai was right in the middle of it as a member of the Jubilee Committee that produced two valuable Club treasures, the Golden Jubilee Publication – The first fifty years and the wonderful concert "Suvarna Sangeet Yatra" in November 1985 at the Michael Fowler Centre. As an Assistant Director Thakorbhai's contribution was invaluable. Many will remember that very special performance

by Thakorbhai and his bevy of beautiful ladies - that memory will always bring a smile to those lucky enough to witness it!

During his most active period with the Club Thakorbhai was also an active contributor to the New Zealand Indian Sports Association, the Club's parent sporting body. In 2012 NZISA bestowed an Associate Membership on him for his 11 years of services including 3 years as President.

Alongside Thakorbhai's administrative service to the Club was his passion for his sport – coaching and/or playing both cricket and hockey for over 40 years and being a foundation member of Saturday's "Old Man's Hockey" or Goldies as they are now known. From research for the 75th Jubilee book we know that in the early years the challenge of competing was a big part of playing sport for Thakorbhai, but it was the friendships, where friends became family, and the opportunity to make new friends and the simple enjoyment of the game, that keep him participating for the many years that followed. He had a friendship/family bond with many in the Club, young and old. This was shown on our recent Hockey Finals Day when, without any official planning, captains and team managers of our 3 teams playing arranged for players to wear black armbands in a heartfelt gesture of respect for the loss of a very respected man. He will be sorely missed by many.

Without a doubt Thakorbhai was a community man and the Club and the wider community have been enriched by the invaluable contribution he has given. Farewell for now Thakorbhai, you are an integral part of this wonderful, successful journey WISC has travelled so far and you will always have a special place in its rich history.

