

2015 Chairman's Report

This year we did observe some improvement of results in regional events.

Our open, senior youth teams competed in Bangkok in May for the 50th APBF tournament. The open team captained by Samuel Wan & consisted of Baron Ng, K F Mak, Laurance Lo, Tony Lau, W K Chan, W K Lai came 5th of total of 14 teams, and managed to play in the knockout, regrettably they were not able to advance any further. The same sad story can also be said about our senior team consisting of Edmund Tse, Karic Chiu, Peter Chun, Peter Yeung, Roger Ling, Vincent Li, again they ended 5th(out of 10th) and eliminated in Berth knock out.

One thing worth noting, 2014 Asia champion went to Singapore, a city with less Bridge population than Hong Kong, and what's important was none of them were professional at that time. This is both an encouragement as well as alarm bell that Hong Kong should be better in future, as once upon a time, Singapore was viewed as one of the weakest team in APBF, apparently they had improved significantly and we haven't.

All our youth teams (U25, U20 & Girls) came 4th, so all our result in APBF gave us some hope.

However, we fared poorly in China Mind Sports Game held in 枣庄 during October. Open team ended up 39th(out of 45), ladies team 21st(out of 32) and U25 ended 7th(out of 20) and again lost in quarter final.

For Hong Kong-Guangzhou-Macau Interport, Hong Kong ended up 2nd & 5th, again narrowly missing the chance, well, we can only try harder in 2016.

A bit of positive news though, in ASEAN Game held in Bangkok during last December, Hong Kong won the Mixed team out of a total entry of 28, and our ladies team finish up 1st and 2nd in the non-ASEAN section ladies team, surely a very good boost of morale for our female players.

In July, we organized the 33rd Intercity and after an absence of 9 years, the team comprises of Abby Chiu-Alan Sze, Karic Chiu-Samuel Wan, Peter Chun-Derek Zen won the open team, a nice surprise for HKCBA, and certainly an extremely fruitful result for me.

Coming back to our local scene, as we were informed that in 2018, in the Asia Game to be held in Jakarta, bridge will be an official sport. As such, in order to raise the standard of our ladies players, and also hoping for a chance of winning a medal, HKCBA took the initiation to organize a 2½ years training programme. It is surely too soon to tell whether we will have any fruitful result, but the response was promising and we do hope in the longer term, this training would be beneficial to all our members.

We started revamping our website since June 2014, we encountered a lot more problems than we expected. Nevertheless, most of members are getting used to register on line and receiving the notice of tournament and trial, saving us a lot of time in trying to mail out letters. We are still progressing on this matter and should expect as more improvement and progress in near future.

Our membership has slightly decrease to 273, and our regular tournament attendance was around 14 tables.

Although our financial position is still strong, but every year, the registration fee to APBF/WBF is slowly killing our balance sheet, so we have no option but to limit our subsidy to open, senior & ladies team to \$20,000/event, and we also have to raise our tournament fee slightly to HK\$80/session due mainly to rental increase by Mariners. Our aim is at least to have our regular tournament breaking even, believe me, even this is hard to achieve.

The Chinese New Year is around the corner, so I would like to say ‘kung hei fat choy’ to all of you and wish you all a healthy and prosperous year of Monkey.