

RELIVING THE GOLDEN YEARS

C. V. Kavathekar

Nav Maharashtra Sangh, Pune announced their National Level Kho-Kho Tournaments, on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Fond memories of these 50 years were aroused and they all started coming back....

Late Patankar Sir, a geography teacher hand picked a few students from each class in our N.M.V. High School and invited them to play games like Kho-Kho and Atya-Patya. This started in June 1955. Patankar Sir taught us the game with utmost dedication. His discipline, expertise and love for the game illuminated towards building a strong united team, which under a short period of 2 years picked up coveted trophies of winners in (Atya-Patya) and runners up in Kho-Kho in 1957. This was just the beginning. Our N.M.V. School team then went on to become front runners for a long time.

The inception of the club, was from an idea to keep the team together even after we passed out from the school. This idea took shape and under the guidance of Late Patankar Sir we formed the Nav Maharashtra Sangh on 26th Jan. 1960. The name symbolized the spirit of Maharashtra state, which was then recently declared as an Independent State.

The club was constituted by Chairman Dr. Vasant Sathye, Suresh Bhirange, Prabhakar Dhupkar, Sharad Sathye, Chandrakant Kavathekar. It was registered



“Mr. Chandrakant V. Kavathekar is a founder member of NMS and for last 43 years is a auditor of the club. He is the main artist of Financial discipline and transparency of the club.”

on 10th June, 1968 under The Society's Registration Act, 1860 and on 9th July, 1968 under The Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950. The Registration later was also obtained as per Income Tax Act, 1961, in lieu of future financial transactions. The club also obtained the 80 G exemption certificate for donation.

We, as players, were not very keen on taking up the office bearers duties. The post of chairman was held by Patankar Sir by default, but the post of Secretary had to be handed over for one year each to Dr. Jhamwar, Late Satish Natu, Dr. Satish Desai, Late Sunil Tambe by compulsion. Shri. Modak Sir took over the responsibility of Chairmanship in 1978 after Patankar Sir voluntarily retired. He held this post for 10 years and carried out his duties effectively and efficiently. He was succeeded by Shri. Suresh Dinkar, who then handed over the reins to Shri. Arvind Patwardhan in 2003. Late Sunil Tambe look on the responsibility of finding sponsors for Kho-Kho players by approaching various Banks, Railway etc.. His efforts were backed by Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Shree Suvarna Sahakari Bank, etc.. After this Arjun Awardee, Shrirang Inamdar was appointed as the Secretary who carried out his responsibilities since 1975. He was well supported by several seniors as well as juniors. Shri. Sachin Godbole, Arun Bodas, Shirin Godbole are the ones who deserve a special mention. The club is known for its meticulous and efficient accounting,

handling of finance, a habit developed by Shri. Ramesh Honwad, Sharad Wagh, Shirish Polekar, etc..

After a strong foundation laid down by Late Shri. Patankar Sir, NMS soon made a name for being a well-known team and a force to reckon with. In the last 50 years the team has won several major tournaments at the State and National Level. NMS has won the prestigious Bhai Nerulkar Cup eight times which includes Two Hat-ticks a great achievement in itself. NMS has to its credit 4 Abhimanyu, 11 Eklavya, 16 Shiv Chatrapati, 2 Dadoji Konddev and 1 Arjun awardees. The team has also given the Maharashtra State Team as many as 16 captains.

A witness to the forming and rise of NMS in the S. P. College and Shikshan Prasarak Mandali have whole heartedly supported NMS by providing with several grounds for practice as well as holding tournaments.

NMS is dedicated towards the well upliftment of Indian games and has undertaken various activities to popularize Kho-Kho. NMS picks up players from various schools, arranges tournaments and motivates young students to play this game. The club has also created a practical literature and also created a web site : www.khokho.org.in keeping up with modern times.

The NMS tournament is considered as prestigious event, known for its excellent amenities and support provided to the Players, Coaches and Office bearers. The first National Level tournament was organized by NMS in 1971 to celebrate the 61st Birth Day of Late Patankar Sir. After that NMS regularly organized 8 such tournaments. The 10th National tournament has been organized this year on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee.

NMS is known to take good care of the players, participating in the tournament with 75% of the budget reserved for them. The

games reach has increased from the ground to the Radio sets and from there on to the Television where the games are now broadcasted. The Electronic Score Board an important feature has been developed by NMS players itself.

NMS has been supported by several people who deserve a special mention like Late Dyaneshwar Agashe, Shri. Ram Kumar Rathi, Shri. Sambhajirao Kakde, Shri. Agarwal, Shri. Vilas Bhujbal, Hon. Minister Shri. Ajit Dada Pawar, Gopalrao Mhaske etc.. Impressed by our efforts and widely supports the noble cause. Also lending us a helping hand are Shri. Sunil Vanarse, Dr. P. D. Patil Chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil University, Shri. Bharat Desadla of Rohan Builders, Cosmos Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Bank of India, Shri. Jaydeep Kher, Atul and Pravin Joshi, Late Balasaheb Date, Deepak and Hemchandra Date, Jayant Thatte, Shekhar Dahiwadkar, Joshi Brothers, Vinayak Raskar are the pillars of the club. The Media also deserves to be thanked for supporting NMS.

If the history of 50 years of NMS has to be written then the names of Late Patankar Sir, Shri. Suresh Dinkar, Late Sunil Tambe, Dr. Madhusudan Jhamwar, Late Shyam Purohit, Shri. Arvind Patwardhan, Shri. Shrirang Inamdar and Sachin Godbole, have to be mentioned in the given order. Their contribution to NMS is priceless. However amongst all of them qualitative and quantitative contribution of Shrirang Inamdar is matchless.

On this occasion heartfelt thanks to all the Donors, Advertisers, past and present players, Shikshan Prasarak Mandali, well wishers, newspapers and media representatives and all those who have supported us. The only thought that comes to mind that the game has not gained popularity and acclaims at the International Level. All of us look forward to this with hopes in our heart.

* * *