



**THE HONG KONG HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
WOMEN'S SECTION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
28 JUNE 2022
CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT**

This year marks another season of disruptions due to COVID-19 restrictions, seeing pitches being closed for more than three months. Before the suspension of all sports in Hong Kong in January 2022, all teams had enjoyed four consecutive months of matches and had already begun playing their second round matches. Across all five divisions there were four matches unplayed from Round 1 due to rescheduling from typhoon cancellations (three matches in Division 1 and one in Division 2). The results of these four matches does not affect the top three standings in their respective divisions but they will impact the potential relegation positions. In accordance with promotion and relegation guidelines sent out at the beginning of the season, the champions and runners up for each division were confirmed based on the league standings after Round 1 results only. A big thank you to all players, coaches, umpires and officials who have pulled through these difficult times to complete a successful Round 1.

One of the committee's aims is to support and develop youth players in Hong Kong. Hong Kong has seen a gap in youth development with the cancellation of inter-school sports as well as the multiple pausing of pitches over the last two years. Building on the initiatives introduced in previous years, this year the Bauhinia team played in Division One. Through the guidance of coaches Arif Ali and Coby Lau, and all the hard work of the girls, they have had a phenomenal first season, winning 10 out of 11 matches.

Another initiative that began this year was the HKUHC team, a weeknight team consisting of HKU players coached by Chor Ming Yeung. In its first year, Chor Ming has worked tirelessly to manage the team, for HKUHC to act as a feeder team to allow some of the girls to be promoted to Bauhinia.

I would like to congratulate all players of Bauhinia and HKUHC for coming together for a successful season during these uncertain times. Huge thanks must also be given to Arif, Coby and Chor Ming, who all work tirelessly to develop the future of the sport.

Despite a challenging time preparing for the Asian Games Qualifier, I am proud to share that the Hong Kong national senior squad have qualified for the Asian Games. Not only did Hong Kong qualify, but the team won the tournament convincingly, winning five of the six games they played. The team, led by Arif Ali, played an excellent tournament, conceding just one goal in all matches, while scoring 22 themselves. Co-captain Evelyn Cheung scored an impressive seven goals to win top goal scorer of the

tournament, and Co-captain Coby Lau received an award for being an Asian Hockey Federation Athletes' Ambassador.

I would like to thank our national players, Arif Ali as head coach, Chris Marshall as strength and conditioning coach, Candy Cheung as assistant coach and Eunice Tong as team manager for all their hard work. Thanks must also be given to the teams that have helped prepare our national squad, in particular the Barbarians team lead by Kate Mahon. The HKHAWS remains grateful to the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) Team Sports Funding and Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) for all their generous support over the last year that has allowed our athletes to continue their training program both on and off the pitch.

As noted in previous years, hockey continues to face increasing competition for the use of pitches from other sports and it is imperative that clubs avoid giving walkovers or no-shows. The returfing at Boundary Street is now complete so the pitch is available. Teams will see more matches take place at this location in the coming season. The HKHAWS would again like to thank Hong Kong Football Club for their ongoing support allowing us to use their pitch and affording flexibility to us.

I would like to congratulate this year's individual winners on their success:

Most Improved Goalie: Carmen Hong, who has seen noticeable improvement during the past two seasons, including Barbarians games and when playing for vets, stepping up into the role of starting goalie for the national team.

Most Promising Junior: Martina Calda, who has a significant contribution to HKFC B finishing 3rd in Premier Division and Bauhinia winning Division 1 - she has seen considerable improvement each season.

Most Outstanding Player: Evelyn Cheung. Captain of the national squad, Evelyn has had a solid performance over the last few years and stood out in the Asian Games Qualifier. Her commitment to the national team is second to none and continually motivates her teammates.

Service to Hockey: Heather Galbraith. Heather has served multiple years on KCC hockey on committee roles as well as Women's Section committee and more recently on the national sub-committee. She has been invaluable to the revisions and changes at national team level, bringing increased level of professionalism and transparency in management structure that has been key in their recent success.

To conclude, having come surprisingly into the role as Chairwoman at the beginning of the season, I would like to thank the outgoing committee, all our staff in the office, all the clubs, and all the council members (in particular, Leela Patel for her continued guidance and support) during this difficult year.

Chairwoman
Eva Thometz