

## **Learning Report: IQA Quidditch World Cup 2018**

### **Lau Kwun Shing**

I participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> IQA Quidditch World Cup in Florence, Italy from 27 June to 2 July 2018, as the manager and player of Team Hong Kong. This was Team Hong Kong's first appearance in the World Cup. I was very honoured to lead the 19-player team to participate in the prestigious tournament for the first time, competing with 28 other countries around the world. Our team played 6 matches over 2 days and won 2 (against Finland and Slovakia), finishing 25<sup>th</sup>. Although we lost to Poland, South Korea and Ireland, this is already a very satisfactory result as many of us have little (or even no) competitive Quidditch experience before. Our participation attracted much media attention, with news reports by the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong Free Press, Oriental Daily, and Apple Daily.

I have met people from all walks of life and made many new friends from different countries by participating in the World Cup. I exchanged jerseys with players from Slovakia, Australia and Vietnam after the matches, and built valuable friendships. I also met the founder of Quidditch, Alex Benepe, and obtained his support for Quidditch development in Hong Kong. I also witnessed how inclusive this sport can be – in Team Hong Kong, we have a non-binary player; in other teams, there are transgender players, etc. Quidditch is about gender equality and inclusiveness, and this spirit has been shown in the best way in the World Cup. Quidditch is also about inclusiveness in other aspects, including race. Team Hong Kong is comprised of players of different races, and players all respected each other and treated others equally.

By participating in the World Cup, I also learnt more about the organisation of a Quidditch tournament. With this experience, I have decided to place a bid for hosting the Asian Quidditch Cup in Hong Kong next year, so that Quidditch can be further promoted and developed in Hong Kong. Quidditch is more than a sport; it represents inclusiveness. I am determined to continue to promote the sport and its value to more people in Hong Kong and around the World. With the invaluable experience of participating in this World Cup, I believe that I can achieve my target.

As the Team Manager, I am very glad to see that the players enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot from the World Cup. I am particularly happy to see that the 5 other students from the University of Hong Kong in Team Hong Kong learnt more about the sport and appreciate the positive impact it has on their lives. By leading the team and handling the administrative matters, I also gained a lot of experience in management and improved my leadership and interpersonal skills.

To conclude, this meaningful and unforgettable experience of participating in the Quidditch World Cup has not only made me a better player, but also a better Quidditch promoter. I will continue to use my experience to promote Quidditch and spread the message of gender equality in Hong Kong and around the World.

