



Eighth (8th) APLU GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 25 June 2013
Minzuyuan Holiday Inn Express, Beijing, China
2000hrs local Beijing time

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Mike Slattery (President/Chairperson) welcomed all delegates and observers to the 8th APLU General Meeting (GM).

2. Present/Apologies/Proxies

Present:

Full Members – Voting Delegates:

Bob Carter	Australian Lacrosse Association (ALA)
Louis Hou	Hong Kong Lacrosse Association (HKLA)
Tomohiro Takasaka	Japan Lacrosse Association (JLA)
Jinkyu Rho	Korea Lacrosse Association (KLA)
Bill Hollins	New Zealand Lacrosse Association (NZLA)

Associate Members – Non Voting Delegates:

Yong Shuai (Jacky) Zhu	China Lacrosse Association (CLAL)
Ed Burnam	Singapore Lacrosse Association (SLA)

Executive Board:

Mike Slattery	President
Yas Hayakawa	Vice President
Albert Lai	Director
Won Jae Park	Director
Fiona Clark	Executive Director

Proxies:

Ed Burnam (SLA)	for Prantarit (Payu) Nerngchamngong Thailand Lacrosse Association (TLA) – non-voting
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Apologies:

Prantarit (Payu) Nerngchamngong	Thailand Lacrosse Association (TLA)
Bijay Mipun	Lacrosse Association of India (LAI)

Observers:

Darren Fanner	Australian Lacrosse Association (ALA)
Takashi Moribe	Japan Lacrosse Association (JLA)
Daniel Zhang	Interpreter for China Lacrosse Association
Rubert Zhou	Interpreter for China Lacrosse Association

3. Confirmation of Voting Members and explanation of meeting format

The President confirmed the attendees/proxies as above. Voting rights were confirmed > Full Members 1 vote. Vice President (Y. Hayakawa), Director (W. J. Park), Director (A. Lai) 1 vote. President casting vote (if required). Associate Members and Executive Director no vote but have the right to speak. To allow everyone to speak however, i.e. including Observers, the following motion was put:

“That standing orders be suspended.”

Proposed: M. Slattery (President)

Seconded: B. Hollins (NZLA)

CARRIED unanimously.

The President indicated the duration of the meeting would be approximately 2 hours.

The President requested a brief meeting following on from the GM to discuss various issues regarding the 2013 ASPAC Championship. This was agreed.

4. Confirmation of 7th APLU General Meeting Minutes

a. Confirmation

Motion: *“That the minutes of the 7th APLU General Meeting be accepted.”*

Proposed: B. Hollins (NZLA)

Seconded: L. Hou (HKLA)

CARRIED unanimously.

b. Business Arising

It was noted that matters had been dealt with in Executive Board meetings since the 2012 GM or have been included on this agenda. Nil other matters.

5. Presentation of President’s Report – M. Slattery

As tabled (Appendix A). Highlights, which pioneered the Union’s sports identity and built awareness of lacrosse in the Asia Pacific region during the past 12 months, included:

- China Lacrosse Association being voted into Associate Membership in May 2012.
- APLU being voted into Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) Allied Membership in May 2012.
- Singapore and Thailand being admitted into Associate Membership 20 June 2013 prior to this ASPAC Championship.
- Supporting and directing the planning of the 2013 ASPACs in Beijing with CLAL.
- Reviewing of the APLU Constitution.
- Directors being acknowledged for their work these past 12 months, and for their camaraderie, team-work and results.
- Establishing the APLU’s identity through the development of a logo with particular thanks to Director W. J. Park for his leadership.
- Future initiatives include:
 - Website development
 - Development of a Competition Manual to be completed by the end of 2013
 - Invitation to host the 2015 ASPACS with an announcement to be made by the Executive Board by the end of 2013/early 2014.
 - Development of the sport in new countries in the Asia Pacific region.

Motion: *“That the President’s Report as presented be adopted.”*

Proposed: M. Slattery (President)

Seconded: T. Takasaka (JLA)

CARRIED unanimously.

6. Presentation of Member Reports

Hong Kong Lacrosse Association (HKLA) – Louis Hou

Report not tabled – (Appendix B). Verbal report included: -

- Past 2 years has seen a slight growth with teams now numbering 5, plus some secondary schools. Men's teams numbered 4 and now 10.
- There are approx. 450 players, some beginners: 350 men and 100 women. The men outnumber the women because they play in University.
- There are 7 Women's teams. The HKLA is working closely with the Hong Kong University Lacrosse Club to conduct lacrosse interest classes for women.
- Men & Women participated in the Battles Games in Thailand in October 2012.
- HK Participated in the China Lacrosse Friendship Games (Beijing Cup) in Shanghai in June 2012.
- A one-day tournament is being organized for August 2013 and all APLU members are invited.
- Setting up a company (limited by guarantee) in Hong Kong as a first step to gain official sports development funding from the Hong Kong Government.
- Eri Shinoki visited HK to assist in training women Officials.
- Establishing an Umpire Certification Program to support the growth of Women's League.

New Zealand Lacrosse Association (NZLA) – Bill Hollins

Report tabled – (Appendix C). Highlights included:-

- The NZLA has been in existence for 13 years although there was lacrosse being played in NZ before the 1st World War.
- Most of the lacrosse is played around the Auckland area. Some is being played in Hamilton. The Wellington area is now re-establishing itself. Canterbury lacrosse is yet to re-start after the earthquake of 2011.
- It has been easier to develop the Women's game because of their school involvement. With the boys it is more difficult because the sport of Rugby is so prominent. Lacrosse however is recognized as a school sport. A future goal is to expand more into high schools.
- NZ competes in FIL World Events, and a Boy's U19 team will compete for the first time in 2016. (The girls first competed in the U19 WC 2007 in Canada).
- NZLA's goal when the men's team competes in Denver in 2014 is to improve on their world placing of 15 in 2010 at the prior Men's World Series in Manchester.
- Due to having only a small pool of players participation in ASPAC Championships in the same year as FIL World Events creates issues for NZ and their lack of ability to field teams for other events, even developmental teams > no teams competing in China. The NZLA aims to expand this pool in the future and a development pathway is needed for both men and women to facilitate them competing in the ASPAC's not just the world events. If funds become available New Zealand hopes to participate in future ASPACs.
- Membership numbers are small so money is always a problem. There is no government support.
- Current numbers are Men 90 Seniors: 150 Juniors: Women 300 Seniors; 500 Juniors.
- In development the NZLA wants to continue to work with the ALA, particularly at the U18 level, and expressed the Association's thanks to the ALA for their continuing support with officiating and competition opportunities.

- On a question from the floor re if the 18 year olds are playing college lacrosse or still in clubs B. Hollins confirmed that most of the senior league (6 teams) play in high school and go onto university in Auckland/Wellington.
- Two NZ players are on scholarship in the USA college system.
- On Anzac Day, 25 April 2014, an ANZAC match is to be played between New Zealand and Australia.
- The NZLA is hoping to attract more inbound teams to tour in the future, perhaps in conjunction with overseas teams visiting Australia.
- The NZLA has appointed international top level coaches for men's and women's teams.
- NZ has 2 International accredited Referees and is working on a pathway to develop more Officials.

Japan Lacrosse Association (JLA) – Tomohiro Takasaka

Report not tabled – (Appendix D). Verbal report included:-

- JLA has an annual target which usually focuses on three key areas, 'organizational strength', 'improved skill level,' and 'personal-social improvement.'
- The first of these is critical to JLA's development as the Association has never relied on external funding, which has also resulted in there being little exposure of the sport, particularly in the media. Income is derived from membership fees to support the growth of the sport. The JLA's annual budget is approx. US\$2million, (maybe slightly higher if special events are included such as the Friendship Games.) It is therefore important to not only maintain but to also build membership numbers.
- Lacrosse is not played in high schools so transitioning Freshmen is the key to maintaining membership. There are currently approx. 4,000 Freshmen out of a total of 15,000 registered players ~ it took around 27 years to reach this level. Female membership = approx. 70% of the total membership. Because of the declining youth numbers in Japan more effort is now required however to maintain current levels. Lacrosse is the 2nd or 3rd largest of team sports in colleges in Japan.
- There are approx. 400 teams, 75% are university teams, and 25% are club teams. Most are located in the Tokyo and Osaka areas however there is some expansion into Hokkaido/Hishu but these are remote areas. With most of the events being played in Tokyo or Osaka it is difficult for those in the remote areas to visit. There are more female teams in universities, but more males in club teams, which is an indication that the men want to continue playing after they have finished university.
- Participating and winning are not the only criteria for the JLA programs. Whilst it is good to play sport and have fun, growing into a valuable person in society is of greater importance, and is intrinsic to the Japanese lacrosse culture. Members are encouraged to donate blood, and there were 4,000 donors this past year: this is the largest number from any one organization in Japan. Not only does it contribute to the health of the nation it also makes participants feel good about themselves and adds to their value in society.
- It is also important for players to learn to appreciate different cultures so university teams are invited from overseas. Some of these compete in the annual International Friendship Games which Korea and Australia have participated in many times. The University of Maryland competed in 2013.
- To maximize international friendship opportunities, and to promote cultural awareness, the JLA has incorporated 'home stays' into their programs.
- Universities are also encouraged to visit other countries. There is some funding available to visit the USA.

- With so many children in Japan playing baseball the JLA was asked if there are any plans how to target the young children or is the JLA happy to develop as they are? In response JLA replied that lacrosse is not recognized in the junior school program at present, but with more colleges playing this might change in the future.

Korea Lacrosse Association (KLA) – W. J. Park

Report tabled – (Appendix E). Highlights included:-

- Historically growing numbers has been very difficult, so the KLA has focussed more on the quality of players. There are a total of approx. 1000 players in Korea and 27 teams.
 - 3 Men’s teams in Middle Schools
 - 7 Men’s teams and 6 Women’s teams in High Schools- all 13 are very active.
 - 3 Men’s teams and 3 Women’s teams in college.
 - 4 Men’s teams and 1 Women’s team in clubs.
- This rise in membership numbers has resulted in increased income from membership fees.
- After the Men’s 2006 ILF World Series KLA purposely did not take only elite players but used this as a development opportunity which was successful and helped improve the game. Many of these players are now leaders. In the last two FIL World events the teams have comprised 100% Korean players.
- Most players are under 20 at this ASPAC Championship, with 4 players > 35yrs.
- The Women’s game has also improved; At the Friendship Games the women’s team scored 5 goals against Japan, and a boy’s team recently went to Japan and won some games. This is considered very positive for the growth of the game in Korea.
- Whilst there are some ‘political difficulties’ at present there is good understanding and respect by the hierarchy.
- The KLA tries to send at least one Referee and one Umpire to each international event.
- The KLA received sponsorship from a corporate sponsor (US\$100,000) which has been spent mainly on salaries, i.e. 2 x full-time administrators. This employment follows on from the success of the JLA administrative structure model.
- In competition there are 3 major leagues ~ one over 12 months, one summer, and one winter. A Men’s College League will commence September 2013 with 3 teams.
- A large one-day event is held annually.
- On a question from the floor W. J. Park confirmed that most lacrosse is played in the Seoul and Suwon areas; the biggest challenge is finding fields and getting access, which means that players travel considerable distances to play. There are fields available outside Seoul.

Australia Lacrosse Association (ALA) – M. Slattery

Report tabled – (Appendix F). Highlights included:-

- The ALA participates in all FIL World Events in the 4-year cycle.
- In a bid to increase the profile of the sport the ALA has made a submission to the Commonwealth Games Committee for lacrosse to be included in the demonstration sports program for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Queensland. The USA is attempting for lacrosse to be included in the 2017 World Games and future Pan American Games. All these initiatives have the support of FIL.
- The ALA has formed a Lacrosse Alumni, and has introduced a numbering system recognizing past and present Australian players, both male and female. Under the auspices of the ALA, and the operations of the National Awards Committee, a

'Recognition Dinner' is held annually in conjunction with the Senior National Championship.

- A new Foundation is to be created for the future of growth projects, which will require both human and financial resources, and the development of a Constitution.
- Improved marketing, with associated projects, is essential to help raise the image and awareness of lacrosse in Australia however this has been difficult to progress despite the ALA having recently recruited some expertise on the board in the area of Marketing and Web Site development.
- A Growth Advisory Council has been established with efforts currently directed towards school programs – this is a 'work in progress' over at least a 3- year period before any significant impact will be noticed.
- Membership is currently 4,800 however these numbers may be deflated because of an inability to currently register all those playing the sport. There are more male than female players.
- Lacrosse is played mainly in the three major states, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. There are also pockets of lacrosse being played in Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania. Growing the sport in the three minor States is critical to the development of Australian lacrosse.
- Future activities include maintaining what the ALA is doing and growing Australia's participation through schools and universities. The ALA is seeking to have lacrosse included in the University Games program for the first time.
- The ALA needs to develop its Coaching and Officiating capabilities - teaching, accrediting and providing experience. In the long term compulsory accreditation for coaches and officials at all levels shall be required.
- There is an on-going need to proactively market the sport and to ensure the funding support of the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) is maintained.

China Lacrosse Association (CLAL) – Yong Shuai (Jacky) Zhu

Report not tabled – (No written report received). Verbal report included:-

- China is an Associate Member of the APLU.
- Lacrosse is played in 10 cities, with the major areas being Shanghai and Beijing.
- Most players are university and college students.
- The players, male and female, who have equipment are very limited and only a few can afford to actually buy their equipment.
- Funds are very limited. The CLAL does not attract any membership fee. Annually the Association receives 300,000 RMB, which is used in the propaganda and administration. The CLAL has many staff ~ approx. 100, with 10 in each playing city. All the staff are volunteers. Volunteering is very important to Chinese people, and many of these come from various fields so different backgrounds, culture and financial status. Players want to combine their playing with volunteering, and want to learn and understand more about lacrosse.
- The CLAL wants to put 100 lacrosse sticks in each city, at no cost to the cities, so they can be made available free for game players. These sticks can continue to be used at no cost until such time, if and when, a player can afford to purchase their own stick.
- CLAL is looking to make an agreement with some factories to make lacrosse equipment within China. Costs are being negotiated, but it is possible to produce equipment at a cheaper rate than has been offered before ~ it is hoped that perhaps a student will be able to buy a stick for 150 RMB (approx. US\$25).

- In the area of sponsorship lacrosse in China is currently sponsored by individuals, so there is an opportunity for the sport to attract corporate sponsorship in lieu of just private sponsorship.
- With China being such a vast country geographically, and in terms of both human and financial resources, the opportunity exists to develop lacrosse not only internally but also on the world stage.
- The CLAL wants to ensure that players don't just covet the game for themselves but share it with others so there is growth. From experience the CLAL knows that some players in college will not continue playing when college is finished, so there needs to be a legacy left by these players to ensure others follow in their footsteps.
- Some schools have already received equipment but it is not being used.
- The CLAL wants to develop an improved administrative structure as it believes lacrosse will be very beneficial to them.
- From 2013 the CLAL wants to charge a membership fee.
- J. Zhu is President of the Ice Sports Association in China, and with approx. 500 schools playing ice sports he believes the CLAL can gain experience from this association, and can promote lacrosse to the Principals of these same schools so they will take up the sport. The aim is to start without helmets as this is not so 'fierce.'
- Next regions for promotion and development are Macau and Taiwan in September of 2013.
- A men's team will be competing in the FIL Men's World Event in Denver, USA, in 2014, and it is hoped that this will encourage growth of the sport.
- On a question from the floor regarding membership numbers J. Zhu responded there are 3 teams in China, one in Beijing and two in Shanghai (mainly ex-pats). The CLAL wants to develop the current structure before moving forwards thereby ensuring the current players learn how to play the game well and can then help others to play. No specific numbers were given.
- In response to a question regarding the source of the \$300,000 funding it was noted this funding has come from J. Zhu. More than 500 sticks have already been donated.
- J. Zhu was asked if the CLAL can export sticks to other countries at a cheaper price. Sticks can be manufactured for 70-80 RMB, and sold for 120 RMB (50% profit), and a ball manufactured for 4.5-5 RMB, and sold for 8-10 RMB. Profits from these sales can then be used for development and the purchase of other equipment such as helmets and gloves which still have to be imported and some uniform items, e.g. shirts.
- It was suggested that there might be a future opportunity for the APLU to liaise with members to explore lacrosse manufacturing equipment in the Asia Pacific region.

Singapore Lacrosse Association (SLA) – E. Burnam

Report not tabled – (Appendix G). Verbal report included:-

- Singapore is an Associate Member of the APLU and all work is carried out on a volunteer basis.
- The SLA has applied to FIL for Full Membership and this is currently in process.
- E. Burnam has been in Singapore for 2 years and shall probably be there for one more year.
- As President he hopes to lay the foundations for the future of the game in Singapore and share his love of the game.
- As of October 18, 2012 the SLA was registered as a not-for-profit association in Singapore.

- In 2011 Payu bought sticks and equipment and a team to Singapore from Thailand, which was start-up for Singapore's first Men's team.
- Many of the players are ex-pats from Germany, the UK, Canada, USA and Japan, but there are a growing number of Singaporeans. Numbers currently total approx. 200 and it is hoped this number will double over the next 12 months.
- Lacrosse is played in middle school and the Association has 25 sticks for male and female players.
- A girl's and boy's clinic for beginners is conducted free of charge one evening per week. This has a good attrition rate, and current numbers are 100.
- There is engagement with junior colleges, high and middle school programs through the Singaporean school system, and the SLA intends to work towards Singapore Sports Council recognition of lacrosse in Singapore in order to gain further access to local venues and school curriculums.
- At weekends there are a good number of Division 1 players.
- Singapore is not an athletic country particularly when it comes to contact sports and the Singapore Government is interested in medals only when funding sports.
- The SLA has launched its website, i.e. singapore.lacrosse.com and it is hoped this will attract increased awareness of the sport. To date there has been interest on a weekly basis.
- Subscription fees have been introduced.
- Sponsorship has been made available through Brew Works.
- The SLA hosted their first international game against Hong Kong which attracted 35 female players and 55 male players ~ all ex-pats. Tim Howard (Australia) and some Japanese referees officiated.
- Equipment has been difficult to obtain and to date the SLA has relied on those entering the country to bring much-needed equipment with them.
- Acknowledgment was made to the APLU for its invitation to attend the 2013 ASPAC Championships, despite the team not comprising all Singaporeans.
- On a question from the Japanese delegate regarding the temperature conditions for playing E. Burnam reported that it is always hot, sometimes > 30C (90F) ~ which is the same in Bangkok (Thailand).

7. Notice of motions to amend the APLU Constitution by Special Resolution of Members, pursuant to Clause 21

Motion 1:-

That the APLU Constitution Clause 6 (Executive Board) be amended by the inclusion of a new clause, 6.3.6,

"A Member of the Executive Board has the right to resign their position by submitting a letter of resignation in writing to the Executive Board".

Proposed: A. Lai (Director)

Seconded: W. J. Park (Director)

CARRIED Unanimously

Motion 2:

That the APLU Constitution Clause 6 (Executive Board) be amended by the inclusion of a new clause, 6.3.7

“A casual vacancy on the Executive Board Members and their respective position(s) held, caused by death, or resignation which has been accepted by the Executive Board, may be replaced by a majority vote at any Executive Board Meeting, to serve until the next General Meeting.”

Proposed: W. J. Park (Director)

Seconded: Y. Hayakawa (Director)

CARRIED Unanimously

Motion 3:

That the APLU Constitution Clause 5 (Officers) be amended by the inclusion of a new clause, 5.9

“If nominated by a Member other than their country of residence Board nominees must have the nomination supported in writing by the National Governing Association in their home country.”

Proposed: A. Lai (Director)

Seconded: W. J. Park (Director)

CARRIED Unanimously

Motion 4:

That the APLU Constitution Clause 4 (Membership) be amended by the inclusion of a new Clause at 4.5. and 4.6 (Note: Current Clauses 4.5-4.7 to be re-numbered)

“The annual membership subscriptions payable by categories of Members to APLU shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

Members whose subscriptions have not been paid and received by the time set by the Board in any year shall not be entitled to receive any of the benefits, advantages, privileges or services of APLU membership unless otherwise approved in writing by the Board. The Board at its discretion may extend the time for payment of subscriptions or fees either generally or in any particular case”.

Proposed: A. Lai (Director)

Seconded: Y. Hayakawa (Director)

Debate followed and delegates were in agreement that Members should have the right to discuss/agree to the fees once recommended by the Board. The following amendment was put:

“The annual membership subscriptions payable by categories of Members to APLU shall be recommended by the Executive Board and agreed at a Union meeting.

Members whose subscriptions have not been paid and received by the time set by the Board in any year shall not be entitled to receive any of the benefits, advantages, privileges or services of APLU membership unless otherwise approved in writing by the Board. The Board at its discretion may extend the time for payment of subscriptions or fees either generally or in any particular case”.

Proposed: B. Hollins (NZLA):

Seconded: T. Takasaka (JLA):

CARRIED Unanimously

The amendment became the substantive motion, and this was put to the Delegates and carried.

Motion 5:

That the APLU Constitution Clause 5 (Officers) be amended by the inclusion to sub-clause 5.1 of 5.1.2 *“The President and Vice President, nominated by a Full Member, shall be elected by a Union meeting for a term of three (3) years which shall commence on the September 1 following the date of election”.*

Proposed: A. Lai (Director)

Seconded: W. J. Park (Director)

CARRIED Unanimously

Motion 6:

That the APLU Constitution Clause 5 (Officers) be amended by the inclusion to sub-clause 5.1> 5.1.3

“Should any adjustment to the term of Officers elected under this Constitution be necessary to ensure rotational terms in accordance with this Constitution, this shall be determined by the Board. Elections to subsequent Boards shall then proceed in accordance with the procedures in this Constitution.”

Proposed: A. Lai (Director)

Seconded: W. J. Park (Director)

CARRIED Unanimously

8. Notice of Motion to establish Membership Fee (Appendix A)

It was suggested that the annual membership fee for the first year be \$500 Full Membership: \$250 Associate Membership. B. Hollins (NZLA) asked if the subscription fee should perhaps be based on size of membership. In response the FIL background, whose membership fee is based on this, was provided and was noted to have been controversial over time. T. Moribe (JLA) asked if the APLU had established a budget. The response was in the negative. The President explained however that there are costs associated with running a sporting organization such as the APLU which are fundamental, and there are initiatives to be developed, e.g. website creation. It was noted that if necessary the APLU will still have the ability to seek donations from countries for specific items since members were in agreement that membership fees should be directed primarily towards development activities.

Motion:

“That for the year commencing 1 September 2013 and concluding 31 August 2014 the APLU membership fee shall be Full Member US\$500, Associate Member US\$250 and Affiliate Member no fee.”

Proposed: Y. Hayakawa (Director):

Seconded: A. Lai (Director):

CARRIED Unanimously

9. Election of Officer (to fill Casual Vacancy)

Further to the successful passing of Motion #2 the Board now has the ability to make an appointment to fill the Casual Vacancy following the resignation of A. Frederick in 2012.

10. Vote to Confer Full Membership

Following on from their successful hosting of the 2013 ASPAC Championship the President invited the CLAL to become Full Members. In response the CLAL President, J. Zhu, stated he was honoured to have this opportunity to become a Full Member and it was accepted. J. Zhu stated that China is willing to take more responsibility in developing lacrosse.

Motion:

“That Full Membership to the Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union be conferred upon the China Lacrosse Association.”

Moved: Y. Hayakawa (Director)

Seconded: A. Lai (Director)

CARRIED unanimously

China was welcomed as the sixth (6th) Full Member.

Concern was expressed that the Chinese translation of the word ‘lacrosse’ varies in other Asian countries. It was agreed that the CLAL, HKLA and the SLA need to establish a working group to review this and make a recommendation to the APLU Board for its official endorsement to align the Chinese name of the sport ‘Lacrosse.’

11. Close of Meeting

President Mike Slattery thanked all delegates and observers for their attendance and closed the meeting at 2250 hours.

Signed as a true and correct record

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Date

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