

## Minutes of 3rd Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 10 June 2004

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room I, Home Affairs Bureau, 41/F, Revenue Tower,  
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

### Present

Mr CHAU How-chen, SBS, JP (Chairman)

Mr John FAN Kam-ping, BBS, JP (Vice-Chairman)

Mr CHAN Kui-yin

Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing

Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim

Ms CHAU Chuen-heung, MH, JP

Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming, MH

Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah

Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing, MH

Mr PUI Kwan-kay, MH

Mr TONG Wai-lun, MH

Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung

Mr WONG King-cheung, JP

Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung

### **Department Representatives In Regular Attendance**

Mr LAM Kwoon-sun	Education and Manpower Bureau
Dr CHING Cheuk-tuen, Regina	Department of Health
Mr CHAN Wah	Social Welfare Department
Mr Eddie POON	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr YUEN Tim-ming, Timmy	Home Affairs Department
Mr Johnny WOO, BBS, JP	Leisure and Cultural Services Department

### **Absent with Apologies**

Mr CHAN Tung, BBS, JP
Mr Cowen B C CHIU
Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok, SBS, MBE, JP
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, MH
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun, MH
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong, MH, JP
Dr LEUNG Mee-lee

### **In Attendance**

Ms Miranda YEAP (Secretary)	Home Affairs Bureau
Ms YEUNG Yee-wa	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr CHEUNG Kwok-kee, Paul	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms CHAN Yeuk-oi, Olivia	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHEUNG Yiu-kong, Lawrence	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mrs LI CHOI Wing-kwan	Leisure and Cultural Services Department

## **Action**    **I. Confirmation of Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Community Sports Committee**

The minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Community Sports Committee was confirmed without amendments.

## II. Matters Arising

### A. Terms of Reference of Community Sports Committee

2. The revised terms of reference had been sent to members on 31 March. Since no amendments had been received by the Secretariat, the Chairman confirmed the terms of reference.

### B. Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee

3. Upon its establishment, the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS) convened its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on 17 May. The Secretary briefed members on the terms of reference confirmed in the meeting and said that an information paper outlining the existing student sports activities in Hong Kong was being prepared by the Secretariat for members of the SSACS to work out the ways of co-ordination.

The  
Secretariat

## III. Community Recreation and Sports Programmes of Leisure and Cultural Services Department

(Paper CSC 3/2004)

4. The Chairman invited Ms Olivia CHAN of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) to brief members on the Paper CSC 3/2004, and asked members to comment on the recreation and sports programmes organised by the LCSD at the district level.

5. The views and questions of Mr Francis CHAU, Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing, Messrs WONG King-cheung and CHAN Kui-yin were summarised as follows:

- (a) The district training programmes were mainly of “Sport-for-All” nature. A member suggested that more sports programmes be

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organised by the LCSD and the National Sports Associations (NSAs) at the district level and be extended to more districts, with a view to enhancing the public interest in sports participation. In addition to Tai Chi, attempts could also be made to promote other relatively “unpopular” sports. In order to make the best use of district resources, the District Councils (the DCs) should make arrangements in support of the sports programmes organised by the NSAs at district level as far as possible. Mr Johnny WOO replied that the LCSD had already introduced a variety of sports, including those of a relative new origin, to students through the School Sports Programmes (SSP). To enhance promotion of sports culture, the LCSD provided an annual subvention of about HK\$110 million to the NSAs for organising sports programmes at the district level and employing staff to promote such programmes. The LCSD and the NSAs would continue to work out the best ways to extend the programmes to various districts.

- (b) Sports competitions might help raise the standard of athletes and identify those athletes with potential. Thus, the Government should organise more sports competitions and provide the District Sports Associations (DSAs) with more resources for organising such events. Ms Olivia CHAN clarified that the number of events mentioned in the paper referred to the district events hosted by the LCSD only, which did not include the events organised by the Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation (HKSSF) and the NSAs.
- (c) As features and needs varied from district to district, the Government should work out the mode of co-ordination amongst the LCSD, NSAs and DSAs in pooling resources for promotion of community sports, instead of solely attaching importance to the number of competitions.

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- (d) In response to the member's inquiry about the incentives or ancillary facilities provided by the LCSD to enhance public participation in sports, Ms Olivia CHAN said that the LCSD would, as far as possible, balance the needs of all users to ensure that the hire of venues for sports could be dealt with fairly. Meanwhile, half priced concessions were offered to senior citizens, students and persons with a disability to encourage their participation in sports. Mr Johnny WOO said that the Government subsidised about 70% to 80% of the operating costs of the LCSD's sports and recreational facilities. Ms Miranda YEAP added that apart from the venues, the LCSD provided software facilities such as computer booking service and promotion programmes such as "Towards a More Sporting Future" for ease of participation in sports by the public. Ms YEAP also encouraged members to help promote the sports facilities and programmes provided by the Government through various channels.
- (e) To encourage the public to do exercise regularly, a member suggested that special discount on sports activities be offered to family participants.

#### **IV. Management of Public Swimming Pools**

(Paper CSC 4/2004)

6. The Chairman invited Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of the LCSD to brief members on the Paper CSC 4/2004, and asked members to comment on it.
7. The views and questions of Messrs YEUNG Hoi-cheung and LAM Kwoon-sun, Ms CHAU Chuen-heung, Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing, Messrs WONG

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King-cheung, Francis CHAU, CHAN Kui-yin and Benedict LEE were summarised as follows:

- (a) In response to Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung's inquiry about the definition of school hours, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG said school hours referred to the period of 8am to 5pm from Mondays to Fridays and the period of 8am to 1pm on Saturdays (excluding declared school holidays). As to 5pm to 6pm during the weekdays, although priority had been accorded to schools for hiring swimming pools, no half priced concessions would be granted. To avoid affecting public use of swimming pools during weekends or public holidays, the LCSD would discuss with schools to arrange different sessions and different pools for the holding of competitions so as to balance the needs of various parties. Mr LAM Kwoon-sun added that the EMB was considering the initiative to classify all the public holidays and afternoon sessions of Saturdays as school holidays.
- (b) As to the Audit Commission's recommendation for the closure of outdoor heated pools with a low rate of users in the evenings of winter months, Ms CHAU Chuen-heung opined that such measures would be rather passive and suggested that the LCSD should encourage the swimming clubs to hire those pools as far as possible. Mr Paul CHEUNG replied that in view of the low rate of users and reluctance of swimming clubs to hire them, the LCSD would give due consideration to the Audit Commission's recommendation so as to channel the spared resources to appropriate areas.
- (c) Mr LAM Kwoon-sun proposed to classify the swimming pools and dedicate some pools for competition purpose so as to minimize the conflicts between the public and the sports associations when the pools could not be open to both parties simultaneously. Mr Paul

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CHEUNG remarked that uneven use of indoor heated swimming pools usually arose in winter because of their limited supply. LCSD was considering conversion of some outdoor heated swimming pools into indoor ones, but both the swimming clubs and the public requested for conversion of the main pools, which were linked with the spectator stands, into indoor heated swimming pools. Such a conversion was technically difficult and very costly. LCSD was trying to sort out the problem but in the meantime, it would contact the swimming clubs and encourage them to use the less accessible pools with a low rate of users in order to solve the problem of uneven use.

- (d) Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing said that some district-based swimming clubs lost the funding granted by the DCs for running swimming classes because there was no venue to provide such classes. Mr Paul CHEUNG admitted that the majority of swimming clubs preferred to hiring swimming pools, which were well-located and well-equipped, resulting in the uneven use of swimming pools. To resolve the problem, LCSD would meet with the high priority associations to see if the opening hours of the pools throughout the year could be evenly distributed among the associations for their own disposal. It was envisaged that a pilot scheme would start in late 2004 and might continue to be in use in 2005 if the result was satisfactory. The Chairman hoped that swimming associations will coordinate well to resolve the problem.
- (e) Mr WONG King-cheung requested the LCSD to re-plan the supply of swimming pools so that each district would be provided with a heated swimming pool. In response, Mr Paul CHEUNG remarked that the operation of outdoor heated swimming pools was not cost-effective given the huge cost of fuel and low rate of users.

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Hence, LCSD intended to convert them into indoor heated swimming pools. The LCSD and Architectural Services Department would pay a visit to Japan in the near future, in the hope that the retractable design could be introduced to the outdoor heated pools, and if resources permitted, the existing outdoor heated pools would be converted into indoor ones by phases. Such measures would solve the shortage of venues and provide venues for long-term training purpose.

- (f) Mr. LAM Kwoon-sun said that as training in swimming were concentrated at the summer holiday, the school swimming competitions would be held right in its wake in October and November, so that the training would not go to waste.
- (g) Mr Francis CHAU requested to bring forward the first sessional break of the swimming pools so that the public could use them during the lunch hour. As to swimming pools with a low rate of users, LCSD should improve management and maintain good hygiene for them so as to attract the public. Mr Paul CHEUNG said in response that the LCSD consulted the DCs on the time of the break in 2000-01, and the DCs in urban areas unanimously agreed that while there was some flexibility in handling the second break, the time of the first break should not be changed. Mr LAM Kwoon-sun added that the existing timing for the sessional break was suitable to group users for holding competitions.
- (h) Mr CHAN Kui-yin said that LCSD should consider half priced concession for swimming clubs to encourage them to hire the pools with low rate of users. As regards the less accessible pools, transport service should be enhanced; for pools with a high rate of users, they might open more facilities to the public in winter.

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8. The Chairman thanked members for their comments and requested the LCSD to report to the Committee on their consultation with the swimming clubs.

### **V. Any Other Business**

9. In view of the Challenge Gymnasium Incident, Mr Francis CHAU enquired about the arrangement for dedicated venues. Mr Johnny WOO replied that only a few sports, which were of a relatively special nature (e.g. shooting), did not have a dedicated venue. Most of the sports had their training facilities provided by the LCSD and sports centres were generally suitable for gymnastic competitions. Since there was no venue well equipped for gymnastic training, LCSD planned to convert the Shun Li Tsuen Sports Centre into a permanent gymnastic training centre. Mr Paul CHEUNG added that after the consultation between the LCSD and the NSAs in 2001, it was concluded that, apart from providing dedicated venues for training of the national teams, LCSD should provide training grounds for the NSAs. All the facilities at the designated venues were ready for use, therefore sparing athletes the time for setting up such facilities. Concerning the Shun Li Tsuen Sports Centre, the problem of resources had been resolved and its design completed. The project was to commence in one or two months and scheduled for completion by the end of the coming year.

10. Mr Johnny WOO presented an information paper on the Corporate Games 2004.

11. Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung stated that the HKSSF had all along been receiving support from the LCSD in staging sports events but they had difficulties in hiring venues for competitions for 2005. He hoped that the LCSD could communicate with the HKSSF so as to facilitate the staging the competitions. Mr Johnny WOO said in response that the LCSD attached great importance to

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student sports competitions, and was actively studying the paper with a view to arranging venues, so that school sports competitions would not be affected. Mr WOO also recommended that the paper be referred to the SSACS for discussion. The Chairman agreed to the recommendation and hoped that the SSACS would be able to come up with a sound solution to the problem.

12. The Chairman announced that the passing of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (Repeal) Bill in the legislative Council implied that the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (the SDB) would shortly be dissolved and replaced with the new Sports Commission (the Commission). It was expected that the Commission would be more efficient in performing its functions and relaying the public opinions to the Government. As the Commission had not yet been established, all issues relating to the criteria of funding and support could be discussed in due course. The Chairman proposed to postpone the discussion on the need for establishment of a sub-committee to review the funding criteria until the next meeting.

13. Apart from the SSACS, other sub-committees would be set up in the future. To facilitate the work of the Secretariat, the Chairman hoped that each member would join no more than two sub-committees.

## The

## Secretariat

14. In response to the member's request, the Secretariat would distribute the proposal of the Honourable Albert CHAN Wai-yip on sports development to members for reference.

## **VI. Date of Next Meeting**

15. The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and offering valuable comments. Members would be informed of the confirmed date and venue of the fourth meeting in due course.

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16. The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Home Affairs Bureau

July 2004