

HONG KONG NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting

7.00pm, 27 February 2018 (Tue)

5F Cigna Tower, 482 Jaffe Road

Causeway Bay

<u>Attending:</u>	<u>Apologies:</u>
Cheng Lai Fun (FC) Christina Yue (CY) Chanelle Candy (CC) Connie Wong (CW) Danielle Taylor (DT) Emma Gregory (EG) Jennifer Dax (JD) Lorraine Pak (LP) Shannon Lee (SL) Lizzy Malone (LM) – Kowloon Jenny Buck (JB) – Discovery Bay Emma Halliday (EH) – HKS Sophie Li (SLi) - HKU	Sherryn Hancock (SH) Katharine Wood(KW) Emma Sharrock (ES) Gloria Jung (GJ)
	<u>Absent:</u>

Meeting commenced at **7:01pm**

MINUTES OF MATTERS DISCUSSED

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the previous council meeting confirmed.

2. President's Report (DT – on behalf of SH)

Four Nations were very successful. It was a great tournament as all games played during the Four Nations were tight games. Games were live streamed on Youtube and Facebook. Our Facebook post on day two of the tournament was seen by 1.3m people and the live stream was watched by a total of 113K people. Some feedbacks and suggestions for next year:

- To set up a Four Nations subcommittee around 2 months before the event to help organize.
- Great response received regarding the commentary and live stream.
- Sponsorships were amazing. Players loved the goodies bag. It is suggested that opening and closing ceremony invitations to guests to be sent earlier.
- Reserve room for the last day of tournament for the players, even if they are checking out on the night, so that they can shower and prepare themselves for the dinner.
- Volunteers on the donation desk were great. Ball girls could be more responsive during game time, maybe training could be arranged prior to event as at the moment only a short briefing is given.
- Coaching course were good, but DT suggested to use HK team squad players. CW responded that most of the HK team squad players are playing in the Four Nations. She invited demonstrating players by looking at players from the U21s and U16s touring squad from the past two years. Priority were given to the 2017 U21s touring team.
- For next year, we could explore the possibility of having national teams to go to local schools for netball promotion.

Details on how to improve on organizing the Four Nations will be further discussed next time.

3. Sponsorship Update (CY&FC)

During CNY, FC and CY met for a meeting and formulated a sponsorship guideline that outlines the different sponsorship related to do list during different period. This can help us do better in managing our relationship with our sponsors and provide an idea for whoever took the position in the future. It will be shared by FC later and the council can add on to it.

For this Four Nations, we could have done better if we approached the sponsors earlier so that we can better prepare and plan. FC is gathering all the photos from the Four Nations and will be sent to our sponsors once completed as a follow up. We previously don't have thorough follow up actions which is important in building a long-term relationship. Kirsty from 2XU really enjoyed the involvement in HK netball. She is very supportive, but she will need to report back to the regional office regarding the sponsorship so proper follow up is crucial.

Person in charge of sponsorship may need help from the office to execute some of the items. LP noted that all emails should be copied to HKNA so that the office knows how they can provide support.

DT mentioned that a lot of big companies have a certain funding that they can use to sponsor teams/organization/tournament. This is done long before the actual event. We will need to look into this further.

4. Office Manager's Report (LP)

Four Nations was successfully held on 8-11 February at Kowloon Park Sports Centre. The participating teams were Grenada (INF Ranking:23), Ireland (INF Ranking:22), Singapore (INF Ranking:19) and host Hong Kong (INF Ranking:24). We have received positive feedback for the tournament from the teams. We have over 111K views for our live stream and even INF staff are watching. This is highly recommended for next year, including the live commentaries. LP would like to thank all the helpers, volunteers (ball girls and donation desk helpers), HKNA Council Members, Bench Officials and everyone who have help to make this event a success. LP suggested that for next time, HKNA should openly recruit and set up interviews to hire liaison as they are paid staff. LP spent more than 3 hours in the hospital accompanying the Grenada player. This task should have been done by the liaison officer. There is a significant drop in donations compared to Tri-Nations last year. CY noted that last year more adult were involved and they were great in asking for donations.

Joint university tournament schedule has been released. LP is still looking for badged umpires to help umpiring the Joint-U games. First day of the Joint-U tournament were held on 24 February and were umpired by Khan, Emma G, Leung Ka Ki and Lorraine. Lorraine has emailed all badged umpires but up to date only 3 umpires responded, including Khan. JB mentioned that she did not see or receive this email. LP will send the email again and hoping to get more responses.

Festival of Sports date and venue confirmed to be on 29 April in Hong Kong Park Sports Centre for U15s, U17s and U21s games, and 13 May in Tuen Mun for U13s, ladies' open and men's open.

LCSD annual briefing for National Sports Associations (NSAs) will be held on Friday 2nd March. LP and Haley will be attending. The meeting will be about the general evaluation for administrative and funding procedures and also highlights on their subventions for the year 2018-19.

The Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) has commissioned Deloitte Advisory to investigate on the provision of sports facilities in Hong Kong. A discussion group will be held which will be attended by LP and Haley.

Kai Tak Sports Park funding has been approved by the Legco. HAB has invited 3 prequalified tenderers to submit proposal on design, construction and operation of the Sports Park. Some tenderers may approach Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong and also NSAs for details on design and operating requirements of various facilities within the Sports Park. One of the tenderers have emailed HKNA and requested a meeting. LP asked the council to email her with ideas and thoughts, if any, on netball facilities for the sports park.

Please refer to Office Manager's report for more detail.

5. Coaching and Development Report (CW)

- HKNA was invited to set up a netball promotion booth in the AIA carnival.
- Foundation course (Cantonese) were held and 26 coaches attended and passed.
- HKNA is coordinating the DSL C grade league, year 7 league and year 8 league.
- Teleconference was conducted on Friday 2nd February between Netball Australia and HKNA. Collaboration details will be further discussed later
- 83 participants have registered to trial for the U14s regional netball academy program. Trial 1 was conducted before the Chinese New Year and trial 2 will be done on 3rd March. Same selectors will be present for both trial (Connie Wong, Robin Manihera, Veronica Arnold, Anita Yeung, Chan Ka Keung)

Please refer to Head of Netball Development report for more detail.

A Memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been drafted with Netball Australia and needs to be signed soon. Main target is for umpiring development by sending current B badged umpires to Australia and train them to be A badged. Netball WA agreed to accept 2 umpires and 1 mentor. CW is still looking to add more people. Final decision on who to send to Australia should be approved by the executive committee. Selection of umpires should also consider their continuity in the HK netball community that these people should be able to give back. There is still no due date on the umpire nominees reply but we will need to decide early to keep cost low as it is funded by HKNA.

Netball Australia also allows us to use their online coaching courses. However, what they have on foundation coaching is very different with us. As they have in total 7 levels of coaching, foundation is very basic and only online. In HK, there are only 3 levels on coaching. CW thinks that it is crucial for these courses to have face-to-face interaction so that presenters can give appropriate feedbacks. Hence, this opportunity will need to be considered further. DT suggested HKNA to explore the possibility on combining the courses: to use Netball Australia's online theory and integrate with practical in HK. CW noted that their online course is expensive (AUD25) and on top of that, participants will also need to pay for the book. This is far more expensive compared to our current coaching course cost. In addition, HK Coaching Committee funding could not be used to subsidize these courses as it is not held in HK. CW is looking into the possibility to bring in coaches/presenters to come and support the coaching courses in HK.

There is also a conference, held every 2 years, with 1 day for coaching and 1 day for umpiring. We have previously sent Anita and Carol and shall see if we can send coaches/umpires too for the next conference.

Jenny Chadwick has discussed with Connie regarding this collaboration with Netball Australia. She would like to get help on making an umpiring pathway (from C badged to IUA) so that there would be some motivation for umpires to keep improving.

6. League & Umpiring (EG & JD)

Division 4 to Division 6 were still making arrangement for their cancelled games. They can either organize a make-up game or conclude the match as a draw. Some teams could not come into an agreement and JD will help them as a decision needs to be made in the next two weeks. It is actually quite difficult for teams to reschedule and we could not force other team to commit to nights other than Monday. Independent team finds it harder to find guest to play make-up games. Our Bylaws have no supervision on this. It is suggested that wording in our email could be modified to "If cannot agree to play, it's a draw" instead of "decide if you want a rematch or mark it as a draw". EG noted that the issue here is that there is no designated wet weather week as games needs to be finished before Easter. It is suggested that for next season, our league bylaw needs to be revised. JD mentioned that 2 years ago it was said that "if no games are played, both teams get 0", this forced all teams to schedule a rematch and play. Now, the problem is that draw means 3 points for each team, this is too attractive for the teams as it will often not cause them to be at disadvantage. It is also suggested that for next year we can use Wednesdays as wet weather game day. This day will need to be mentioned early in the season start so that teams can make arrangement once a game is cancelled due to rain. CY noted that it is possible to have more than 2 games cancelled and it will be very difficult to reschedule all these games. With reference to Jenny Chadwick's idea a few years back, teams in this situation can play half game (2x14) rather than full game so that 2 matches can be concluded on the same day.

It is confirmed that small trophies will be handed out to the winners of the first half of the season in the end of season event. SH contacted Haley regarding the trophies. DT will confirm with SH regarding the orders.

For semifinals and finals, volunteers for desk duties are needed. In addition, for the grand finals, bench officials are needed. LP will contact bench officials from Four Nations to see if they could help out.

HKNA received lots of complaints and back chat to umpires. These have been dealt with and email sent out by SH. Clubs must know that umpire support will be available in each venue to supervise, players and umpires an approach them if they have any questions or problem.

Some teams come back saying that HKNA president confirming by-laws but no questions and confirmations went through to league convener. There are wordings in the by-laws that people get different meaning from. This will need to be checked before next season or even AGM. Jenny Chadwick said that by-laws and interpretation should went through League Convener and Umpiring Convener. In the league handbook, it was mentioned that members can approach anyone in the committee if they have any question regarding the by-laws. This will need to be revised for next season.

There were some feedback regarding the ballbag in Aberdeen not having sufficient equipment. CC will check on this.

7. Elite Development Squad (CY & CW)

2 years ago, Netball Korea invited HK's youth squad for a regional game in preparation for Asian Youth Netball Championship (AYC). Our U21s team won first place in the competition. Netball Korea sent another invitation again earlier this year, but we rejected as it is not competitive enough and we want to save the funding for another competition of a more appropriate level. However, after Chinese New Year, Netball Korea replied that they will fund all expenses, including airfares, accommodation, meals and transportation. The confirmed participating team will be Nepal, Chinese Taipei and the host,

Korea. The executive committee has discussed regarding this opportunity and came up with a recommendation that we will not send our youth squad (U21s) as they are currently not formed yet and the competition is not competitive enough for our squad to develop and improve, instead the elite development squad should be going. The elite development squad is also known as the U16s.

It will be ideal to send the last U16s touring team as the Japan tour that they went to was not as competitive as expected. However, it is a concern if players selected for this tour will still be available for the AYNC and is able to give back to HK netball community. We should look into the U16s girls from the past 2/3 years but should also make sure that they will be available for trial for the AYNC squad as coaches usually want to see their continuation. It is a clear pathway for players that the next step after U16s will be U21s. LCS is constantly monitoring the efficiency of the Regional Academy Programme (RNA). We will need to show continuation from RNA to other squads (such as U21s / Opens) in order to get funding. One of the selecting criteria will be player's commitment which may be done through a player interview. DT suggested that we can use player's contract to monitor them. Maybe one of the clause will be "has to be available for the Asian Youth Squad trial". CW noted that if any players are to leave HK, there is not much we could do even if the contract is in place. Nevertheless, a player's contract is a possible action to ensure continuity and commitment.

CW and Angela Chan are recommended to go for this opportunity as they are HKNA paid staff. In addition, Ronnie and Robin will need to focus on the bigger competition. CW will be head coach and Angela as assistant. HKNA will need to recruit manager for this and will probably prioritize applicants that can speak Korean. Potential manager could be Mandy Tai and GJ as they can speak Korean. For physio/primary care, we will ask if THEi can collaborate with us on this. Netball Korea have not confirmed on the amount of people that they will fund. LP will send out email to Netball Korea saying confirmation of our attendance on this event and ask the maximum number of players plus officials that they are willing to fund. We are looking if they can fund 17 people (12 players and 5 officials)

LP also suggested that HK can help organizing as Netball Korea is quite new. She asked Cyrus (from Netball Singapore) and is waiting for confirmation. If they need help and is willing to fund, will see if LP and Haley can go.

Trial for the touring team will be conducted on April, after the Easter. The team may need to train at Sham Shui Po outdoor court. CW will send out trial invitation starting with touring squads but will exclude the ones that played in the Youth team before.

8. Fitness First Sponsorship

We received an invitation from SF&OC asking for nomination of National Players to be entitled to a free Fitness First membership. Initially, 4 quotas were give. The Executive Council considered players from the HK Squad targeting the youth age players and also taking into account of their continuity and contribution to the HK netball community. Players currently with access to gym are excluded from consideration. Players that went through the elite players pathway are prioritized which means that they participated in the U16s, U21s and now the Open team. In the end, SF&OC gave us 6 quota and after some debates within the executive committee, it is awarded to Angela Chan, Ann Lo, Connie Wong, Jasper Chan, Mandy Tai and Michelle Arkell. This is a great support from the government and a private organization. A follow up action is that we should post a congratulation post in our social media platforms.

9. Beach 5s

22 teams registered in the Beach5s and there is still space for 2 teams. CC noted that this is the first year that the organizer is willing to use google form for registration which is so much more convenient than paper application. CC has asked some Valley girls to help out during the event and mentioned that if council members want to help out too, they can email her.

