

HOCKEY HONG KONG, CHINA
WOMEN'S SECTION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
25 JUNE 2024
CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT

This year marks another significant milestone in our hockey community, with several key developments and achievements reflecting our ongoing commitment to growth and excellence. We have seen an increase in the number of teams by 4 teams and first registered players by 151 players, which is a testament to the expanding interest and participation in the sport. However, recognizing the challenges in maintaining these numbers, we have embarked on a two-year trial of the core/non-core initiative. Throughout this period, we have been actively gathering feedback from clubs and revising our approach for clarity. The insights from the end-of-season questionnaire have been particularly valuable, and we will use this feedback to make improvements for the next season.

On the league front, we made a strategic move to develop the Premier Division by splitting it into two segments. The top two teams from Division 1 were promoted at Christmas to compete in Premier B alongside the teams placing 6th, 7th, and 8th in the Premier Division. Meanwhile, the top five teams continued to play in Premier A. This structure aims to foster competitive play and development within the league. Unfortunately, the planned season opener, the Premier Femme Fetale, was cancelled due to rain. Nevertheless, Anita Ho and Vivian Li successfully ran the expanded Hockey 5s tournament over two weekends in January, encompassing all divisions. It turned out to be a fun-filled weekend with positive feedback from participants, and we saw a diverse number of teams winning titles, which added to the excitement and spirit of the event.

In the knockout cup, we maintained stringent rules, and did not approve any movements to ensure fair competition. This strict adherence to rules underscores our commitment to maintaining the integrity of the tournament.

On a national level, our senior teams have had a remarkable year. They finished 9th at the Asian Games in September 2023, won the Singapore Quadrangular in December 2023, and emerged as champions at the Hong Kong LIE in March 2024.

The U21 team has also shown promising results. They achieved 5th place in the Junior AHF in June 2024, which qualified them for the Junior Asia Cup due to happen later this year. Additionally, the Junior Nationals U21 team continues to grow and develop, showcasing the depth of our youth talent.

Our youth initiatives have expanded significantly this year. The Bauhinia B team was formed, and after trials, no player was turned down, allowing all interested youth to pursue the sport. We also launched a new initiative for U12 players to help develop

young talent. Non-national youth initiatives included a trip to Guangzhou GBA in December 2023, a youth exchange in Singapore, and an U12 trip to Yunfu in May 2023. These programs aim to nurture young players from diverse backgrounds and provide them with valuable international exposure and to continue to grow the base of our sport.

In conclusion, this year has been one of growth, innovation, and notable achievements. While we faced challenges, such as attempting to run the league with the sudden closure of KP, adapting to new experimental guidelines, we have also made significant strides in expanding our league, developing youth talent, and achieving success on the national stage.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to several key individuals and organizations who have been instrumental in our success in the last year. Thank you to our national players, Arif Ali as Head coach, Chris Marshall as strength and conditioning coach, Satchi Reddy and Candy Cheung as assistant coach, and Eunice Tong as team manager and Coby Lau as assistant coach for the Junior Squad, for all their hard work and dedication over the past year.

A special note of appreciation goes to Arif Ali, who will not be coaching us moving forward. We are incredibly grateful for all the work he has done with the Women's Squad over two Asian Games cycles. His dedication and expertise have been invaluable, and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence and growth.

At the same time, we are happy to announce Coach Tsoanelo Pholo as the new Women's Squad National Coach. We are excited about the expertise and leadership she brings, and we look forward to the new heights our team will achieve under her guidance.

We also remain grateful to the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB) Team Sports Funding and the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for their generous support, which has allowed our athletes to continue their training programs both on and off the pitch.

A heartfelt thank you to all players, coaches, umpires, and officials, as well as the LCSD and HKFC for providing grounds for making this season possible. I would like to particularly thank the clubs for their patience and adaptability in adjusting to the core/non-core system during its trial period.

To conclude, I would like to thank the outgoing committee, all our staff in the office, all the clubs, for their unwavering support and efforts throughout this year. As we look forward to another year, we remain committed to fostering a vibrant and competitive hockey community.

Chairwoman
Eva Thometz