

Minutes of Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union 2009 Meeting

17-18th June 2009, Suwon, South Korea.

Venue: Meeting Room, Ramada Hotel, Suwon, South Korea.
Time: Day 1 – 17/6/2009 17:55 – 21:00
Day 2 – 18/6/2009 09:05 – 11:50
Attendees: Allan Frederick - Day 1 & 2
Albert Lai - Day 1 & 2
WonJae Park - Day 1
Yasuhiko Hayakawa - Day 1 & 2
Observers: Mike Slattery (Australia, Rules and Officiating, ASPAC 2009) -Day 1 & 2
Kentaro Shimizu (Japan, Rules and Officiating, ASPAC 2009) - Day 1 & 2
HyoJin Seo (China Ambition Lacrosse) - Day 1
Ed Chung (KLA) - Day 1
Louis Hou Chung Ming (HKLA) - Day 1
Joyce Tai (HKLA) - Day 1 & 2
David Robinson (ALA) – Day 1

Commencement of Day 1 Meeting

- Day 1 of the APLU 2009 meeting was commenced at 17:55 (17/6/2009).

I. Welcome and Introduction

- Yas thanked KLA for arranging the meeting facility.
- All meeting participants introduced themselves.
- Yas mentioned that there was no APLU meeting held in 2008.

II. Minutes of APLU Meeting 2007

- The minutes of the 2007 meeting was walked through by Albert and later adopted unanimously by the committee members.

III. APLU Regional and Country Development / Support Reports 2007-2009

Hong Kong (reported by Albert)

- Copies of the HKLA report and the Women Lacrosse Clinic 2009 report were circulated.
- There are about 180 actively playing men's players and about 40 women's players.
- Six men's teams entered the HKLL, an open league organized by HKLA.

- In the past year, there has been extensive media coverage, both printed and televised on lacrosse in Hong Kong.
- The HKLA teams continue to participate in international / regional tournament once a year. In 2008, both men's and women's teams participated in the China Ambition Lacrosse Friendship Games held at Beijing.
- In May 2009, with the support from JLA, HKLA hosted the first Women's Lacrosse Clinic in preparation for the women's team first participation in ASPAC tournament.
- HKLA has provided an Umpire and a Referee to the ASPAC tournament 2009, its officials' first appearance in international lacrosse events. HKLA is working on the development of officiating and will be contacting JLA and Australia for support in this area.

Japan (reported by Yas)

- There are currently around 6000 men and 9000 women participating in lacrosse. The number has been growing very slowly but an increase of Club teams (3 men's and 3 women's) has been observed. The availability of playing fields in Japan has limited its lacrosse development and about 90% of the college players stop playing lacrosse after graduation.
- Both the men's and women's national squad are aiming to advance their world rankings in the forthcoming world championships.
- JLA is unsure at the moment whether to send an Under-19 men's team to Finland 2012.
- The upcoming Japan National Collegiate Competition in Nov 2009 will be the biggest lacrosse event in Japan ever with an expected 15,000 spectators for the Finals.
- JLA has sent 3 coaches, with the support from FIL Development Committee, and a university team to HK to conduct a women lacrosse clinic.
- Yas thanked Australia's invitation to the Men's Australia National Championship 2009.

Australia

Note: As Bob Carter was unfortunately still in quarantine and could not attend this meeting, a general discussion regarding lacrosse in Australia was held with David, Mike and Allan providing a general update.

- The number of players is probably the same as 2007 (~3000 men and ~1300 women). The grass roots level of development work is mainly owned by the clubs.
- Australia men's and women's lacrosse has formally merged into a single governing body, the Australia Lacrosse Association (ALA) with 8 directors.
- Some works are being done to develop box lacrosse. An all-stars series of NLL will be held in Oct 2009 at Melbourne. The roster of the 2 teams will include mainly NLL players and several Australian players.
- Unfortunately, Team Koala (women's) has cancelled he trip to ASPAC 2009 tournament due to the global financial crisis.

- South Australia tried to promote lacrosse to high schools and the results was positive.
- Australia generally is providing assistance to New Zealand lacrosse (both men's and women's association) by way of invitations to compete in tournaments. This extends also to coaching clinics both in New Zealand and Australia.
- Invitations to men's and women's team in Japan continue, and JLA consistently participates in tournaments in Australia.

New Zealand

- The APLU has lost contact with New Zealand lacrosse.
- Kentaro mentioned that he has received report from Bill Hollins recently regarding the officiating status in NZ.
- Action item [A1] was assigned to Yas to try re-establishing the contacts with NZ.

China (reported by HyoJin Seo)

- A report from China Ambition Lacrosse (CAL) was distributed.
- Lacrosse is being played in 3 regions (cities).
- Due to cost of equipment, they tend to play mixed games and in smaller number of players in each team. Only 1 men's and 1 women's teams are capable of playing as a full team.
- CAL is targeting to set up mixed lacrosse leagues in 2010.
- CAL intends to affiliate with APLU to further develop lacrosse in China with the support from the member countries. The affiliation will also help CAL to get recognition by the public and eventually the government.
- HyoJin explained traveling overseas for lacrosse tournament is very difficult for his players as the authority normally requires a bond roughly equals to USD 40,000. It is best for CAL to know the date of a regional lacrosse event well in advance, so that they can try to make the necessary arrangements to assist their players to participate such event.
- Louis (HKLA) indicated that he will invite CAL to participate in future international lacrosse events that are held in HK.
- It was noted that JLA has donated USD\$5000 to support CAL's administration and lacrosse development.

India (reported by Yas)

- A report from Lacrosse Association of India was distributed.
- 1 college in Shillong has lacrosse experience.
- JLA sent coaches to promoted lacrosse and provided equipments for start-up.
- India has requested a 2 month coaching support through JLA.

Thailand (reported by Yas)

- Nothing much is happening for lacrosse in Thailand as far as the APLU knows.

Indonesia (reported by Yas)

- There is a lacrosse team in University of Indonesia.
- Indonesia has requested equipment support but APLU and FIL DC have not committed to it. It was explained an equipment support will only be considered when there is a proof of actual lacrosse development activities happening in the requesting country.

Malaysia (reported by Yas)

- Nothing much is happening for lacrosse in Malaysia as far as the APLU knows.

Singapore (reported by Yas)

- A few schools have lacrosse as part of their PE lessons.
- There were a few expatriates contacted Yas exploring lacrosse development in Singapore.

Korea (reported by WonJae)

- The number of players (~700) has not increased by much in the last 2 years. Some of them played causally probably once or twice a year.
- KLA is focusing on the quality of lacrosse being played together with improving the public's recognition of the sport.
- KLA organizes regular 6 on 6 events for the players to experience the game.
- There were new club teams formed with a small number of players.
- KLA promoted lacrosse to some elementary schools.
- KLA is working on officiating development and all teams are required to provide officials to play in the league. 3 girls have committed themselves to umpire trainings and officiating domestically.

IV. APLU Development Support 2009-2011

- It was noted that the HK women lacrosse clinic was a successful event and beneficial to developing countries. Yas expressed that APLU will continue to support similar events, for example, coaching and officiating clinics in the region.
- With regards to friendship games / interflow between member countries, WonJae suggested the APLU members to consider inviting overseas club teams to participate its regular events to minimized works required. Louis (HKLA) suggested sharing the event calendars among member countries to explore such opportunities. KLA would like to invite overseas teams to participate in a 6 on 6 tournament.
- HKLA requested support from JLA to help coordinating future Japan college teams' visit to HK. HKLA intends to invite college teams from Japan to play friendship games as a regular events especially for the women's lacrosse. HKLA would like to know when there is an American /

Canadian team visiting Japan to explore the opportunity to have them stop by HK for 1-2 days interflow event.

- CAL will be holding the Ambition Games in Shanghai next year (2010). The members advised that mid/late June is the preferred dates for teams to travel (similar to the ASPAC tournament dates this year). Invitation is expected from CAL later this year.
- It was noted that ALA has been providing coaching support to NZ lacrosse. The NZ women national team for World Cup 2009 is led by head-coach from Australia (Paul Mollison). The members would like ALA to continue its support to NZ lacrosse development.
- The members discussed the direction of the lacrosse development support and concluded that it may be best to focus on currently involved members in the next 2 years. The main reason for this is due to the limited resources that the APLU members have especially in supporting equipment grants or lacrosse demonstrations in new-start countries which have only a few interested players. Nevertheless, the APLU encourages new-start lacrosse association to affiliate with APLU in order to connect with the members and receive advices / support regarding lacrosse development.

V. ASPAC 2009 Report / Discussion

- Yas commented that the Women Tournament (completed before this meeting) was very successful. It was noted that both HK and Korea players enjoyed the tournament and had learnt and improved a lot throughout the tournament.
- A women lacrosse clinic was held for all players during the tournament led by JLA coaches. The response was good in general. It was suggested to consider organizing exhibition games by players mixing from different teams in future.
- A lacrosse clinic was conducted by Women's JPN U22 Team and JLA for a local high school in Suwon.
- It was noted that the perpetual trophy for women's ASPAC Tournament were jointly donated by JLA and (men's) Lacrosse Australia.
- It was unfortunate that most players of the Aussie Roos U21 team have been quarantined for Swine Flu and could not take parts in the first few games of the tournament. The members understood the difficulties for KLA to deal with such situation and appreciate the co-operation and support from all participating teams to help resolving the matter.
- KLA mentioned there were some minor mistakes in the tournaments but was glad to know most participants are satisfied with the arrangement.
- Albert raised questions regarding the playing rules. (Action item [A2] was assigned to RIC (Kentaro) to follow up with FIL)
 - The time should not be stopped whenever a whistle is blown in women's game.
 - The required number of players to start a game under FIL men's rule.

Albert added that the clarification is required for proper understanding of the FIL rules as there

were differences in interpretation among participating teams. The APLU and tournament organizer shall have the rights to make necessary changes at the beginning / during the tournament to accommodate special circumstances, for example, the current Aussie Roos quarantine situation.

- The ASPAC United Team (men's) in this tournament consists of players from Japan, Korea and Hong Kong. KLA designed the team uniform and JLA sponsored its make. The uniform will be kept by JLA and to be re-used in future occasions. It was suggested to enroll ASPAC United Teams, both men's and women's if possible, to the Hawaii Tournament (Oct-2009).

Adjournment of Day 1 Meeting

- Day 1 of the APLU 2009 meeting was adjourned at 21:00 (17/6/2009).
- It was noted that WonJae would not be able to attend the Day 2 meeting and he has assigned Allan as the proxy for him.
- A group photo session was held at the hotel lobby with all the meeting participants.

Commencement of Day 2 Meeting

- Day 2 of the APLU 2009 meeting was commenced at 09:05 (18/6/2009).

VI. ASPAC Tournament 2011

- Allan provided background information of the ASPAC tournament and emphasized its "Focus on development" and "Encourage participation" principles. It was also noted that it had been agreed previously that the tournament should preferably be held in northern and southern hemisphere alternatively. Allan also described the bidding and selection process of the host country which requires a presentation to APLU 2 years before the tournament.
- A discussion regarding the frequency and location timing of ASPAC tournament was held:
 - It was noted that in a report that NZ prefers the ASPAC tournament to be held every 4 years. Yas and Albert prefer to continue to hold it every 2 years in order to provide more competition opportunities in the region.
 - Albert suggested that the tournament should not be required to be held northern and southern hemisphere alternatively. This is because if there will be more member countries in the APLU, it may be difficult enforce this requirement. This has been generally agreed by the members.
 - It was noted that the preferable time for the ASPAC tournament among the current members is still mid-June to early-July as concluded in previous meetings.
- It was noted that no bidding has been received by the APLU as of the date of this meeting.
- Albert mentioned that HKLA has discussed about the possibility of hosting the next ASPAC tournament. However the conclusion was negative.
- The members have agreed to set the date 30/9/2009 as the deadline for "Express of Interest" to

host the next ASPAC tournament (2011). Action item [A3] was assigned to Yas to send emails to all member countries to request for a consideration of hosting the tournament in 2011.

- Kentaro suggested the APLU should look into organizing umpire assessor apprenticeship similar to the men's. And it will be desirable that Australia can send umpires to future ASPAC tournament to raise the level of officiating in the region.
- The members have agreed that the tournament is open age but the APLU suggests the participating countries to consider the level of play and observe the tournament's "Focus on Development" principle. This is best achieved by developed countries, e.g. Japan, Australia and USA West, restricting the age of participants.
- The members have agreed that a country can send multiple teams to the tournament, but only one team can compete for the regional championship, while the other teams can compete for the tournament championship.
- The members have agreed that the APLU should continue its focus on increasing women's participation to the tournament.
- It was noted that the Referee in Chief and the deputy (Kentaro and Mike) have played an important role in organizing, developing and assessing the officials for the tournament.
- The report from Kentaro Officials Report has been adopted and a vote of thanks was passed to his contribution to the success of the ASPAC tournament 2009.
- The members have agreed that the APLU committee (executives) should be responsible for the organization of the lacrosse clinics to reduce the work load of the host country.
- Kentaro suggested the APLU to consider inviting experienced coaches to the tournament to help assessing or provide advices to different teams.
- It was noted that the ASPAC United Team formed this year has provided a great opportunity for players from different countries to share experience and develop friendship. The members have agreed to continue this initiative in future ASPAC tournaments and possibly other regional events. The APLU committee should be responsible for the recruitment and invite experienced coach to lead the team. The committee will also look at the possibility to form a women's ASPAC United Team in the future.

VII. APLU Constitution

- It was noted that the previously agreed Constitution (Aug-2006) has not be lodged yet and there are concerns in the several areas: Officers, flexibility and legal liability.
- Allan raised the options of adopting the constitution as a "Charter" or "Operation Guidelines" to mitigate the legal and financial obligations. However, more information is required to understand the implications of the different operating models.
- Regarding the member list of APLU, Albert clarified that should be included as a by-law.
- Yas circulated a report from ALA received on the day. It contains several comments regarding APLU Constitution. As there was not enough time left for a detail reading and discussion, the

members agreed to take that offline and to be studied during the constitution review exercise.

- The members agreed that review of the constitution and a better understanding of its lodging process are required. Action item [A4] has been assigned to Allan to form a working group to review the constitution and obtain legal advices of its lodging process by the end of Dec-2009. Action item [A5] has been assigned to Albert to gather information regarding the lodging process in HK.
- Yas suggested the members of the APLU interim committee should be assigned with specific roles which will provide a better clarification of individual's responsibility and promote the productivity of the committee. This has been agreed by the committee and the following positions have been concluded and appointed:
 - Chairman – Yas
 - Vice-Chairman & Competition Officer – Allan
 - Administration Officer – WonJae
 - Rules and Officiating Officer – Albert

VIII. APLU and ASPAC Tournament Bylaws

- Mike and Kentaro volunteered to assist the committee in drafting the competition by-laws. An action item [A6] has been assigned to Allan to correspond with both Mike and Kentaro to get their inputs on the competition by-laws.
- It was suggested that the requirement and procedure for trophies and medals should be included in the competition by-laws.

IX. Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting of the APLU will be held tentatively during the FIL World Championship in Manchester, United Kingdom (10-24 July 2010). The exact date and time will be communicated later.

X. Other Business

- A vote of thanks was passed to KLA for hosting the ASPAC Tournament and APLU meeting.
- Allan presented a plaque to KLA on behalf of Lacrosse Australia. Special thanks extended to Jinkyu Roh (KLA) and his team for their efforts in organizing and coordinating the tournament.
- Yas made a closing remark that both the organizer (KLA) and APLU have learnt a great lesson in handling unexpected circumstances / situations during this tournament.

Adjournment of Day 2 Meeting

- There being no other business, the APLU 2009 meeting was adjourned at 11:50 (18/6/2009).

Summary of Action Items

#	Action Description	Assignee
A1	To try re-establishing the contacts with NZ.	Yas
A2	To follow up with FIL regarding the rules related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The time should not be stopped whenever a whistle is blown in women's game.▪ The required number of players to start a game under FIL men's rule.	Kentaro (RIC)
A3	To send emails to all member countries requesting to consider hosting the ASPAC tournament in 2011.	Yas
A4	To form a working group to review the constitution and obtain legal advices of its lodging process by the end of Dec-2009.	Allan
A5	To gather information regarding the constitution lodging process in HK.	Albert
A5	To correspond with both Mike and Kentaro to get their inputs on the competition by-laws.	Allan

Prepared by

Lai Ho Yin, Albert (HKLA)

Interim Committee Member

Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union

(Finalized on 22-August-2009)