

COMMUNITY SPORTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the 35th Meeting of the Community Sports Committee

Date: 19 December 2014 (Friday)
Time: 10:30 am
Venue: Conference Room 401, 4/F, Leisure and Cultural Services Headquarters,
1-3 Pai Tau Street, Sha Tin, Hong Kong

Present: Mr TONG Wai-lun (Chairman)
Mr David YIP Wing-shing (Vice-chairman)
Mr Daniel CHAM Ka-hung
Mr CHENG Shu-ming
Mr CHU King-yuen
Ms LEE Ching-nga
Ms Peggy LEE Pik-yee
Mr Philip LI Wing-kuen
Mr LIU Ah-chuen
Mr Raphael TONG Tai-wai
Prof Stephen WONG Heung-sang
Mrs Cecillia WONG LAM Siu-ling
Dr Simon YEUNG Sai-mo
Mr George YIP Chi-wai
Dr YUNG Shu-hang
Mr Ronnie WONG Man-chiu

Department Representatives in Regular Attendance

Mr Richard WONG Tat-ming (Representative from Leisure and Cultural Services Department)
Mr Vincent CHIU Kam-chuen (Representative from Home Affairs Bureau)
Dr Anne FUNG Yu-kei (Representative from Department of Health)
Mr HO Chun-ip (Representative from Education Bureau)
Ms Miriam POON Wai-ming (Representative from Social Welfare Department)

Absent with Apologies

Mr Henry CHAN Chi-chiu
Ms TUNG Kin-lei

Mrs Stella LAU KUN Lai-kuen

Ms Elia WONG Ngai-lui

(Representative from Home Affairs
Department)

In Attendance

Ms Michelle LI Mei-sheung

(Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)

Mr Raymond FAN Wai-ming

(Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)

Ms Rebecca LOU Wai-yi

(Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)

Ms Joanne FU Lai-chun

(Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)

Secretary

Ms Winnie LEE Fung-ming

(Leisure and Cultural Services
Department)

Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and representatives from various government departments to the meeting. He also welcomed Mr Raymond FAN, JP and Mr Richard WONG, who had taken up the posts of Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Leisure Services) and Assistant Director (Leisure Services)² of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) respectively. He also welcomed Ms Winnie LEE, the new Secretary of the Community Sports Committee (CSC), for attending the meeting for the first time; and Mr Ronnie WONG of the Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China for attending on behalf of Prof LEUNG Mee-lee, who was unable to attend the meeting. On behalf of the CSC, the Chairman expressed thanks to Mr Bobby CHENG, JP, the former Deputy Director of Leisure and Cultural Services; and Miss Olivia CHAN, JP, the former Assistant Director of the LCSD, for their contribution to the CSC.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of Last Meeting of the CSC

2.1 The draft minutes of the 34th meeting of the CSC had been emailed to Members by the Secretariat for comment on 30 October. Since no proposals for amendments had been received and no further amendment was proposed at the meeting, the Chairman announced that the minutes of the 34th meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Matters Arising

(i) Progress Report on the 5th Hong Kong Games

3.1 The Chairman invited Ms Rebecca LOU, Secretary General of the 5th Hong Kong Games (HKG) Organising Committee, to report on the progress of the organising work for the 5th HKG.

3.2 Ms Rebecca LOU reported that the Standing Committee and the Organising Committee of the 5th HKG had held their third and second meetings on 18 December and 9 October respectively and discussed the progress of the organising work. The 5th HKG was scheduled to take place from 25 April to 31 May 2015. Subsequent to the press conference held at Kowloon Park on 19 May 2014, the 18 District Councils had started selecting athletes for the eight sports competitions and would submit to the Organising Committee the name lists of district delegations and athletes by 30 January 2015.

3.3 As scheduled, the Secretariat of the Organising Committee had rolled out the publicity work of the 5th HKG through different channels and kicked off a series of promotion and community participation activities, including the Elite Athletes' Demonstration and Exchange Programmes held between June and November 2014 which covered the eight sports competitions of the 5th HKG, and the "Sports Seminar cum Carnival" held at the Kowloon Park Piazza in the afternoon on 1 November 2014 (Saturday). In addition, the 18 districts' pledging ceremony would be staged at the Kowloon Park Sports Centre in the afternoon on 15 February 2015 (Sunday); the Voting and Guessing activities and the Dynamic Moments Photo Contest would kick off in mid-February and early March 2015 respectively; "The Jockey Club Vitality Run", a new activity, would take place at the Sha Tin Sports Ground and along Shing Mun Riverside in the morning on 8 March 2015 (Sunday), while the Cheering Team Competition for the 18 Districts would be held at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Sports Centre on 29 March 2015 (Sunday).

3.4 The ceiling of subsidy to be provided by the LCSD to 18 districts for organising district teams to compete in and prepare for the 5th HKG would be increased to some \$570,000 from about \$500,000 in the 4th HKG. Meanwhile, the Organising Committee had so far received sponsorship in cash amounting to \$6.09 million and in kind/service worth around \$3.54 million from 16 organisations, among which \$6 million in cash came from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, making it the Principal Contributor for the third successive HKG and the Title Sponsor for three activities/events of the 5th HKG, namely the Vitality Run, basketball and futsal. Meanwhile, the proposed additional \$1 million cash sponsorship from

Mr Henry CHAN was subject to official confirmation by the Organising Committee's in next month's meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The proposed additional \$1 million cash sponsorship from Mr Henry CHAN was officially confirmed by the OC.)

3.5 The Chairman thanked Mr Henry CHAN for his sponsorship and asked Members to make time for the activities/events of the 5th HKG.

Item 3: Report on School Sports Programme Coordinator Pilot Scheme (CSC Paper 06/14)

4.1 The Chairman recapped that Ms Joanne FU of the LCSD had reported on the initial review of the School Sports Programme Coordinator (SSPC) Pilot Scheme (the Scheme) in February this year. As the Scheme had been running for over two years, the Home Affairs Bureau (HAB) and the LCSD conducted a comprehensive review on it. He asked Ms Joanne FU of the LCSD to present the findings of the review by PowerPoint and asked Members to refer to CSC Paper 06/14.

4.2 Ms Joanne FU presented CSC Paper 06/14. Members' views on the paper were summarised as follows:

- (a) Ms Peggy LEE, Mrs Cecilia WONG and Mr LIU Ah-chuen suggested providing the SSPCs with more on-the-job training and support to help them better fit into the working environment of the schools.
- (b) Ms Peggy LEE proposed that schools participating in the Scheme this year might seek other resources to carry on with sports promotion in campus after the Scheme ended. In addition, she suggested the quota for the coming year should be allocated according to the share of resources the schools obtained.
- (c) Mrs Cecilia WONG was supportive of the Scheme, which in her opinion had helped promote sports development in schools and achieved the intended results. She hoped that the Scheme could be made permanent. Further, she suggested standardising the employment terms for all SSPCs for the sake of fairness. She considered it necessary to review the reasons for resignation of SSPCs. Moreover, she proposed expanding the Scheme to reach

primary schools and special schools, so as to boost students' interest in sports and to encourage a healthy lifestyle since an early age.

- (d) Mr CHU King-yuen enquired if the method of selection of schools was changed to balloting because the method used this year, schools being assessed on their proposals on school sports development, was not ideal enough.
- (e) Mr LIU Ah-chuen was of the view that the Scheme had achieved its objectives. Leveraging their network and expertise in the sports territory, the SSPCs played a role in promoting sports development in schools. He suggested keeping the SSPCs involved in school administrative duties in the coming year so that they might benefit from the experience for career advancement. In addition to increasing the quota for appointment of SSPCs next year, he suggested letting the serving SSPCs remain in their schools in the coming year so that they could carry forward their work on sports promotion.
- (f) Mr Daniel CHAM hailed the Scheme a success with the intended results achieved. He hoped that the Scheme could be regularised. Also, he recommended compiling statistics on the number of athletes who were about to retire and finding out if they were interested in taking part in the Scheme, so as to estimate the number of athletes available for appointment in the future.
- (g) Mr George YIP welcomed the inclusion of retired athletes of non-elite sports in the Scheme in the coming year. He proposed setting out employment terms for the SSPCs in accordance with the administrative arrangements of individual schools to minimise the impact on schools.
- (h) Mr Daniel CHAM and Mr George YIP both proposed expanding the Scheme to cover all National Sports Associations (NSAs), the LCSD and even sports institutions abroad, where the SSPCs might work as interns. This would offer retired athletes more job opportunities and exposure to tasks of diverse nature including sports promotion, sports facilities management and sports activities organising, which would allow them to broaden their horizons and to gain more working experience.

- (i) Mr Raphael TONG commended the Scheme for encouraging more students to increase their participation in sports. The Scheme's success showed that the Committee had achieved in promoting sports on a community level. Also, under the Scheme, students with potential in sports could be identified and referred to NSAs for further training. He suggested regularising the Scheme and changing the employment arrangement from a one-off hiring of 18 SSPCs for every three years to hiring 6 SSPCs every year, starting from next year. The proposed arrangement could alleviate the difficulty in hiring due to shortage of retired athletes, and at the same time offer chances for retired athletes to enrol every year. In the coming year, the serving SSPCs would have a higher salary than the new recruits. If the annual subvention for each school (which covered both funding for activities and salary of the SSPC) was to be fixed at \$350,000, the activity funding available for schools hiring serving SSPCs would be different from those engaging new recruits. To level the activity funding in different schools, he suggested prescribing two rates of funding to go with the two scenarios. Moreover, he proposed pairing SSPCs with schools according to the SSPC's specialisation and the sports facilities available in individual schools for effective matching.
- (j) Mr Philip LI opined that the mentors appointed by the schools should offer assistance as far as practicable to the SSPCs in performing their routine duties and enhance their adaptability to school administrative work. He also suggested stepping up the publicity for the next round of the Scheme and allowing the SSPCs to work as part-time coaches during their off-duty hours so as to make the post more attractive.
- (k) Mr CHENG Shu-ming considered that the Scheme had achieved the expected results. Despite the fact that some of the SSPCs had resigned, the Scheme should not be regarded as a failure since some retired athletes only realised that they were unsuitable for the job after they had actually worked as SSPCs. They had, after all, acquired work experience from the Scheme and gained a better idea of the orientation of their career.
- (l) Mr Ronnie WONG suggested that more common sports and sports played in major international games be included in the next round of the Scheme to attract more retired athletes.

(m) Mr Vincent CHIU of the HAB said that the Scheme had benefitted retired athletes, students and schools. The most noticeable feature of the Scheme was that the SSPCs were able to pursue continuing education with arrangement by the schools. The change to balloting in the selection of participating schools in the coming round was made in response to requests from various parties. With the continuation of the Scheme, the Working Group would recommend eligible retired athletes to attend interviews with participating schools and help organise sports activities for the schools according to their needs. The HAB would consider efficient allocation of resources for the coming round of the Scheme to benefit more schools and students. As for special schools, the HAB would examine the feasibility of the suggestion and take follow-up action as appropriate. He thanked Members for their support for the next round of Scheme. He was optimistic about the recruitment of SSPCs as the Scheme, after running for two years, has been known to most of the local athletes. Also, the HAB would work to support the initiatives carried out by the Hong Kong Sports Institute (HKSI) and the SF&OC in respect of the employment and education of local athletes and would also step up the publicity for the Scheme so as to attract newly retired athletes to join the next round of the Scheme.

(n) Ms Joanne FU of the LCSD thanked Members for their valuable views and gave a consolidated reply as follows:

- (i) Regarding the recruitment of participating athletes, the Scheme currently targeted at retired athletes of 16 elite sports. With the inclusion of some other sports in the next round of the Scheme, an increase of participants was expected.
- (ii) As indicated by the information provided by the SF&OC and the HKSI, it was expected that about 15 retired athletes would be interested in the Scheme each year.
- (iii) About half of the serving SSPCs had indicated their intention to change career upon completion of the 3-year Scheme, thus the remaining half would stay. Those who wished to stay could re-apply for the Scheme and they stood a better chance to be re-appointed.

- (iv) The Department would step up the publicity work with the HKSI in the face of difficulties in recruiting of SSPCs.
- (v) The reasons for the resignation of the three SSPCs were, respectively, inability to adapt to the working environment of the school and master the administrative work, switching to a sport coaching job and setting up own business. Their resignation had nothing to do with the Scheme itself.
- (vi) In selecting schools for the next round of Scheme, it was proposed that assessment be made first on the compliance of the sports development plans submitted by schools with the basic requirements of the Scheme (for example, whether a mentor would be appointed to assist the SSPCs in their work and the whether the proposed sports activities would be in line with the objectives of the Scheme) and then balloting would be adopted to decide which schools should be admitted. Thus, all eligible schools would have an equal chance to be admitted into the Scheme.
- (vii) As opposed to the practice of the current Scheme, the schools' sports development proposals would no longer be the only assessment criterion. This was primarily due to the difficulty in rating as the sports activities proposed by schools were often similar in nature and effect.
- (viii) As for the participating schools in the current Pilot Scheme which turned out to be not selected for the next round, the LCSD would facilitate their sports development activities through the School Sports Programme as far as possible.
- (ix) In pairing up the participating schools and athletes, a perfect match might not be possible when there were special circumstances. For example, a girls' school with a swimming pool on campus requested that a female SSPC be assigned. However, as there was no swimmer among the female SSPCs participating in the Pilot Scheme, a suitable match could not be made with specific regard to the school's sports facility.

- (x) Members' views and suggestions would be consolidated for consideration by the Pilot Scheme Working Group with a view to refining the next round of Scheme.

4.3 The Chairman thanked Members for their valuable views and believed that their views would be carefully considered by government departments for the enhancement of the Scheme.

Item 4: Any Other Business

5.1 Mr Raphael TONG commended the CSC for following up Members' views and suggestions actively and, as a result, making certain achievements. He took the view that outdoor venues (such as the soccer pitches of Happy Valley Recreation Ground) were insufficiently lit at the beginning of sunset in winter (17:30 – 18:30) as the sun sets more than two hours earlier than in summer. He said that the floodlighting hours for soccer pitches should be adjusted in accordance with the sunset time (as in previous years) and the adjustment should be made a regular practice between November and March every year so as to avoid hampering soccer activities.

5.2 Mr Richard WONG of the LCSD replied that the LCSD had generally installed automatic light control devices with sensors at its venues for environmental protection and better management efficiency and made adjustments according to actual needs. He said that he would follow up the lighting problem at the said soccer pitches and would also remind the relevant sections in the LCSD to pay attention to such problem which might occur at soccer pitches in different districts.

5.3 Ms LEE Ching-nga enquired whether it was necessary to provide the names of all competitors and a copy of their identity documents when booking recreation and sports facilities for competitions.

5.4 Mr Richard WONG of the LCSD replied that organisations would have their eligibility checked when booking recreation and sports facilities for competitions. He said that he would follow up the enquiry after the meeting. (Post-meeting note: The Major Events Section of the LCSD followed up after the meeting and learnt that the enquiry was related to the district selection competitions of the 5th Hong Kong Games. The Section made it clear that applicants were required to produce the original or a copy of their identity card, proof of address and recognised proof of competition results (if applicable) when submitting application forms for on-site verification by counter staff to confirm their eligibility.)

Adjournment of Meeting

6.1 The Chairman said that the meeting was the last one of the current CSC. He thanked Members for their active participation and valuable views in the year past. He hoped that Members would continue to support and promote the development of community sport in Hong Kong.

6.2 The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

Community Sports Committee Secretariat
February 2015