

Minutes of Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union 2007 Meeting

5th April 2007, North Harbour Stadium, Albany, New Zealand.

Attendees: Allan Frederick (Australia), Albert Lai (Hong Kong), Roger Snow (New Zealand),
Won Jae Park (Korea), Yasuhiko Hayakawa (Japan)

Observers: Bill Hollins (New Zealand), Norman Macdonald (New Zealand)

I. Minutes of APLU Meeting 2006

- Circulation of APLU Meeting 2006 Minutes.
- The minutes of the 2006 meeting was walked through by Yas and later adopted unanimously by the members.

II. Lacrosse Development Reports 2006-2007

General Discussion:

- The idea of having joint ASPAC team to participate in international tournament (eg. Beijing Cup or Hawaii tournament) was discussed. It was agreed that a joint team will be beneficial for the developing countries as players can learn from experienced coaches and players from other countries. It will also achieve one of the objectives of the Union with respect to encourage international exchange and friendship between member countries. It was agreed the members should look into this possibility next year (2008) which does not have major lacrosse event.
- Bill and Roger shared the experience of hosting the ASPAC Tournament 2007 to the members. The event has motivated players to become more involved in lacrosse and it could not be successful without the help from the women's team. The council has provided the field for free.

Hong Kong (reported by Albert):

- There are about 150-170 actively playing men's players and about 20 women's players.
- Lacrosse teams in the HKU have received a better support from the University. HKLA continues to provide resources in order to improve their level of competitions.
- More teams with lacrosse freshmen has entered the HKLL, a league organized by HKLA, to gain more game experiences. There are 7 teams currently playing in the HKLL.
- Women lacrosse development has not progressed much and the number of active players has decreased. Mixed game has been organized to provide some competitions for the girls to keep their interest in the sport. It is currently difficult to determine when HK can participate in the IFWLA World Cup.

- Men's lacrosse in HK has a better foundation and is expected to grow slowly in the future.

Korea (reported by Won Jae):

- The development plan of lacrosse in Korea is quite similar to 2 years ago and KLA has started putting its focus on developing the quality of players.
- There are 4 high school teams, one of them has 140 players, which started about 2 years ago. As lacrosse is now better known, schools and universities are now approaching KLA to get information and support to start their teams. There are 2 new teams started in spring 2007.
- Lacrosse is also being introduced to corporations as part of their sport programs.
- Indoor league (in box lacrosse rules) was organized in winter 2006.
- Seoul government has increased its funding to schools for sports which benefits the local community. For example, new astro-turf grounds have been made available to lacrosse.
- Women's lacrosse has a comparatively slower development than men's lacrosse. Since two years ago, there have been 50-60 girls participating lacrosse in high-school. A team visited Japan last December (2006) for the first time and it was an enjoyable experience for the girls
- Kunghei University students and graduates are still actively participating in lacrosse.
- Two universities have given up their lacrosse teams.
- KLA continues with its development of club teams. 4 senior teams participated the Summer League.
- KLA is looking into the possibility of lacrosse development in elementary schools (age 9-12).

New Zealand (reported by Bill):

- New Zealand lacrosse has a similar men's lacrosse population to Hong Kong, around 120 players.
- There are 2 schools and 2 clubs participating in U-13 soft lacrosse; 1 school and 3 clubs participating in U-17. The senior player number has not been increasing in recent years.
- NZALU believes the players need some inspiration and fun in order to continue or promote the sport further.
- Box lacrosse games were organized last year but only the experienced players had joined.
- In women lacrosse, the U-19 team is stronger than (or close to the level of) the senior team. There are 150 women senior players currently and NZALU is working on bringing more new players to the sport.

Australia (reported by Allan):

- There are currently around 3000 men and 1000 women participating in lacrosse.
- LA is looking into the development of indoor game. The Australian Indoor Championship started in 2006 with teams from different state's representatives.
- Majority of the teams in Australia are club teams, instead of school teams, which is quite

different than the situation of the other member countries.

- The unification process of men's and women's lacrosse in Australia is underway. The ALA Limited was established recently which has 6 executives (3 from LA and 3 from WLA) in the interim director board (up to a period of 2 years).
- Resources are available to assist the development of lacrosse developing countries in the region (for different age groups).
- (Copies of the WLA report were distributed)
- The report from WLA, by Fiona Clark, was discussed. One of the suggestions was for APLU to consider the date of the next ASPAC Tournament to be held prior to the IFWLA 2009 World Cup in Prague. This may provide some match practice for developing countries' national teams in the region and could also serve as part of the tour to Europe, via Asia, for development teams from Japan and Australia. The IFWLA 2009 event's date has not been confirmed yet and APLU will be advised as soon as this is known. (The 2009 ASPAC Tournament's, in Korea, date has not been confirmed yet either, but may be in mid June or August)

Japan (reported by Yas):

- There are currently around 6000 men and 9000 women participating in lacrosse mainly in a very narrow age group 18-22. There are 118 college and 35 club teams for men's and 192 college and 37 club teams for women's lacrosse.
- Most teams have about 20 players while several teams have 100+ players.
- JLA will put more focus on increasing the number of players in a team, instead of the number of teams in the coming future.
- JLA continues to support regional lacrosse development and has been working on Beijing/China lacrosse for 12 years. Focus will also be put on the development in India and JLA will be working together with the ILDC and Australia on this.
- Japan national teams were ranked 6th and 5th in the last men's and women's World Championship respectively.

Beijing-China (reported by Yas):

- The Beijing Lacrosse Development Centre (BLDC) was established last year. (Copies of the BLDC report were distributed)
- There are currently around 500 people participating in lacrosse. BLDC aims to setup a league this year (2007).
- The BLDC is supported by 4 Americans and 1 Japanese together with financial support from JLA (USD5000 per year).
- BLDC is working towards sending both men's and women's teams to the next ASPAC Tournament in 2009.
- Beijing Sport University will host the 5th Beijing Cup in May 2007.

India (reported by Yas):

- (Copies of the India report were distributed)
- ILDC granted 10 sets of men's and 12 sets of lacrosse equipment to India last year.
- An American coach was helping the development for 3-4 months.
- There are currently 2 groups in India wanting to develop lacrosse in the country and it is unknown who would be the governing body ultimately.

Indonesia (reported by Yas):

- (Copies of the Indonesia report were distributed)
- The development progress is slow since very few people know the sport.

Bangkok-Thailand (reported by Yas):

- 4 expatriates in Bangkok were trying to start lacrosse in Bangkok. However, contacts with them have been failed. A Japanese who is working in Bangkok will help re-establishing the contact.

Others (reported by Yas):

- There is an international school in Singapore which has lacrosse in its curriculum.
- There was no progress of lacrosse development in Malaysia.
- ILDC is forwarding all requests for equipment grant in the region to Yas and Allan, and relying on his comments to decide whether the grant should be made. The APLU members suggested that new countries should start lacrosse with sticks and balls instead of requesting for a full equipment grant.

III. APLU Constitution

- The lodgment of the APLU Constitution has been assigned to David Fox of LA and is expecting to be completed by the end of year 2007.
- Any comment to the Constitution (version 1.0 distributed Aug-2006) should be submitted to Albert prior to 31 May 2007.
- Albert will draft a by-law, by the end of July 2007, which provides guidelines for the future ASPAC Tournament.
- NZALU to advise who will be the APLU interim committee representative by 30 April 2007.

IV. ASPAC Tournament 2009

- Won Jae presented the proposal from KLA to host the next APSAC Tournament (2009) for both men's and women's lacrosse.
- Members suggested KLA to consider collecting a non-refudable deposit for team admission and to explore other accommodation options as they seem quite expensive.

- KLA should present the revised proposal to the members as soon as possible.
- The members also agreed that country bidding for ASPAC Tournament in the future should provide a proposal at a Union's meeting 2 years before the tournament date. The bidding should also come from northern and southern hemisphere countries alternatively. These will be included in the Tournament guideline by-law.

V. Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting of the Union will be held during the U-19 Championship in British Columbia, Canada. The exact date and time will be communicated later.

VI. Other Business

- A vote of thanks was given to NZALU for organizing the meeting.
- Allan presented a souvenir, on behalf of LA, to NZALU.
- NZALU expressed the gratitude to JLA's donation for the ASPAC Tournament 2007.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded at 21:15 and was followed by a group photograph.

Prepared by

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Interim Committee Member
Asia Pacific Lacrosse Union
(Finalized on 30-July-2007)