

Mr. K.L. Tang Reflects on More Than Three Decades at DGS

One of the longest-serving male sports coaches at an all-girls school, Mr. K.L. Tang comes across as soft-spoken and friendly. Old girls say he is a man of few words. Those who have been taught and trained by him are thankful to him for influencing them, as evidenced by the recent retirement party in March hosted by old girls whom he has coached over 35 years. It was a memorable day for Mr. Tang, who had just led the DGS Athletics Team on an 11-year winning streak at the Division One Inter-School Athletics Competition.



"Top athletes must build the right foundation," emphasised Mr. Tang during an interview with members of DOGA Editorial Subcommittee. If the foundation is not good, you will fall eventually. You must be patient and not rush it. If you build upon an unsteady foundation, it gets harder to reach the top." Mr. Tang's own foundation in athletics was built early in life, during his primary and secondary school years. "There was no full-time coach in those days. The older athletes coached the younger ones." His proud achievements included defeating the Diocesan Boys' School and Fung Kai Secondary School athletics teams, the latter of which won many meets but was always defeated by Mr. Tang's relay team. He had also held the inter-school record for discus throwing.

Mr. Tang spoke of two influential figures in his youth, both of whom inspired him to become a teacher and coach. The first was a teacher who tutored him one-on-one after school as he had to miss classes to attend athletic meets. Another was an athletics coach from another secondary school, whom he had met during one of the invitational meets and who eventually became his coach.



Retirement party



As athletics coach at the 1986 Asian Games, Mr Tang helped to publicise for the 1988 Olympics.



Mr Tang's countless awards as an athlete and sportsman.



Mr Tang led the HK team, including athletes and swimmers from DGS, to overseas competition.

Why did he become a male coach at a girls' school? After graduating from Grantham College of Education, Mr. Tang initially became a "coach of coaches", teaching more than 120 P.E. teachers at Grantham, many of whom have since become coaches at other schools. "In those days, it was hard to find female coaches for throwing events, and that's where I specialised. That's why I was recruited by DGS," he recalled.

Mr. Tang played an instrumental role in developing more than 20 sports programs at DGS, the first of which was basketball in 1982. Over the years, he introduced cross country, volleyball, dodgeball, indoor rowing, golf, archery, bowling, handball, and Dragon Boat racing. He added that offering more diverse sports was a way to encourage more girls to participate. Mr. Tang praises DGS girls both past and present as having very good team spirit and being well-behaved. He thinks the girls nowadays are multitalented and proactive in reaching out to teachers for guidance and assistance. Athletes are physically stronger and start training earlier, due in part to better nutrition and availability of sports venues. The athletics facilities at the newly renovated DGS campus also provide more resources for girls to engage in sports training.

However, Mr. Tang thinks that the older generation of girls possessed a tougher mentality. "It may be that life is too smooth nowadays," he reflected. "Setbacks and failures are necessary in training athletes' mentality, so that they can overcome pressure and endure."

When thinking of what he would miss most after leaving DGS, Mr. Tang's immediate response was, "The students!" His two daughters as well as his eldest son grew up as swimmers and athletes. In sharing about training his children, Mr. Tang offered more words of wisdom. "They have to like it themselves. Sports helps build confidence. You have to have expectations for yourself. No one can force you." He emphasised the need to stay fit in order to be a good role model for his students. After he retires, he will of course continue to stay fit. "Nothing is more valuable than having a healthy and happy life!" Finally, for current and future DGS athletes, he has this piece of advice: 正選位置是自己爭取，不是我給予妳的！



Coach in action

Activities

Hong Kong Adventure Corps Flag Day

Community Services Sub-Committee

The Hong Kong Adventure Corps (HKAC) Flag Day took place on 4th February in Tsim Sha Tsui. 26 alumnae and their children, totally over 60 participants, joined this meaningful event where we continued our school motto of "Daily Giving Service". Funds raised went towards the cost of training and equipment for HKAC, a charitable organisation which helps youths aged 12-18 to develop their character and leadership skills through training.



Cookie Decoration Workshop

Art Club

On 11th February, the DOGA Art Club hosted a fun cookie decoration workshop, taught by a pastry and confectionery chef trained at the renowned Le Cordon Bleu. The event was a great get-together for our alumnae and a wonderful parent-child activity. We learnt the techniques of how to beautifully decorate cookies using icing and fondant. Everyone brought home a set of artistically and uniquely decorated cookies, which were perfect as Valentine's Day presents for loved ones!



Annual Membership Tea Gathering

Membership Sub-Committee

This year's Annual Membership Tea Gathering was held on 25th March at the DOGA room on school campus. There was an overwhelming turnout of 43 alumnae from class of 1960-2015, including new members, class representatives, mentors, mentees, and senior DOGA committee members. We are privileged that former Junior School Headmistress, Mrs. Emily Dai, has become the class representative for her class year. We enjoyed a delightful fellowship with games, sharing, photo taking, and homemade refreshments.



Perfume Appreciation Workshop

Social Sub-Committee

On 28th April, the Social Sub-Committee organised a perfume appreciation workshop at Parfumerie Trésor. Alumnae became perfume connoisseurs for the evening, learning about the culture, history and knowledge on perfume matching for different occasions. It was sensational to experience rare perfumes from the floral Bulgarian Rose, and sweet Chocolate Rose, to the fruity, woody, and baby fresh fragrances. Everyone had a wonderful, de-stressing two hours in the beautiful perfumerie.

Cocktail Workshop

Social Sub-Committee

A Cocktail Workshop was held on 9th May at The Woods in Central with 15 participants. We started off with the tasting of a range vodka, gin, rum, tequila, bourbon to whisky as we learned about the history and the appreciation for different spirits. The highlight of the workshop was the cocktail demonstration by leading mixologist, Mr. Alex Ko, followed by hands-on mixing of our own Margarita or Negroni. We had a fun-filled evening behind the cocktail bar and sipping away our very own cocktails.



Mother's and Father's Day Calligraphy Workshop

Art Club

On 13th May, the DOGA Art Club hosted Mother's and Father's Day calligraphy workshops featuring Kaye Shu from K's Calligraphy 舒法. The two sessions attracted 62 alumnae and their families to attend. The morning session focused on brush lettering with colourful Crayola pens and participants designed beautiful hand-lettered Mother's and Father's Day cards. The afternoon session introduced alumnae to Modern Calligraphy where attendees learned about the history on typography. They used penholders and pointed nibs to create beautiful and artistic lettering pieces.



Sub-Committee Focus – Sports Sub-Committee

The DOGA Sports Sub-Committee provides a platform for alumnae to come together to play sports that they used to play at school and also to learn new sports. Alumnae can play either socially or in a competitive setting. We currently have three sports groups - netball, basketball and badminton, and are in discussion to add two more sports groups - athletics and dragon-boat. If you are interested to join or to start a new sports group, you are more than welcome to contact us at doga.sports@gmail.com.

Among the many events that the DOGA Sports Sub-Committee recently organised, we would like to highlight the first-ever inter-school old girls' badminton competition held in January at the DGS Gymnasium. This provided many old girls the opportunity to have their dreams come true – that is to play again in inter-schools competitions. Over 60 alumnae players from eight different schools participated in the event. DOGA also sponsored the Challenge Shield.

After two exciting rounds, DOGA Team A won the championship while Team B was placed sixth. Heep Yunn School took the first runner-up, followed by S.T.F.A. Leung Kau Kui College securing second runner-up. Ms Yvonne Chan, DOGA President, and Ms Anna Wong, DOGA Sports Sub-Committee Chair, were the prize presenters.

With very positive feedback all round, we hope this will be an annual event and we look forward to the DOGA team claiming the Challenge Shield again next year.



Alumnae players from eight secondary schools



DOGA Badminton Team – the Champion Team

Upcoming Events

July	Support of Job Shadowing Programme for S5 (July 3-5)
August	Entering University Students Gathering (Aug 12)
September	Finance Group Gathering; HKUST and HKU University Group Gathering
October	DOGA Netball League; DOGA Annual Dinner (Oct 20)
November	Medic Group Gathering; Diocesan Graduate Singers' Concert; CUHK University Group Gathering
December	Mentoring Programme Kick-off; Art Club Event; Careers Talk; DGS Mini-Bazaar; End of Term Netball Match DOGA vs DGS

Details of the events will become updated periodically. Please visit www.doga.org.hk to obtain the latest information.
DOGA Office: 1 Jordan Road. Tel: 2771 5881, Email: doga.info@gmail.com

Joining DOGA:

Any old girl of DGS or DGJS (whether resident or abroad) who has completed at least one academic year at DGS or DGJS is eligible to apply for membership of DOGA Ltd. Details of the application can be found at www.doga.org.hk.

Class Reunion Gathering:

Alumnae who are interested in organising their class reunion gathering at the School, please contact DOGA office for further information.