**Vets League Meeting – The Canny Man, Wanchai, Monday 3rd March, 2014**

**Attendees**

* Henry Vera, Spartans
* Richard Broadhurst, Initiative FC
* Matt Coleman, Initiative FC
* Jim Kwok, Hamsap FC
* Francis Glenn - SiHK
* Alan Urmston – USRC
* Robin Armstrong, DB FC
* Tapio Klatt, HK Krauts
* Peter Lake, Mui Wo
* BTDT, Robbie De Vries
* Franco Razzani, HK Falcons

**Apologies sent:**

Jonathan Peters – Maccabi

Tony Smith - KCC

Albert Tsang – Team Shotgun

Keith Goodman – Stanley Strollers

Laurence Rudge – Yau Yee rep/USRC

Matt Weston – Clearwater Bay Mariners

John Fawcett – The Godfathers

Jeremy Olsson – CIS

Richard Dent - Corinthians

**Summary**

Thank you to everyone for participating in last nights’ meeting about forming a Legal League affiliated Hong Kong vets league. We had a very productive discussion and reached a general consensus on everything which is summarised in the points below.

**Format**

Most teams, managers and players want to play football in a conventional 11 a-side league that involves a game of two 35 minute halves with rolling subs and features a league title competition and a cup competition. The vets league champions will not be eligible for promotion into the Legal League second division and the team that finishes bottom of the vets league will not be demoted. Vets teams will also be invited to participate in the Legal League sevens tournament.

A Cup competition would also need to discuss for the next meeting.

There was some discussion about 7 or 9 aside competition however it was highlighted there was only at best 3 or 4 suitable pitches and their goals varied which would make it difficult to be fair in the long run. Also a few managers thought they would only be able to muster enough team interest if it was an 11 aside competition.

**Commencement**

Ideally, the league should commence from September onwards. Before September is too hot and many people will still be on their summer holidays.

**Age Group**

The vets league will only consist of players above the age of 35. No-one below the age of 35 will be allowed to play. If teams doubt the age of certain players, then the player in question will need to show their ID card to confirm their age.

**Pitches**

Pitches will be varying qualities of natural grass and astro. Pitches will be located at various locations around Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories, however, the league will endeavour on a weekly basis to secure the best quality pitches in the most convenient locations.

**Fixtures**

Games will initially be played at least twice a month and will most likely take place on a Friday night, Saturday morning or Monday evening. However, if midweek pitches can be secured and both teams agree then fixtures can also be played during the week as well. Midweek pitches would need to know in advance for the agreement between teams to take place. Games will be played at least twice per month to begin with, however, this will be dependent upon how many teams enter the league as well as the availability of pitches.

**Referees**

Games will be officiated by one referee and two linesmen.

**Fees**

Teams will contribute an annual fee to participate in the vets league. The fee will most likely be something similar to the annual fee for the Legal League i.e. HK$,6,500 per year. Teams would need to pay refs on the day which usually comes to about $320 unless there is a bit of travelling.

**League Management**

The current team of Legal League volunteers will help to manage the vets league to begin with, however, volunteers will be required from the vets teams to help manage the league on a permanent basis. The following positions will need to be filled:

* President / Chairman
* Secretary
* Assistant Secretary
* Fixtures Coordinator
* Pitch Coordinator
* Referee Coordinator
* Disciplinary Committee

**Association with the Legal League**

The vet’s league will be associated with the Legal League in terms of naming, branding, website and league management and league rules. This would help draw more players to the various teams and save on advertising. The current teams would need to vote this in but we saw no reason why they wouldn’t as long as the vets teams pay their own way.

**League Name**

Franco produced a selection of vets league names and logos and most people agreed that it should be called the “Legends League”, “Legends Legal League”, or the ”Legal League Legends”, or something very similar.

**Web Page**

A web page will be added to the existing Legal League website to incorporate the vets league. To start with, the web page will include a league table and a list of fixtures and results. Expanding the web page to include more information can be considered once the league is up and running and there is the money available.

**Friendly games**

It was suggested some friendly games take place for squads so they can build up numbers before the competition starts in September. Using the current email list to help facilitate matches is a start.

**Group friendly games**

One of the ideas put forward was to have a friendly get together game once a month where any of the players could come and play a game. The league would host the pitch and help try coordinate the numbers. This would be a good chance to get everyone together and also get new players that might interested in joining a team.