

Minutes of 4th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 28 October 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

Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim

Ms CHAU Chuen-heung, MH, JP

Mr Cowen B C CHIU

Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah

Mr Benedict LEE Shui-sing, MH

Mr PUI Kwan-kay, MH

Mr SUEN Kai-cheong, MH, JP

Mr TONG Wai-lun, MH

Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung

Mr WONG King-cheung, JP

Dr LEUNG Mee-lee

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Mr TANG Fat-yuen Education and Manpower Bureau

Dr MOK Chiu-yau Department of Health

Miss Ophelia CHAN, BBS Social Welfare Department

Mr Eddie POON Home Affairs Bureau

Mr Frankie LUI Kin-fun, JP Home Affairs Department
Mr Johnny WOO, BBS, JP Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Absent with Apologies

Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing
Mr CHAN Tung, BBS, JP
Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming, MH
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, MH
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun, MH
Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung

In Attendance

Mr SIU Yu-bun, Alan, JP Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr CHENG Kong-yu Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Lawrence CHEUNG Yiu-kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms HEUNG Ching-yee Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Miranda YEAP (Secretary) Home Affairs Bureau
Ms YEUNG Yee-wa Home Affairs Bureau

Action I. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members to attend the meeting, and announced that Dr York CHOW Yat-ngok had submitted his resignation to the Committee after assuming the post of Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (SHWF). On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Dr CHOW for his contribution and support to the Committee, and congratulated him on his new post as the SHWF.

II. Confirmation of Minutes of 3d Meeting of Community Sports Committee

2. The minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Community Sports Committee was confirmed without amendments.

III. Matters Arising

A. Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee

3. As regards the preparation for a paper outlining the current students sports in Hong Kong for reference of the Student Sports Activities Co-ordinating Sub-Committee (SSACS), Ms HEUNG Ching-yee of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) reported that the LCSD issued questionnaires to local primary and secondary schools in late June 2004 to survey the students sports programmes currently held by these schools. Now that most of the questionnaires had been received, the findings were expected to be available by the end of November. The Vice-chairman opined that apart from those data, they also needed information on the participation of students territory-wide in sports and competitions at various levels and in different institutions such as NSAs subvented by the LCSD, Hong Kong School Sports Federation, and Hong Kong Post-Secondary Colleges Athletic Association etc. Such information would help the SSACS scrutinise and review the current students sports activities in Hong Kong and, through reallocation of resources, channel back achieved saving to other sports programmes. Hence, the LCSD might have to further examine the situation and need longer time to prepare the paper.

4. The Chairman told the meeting that many District Councils' chairmen and vice-chairmen, who were concerned about sports development, proposed that sports development be promoted alongside the lately announced educational reform. In response, Mr TANG Fat-yuen of the Education and Manpower

Bureau (EMB) said that from the present on to 19 January 2005, the EMB would conduct consultation on the educational reform and consultation sessions on sports development would be held for the teaching staff. EMB would also conduct consultation on the proposed curriculum of including a few electives in addition to four compulsory subjects before arriving at a decision. In that connection, the Chairman suggested the SSACS discuss the educational reform and submit their views to the EMB. The vice-chairman agreed and would convene a meeting as soon as possible.

B. Management of Public Swimming Pools

5. Concerning the even allocation of time for using swimming pools, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of the LCSD reported that the LCSD had held three meetings with the swimming associations, district affiliate clubs and other concerned groups in the past few months. They agreed in principle that further negotiation was needed to work out the details of operation and a report would be submitted to the Committee once the result was available.

C. Funding Sub-committee

6. The Chairman remarked that the Committee would not consider setting up the Funding Sub-committee until the Sports Commission had laid down a clear direction upon its establishment.

IV. Principles on Allocation of Sports Subvention to National Sports Associations and Sports Organisations

(Paper CSC 5/2004)

7. The Chairman invited Mr CHENG Kong-yu of the LCSD to brief members on the Paper CSC 5/2004, and asked members to comment on the principles on allocation of sports subvention to National Sports Associations

(NSAs) and sports organisations.

8. In response to Dr LEUNG Mee-lee's enquiry, Ms Miranda YEAP said that all minutes, agendas and papers for the Committee meetings would be uploaded to HAB's website for easy reference of the public.

(Minutes of 3rd CSC meeting, and agenda and papers for 4th CSC meeting have been uploaded to HAB's website on 5 November.)

9. Dr LEUNG Mee-lee stated that the Olympic Committee (OC) would consult the NSAs on the agreement of subvention and forward the findings to the LCSD.

10. In response to the enquiries of Messrs CHAN Kui-yin and WONG King-cheung, Mr CHENG Kong-yu stated that:

- (a) The subvention mentioned in the paper CSC 5/2004 was solely the LCSD's subvention for the NSAs, exclusive of the funding from the former Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB); and
- (b) among the 85 eligible sports organisations mentioned in the paper, 57 are NSAs and 28 are sports organisations recognised by the LCSD and OC.

11. Mr Johnny WOO of the LCSD added that the targeted groups of the subvention scheme was basically the NSAs, but long-standing organisations recognised by the OC or recipients of subvention from the two former municipal councils would also be included. However, new comers were limited to the newly established NSAs.

12. Mr WONG King-cheung inquired about the difference between the

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funding criteria of the current year and the previous year, and whether or not the subvention for the community sports would be increased. Mr CHENG Kong-yu said the overall funding criteria were the same, despite some difference in the administrative procedure. In the current year, the LCSD would grant the NSAs with a block vote, i.e. a lump sum of subvention for the whole year, in order to facilitate their planning of annual sports programmes. Should the NSAs come up with a surplus upon completion of all the programmes in the funding agreement, they could save up to 25% of the remaining subvention for the coming year. Besides, NSAs' support to District Sports Associations (DSAs) and Community Sports Clubs could enhance the promotion of community sports. Mr Johnny WOO added that the \$45.1 million of Programmes Expenses in the paper involved a variety of sports programmes at district level such as Young Athletes Training Scheme and district squads development, but excluded the sports programmes organised by the LCSD in the 18 Districts. The Chairman suggested the LCSD consider a breakdown of the subvention for reference of the members.

13. Mr CHAN Kui-yin asked if there would be any change in the current year's subvention and whether or not the saving of resources achieved could be channeled back to other sports programmes upon the dissolution of the SDB. Mr Johnny Woo stated that although it was necessary for the LCSD to cut expenditure, but the amount of subvention remained unaffected at the level of the previous year. Though the former SDB received subvention from the Government, it still needed to resort to its fund in order to meet its overheads. After disbanding of the SDB, Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) had taken up the elite training programme. It was conducting a reallocation of resources with a view to channeling them back to elite training.

V. District Football Teams

(Paper CSC 6/2004)

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14. The Chairman invited Ms Alice HEUNG of LCSD to brief members on the Paper CSC 6/2004, and asked members to comment on the development of District Football Teams (DFTs).

15. Mr SUEN Kai-cheong expressed support in principle for the set up of DFTs in 18 districts. However, it would be difficult to promote DFTs without regular funding. In order to materialise the development of DFTs, HAB should require all District Councils (DCs) to treat the funding for DFTs as a regular item. Mr Johnny WOO said that given the autonomy in finance and in-house affairs enjoyed by all DCs and the uniqueness of district needs, it would be difficult to impose it as a mandatory requirement on DCs in practice. Mr Frankie LUI of HAD pointed out that despite its governance over the vote, HAD could only raise such an idea for DCs' consideration since the latter enjoyed financial autonomy. In fact, the majority of DCs supported the formation of DFTs and only a few were still considering the proposal. The District Officers concerned would strive for support from their respective DCs for this proposal. The Chairman also said that the majority of DCs consented to participate in these sports events as far as possible.

16. Mr SUEN Kai-cheong said that the practice of providing regular funding for the organisation of district sports events by the former two Municipal Councils should be continued. However, Mr WONG King-cheung remarked that it was not appropriate to require DCs to support particular kinds of sports. He also pointed out the crucial roles played by NSAs, DCs and DSAs, which in particular takes up a lot of management and co-ordination works of DFTs. Comparatively speaking, the amount of funding was less important. In addition to DC's funding, DFTs might also solicit support from the commercial sector of respective districts, which could help boost solidarity in districts. Mr Johnny WOO recognised the significant contribution of DSAs to the promotion of DFTs.

17. Mr Kenneth TSUI enquired if the DFTs Training Scheme was under the

auspices of LCSD and if similar schemes would be available for other kinds of sports. Ms Alice HEUNG explained that the Hong Kong Football Association (HKFA) had commissioned a consultancy study on the soccer development of Hong Kong in 2002 before taking initiatives to ask all DCs to set up DFTs. In 2003, HAB also commissioned the Central Policy Unit to conduct similar study to solicit the views of the public on the promotion of football so as to introduce programmes that would tie in with the promotion campaign of HKFA. Mr Johnny WOO added that apart from the DFTs Training Scheme, similar sports promotion schemes would be available for other sports like basketball, table tennis and badminton provided that they would tie in with the league games of respective NSAs and obtain support from respective DCs. LCSD would also be glad to discuss with and provide support to other NSAs on similar schemes.

18. Mr Kenny CHOW remarked that it would be necessary to review the positioning and the roles of NSAs, the Government, DCs and DSAs. To promote sports successfully, NSAs should play a leading role with necessary support from the Government and district organisations. DCs should also offer regular funding to the promotion of sports. As to which kind of sports should be funded, it should be left to DCs' own discretion to reflect local characteristics. To promote sports, we should duly consider both the elite training and school sports development in addition to district sports.

19. Ms CHAU Chuen-heung opined that the Government has a very significant role to play in sports promotion. To promote sports successfully, we should review the roles and the positioning of NSAs, the Government and DSAs.

20. The Chairman said that he would discuss the ways to promote district sports at the meeting with the Chairmen and the Vice-Chairmen of 18 districts and subsequently inform members of the conclusion of the meeting. He hoped that the government departments concerned would make reference to the members' views.

VI. Cleansing Programme of Public Swimming Pools

(Paper CSC 7/2004)

21. The Chairman invited Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of LCSD to brief members on the Paper CSC 7/2004, and asked members to comment on LCSD's cleansing programme of public swimming pools.

22. Mr Alan SIU of LCSD added that LCSD had consulted DC Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as well as Leisure Services Committee Chairmen of all districts on the new cleansing arrangement in winter, and the majority agreed that such arrangement could minimise any inconvenience that might cause to the public while swimming clubs were allowed to conduct training courses in the evenings. LCSD would submit a formal paper to all DCs later.

23. There being no other views on the cleansing programme of public swimming pools, the paper was unanimously endorsed.

VII. Work Progress and Proposed Strategic Plan of the Community Sports Committee

(Paper CSC 8/2004)

24. The Chairman invited Ms Miranda YEAP, the Secretary, to brief members on the Paper CSC 8/2004, and asked members to comment on the proposed strategic plan.

25. The views of the Vice-Chairman, Messrs SUEN Kai-cheong, CHAN Kui-yin and Benedict LEE were as follows:

(a) As there had been a lot of exchange programmes regularly held

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among primary and secondary schools in Hong Kong, Guangdong, Macau and Fujian, the exchange programmes mentioned in the plan should focus on communication with Shanghai.

- (b) We should set up a focus group to thoroughly discuss and work out a detailed plan for co-ordination of the roles and functions of NSAs, DSAs, schools and government departments.
- (c) In view of the major role of schools in the sports development, we should enhance their representation by nominating the Hong Kong Post-secondary Colleges Athletic Association and the Hong Kong School Sports Federation as representatives.
- (d) To successfully motivate the community to take part in sports, we need various sorts of resources for support and work out a detailed plan and schedule. We might also consider setting up working groups to discuss with and hear the views from various sectors before formulating a feasible initiative.

VIII. Any Other Business

26. Mr Alan SIU told members that LCSD was studying the ways to co-ordinate the use of public swimming pools by swimming instructors and other users and would submit a paper on this issue to the Committee in due course.

IX. Date of Next Meeting

27. The Chairman thanked members for attending the meeting and offering their valuable comments. Members would be further informed of the confirmed date and venue of the fifth meeting.

28. The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

Home Affairs Bureau

November 2004