

HONG KONG NETBALL ASSOCIATION

Council Meeting

7.00pm, 21 Nov 2017 (Tue)

Meeting Room No. 1, 1/F

Olympic House

<u>Attending:</u>	<u>Apologies:</u>
Sherryn Hancock (SH) Christina Yue (CY) Cheng Lai Fun (FC) Chanelle Candy (CC) Danielle Taylor (DT) Emma Sharrock (ES) Jennifer Dax (JD) Lorraine Pak (LP)	Carol Chan (CChan) Emma Gregory (EG) Gloria Jung (GJ) Shannon Lee (SL)
	<u>Absent:</u>
	Katharine Wood(KW)

Meeting commenced at 7:05pm

MINUTES OF MATTERS DISCUSSED

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the previous council meeting confirmed.

2. President's Report (SH)

Preparation for Nations Cup to be held in Singapore is well underway. The team is named and will be leaving Hong Kong on 2nd Dec. Funding came through from the LCSD Reserve account. LP will check if 90percent or 100percent will be funded by LCSD.

HKNA received a letter from the "Netball Fever" carnival organizer asking for our involvement again next July. We are hoping to get weekend timeslot to have better turn out. Connie is looking into this at the moment.

We are also working on a memorandum of understanding with Australian Netball, between HKNA and WA, for umpiring, coaching and player development. This is working along well and they are quite keen to help us.

Carol Chan resigned from the council due to work commitments and unable to make meetings.

KW met with SH to discuss about coaching development. KW will be contacting Connie to explore the possibility of inviting International coach to come during Four Nations.

FC will circulate the contact list and all the scheduled meeting dates to the council members. Next meeting will be a sub group meeting, Subgroups can decide on when to have them. FC will remind everyone that they must have a representative in the meetings.

3. Treasurer's Report (SH&CY)

We have 4 new teams in the Ladies League this year, totaling to 65 teams. HKNA has not reconciled the exact number of registered players/members with cash received from the teams/clubs. Hence, the income figure in the reports shown may not be complete as we are not sure that all teams fully paid the fees, but the actual figures should not be differed by much. Despite the increased number of players, the total income from membership fees may not proportionally increase as a lot of the new players are students. Note that student (Under 21 years old) pays much cheaper membership fees compared to the adults. Second half of Ladies League will start in January with the new allocation of the divisions.

Income from JNL are not reconciled as the most updated players' list were not check against the fees we had received. There will be new teams expected for Spring season of the JNL so likely to generate more income in February.

LP will check last year's funding from Coaching Committee.

HK Coaching Committee 17-18 funding: After Connie's trip to Perth, there should be some subvention remaining to be spent before 31st March 2018 as actual expenses is slightly less than expected. In case we need to run additional coaching programs, we could also apply for HK Coaching Committee's contingency funding, latest by January 2018. These funding will

need to be spent on coaching and CY suggested to use it to invite coaches during the Four Nations. LP noted that this issue needs to be decided as soon as possible so that she can arrange court times in the Four Nations venue. LP suggested to invite Sue Hawkins who is also invited to the Nations Cup in Singapore. Regarding the coaching workshops, we used to invite coaches from ANF countries to come and there was quite a good turnout. DT noted that it is best to do this workshop during the Four Nations to also attract more attention.

All umpires and Panel for the Four Nations are appointed by INF and Sharon Kelly will be coming again as the UAP. Airfares may be high as umpires come from different places. SH inquired the reason why 5 umpires are needed for the Four Nations. LP explained that as both matches on each day will be INF ranking games, so 2 umpires plus 1 reserve for the first match, and another 2 plus 1 reserve for the second match, therefore 5 umpires minimum needed. Owing to neutrality, Singapore umpires would not be allowed to umpire any Singapore games, so extra 3 umpires are needed (2 umpires + reserve).

The office has started to pay deposits for Four Nations expenses. SH and LP has been working on the detailed budget for Four Nations. We should start promoting the event on Facebook and social media, but we are still waiting for the final logo. DT suggested that at the meantime, can still promote by asking people to "save the date". LP noted that Grenada is not replying to email and she will keep on emailing them. In case Grenada backed out, the council agreed to find Malaysia as back up.

An umpiring workshop was held on the 16th November, targeting C badged umpires that is interested in getting promoted into B badged. Another workshop will be held in December for other umpires who wants to get badged. There are over 20 applicants, which is more than expected, so Jenny Chadwick is exploring the possibility of holding another one. Jenny will work with umpires to get them badged as we have a funding requirement of certain number of umpires badged for each financial year. Emails will be sent to remind umpires of this opportunity.

JD mentioned that since we implemented the new rule of no umpires can umpire 2 consecutive games, a lot of teams are unable to find umpires. SH noted that this rule is implemented so that umpires can keep their concentration level throughout the game. We have received a lot of complaints about umpires last season and this season, but we cannot assess the effectiveness of this rule as there are no objective assessment method. Additionally, it was always the same teams that needs to look for umpires. However, it is mentioned in the By Laws that each time needs to have at least 1 qualified umpire. SH also mentioned that, specifically in Aberdeen, the games are distributed as 4 games on 7PM, 8 games on 8PM and 4 games on 9PM. This cause a bottleneck problem as a lot of umpires will need to play on 8PM. Hence, we need to see if we can spread the games more evenly. On the other hand, CY think the new rule is a good practice as it will encourage the teams to have their players qualified for umpiring, but the time of process may seems to others a bit long as from the time people attend the course on September can only qualify by the end of this season or even longer. At Aberdeen, there are different levels of umpire but teams should understand that teams swap sides each quarter so both teams will experience the same situation. It is also worth noting that close games can be seen throughout the league and games in Aberdeen are getting more physical. Clubs and teams are advised to provide practice opportunities for their umpires during club trainings so that they could get more experience. Regarding the suggested umpiring fee increase, there seems to be no objections and it is very encouraging.

4. Office Manager's Report (LP)

Four Nations:

All umpires for the Four Nations are confirmed, 2 from Singapore, 1 from Australia, 1 from Lesotho and 1 from South Africa. And as mentioned, Sharon Kelly will be coming to be the Umpires Panel. Jenny Chadwick expressed her interest in working with Sharon Kelly in the panel. LP has already emailed Sharon Kelly regarding the umpiring logistics.

Hotels are all confirmed.

LP has 3 quotations for live streaming service. The quoted prices are of a huge range, from HKD46,000 to over HKD100,000. Facebook live feed by ourselves are not possible because strong broadband connection will be needed. DT asked if it is possible to only have live streams for the finals and Facebook live feed for the first few days. LP replied that this is might not be helping with the reduction of the cost by a lot as the set up cost is necessary for even just one day. CY mentioned that live stream is very important in promoting the event for

the future as Nations Cup in Singapore will likely be not as big after this year. DT reminded us that if we are paying this much, we must promote it seriously so that the money spent is not wasted. Also, this live stream may cause Four Nations to lose some audience as they can easily live stream it at home. SH and LP think that people in Hong Kong would not do so as Four Nations is free entry. SH is hoping that the live stream will be promoted and endorsed by the INF so that we can reach a much wider audience and create awareness of the tournament. All games are ranking games, unlike previous years. CY noted that budget is a concern but this is an attractive deal and this can help us synchronize with our marketing plan. Scoreboard is another major cost elements of the live stream but it is essential. LP will ask for quotations for one day and the council will make decision after considering the one day cost. Confirmation before Christmas is preferable.

Sponsors & Sponsorship:

There are no signed contracts with Joint Dynamics, Champion System and other sponsors. CY raised a point that person taking up the sponsorship position must maintain relationship instead of just asking favours from the sponsors. LP noted that this year is too late for us to get big sponsors as most will need application for at least 1 year prior. These big sponsors include HSBC, AIA, Watsons, etc. They will be interested in sponsoring annual event as a title sponsor. Angela's role is confirmed, but her scope would not include sponsorship as she has a lot on her hands already. FC will take up the sponsorship position and CY will transfer the existing contacts to her. Existing sponsors are mostly product sponsors, we need to look into financing side. Emma Wall has previously created a promotion pack, SH will search it up and pass on to FC. CC suggested that we publicize the sponsorship opportunity on our social medias, and contacting people through cold call might be needed.

CY is still doing the current newsletter with updates on things such as Regional 16's Tour. CY will pass on this job to GJ once she is back on track with our social media trying not to overload her.

INF Rules:

INF has just publicized another version of the rules, called the INF Rules of Netball edition 2018. There are slight changes and there is more wording explanation of the rules (e.g. hand signal for caution). INF requested us to have supplement and 2018 edition translated to Chinese. LP replied that we will try to have it translated before Christmas.

Inter-varsity game:

Due to lack of netball venue in Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), netball will not be featured in the 2018 Inter-varsity games. CUHK have netball team participating in our Joint University Tournament, but they do not have any recognized body within the university.

Promotion session in CUHK:

LP has just finished a promotion session on the 17th November and will do another 2 sessions in the following Friday. LP will gather interest on the Joint University tournament in the last session

Tournament venues:

Tournament venues are confirmed (Please refer to Office Manager report for details), excluding the Festival of Sports (FOS) venue. The FOS venue has been previously confirmed on the May 6th, but LCSD took back all the bookings on this date for their own event. LP requested for it to be rescheduled to be on the 29th April or 20th or 27th May. If these dates are not possible, the only possible option will be 13th May which is the Mother's day. If so, we can explore the possibility to make FOS as a mother daughters day.

5. Head of Coaching and Development Report (CW)

Please refer to Head of Coaching and Development Report for details.

6. League & Umpiring (SH)

Ladies League is going on quite smoothly. JD is waiting for teams to play their last game on the 11th Dec and organise the draw for the following season as divisions will be reallocated. The draw and schedules will be discussed and setup in the subgroup meeting on the 12th Dec. The allocations are already mentioned in the handbook so teams should already be aware of.

DT suggested to have a small medals recognition for the first half of the season so that teams are more motivated to play their best in the first half. Although discouraged attitude is not observed, the council thinks that it will be nice to have top team in the first half of the season to be recognized for their effort. Hence, the council agreed to give small medals for them during the End of Season event, 24th March 2018.

JD has not received feedbacks regarding the division shuffling yet, probably due to teams being unsure of the effects of such arrangement. This year will be a test to see the reaction and will decide again if we want to continue it for next year.

As usual practice, guest players will be officially a player of a team on the 3rd game. Regardless of which team she guested for the first two games, whichever team she played on the 3rd will be the team she should register under. A guest player that is not registered with any teams can only guest play for 1 club only. JD explained that Jenny Chadwick is the one in charge of recording the guest players.

Some desk duty personnel had left the score sheets in the venue. The last team in charge of the desk duty are supposed to take photo of the score sheet and also post it to the HKNA office.

Venues for the second half of the season would be allocated differently as the number of teams in each divisions will be different, i.e. 6 teams in Premier and 10 teams in the other divisions. DT noted that match results this year are interesting as it is different from the previous years.

Umpiring courses, on January, are receiving applications with limited spaces left. These will be the last one for the season.

Umpires that have attended the course previously and in September are doing practical in the JNL. The procedure will be completing the course, online test, umpiring in JNL and then they will be in the approved list of umpires. Umpires support are sending through the KPI.

We have received different complaints on team behavior. Umpires should know that they are allow to caution players for not being in the spirit of the games. On the other hand, JD mentioned that some teams are not in proper uniform, with some just wearing white top and black pants. In addition, a team is also spotted wearing hard rimmed-hats, scarfs, bracelets, etc, to games which can be very dangerous. Earrings, nose-rings and any sort of rings are not allowed on court.

7. A.O.B

DT raised up the issue that clubs with quite a number of League teams should send in more representatives in the council as there are 2 more positions to be filled, which are the umpiring and policy. SH will be sending out job description for the two positions so that club conveners/representative can target the right people and bring them in. CC also suggested that we should invite gentlemen from the Men's League onto the council. The only issue would be as Men's team are mostly not associated with a club where in the HKNA By-laws has stated that only clubs with more than 3 teams needs to have a representative on the council. So, it is not compulsory for the Men's League teams to send in representatives, but they could if they would like to. SH will discuss with EG and Jenny Chadwick in how to streamline the umpiring logistics.

As some council member has failed to attend monthly meetings, DT suggested to set up a fine for no-shows. Discussion and decisions on important issues could not be discussed and communicated efficiently in the meetings if some clubs have no representatives are present. FC has reminded clubs/representatives to send in apologies and also a proxy if they are not able to attend. It is unfair for other council members who have volunteered their time and effort to attend the meeting. The council agreed on to have a HKD400 fine for no-shows which will be deducted from the team deposits. This amount is the same with penalties on teams that failed to have umpire for their umpiring duties. FC will send out notice to the council members regarding this.

All matches of Nations Cup to be held in Singapore will be live-streamed in Facebook/Youtube. Our national opens team will be having their last training on the 1st Dec

2017. CY will send through attendance record to LP and DT. SH went to an opens training and noted that team chemistry is good. There are some new faces in the team and is looking forward to their performance. CY mentioned that the players will have a new set of uniforms from Champion System. SH reminded CY to take a full team photo on their last training for promotion and acknowledgement of sponsorship from Champion System.

Should any clubs or teams have events or functions to promote, please send to CY as the newsletter will scheduled to sent out before Christmas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.

Prepared by



Approved by


