



Going from Strength to Strength

THE EDITOR LOOKS BACK AT
25 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Hockey Sport magazine saw its beginnings in 1973 as an indoor magazine entitled *Indoor Hockey News*, published and edited by the late Nevill Mirov. After two years, seeking to fill the demand for a more general magazine to cover outdoor hockey as well, the name was changed to *Hockey Digest*.

Mirov was very much an establishment figure – an international umpire, an HA vice-president as well as being involved in HA committees and in organising events for the HA.

Towards the end of the 1984/85 season Mirov was working hard on his *History of Hockey*, hoping to finish it in time for the 1986 World Cup which the HA had taken on in their centenary year and which was to be held at Willesden. *Hockey Digest* was therefore advertised as being for sale and as a possible buyer I approached Nevill.

It seems I was satisfactory in Nevill Mirov's eyes and in the summer of 1985 the title as transferred to the Harrow Press, my family's company.

Nevill had produced the magazine for all those years on very early versions of an IBM typewriter, not noted for its mechanical reliability. The move to the Harrow Press saw a change in the equipment used to originate the pages and the appearance of the magazine took a step forward.

Nevill had not had a steady supplier for photographs, something which I had noted earlier as a subscriber to the magazine, and which I was to have emphasised when I took over. As a keen amateur photographer I had found an outlet for my spare time hobby and my expertise blossomed.

It was early in 1986 that Chris Moore became involved with *Hockey Digest* and it was the start of his 'As I See It' column which continued until his death.

Moore was a very polished freelance journalist whose interest and love of hockey led to a long association with *Hockey Digest/Sport*. His knowledge of printing and promotional work, gained whilst with the Rank Organisation, proved invaluable in the production of a small magazine and his hand could be detected in many parts of the magazine. His untimely death two years ago has left a gap which we found quite quickly is impossible to fill.

The next stage of development was the merger with *Hockey Field*, the long-running magazine for the women's game. With both titles struggling to find enough advertising it made sense to unite and in 1991 the deal was done.

Two names who have been almost ever-present in writing for the magazine have been Bill Colwill, still a regular contributor and assistant editor, and the late Joe Dillon, who voiced the opinions and events from North of the border.

The latest move to find a publisher was when the Harrow Press could no longer sustain publication and the title was transferred to the Peter Boizot Group via his PB Publications company. Mr Boizot is well known for his interest and love of hockey and the magazine had found a good home.

At this time the style and appearance of the magazine took another stride forward. PB Publications operated Macintosh equipment, the standard now for the industry, and the design capabilities of the system were fully exploited. Colour has been very evident in all the magazines produced in the last three years and Mr Boizot's support has continued an enterprise which had very humble beginnings. In March 1996 the name was changed to *Hockey Sport*.

In celebrating the 25th anniversary of the first issue we can tell readers that a new venture sees *Hockey Sport* now available to newsagents – at least in an area bounded by the M25. Subject to satisfactory results we may soon be nation wide.

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