

## Grounds and Fixtures AGM Report 2015-16

20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

This season the women's section had 49 teams competing in the league, which was the same as the previous season. In order to raise the standard of Hong Kong hockey, the women's section decided to allow more players to play at the highest level of the league by promoting the top two teams of division one to play with the bottom two teams of premier division after the first half of the season. The league started with 6 teams at premier division, 10 teams at division one, 9 teams at division four and 8 teams at the rest of the divisions. The Premier teams played 2 rounds and the 1st division will play one in the first half of the season. After completion of these rounds the top 2 teams in the 1st division were promoted to the Premier. The Premier was split into top four and bottom two plus the top two 1st division teams, and played another 2 rounds of games. The 8 teams that were left in the 1st division played their second round of games as normal. Other divisions played two rounds in the whole season, same as the previous seasons.

The 11-a-side tournament was held in September as planned and as a warm up before the league started. However, due to unforeseen circumstances that arose with certain teams, the league games did not start until the first week of October. The committee reviewed the issue and hopefully similar cases will not happen in the future. This season we booked three pitch slots at both Boundary Street and Lok Fu pitch every Saturday to allow a less tight schedule with a longer warm up time for some of the games. Unfortunately, due to a watering problem at Boundary Street pitch from early November till now, games arranged there had to be rescheduled and we were not able to arrange any league games at Boundary street for the rest of the season. We appreciate your understanding when the game reschedule requests could not be entertained due to the lacking of vacant pitch availability.

The annual knockout tournament was arranged for the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5th division and a Holland cup tournament was arranged for premier division similar to what we did previously. With a more strict pitch booking policy from the government applied to the knockout tournament and Holland cup tournament along with the unavailability of Boundary Street pitch, the tournament fixtures were very rigid. This meant we were not able to fulfill the no play date request of some of the teams. We understand the disappointment brought to the affected teams and the committee will review all the possible changes that could be made for the next season. The 5-a-side tournament continued this season as the committee agreed it is good to have a different format of hockey for the teams.

My recommendations to the incoming committee are as follows:

Firstly it is foreseeable that the pitch availability will be lower next season. The season has to start early and the international tournament calendar has to be considered when planning the fixtures so that chance of having fixture changes can be reduced.

Secondly to arrange the bowl and/or saucer final of the knockout tournament on the same day as other semi-finals and the Holland cup final to be arranged on the same day as knockout cup and plate final so that we can gather the crowd to watch the games.

Thirdly, to put the 5-a-side tournaments at Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC) and try to borrow the wooden blocks from HKFC to make the games more exciting and at a faster pace.

Lastly, rather than walkovers, and wherever fair and reasonable to do so, to continue to encourage the playing of hockey.

Prepared by Kathy Chan, Grounds & Fixtures Secretary