

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(2)2844/01-02
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by the Administration)

Ref : CB2/PL/HA

LegCo Panel on Home Affairs

**Minutes of special meeting
held on Saturday, 22 June 2002 at 9:00 am
in the Chamber of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** :
- Hon IP Kwok-him, JP (Chairman)
 - Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon NG Leung-sing, JP
 - Hon James TO Kun-sun
 - Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
 - Hon CHOY So-yuk
 - Hon Timothy FOK Tsun-ting, SBS, JP
 - Hon Michael MAK Kwok-fung
 - Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
 - Hon WONG Sing-chi
 - Hon MA Fung-kwok
- Member attending** :
- Hon Bernard CHAN
- Members absent** :
- Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP
 - Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
 - Hon Albert HO Chun-yan
 - Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP
 - Hon LAU Wong-fat, GBS, JP
 - Dr Hon TANG Siu-tong, JP
 - Hon Henry WU King-cheong, BBS
 - Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP

**Public Officers:
attending**

Mr NG Sek-hon, JP
Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3)

Ms Eva TO
Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Recreation
and Sport)

Mr Charles CHU
Chief Recreation and Sport Officer (Sports Policy Review)

Mr Johnny W M WOO
Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services
(Leisure Services)²

**Attendance by:
invitation**

Hong Kong, China Rowing Association

Mr Robert WILSON
President

Mr Anthony ROGERS
Company Secretary

Hong Kong Professional Golfers' Association

Mr Alain LIU Wai-yin
Professional and Treasurer Committee

Hong Kong Amateur Athletic Association

Mr KWAN Kee
Vice-Chairman

Mr Eric LEE
Senior Vice-Chairman

Hong Kong Tenpin Bowling Congress

Mrs Vivien FUNG
Chairman

Hong Kong Dancesport Association

Miss Ivy TAM
Vice-President

Mr Patrick POON
Vice-President

Hong Kong Chinese Martial Arts Association Limited

Mr KONG Pui-wai
Chairman

Mr LUNG Kai-ming
Vice President

Orienteering Association of Hong Kong

Ms Belle CHOW Yee-ling
President

Hong Kong Shuttlecock Association

Mr TANG Wai-man
Chairman

Hong Kong Skating Union

Ms Eva H FENG
President

Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association

Mr LU Shuo
Coaching-in-charge

Hong Kong Tennis Association

Mr Peter HUNG
Executive Director

Mr Paul YUEN
Vice President

Hong Kong Swimming Coaches Association

Mr Alvin TAM Ka-po
Hon Treasurer

Hong Kong Amateur Weightlifting and Powerlifting
Association

Mr David CHAN-pun
President

Mr POK Kim-won
Hon Secretary

Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China

Mr Victor HUI Chun-fui
President

Hong Kong Boxing Association

Mr CHAN Chung-yee
Secretary General

Mr YUEN Tai-man
Joint Chairperson, R & J Committee

Hong Kong Archery Association

Mr YU Kam-ming
Secretary

Handball Association of Hong Kong, China

Mr Edmund P K LEE
President

Mr Paul YEUNG Wah-chiu
Chairman

Hong Kong Badminton Association

Mr CHAU Yat-kwong
Honorary Secretary

Ms KAM Kwok-fong
Executive Director

Hong Kong Ladies Football Association

Ms Veronica CHAN Yiu-kam
President

Mr Leo CHOW Wai-hung
Assistant General Secretary

Hong Kong Tai Chi Association

Ms MAK Lai-han
Supervisor

Mr CHENG Chun-hung
Director

The Ladies Lawn Bowls Association of Hong Kong

Miss LUK Hang-lan
President

Ms Julie CHAN Lai-wan
Vice President

Hong Kong Cycling Association

Mr LEUNG Sik-wah, JP
Chairman

Mr Frederick CHAN
General Secretary

Hong Kong Canoe Union

Mr LI Tze-wan
Hon Treasurer

Hong Kong Triathlon Association

Mr Andrew PATRICK
President

Hong Kong Yachting Association

Mr Karl C KWOK
President

Miss CHEN Kit-yuk
Secretary General

Hong Kong Football Association

Mr Martin HONG
Chairman

Hong Kong Chinese Chess Association

Mr WONG Shu-kai
Vice-Chairman

Mr LO Hung-yip
Secretary

Windsurfing Association of Hong Kong

Mr Cowen CHIU
President

Mr Dennis CHAU
Director(Administration)

Hong Kong Basketball Association

Mr LEUNG Wai-man
Development Director

Mr HO Wai-hing
Senior Sports Executive

Hong Kong Billiard Sports Control Council Company
Limited

Mr LO Tsun-ying
Chairman

Hong Kong Hiking Association, China

Mr CHOW Kwok-keung
Chairman

Mr LEE Chi-ping
Advisor

Judo Association of Hong Kong, China

Mr WONG Po-kee
Chairman

Hong Kong Rugby Football Union

Mr Allan PAYNE
Executive Director

Ms Pauline CHEUNG
Rugby and Development Manager

Hong Kong Parachute Association

Mr Eddie TSANG
China Liaison

Mr Gary LAI
President (Designate)

Hong Kong Amateur Swimming Association

Dr WONG Yat-sun
Vice-President

Mr Ronnie WONG, JP
Hon Secretary

South China Athletic Association

Patrick LEE Wai-cheong
Hon Secretary

Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong,
China

Mr PANG Chung
Hon Secretary General

Mr Con CONWAY
Vice President

Hong Kong Sports Development Board

Mr John Terence HUNG, SBS, JP
Chairman

Mrs Maureen CHAN LEUNG Mong-lin
Executive Director

Sai Kung District Council

Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Councillor

Concern Group for Tseung Kwan O's Peoples' Livelihood

Mr Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Convenor

Islands District Council

Mr LAM Kit-sing
Councillor

Sha Tin District Council

Miss CHAN Lim-chee
Councillor

Islands District Sports Association

Mr LAM Kit-sing
Vice-Chairman

Mongkok District Cultural Recreational and Sports
Association Limited

Mr CHOI Fuk-chi
Vice-Chairman

New Territories Regional Sports Association

Mr WUN Tung-lam
Chairman

Wan Chai Sports Federation

Mr HO Pui-sai
Hon-Secretary

Mr WONG Yat-ming
Committee Member

Tuen Mun Sports Association

Mr WU Ting-yau
Chairman

Mr LEE Kam-kong
Vice-Chairman

Hong Kong Sports Association for the Mentally
Handicapped

Mrs Laura LING
Chairperson

Mr YUENG Tak-wah
Vice-Chairman

Friends of HKSI

Miss Malina NGAI
Vice-Chairman

Hong Kong Schools Sports Federation

Mr YIU Kai-wing
Chairman

Mr Silas CHIANG Tak-cheung
Secretary-General

Hong Kong Automobile Association

Mr Jackson HO Yee-tak
President

Hong Kong Squash

Mr David MUI
Chairman

Mr Tony CHOI
National Coach

The Hong Kong Life Saving Society

Mr Anthony CHAN Wai-lun
Chairman

Central and Western District Recreation and Sports
Association

Mr CHAN Hay, BBS
Chairman

Hong Kong Netball Association

Mr Neil McCORMICK
President

Clerk in Attendance : Miss Flora TAI
Chief Assistant Secretary (2)2

Staff in Attendance : Miss Lolita SHEK
Senior Assistant Secretary (2)7

I. Sports Policy Review

Meeting with deputations

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2)2342/01-02(01)-(11) and CB(2)2375/01-02(01)-(07)]

Members noted the submissions from some of the deputations circulated to them before the meeting as well as those on tabled at the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: the submissions on table at the meeting and those received after the meeting were issued vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2408/01-02 on 25 June 2002.)

2. The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the deputations to the meeting. He invited each of the deputations to make a brief presentation on their views on the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team (the Report). Ms Eva FENG and Mr LU Shuo informed members that they would not present the views of the Hong Kong Skating Union and Hong Kong Ice Hockey Association respectively at the meeting but would provide submissions to the Panel afterwards.

3. A summary of the views of the deputations presented at the meeting and in their submissions was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(2)2442/01-02 on 27 June 2002.

4. The Chairman invited questions from members. The major issues discussed were summarised in the following paragraphs.

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Promoting active sporting culture

5. Ms Emily LAU invited Mr Cowen CHIU of the Windsurfing Association of Hong Kong to elaborate on his views on the how sport could help solve some of the youth problems in Hong Kong. In response, Mr CHIU explained that education and sport complemented each other. He cited as an example the experience of the Hong Kong Sea School of which he was the supervisor. Although the academic results of most of its students upon intake had not been satisfactory, their confidence, learning aptitude and team spirit was gradually boosted up through participation in the extra-curricular sport activities organised by the school. This example had well illustrated that sport could help develop the potentials and thus improve the character and aptitude of students, in particular those with less satisfactory academic results. He therefore urged the Government to allocate more resources in enhancing student participation in sport.

6. In response to the views of the deputations on the promotion of active sporting culture, Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs (3) (DS(HA)3) said that districts sports associations (DSAs) and community sports clubs could complement each other. Their active participation in promoting sport in the district and community level would help mobilise residents to take part in various kinds of sport activities thus increasing level of participation in sport.

Public sports venues

7. Mr MA Fung-kwok remarked that shuttlecock had once been a very popular sport some twenty to thirty years before. He asked Mr TANG Wai-man of the Hong Kong Shuttlecock Association whether there were other reasons for its waning popularity apart from the lack of suitable venue. Mr TANG stressed that the unavailability of venue had been the major hindrance to the development of the sport.

8. Ms Emily LAU invited the District Councillors, Mr LAM Kit-sing, Miss CHAN Lim-chee and Mr WUN Tung-lam, to comment on whether the District Councils (DCs) should take up the responsibility for managing public sports venues. Mr LAM, Miss CHAN and Mr WUN all replied that although DCs had the ability to do so, they did not have the time for the task. Mr LAM suggested that the responsibility be delegated to DSAs which had both the time and experience for the task. Miss CHAN and Mr WUN said that DCs might assist the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD) in setting priority for the utilisation of the venues. Miss CHAN added that DCs should be given priority in using public sports venues, especially for the development of "Xtreme Games". She said that the Shatin District was very successful in this because of the availability of venues.

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9. In response to the concerns raised by deputations on the availability of public sports venues, DS(HA)3 explained that the Government was aware of the prevailing needs of the community and would plan for the provision for more sports venues in the long run. It would also explore with schools in opening up some of their sport facilities to the public as well as coordinate with NSAs and community sports clubs with a view to optimising the utilisation of public sports venues.

Public funding for sport

10. Referring to the complaint from the Ladies Lawn Bowls Association of Hong Kong against unfair treatment to women NSAs in public sport funding allocation, Ms Emily LAU pointed out that there might be a case of contravention of the Sex Discrimination Ordinance. She asked why the Association had not lodged a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission. Miss LUK Hang-lan responded that the Association was seeking legal advice on the case and there was a possibility that it might complain to the Commission.

11. Mr Albert CHAN remarked that inappropriate allocation of resources was one of the major reasons for the failure in the development of sport in Hong Kong despite huge Government investment each year. He said that most of the public funding was spent on administrative costs and cited as an example the high salary of executive directors in sports organisations in comparison with the meagre pay of elite athletes. In reply, Mrs Maureen CHAN of the Hong Kong Sports Development Board (SDB) informed members that a maximum of \$200 million of Government subvention was allocated to SDB each year of which more than \$100 million were allocated for training of elite athletes and more than \$70 million for NSAs. These two kinds of subventions amounted to \$190 million of the total government allocation. The operational costs of SDB were mainly paid by two sources of funding, namely, two trust funds set up with the aid of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, and commercial income generated from activities such as renting of sports facilities and organisation of courses. Mrs CHAN continued to explain that a major part of the administrative costs were in fact staff costs involved in elite training and support services such as provision of coaches, hostel and catering service, sports science and medicine, and facility management. The actual administrative costs of SDB had therefore constituted only a minor portion of the government subvention. She commented that in view of the concerns raised by the NSAs on the distribution of sport resources, the Government should seriously review its policy on funding allocation between “high performance sports” and “sports for all”. The Government should also enhance its role as the coordinator of sport activities in Hong Kong by setting up a department solely responsible for leading and coordinating the development of sport.

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Administrative structure for sport

12. At the request of Ms Emily LAU to share with members more of his knowledge in the development of sport in Scandinavian countries, Mr Robert WILSON of the Hong Kong, China Rowing Association advised that Hong Kong could draw reference to the experience of countries such as Denmark and Sweden whose population size was similar to that of Hong Kong but whose athletes had achieved outstanding results in international sport events. In these countries, public sport activities and facilities were organised and managed by NSAs and community sports clubs instead of by the government. He opined that as past experience had proved that direct involvement of the Government in these activities had not been conducive to sport development in Hong Kong, these responsibilities should be passed onto NSAs.

13. As regards the proposed Sports Commission, Mr Robert WILSON held the view that which of the three options listed in paragraph 8.15 of the Report to be adopted by the Government ultimately was not of utmost importance. The structure, functions and powers of the Commission were the most crucial to the development of sport in Hong Kong. To him, it would be a retrograde step if the Commission was set up to be an advisory body only without executive powers. He also considered that the Government should appoint representatives from NSAs as members of the Commission.

14. Mr Andrew CHENG noted that some NSAs had complained against the unfair distribution of sport resources and supported the Administration's proposal to dissolve SDB and set up the new Sports Commission, with the hope that public funding would be allocated in a fairer manner in future. Mr CHENG pointed out that the Sports Commission as proposed by the Administration was an advisory body only with no executive powers nor might it be responsible for the allocation of sport resources. He agreed that improvements should be introduced to SDB but considered it more appropriate to upgrade SDB to become the Sports Commission so that the Commission would be a statutory body with executive powers. He asked Mr HUI Chun-fui of the Volleyball Association of Hong Kong, China and Mr Martin HONG of the Hong Kong Football Association why they preferred the Sports Commission to be an advisory body to a statutory authority with powers in executing sport policies and allocating sport resources.

15. In reply, Mr HUI Chun-fui said that he had been a member of SDB from 1992 to 1994 and was therefore familiar with its operation. He was of the view that SDB had not been operating effectively. It had utilised a large portion of government subvention to pay for administrative costs and its members did not possess good knowledge of sport. He therefore supported the dissolution of SDB and the establishment of the Sports Commission which should possess policy and

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decision making powers in order to expedite the implementation of policies. He also suggested that to enable the Commission to operate effectively, at least half of its members should come from the sport community.

16. Mr Martin HONG held the view that there was overlap in the functions of SDB and NSAs such as the provision of coaches for athlete training. He considered it more appropriate to shift all these functions and related resources, especially in elite training, to NSAs. He therefore advocated for streamlining the administrative structure in sport and hence the dissolution of SDB. He suggested that the new Sports Commission should only be responsible for policy making and monitoring but not directly be involved in the organisation of sport activities.

17. Mr Albert CHAN pointed out that one of the problems in the administrative structure in sport hindering sport development in Hong Kong was that the non-professionals were leading the professionals. The persons in control of sports organisations did not know sport well enough to provide professional leadership for the development of the sport items. Mr Con CONWAY of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, China (SF&OC) responded that NSAs were very experienced in and capable of providing leadership for sport development. However, SF&OC did not have sufficient voice in the planning and organisation of sport facilities as well as in the development of sport. He sincerely hoped that the present sport policy review would introduce changes to the administrative structure and provide SF&OC the sport culture, facilities and funding it required for the development of sport.

18. Mr Timothy FOK declared interest as the Chairman of SF&OC. He explained that for every sport item, there was an international sport association that coordinated the international championships and events. Hong Kong's achievements in international sport arena had been greatly recognised by these international sports associations, as illustrated by the fact that Hong Kong was accepted as a member of the International Olympic Committee in its capacity as Hong Kong, China. He added that because of limited funding, most of the sports associations in Hong Kong had been operated by staff on a part-time basis. In spite of this, the results achieved by their athletes in the international arena had been most outstanding. To enhance further development in sport, Mr Timothy FOK opined that the Government should make reference to the successful experience of South Korea and Japan, and provide more funds and support for the sports associations such as employment of full-time professional staff and coaches to enable the development of professionalism in sport. The Government should only assume the role of a coordinator whereas NSAs should become the major organisers of sport activities. The Government should also raise the profile of sport in the community. Mr FOK said that he supported the recommendations in the Report and urged that these recommendations be implemented as soon as

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possible so that Hong Kong could make early preparation for and channel its efforts and resources towards the training of its athletes for the Olympic Games 2008.

19. In response to the above discussion on the administrative structure for sport, DS(HA)3 said that the Sports Policy Review Team had identified two major areas that required attention if Hong Kong was to achieve a more efficient and transparent framework for sports administration. They were the absence of a single organisation responsible for overall policy, planning, co-ordination and monitoring of sports development and a perceived overlap and lack of clarity in the delineation of responsibilities between LCSD and SDB. The Review Team had therefore recommended to streamline and simplify the administrative structure for sport. It had considered the three options listed in paragraph 8.15 of the Report and considered that there were clearly advantages in establishing the Sports Commission with the dissolution of SDB. The role of the Sports Commission would be similar to those of the advisory bodies established in other policy areas such as the Education Commission. It would be responsible for advising on strategic policy planning and funding as well as coordinating key activities in the sports sector. The Review Team also considered it more appropriate for a separate body to be responsible for the execution and implementation of sport policies and decisions so that the Sports Commission would not be overloaded with executive responsibilities. The Administration also believed that NSAs could have a larger role to play in organising sport activities.

Way forward

20. The Chairman informed the deputations that he would move a motion on the Report for debate at the Legislative Council meeting on 3 July 2002. He assured them that a summary of their views would be circulated to Members for reference before that meeting. He also requested the Administration to provide a written response to the concerns raised by the deputations before 3 July 2002 as far as possible. In response to Ms Emily LAU, DS(HA)3 advised that the period of public consultation would close by end of July. He estimated that the analysis of the results of the consultation would be completed by end of 2002 and the Administration would revert back to the Panel by then.

21. Mr Andrew CHENG suggested that as SDB and SF&OC would be directly affected by the recommendations put forth in the Report, in particular those related to the administrative structure for sport, another Panel meeting should be arranged before the end of the consultation period so that the Panel could discuss the recommendations with them together with the Administration in greater details. To facilitate further discussion, he suggested SDB to provide a paper, as far as possible, on its concrete suggestions on the improvement to the existing

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administrative structure and funding mechanism for sport through legislation, and SF&OC to elaborate in writing how it would provide leadership in coordinating NSAs in the development of sport in Hong Kong. His suggestion was supported by Ms Emily LAU. The Chairman suggested and members agreed that the Panel would follow up the discussion on the Report with the Administration, SDB and SF&OC before end of July 2002.

(Post-meeting note : An agenda item "Follow-up discussion on the Report of the Sports Policy Review Team was added to the agenda for the special meeting schedule for Tuesday, 9 July 2002.)

II. Any other business

22. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:25 pm.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
30 September 2002