

Chairwoman's Report 2015/16

The women's leagues this year has been very competitive, with close results in most of the divisions. There was some fantastic hockey on display and I'd like to congratulate all the teams on their efforts. We have had some stability in the league with the same number of teams, 49, entering as last season, though this will change as we look ahead to the new season. Unfortunately, we have had problems with the water supply at the Boundary street pitch and have had to reschedule more games than normal this season. This had an impact on the Knockout Cups as we lost our designated SF& OC pitches under which the Knockout Cup games have to be played on.

The aim of this committee is to improve the level of hockey in Hong Kong. Though expanding the Premier is our end goal, it was not feasible this season. As a result we trialed splitting the Premier into two after the first rounds and promoting the top two teams from the first division. The feedback we have received has been positive and we will therefore continue with this strategy until we are able to expand the Premier. We have also been trying to improve the transparency of the committee and want to involve the clubs more by asking for your opinions. We will continue to work on this in the coming season.

One action point that the outgoing committee has been working on is umpiring. This is, and will be, something that still needs a lot of work. We are trying to develop the level of women umpiring but this will take time and we require your support to do so. It would help if players, coaches and spectators treat the umpires and their decisions with respect. There have been several cases brought to our attention of umpires being abused. The level of umpiring will not improve if our umpires are hesitant to umpire games.

The National Squad have had a busy and productive year with trips to the 5th Indoor Asia Cup in August, 2nd Women's Asian Challenge in December, our own 3rd Invitational tournament in March and the World League Round 1 in April. The girls have put in a lot of hard work over the year and their work has paid off in the progress they have made during these competitions, and some of the results, including a bronze medal at the Asian Challenge. Individual players have also been recognised at these events, with Tiffany Chan winning player of the tournament at the Indoor Asia Cup and Asian Challenge, and YY Yip, who won best goalkeeper at both the Indoor Asia Cup and the World League round 1. To help improve the National squad we have introduced the condition that players must be playing at Premier, and in certain circumstances, the 1st division. In the coming season the team will host Singapore in July, go to the AHF Cup in October, and host Japanese University teams in December. One suggestion for the incoming committee is to develop the calendar for our youth National squad. I would like to thank Arif Ali, our coach, and Amy Lip, the manager, for their hard work developing the National squad both on and off the pitch, and Eunice Tong and the office staff for a very successful Invitational tournament.

As we look ahead to next season, there is no question that it will be an unusual but hopefully not too trying a season with the loss of both Happy Valley pitches to renovation. With the loss of 7 game slots a week we hope you bear with us while we increase the number of midweek games, return to 4 games at Kings Park and HKFC, and explore alternate options such as Kwong Fuk in Tai Po and more games at Recreio. To counter this we will be streamlining the Knockout cups by reducing the number of rounds and the only one-day tournament we will be holding is the Hockey 5's.