

HONG KONG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S SECTION (HKHAWS)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Date : 17 June 2019 (Monday)
 Time : 7:30 p.m.
 Venue : King's Park Conference Room

Attendance:	Leela Patel (LP)	Chairwoman
	Rhona Barr (RB)	Vice Chairwoman
	Snowy Yii (SY)	Hon. Treasurer
	Heather Galbraith (HG)	Committee Member
	Kitty Yau (KY)	Committee Member
	Eva Thometz (ET)	Committee Member
	Noel Chau (NC)	Committee Member
	Karina Lam (KL)	Ex-officio rep. from Council

Absent with apologies

Christine Wood (CW)	Grounds & Fixtures Secretary
Lynsey Edgar (LE)	Committee Member
Moka Mok (MM)	Committee Member
Kathy Chan (KC)	Committee Member

In attendance: Jowie Wong

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<u>Attendance and apologies</u>	
1.1	Antlers Au Wai Chung Antlers Chan Lok Ching Aquila Wong Ching Lung Bauhinia Youth Amy Lip Coyotez Cheng Ka Po Candy Elite Phoebe Mok Ewis Phoebe Chan Ewis Yanice Wong HKCC Stefanie Nitze HKFC Anthea Murray HKU Karina Lam KCC Heather Galbraith KCC Eva Thometz KCC Wong Tsz Ching, Tiffany Shaheen Kitty Yau Swire Cola Chau Tse Wai Valley Leela Patel Valley Kelsey Dunn Veterans Mayura Kim Roberts Veterans Carol Giblin Veterans Anna Evans	

	Apologies were received from Liz Dendle, Su Cowland, Heather Deayton, Alison Cabrelli and Christine Wood. A quorum being present, the meeting commenced at 7.40 pm.											
2	<u>Minutes of Previous AGM</u>											
2.1	Minutes of the HKHAWs AGM held on 11 June 2018 were proposed by Leela Patel (LP) and seconded by Heather Galbraith (HG).											
3	<u>Chairwoman's & Committee Reports</u>											
3.1	<u>Chairwoman's Report</u> LP noted that her report had been circulated prior to the AGM. Since our last AGM it's been a busy 12 months, with our national team preparing for the Asian Games in August after directly qualifying earlier in the year. This culminated in a ninth-place finish in the Asian Games where all teams, except Hong Kong, had entered into full time training in the months before the tournament, whilst our players continued to juggle training with work/studies. I would like to thank our national players, Arif Ali as head coach and Amy Lip as team manager for all their hard work, and congratulate Ika Lo in officially achieving 100 international caps at that tournament. We are now looking ahead to the next Asian Games and building on the earlier success. We are grateful to the generous support afforded to our athletes by the HAB Team Sports Funding and by our new sponsors Rutonjee and JDH. In March we hosted our 5 th Women's Invitational Hockey Tournament, which was held on the same weekend as the Men's international tournament and FIH sanctioned. The women finished third behind Shenzhen and Thailand. Our under 21 players will be spending the summer preparing for the Junior AHF cup in Singapore in September where we wish them every success. I would also like to thank the organisers of the Masters Indoor Hockey World Cup, which was hosted successfully here in Hong Kong earlier this year due to their hard work. We are equally grateful to those who have continued to build on the momentum created by this event and organised an indoor women's league at HKFC this summer. Whilst the Women's Section Committee's focus is on outdoor hockey due to logistical and practical issues, we would welcome working together with others to help develop indoor hockey in Hong Kong. This season saw the divisions restructured, with one division cut and the others expanded providing more hockey matches for all teams. We were pleased to see the premier division back up to 8 teams as we continue the committee's objective to bring back up the number of teams playing at a higher level. In order to help clubs plan for next season and for the HKHA to manage the use of pitches more efficiently, the outgoing committee considered the current season's competition results together with the promotion and relegation policy circulated to all clubs and determined the provisional divisions for the 2019/20 season. These should remain unchanged save for extraordinary circumstances.											
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Premier</td> <td>Division 1</td> <td>Division 2</td> <td>Division 3</td> <td>Division 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HKFC A</td> <td>HKFC C</td> <td>Valley C</td> <td>Phoenix B</td> <td>Shaheen C</td> </tr> </table>	Premier	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4	HKFC A	HKFC C	Valley C	Phoenix B	Shaheen C	
Premier	Division 1	Division 2	Division 3	Division 4								
HKFC A	HKFC C	Valley C	Phoenix B	Shaheen C								

Valley A	Shaheen B	HKFC F	Vets C	HKCC C
HKFC B	Valley B	HKFC E	Elite C	HKFC H
HKCC A	HKFC D	Swire A	LHT B	Recreio A
Coyotez	HKCC B	Skyers A	HKFC G	Khalsa A
KCC A	Antlers A	Elite B	Valley D	Valley E
Dutch A	KCC B	LHT A	HKU	Swire B
Shaheen A	Rhino	Vets B	Police	Ewis C
Vets A	Aquila A	Ewis A	Ewis B	Bauhinia Youth
	Elite A	Dutch B	Antlers B	Skyers B
	Phoenix A			

One important objective of finalizing divisions earlier is to enable fixtures for the 2019/20 season to be published earlier, enabling clubs to plan accordingly and avoid walkovers. As more money is being invested in team sports in Hong Kong, hockey faces increasing competition for the use of pitches. It has been noted by Council that walkovers have been given in the premier division in both the men and women's competitions. This will be looked at closely by both sections with a view to setting stronger penalties in such circumstances.

I would also like to thank Arif Ali and Amy Lip for running the Bauhinia Youth team in division 4, which has been introduced as a pathway team for our female youth players coming up through mini hockey. As we are not yet able to offer a competitive girl's youth league, this team offers young players who are keen to keep playing, but not yet ready to compete in the higher divisions, a chance to test the waters. The hope is that most of these players will then go on to play for other clubs who are able to offer these girls a pathway to the higher divisions and to help grow our pool of young players. With regards to our youth I would also like to thank Billy Dillon for his generous sponsorship of the newly renamed Guv Dillon Cup, with the sponsorship monies to be spent on our youth.

This season also saw us hosting the Premier Hockey 5s tournament where we invited a team from Shenzhen to join our 7 affiliated club premier division teams and used the FIH hockey 5s format. This was a great opportunity to test live streaming. Overall the feedback from players, umpires and spectators was extremely positive. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this happen, including Eva Thometz, Simon Chapman, HKFC and Jowie and we hope to be able to hold a similar event next season.

As you are all aware, the FIH introduced new rules earlier this year. These will be implemented in the new season. These include the removal of goalkeeping privileges for substitute players and playing quarters across all divisions. Consequently, the premier division will continue unchanged with 15 minute quarters and stoppage time for penalty corners whilst the remaining divisions will likely be 17 minute quarters with 2 minute breaks after the first and third quarter and a 5 minute break at half time, with no stoppage for penalty corners.

I would like to touch on a key section of Rhona's Chairwoman's report last season announcing the council's proposal to restructure the HKHA. As anticipated such a change did not happen overnight. However we are moving forward, with increased collaboration amongst both sections and more events being held together (such as the international tournaments and knock out tournament finals weekend). I would like to thank all clubs and their convenors for their continuing patience as we continue to work towards bringing the organization of the HKHA in line with other NSAs and to provide new opportunities for all our participants. Finally, I would like to thank the

outgoing committee, everyone in the office, council members and all the clubs for all their support and patience in my first season as Chairwoman.

3.2

Grounds and Fixtures Report

LP, on behalf of CW, noted that her report had been circulated prior to the AGM. The start of the season saw a static 49 teams playing across 5 divisions in the women's league, one division less than the previous year. For this season, we restructured the divisions to make them slightly bigger, allowing for a more even spread of games across the season. This dovetailed with our continuing objective of improving the standard of high-level hockey over time, by gradually including more teams in the premiership.

We had 8 teams in the premier division (up from 6), 10 teams in division one, 10 teams in division two (up from 8), 10 teams in division three (up from 9) and 11 teams in division four (up from 8). The divisions (except division 4) played two rounds and division 4 only played one round. However, both the premier division and division 4 were then split and played an additional half round to determine seedings for their knock-out competition and with respect to division 4, qualification.

We are maximizing the use of the pitches, with most games completing matches within a tight schedule of 90 minutes. However, this season we allowed additional time, where possible for premiership games – sometimes up to 15 minutes depending on pitch availability. We will ask for feedback from clubs on how this worked and ensure that it doesn't disadvantage the other teams. We have reiterated that the onus for ensuring games start/finish on time is the responsibility of umpires and captains and although this will require continued education to build awareness and action, there was a marked increase in diligence in starting/finishing games on time. The committee would again like to thank Hong Kong Football Club for their ongoing support allowing us to use their pitch and affording flexibility to us.

It is worth noting that although we were able to fit everything in, it is an extremely tight schedule and clubs must keep requests to move matches to a minimum. We were impacted by the hurricane early in the season, which meant that more than one pitch was out of action for a period of time. This is in addition to the unsafe quality of some of the pitches in dry weather, meaning we are not able to use those pitches.

The one day premiership showcase tournament including a visiting team from China (Shenzhen) was the 5-a-side tournament at Hong Kong Football Club. We moved the fixture to be just after the Christmas break and this worked very well as a kick start to the second half. Worth noting that the caliber of hockey played was evened out across the premiership teams, in part due to teams only needing a smaller number of higher level players to compete well. Attendance was excellent and feedback was positive. The committee would like to thank everyone who was involved in the planning, organization and set up of this tournament, including in particular the team at Hong Kong Football Club.

The Knock-out Cup was impacted by some teams withdrawing at the last minute and the number of requests for rescheduling made it challenging to fit everything in. In order to ensure a better quality, competitive competition, we will need to remind teams again that the Cup is not optional and that penalties can be incurred. I also received some feedback that removing pool games can mean an extremely short cup run for teams. I think we are doing the best we can given the pitch availability right now and overall, teams did play more games throughout the season but there is no harm reviewing this.

Combining the Men's and the Women's competitions for the finals days works well in terms of bringing the two hockey leagues together and showcasing the best of Hong Kong hockey. I would like to see Men's and Women's games played throughout the season on both Saturday and Sunday as is customary in many countries. It's not acceptable in this day and age to assume that Women can't play on Sunday because there are no outsourced childcare options.

My recommendations to the incoming committee are as follows:

- 🎬 Circulate fixtures for all league games and pitches slots for knock-out tournament matches and one day tournaments at the start of the season thus reducing the risk of clubs making late requests to change fixtures or conceding walkovers.

- 🎬 Continue with the premiership showcase tournament immediately after the Christmas break.

- 🎬 The division sizes worked well this year and I would recommend keeping as is for the next season to ensure a consistent number of games amongst all divisions, spread as evenly as possible. Thus avoiding the situation in previous seasons where there were large gaps.

- 🎬 Revisit the extended time for premiership games, to ensure that this is helpful for them and doesn't disadvantage all clubs.

- 🎬 Ensure feedback is gathered re. striking the balance of increasing the size of the premiership division and how to structure the season. Noting that there is still a large gap in caliber between the top and the bottom end of the division.

- 🎬 Maximise usage of pitch time to include more weeknight games, enabling teams to play more matches.

- 🎬 Continue to emphasise the importance of starting/finishing on time (with a lead being taken by umpires and captains) to ensure the smooth running of the league.

- 🎬 KO Cup – continue to combine the finals days. Remind Clubs that this is not a mandatory competition with penalties for withdrawing teams. Keep the structure of the competition under review.

Umpires Report

3.3

KY noted that her report had been circulated prior to the AGM.

In the 2018 – 2019 season there were 9 refresher courses and 3 beginner courses that were organized by the HKHA umpire's section.

Originally we had 50 registered female umpires, and there were 16 new female umpires registered till the end of the season. However, there are 14 umpires who took the refresher course but didn't fulfill the basic requirement of the HKHA umpire's section. According to the HKHA umpire's section, those umpires might be put on an inactive status and they would need to take a refresher course next season to re activate their status.

The Women's Section committee required each club to have the same number of registered umpires as teams a few years ago but sadly not all clubs have fulfilled this

requirement. The Women's section also required that premier to division 2 teams needed to use female umpires to do their club duties, and it is not shown to work well even when we allowed teams to use female umpires from other clubs this season. I think for next season the Women's Section should continue with the use of female umpires and if any team cannot fulfill the requirement the team will get points deducted. I will have further discussions with the new committee before taking action.

KL queried what not successful meant. KY clarified that it meant they did not have female umpires. KL asked who this was. KY says she did not want to name the clubs involved but the office had been very busy this year and it has been hard to monitor this. Some clubs were saying they were using female umpires but it didn't seem to be on the match cards. KY expressed her willingness to help and train umpires. Clubs can contact her to arrange times to support umpires and ask her questions at any time.

I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation to the number of female umpires, especially Mel Watt, and some male umpires who have helped me out with most of the umpire appointments during this season.

Finally I would like to thanks all the club convenors for your support, co-operation and patience throughout the season. Last but not least thank you to Jowie, the HKHA office staff, for her admin work.

Kim Roberts (KR) suggested there was a problem because was a lot of people are away when the refresher courses are on and how can we resolve this. KY noted that she had already passed this on to the Umpire's Section previously and had asked for 2 weeks notice to be given. Their response was that their manpower was low and that they had offered 9 courses. KR asked if there was any way to get around the refresher course. Anthea Murray (AM) stated she understands that inexperienced umpires needed to attend but surely it is not necessary for experienced umpires to attend. Carol Giblin (CG) mentioned that she had already emailed Marco Yeung on the US. LP responded by saying the WS are limited in what they can do and it would help if people could attend the US AGM and give this feedback. Leena Madhvani (LM) stated that the MS have the same problems and aren't these raised at Council. LP replied that they are but you still need people on the US to drive these ideas forward. KY added that the players need to understand the rules, and that it would help. This year was the first time that the WS have sent a player to the DC for the first runner at a penalty corner knocking down the opposition player. Education is very important and this can help players to play a safe game.

AM inquired as to what to do if teams cannot find a female umpire for division 1 or 2 games. KY responded that we would need to discuss this with the new committee. There may be a grace period but if you really cannot find one then teams need to email the committee and ask for approval with at least one weeks notice.

4
4.1

Treasurer's Report

SY reported that the WS has spent more this season because it is an Asian games year. This coming year should be less. We received some sponsorship thanks to the work of committee members, which has helped the national team. The WS is financially healthy and has enough money to prepare for next year, including for national team training and league. In the coming season we will increase the registration fee. We did not increase this last season and we want to keep up with the

increase in costs, including the office costs. This increase will be shared with clubs shortly. The report presented is a draft as we are waiting from the official report from the Council. A finalized report should be circulated to clubs.

**5
5.1**

Election of Office Bearers

Nominations received and approved are:

Post	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Chairwoman	Leela PATEL	HKFC	Valley
Vice Chairwoman	Noel CHAU	Shaheen	KCC
1. Committee Member	Kitty YAU	Shaheen	KCC
2. Committee Member	Margaret WHITTINGHAM	Valley	HKFC
3. Committee Member	Eva THOMETZ	KCC	Coyotez
4. Committee Member	MOK Ka Man	KCC	Coyotez

Nominations from the floor

Post	Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Honorary Secretary	Leena Madhvani	Leela Patel	Heather Galbraith
Honorary Treasurer	Snowy Yii	Carol Giblin	Eva Thometz
Grounds & Fixtures Secretary	Christine Wood	Anthea Murray	Heather Galbraith
Committee member	Selina Wong	Eva Thometz	Leela Patel

**6
6.1**

Any Other Business

Division 3 Promotion

Anna Evans (AE) inquired about promotions into division 3 from division 4. It was noted that WS circulated the promotion policy at the beginning of the season and that it would be decided after round 1 and would not include the points after the split. But if the points from both rounds were added, the teams being promoted had actually finished 3rd and 4th. LP responded that the promotion policy was made clear at the beginning of the year and after the split some teams used it as an opportunity to promote players to higher team. Once divisions and numbers are finalized the committee will discuss whether this is necessary next year and whatever is decided will be circulated to teams.

Knockout Cup Finals

Nicola Bruce (NB) asked if there was a reason the finals were scheduled with the men. LP responded that when it was the Holland Cup Rabobank provided sponsorship and the expectation was that the games would be played back to back. KL agreed that marketing and sponsorship were the issue and to aid us in promoting the sport. If it were over two days the spectators would be less. LP added that this season we tried to make it 3 men's and 2 women's finals to make it more even and encourage more women spectators.

Restructuring Proposal

LM asked for clarification around last season's restructuring proposal and what the issues were with implementing it. RB responded that rather than having separate sections i.e. MS and WS, we were proposing to have a league committee and a national squad committee. There were two main driving forces behind the proposal, the Council treasurer wanting to amalgamate all the accounts so it became HKHA

money as opposed to MS and WS, and the restructuring of the office to include an AA doing league and an AA doing national squad. There seemed little point in asking the office to work like this when we do not. One of the stumbling blocks suggested were that a change in personnel on the Council had slowed down the process. LP thanked Jowie for all her hard work with both the MS and WS leagues. The current Council has worked on streamlining processes and this is still a work in progress. LM pointed out that when there is an alignment of sections we need to make sure that the positives from the different sections are not lost. LP added that the HKHA needs to keep with the times and ensure we are competitive with the other NSAs.

Minutes of WS Meeting

AM asked if the minutes of WS meetings should be circulated. RB commented that they never have been in the past and LP agreed that we do not need to. LP also mentioned that MS post disciplinary records and we were planning to next season. Mel Watt (MW) commented that women’s disciplinary problems were very limited on the pitch, and were often personal frustrations. Women players are well behaved and there has not been a need in the past for such disciplinary records.

Match Cards

AE queried the timing of when comments on the electronic match cards were written. Currently captains cannot write anything until after the umpires have signed off. The other captain then cannot see them. Is this how it’s supposed to work? LP replied that we are still learning about the electronic match card system and how they work. We are trying to improve them. The Captains should be encouraged to discuss comments after the game. KR commented that it is very difficult as umpires often rush off to other games. Is it possible to comment before the umpires sign off? KL responded by saying there was no difference between paper and electronic match cards as in the past the captain could write the comment after the umpires signed. AE stated that other captains should be able to see the comments. LP reiterated that captains could show the other captain. MW asked what happens after you’ve submitted comments. She has written numerous comments but hasn’t heard anything. KL replied that they are sent to the WS. LP reiterated that this is a problem that we will work on next season. AE stated that her comments disappeared after submitting them. KL said captains should be able to see them and if they are not there then it means they have not been submitted.

Training slots

ET inquired as to the process behind HKHA offering pitch slots to clubs. LP stated that we don’t offer slots to clubs. CSC’s, however, do have priority and get help. HKHA has historically helped clubs that have asked. This is why we would like to get fixtures done early, then slots can be released for clubs to book.

Awards

Premier League - Winners	Premier Championship - Kitty Yau Trophy	HKFC A
Premier - Runners Up	Brenda Smith Trophy	VALLEY A
1st Division - Winners	Chris Fraser Memorial Cup	HKFC C
1st Division - Runners Up	Southorn Cup	SHAHEEN A
2nd Division - Winners	Luddington Trophy	ELITE A
2nd Division - Runners Up	Conway Cup	PHOENIX A

3rd Division - Winners	Carter Cup	EWIS A
3rd Division - Runners Up	Averil Waters Trophy	PHOENIX B
4th Division - Winners	Hughes Cup	ANTLERS B
4th Division - Runners Up	Deayton Cup	EWIS B
Knockout Competition		
Guv Dillon Cup	Guv Dillon Cup	HKFC A
Knockout Cup	Gremlins Cup	HKFC C
Knockout Plate	Gremlins Plate	ELITE A
Knockout Bowl	Chairman's Bowl	EWIS A
Knockout Saucer	Chairman's Saucer	HKFC H
5 a-side Tournament		
Premier Division - Winners	Glancy Cup	SHENZHEN
7 a-side Tournament		
4th Division - Winners	Therese Thomas Cup	KHALSA A
Player's Award		
Service to Hockey Award		Melanie Watt
Most Outstanding Player		Kelsey Dunn
Most Improved Goalkeeper		Wong Tsz Ching
Most Promising Junior Player		Liu Xinyao
Top Goal Scorer Outside the Premier		Lam Mei Chi
Premier Top Goal Scorer		Nicola Bruce
Premier Player's Choice Award		Kelsey Dunn
Meeting closed at 8.50pm		

Date:

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting: