



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

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## Maritime Soccer League (MSL), six-a-side, season 4 organized by TNC

It is said that football is not just any game, it's a universal language

The Mind Over Water Maritime Soccer League, popularly known as the 'MSL', is India's one and only National football tournament and is one of the most exciting and fun-filled events in the maritime industry. Organized by The Naval Connection (TNC), this is an annual event where hundreds of football lovers come together for a day of excitement and sports amidst music, dance, and festivities. Authored by Capt. Shoukat Mukherjee, 'Mind Over Water' is the maritime industry's first book on Leadership Development and Team Building, and what more can be more enriching to build effective teams than sports? Teams from as far as Chennai come to attend and play at the MSL each year which makes the tournament truly national.

MSL first happened in 2019 and missed a year in 2020 due to the pandemic. The MSL Season 4 was played in Mumbai on Sat 18th Feb where 26 Teams comprising

of shipping companies, seafarers, and maritime students competed against each other for the prestigious and coveted MSL Championship trophy

The day started with the inauguration where Capt. Shoukat Mukherjee spoke about the essence of teamwork and how sports always add value to our lives. The participating teams as well as the attending guests all stood to the paying for the National Anthem. Balloons were released by all team managers and then the players and everyone else danced to the beats of Zumba for a while to break the ice and create a perfect start to the day. It was an electric atmosphere on the ground as hundreds of guests came to cheer their teams to victory.

The format of the tournament is FIFA style where 26 teams are divided into 4 groups – Indian (comprising of students from the maritime colleges), Pacific, Atlantic, and Arctic.

In the first stage of the tournament, each team played each other in their respective groups in a

league format. Two teams emerged as winners from each group. The group winners were as follows:

**From Group India - Team NGT & TSR**

**From Group Arctic - Team Elegant & MMD**

**From Group Pacific - HAPAG Lloyd & CMA CGM**

**From Group Atlantic- AESM & IRS**

After this stage, the quarter-finals were played between the winning teams in the knockout stage. After some riveting and nail-biting games, the following 4 teams emerged in the Semi-finals

Teams: NGT, Elegant, Hapag Lloyd, AESM

The Semi-finals were played and the clear winners of the matches went on to play the FINALS of the MSL Season 4

The finals were played against Hapag Lloyd Vs Elegant

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Capt. Shoukat Mukherjee, Organiser welcoming to all participants



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# Maritime Soccer League (MSL), six-a-side..... From Page : 2

However before the finals were played, it was time for the semi-final losers to play between themselves to decide the second runner up

**The final Tally was as follows:**

**Winner of MSL Season 4 – Team Hapag Lloyd**



Winner of MSL Season 4 - Hapag Lloyd

**Runner Up – Team Elegant Marine**



Runner Up - Elegant Marine

**Second Runner-Up – Team Anglo-Eastern**



Second Runner-Up - Anglo-Eastern

**Mind Over Water Fair Play Award: Team NGT**



Mind Over Water Fair Play Award -Team NGT

**Golden Glove, Best Goalkeeper: NGT**

**Player of the Tournament: Elegant Marine**



Player of the Tournament Male Mr. Sanjay from Elegant Marine

**Golden Boot for maximum goals scored in the knockouts: Elegant Marine**



Golden Boot award for maximum goals scored in the knockouts by player Mr. Akash from Elegant Marine

**Winner of ball juggling competition - Hapag Lloyd**



Winner of ball juggling competition Mr Nitin from Hapag Lloyd

The winning trophy was awarded to Hapag Lloyd (Playing first the first time at any MSL) who danced and celebrated all-round the field. It was a moment of Pomp as the DJ beats reverberated across the ground

All in all, it was a great day of football. There were some unfortunate injuries to the players, which were aptly handled by the paramedics from Globus Medicare. **All the awards are sponsored by HIMT. Capt Vaibhav Dalvi received the memento on for HIMT partnership with MSL 4 as the awards partner.**



Capt Vaibhav Dalvi receiving the memento on for HIMT partnership with MSL 4 as the awards partner

A donation drive for conducted whereby companies donated stationery to Angle Xpress Foundation for the education of not-so-privileged street children of Mumbai. Players were all taken well care of as meals and beverages were offered by the organizers as part of the team benefits.

The Tournament had some heartaches, and some celebrations, some teams left after losing while some stayed on till the end. The finals were streamed Live on the TNC Face Book handle.

One of the most positive sides of the tournament was the participation of women players. Many teams such as MMSI and Wilhelmsen hosted women in their teams who played side by side with their male team members and proved that women can play football with equal strengths to men, if not more.

**Ms Delishya-Best Player Female- MMSI**



Ms Delishya-Best Player Female- MMSI

**Ms Annette – Player from Wilhelmsen**



Player Ms Annette from Wilhelmsen

Said Capt. Shoukat Mukherjee during the prize distribution ceremony, *“Every year we try to make the MSL better than the previous years. We do certain things better and we learn from certain mistakes. At the end of it all the MSL grows every year and our vision is to take this at the national level and who knows perhaps at the International level as well”*

Three cheers to all the participating teams. After an exciting day, it was the win of the greatest game on earth – Football. For More Details please connect with Capt. Shoukat Mukherjee: [events@thenavalconnection.com](mailto:events@thenavalconnection.com)