

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of 8th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

Date: 28 September 2005 (Wednesday)
Time: 2:30 pm
Venue: Conference Room I, Home Affairs Bureau, 41/F, Revenue Tower,
5 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Present

Mr CHAU Hou-chen (Chairman)
Mr CHAN Kui-yin
Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing
Ms CHAU Chuen-heung
Mr Francis CHAU Yin-ming
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Mr TONG Wai-lun
Mr Kenneth TSUI Kam-cheung
Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung
Prof LEUNG Mee-lee
Mr PUI Kwan-kay

Department representatives in Regular Attendance

Mr TANG Fat-yuen (Representative from Education and
Manpower Bureau)
Dr MOK Chiu-yau (Representative from Department of Health)
Miss Olivia CHAN Yeuk-oi (Representative from Leisure and Cultural
Services Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr John FAN Kam-ping (Vice-chairman)
Mr Norman CHAN Shui-tim
Mr CHAN Tung
Dr CHEUNG Siu-yin
Mr Cowan B CHIU
Mr Kenny CHOW Kun-wah

Mr Benedict LEE Shiu-sing
Mrs Laura LING LAU Yuet-fun
Dr LO Wing-lok
Mr SUEN Kai-cheong
Miss Ophelia CHAN (Representative from Social Welfare
Department)
Mr Richard LUK Fong Chun (Representative from Home Affairs
Department)

In Attendance

Ms Anissa WONG	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Alan SIU	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Lawrence CHUENG	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Winnie LEE	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mrs Kane LI	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Alice HEUNG	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Rebecca LOU	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Richard WONG	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Daniel SIN (Secretary)	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr Alfred LAW	Home Affairs Bureau
Miss Florence IP	Home Affairs Bureau
Mr YIP Wing-sang	Department of Justice
Mr YIP Kai-shing	Environmental Protection Department
Mr Anthony CHAN	Hong Kong Life Saving Society
Miss Apple CHAN	Hong Kong Life Saving Society
Mr Martin LAM	Hong Kong Football Association

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He remarked that this was the third meeting of the Community Sports Committee (CSC) of the new term. Since many members were unable to attend the meeting scheduled on the morning of 21 September 2005, the meeting was rescheduled to this afternoon.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of 7th Meeting of Community Sports Committee

2.1 The Secretariat issued the draft minutes of the 7th meeting to members on 22 June 2005 and made amendments according to members' comments. There being no further amendments, the Chairman announced the endorsement of the minutes of the 7th meeting.

Item 2: Matters Arising

Advisory Committee on Physical Fitness Test for the Community

3.1 The Chairman invited Mr Francis CHAU to report on the progress of work.

3.2 Mr Francis CHAU reported on the Advisory Committee's second meeting held on 27 September during which the implementation date, launching ceremony and publicity campaign of the project were discussed. Details of the progress of work of the Advisory Committee are at Annex A.

3.3 The Chairman hoped that the test could commence as soon as possible so that the project could be completed within the timeframe as set out in the progress report.

Shanghai and Hong Kong Sports Exchange and Cooperation – Summer Sports Camp for Youth 2005

3.4 The Summer Camp was completed, with Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung and Mr CHAN Kui-yin as the Head and Deputy Head of Hong Kong's delegation respectively. The Chairman invited Mr YEUNG to present paper CSC 12/05.

3.5 The Chairman thanked Mr YEUNG and Mr CHAN for leading the camp, which was of great benefit to the participating youngsters.

Enhancing the Usage Rate of Fitness Rooms

3.6 The Secretariat reported that the LCSD had taken follow-up actions on the recommendations put forward by the Chairman, Dr LO and Dr CHEUNG after their visit to the LCSD's fitness rooms vide paragraph 3.10 of the minutes of the last meeting.

3.7 Regarding the proposed provision of two hours' demonstration and instruction for users of fitness equipments to replace the existing requirement for possession of Fitness Gold Cards, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of LCSD reported that after discussion with the Physical Fitness Association of Hong Kong, China (HKPFA), it would be more appropriate to increase the instruction time from two hours to three hours. LCSD would implement this proposal early next year.

3.8 Regarding the proposed exemption of qualified sport teachers from the fitness coach qualifications in guiding students to use the fitness equipments, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG stated that upon exchange of views with the HKPFA, it was believed that these teachers should not be exempted for the time being but considerations could be given to reducing the current required training hours from

30 hours to 24 hours for the qualification of a fitness coach.

3.9 For the proposed lowering of the minimum age to 15 for the existing users, Mr Lawrence CHEUNG said that upon discussion with the HKPFA and making reference to the relevant information from Canada, it was proposed that the minimum age should be set at 15. Dr MOK Chiu-yau of Department of Health (DH) remarked that LCSD should consult the DH on the proposal and consider whether parents' consent should be obtained before 15-year-olds are allowed to use the fitness equipments. Prof LEUNG Mee-lee had reservations on making reference to the standards in Canada. She believed that LCSD should carefully discuss with the DH on the implementation of the proposal. Mr Lawrence CHEUNG of LCSD said that a written request had been made to the DH for its advice.

Proposed development of a stadium in South East Kowloon

3.10 The Secretariat forwarded views of the CSC to the Sports Commission (SC) for consideration. The SC discussed the issue again on 7 September 2005 and proposed to further consult the various sectors (especially the sports sector).

3.11 The Chairman mentioned the unfavourable report on the development of the stadium (e.g. the expensive land in South East Kowloon could increase the government revenue if it was used for estate development). Such reports would affect the forthcoming second round of public consultation. He hoped the Members would take initiative to brief their respective sector/ organizations so as to seek support for this project which was important to the future development of sport.

Working Group on Monitoring of Performance of Contractors at Sports Centres

3.12 Ms Rebecca LOU of LCSD presented CSC Paper 13/05.

3.13 The Chairman held an informal meeting with several members on this agenda item. The participating members proposed to set up an ad hoc working group with sole responsibility of monitoring the performance of LCSD's contractors. The working group should submit a report to the CSC within a designated period (for instance six months). The Chairman said that the Secretariat had written to invite Members to join the working group and 12 members expressed interest. In addition to Ms CHAU Chuen-heung who indicated her interest in joining it during the meeting, the working group would have 13 members.

3.14 Mr LEUNG Che-cheung suggested "swimming pools" should expressly be included in the terms of reference of the working group. Upon deliberation, Members unanimously endorsed the revised terms of reference of the Working Group on Monitoring of Performance of Contractors at Sports Centres, and agreed

Mr LEUNG would be the convener.

Item 3: Review of Sports Policy
(CSC Paper 14/05)

4.1 The Secretary presented CSC Paper 14/05.

4.2 The Chairman remarked that as the Sport Commission (SC) was established on 1 January 2005, it was time to conduct another review the sports policy. During the second meeting of the SC, Members referred to the views of members voiced in the brainstorming session and resolved that the CSC should commit themselves to the following aspects of community sports: (a) Physical Fitness Test for the Community; (b) sports for students; and (c) provision and management of venues.

4.3 The Chairman proposed that the CSC should focus on the following works and set priorities for them:

- (a) Use and allocation of resources;
- (b) Feasibility of Sports Lottery Fund;
- (c) Role of community clubs;
- (d) Pros and cons of venues being managed by the National Sports Associations(NSAs); and
- (e) Ways for providing athletes for development of elite sports.

4.4. The Chairman remarked that apart from the above topics, Members were welcome to raise other issues. As the review was vast in scope and magnitude, the CSC might consider convening a special meeting for discussion. He proceeded to invite members to offer their opinions.

4.5 Mr Francis CHAU, Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing, Mr LEUNG Che-cheung, Ms CHAU Chuen-heung and Mr YEUNG Hoi-cheung gave the following advice:

- (a) A special meeting should be convened on the matters of concerns to the CSC;
- (b) The review on sports culture policy and strategic planning should be made for 2, 3 or 5 years;
- (c) Concrete proposals should be made on the provision and management of sports venues and deliberation should be conducted on the cooperation with the community organizations like the District Sports Associations (DSAs);
- (d) The government should provide more resources for district sports associations to perfect their organization for better discharge of their functions; and
- (e) The government should avoid overlapping of resources.

4.6 Ms Anissa WONG of LCSD made the following responses:

- (a) Review on sports policy involved a lot of areas, and its main task

- was to facilitate sport development with equitable use of resources;
- (b) LCSD would conduct a comprehensive and in-depth discussion on providing financial support to the development of DSAs;
 - (c) LCSD would review on new funding arrangement; and
 - (d) LCSD would consider and review the outsourcing of venue management.

Item 4: Joint-venture with the Summer Youth Programme (SYP) Committee (CSC Paper 15/05)

5.1 The Chairman invited Mr Alfred LAW of HAB to present CSC Paper 15/05.

5.2 The Chairman stated that he had a preliminary discussion with the Chairman of SYP Committee on cooperation with the CSC, and agreed that it would be conducive to the promotion of the activities of both committees. He hoped Members would provide their support.

5.3 Mr Francis CHAU supported the joint organization of SYP between the two committees. He suggested arranging visits to equestrian events and golf courses and providing SYP Committee with more themes of activities for consideration.

Item 5: Management of Swimming Pools

(a) Allocation of swimming lanes in public pools for training of lifesaving (CSC Paper 16/05)

6.1 The Chairman invited Mr Richard WONG of LCSD to present CSC Paper 16/05.

6.2 Mr Anthony CHAN of Hong Kong Lifesaving Society said that before 2003 the Society provided about 4 800 man-hours of volunteer lifesaving service by qualified lifeguards at beaches and swimming pools for the Government. After 2003, the Society upgraded the requirement of qualification of lifeguards from Bronze Medallion to Pool lifeguard Award or Beach lifeguard Award. From then on the Society could only provide about 2 000 man-hours of volunteer lifesaving services by qualified lifeguards for the government. To meet the demand for qualified lifeguards, the Society needed to organize more lifesaving training courses. Therefore there were stronger demand for swimming lanes by the Society and its affiliates to organize for training and examination.

6.3 Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing agreed that more swimming lanes should be assigned for training of lifeguards by the Society so as to meet the statutory requirement. However she worried about its implications on the public, the Hong Kong Swimming Association and DSAs.

6.4 Mr Richard WONG of LCSD said in response that the department would strive to arrange and phase the training in winter so as to avoid affecting the swimmers and swimming associations.

6.5 Mr CHAN Kui-yin asked if the arrangement was a new policy or a temporary measure. Ms Anissa WONG of LCSD remarked that the measure was introduced in response to the demand for lifeguards and the statutory requirement.

6.6 Prof LEUNG Mee-lee hoped that the NSAs, i.e. the Hong Kong Lifesaving Society and Hong Kong Swimming Association should have better communication better so as to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding.

6.7 Mrs CHAN LO Yin-bing inquired if private swimming pools were used for training of lifeguards. Mr Richard WONG of LCSD said in response that as most of the private swimming pools were not up to standard, they were not suitable for training.

6.8 Upon discussion, Members agreed to the proposed measures in paragraphs 6 to 10 so as to maintain steady and sufficient supply of qualified lifeguards in the market and provide reliable lifesaving service in the private and public swimming pools.

Meeting Adjourned

7.1 Since the members were not sufficient to form a quorum after a number of members had left the meeting, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 4:15 pm according to paragraph 4 of the Standing Orders. As agreed by the members at present, CSC would continue to discuss the remaining agenda items (summary of the discussion on the remaining items vide Annex B). The Secretariat would circulate the document concerned among members absent from the meeting and compile their feedback on the items for endorsement in the next meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The members absent from the meeting did not have any feedback on the remaining agenda items.)

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
December 2005

**Advisory Committee on Physical Fitness Test for the Community
Progress Report**

(A) Implementation date

Subsequent to the 1st meeting of Advisory Committee on Physical Fitness Test in the Community on 6 May 2005, the 2nd meeting was convened on 27 September 2005. Commissioning of a professional agent for planning, design of questionnaire and test items, analysis of data and discussion on the content of the report, were expected for completion by October. Training of part-time staff for collection of data from the physical tests was conducted in November. Collection of the data was to start in late November. The whole project is expected to take 2 to 3 months, while the analysis of data and preparation for report will take a month. Therefore the whole project is scheduled for completion by March 2006.

(B) Launching ceremony

Launching ceremony will take place at the piazza of Kowloon Park at 2 pm on 26 November 2005 (Saturday). Programmes after the ceremony include: fitness test, sport performance, exhibition on sport and health and quiz. Proposed officiating guests are Mr CHOW How-chen, SBS, JP, Chairman of the Community Sports Committee, Dr LO Wing-lok, JP, convenor of Advisory Committee on Physical Fitness Test, and a representative of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department. To enhance community involvement, representatives from the 18 District Councils, Department of Health, Education and Manpower Bureau, Hong Kong Medical Association and the incumbent Healthy Exercise Ambassadors will be invited to attend the ceremony for publicity of the Test.

(C) Publicity scheme

(a) District Fitness Test Day

District Fitness Test Days are planned for Saturday, Sunday or public holidays at the sports venues in the 18 districts. Representatives of District Councils, schools, private sector, community organizations will be invited for involvement so as to encourage the residents to participate actively in the Test.

(b) Outreaching test scheme

Under the outreaching test scheme, equipment will be taken to the participatory organizations to test the fitness of the participants. The organizer will make reference to the requirement for age groups and randomly invite organizations for participation.

(c) Promotion on Radio

The Test will be promoted in programmes of the RTHK for publicity.

(d) Others

Banners and posters will be displayed and pamphlets distributed at the venues under Leisure and Cultural Service Department. A website of the project will be set up for browsing by the public. Moreover, the Test will be publicized and promoted to the public through the Home Affairs Department and Information Services Department.

8th Meeting of Community Sports Committee
Summary of Discussion on the Remaining Agenda Items

(1) Discovery of Faeces and Vomiting Material at Public Swimming Pools
(CSC Paper 17/05)

1.1 Members in attendance agreed to the measures stated in paragraphs 6 to 10 of the paper to tackle the problem of faeces and vomiting material, and proposed the LCSD should enhance the publicity of Public Cleansing and Prevention Nuisances Regulation to the public, especially the relevant punishment for deterrent purpose.

(2) Establishment of the Hong Kong Football Association Football Academy
(CSC Paper 18/05)

2.1 Members noted that the Academy was located at a restored landfill which might be subject to site settlement and therefore construction of an artificial turf pitch was not recommended. As to the curriculum of the Academy, the representative of Hong Kong Football Association stated the proposed Academy would be different from Jockey Club Ti-I College and would only offer training courses related to football.

2.2 Members held the following views:

- (a) Pollution and gas emission at the landfill used for development of recreational and sports facilities should be closely monitored;
- (b) Community should be mobilized to resume the popularity of football;
- (c) The Academy might attract interested footballers with good potential; it should offer football skill training as well as moral education to them; and
- (d) The Hong Kong Football Association should finalize the management and future plan of the Academy, and inform the CSC once it was available. It should also consult the District Councils on the construction of the Academy.

(3) Handling of noise nuisance created by singing in park

3.1 The LCSD's representative tabled a paper and requested the Members to offer their views on handling of the noise nuisance created by people singing in parks under the management of the Department. The representative noted that to allow each visitor to use the facilities of the park as they like and to protect the other users and nearby residents from being disturbed, the LCSD suggested taking the following measures upon preliminary consultation with the Department of Justice, Hong Kong Police Force and Environmental Protection Department:

- (a) Ban on the use of external audio amplifiers and loudspeakers in areas outside the designated performing venues in the park; and
- (b) Strengthened law enforcement according to pleasure grounds regulation and Noise Control Ordinance.

3.2 Regarding the above arrangements, Members raised the following inquiries:

- (a) Was there any grey area in the LCSD's management of the parks?
- (b) How to minimize conflict on the use on loudspeakers?
- (c) Could the LCSD staff deployed in the park take prosecution actions?

3.3 The LCSD's representative stated that the park was not designed for performance. In taking the action, they would stick to the principle of education first, to be followed by regulation and prosecution. LCSD would try to take such measures in Tuen Mun first, and the staff would prosecute only those who failed to stop their behaviour upon giving advices. The Department would also consult the DCs on the matter.

3.4 Upon discussion, the Members supported the arrangements and measures in principle, but cautioned the LCSD to raise the standard of law enforcement staff so as to maximize the rate of successful prosecution.