

Minutes of Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union 2010 Meeting

16th July 2010, Manchester, England.

Venue: Meeting Room, Chancellor Hotel, Manchester, England.
Time: 16/07/2010 09:00 – 13:00
Attendees: Committee members:
Albert Lai, Won Jae Park, Yasuhiko Hayakawa, Bill Hollins
Member Country Representative and Observer:
Australia: Fiona Clark, Bob Carter, Mike Slattery
Hong Kong: Albert Lai, Joyce Tai
Japan: Tomohiro Takasaka, Yusuke Sasaki, Kentaro Shimizu
New Zealand: Bill Hollins, Darren Woodley
South Korea: Won Jae Park
Invited Guests:
Feffie Barnhill (President, FIL)
Stan Cockerton (Vice-President, FIL)
Tom Hayes (Director of Development, FIL)
Absence with Apology: Allan Frederick (committee member)

I. Welcome and Introduction

- All meeting participants introduced themselves.

II. Minutes of APLU Meeting 2009

- The minutes of the 2009 meeting was walked through by Albert and adopted without amendment.

III. ASPAC 2009 Tournament Report

- Report was given by Won Jae on behalf of the KLA – the host of ASPAC 2009 Tournament in Suwon, Korea.
- It was the first time for KLA to host a tournament with more than 3 countries participated. As a team was quarantined after their arrival at Suwon, there was a lot of media focus / coverage on the incident and the tournament.
- An officiating clinic was held by Kentaro (Japan) and it resulted in Korea being able to send

referee to this year (2010) Men's World Championships.

- It was concluded that the tournament was a successful event especially with the women's teams' participation. Improvement is needed to attract more teams to participate in the future.

IV. APLU Regional and Country Development / Support Reports

Australia (reported by Fiona)

Note: Fiona has provided a written report before the meeting with details about ALA's key activities and development activities both domestically and internationally.

- The Australia Sports Commission (ASC) has announced on-going Sports Development Funding to the ALA.
- The number of players in Australia is stable but it has been observed that it is about 1000 less than the peak in 90s.
- Comments and recommendations related to the APLU infrastructure and constitution has been included in the ALA report.

Hong Kong (reported by Albert)

Note: A report from HKLA is available and will be sent out after the meeting.

- HKLA has established an officiating program after the ASPAC 2009 and now has 21 domestically certified Level 1 referees.
- There are about 200 men's players who compete in the university's and HKLA's lacrosse league.
- There are 50 women's players and ~30 of them are actively playing. The HKLA has recruited a former Japanese national player (women) who is now living in Hong Kong to coach and assist in developing the women's lacrosse. The HKLA is targeting to participate in the 2013 Women's World Cup.
- To obtain any funding from the government, FIL has to be recognized by the IOC first. Membership fees are the only source of income with a few small donations by individuals.
- Thailand team visited HK in early July to play their 1st international lacrosse game. The game was concluded successfully and HK team will be visiting Thailand in October. Albert commended TLA as a well organized and potentially fast developing association.

Japan (reported by Tomohiro)

- There are currently around 15,000 memberships of which ~70% is women. 80% of the members are collegiate players and 20% are graduates playing for club teams.
- The membership fee (3000 Yen) is the source of income to support JLA's administration and events.
- Growth in the remote area posted some challenges because of the distance and communication.
- Focus has been put to improve the competitiveness of players. Efforts have been put to improve the quality of the game through officiating and now the umpires/referees have well established

pathways to pursue.

- The International Friendship Game continues to be an essential event of the JLA. It drew ~6000 spectators when Loyola and Notre visited Japan. The game was televised on cable TV. The invitations of the game may extend to teams from Europe in the future.
- JLA has revived Home-Stay programs for overseas players/teams. This provides a good learning of reciprocal experience and exposure to Japanese hospitality.
- Lacrosse is the 5th largest sport amongst collegiate sports. This has shown the good progress since their inception approx. 20 years ago.
- There are difficulties for JLA to move into the next stage of development especially for the expansion of junior player number. Currently there are only ~800 players from 27 high schools.
- Feffie suggested JLA to look at possibility in promoting alumni teams where college students can graduate into. These alumni can go back to their college and play from time to time which enhances social networking and identification. This may also help to retain the players in the game after graduation.

New Zealand (reported by Bill)

- There are 150 senior women who play in a 17 teams tournament. 1/3 of the population resides in Auckland/North Island, which is the main hub of lacrosse. Women are more successful in spreading the game outside of Auckland. There are a small numbers of players in junior but NZ will send a team to Hanover in the 2011 U19 WC (women).
- Acknowledgment to Australia for their assistance, particularly Paul Mollison, Head Coach of the Women's 2009 World Cup team.
- There are 6 men's senior teams and 8 high schools are playing lacrosse currently.
- There have been frequent interactions between NZ and Australia. In 2010 NZ sent an U17 Girl's Team to NSW to compete in the National under age Championship. And NZ will be sending a U15 boy's team to the U15 National Tournament in Adelaide in September 2010. Eltham Lacrosse Club from Victoria, Australia visited NZ earlier this year (2010). Mike Slattery (Australia) visited NZ earlier this year to promote refereeing.
- There is a 10 year planning program which includes a commitment to send an U15 team to Australia's tournament annually.
- Lacrosse is recognized but not funded by the NZ Government. The game is administrated in a "user-pays" manner.
- Fiona commended the growth of NZ women's lacrosse and the player's commitment to develop the game.

Korea (reported by WonJae)

- The number of members has grown from 600 to 900. The growth was mainly from women's members.
- The high school development program is now reaping rewards and going into the college system.
- There are 6 official KLA leagues of various forms of lacrosse, including a 6-on-6 tournament and indoor lacrosse. The playing season varies: senior league in summer (2 months), high school and junior high school play in spring and fall, indoor lacrosse in winter. Summer league (Men's only) is the highest competition level. Invitational team made up of overseas players.
- There are 4 semi qualified referees and 2 women umpires yet to be qualified.
- KLA is creating critical mass by introducing the game to younger players in order to generate natural growth. A budget exists to recruit coaches from overseas and KLA would like to extend it to support development of local coaches. This should result in improvement of the game's quality. Currently there are 2 full-time coaches who are sponsored by 2 corporations.
- KLA is interested in hosting more events. Seoul and Suwon are the main areas where lacrosse is played. The Mayor of Suwon is very interested in promoting the game, but distance to Suwon could be a problem. The university is interested in and wants lacrosse to be included into their curriculum.
- A membership fees system will be implemented soon. US\$30 per player or US\$500 per team is being considered
- The experience from competing in the 2009 World Cup was good and it was the highest representation level for the women's team.
- KLA is recognized by the government, but it is not funded because lacrosse is not an Olympic sport.
- There has been a request from an ice hockey league to play lacrosse in their off-season
- KLA would like to get support from ILDC to recruit and support a coach to go to Korea for a 2 months or more stay.
- KLA will provide ILDC with names of coaches and officials who are prepared to go to neighboring countries.

Others (reported by Yasuhiko)

- Thailand currently has a men's program and TLA is keen to spread the game to the women.
- India has been accepted as an associate member of the APLU. There are various contacts in the country who wants to start lacrosse but they are not being coordinated by the ILA.
- China has lacrosse developing in Shanghai. JLA sent 2 coaches and 3 teams to Shanghai this year. There is a group of local players but they are not structured in teams at the moment. Getting a visa to travel overseas is still an issue for Chinese players. The Beijing Sport University is not playing lacrosse anymore. *Note: A report of China lacrosse has been received*

and will be circulated.

- Feffie suggested the model of "partnering" with another key sport in that country. For example, hockey has partnered with lacrosse in Germany and they share fields. This would also help increasing the spectator base.
- Stan added that the APLU members may look into promoting the "multi-sport" idea which being encouraged by the IOC and is becoming an accepted philosophy for sports. By playing multiple sports, an athlete would become a better player for his sport.

V. APLU Development Activities

- The following are the development activities in the past year within the region among member countries:
 - Korea Boy's team to Tokyo, March 2010.
 - Clinic in Shanghai supported & conducted by JLA, June 2010.
 - Hong Kong - Thailand Men's Friendly Match, July 2010.
 - Australian performed the role of head coach and manager of the NZ in the FIL World Cup 2009.
 - Japanese Men's Team competed in Australia's Senior Championship in Adelaide, July 2009.
 - NZ U17 boy's team competed in Australia's U15 National Tournament in Adelaide, September 2009.
 - Japanese Team (Kanto) competed in Australia's Southern Cross Tournament in Melbourne, January 2010.
 - NZ U19 girl's team competed in Australia's U17 National Championship in New South Wales, April 2010
- It was agreed that the priority focus of the APLU will be lacrosse development within existing number both from quality and number of participation. It would be challenging to increase competition activities among the member countries. Fiona outlined the Australian geography to provide comparison of travel opportunities from East to West coast. Teams from Perth may be more easily to participate in tournaments held in the South East Asia region, while teams from Victoria / NSW can travel to NZ or NZ can compete more easily in Australia's tournament that are hold in the East coast.
- Tom commented that FIL ILDC would like the APLU to be more proactive in promoting and supporting lacrosse development in the region.
- It was noted that the APLU does not have a financial income and thus no budget to support regional development activities. Yasuhiko mentioned that JLA has a budget of US\$25,000 - \$30,000 yearly for this development purpose. Takasaka suggested the APLU should communicate with the FIL ILDC and assist in coordinating the effort of lacrosse development in the region.

VI. ASPAC Tournament 2011 (by Bill – NZALU)

- The tournament will be held at the grounds of the College Rifles Rugby club, based in the Eastern bays of Auckland. The fields are excellent and they are artificial turfs.
- The tournament fee is USD150 per player. There are various accommodation options for teams to choose from with different price ranges.
- Team registration deadline will be 30th September 2010.
- A maximum of 4 games per day for the men's tournament can be played due to daylight limit. The tournament should be able to accommodate 8 teams in each tournament (men's / women's).
- The tournament will run from Sunday (3/7/2011) to Friday (10/7/2011) as Saturday the grounds will need to be returned for Rugby games.
- The following are the teams that potentially will play in the tournament:

Men's	Women's
Australia U21	Australia (U21/U19) x 2
Japan U22	Japan U22
Korea	Hong Kong
Hong Kong	Korea
USA West U23	New Zealand Senior
New Zealand	New Zealand U19
Thailand	USA College Team

- Feffie indicated that she can assist in securing a USA west coast college team to participate in the tournament, if needed.
- The APLU committee suggested that the ASPAC United Team can fill the 8th team of the men's tournament.
- NZALU has invited Mike Slattery (Australia) to be the Referee in Chief of the event. Mike has accepted the invitation before this meeting. NZALU will submit the nomination to APLU for the formal appointment post-meeting. The committee expressed its sincere thanks to Mike for his continue support in APLU activities.
- A question was raised regarding the Age Limit cut-off date for developed countries' teams. Albert indicated that this is probably not in the current competition by-laws draft. This needs to be included and communicated to the teams being invited. Albert to follow up.

VII. APLU Constitution

- Tom Hayes suggested and showed his support to APLU to become an Allied member of FIL.
- Fiona will assist in looking into the possibility / requirement of lodgment in Australia. Albert mentioned that lodging in HK is also feasible.
- The comments regarding the constitution in the ALA report was noted and it has been agreed that the constitution need to be revisited. Feffie suggested a 3 layered document, with the

Constitution describing the Purpose and Structure of the APLU, By-laws to describe its operation and Policies to include the up-to-date changes. Feffie offered assistance, and suggested to take Ron's help, to review and recommend changes to the Constitution draft.

- Eligibility and mechanism of nomination of the APLU officers was discussed. There was a view that a candidate has to be approved by the NGB of a member country. Albert advised this condition is not necessary as it may restrict the potential use of experienced individuals who is not associated to a member's NGB or from non-member countries. Officer will be elected by the full members of the APLU in a general meeting.
- It has been agreed that the constitution need to be finalized by the end of 2010. There is a need to hold additional meeting to discuss. This meeting will probably held in September or October via Skype conference call.
- It was noted that May 3rd, 2011 will be the deadline for all documents and nominations to be submitted for approval in the July 2011 Auckland meeting.

VIII. APLU Competition By-laws

- A revised version of the Competition by-laws was circulated before the meeting. Mike walked through the document and highlighted the changes and items that still need to be worked on.
- It was noted that the ASPAC Tournament has been included as one of the FIL sanctioned event.
- The following has been discussed and agreed.
 - Change the event's name to ASPAC "Championship" in lieu of "Tournament".
 - The following paragraph will be deleted from 8.4 – Playing Rules.

This shall include the practices and guidance from the FIL Officiating Committees for men and women covering the numbers of officials, representation from each country, costs of providing officials, assessment of officials, allocation of officials, etc.
 - With regards to 8.7 – Teams Competing, the number of players in a team is not a concern of the FIL from a sanctioning perspective. The consideration of this rule should be on development. For example, limit could be set on strong / invited teams but not on developing teams in order to provide exposure and experience of international lacrosse.
 - Timing of the event was discussed. A couple of options were suggested for the committee further consideration post-meeting:
 - Holding the event every 3 years.
 - Holding the event in men's world event years in lieu of women's world event years.
- It was noted that the event, ASPAC Championship, could become the regional qualifier game for FIL Men's World Championships in the future.
- Feffie offered assistance with the By-Laws through Ron Balls. Mike and Allan to follow up, if required.

IX. Next Meeting Date

- The next annual meeting of the APLU will be held during the ASPAC Championship 2011 in Auckland, New Zealand. The exact date and time will be communicated later.
- Skype conference call for informal discussion of the progress of Constitution, By-Laws and ASPAC Championship 2011 will be organized in September / October 2010. Yasuhiko to call the meeting via email communication.

X. Other Business

- Albert to prepare the minutes of the meeting with Fiona's and Joyce's notes as input.

Albert expressed sincere thanks, on behalf of the APLU members, to the FIL executives' attendance, valuable comments and offered assistance to the APLU documents.

Adjournment of Meeting

- There being no other business, the APLU 2010 meeting was adjourned at 13:00 followed by a group photo session.

Prepared by

Lai Ho Yin, Albert (HKLA)
Interim Committee Member
Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union
(Finalized on 7th September 2010)