

Windsurfing Association of Hong Kong

President's Report

(2019-20)

Dear members:

(1) Preface

Good evening! Thank you for attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Due to the impact of COVID-19, the venue for this year's AGM has to be changed to the Olympic House without evening gala held. I appreciate your kind understanding.

This is the first AGM hosted by the newly-elected management team where addressing my debut Annual Report.

The year of 2019 was a tough year for Hongkonger. A series of social events followed by the outbreak of epidemic which have brought unprecedented challenges to our administrative and management affairs, racing activities, training programs and other projects. Many of the planned activities would need to be rescheduled or suspended. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the General Committee for their valuable contributions and opinions throughout the year, as well as all staff members for their full dedication during the epidemic. With the sturdy support from our committed team members, the Association could operate smoothly amid this difficult time.

(2) Corporate Governance

As one of the National Sports Associations receiving government funding, members of the public have high expectations on the governance of WAHK, including integrity, transparency, fairness, and accountability. Effective leadership and good governance are crucial to foster the development of windsurfing in the territory. Therefore, WAHK had actively reviewed and updated the existing Articles of Association and various codes. By encouraging members of the General Committee and our staff to participate in corporate

governance training courses, the Association strives to improve the efficiency in operation and service, and thus meeting the expectations of general public.

(3) Race Activities

Regarding the organisation of competitions, the the professional leadership of the Race Management team coupled with concerted efforts and full support of parent volunteers, all six Championships of the “2019 Haitong International Hong Kong Windsurfing Circuit” and the “2019 Hong Kong Youth Windsurfing Championships” were successfully held. However, with regret, one of our key events, the “Haitong International Hong Kong Open Windsurfing Championships”, has to be cancelled for two consecutive years due to safety and health concerns of athletes and race officials.

We appeal to windsurfers to understanding the special circumstances this year and hope that everything will go smoothly in the coming year where competitions can be held as planned. Meanwhile, we closely liaise with various government departments for organising those postponed HKG Circuit events later this year in response to the keen demands from windsurfers.

(4) National Squad

Representatives of WAHK secured admission qualifications for the Men and Women RS:X events of the “Tokyo 2020 Olympics Games” during the “2019 RS:X Windsurfing World Championships”. Obtaining the two tickets to the Olympic Games has created an impressive record for WAHK by “not missing any Olympic windsurfing event since the event debut in 1984 Olympic Games”. Although the Tokyo Olympics is postponed to mid-2021, I hope our Hong Kong representatives can overcome all challenges ahead and outdo oneself.

Our representatives have continued to yield brilliant results in other competitions in 2019, including triumphing a gold and a silver medal in the “Princesa Sofia Regatta”, which was the best result since Hong Kong participated in the event.

In addition, representatives of WAHK won three golds, four silvers and two bronzes in the “2019 Asian Windsurfing Championships” and two golds, two silvers and one bronze in the “TECHNO Asian Championships”. The outstanding achievements and honours are

awarded by Hayley Victoria Chan, Cheng Chun-leung, Cheng Ching-yin, Cheng Ho-yin, Choi Wing-chi, Kikabhoy Rafeek, Ma Kwan-ching, Ngai Wai-yan, Mak Cheuk-wing, Au Ling-yeung, Yeung Lok, Shek Jason, Yim Tong-hei, Ho Ming-yin, Fung Yuk-kiu, Lam Chun-po, Chui Wing-chun, Shea Yik-lung, Yuen Alvin and others. While commending the hard work of athletes over the past year, we would also like to extend our gratitude to those people behind them, including coaches, parents and all other staff.

Although the training schedules was affected by the outbreak of epidemic, I believed that our coaches will do their best to accommodate an ideal training arrangement for athletes. I also hope that athletes will continue to strive for the top, cherish and make good use of each training session, and extend the brilliant records laid by the seniors.

(5) Youth Development

Throughout the year, we held a total of 303 Joint School Training courses participated by more than 1,623 students. During the summer vacation from June to September 2019, we held 341 training courses with more than 1,513 participants. In October 2019, 60 teenagers were selected as members of the Youth Development Squad for long-term training. The training provided would benchmark the requirements of that of the National Squad. The youth windsurfer would endeavour to become a member of Nation Squad. Regarding the community and campus promotion, we still focused on arranging visits and demonstrations for introducing windsurfing to young people. We aimed to further promote windsurfing to a greater extent in the future.

(6) Members' Service

WAHK has strengthened the use of social media by publishing more frequent updates of the Facebook page. Furthermore, we also opened an Instagram account for sharing the latest news of the Association in a more relaxed way while providing an extra channel for members and the public to interact with us, for example regular introduction of windsurfing knowledge, online windsurfing Q&A sessions and response to member and public inquiries through Facebook and Instagram instant messaging functions. In this regard, I appeal to members' assistance in sharing our news within your friend groups, attracting more people to participate in the sport.

Regarding the management of clubhouse and membership services, a number of renovation works of the clubhouse have finished. Other refurbishment projects including sail cages, board racks, changing rooms, storm drains, railings, etc. were also completed to ensure that members can store their equipment safely while enjoying quality clubhouse facilities. I would take this chance to thank the Clubhouse and Membership Services Sub-committee for sparing no effort in managing those works tasks.

(7) Others

WAHK has always treasured our athletes as the most important and valuable “asset”, we therefore established the “Former National Squad Members Sub-committee” intending to strengthen support of athletes after retirement. This provides a platform for retired athletes to contribute to the Association while nurturing them the culture and core values of windsurfing.

More importantly, I would like to express my appreciation on behalf of WAHK to Mr. Chau Wai-keung Dennis(周偉強), our former Executive Director who retired last year. Mr. Chau has worked for the Association for almost 30 years and devoted his golden time to the sport of windsurfing. During his tenure as the Executive Director, Mr. Chau facilitated the orderly implementation of administrative works of the Association. He also assisted WAHK in planning and implementing far-reaching children and youth training programs in early 1990s, laying the cornerstone for the future development of the Association. Furthermore, Mr. Chau has demonstrated excellent performance in coordinating and liaising with various funding agencies, sponsors and partners, to solicit financial support and acquire a lot of development opportunities for WAHK.

Besides, our Senior Sports Officer, Mr. Lam Yick Leung Stephen (林奕亮), is about to retire. Mr. Lam has served WAHK for 23 years and dedicated to the junior and youth training programs. He piloted the Association to nurture generations and generations of new forces who make splashes on the world stage by winning countless awards. Mr. Lam further utilises his professional knowledge in race management alongside jury and instructor training to assist in multi-realm development of the Association.

Here, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the two colleagues and wish them a happy retirement and good health.

(7) Outlook

Under the current social condition, WAHK being a member of the local sports sector holds a vital role in invigorating and uniting the society. The Association will take this as one of our primary goals for future development. We will continue to focus on junior and youth training programs and produce more young potential athletes for elite training. In the future, WAHK plans to organise different types of activities and training courses, hoping to strengthen and encourage participation from the local community.

Apart from actively engaging new participants to experience windsurfing, we also aim to strengthen the sense of belonging of our existing members by organising more activities in the future, thus enabling all windsurfing enthusiasts to enjoy windsurfing.

On the other hand, the Association pays particular attention to the rapidly developing and popularising Wind Foiling. The emergence of this new category of windsurfing is a precious opportunity for our Association to adventure into uncharted waters and gain greater achievement. WAHK has already established a task force to discuss and formulate the direction of development and arrangement specifically for Wind Foiling, and will announce relevant news in due course.

(8) Conclusion

2019-20 is a year full of challenges, and WAHK is no doubt experiencing a transitional time under an unstable social context. Owing to the foresight and hard work of our predecessors, WAHK has laid a solid foundation over the past 40 years, which allows us to surmount any hurdles. However, with the rapid development of modern society, the Association must not be content with the status quo. Our management team will continue to seek breakthroughs for future developments, so that windsurfing can keep abreast of the times and continue to be the glamorous water sport that Hong Kong people are proud of.

Finally, on behalf of the General Committee, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Home Affairs Bureau, Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Sports Federation & Olympic Committee of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Sports Institute, Hong Kong Sailing Federation, World Sailing, International Windsurfing Association, Haitong International, all sponsors, organisations, and individuals who supported us; and hope that they will continue to back the development of the Association in the coming year.

Thank you very much.

I wish you all good health and every success.

Chau Ngai-man
President