

Extract:

And now Sonia can touch the hair of the golden boy. She closes her thighs and enjoys the warm feeling inside her. She silently starts making love to herself by rubbing her thighs together.

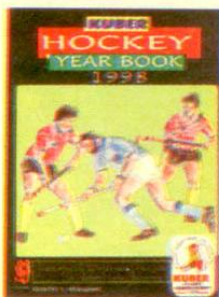
though sex remains the dominant concern—these would fit very well into the 'bold' women's journals which have lately sprouted Indian editions. The package, in book form, is bound to sell if properly marketed.

However if Sen, a Delhi-based special correspondent of a Calcutta daily, had literary ambitions too, the book must be judged a failure. He has much to learn, both about the craft of fiction, as well as of human nature (and female sexuality in particular).

Close and unwavering observation of the people he interacts with, as well as extensive reading of some of the best of erotic prose—*Lady Chatterley's Lover*, *Tropic of Cancer*, *Portnoy's Complaint*, *Lolita*—for starters, may perhaps see a worthwhile book emerge from him a few years hence.

DEBASHISH MUKHERJI

Hockey fans will find a wholesome treat in the Kuber Year Book



The Kuber Hockey Year Book—1998
By Shanthi K. Arumugan
Read and Write
Pages 196
Rs 360

COME to think of it hockey had no comprehensive literature on it till Shanthi K. Arumugan had a brain wave of writing a hockey year book. *The Kuber Hockey Year Book—1998* sponsored by the Kuber group of companies is a veritable feast of facts.

If you want any information on the *hockeyvities* that took place last year it would be rewarding to flip through

its pages. How about starting with a trivia? What's common between Ashish Balal and Helen Mary apart from the fact that they are goalkeepers? Balal played a sterling role in all the games that India won in the Champions Trophy. Mary did the same in the Indira Gandhi tournament, 1996. But in their last match both let in five goals!

Or did you know about a player who was always on the standby list in the Indian hockey team? While his peer had the benefit of the latest Australian equipment, he took blows on his body. Last year he extricated his team, Border Security Force, from six tie-breakers in domestic tournaments. It is no wonder that Sarabjit Kumar Sharma has been declared as the player of the year.

This book is not only about statistical nuggets and snippets, it also profiles the controversies that dogged the hockey world. The match-fixing

Extract:

"...Otherwise, how to account for the intestine feud that went unchecked between the Secretary General and the Treasurer of the Federation. Yes, Mr Gill was not ignorant about this and at least twice called them both and advised restraint instead of pulling the faulty one. His mild approach only led things go beyond control."

scandal involving India and Malaysia during their 1996 Olympic qualifying tournament in Barcelona and the subsequent refutation of the Canadian allegations by the International Hockey Federation, is chronicled in detail.

The year book also delves into such issues as entry of multinational companies in the sports goods segment, the minutes of the executive committee meeting of the Indian Hockey Federation, developments in women's hockey and the bane of sports in India—politicking. Hockey fans will find this book useful and if you are net surfer visit <http://www.delhinet.com.hockeyyearbook>.

V.K. SHASHIKUMAR