

**For meeting on
13 May 2011**

**Legislative Council Panel on Home Affairs
Private Recreational Facilities**

Introduction

We have reviewed the extent to which organisations that operate under Private Recreational Leases (PRLs) could be more open to outside bodies and could contribute more to the development of sport in Hong Kong. This paper outlines the initial conclusions that we have drawn from this review and a possible way forward.

Background

2. The organisations that operate under PRLs include private sports clubs, social and welfare organisations, uniformed groups, sports associations and civil servants' associations. By investing in the development and management of sports and recreational facilities over the years (some for more than a century), these organisations have contributed significantly to meeting the sporting and recreational needs of the community. In this connection, their sports facilities are required to be made available to outside bodies for booking for a certain number of hours per week. As at 1 March 2011, there were 51 different organisations operating facilities at a total of 73 premises. These organisations are listed at **Annex**.

Considerations and Proposals

3. The relevant organisations may make their facilities available to the public, either by charging affordable membership fees or by providing venues for regular training or competitions to outside bodies, for example -

- (a) social and welfare organisations and uniformed groups operate recreational facilities that are widely accessible for use by the general

public at relatively low cost;

- (b) many private sports clubs offer outside bodies, as well as club members access to facilities such as golf courses, lawn bowls greens or cricket pitches that the Government does not commonly provide; and
- (c) “national sports associations” (NSAs) regularly use the facilities at private sports clubs to host local and international matches - indeed, such facilities are essential to the viability of many of these events.

4. Although private sports clubs already provide some degree of access to outside bodies, we consider that there is a scope for them to do more in this regard, and in so doing to contribute further to the development of sport in Hong Kong. We are therefore considering the extent to which such clubs could allow more access to outside bodies such as schools, NSAs and social welfare groups, in order to serve our three key policy objectives for sports development, namely –

- (a) promoting sport in the community;
- (b) promoting elite sports development; and
- (c) promoting Hong Kong as a centre for international sports events.

I. Promoting sport in the community

5. Under the conditions of PRLs, a lessee when required so to do by a competent authority¹ shall permit outside bodies to book its facilities for no more than three sessions of three hours each per week, provided that the use of the facilities “shall not be on a weekend or public holiday”. To allow for more flexibility in the booking of facilities, we consider that there is scope for **revising the access requirements**, for instance by replacing “no more than three sessions of three hours per week” by “40 hours per month or more, provided that such use would not interfere with the proper care and maintenance of the lot”. The revised condition would facilitate all-day training or competitions. Also, we could consider removing the condition that facilities shall not be used on weekends or public holidays, so as to allow for outside bodies to book sports

¹ The competent authorities are the Secretary for the Civil Service, Secretary for Education, Secretary for Home Affairs, Director of Social Welfare and Director of Leisure and Cultural Services.

facilities at such times (whilst recognising that availability of facilities at public holidays and weekends might be limited due to demand from the clubs' own members).

6. To make it easier for outside bodies to book sports facilities run by private sports clubs, we could allow **outside bodies to approach the clubs directly**, rather than having to go through a "competent authority". We could publicise such an arrangement by informing bodies such as NSAs, schools, youth groups and non-governmental organisations of the arrangements and issuing regular reminders of the availability of such sports facilities.

II. Promoting elite sport development

7. As well as promoting sport in the community, we consider that there is scope for private sports clubs to contribute more to promoting elite sports development. At present, some clubs charge young people significantly reduced entry fees to join as junior members. This allows young athletes to use the clubs' sports facilities for training, and to gain competition experience through representing the clubs. We are now considering whether in future all clubs should be required to put in place **junior membership schemes** that allow sportsmen and women below a certain age to join at significantly reduced rates of entry.

8. Many private sports clubs also host representative players or squads of NSAs who use the clubs' sports facilities for training or for playing in local competitions. We are considering whether we might require operators to allow **NSAs to book their facilities** for squad training or local competitions for a minimum of 10 hours per month, *in addition* to the requirement to allow access to outside bodies for 40 hours per month. This would help meet demand for training and competition venues.

III. Promoting Hong Kong as a centre for international sports events

9. Several private sports clubs have high-quality facilities suitable for hosting major international sports events. Clubs such as the Kowloon Cricket Club, the Kowloon Bowling Green Club and the Hong Kong Golf Club have hosted "M" Mark events or other international events. Where suitable facilities are available, there is scope for us to require such clubs to **allow NSAs to use their facilities for staging recognised international events**. This would

allow the public greater access to the private sports clubs concerned, as spectators at such events.

Removal of obsolete conditions in leases

10. The lease conditions for the current PRLs were drawn up over 15 years ago. Some of the lease conditions may be considered obsolete, such as prohibitions against people from outside bodies using the toiletries provided in the changing-rooms of private clubs. We plan to remove such obsolete conditions from all PRLs.

Better publicity and monitoring

11. Outside bodies such as schools, welfare and non-governmental organisations have been informed about the requirement for PRL lessees to make their sports facilities available to outside bodies, and some of them have indeed been making use of such facilities. However, we agree that publicity could be stepped up to make more outside bodies aware of the availability of such facilities. To improve publicity on the availability of sports facilities at premises operated under PRLs, we could require the operators of the premises to publish information about their facilities on their websites and also regularly to remind the competent authorities to bring such information to the attention of bodies under their respective purviews. Relevant information will also be uploaded to the website of the Home Affairs Bureau. In addition, to improve our capacity for monitoring the booking of sports facilities operated under PRLs, we could require that operators provide a quarterly report on the use of their sports facilities by outside bodies. We would conduct random checks and act on complaints, and if we detect irregularities and consider that lease enforcement action is necessary, we would take follow-up action.

Consultation

12. Relevant organisations operating premises under PRLs are aware of our proposal for them to further open up their facilities to outside bodies. These organisations are in general positive about accommodating the new arrangements to make it easier to book their facilities.

Presentation

13. Members are invited to comment on the issues presented in this paper, in particular the proposals described in paragraphs 5 to 11 above.

Home Affairs Bureau

May 2011

List of Organisations holding Private Recreational Leases

Serial No.	Name of Holder	Location and Lot No.
1	Aberdeen Boat Club Limited	AIL 454, Shum Wan Road, Brick Hill
2	Bishop of the Roman Catholic Church in Hong Kong	Lot 1318, Cheung Chau
3	Boys' and Girls' Club Association of Hong Kong	Lot 642 DD 257, Wong Yi Chau
4	Chinese Recreation Club, Hong Kong	IL 8875, No. 123 Tung Lo Wan Road
5	Clearwater Bay Golf & Country Club	Lot 227 DD 241, Po Toi O
6	Club De Recreio	KIL 11098, No. 20 Gascoigne Road
7	Community Sports Limited	Lot 2322 DD 96, Ma Tso Lung
8	Craigengower Cricket Club	IL 8881, No. 188 Wong Nai Chung Road
9	Directors of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	Lot 147 SD5, Sai Kung
10	Directors of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	Lot 75 DD 254, Sai Kung
11	Directors of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	Sha Tin Town Lot No. 366, 2 On Chun Street
12	Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association of Hong Kong	KIL 11105 and Extension, Off Gascoigne Road, King's Park
13	Duke of Edinburgh's Award Hong Kong	Lot 602 R.P. DD16, Lam Tsuen
14	Filipino Club	KIL 11096, No. 10 Wylie Road
15	Hebe Haven Yacht Club Limited	Lot 1138 and Extension DD 217, Pak Sha Wan
16	Hong Kong Buddhist Association	Lot 172 in DD4, Tung Chung
17	Hong Kong Chinese Civil Servants' Association	KIL 11048, No. 8 Wylie Road
18	Hong Kong Country Club	RBL 1129, Wong Chuk Hang Road
19	Hong Kong Cricket Club	IL 9019, No. 137 Wong Nai Chung Gap Road
20	Hong Kong Football Club	IL 8846, No. 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley
21	Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	IL 8894, Wong Nai Chung Gap Road
22	Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Lot 148 DD 250, Sai Kung
23	Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Lot 1707 DD 122, Yuen Long
24	Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Lot 2544 DD 92, Hang Tau Road, Kwu Tung South, Sheung Shui

Serial No.	Name of Holder	Location and Lot No.
25	Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	Kowloon Inland Lot No. 10734 at the junction of Gascoigne Road and Wylie Road
26	Hong Kong Golf Club	RBL 1117, Deep Water Bay
27	Hong Kong Golf Club	Lot 942 RP in DD 94, Sheung Shui
28	Hong Kong Gun Club	TWTL 399, Chuen Lung, Tsuen Wan
29	Hong Kong Jockey Club	IL 8847, No. 1 Sports Road and Wong Nai Chung Road
30	Hong Kong Jockey Club	STTL 13, Sha Tin
31	Hong Kong Model Engineering Club Limited	Lot 2416 in DD 118, Tai Tong, Yuen Long
32	Hong Kong Playground Association	Lot 667 DD 2, Mui Wo
33	Hong Kong Red Cross	Lot 142 in DD 319, Shek Pik, Lantau Island
34	Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps (Area Committee)	NKIL 6001, Diamond Hill
35	Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps (Lau Wah Sum & Samuel Derek Oates as Trustees for the Area Committee)	Lot 611 DD 256, Sai Kung
36	Hong Kong Softball Association	KIL 11088, Tin Kwong Road
37	Hong Kong Young Women's Christian Association	Lot 727 DD 332, San Shek Wan, Lantau
38	Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association	Lot 188 DD 337, Lantau
39	Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association	Lot 235 in DD Ngong Ping
40	Hong Kong Youth Hostels Association	TPTL 133, Tai Mei Tuk
41	Hong Kong, China Rowing Association (formerly known as Hong Kong Amateur Rowing Association Limited)	STTL 220, Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin
42	India Club, Kowloon	KIL 11095, No. 24 Gascoigne Road
43	Indian Recreation Club	IL 8900, No. 63 Caroline Hill Road, So Kon Po
44	Jardine's Lookout Residents' Association	IL 8895, No. 2 Creasy Road, Jardine's Lookout
45	Kowloon Bowling Green Club	KIL 11065, No. 123 Austin Road
46	Kowloon Cricket Club	KIL 11052, No. 10 Cox's Road
47	Kowloon Tong Club	NKIL 5989, Waterloo Road, Kowloon Tong
48	Kowloon Tsai Home Owners Association	NKIL 5961, No. 10A Cambridge Road, Kowloon Tong
49	Mong Kok District Cultural, Recreational & Sports Association Limited	KIL 11165, J/O Ivy Street & Beech Street

Serial No.	Name of Holder	Location and Lot No.
50	Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club Limited	KIL 11097, No. 4 Wylie Path
51	Outward Bound Trust of Hong Kong Limited	Lot 590 DD 256, Tai Mong Tsai
52	Pakistan Association of Hong Kong Limited	KIL 11094, No. 150 Princess Margaret Road
53	Po Leung Kuk	Lot 613 DD 257, Pak Tam Chung
54	Po Leung Kuk	Lot 2411 DD 118 and Extension, Tai Tong
55	Reach Networks Hong Kong Limited (formerly known as The Post Office and Cable & Wireless Recreation Club Limited)	IL 8597 RP, No. 108 Caroline Hill Road, So Kon Po
56	Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club	ML 709, Kellett Island
57	Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club	RBL 1181, Middle Island
58	Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club	Lot 341 and Extension DD 212, Che Keng Tuk
59	Scout Association of Hong Kong	IL 8961, Mansion Street, North Point
60	Scout Association of Hong Kong	NKIL 5956, Rutland Quadrant, Kowloon Tong
61	Scout Association of Hong Kong	Lot 1131 DD 217, Pak Sha Wan
62	Scout Association of Hong Kong	Lot 154 DD 195, Sha Tin
63	Scout Association of Hong Kong	Lot 131 in DD 60, Au Tau, Yuen Long
64	Scout Association of Hong Kong	TPTL 190, Tung Tsz, Tai Po
65	Scout Association of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	KCTL 391, Wo Yip Hop Road, Kwai Chung
66	Scout Association of Hong Kong and The Hong Kong Girl Guides Association	STTL 272, Shui Chuen Au Street, Sha Tin
67	South China Athletic Association	IL 8850, No. 88 Caroline Hill Road, So Kon Po
68	South China Athletic Association	KIL 11071, No. 6 Wylie Path
69	Tai Po Sports Association Limited	TPTL 6 and Extension, Area 4, Tai Po
70	Tung Wah Group of Hospitals	Lot 2321 DD 96, Ma Tso Lung
71	Victoria Recreation Club	Lot 316 DD 252, Sai Kung
72	Yau Yat Chuen Garden City Club Limited	NKIL 6042, 7 Cassia Road, Yau Yat Chuen
73	Yuen Long District Sports Association Limited	YLTL 520 (formerly known as YLTL 160), Yuen Long