

# CLUB

HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB 香港足球會 APRIL 2009



## Easter Brunch

Seasonal Lunch Buffet

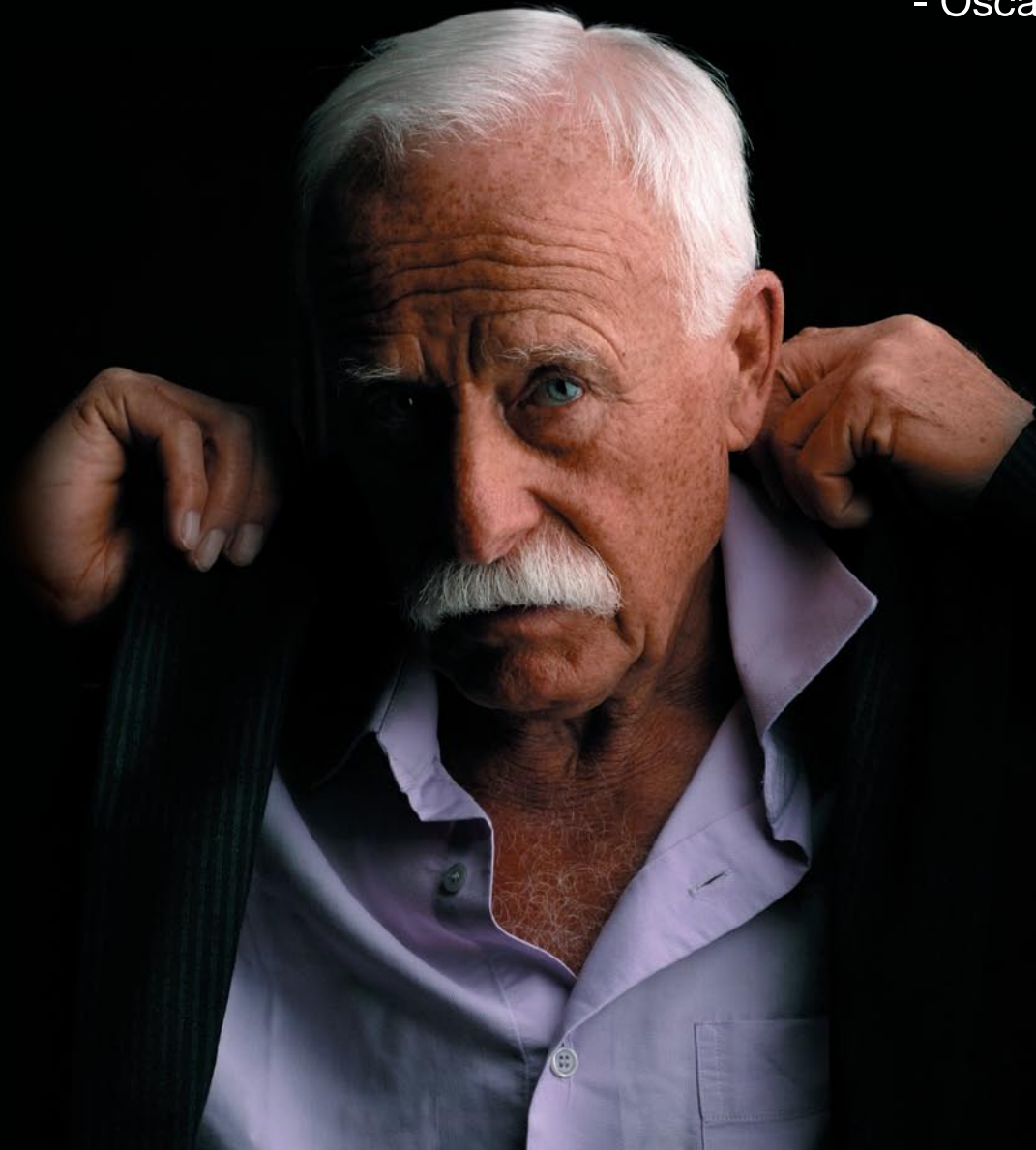
We'll Meet Again

A Feast of Lamb and more...



When I was young I used to think that money was the most important thing in life. Now that I am old, I know it is.

- Oscar Wilde



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## HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB

### MISSION STATEMENT

**Vision:** To be recognised as the leading Sports Club in the Territory.

**Mission:** To deliver quality services on the principles of accountability, consistency and transparency.  
To develop an organizational culture that recognises the importance of staff contribution and commitment.  
To facilitate the development and participation of recognised sporting activities.

**Values:** Being accountable – to communicate, consult and provide information.

Living within our means – to plan ahead within available resources.  
Developing a culture of service – to encourage commitment, integrity, courtesy and responsiveness.

Managing for performance – to set the direction and develop the necessary skills.

**Aims:** To provide the services the Membership needs.

To improve the quality of Club life.

To up-hold the Constitution and Bye-laws.

To encourage Members to play their part in the Club.

#### General Committee

President	: Dermot Agnew
Vice President	: Nick Hunsworth
Vice President	: Mike Lamont
Vice President	: Bobby Lawson
Vice President	: Iain Valentine
Chairman	: Fook Aun Chew
Hon. Secretary	: Colin Cohen
Hon. Treasurer	: David Howell
Sports & Recreation Development	: Lynn Edwards
Discipline	: Martin King
Constitutional Affairs	: Desmond Ko
Membership	: Maurice O'Brien
Hockey Officer	: John Shanahan
Hockey Officer	: Fergus McCoig
Lawn Bowls Officer	: Mike Worth
Rugby Officer	: John Molloy
Soccer Officer	: Martyn Russell
Squash Officer	: David Reeves

#### Management

General Manager	: Mark Pawley
Operations & Co-ordination Manager	: Tony Sealy
Financial Controller	: S.K. Li
F & B Manager	: Dominique Artigolle
Executive Chef	: Ki Liu
Facilities Manager	: Evan Tao
Chief Engineer	: Hackman Lee
Membership Services Manager	: Kerry Ogle
Human Resources Manager	: Angela Chan
Executive Housekeeper	: Lily Huynh
Front Office Manager	: Shirley Lo

#### Club Magazine

Monthly journal of the Hong Kong Football Club. Arranged and designed by Karen Chan-Mulvena. For information and requests for placement of advertisements in "Club" please call 2830 9503. The opinions expressed in the articles are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Hong Kong Football Club or the General Committee. The Club reserves the right to edit and clarify all content. The copyright of all materials is held by the Hong Kong Football Club.

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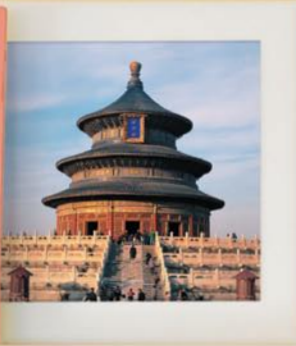


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## The Thoughts of the Chairman

April and the Easter holidays are now upon us and after the hectic times of the past few months with the Chinese New Year celebrations, and obviously Rugby Week, now is the time for a little relaxation. I trust everyone will enjoy the Easter Holidays and come back refreshed and ready for the hot summer months ahead.

From a sporting perspective some of the Sections/DSA have already finished their seasons, like Rugby and Squash whilst others are due to finish shortly. Let's hope I can report some of our successes on the field of play in my next article.

As usual we had numerous visitors to the Club during Rugby Week as well as many of our Absent Members. As regards the latter I had the pleasure of meeting up with **John** and **Vera Howell** who joined the Club in 1961. They shared many of their memories with me and I particularly enjoyed their reminiscences of the Club especially when they mentioned about our current President having a fine voice, when it comes to singing Irish folk songs!

Whilst on the subject of longstanding Members I will be hosting another Cocktail Reception this month for Members who joined in 1984 and who therefore complete 25 years as Members of the Club this year. At this Reception, will be **John Bredbury** who joined the Club in 1962! John will be flying into Hong Kong from Sydney on his way back to the UK and it is fortunate that we are able to celebrate not only his 47 years at the Club but, slightly belatedly, also his 80th birthday.

On the gripe side of things Members are again reminded of the Bye-laws pertaining to Secondary Carers/and more specifically the issue of their access to the Club. As has been made clear beforehand when bringing your Secondary Carer to the Club in the capacity as your Guest, they must be treated **bona fide as a Guest**, cannot act in the capacity of a Personal Servant and **must** be accompanied by the Member at all times.

See You at the Club!

**FOOK AUN CHEW**  
Chairman



## From the Desk of Mark Pawley

A big thank you is in order to all our Management and Staff Members for all the effort and hard work they put in during Rugby Week, our busiest period of the year. In line with this please also note the respective winners of the Back of House, Front of House and Leader of the Year awards who are pictured below. These are prestigious awards and each Staff Member should be commended for their efforts throughout the year.

All three Staff Members were presented with their prizes at the recent Annual Staff Party with over 270 people attending. Also presented with a special award was Kuen Ip, one of our Grounds Staff, who completed 20 years of service at the Club.

With Easter upcoming don't forget to book a table in the Restaurant for our **Easter Sunday or Easter Monday Brunch**. These are bound to be popular so please do book early to avoid disappointment. In the Restaurant, too, we hold another of our in-demand **Wine, Dine and Unwind Evenings on Friday 17th April**. As with last month's

function there will be an "extra" glass of wine included on the night, this time a **Château Cantemerle 2000, Haut-Medoc fifth-growth**. Somewhat surprisingly on the same day, the **17th**, we will hold a **Cheese and Wine Pairing** night in the Chairman's Bar. Throughout the month of April we are still allowing Members to **bring their own wine** to the Restaurant at **no** corkage fee. That being the "case" why don't you try our **"We'll Meat Again"** promotion where we have various types and sizes of steaks available in the form of **naturally fed** Australian Angus Beef.

In the Coffee Shop, **Lamb** is the meat of the month where various lamb dishes will be available from a Special Menu and along with this promotion we have **"South Asian Treats"** where we will provide delicious dishes from Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia... every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening in April.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Club.

**MARK PAWLEY**  
General Manager



### Employees of the Year

(From left to right):

Employee of the year (back of the house) - Maggie Ng

Leader of the year - Kenneth Kwok

Employee of the year (front of the house) - Edmond Wong

# EASTER EGG-CELLENT

## History of Easter Eggs

**T**he giving of eggs in springtime precedes the festival we know today as Easter, having represented rebirth centuries before Christians introduced the ritual. The first eggs exchanged were wrapped in Gold leaves, or boiled with flower petals, dying eggshells in bright colours. During the 18th and 19th centuries, cardboard eggs were filled with treats and candies and given to children. Pagans celebrated the goddess of Easter, whose symbol was represented by a rabbit – later to become the infamous Easter Bunny when Germans brought the tradition to the U.S.

## EASTER BRUNCH

in the Restaurant

Easter Sunday Brunch and  
Monday Brunch

April 12th Sunday, 13th Monday  
from 11am to 2.30pm

International Sunday Brunch featuring international food, cook-out stations and Easter specialties.

\$238 per Adult

\$148 per Child (age 3-12)

Please contact the Restaurant at 2830 9562 for a reservation or email: [restaurant@hkfc.com](mailto:restaurant@hkfc.com)

## SEASONAL LUNCH BUFFET

in the Coffee Shop

April 12th Sunday

from noon to 2.30pm

Seasonal Lunch Buffet with festive specialties  
– *A limited A la Carte menu will be available* –

\$168 per Adult

\$88 per Child (age 3-12)

Please contact the Coffee Shop at 2830 9569 for a reservations or email: [foodandbeverage@hkfc.com](mailto:foodandbeverage@hkfc.com)

## WE'LL MEAT AGAIN

in the Restaurant  
throughout the month of April  
available in the evenings  
*except Sunday night*

The best-value **naturally fed** Australian Angus Beef has arrived at the Restaurant.

Served with a selection of sauces and other accompaniments why not also try a good glass of fine wine with your steak and then relax?

### Rib-Eye Steak

Regular Cut	9oz/250gr	\$130
Large Cut	12oz/340gr	\$155

### Sirloin Steak

Regular Cut	8oz/220gr	\$130
Tai Pan Cut	14oz/390gr	\$220
Texan Cut	20oz/560gr	\$325

### Tenderloin Steak

Fillet Mignon Cut	6.5oz/180gr	\$135
Large Cut	8oz/220gr	\$165
Chateau Briand	14oz/390gr	\$290

Please contact the Restaurant at 2830 9562 for a reservation or email: [restaurant@hkfc.com](mailto:restaurant@hkfc.com)



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## WINE, DINE AND UNWIND

### EVENING

in the Restaurant  
Friday 17th April  
from 7pm to 11pm

Be in for a "Surprise" as you walk in into the Restaurant this time. Chef Chiu Ming is serving up a surprise three course menu and Members should book in anticipation of the next culinary creation that is going to be served at table.

This month's menu has a spring theme and it is inclusive of two selected wines served continuously with your meal.

**There is more, you will receive with your main course a glass of Château Cantemerle 2000, Haut-Medoc fifth-growth. A wine rated 91 by Wine Spectator.**

The A la Carte menu will not be available that evening.

Please contact the Restaurant at 2830 9562 for a reservation or email: [restaurant@hkfc.com](mailto:restaurant@hkfc.com)



Photo for reference only

## BRING YOUR OWN WINE in the Restaurant throughout the month of April available in the evenings

5 reasons to **Bring Your Own Wine...**

1. Your wine is taking up too much space in your flat.
2. You want to enjoy the wine you have purchased in the past with friends.
3. You want to come and enjoy a good meal with a good bottle of wine.
4. You want to experience a touch of quality in your everyday busy lives.
5. You are not allowed to buy new wine from our wine kiosk unless you empty your current stock!

So, get a bottle or two of wine that will compliment the food and book your table now. No matter the type of wine you bring, we have the glass to accompany it.

No corkage will be charged (up to a maximum of four bottles per booking) as long as a minimum of two courses per person are selected from the A la Carte menu and that there is a minimum booking for two made beforehand.

Please contact the Restaurant at 2830 9562 for a reservation or email: [restaurant@hkfc.com](mailto:restaurant@hkfc.com)



Photo for reference only

## JAPANESE AND KOREAN CUISINE

in the Restaurant  
every Sunday evening  
from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Distinctively different yet remarkably compatible, Japanese and Korean Cuisines do wonders with seafood and beef. A special corner will be set up next to your regular "Restaurant Sunday Dinner Buffet".

\$238 per Adult

\$148 per Child (age 3-12)

Please contact the Restaurant at 2830 9562 for a reservation or email: [restaurant@hkfc.com](mailto:restaurant@hkfc.com)



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## A FEAST OF LAMB

in the Coffee Shop  
throughout the month of April  
Monday to Thursday  
available for lunch and dinner

Traditionally, lamb has been the meat of spring and Easter, owing mainly to its seasonal nature. Times may have changed, but the popularity of fine cuts have not. Whether it is a roasted leg, chops or even a curry, a wide variety of lamb delight will be available throughout the Coffee Shop Special Monthly Menu.



Photo for reference only

## SOUTH ASIA TREATS

in the Coffee Shop  
every Friday, Saturday  
and Sunday evening  
from 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Take a culinary journey around South Asia, and tantalize your taste buds with delicious dishes from Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia...How about some Seafood Laska, Lamb Meat "Barton" style and skewered Diced Beef with Lemon Grass, all washed down with refreshing Young Coconut juice.



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## OYSTER ODYSSEY IN THE EVENING

in the Chairman's Bar  
available from 6.30pm to 10.30pm

Just when you thought we were done dishing out a **good deal** for the month, here is one more....

The Chairman's Bar is offering a happy-hour special.

Get two jet-fresh oysters and a glass of bubbly for just \$50 **or** enjoy 6 oysters for \$60 (minimum order of 6 pieces).

## WINE CAROUSEL

in the Chairman's Bar  
from 6pm to 10pm  
throughout the month of April

The Chairman's Bar offers 12 free-flowing wines specially selected from award winning and famous wineries. From 6pm till 10pm daily for a set price of \$120 per person for 2 hours of unlimited serving. Alternatively select any two wines for only \$68.



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## WINE 101— *Cheese and Wine Pairing*

in the Chairman's Bar  
Friday 17th April  
from 7.30pm to 9pm

**French world-renowned fromage affineur Mons** has reserved a small parcel of his delicious cheeses just for us. They will be paired with wines personally selected by **Thilbaut Mathieu** our cheese and wine guest Speaker. Thilbaut will share with you tips on how to pair cheese and wine.

Come to the Chairman's Bar and enjoy this tasting evening. This is a must-try for all wine and cheese aficionados.

\*\*Throughout the month we will have a **special "cheese tasting platter"** for you to enjoy and pair with our selection of wines all available by the glass. Don't miss it!

\$150 per person (Inclusive of wine and Cheese platter).

Pre booking required. **Session will start at 7.35pm sharp.**

For reservations please call the Chairman's Bar at 2830 9559 or email: [foodandbeverage@hkfc.com](mailto:foodandbeverage@hkfc.com)



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## APRIL IN THE SPORTSMAN'S BAR

Many of you may be well recovering from the exertions of Rugby Week but as usual there is still plenty going on, and off the screens in the Sportsman's Bar!

**Pizza** with endless flavours at the Sportsman's Bar from Mondays to Thursdays – choose from a selection of 6 different pizzas. For April, brush up on essential Italian words and phrases as we offer you some of the finest pizza in town.

Our beers of the month, Carlsberg and Guinness, will be flowing. And, on Friday 17th and 24th and Saturday 18th and 25th April will see the return, by popular demand, of the **Tandoori Kitchen** from 6.30pm until 10.30pm.

On Sunday the 19th and 26th from 2.30pm until stocks last we'll be having a **Spit Roast Organic Australian Chicken** promotion where you can buy them whole or half. Great for takeaway or eat in at the Sportsman's Bar. With limited stock available each week, place your orders early to avoid disappointment

On the screens with the 6 Nations rugby over for the season the emphasis switches to the Super 14's with live matches continuing on Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

**English Premier League** actions heats up as the season draws to a close with some great games to watch out for on the big screen, including:

Saturday 4th April 11pm: Man Utd v Aston Villa  
Saturday 18th April 11pm: Liverpool v Arsenal  
Saturday 18th April 11pm: Chelsea v Everton  
Saturday 25th April 11pm: West Ham v Chelsea

**The US Golf Masters** from 9th - 12th April at Augusta National, Georgia, USA.

### **Formula One** Grand Prix

5 April Malaysia (Sepang)  
19 April China (Shanghai)  
26 April Bahrain (Manama)

That should be enough to keep most of us down at the Sportsman's Bar during April!



Photo for reference only



Carlsberg	Guinness
\$27/Pint	\$48/Pint
\$14/Half Pint	\$25/Half Pint

**EXPECT  
ANTICIPATE  
& ENJOY**

## BEST MACARONI CHEESE AND HAM COMPETITION

*for Junior Chefs (7 to 11 years old)*

Saturday 18th April

at Sportsman's Bar Back Patio  
in the afternoon

Dear Junior Chef,

You will be required to cook your secret recipe at home (With or without help from an adult) and bring it in on competition day.

Your dish will be judged by our very own team from the kitchen as well as Junior members randomly chosen on the day. Interested parties please contact Karen at the Sportsman's Bar for details.

The Winner will be rewarded with a Family Poolside Barbecue for 4 and the winner's dish will be featured in our Sportsman's Bar menu for the rest of April.

**Spaces are limited to the first 15 Junior Chefs.**

Come along to cheer up and taste.



## FAMILY POOL SIDE BARBECUE AND SPLASH-IN EVENING

Friday 24th April 2009

Welcome back to the Family Pool Side Barbecue and Splash-in evening

Time to welcome back all the children and parents

Time to say hello to new faces

Enjoy Mediterranean Cuisine by the pool

The pool will only be open to Members who have booked for the evening and will be closed to non-participants from 5.30pm onwards (Food serving from 6.45pm to 9.15pm)

- Book soon as seats are limited
- Booking form is available at the Reception or email: [foodandbeverage@hkfc.com](mailto:foodandbeverage@hkfc.com)

\$198 per Adult

\$148 per Child (age 3-12)

## The Captain's Corner

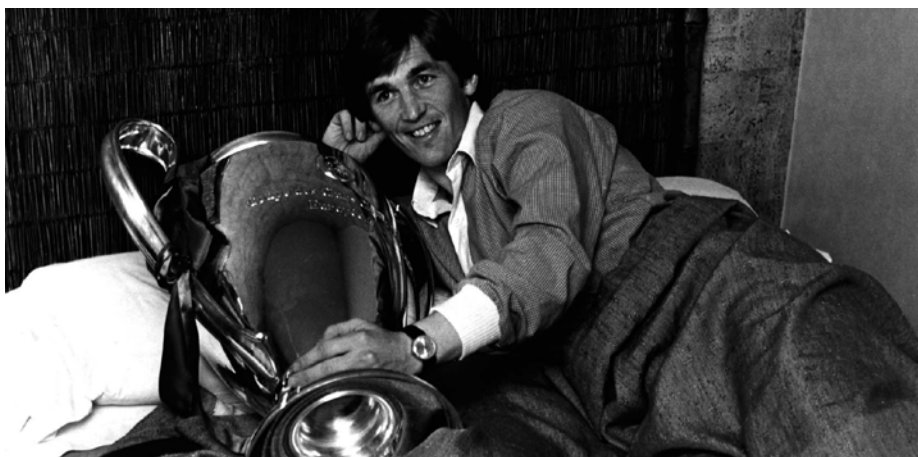


Stewart Montgomery Soccer Section Captain with Barry Ferguson, Rangers and Scotland Captain

Welcome back troops,

Do you remember back in the 70's and 80's when watching the European Cup was something very special even if you didn't have the pleasure of supporting those fantastic Forest and Villa teams not forgetting of course the English Kings.....Liverpool. The format of the European Cup was quite simple. If you were the Champions of your country you qualified. If you won the European Cup you qualified to defend it the following year. To get to the final you played another team home and away and that was a format which quite simply should never have been tampered with. Nowadays they have the cheek to call it the Champions League. When was the last time Arsenal or Liverpool were Champions of England for goodness sake yet there they are in the Quarter Finals of the Champions League this season. Mickey Mouse world where money talks. Speaking of our big eared rodent friend has anyone ever thought he'd love HKFA football? The Yau Yee League is run by amateurs but the HKFA could do worse than having a look at how things are administered there in comparison to the shenanigans which take place in Hong Kong's so called professional set up. Just have a read below of Lucky Mile's ludicrous situation and you'll see that both the HKFA and UEFA both seem very confused as to what a Champion is. Yes it might be the 1st of April when you read this but sadly it's all true. See you all next month where the final stages of all our Leagues will be in full swing and we'll be working out if we have a chance of any silverware albeit with the kind permission from the relevant authorities.

## Lucky Mile



Only real Champions should get to sleep with the trophy.....just like King Kenny.

**W**hen do Champions not feel like champions? When they don't get automatic promotion from the league they are playing in despite having just won it! Lucky Mile, the Club's second team, are about to find out as they attempt to win the HKFA division 3A. With just two games to go Mile are top, and have been all season but for one brief spell over Christmas, and lead their closest rivals by 2 points. The record since the turn of the year has been good, with Mile winning 5 and losing once (we don't do draws, with only one all season out of 17 games) and seeming to be free-scoring up front with **Blake Harding** and **Amro Abbas** neck-and-neck in the Golden Boot race, whilst goalkeepers **Wilson Wong** and **Bob Sawhney** have been keeping it clean at the back. The pacey midfield has been complimented by the recent arrival

of **Max Poon** from the Colts who we hope will find the step-up in standard to his liking. If Mile do finish in the top two of the league, they go into a play-off with the top 2 teams of the regional Division 3B. With everyone playing each other in a 'round robin' there will be an additional 3 games to contend with to decide who goes up to Division 2. With less teams, fixtures in 3B have already been completed and Mile know they will face Tuen Mun and Sai Kung who finished first and second respectively in their league. Games will be played on the 5th, 12th (Easter) and 19th of April, mostly on Happy Valley pitch 6 at the back of the Club Stand, so if you want to give the lads some support please come along. In the meantime there's a small matter of winning those two remaining league games. Champions anyone? Keep the champagne on ice for now....Graeme Lane.

## How's the 1st Team doing?

**Sunday 1st February: Club (12) vs Kwok Keung (0)**

Club cruised to an easy 12-0 win over struggling Kwok Keung in an encounter that could best be described as very one-sided. **Jason Tack** found the net 4 minutes into the game, which gave Club the early goal they wanted and goals from **Tom Taw** and **Nick Sandor** made it 3-0 by the interval. Hungry for more, Club stepped up the pace in the second half with Kwok Keung unable to offer any resistance and completely outplayed. Club went on to score 9 goals in the second half with - **Simon Galvin (3)**, **Kenneth Kwok**, **Yiu Hung Lo (Hung Jai)**, **Allan Fraser**, **Jason Tack**, **Mike Wilson** and

**Frederik Schipper** all getting on the score sheet. A convincing performance by Club that would definitely give the squad a confidence boost for the tougher games ahead.

**Sunday 8th February: Club (6) vs Fukien (0)**

A good performance by Club resulting in a comfortable win against mid-table opposition Fukien. Eager to continue their goal scoring run, Club started the game well and **Simon Galvin** scored the opener in the 21th minute with a great finish after a quick break. Chances for the home side were coming at regular intervals and

**Tony Hamilton** made it 2-0 just before half time. The lead was extended even further when Tony Hamilton netted again 3 minutes into the second half and Fukiens fate was sealed. Club kept looking for more goals and on the 59th minute a cross from the left found **Tim Janssen** free in the box and he drilled it home for the fourth goal of the game. Only 10 minutes later and Club were celebrating again when Tony Hamilton completed his hat-trick with a powerful header from close range leaving the Fukien keeper no chance. With only a few minutes of action remaining, new boy, Tim Janssen provided the icing on the cake with his 2nd and Club's 6th goal of the afternoon. A great display overall and another 3 points gained.

#### Saturday 14th February: Kwok Keung (0) vs 12 Club (12)

Club's winning run continued as they smashed Kwok Keung 12-0 once again. With confidence high after good performances in recent weeks, Club got off to a great start when **Allan Fraser** converted a penalty kick after only 3 minutes. Club continued to pile the pressure on and its goal scoring form continued with goals from **Nick Sandor** and another one from Allan Fraser, within the first 10 minutes. After 30 minutes or so, Club's performance dropped until, Allan Fraser completed his hat-trick on 41 minutes with Tim Janssen adding another one just before half-time. Kwok Keung were unable to maintain a rampant Club as the goals continued to flow in the second half. The opposition offered little resistance and unable to create anything at all. Goals by **Tony Hamilton (2)**, **Simon Galvin (2)**, **Tim Janssen**, **Yiu Hung Lo (Hung Jai)** and **Matthew West** secured another easy victory.

#### Sunday 22nd February: Club (1) vs Kwai Tsing (1)

Club were brought down to earth in this game with a disappointing result, with a 1-1 draw against Kwai Tsing, meaning Club had dropped 2 vital points in the race for promotion to the First Division. With confidence high after 3 straight high scoring wins, Club were looking for another win and early goal against mid-table side Kwai Tsing. The home side got off to a good start resulting in several chances being created to break

the deadlock. However, these early opportunities were squandered allowing the visitors to gain in confidence and get themselves firmly into the game. With Kwai Tsing unable to create any real danger in front of goal, the first half ended all square at 0-0. Club continued to dominate play but against the run of play, the visitors took advantage of some sloppy defending and opened the score after 62 minutes. Club were still in control of the game and stepped up the pace throughout as chances kept being squandered. And when **Tim Janssen** scored an excellent equaliser in the 85th minute after some clever play from midfield, a win still looked on the cards for Club. Unfortunately for the home side, no more goals were scored and time ran out as Club were held to another draw.

#### Sunday 1st March: Wing Yee (0) vs Club (2)

After dropping 2 points a week earlier, Club got back to winning ways with a 2-0 victory over stubborn Wing Yee. Club started at a fast tempo and managed to create some good chances in the early stages of the game. Nevertheless, Club didn't take their opportunities and it proved to be a turning point in the game as Wing Yee set about turning the match into a fierce battle. The more the first half progressed the tougher the game became, but to Clubs credit, they didn't over react to Wing Yee's physical provocation and set about their task of breaking them down in the right way and at the half way point an opener was still to be found. It wasn't until shortly after the interval that finally Club got its reward when **Allan Fraser** broke the deadlock with an opportunist goal and tidy finish inside the 6-yard box. Being a goal down, Wing Yee became more frustrated and after some wild tackles and aggressive play, 2 of their players were sent off within few minutes of each other. Oddly enough, and despite the extra men, Club lost their shape and Wing Yee created a couple of anxious moments from corners and set pieces, as the referee tried to even things up. **Mike Wilson** came to the rescue for Club when he followed up on **Tim Janssen's** shot and tapped in from close range to make it 2-0 in the 85th minute. Wing Yee finally threw the towel in and Club played out the later stages of the game in total control to secure 3 very hard earned points.

#### Sunday 8th March: Double Flower (0) vs Club (0)

Club was held to a goalless draw by battling Double Flower who needed the points as much as Club did as they battled to getaway from the relegation zone. After beating Double Flower twice this season, in both League and Cup, Club were quite right to feel confident about getting a good result, securing points and expectations were high. However, struggling Double Flower proved that having the right attitude was more important than skill in this game as they fought for every ball from start to finish. Club got off to a sluggish start with little if anything created in the early stages and were never allowed to get into their stride as Double Flower did all they could to give Club a hard time. After starting the game at a slow pace, Club was unable to put the home side under any pressure in the first 45 minutes. Double Flower defended deep and in numbers on a bumpy pitch and the only threat from Club was created from set pieces. The first 45 minutes were disjointed and wasted and after realising that this wasn't going to be an easy game, Club finally stepped up the pace in the second half. **Tim Janssen** was the main threat in the 2nd half and came closest to breaking the deadlock when he hit the post midway through the second half. However, a lack of concentration and sloppy defending by Club gifted Double Flower with a clear chance to win the game but goalkeeper **Rudi Hollaender** foiled the attempt and was delighted to see the close range effort go wide and out for a goal kick. Club kept the pressure on until the final whistle but despite some decent half chances, were unable to find a winner. The game ended in a very disappointing goalless draw and another 2 points lost against weaker opposition and in all probability the runners up position, with 2 games to play.

#### LEAGUE TABLE 2ND DIVISION

1.	Sha Tin	15 – 40
2.	HKFC	16 – 32
3.	Tai Chung	14 – 32
4.	Wing Yee	16 – 28
5.	Fukien	16 – 22
6.	Rangers	16 – 20
7.	Kwai Tsing	15 – 17
8.	Tung Po	16 – 15
9.	Double Flower	16 – 13
10.	Kwok Keung	16 – 1



Adam Harper

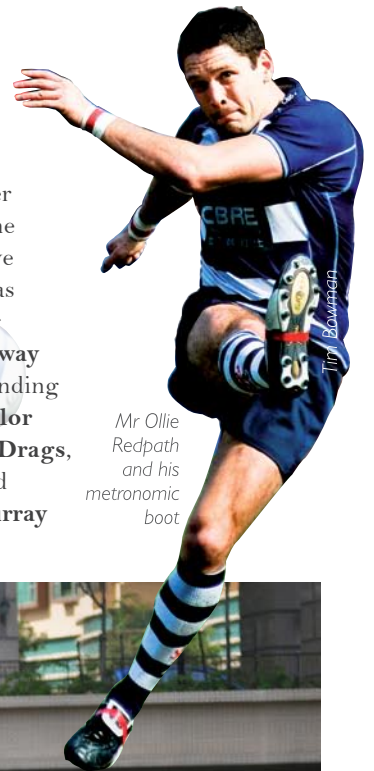
**CBRE**  
CB RICHARD ELLIS



determine the form of a rugby team on any given day. Who knows or cares? Club were a different team at King's Park on March 14. When they led Valley 25-14 early in the second half, hundreds of supporters were delirious with delight as they saw a team cast off their shackles and begin to dream of glory. It was not to be, though. The 10 minutes either side of half time, in which number eight **Sam Robertson** scored twice and fullback **Mike McKee** once – were the high water mark of Club's season. Valley showed their quality by finishing the stronger and closing out a 31-25 victory, but I believe Club's confidence will surge from this game into 2009-10, and that the hunger to reverse the result next time the sides meet will be immense.

History will record that Dragons beat Valley 26-21, but score alone cannot tell how Drags worked themselves into a commanding 26-7 lead, only to come alarmingly close to squandering it as Valley rallied and the referee dispatched not one, not two, not three but four Drags to the sin-bin. The fact that Drags managed to hang on with a mere 12 on the pitch at one time and four points to play with is evidence of the steel that has defined the team this season.

They certainly didn't try and make it any easier for themselves by returning possession to Valley through chip-throughs and speculative passes when the patented Munster approach – pick and drive until the ref blows his whistle – might have been more wise. But the result was the right one at the end of a long and hard season. Prop **Ian Ridgeway** and flanker **Guy Payn** had outstanding games, as did skipper **Junior Naylor** and outside half **Ollie Redpath**. **Drags**, led by the inexplicably-nicknamed **Marc "Cheetah" Sexton** and **Murray**



Mr Ollie Redpath and his metronomic boot

## Rugby Update

**W**hen the end of the season came, Club and Dragons turned in performances against their Valley counterparts that were both characteristic and unusual. Drags, the dominant team in Division Two, won their grand final but turned in one of their most frustrating performances of an often superlative year. Club, who have stumbled at critical moments in 2008-09, were denied again but turned in their performance of the season, giving the HKFC faithful at King's Park an exhilarating glimpse into the future.

Both results fairly reflected the two teams' seasons. After smiting a strong PLA outfit 60-20 on March 7, Dragons had been crowned second division champions. Defeat to Valley Knights would have been a betrayal of a hard-earned season.

Club, however, had been defeated twice by Valley during the league, had been beaten by Aberdeen in the Cup and had narrowly escaped with a draw against DEA. Consistent, authoritative and cohesive performances had eluded them in spite of a young, powerful and highly talented team. They showed great character in the second half of the season to scrap their way into the final, but there is no question that most observers would have been surprised if an exceptional Valley team hadn't completed the grand slam of league, cup and grand championship victories.

Perhaps it was because there was nothing to lose, or perhaps it was because of some slight shift in the unseen alchemy that



Boggis does battle for Sequins

“Condor” Sargant will aim to complete the grand slam next year and go through the entire season unbeaten – a quest that has principally been foiled by defeats at the hands of the PLA in Guangzhou for the last two years.



Bolland picks out Robertson

Sequins and Bulls were also in action during a fantastic day in which King’s Park played host to no less than eight finals. Sequins emerged 18-15 victors over their old nemesis the Police thanks to an extra time drop goal (yes, you read that right). Bulls battled hard against Valley, doing coach James Mendis proud at the end of a fine season, but eventually succumbed 17-0 to Valley. HKFC and Valley contested four finals and ultimately claimed two each. I think there should be a re-match next season...

In keeping with the finest traditions of grand finals day, PT McGee provided sympathetic encouragement to the opposition, Animal, McGee and Danny Browne provided questionable entertainment in the presence of ladies on the bus back to HKFC and a fine time was had by all back at the Club. It’s been a tremendous season, ladies and gentlemen. It wasn’t the 2007-



Smiles all round during Club’s purple patch

08 tale of dominance across all divisions. But I think Club are on the verge of something big with the squad they have now and I think morale in the section is good, for which thanks are due to this year’s Chairman Donough Foley and Captain Tony George, who will soon depart these shores for a new teaching position in one of Asia’s most fascinating cities, Kathmandu.

I will be taking a break from this column for a few months, much to the editor’s relief. Have a great summer and see you at the May Ball (date TBC – watch your emails).



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## Club Youth Rugby Tour to Kuala Lumpur



The triumphant Under 8s – Plate Winners



HKFC Under 9s – Plate Finalists



Under 10's celebrate as Plate Winners

Over the weekend of February 14th and 15th a Club party of over 180 Youth Rugby players, parents, siblings and supporters 'went on tour' to the Bintang Rugby Club International Junior and Youth Rugby 10s in Kuala Lumpur. Players in Mini Rugby teams from Under 8 through to Under 12, plus an Under 19 team, represented the Club and to say that the tour was a huge success is an understatement. The organization of the tournament itself by BRC was superb with plenty of competitive rugby on offer against clubs from Malaysia and Singapore. Club Tour organizers, led by Mini Chairman **Iain Seow** and including **Peter Fishel** and **Paul Liu**, did a fantastic job in ensuring accommodation and travel arrangements worked like clockwork.

A fantastic tour dinner was also very generously hosted by the Royal Selangor Club on the Saturday night, (HKFC reciprocal club in Malaysia), that not only included some great food and plenty of grog (non-alcoholic of course!) but even a clown (no it wasn't **Chris Plowman**!). Special mention must be made of the many 'Mini Rugby Mums' in attendance, particularly given that Saturday was Valentine's Day!

As for the rugby itself the Club teams performed beyond all expectations with great tour team spirit.

The Under 8s had to play to different laws than they do in Hong Kong and it took a few games to adjust. Once they got it though, they started to show their class, losing just one match all weekend and thus just missing out on a cup final place. However they achieved victory comfortably in the Plate Final to claim the first silverware for the tourists.

The Under 9s started slowly going down in their first two games but after their first 1-0 win and a hearty Malaysian lunch, they took on the much fancied Tanglin Club and emerged with a stunning victory. Unfortunately when the 9s faced Tanglin again in the Cup Semi on the Sunday morning (possibly a 10pm finish after the Tour Dinner had an influence!) they lost narrowly to the eventual Cup winners to go into the Plate final against Centaurs. This match, shall we say, was not a good example of clean, fair mini rugby and the 9s just missed out on a trophy to a last minute try. "Played like demons" and "can't emphasize 'team' enough" are just two comments from the coaches that describe how the players performed.

The Under 10s lost only two group matches to Royal Selangor Club and Singapore's Tanglin Club to finish second in the



Under 10 Mums on tour (and on Valentines night too!)



Under 11 Touring Squad



The Under 12s tour KL in numbers



Under 12s scrum half in full flight



Under 11s in action



Under 9s in action



Under 8s in action

It's all over! Chris Plowman U10 Head Coach

group stages. An impressive quarter final victory over the hosts saw the team claim a place in the Cup semi finals, against Royal Selangor once again. In a very close fought match the 10s just missed out and went into the Plate final, which they won against Centaurs from Singapore to see a second piece of silverware going into the Club's trophy cabinet back in Hong Kong. A great team performance all round!

The Under 11s faced some stiff opposition in their age group and at the end of the two days the squad of 12 had played 11 games with virtually everyone playing in every match. Despite a lot of tired bodies (maybe something to do with a Friday night performance on stage with a Malaysian Elvis!) and a very hot afternoon, the U11s only lost narrowly in the Bowl final.

The Under 12s had sufficient tourists to field two teams. The first team progressed well through their group games but unfortunately the second side faced some tough opposition and were struggling. That said both claimed a final place, the firsts lost their only game of the tour in the Cup final 2 - 1 to Tanglin RFC. The seconds won the Bowl final 3-1 in a great match. A well-organized and efficient tournament with tough opposition and plenty of game time, all players, although exhausted had a great weekend.

As for the 'big boys' HKFC Under 19s played as impressively as they looked (in their bright red tights) to reach the final of the Cup, narrowly losing out to the hosts in a closely fought match.

Here are the impressive final Club Mini Rugby results:

- Under 8s: Plate Champions
- Under 9s: Plate Finalists
- Under 10s: Plate Champions
- Under 11s: Bowl Finalists
- Under 12s: Bowl Champions and Cup Finalists
- Under 19s: Cup Finalists

By Chris Plowman



Under 12s face off against each other

Lollipop time for an Under 10



Tour organizer, Peter Fishel, home to bed!



Try time again for the Under 10s



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# Squash News

## Masters Squash

The first misconception one usually encounters with those unfamiliar with “Masters” squash is that the players are pretty good and have reached a level of play which entitles them to be called “Masters”. Unfortunately this is not always the case as players range in standard from playing in the main Hong Kong squash league Division 2 to Division 16 a pretty wide spectrum of abilities. So what is the qualification to be a Master squash player? The answer is very simply age you have to be 40. The number of players in this demographic in the Squash Section is growing. The next question is normally, so what’s so special about Masters Squash? The answer is probably more long winded in that the Masters squash normally combines the squash (which always remains highly competitive) and the après squash social. The Home team treats the opposition to drinks and dinner afterwards which is invariably enjoyed by all. The teams in the masters squash league come from all the major clubs in Hong Kong and those teams not hailing from a club normally have their own special dinning experience. One team who play out of Java Road Sports Centre in North Point host the opposition in the local “Dai pai dong” which is a great experience.

The Club has three Masters teams in the Hong Kong squash league. Each team has a pool of 12 players but traveling and business commitments regularly play havoc with player availability and team strength. For some inexplicable reason there is no Masters one league. In the Masters 2 league the Club has on paper a really strong team with players from the main league Divisions 2 to 9 but has really struggled to get a strong team to turn out on any particular night and is consequently lying close to the bottom of the league having recorded just three wins from 14 matches. The team convener is big ‘Jules’ Harniss.

The Club has two teams in the Masters 3 league. The M3A team is convened by yours truly and has had a reasonable season so far but are also suffering from the availability of key players syndrome. At the time of writing the team is lying fourth in the league. So all hands will need to be available if we are to make the coveted play-offs where the top four teams play each other for league honours and silverware.

The M3B team has suffered from the availability of key player’s syndrome more than their M3A arch rivals. The inter club matches between 3A and 3B are even stevens with one win to each. The team is currently lying in the bottom quadrant. M3B is convened by **Chris Burley**. Among all Masters players there is great team spirit (No I’m not referring to the vodka shots) with those playing on the night invariably staying to entertain or be entertained. It is nearly always a good/great night out.

In conclusion the squash has been mixed but the social had been excellent. So a word of advice to those thirty somethings out there thinking life will get very dull when you hit the Big 4 Oh! Join a Masters Squash team and realize that the old adage ‘that life begins at 40’ is very true in Masters Squash.

*By Maurice O’Brien – Convener M3A*

## Squash ‘Style’ Bootcamp

All Club Members are welcome to join in the new Squash Bootcamp.

In order to keep all Members challenged and fit, I introduce Squash Bootcamp.

The session would comprise of squash routines, conditioned games and fitness exercises and in keeping with usual bootcamp style sessions, a run early on a Tuesday morning.

The aim being to improve not only your squash, but your fitness and to get it to the next level.

To enroll please contact the Club Coach, **Phil Head** on philhead@netvigator.com or 9164931

## News from the courts

News from the courts is that our Div 11 team have won their division in convincing style with over 100 points with 2 matches still to play. A great season by **David Fitzgerald’s** side winning every game since their only defeat way back in October. I wouldn’t bet against them in the play offs as they have demolished their playoff contenders in recent matches!

### Congratulations to the players:

<b>Ben Stewart</b>	<b>Derek Ryan</b>
<b>Jason Brown</b>	<b>Chris Lewis</b>
<b>John Thompson</b>	<b>Rav Mahbubani</b>
<b>David Fitzgerald</b>	<b>Simon Ho</b>
<b>Lawrence Lai</b>	<b>David Kan</b>

Other teams still with a chance of the championship title are **Neil Roberts** Div 13 team who were 1 point behind first place before their 5-0 win this week and **Maurice O’Brien’s** Masters 3 team who are 4 points adrift from the top place with 3 matches to play.

Looking ahead to the play offs, we look like having teams from Division 1,2,3,5,6,8,9,11,12,13,M3 contending for Men’s and Masters.

I’d like to take this opportunity to congratulate **Tony (Twinkle Toes) Miles** and his team for being the first team to Foxtrot to the finishing line to take the league title in Div 9.

Well done to him and his squad:

<b>Ruchika K</b>	<b>Nick Stearn</b>	<b>Ken Lo</b>
<b>Ross</b>	<b>Colin</b>	<b>John W</b>
<b>Ray C</b>	<b>Mike T</b>	<b>Tony</b>
<b>Roger</b>	<b>John K</b>	

Cheers and good luck to all those still in the race.

*By Mens Captain David Cross*

## CLUB HEAD for win in Singapore without a HITCH

Club took four squash teams to the 10th annual Tanglin Club Jumbo Doubles tournament in Singapore. It is one of the largest tournaments of its kind in Asia with over 100 teams from three different continents participating. The Hong Kong teams experience at jumbo doubles varied from excellent to "How long is that?" The squad was comprised of HKFC 1: **Phil Head** and **Glenn Hitch**, HKFC 2: **Terence** and **Jason Waldie**, HKFC 3: **Nick Stern** and **Anthony Miles** and, last and probably least, HKFC 4: **John Thompson** and **Ben Stewart**.

The jumbo courts are oversized in length, height and width (proving to the lads that for once size really did matter). The least experienced team, HKFC 4, managed to arrive from the airport 10 minutes late for their first game. This barely gave them enough time to try a few serves which they struggled to get in bounds. If only they'd had time for their Weetabix that morning. Luckily the other guys were on hand to offer verbal support, with shouts of "Does your husband play?" echoing round the enlarged court. The suffering was short-lived, however, as the match was over in a flash. HKFC 4 struggled with communication, which led to over-the-head shots from Ben and terrible boasts from John.

HKFC 3 was up next against a truly formidable opponent. They put up a great fight, but struggled to gel early and proceeded to bicker throughout the rest of the evening like an old married couple.

HKFC 2 failed to capitalize on the presence of local boy Terence and also struggled in their first match. As with teams 3 and 4, they managed to make it through to the plate competition after the first round. Everything fell into place in the second game, however, and they managed to advance after the first day's play.

HKFC1's first two matches were tough for Phil and Glenn, after a 12-month absence from the doubles circuit. Their experience shone through in the end and after the first day's play they were through to the 3rd Round of the main cup competition.

There were no such challenges in the evening, however, with the guys feeling right at home as they put all their effort into securing as many free pitchers of lager as possible, which they managed with great aplomb. The intended rendezvous was the hip and trendy Supper Club. Unfortunately, half the squad managed to get lost en route, ending up at a venue where the main topic of conversation was "Are those real?" Those who did make it to the Supper Club had a cracking night, with Phil's forward rolls and **Ninja Kill** drop shots proving a memorable highlight. There were complaints however that the music was "a bit loud and all that boom boom boom stuff." Maybe some of the lads aren't as young as they think they are.

Day 2 started way too early with the intrepid HKFC 4 team playing their first game at 8am! Wasn't this supposed to be a holiday? This proved to be far easier for one half of the pair, who had opted for a slightly quieter night. The formula of a sober front and drunken back worked well in the first game after a scorer was finally dragged in off the street on the way home from a night out. The second game saw the HKFC 4 manage to secure a match point, only to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by losing this game and the subsequent one. This meant that their tour was over before 9am on the Saturday morning.

Luckily, HKFC 2 was managed much better, with Jason and Terence playing some great doubles squash to get through to the

quarter final. They had an excellent game in the Quarters and only narrowly lost. Jason walked off court so drenched in sweat, he looked like he'd just jumped in the pool. This proved lucky for **Becks**, who was able to borrow Terence's trainers and have a knock on the singles court. Just how small are your feet, Terence?

The married couple of Nick and Tony managed to have a nice lie-in on Saturday morning. Thanks to a walk-over and their opponents getting injured, HKFC 3 strolled into the Quarter Finals of the plate. But there they met their match - the honeymoon was over and their tournament finished.

As for HKFC 1, Phil and Glenn got stronger with each match and by the Quarters were displaying the kind of squash played by champions. Never had we seen Phil so quick and clear-headed at the front (some say he may even have been sober), hitting nicks time after time. Glenn, for his part, played with finesse and skill at the back, sending irretrievable tight shots off the walls and out-witting even the quickest of opponents with his drop shots. His back court drop over both the front two players was amazing (it's a good job Phil is just a little guy). By the end of Day 2, the #2 seeds had set up a final against the #1 seeds from Australia for the following day.

Night two managed to see the whole team out for a meal, paid for by their appearance fee. It's great being a semi-pro squash player. Also at the meal were Phil and Glenn's opponents for the following day. The Aussies left early, convincing the HKFC 1 guys that they had better turn in soon as well. The night was winding down, but not before a throwaway comment about the size of the tournament organizer's hands led to a lengthy and heated discussion about Jeremy Beadle. The conversation quickly began to deteriorate and was only salvaged by fan **Nick Shultz**, who regaled everyone with his insights into the differences between Singaporean and Hong Kong women.

A sell-out crowd was present to witness a terrifically nail-biting final, with amazing displays of athleticism, skill and fitness that understandably had the audience querying if they were in fact watching a jumbo doubles match! Luckily, as Phil and Glenn had retired relatively early the night before, they were more than up for the Aussies' challenge and quickly went to 13-5 lead, needing only two points to win the first game. The Aussies piled on the pressure and managed to claw back to 14-14, winning 8 points in a row. The final rally was an amazing, edge-of-your-seat affair, and when Phil managed a cross court drop volley, the game was won 15-14. The second game was more of the same, but the HK boys' experience shone through and they won 15-10 to cap off a great final and win the tournament.

Phil and Glenn were presented with their trophies in a packed Tanglin Club after the game. During the presentation it came out that the duo were the first ever players to win the trophy, way back in 1999. This was later denied, however, as Glenn didn't reach Hong Kong until 2000 and they think they first won in 2001. The Tanglin Club plaque clearly names Glenn Hitch and Phil Head as the winners in '99, and is probably far more trustworthy than Phil and Glenn's memory!! On the flight home the trophy was always close at hand and made for a fantastic peanut holder.

Great job guys! All who went on tour had a fantastic and truly memorable experience. Bring on Bangkok!

*By Ben Stewart and John Thompson*



Alan Lo our Green Clipper

## Green Clippings

### National Champion Of Champions 2008

This Year, 5 Club bowlers qualified to compete in the 2008 National Champion of Champions Competition. 2007 Defending Champions were **Danny Ho** for the men and **Camilla Leung** for the ladies. **James Keung** entered as the winner of the Men's National Singles with **Cyril Leung** entered as the Club's Men's Champion and **Tammy Tham** as the Club's Ladies Champion.

The 22 men and 19 ladies were split into groups to play round robins with the highest scoring players promoted to the next round. After weeks of intensive games, James Keung, Danny Ho, Camilla Leung and Tammy Tham went through to the semi-final. It was rather unfortunate that Camilla and Tammy were ranked to play against each other at this stage. All of them had only one thing in mind, to try their best to get to the Final. Tammy and Danny eventually got through. The Final games were played at an independent green at KCC, with Tammy losing to Ann Chan of KBGC, last year's runner up to Camilla Leung, but Danny beating Eric Yim of Police who had beaten James Keung in the semi-final. Danny's game was very close with everybody grinding their teeth while watching it. Many have said, when playing

bowls you need a little bit of luck but more importantly are your bowling skills. By playing some great shots the player can turn the whole game around. That was happening to Danny, who eventually overcame his opponent to defend his title of Men's National Champion of Champions for the 3rd consecutive year. We also remember that Danny won the 2008 National Indoor Singles Championship? Now, we realize Danny is truly the King of the Bowling Green!



Danny, Champion of Champions, again

We must say thank you to the Section members, who without selfishness, offered their free time in volunteering to be the markers during these Championship. They were **Anne Gately, CM Chan, Connie Wong, Denis Hamelin, Philip Sze, Rita Tsui** and our Men's Captain **SK Ng**. A Salute to all the great "Helping Hands".

### Barbarian Coaching!!!

The 2008 HKFC Mixed Fours and Tiger Bowls Cup winner, Phil Downs of England, partnered three South Africans, John Connellan, Ron Freeman and Doug Bashford to form the International Barbarians to compete in the Tiger Bowls World Invitation-Hong Kong Tour and China Tour 2009. Before they started their game, they were very kind to arrange a Coaching Evening of two hours for our Section bowlers on 12 March. The weather was fine though a bit chilly, but it didn't affect the warm and joyful atmosphere of the evening. The 24 bowlers who attended this activity were split into four groups, each with a Barbarian as coach. The lessons were well planned and full of momentum. They had practice on running shots, tap and lie, jack near the boundary and purely draw shots. During the activity, the Barbarians were so patient to explain how to play each of the different types of shots and gave advice to the bowlers in the various aspects. They also set a scoring system in each of the practice games. **Wing Chan** took the highest aggregate score and **Grace Chu** was the 1st runner-up. They both won an England Team T-shirt given by Phil. Congratulations to both of them.

All the Section bowlers enjoyed the practice and definitely learnt a lot from the Barbarians and our bowlers were very grateful to them for their remarkable coaching and valuable advice.



Barbarians Ron, John, winner Wing Chan, Phil and Doug



Barbarians with Runner-up Grace Chu

Phil Downs promised to visit us again next year during the 13th Tiger Bowls and would arrange more coaching lessons for the Section. Good news to all our Section bowlers.

### Bowling Night With The Tiger Bowls Overseas Players

On Friday the 13th March, the Lawn Bowls Section organized a friendly game with many of the overseas players who had arrived

early for the Tiger Bowls Tournament. The Section members responded well to the opportunity. Although seven rinks were set

out on the Outdoor Green, several left-over players needed to sit on the side bench, but it was exciting enough just watching the games. Also, this was the first time ever that our grass green had been laid out in seven rinks in order to accommodate such a large number of players (56 in total).

The Section fielded seven mixed teams to play against the players from USA, Scotland, Spain, Canada, South Africa and 2 from China. Unfortunately, due to a sudden change of weather, with low temperature and strong winds blowing all over the place, our cold-fingered players starting to lose grip on the game ("excuses and more excuses"). Finally only 2 of Club's teams won this friendly match. Well done to Team F - **Philip Sze, Grace Chu, Linda Da Luz, Patrick Mok** and Team G - **YM Wong, Wendy Hui, Henry Cheung and Dora Lam**. Thanks also go to our Social Secretary - Rita Tsui, who had organized the hot beverages and food for all players. At least it kept everybody's stomach warmer under the cold wind.



Men's Captain S K Ng's Team with Spain

## Tiger Bowls World Invitation- Hong Kong Tour 2009

For the 12th occasion of the Tiger Bowls, the Club entered one ladies and one men's team. The preliminary games of the ladies' tournament took place at Victoria Park - notorious for its tricky carpet greens and the men's team, skipped by **Y S Leung** with **Donald Wu, C T Wong** and **K H Wong** played at Filipino Club.

The ladies team, skipped by **Emmie Wong** with **Rita Tsui, Priscilla Lam** and **Anne Gately** were in the challenging Group A against five other teams, including last year's champions. They suffered a setback in the first day's play, ranking second from bottom and with only two remaining games to play on the second day. But it was not all doom and gloom - they had a major comeback the next day sweeping nearly all points that could be won. They ended two points short from qualifying for the Cup but were the top of their group playing for the Plate. In the quarter-final, the team repeated their pattern of winning - not starting to score their first point till the fifth of the eight-end game. The prospect of a daunting eight-point gap with three more ends to catch up did not, apparently, disturb their nerves. They made it to the semi-final against the odds, but this time luck was not on their side. Although 2 down going into the last end, they took 2 shots for a tie and forced another end. Unfortunately



HKFC Ladies Rita, Emmie, Priscilla and Anne

their good luck then ran out. The last wood of the opposition's skip took the jack off Club's two holding shots, dashing their hopes of getting into the final. Their opponents, USRC, went on to win the Final of the Plate.

Club's men's team did not do so well and was able to return to CCC to watch the Club ladies exciting games.

The event, organised by the HKLBA and LBTC, ended with a prize presentation dinner in the Club's Sports Hall with Club's ladies taking their well earned cash prizes.

## Tiger Bowls World Invitation-China Tour 2009

This year, in place of the usual HKFC Mixed Fours which has normally preceded the annual Tiger Bowls event, the overseas players were invited to stay in China a little longer for the men to play in Shenzhen and for the ladies to play, for the first time, in Guangzhou. The Club was represented by one ladies and one men's team, both named Happy Valley. Once again the men's team, skipped by **Neil Herrington** with **Johnny Tsang, Clement Lau** and **Peter Chow**, did not fare too well, but the ladies, skipped by **Wong Yee Ming** with **Emmie Wong, Dora Lam** and **Wendy Hui**, came back with a small share of the total prize money having reached the quarter finals. After the games, all the ladies returned to Shenzhen to enjoy the Prize Presentation Dinner with the men and to collect their prizes. The International Barbarians did not reach the men's Final, as expected and they allowed Malaysia to take the Cup. Philippines took the Plate to complete two and a half exciting days of bowling. The local players had a good chance to successfully challenge, once again, some of the most talented and top ranking bowlers in the World.





Charles Poulton  
Hockey Chairman



## Chairman's Comments

Dear Players,

It's been an active month! Here's a quick summary for you. We have had two successful tours to Bangkok and Singapore that, whilst light on tour participants, were long on adventures and memories. As ever with virgin tourists mixed with old hands produces a heady mix of sport, play and fond memories that can never be fully appreciated unless you have actually been on tour! I am glad to say we blooded new tourists and only **Kim** and **Jo** regretted it (see report!). I'd like to thank **Luke Ryan** and **Nicky Russo** for exceptional tour organisational skills! The Hockey Section and Valley RFC Burns Night was a roaring success and again all those that put up their hand to try a Burns Night and Scottish dancing for the first time didn't regret it; simply put, they will be back for more. My thanks go to **Jane** and **Lisa**, and **Andy** (Valley RFC, Rage's other half for those that know Rage) again for another spectacular social event. Moving swiftly on, the kit is now with us thank the **Lord**. Please be patient as we iron out any wrinkles in sizing. There are samples for men and women of all the sizes and so if your kit is not correct for any reason you should ask **Chappie** to try on another size and these can be ordered very quickly. In the world of mini hockey our kids took part successfully in the annual mini-hockey KCC tournament, please see the report in this magazine and on the website.

Looking ahead we have the tour to Kuala Lumpur for both men's and women's teams, please email [KL@hkfchockey.com](mailto:KL@hkfchockey.com) to

participate. Most importantly we have the end of season social on Friday 5th June: your attendance is as high on compulsory as it's possible to be, so please delay flights abroad or come back from abroad in time, do not accept work trips on this date and generally put a block on anything else and clear that diary for June 5th as Jane and Lisa will be making it a hat-trick of impressive events for the year.

On the pitch there are some very impressive results being delivered throughout all teams. I'm delighted to see that people are still taking advantage of Tuesday and Thursday training sessions in good numbers as well as a few discrete Friday sessions (don't forget anyone can book Chappie for themselves (!) or their team on Friday 7pm to 10pm). Attending training as a team really is the key to success in the last quarter of the season because where other clubs give up training, we can keep going right to the finishing line taking 3 points from teams that finish weakly: be ruthless!

Lastly here's an appeal for content for our website at [hkfchockey.com](http://hkfchockey.com)

By 'content' I really mean absolutely anything that you think would appeal to your team in terms of information, news articles, match reports, photos, births, marriages, engagements or even pure gossip if you dare. It's your website so please feel free to provide content to [webmasters@hkfchockey.com](mailto:webmasters@hkfchockey.com)

Happy Hockey! Charlie.

## Club Bangkok Hockey Tour 2009

**We didn't lose the game; we just ran out of time.** ~Vince Lombardi

The Club, armed with a depleted men and women's team, made their way to Bangkok for the annual tournament hosted by Bangkok's Polo Club. The women played 3 matches in total spread over the 2 days and the men 7. The women lost 1 and drew 2 of their games and the men won 1, drew 2 and lost 4. Unfortunately, largely due to our reduced numbers, neither team made it through to the play offs.

Scorched from the midday sun and aching from the night before, our teams took to the fields it was difficult to establish a good rhythm playing on grass but the sluggish speed of the ball meant the game was played at a pace more suited to those with sore heads. Our opponents, especially the Thai teams, were experienced grass players and could stop, move and redistribute the ball with ease leaving our honed Astroturf based hockey somewhat redundant.

**Nicky Russo** and **Caron Hughes** did an impressive amount of leg work on the pitch for the ladies and even managed to cameo



for 2 men's sides and SCC, who they helped to the final. Caron was seduced by the HK Police and played for them against Club men's whereon she managed to poleaxe **Charlie Poulton** during an impressive run to the D. After racing to a Thai market to replace forgotten trainers, **Jo Schmitt** managed to squeeze in 1 game before being struck down by food poisoning. **Kim Roberts** played an impressive 10 minutes before being rushed to a Thai hospital to have an operation on a fractured finger. **Nina Voce** and **Cath Lunderman-Hall** carried out their tasks as backs with ease and fended off our fresh faced opposition with true Club

aplomb. **Claire Archer**, goalie, effortlessly rescued us from near certain goals and even had time to breakout the 'running man' on bemused opponents. Finally, I was joined at the front with an assortment of players poached from other teams, including Valley!

The men had Charlie Poulton, **David Watt** and **Sukum Suravudhi** defending. Once Charlie had soothed his rumbling rage, the backs did solid work and consistently pulled the ball out of tricky situations and whipped it back up to the forwards. **Gus Emmerson**, **Luke Ryan** and **David Fergus** (when he wasn't idly standing in the middle of a game on his mobile) worked tirelessly in mid-field. Gus, without fail, managed to spring from his afternoon siesta or leisurely midday massage straight onto the pitch like a spring chicken! **Rob Wilkinson** held firm in goal and, despite half his body fluid being absorbed into

his kit, managed an impressive save from a penalty flick. Tony White, when he decided to finish his partying from the night before, was accompanied at the front by 2 local Thai school boys recruited to play for us by Sukum. Our forwards had some interesting moments, mainly consisting of missing open goals and generously supplying the opposition with the ball. In fact, it took a loaned player to finally score for us!

Other than hockey, we managed to squeeze in some 'down-time' into our busy schedule. This included a game of 'Three Man', drinking Veuve Clicquot (and giving rubbish speeches), a meal at Cabbages and Condoms (with vasectomy kits and condoms aplenty), Tony's tours of Patpong (shocking!) and tuk tuk races (Gus is still having nightmares). To my fellow tourees, here's to nights we don't really remember with friends we'll never forget.

*By Emma Jewell*

## Club Lions in the Lion City – 2009 Singapore 6's

The men's section mustered a group of likely young lads, led ably by Singapore 'Superstar' Owen Hughes. The man has connections in every corner of the Singapore hockey underworld. It's fair to say, not many would have been able to 'play the game' as well as he was able to. Centre mid by day, celeb by night... without a doubt, 'The Man'. As for the rest of the team living in his mighty shadow, it would be fair to say, as tours go, this was more of a friends and family reunion for most. Don't get me wrong, Heineken were not let down by our shortage of thirst, and nor was the action on the field short of talent, rarely seen on grass! However, we were beaten in the fancy dress by KCC, who actually made the effort to go in theme. We were beaten in the girls drinking race because our "Tour Tourist" couldn't be tempted to represent, and in the men's drinking race, which we won might I add, we were beaten once again by KCC. Or should I say, by the video ref, who clearly would have been better served filming the Heineken girls.

Top scorer on the pitch, Chappie, was once again out done off the pitch whilst he continued his worldwide quest to find his mojo. Perhaps he should have laid off the noodles and donuts. Tommy proved that dribbling on grass is just as effective as dribbling on the astro, and even managed to play more than his usual 20% injury free quota. Ralphy, straight off the flight from Korea clearly had his mind and Seoul still in the clouds, but was making up for it at the 'pre match' and 'after match' in Singapore. Hughesy, between signing autographs, chatting to the locals,

laying down a few business deals, was solid in the centre, and never failed to sweat off all of his Heinekens. Watto 'Ice Man' was ever calm, yet ruthless at the back, and even managed to find his shooting stride on a number of occasions. He was most comfortable on the terrace at Stumps though, chilling with the chicks and chardonnays. And then there was Wilko, hockey slut. Padding up in Bangkok, Singapore and even for KCC... surely that's a fine? Um, yep, monumental!!! The line-up was made complete by veteran invitation players, Shawny, Richie, and Buckley, who all did their bit both on and off the pitch... although Shawny needs a bit of a 'hand' with his drinking talents.

However, all said and done, we made good use of the portable pitch side swimming pool, ducked and weaved our way elegantly round the lightning bolts, and even managed to play some reasonable hockey at times. 2 wins, 2 draws and a loss saw us through to the top 8, and Cup quarter final. We were beaten 4-2 by SRC, who would have most likely gone on to win the tournament, having won all their previous matches. Alas the heavens opened once again and the tournament ended in a washout, not unlike most cricket tests played mid summer in NZ or the UK.

*Tourists: T.Moore, O. Watt, R. Koker, S. Chapman, O. Hughes, R. Wilkinson*

*V.I.P's: Shawn, Richard and CB.*

*Tour Tourist: TT*

## Tour Tourist Report

Lured by the attraction of a long weekend in the sunshine, and of course lots of games of hockey to watch, I packed my bags and joined Club in Bangkok. The weekend's activities got off to a flying start and both teams had a few warm up drinks for their matches on Saturday. As unofficial club cheerleader, I joined the teams at Bangkok Polo Club bright and early on Saturday morning. As well as cheering on the teams, taking photographs and getting cold water I had the official duty of escorting Kim to hospital after she had a nasty run in with a hockey stick! On Saturday night the hockey tourists were let loose in a private room at one of Bangkok's more sophisticated restaurants, Cabbages and Condoms! The food and the company were

both up to scratch and it was a good job that we had our own room as some of the other guests might not have approved of the heavy fines session that went on (and also the antics of a certain Chairman involving lots of bottles of beer and some condoms). Of course I had my fair share of fines for coming on tour and not picking up a hockey stick, but it was worth it! After nearly drinking Cabbages and Condoms dry we all moved on to the area of Patpong, where some team members experienced more of the select sights, which Bangkok has to offer. Sunday brought with it the last day of hockey and by mid afternoon Club had played all their matches and so were able to relax

*continues next page...*

before either heading home or staying for one more night. A few dedicated members and I enjoyed a leisurely Monday while thinking of all the other players suffering back at work before we flew home.

After my first enjoyable tour with Club, I had the opportunity to go on another, to Singapore just two weeks later. This time I was accompanying only the boys and surprisingly I had been on more tours than a couple of the team. Most of the guys got in late on the Friday night so we had a few casual drinks at SCC while Chappie went to bed with a bottle of water and some Chicken noodles!! SCC was a five minute walk away from the hotel so nobody had any excuses for a late turn up although I think a few still managed it. The weather again was pretty warm, but if you wanted to cool down SCC provided an oversized paddling pool which, if you enjoy bathing in the sweat of many a hockey player you were more than welcome to jump in! Somewhat surprisingly I decided that the pool just wasn't tempting enough for me and stuck to watching the hockey! Afternoon play was suspended due to a storm, which didn't seem to bother most of the boys as it meant that they were able to start on the beers sooner! Saturday night's activities involved SCC's tour dinner. Unfortunately we all got the memo too late about the safari theme so our outfits were 'borrowed' from the table next to us when they weren't looking! Play started early on the Sunday to make up for the lost games and Club managed to make it through to the cup but unfortunately lost in the quarter final. After a quick swim (in the hotel pool!) it was time to pack up and head home once again. Unfortunately the next tour isn't for another couple of months but I will definitely sign myself up for it. *By TT*

## Ladies Captain's Notes

Hello Ladies

The season is moving swiftly on and by the time this issue reaches you, league matches may be over for some teams though I know there may be the odd May game for a team or two. Plus the 7-aside tournaments on May 31st. However, the Knockout Cup will be well and truly under way this month with teams hopefully being to able to make it through to the finals day on May 16th. As always, please come and support Club teams!

### Important dates for your diaries:

May 16th (Sat): KO Cup Finals: King's Park

June 5th (Fri): End of Season Ball (Be there! Details will be out soon!)

July: Tour to KL

The A team continue their domination in division 1 this season with a win in every league game, and given their present lead of 12 points over their nearest rivals WS Bauhinia, the team appears (touchwood) to have the title trophy signed, sealed and delivered. The B team (5th) have as expected found it tough going in the same division, but their players are to be congratulated on their fighting team spirit as they continue to give every game their best shot. They were very sad to have lost to arch rivals Valley A recently as this would have seen them move ahead of them. They did also have a very narrow loss to KCC A, only losing 1-2 and nearly equalizing in the dying seconds. The C team (5th) in div 2 has struggled to get goals even when playing a good passing game, and this has prevented them from achieving the rewards they seek. The second division remains one of the toughest and most closely contested divisions in the league with some quality teams. The 3rd division is another interesting contest and the Dinos are nudging Shaheen B for the top position. Let's hope a recent narrow loss on the part of Dinos to Shaheen, does not mean they cannot become victors for the 2nd year running of division 3. The E team may be in 5th position (equal on points with Aquila), but they certainly have been giving the teams in this division a run for their money. The hunt is still on for them. The F team remain very strong in div 4 (2nd), and were very unlucky not to have at least drawn with the leaders, Police, in this round, losing 2-3, a game they so dearly wanted to win to place them on top! Now, they need to stay focused and not lose their momentum and draw well ahead of HKCC B who are hot on their heels in 3rd position. The G team (4th) have rued missed opportunities in front of goal, but can be proud of their current position. And as they say, it is not all over until the fat lady sings, or in this case, until the final whistle at the final game on the final day of the season.

(\*Note: Based on standings as of Mar 11)

My season has sadly been a Clayton's hockey season, ie the season you are having when you are not having a season (Clayton's was a non-alcoholic beer in Oz at one time – though you may well ask why would you bother with such a beer!) because for most of the season I have been sidelined

## Burns Night



Two Clubs! One Dream! One Burns Night!

Friday 6th March saw club throw open its doors to unite Valley and club hockey to celebrate Burns' Night, albeit a tad late!

The festivities began with the piper, piping in the guests then the traditional ode to the haggis from our very own famous speaker John Bruce who completed the immortal memory for us, an incredibly clean version of course! And let's not forget to mention the toast to the lassies, to which, it has to be said, she did give an amusing reply!

With Ian Carmichael in charge of the dance moves the Scottish flings began. Heads were swaying, bodies were twisting, hands clapping and feet were certainly, well, treading on other feet! All excellent fun, until folk woke up on Saturday morning!

To download these photographs and see more images of the night, visit [www.dunestudio.net](http://www.dunestudio.net)

by one injury or another. It's okay, you don't need to get out the violins.

**Thank the coaches awards:**

**Douglas Corbel:** Thanks Coach Award in Senior Performance Level (1 prize)

**Gurvinder Dillon:** Thanks Coach Award in Junior Level (1 prize)

We are very pleased to announce that coaches Douglas Corbel and Gurvinder Dillon were successful in winning the HKHA Thank the Coaches Award for the 2007-08 season. Congratulations to both gentlemen as it is certainly well deserved.

Douglas Corbel coached the A team to the dizzy heights of success, they won every possible title last season.

*The Ladies A team would like to thank Doug for all his hard work and excellent coaching throughout last season. We really enjoyed Doug coaching us to success. Katy Mountain (A team captain 2007-08 and currently: 2008-09).*

**Guv**, as stated above, won the award for his work with the juniors. However, we must also mention his invaluable contribution to the ladies section especially in being responsible for helping the B team achieve their glory. They won the Div 2 league title for both rounds in 2007-08, and the team also went on to win the Centenary Cup at the beginning of this season.

*The B team would like to thank Guv for all his hard work last season and also for his commitment and enthusiasm this season. Everyone in the team really appreciates Guv coaching us and being at all our games. We wouldn't want any other coach and I know you would not want any other team..... would you??? Claire Murphy (B team captain: current season and player 2007-08)*

## Ladies B team Report

It's all about staying up for the B's and it's going to go to the wire. We've had enough of yo-yoing between the divisions and now's the time to stand up and be counted. We deserve to stay in the top flight but we need a few more wins to make sure of it. With just three games remaining in the league we will probably need to win a couple of them to retain our spot. It's a relegation battle that would see **Harry Redknapp** rolling up his sleeves and licking his lips in anticipation and it's one we need all the support we can get to cheer us through to another season in the top league. Don't miss this nail-biting end to the season!

And now for something completely different - Congratulations are in order for **Caitlin Gall** and **Claire Black** on their recent engagements. **Claire** thought she was being taken away for a camping weekend but ended up in a posh hotel filled with heart shaped balloons (seriously, who goes camping in Hong Kong anyway????). We also have mini-Glover on the way which is fantastic news – congratulations to **Amanda** and **Will**.



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## Ladies F team Report

The F team have had a successful year so far both on and off the field, and in and out of .....

After the very competitive pre-season trials, The F'ers were off to a great start to the season with a win over the newly formed HKCC B team. The success has continued with only two teams this year having beaten us, we are currently second in the table and planning to finish there (as buckleys chance of catching the Police at the top of the table). Quite a few of last year's team were promoted up the ranks to the E's and C's proving what a good training ground our team is – and thus welcomed some new players - **Fiona, Vivian, Claire, Ali, Cathy** and **Emma** (back from a baby break) as well as many old (and dedicated – not old and wrinkly) players from last year.

Mid-season we welcomed new coaching staff as well as new players - **Junko, Yee Ling, Ida** and **Ellen** on the field and Simon Bach as 'special' (you are and you know it!) coach-in-residence to voice, yell, additional tips and tricks to the keen F team. As always in the Women's League with people leaving HK, having babies, injuries and more babies, there is plenty of player movement among the Ladies Teams to keep us all on our toes, and thus some of our original starting line up were promoted up the ranks to the E team - so we said a sad farewell (multiple times in the end) to **Nicky L** and **Claire** – anything for a free drink eh girls!! But of course still invite them to have a few post match cleansers with us.

We're also going to say a very sad farewell to **Nikki Moffitt** soon – who has decided that Hong Kong is simply way too boring and wants to be challenged further in Durban, South Africa – both barbed wire and after dark curfews, as well as elephants and giraffes, have been mentioned so seems an adventure she will have. Glad to see you're seeing out the rest of the season though Mrs Moffitt !! Committed to the end eh ?!

We have had some issues with injury - meaning regulars from last year- **Ginny** (has unfortunately had just about every body part at the doctor this year), - haven't been able to make all the games

they would like. Social matters (generally within 12 hours of the start of the game) have also occasionally negated some of the sharp team plays and skills learned at training - so we have seen less of some of our other players as well. Some have been able to pull through these difficult times (usually by a quick stage left exit of the field to return 5 minutes feeling much better) – really Saturday wouldn't be quite right if one or two current and former members didn't front up feeling less than perfect!

Overall the team has been able to pull together well both on and off the field - we had a great turnout for the Christmas party and were victorious in the Women's section boat race – see – extra-curricular training does have its benefits. The night continued on in a fashion after that and there were some of our players that provided fodder for the Secret Diary of a hockey girl.....

Fit, fit,fit - is what you would call a couple of members of our team - well **Fiona** for one - she is the one that does the extra suicide runs every training session and a couple of GreenPower finishers, **Gen** who managed a top 20 finish - out of nearly 200 women, and **Nikki** knocking over an hour off her time from last year.... **Julia** (who did have to miss the Action Asia Race due to consequences relating to a ball the night before) should also be mentioned in the fitness stakes and is consistently best on ground with her ability to be at both ends of the field at once. The rest of us are working on it!

After finishing very far down the table in our division last year (although we did win the 9 aside and came runner up in the Knockout Cup – historical data I know) we are very happy to have made such a turnaround this year - thanks to **Chappie** and **Simon** for the guidance, advice, therapy, support, and fashion advice amongst other things, oh and yes thanks to the team for turning up to games and drinks (well - most of the time).

Come on the Mighty F's.

*By Helen McCarten (Captain), Nikki Moffitt (Vice) and Genevieve Verman (Social)*

## KCC Mini Tournament

On a cold, drier, miserable Sunday morning we all headed down to KCC for their annual mini hockey tournament to the chant of "Rain rain go away, come again another day." Unfortunately we had not practised it enough as the drizzle just hung there for most of the morning.

We were up against some stiff competition. The U8's especially, being the youngest team at the tournament had an interesting experience with other teams being at least a foot taller than most of them! However, they played valiantly and showed the ultimate in sportsmanship by resoundly cheering the other teams and thanking the umpires after every match.

The U10's put in three teams, two of which were put into the first division. Our B Team consisted mostly of U8's and players who had only started hockey this season, so whilst the height of

achievement of the last tournaments were not achieved, a marked improvement was noticed. The A's played very well, as did the C's. **Jacob Stewart** got two player of the match, whilst **James** and **Michael Shepherdson** each got one.

The U12's had a very tough draw. Both teams just lost out to their opponents, but did so holding their heads high and remaining cheerful all the way through. **Justus Cardinaal** was voted player of the match twice.

Two weeks later GSIS held their All Stars tournament at the HKFC. While I don't have all the details at hand, we know that Justus Cardinaal won Player of the Tournament for the U12's.

When you receive this we will have just held our inaugural Spring Tournament, so watch this space next month for a report from that!



Tarne Usback,  
Division Chairperson

## Comments from the Chair

Despite the trivia night scheduled for March having to be postponed till early next season I have some trivia for you. Does anyone in the current Netball division know the last time a team from the Club were Division 1 champions? Or Division 2, 3 or 4? For Division 1 it was at the end of a 5 year winning streak in 1999 that our Club team last had the honours. For Division 2 Typhoons won three seasons back to back, 2003 to 2005. Whirlies in Division 3 and Hurricanes in Division 4 both claimed the champion's title once in 2000.

After being pipped at the post numerous times in the last few seasons you know from my past few monthly reports that all teams this season are on fire and that Club netball teams could potentially win every division. Now wouldn't that be 'awesome dude'? They say things come in cycles. I can see the depth we have in our teams, the dedication we have from our coaches and the determination of you all to achieve champion's titles this year and start a new winning cycle of netball at the Club. As the finals series games are all scheduled off site we will need to drum up supporters to cheer teams on. Book these dates in diaries, Monday 20th and 27th April.

To our coaches **Karen Morgans**, **Karin Looram** and **Amanda McPherson** you ladies have some more hard weeks ahead. Keeping our teams not only on physical form but mentally fit as well and helping to ensure, beyond securing places in semi finals that your teams get pleasure from their games no matter what the outcome. We all appreciate your efforts and your skills. The success our teams achieved already this season is a reflection on your dedication. To **Heidi Reyes** our physiotherapist who has found her treatment table more popular than ever as the season progressed, thank you for strapping and working on those ligaments, tendons and muscles so that more of our players can, in the words of Daft Punk (and this won't be a trivia question) go faster, higher and stronger. To the teams keep playing your best, enjoying your netball and showing a spirit of camaraderie with your opponents, after all it's not just winning games that keep us coming back for more season after season.

More congratulations this month to three young members who have been selected in the Hong Kong Under 21 Squad. **Alex Holden** from Typhoons, **Lauren Flannery** from Cyclones and **Lesley Cook** from Hurricanes.

The final major event as always is the AGM. This set for Wednesday 29th April at the Club. By this time current committee members would have been convincing, cajoling and possibly even bribing some of you to step up and take a position on the committee for next season...many thanks if you do...its heaps of fun!

# Netball News

## Match Reports

### Monday 9th February: Typhoons (21) vs Club (45)

While a 9pm start against Club at Western on a Monday night didn't exactly have us in the highest spirits, we pulled out that Typhoons give it our best shot attitude.

We pulled out our secret weapon this week **Candy Wong** at GS. Tremendous effort given the pressure and a well deserved player of the match. A particular highlight was Candy getting stuck at the top of the circle, looking for the pass not finding one, so bang straight in the hoop! **Ali Smith** of course in GA was as consistent as ever.

Attack definitely worked their hardest and showed up the defensive end. **Tarne Usback** at WA was everywhere and fed the circle like a dream. **Sarah Wells** did not stop running and was there for every pass and had a spectacular game with plenty of supportive talk in the Centre keeping everyones spirits up.

**Katy Chandler** did well to come on at half time and face **Alex** her old defensive buddy at GK after a long baby hiatus from the position, and had really warmed up to bring the ball down court with her usual grace at WD in the last quarter. Baby?? 10 weeks ago???

As they have done all season our tall, dark haired lovelies in defence **Siobhan O'Brien** and **Alex Holden** kept the pressure on, and forced a lot of repeat shots at goal from Club, followed by some spectacular rebounds.

We were fairly neck and neck in the first quarter, with Club breaking away with a 5 goal lead. Second quarter we remained level, but it was in the last half that it became more apparent, Club have the slightly upper hand on the fitness front with the final score being 21-45.

*By Emma O'Donohue*

### Monday 16th February: HKFC Club (33) vs Black Magic (26)

In one of their biggest matches yet Club gave an impressive performance of determination and skill to leave them topping the division 1 league table. Club faced Black Magic in what both sides anticipated to be a tightly fought game. A solid first quarter gave Club the lead with seamless shooting and great movement from **Dee Hutt** and **Anna Clinton**. Club's defence of **Stacey Mclocklan**, **Millie Polglase** and **Alex Weston** showed speed and athleticism down the court and ensured Club pulled away in the second quarter and looked fairly comfortable at half time. Black Magic came back in the third quarter reminding Club that the match was not over and it was all to play for in the final quarter. A few choice words from coach and Club were back on

*continues next page...*

court. **Kate Babbington** displayed nerves of steel in the circle in the face of a fairly frightening defence to get Club off to a great start. Great vision and a few key intercepts from **Liz Nagy** and **Alex Kent** returned Club to dominating form sealing the win 33-26. Silverware is now in our sights! Special mention to **Millie Polglase** for Club's well deserved man of the match and to the fantastic support from the sidelines – much appreciated by all.

**Monday 16th February: HKFC Cyclones (21) vs. HKU (20)**

This was a match HKU wanted to win. It was very obvious from the start and they out performed the Cyclones in the first quarter, leaving little question as to who were the team tipped to win.

After a scrappy second half by the Cyclones, HKU were stealing every loose ball, some position changes were made and by the third quarter the Cyclone girls seemed to sort out some form and scored some goals. Realising that they were 9 goals behind, in the final quarter the team performance and excitement that ensued was tangible, and our girls pulled together playing one of their best quarters ever with our shooters keeping their cool under immense pressure. The Cyclones came back and beat the HKU team by 1 goal.

Well done to a very exciting win which proved that our girls have got what it takes!

*By Jules Squires*

**Monday 23th February: HKFC Whirlwinds (30) vs A.P Kookaburras (13)**

The game got off to a good start with Whirlwinds immediately taking the lead. There was great defence throughout the court and some super rebounds in the circle from **Vicki** and **Frances**. Unfortunately play started to get a bit disjointed and Kookaburras pulled back to make it 6-3 to Whirlies at quarter time.

With some refocusing from Coach **Karen** at quarter time Whirlies returned to the court looking like a new team! The passing was smooth, the shooting accurate and interceptions superb. Such play left Whirlies up 17 -5 by the end of the second quarter.

In the third quarter Whirlies had 3 sets of new legs on court. With this many new players joining the team it took a while for the play to settle down. By the end of the quarter Whirlies were 21-10 up.

With the team from the third quarter taking to the court again for the final quarter play was calm, flowing and efficient which left Whirlies 30 – 13 up by the final whistle. A great result for the Whirlies. Well done girls!

**Monday 2nd March: Hurricanes (24) vs Surprises (7)**

Potentially the fastest game of the season, the Hurricanes pulled out all the stops to secure this strong victory over the Surprises. Up against a fiercely fit and competitive team, we remained focused and level headed throughout the match and were therefore able to concentrate on fluid passing, making use of the whole court and above all anticipating play – fabulous teamwork was displayed in this match. Coach **Amanda** was proud as we improved on our lead in every quarter despite the serious and unfaltering pace of our competitors.

A special mention to **Ari Bahrami** who had a splendid match and offered great support on centre passes and down the court. Also to **Lesley Cook** for her precision shooting (she never has a bad shooting day!) and the unanimously voted player of the match, **Jess Lavender**, who again wowed opposition and team mates alike with her amazing intercepts!

*By Harry MacPhail*

**Come enjoy MIXED SUMMER SOCIAL NETBALL**

The Netball DSA will host social netball on Wednesday nights during July and August.

- Bring friends; guys, girls, Members and Non-Members are all welcome.
- Teams will be co-ordinated on the night.
- It's a fun way to meet people and maintain your fitness during the summer.



**VENUE:** HKFC Sports Hall Level 1  
**DATES:** 2nd, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th July, 5th, 12th August  
**TIME:** 7 - 9 pm  
**COST:** Free to Members, \$50 once only sign up fee to Non-Members

**TEAM MANAGER**

The Hong Kong National Netball Squad is looking for a team manager to assist in its preparations for, and to accompany it to, the Asian Netball Championships in Kuala Lumpur in June. The squad is well represented by the Football Club with five players from the Netball DSA's current teams, and it would be great to have someone connected with the Club involved as team manager. The role should not be too time intensive and would ideally suit someone with good administration and organisation skills and an interest in netball, or team sports in general. Please speak to **Alex Kent** (alexandra.kent@nortonrose.com) if you are interested in this role, or perhaps know of any suitable candidates.

**Congratulations!**



Well done to **Lesley Cook** (pictured), **Lauren Flannery** and **Alex Holden** on being selected for the Hong Kong U21s squad.



# Ten-Pin Bowling Competition

After nine matches, HKFC is leading the handicap league for the Inter Club Tenpin Bowling competition. There are three more matches to play and we will work hard to bring back the trophy !! Any Members interested to join the team, can come and practice together on Thursday evenings.

**A reminder that our Easter Bowling Tournament will be held on Thursday 2nd April. Registration at the Club Reception Desk.**



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## 19th Hole with the Chairman

Andy Ho,  
Golf Society Chairman

You will read below that under the superb leadership of Captain **Dallas Reid**, we have successfully defended our Plate and Hong Kong Cricket Club retains the "Buckets of Shame" loser's trophy for another year or at least a few months before our next encounter.

The Easter Tour will be going to China. Due to the unreasonable high price of accommodations in Thailand during Songkran Songkran (Water Festival). Your Committee has decided to change the event to China Junan Country Garden Golf Village and Wuyi Fountain Palm Golf Club for 3 rounds of 18 holes.

30th March will be the annual President vs Chairman's event. All Society members are welcome. This year, we will be playing at Fanling. Details should have been circulated in the normal manner by the time this article goes to press. Unfortunately, I won't be able to play but we'll have our immediate past Chairman **Desmond Ko** as the acting GS Chairman against the President's team.

Your Committee is in the progress of planning a series of social events sponsored by Swiss Privilege. For a sneak preview, these

will include a junior coaching session followed by a 9-hole Junior Golf Championship. More information will be available shortly. So, stay tuned!

In an effort to reduce paper usage starting from March 2009, HKGA will only produce handicap stickers for players that have activity during the month. Regarding all handicap reports, please refer to the following website:

[http://www.idcreports.com/assoc\\_reports.html?A=E](http://www.idcreports.com/assoc_reports.html?A=E)

This includes both details of all GS members as well as statistics covering the Society as a whole. These reports are available from the first of each month, and both the current and previous two months are visible.

It is the time of the year to remind everyone to check their golf insurance status. It is generally not expensive and highly recommended.

On 10th March, 2009, I personally witnessed a player repairing a spike mark on his line of putt at Fanling's Eden Course. What is the ruling?

### Rule 16-1 c/4

Repair of Spike Mark Damage Around Hole

*Q A player's ball lies on or near the putting green. Before playing his next stroke, he taps down spike marks in the vicinity of the hole. Is this permissible?*

*A No. Such action would be a breach of Rule 16-1c since repair of spike marks in the vicinity of the hole might assist the player in his subsequent play of the hole.*

# HKFC Golf Goes Up-Market

With a solid squad of players who are keen to play in "competitive" matches, the objective in 2009 is to expand the list of matches which the HKFC plays during the year. Traditionally we have played annually in the 4 cornered "Reunification Cup" and against the American Club. In addition there is the annual "grudge" match against the Cricket Club where the losing side is awarded the Ice Bucket of Shame and hence competition is intense!

As part of the aim to expand this list an inaugural match against the prestigious Hong Kong Club was arranged for the inauspicious Friday 13th February in Macau. Falling two weeks before the Cricket Club match (also at Macau) I had viewed this as a gentle morale boosting warm-up to give us an easy victory over the generally quite "senior" HK Club players. Clearly they had other ideas.

Part of our problems were caused by their Captain **Martin Clinch** requesting that all players who were members of both clubs were handed over to the HK Club for the day. This totaled 6 although as Captain of the HKFC team I pleaded exemption from this! As a result of this manoeuvre the sides were very well matched as the five flights teed off on a very pleasant morning in Macau.

After 4 hours or so of fierce competition, it transpired that HK Club had won 2 of the 5 matches, and the "Captains' match" was only decided in the Football Club's favour with the last putt of the day so the match literally hung on a single putt.

The match was followed by a very convivial barbeque on the Macau Golf Club terrace and the HK Club handed over a very smart HK Club plaque which can be put wherever we put our golf trophies (no rude suggestions please).

Hopefully those who will also be playing in the match against the Cricket Club will have gained valuable experience of the course in advance.

Thanks go to Martin Clinch and the HK Club team for putting out such enjoyable opposition, and we definitely look forward to making this at the least an annual fixture.

*By Dallas Reid*

### Match Results

HKFC	vs	HK Club	
Dallas Reid (Capt) / JP Cuvelier	vs	Martin Clinch (Capt) / James Dyer	HKFC 1 Up
Bob McKirdy / Bob Lloyd	vs	David Connolly / Peter Aherne /	HK Club 3 and 1
Mike Belbin / Jason Waldie	vs	Nick Allen / Michael Sanders	HK Club 2 and 1
Kein Ng / Andy Wood	vs	John Mackay / Bob Wallace	HKFC 4 and 3
Elsa Lee / Jonathan Linstow	vs	Malou Ferrier / Gary Osbourne	HKFC 4 and 3

# Yin Li 20th February 2009

The Yin Li Foreign Investors Golf Club is an 18 hole layout near the Dongguang part of Mission Hills. Built in 1994, it was recently upgraded both on and off the course, and is now an interesting hillside challenge with good clubhouse facilities and accommodation.

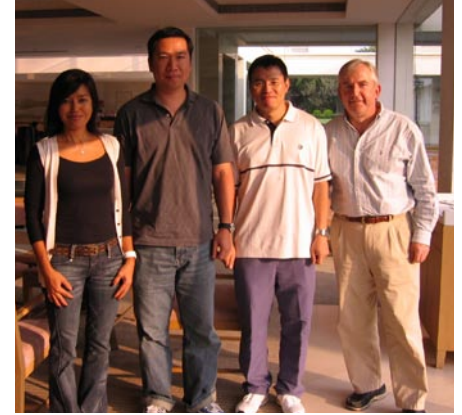
The odd thing about Yin Li is that each hole has two greens, apparently to allow one to be kept in reserve and changed over from time to time. All very well, but the distance markers are very confusing, particularly for first timers like us!

Most of our twenty players were new to the course, which yielded some good scores on a day which turned warm and sunny, very pleasant indeed. Best net went to **Harold Low** with 37 points followed by **Nick Allen** on 35, though Nick's gross 84 was

the lowest of the day. Following the leaders on 32 were **YP Ng** and **Stuart Wong**.

Longest drive prizes went to **Stuart Wong** and **Malou Ferrier** and the near pins to Malou, Harold and Nick.

Yin Li is definitely worth another visit - perhaps along with an overnight and one of the Mission Hills Dongguang courses.



# The Bucket Comes Home to Roost

For some reason the HKFC vs HK Cricket Club golf fixture has become a serious grudge match. Perhaps that is because apart from the first occasion, the Cricket Club has never won and so have become bitter and twisted. Perhaps it is because of the same reason we never stop gloating. Most likely it is because after their one-off victory they felt cocky enough to present the Football Club with a hideous tacky slightly soiled ice-bucket from the Cricket Club bar as a general mark of disdain towards HKFC Golf in general. Whatever the reason buried in the mists of time, this fixture is the one which we focus on winning all year.

This year to take things up a level, a match was organized two weeks ahead of the Bucket Match against the HK Club which acted as an excellent warm-up, also being played at Macau. This had identified some glitches in our match readiness, not least in our ferry ticket organization, so come the day of the Bucket Match, all transport arrangements ran without a hitch and all 14 players from both sides were raring to go into battle around the Macau Country Club course.

Leading off on behalf of HKFC were the "unbeatable" pair of Captain **Dallas Reid**, and the Muscles from **Brussels, JP Cuvelier**. They were matched against John "Macka" McNamara, the gravitationally challenged Captain of the HKCC side, and the gritty Tony Melloy playing off a 4 handicap. Points in the bag I thought.

After their alleged 15 handicapper (Macka) rolled in his third birdie putt of the day, followed by three more from his partner, even three birdies back from our side were not enough to withstand the pressure and we went down 3 and 2. The hope was that they had focused too much talent in their opening group.

After a long nervous wait for all the flights to come in, this eventually transpired to be the case. Football Club had indeed managed to squeeze through 4 matches to 3 which meant a slight improvement from last year where we only managed to retain the trophy via a draw. This time we had fully earned it, and by the same token, the Cricket Club were fully deserving of the Bucket of Shame which was duly re-handed over to them.

As ever, the after-match socializing was excellent as was the BBQ on the terrace of the golf club. Joking aside the Cricket Club



And the winners are .....

make for outstanding match opponents and all matches were played in a highly competitive but very friendly manner. The general consensus is that a year is far too long a time to wait for a re-match, so we will be looking to arrange another fixture later in the year, probably around November. Whether Macka survives as Captain after this defeat remains to be seen as this match is known as the Graveyard of the Captains.

Anyone wishing to play in Football Club Golf matches who is not currently being invited should contact me via **Adie Ma**. You need to be a Golf Society member and as a guide your handicap should not exceed 16. Ladies are more than welcome to play in these fixtures.

By *Dallas Reid*

Match Results			
Reid/Cuvelier	vs	McNamara/Melloy	Lost 3and2
Head/Allen	vs	Chillington/Webb	Won 1 Up
Petersen/Fishwick	vs	Laidlaw/Foster	Lost 2and1
Lloyd/McKirdy	vs	Clinch O'Brien	Won 3and1
Linstow/Valentive	vs	Waters/Davies	Halved Match
Yuen/Tse	vs	Chalk/Hugher	Won 2 up
Cornell/Ko	vs	Ku/Goates	Halved Match



Adam Doyle - Head Tennis Coach

## FROM YOUR TENNIS COACH

Welcome to the Tennis Society page of our great magazine. This month I would like to give you some techniques to work on while you are practicing your game.

We will start with the forehand volley. Everyone hitting a backhand volley seems to be able to get their body turned for contact which makes it easier to hit. Why though does nearly everyone out there have trouble getting their body turned for a forehand volley? The volley becomes much harder to hit and control. You lose eye contact easier and become less aware of where your racket position is. A tip I like to use which may help you to get turned better on a forehand volley is: Have a partner throw a ball to you while you are at the net and try to catch the ball with your left hand (if you are right handed) in front of the racket. Keeping this opposite hand in front of your racket will force your shoulder to turn to the correct position, which in turn will help you see what you are trying to accomplish with your racket and your positioning.

Another volley technique for both forehand and backhand is to step towards the ball with your left foot for a forehand and your right foot for a backhand. (right hand players) if you have time to step in to it. Now the trick is to step and hit the volley with your foot slightly in the air while moving forward then land and stop the racket's forward process when you land your foot. It may sound complicated but it's not really. You should try it as it will help you be more stable throughout your volleys.

The Mens Club Tennis Championships finals day will be held on the 26th of April at 9am. With some high quality players entered in the event this year, I am sure the final will be a spectacular event to watch. So come and watch this event to see some of our clubs greatest athletes at work. We are happy to announce that Sportline Company which provides Wilson and Babolat Sporting Products to Hong Kong has agreed to sponsor our Mens Singles Event. Also we are happy that Master Gear Sporting Products has agreed to sponsor the event as well.

Tennis lessons are available for all ages whether private or semi private. Call us today to arrange your lesson. Junior programmes have seen a good increase in players. We will be adding two Saturday programmes from May to June on a trial basis with two separate hours available from 10am to 12am for kids 6-12 years of age. If interested in the Saturday classes call us today. We also offer weekday junior coaching with varying times so check the activity booklets or call **Adam** or **Chat** today to enquire.

# Tennis Update

## Charity Doubles Tournament

The 'Sweat it out for Children in Need' Charity Doubles Tennis Tournament attracted nearly 60 players, both young and old, novice and expert, who lobbed, volleyed and smashed their way towards raising nearly \$25,000 for two charities, the Children's Heart Foundation based in Hong Kong and Jordan House, an orphanage in the slums of Kampala, Uganda.

Despite the threat of rain on the morning of the tournament, all of the teams eventually squared off against each other, with each player slugging it out for two hours or more in a mixture of mens, ladies and mixed doubles. After all games won were tallied, winners were eventually declared.

Of the four teams from the Squash Section who entered, two of these finished in the top three!! However, the team of **Yoke Ming**



So fast, the cameras couldn't catch him - Neal Soo, the one to beat in the upcoming single's competition

**Ong, Barry Ho, Graham Ormerod** and **Justin Ho** restored some pride for the Tennis Society by finishing on top in this inaugural charity tournament, by the fact that they had lost fewer games. Thank heavens for the handicap system, which evened the odds out significantly!

But the day wasn't about winning or losing. It was about sweating it out and raising money for those children who are in need of help. This spirit was definitely on show throughout the day. A big thanks to those who participated in the tournament, bought a raffle ticket, purchased something from the African craft and jewellery shop located in the lobby area of the 2nd floor, or simply made a donation.

For those who wish to find out more information about the above two charities, go to [www.childheart.org.hk](http://www.childheart.org.hk) or [www.operationuganda.com](http://www.operationuganda.com).

By *Kevin McNamara*

**Chairman's note:** Thanks go especially to **Kevin McNamara** and **Helen Ormerod's** Herculean efforts in making this tournament happen.



The die-hards who made it to the end



Part of the winning group (Graham and Yoke Ming)



The team of Dave Cross, Keith Frith, Mattie Robinson and Neal Soo finished runners up



Jo Ward and Mal Zancanaro show off their third place medals.

### Captain's Corner

So far in this Spring Season, Club is doing exceptionally well with two of its four competing teams currently holding the number one spot. **Elaine Butterfield**, who captains our Division 2 team in the morning ladies league looks set for a promotion if the form continues, whilst with a bit of luck, our very own **Vivian Lawson** will bring home glory for the Club with her captaincy (along with Job Tang) of the evening league mixed team. Keep it up!

### A Jiangmen Tennis Weekend-Away

For all you tennis aficionados, watch out for the application to join our third Tennis Weekend-Away in Jiangmen (an hour or two's coach-ride across the border). With 16 courts, two tournaments, two practice sessions, excellent food and cheap massages to soothe away those aches and pains, you can't beat the value for money. The date is set for the long weekend of 1st May. Mark it down in your calendar and get your application in asap. (For further details, please email: [TennisSociety@hkfc.com](mailto:TennisSociety@hkfc.com)).



Youth struts its stuff.



Squashies show their form on the court - thanks for the support guys

# Club's Ironmen and women show their mettle

Ironman New Zealand – 7th March 2009

And so for the big one. Despite my fledgling triathlon career being just a few races old, the longest of which (a half Ironman) had seen me collapse in the medical tent with exhaustion after the race, I had decided six months ago that I was ready to put myself forward for the biggest test the sport can offer: the Ironman. Ignoring the fact that this was the equivalent of a climber signing up to have a crack at Everest just days after getting dizzy spells at the top of Lantau Peak, I was determined that it must be within my capabilities, based on the fairly childish logic of seeing a friend of mine complete it and refusing to entertain the possibility that he might actually just be a bit fitter than me. My wife, Claire, also decided to enter, on the basis that if I was going to rope her into all of my training then she may as well do the damn thing herself too.

This year's race in Taupo marked the 25th anniversary of the country hosting the event, making New Zealand Ironman the longest running event on the circuit after Hawaii. The hosts' wealth of experience was certainly reflected in the slickness of the organization. An impressively large army of volunteers was also on hand to provide the warmest of welcomes and to assist with the logistics of food and equipment, meaning that competitors were free to focus their minds on the small matter of swimming 3.8kms, cycling 180kms and then running a marathon. During a talk to first-timers on the eve of the race, a speaker had tried to reassure the audience that they had done the hard work, likening their months of training as "putting the money in the bank" with the day itself providing the opportunity of simply "cashing the cheque". He was certainly right to suggest that the training had not been easy. In the months leading up to the event we had spent countless, mind-numbing hours riding back and forth between Tung Chung and Disneyland, pounded every inch of concrete on the catchwater trails of Hong Kong and Lantau and spent enough time in the club pool to actually qualify as amphibian. Worryingly, he also assumed that we all "must, of course, have a clear nutrition strategy", to which the entire room nodded and smiled, as if only a moron would attempt to cycle 180kms and run a marathon without knowing exactly what they were taking and when. The entire room, that is, except for Claire and I, whose nutrition strategy in training had just been to stop at 7-Eleven whenever we got peckish. Clearly everyone had given this a little more thought than we had.

In true Kiwi style, the event was preceded by Maori warriors coming ashore and performing the intimidating haka (I chose to interpret this as a proud display of their heritage rather than a threat to harpoon me if I took another step towards their lake in my little rubber hat and goggles) and then a cannon signaled the start of what was to be a very long day for over 1300 eager triathletes. Swimming in such crystal clear water was a real pleasure, despite the distance, and cycling through the town, being



cheered on by a crowd of thousands, provided one of life's truly wonderful moments. **Warren Warner** reported a few navigational issues after he spotted some brown trout to follow, but what's an extra few 100 metres when you have swum 3800 of them? It was only once the adrenaline had subsided and the supporters had faded into the background that the real challenge began. Being someone who is not too keen on their own company, going nearly six hours with no one to talk to can be a little trying, and a thirty minute internal monologue about whether and when to have the sweat soaked peanut butter sandwich from my back pocket was a poor substitute. The run though saw us return to the crowds, which provided an invigorating and much needed lift, whilst the lake and the volcano behind it provided a beautiful backdrop to what, for me, was easily the hardest part of the race. I regret to admit that at times I was in too much pain to even acknowledge the people shouting my name, let alone high-five the numerous little hands proffered in the air by watching children.

Finally, after eleven hours and fourteen minutes, I was able to enjoy another of life's fantastic moments, as I ran down the home stretch to hear the announcer exclaim "**James Chapman**, you are an Ironman!" It was certainly more fun than hearing the masseuse announce "James Chapman, you've gone hypothermic" in the finisher's tent just ten minute later. Claire came home in 11:33, but neither of us had the energy to join fellow Club Members **Adam Graham** (11:08) - ex-Member now in Singapore, **Warren Warner** (10:39) and **Richard Hall** (9:46) for beers afterwards, with even a glass of milk in front of the TV requiring all the strength that we could muster. Maybe if we do it again we'll leave something in the tank for the celebrations!

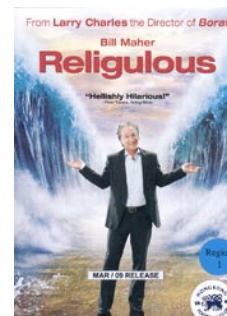
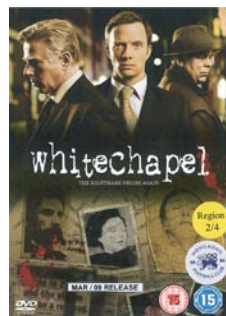
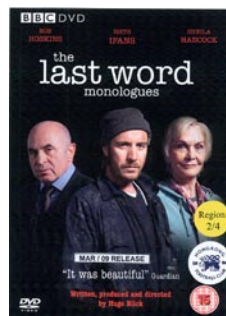
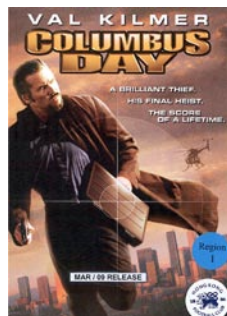
MOVIE OF THE MONTH

MILK

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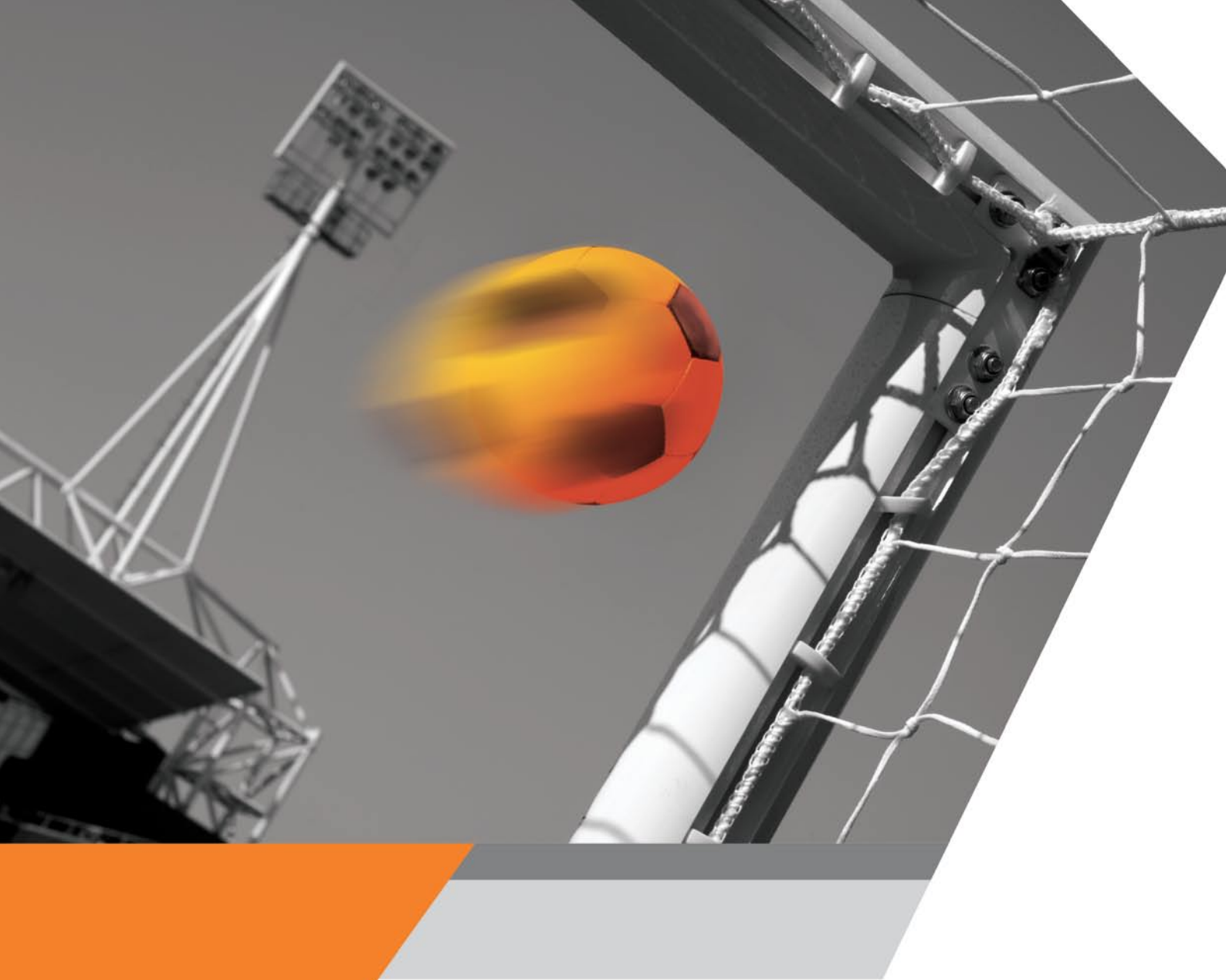
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