





Chairman

Hong Kong Football Club

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CLUB MAGAZINE

Monthly journal of the Hong Kong Football Club. 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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DAY OUT

Tons to do for our dads at Coffee Shop, Happy Valley Suites and Restaurant.

COFFEE SHOP FATHER'S DAY

Sunday, 20th June 2021

Available on both lunch and dinner

\$318 per adult \$159 per child (aged 4-11)

HAPPY VALLEY SUITES FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, 20th June 2021

Including free flow of sparkling wine, selected red and white wine during brunch for adult and free flow of juices for children.

> \$458 per adult \$308 per child (aged 4-11)

RESTAURANT FATHER'S DAY SET MENU

Sunday Lunch & Dinner, 20th June 2021

> \$458 per person Scan here for menu





CATERING SERVICE



T: 2830 9569 E: coffeeshop@hkfc.com



CHAIRMAN'S BAR

T: 2830 9559 E: bar@hkfc.com RESTAURANT

T: 2830 9562 E: restaurant@hkfc.com

T: 2830 9513 E: catering@hkfc.com

THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

主席的話



Michael J. Wood Chairman

Whilst there has not been much in the way of sporting activities to report in the past few weeks, it is pleasing to note that we recently celebrated 50 years of Women's Hockey at the Club with an eventful day on 24th April. Congratulations to all in the Hockey Section, and a detailed report on the event can be viewed on page 8.

Also of note is the Rugby Section's raising of HK\$420,000 for the Po Leung Kuk and ChildFund Rugby in Vietnam, with 39 teams running, hiking, cycling and swimming an equivalent of the 869km distance Hong Kong to Hanoi. Page 12 contains a full report of this activity and a big well done and thank you is due to all the participants and organisers of this impressive achievement.

As many of you will be aware, the new Member Login area and eShop were launched in early May. Main Card members are now able to edit their contact details, mailing and subscription preference, download current spending and view up to 3 months monthly statements. Main Card holders are also able to authorise their Spouse/Partner Card holder and Child Card holder (age 16+) to have access to the login area. What's more, there is an improved e-Shop interface with a large variety of products available including a new equipment rental service to help with catering your own events/ parties. For further details, please refer to page 6/7 of the magazine where we outline how to visit the Members Login area.

Randal Linhart, Director of F&B, will be leaving the Club in mid-June to take up another position in Hong Kong. Randal has made significant improvements to the F&B offerings and we wish him well in his new endeavours. In the meantime, we are actively seeking a replacement.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Jim Rowark on Friday 7th May. Jim joined the Club just over 44 years ago on 1st January 1977 and served on various committees including the General Committee from 1996 to 1998. Jim was also a Life Member of the Club. Our condolences go to his family.

Michael J. Wood Chairman 雖然過去幾個星期並未有太多的體育活動可以為大家報道,但最近正值女子曲棍球隊創隊50周年,所以4月24日在本會的曲棍球場就上演了多姿多彩的自家打呲賽事,實在高興至極,在此恭喜所有曲棍球部成員能夠分享50周年這份喜悦,想知道更多打呲日當天的比賽盛況,快點揭到第8頁吧。

除了女子曲棍球隊創隊50周年這個喜訊外,欖球部為保良局及越南ChildFund Rugby籌得港幣\$420,000的壯舉亦值得留意,他們動員39隊欖球健將攀山涉水、上山下海,完成了等同由香港到河內的869公里路程,而各隊球員的心路歷程及英姿,均已經收錄在第12頁的報道裏,衷心感謝每一位有份舉辦及參與是次觸目盛事的有心人,做得好。

看見眾多運動員這麼努力,我們自然不敢鬆懈,在網頁更新上也可說是不遺餘力。相信很多人都知道,全新的會員專區及網上商店經已於5月初隆重登場,現在主卡會員能夠在網上直接修改聯絡資料、電郵及訂閱偏好設定、下載現時的支出明細表及查閱過去最多3個月的月結單,主卡會員亦可以授權名下的配偶/伴侶及子女(16歲以上)附屬卡持有人登入會員專區。更重要的是,網上商店介面經過重新設計後,增添了一系列商品,包括前所未有的設備出租服務,方便大家舉辦自己的活動/派對。想了解更多詳情的話,請參考第6至7頁有關登入會員專區的摘要。

在網頁變動的同時,我們人事上亦有一個相當可惜的重大變動,餐飲部總監Randal Linhart將於6月中與本會道別,出任其他地方的職務。Randal在任期間,餐飲部的整體服務水平顯著提升,功勞實在不小,在此祝福Randal新工作順順利利。與此同時,本會正積極物色繼任人選。

另外還有一則更不幸的消息,就是與本會關係密切的 Jim Rowark於5月7日(星期五)離世,我們對此 表示十分難過。Jim 早於1977年1月1日便加入本會, 距離至今足足44年,期間擔任過不同幹事職位,包括 1996至1998年的常務委員會幹事,而Jim更是本會的 終身會員。本會向Jim的家人致以最深切的慰問。

主席 胡米高

OBITUARY

We were saddened to hear the news of the recent passing of longstanding Member

Arthur Gayne.

Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.



Hong Kong Football Club

PSA 2021

15th to 19th **June 2021**

Hong Kong Football Club
SQUASH CENTRE

HKFC PATRONS



HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB

STAR AWARD

1ST QUARTER 2021



FROM THE DESK OF MARK PAWLEY

總經理的話



Mark Pawley General Manager

I am sitting at my desk and about to draft my article for the magazine and realise that the upcoming weekend would have been the HKFC Citi Soccer Seven's Tournament. Sadly, due to COVID-19 restrictions the tournament will not be going ahead for the second year running. Whilst on the subject of COVID-19 recently, a number of Senior Staff members were able to meet with and listen to Professor Ivan Hung who made a presentation to them as regards "Fighting COVID-19 and Vaccination in Hong Kong". The talk/presentation was well received by those present. At time of writing a number of Staff members have already taken the first dose of the vaccination, and indeed some have now had both doses. We are working hard to ensure we get as many Staff members as possible vaccinated with a view that, in accordance with Government regulations, we may be able to open some of our F&B Outlets later than the 10pm closing we have in place at the moment.

Many congratulations are in order to the Staff members on the opposite page **Hong Mui**, **Lai Lui** and **Hau Ling** who were the winners of the **1st quarter Star Award**.

And, we know that "summer" is here when the **French Open Tennis Championships** start which will be from Sunday 30th May to Sunday
13th June. We will try to show as much of the Championships as possible.
Likewise, the **Wimbledon Tennis Championships** start on Monday
28th June through until Sunday 11th July. So, a veritable feast of tennis
will be upon us over the next few weeks?

From a soccer perspective, the postponed **Euro 2020 Championships** kicks off in earnest on Saturday 12th June and will run through to the Final on Monday 12th July. Unfortunately, nearly all of these matches have either midnight or 3am start times. So, given the social distancing measures currently in place, it looks as though we will be showing replays of these matches in the Sportsman's Bar at some stage later the same day.

Don't forget **Dad's Day Out (Father's Day)** on Sunday 20th June where we will have plenty going on at the Coffee Shop, the Restaurant and the Happy Valley Suites.

Mark Pawley, General Manager 坐在辦公桌前,準備下筆寫總經理的話之際,才意識到即將來臨的週末本應是**香港足球會Citi七人足球賽**的大日子,可惜卻因為新冠疫情的限制,七人足球賽連續第二年停辦。提到最近的疫情,早前本會部份高級職員能夠與**孔繁毅教授**見面,聽聽有關「香港抗疫與疫苗」的專業分享,是次講座大受好評,大家都獲益良多。事實上,目前已經有一定數量的員工接種了第一劑疫苗,當中更有人已接種兩劑,本會亦會盡己所能,確保有更多員工接種疫苗,這樣的話,按照政府規定,我們或許就可以延長部份餐廳的營業時間,不用像現在這樣晚上10點就要關門。

雖然很多事情還沒有完全回復正常,但**本年度第一季** 員工之星的結果已經如常出爐,得獎員工分別為左圖的 康梅、麗梅及巧玲,在此恭喜三位得獎者。

儘管我們再度失去了在現場觀看像七人足球賽這類大型國際賽事的機會,不過外國仍然有琳琅滿目的世界級比賽值得關注。眾所周知,**法國網球公開賽**開始的時候,就代表「夏天」已經到來,今年公開賽的比賽日期為5月30日(星期日)至6月13日(星期日),我們會施展渾身解數,務求將所有賽事都呈現在大家眼前。溫布頓網球錦標賽也將緊隨其後,從6月28日(星期一)開賽至7月11日(星期日)。看來未來幾個星期會有一頓豐盛的網球盛宴等着我們。

若然網球不合口味,還是想看足球比賽的話,因疫情而延遲足足一年的歐洲國家盃2020就最適合不過了。歐國盃於6月12日(星期六)正式開鑼,經過分組賽及淘汰賽的激烈撕殺,決賽隊伍將於7月12日(星期一)一決雌雄。可惜的是幾乎所有歐國盃賽事的開波時間皆是凌晨12點或3點,受現時的社交距離措施所限,看來我們只能於賽事結束後當天的黃金時段在Sportsman's Bar重播比賽。

享受賽事的同時,千萬別忘記6月20日(星期日)的 父親節,到時我們將會在Coffee Shop、Restaurant及 Happy Valley Suites安排不同的慶祝活動,敬請留意。

總經理 龐禮文





CONNECT WITH HKFC.COM NOW!

VISIT THE BRAND-NEW MEMBERSHIP LOGIN

STEP **1**

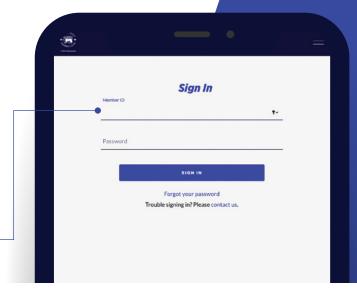


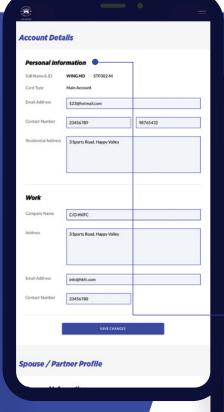
Scan for an online tutorial

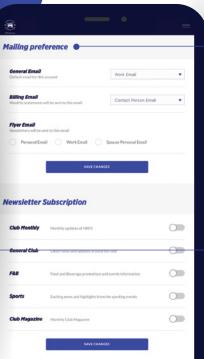


LOGIN AND ACTIVATE YOUR ACCOUNT

You should have received Club e-notice regarding new **username** and **password**







STEP

1



Scan for an online tutorial



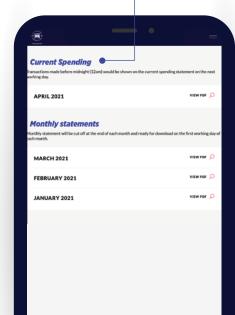
MANAGE YOUR PERSONAL ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account Details

- Allows you to view your personal information in one screen
- Allows you to update your personal profile such as contact details, mailing and subscription preference (e.g. Club Magazine)

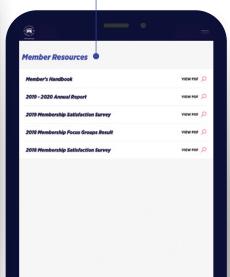
My Balance

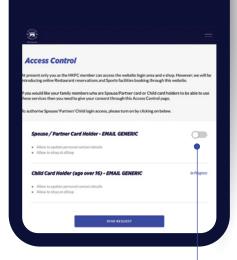
 Overview of your account balance with Current Statement and Monthly Statement |



Member Resources

 Quick access to related Club resources such as Member's Handbook,
 Membership Satisfaction Surveys,
 Annual Report and other related resources





Access Control -

- Protects personal information with separate Card Holder login. Main Card Holder can control the login access by authorising his/ her family card holders (Spouse/ Partner Card Holder and Child Card Holder aged 16+) with separate login.
- Separate login helps identify the type of card holder and paves the way for the coming Restaurant Booking and Sports and Recreational Facilities Bookings

STEP

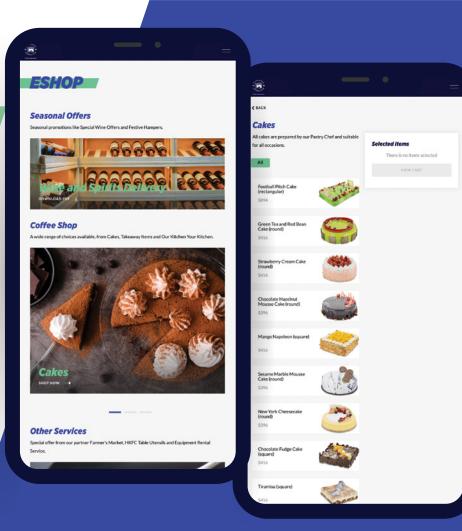
3



Scan for an online tutorial



- Wide array of choices including Seasonal Offers (e.g. Festive hamper and wine), Cake Order, Takeaway Items, Our Kitchen Your Kitchen, Table Utensils and Equipment Rental as well as Special Offers from our partner -Farmer's Market
- Handy command clicks giving you easy access to shop.







CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN'S HOCKEY

AT HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB



On Saturday 24th April 2021, after much uncertainty due to COVID-19 keeping all of us guessing, the Section used the league "Derby Day" as the backdrop against which to celebrate the Women's Section 50th Anniversary. A day reminiscent of days of old where there was a full day of hockey which felt almost normal, alongside which there were some creative and appropriately socially-distanced celebrations in the newly established Club Corner.

ON THE SIDELINES



Ellie and Kara Poulton



Heather Probert with daughter Emma and granddaughter Lucy



Ida Wong and Hannah Keely



Liz Dendle and Sophie Foxall

he day opened with The E team versus the F team. The E team dominated in the first half but in the second half the F team defence buttoned down and kept a clean sheet. The score of 4-0 from half time remained.

The C team v D team Derby was an absolute battle ending 0-0 but with lots of opportunities for each team. There were some observers noting it was also the Poulton Derby with two members of the family on each side.

The A team v B team Derby got off to an exciting start with the B team scoring first. The roars from the crowd were deafening. At the end of play it was a 3-1 win to the A's, which isn't an unusual end to this particular match. However, it was not a one-sided game. That's for sure.

As the afternoon of hockey unfolded, it was interesting to spend time with the long-standing members of the section and learn more about how the section was established. Huge thanks go to Heather Deayton for her generosity in sharing so much information. She has been with the section for 46 years although allegedly declared upon the opening of the first Club bespoke Hockey Pitch, that she may play for another 10 years given it was a nice astro-turf pitch. The pitch opened with the Club refurbishment in 1997. So that has been quite some "10 years"! That F team defence that was mentioned above featured Heather!

In the autumn of 1971, **Pam Butler** (nee Fleury), who was a Science teacher at Island School, was roped into being part of a women's hockey team by her colleague **Nigel Ireland**, Club Member and PE teacher at Island School.



Alongside six other women, they participated in a seven aside tournament at King's Park and went on to win it. The first Football Club women's hockey team was born. As a group who hadn't played together, they agreed to wear white shirts and Navy shorts. For the next season, they wanted to have a distinctive strip. Pam was passionate about purple in those days and offered to buy the fabric, when on leave in the UK in the summer of 1972. Using Pam's college skirt as a template for the patterns, no pleats, just a "twirling elegant swathe of fabric" (which by all accounts was flattering to all), was the outcome. If you look closely at the very faded picture on the wall of the tunnel. you will see these skirts and the team. For many years thereafter, the section's colours involved purple, before migrating to the blue of all the HKFC teams in 2010. Purple is still a colour close to the Dino's (F Team) hearts and made a resurgence for their 30th Anniversary with the normal pale blue replaced by purple for their strips.







Without a bespoke hockey pitch, the only Club pitch was the rugby/soccer pitch, which the Hockey Section had access to only for the pre-season match but never during the season. However, after games the team always made their way back to the Club and, with teams being as successful back then as they are now, saw many bottles of champagne bought for the ladies by all members. The men's and women's teams trained together on Friday nights and all selection decisions were made in the bar.

Whilst training nights are separate and selection decisions are made less frequently in the bar, there are many aspects that have endured since the creation of the women's section. The wonderful camaraderie, the volume of champagne drunk, an enduringly successful women's A team and the weekly pleading for umpires to cover weekend matches. There are numerous people who have volunteered over the years in all manner of roles - coaching, captaining, committee members, active parents plus all the players who keep the club section going from strength to strength.

Other enduring factors of women's hockey at the Football Club has been the amount contributed by section members to hockey in the wider Hong Kong community throughout the years. From representation on the Hong Kong Hockey Association, to coaches who supported the Club as well as the National teams, to the players who have represented Hong Kong, and many who have volunteered in establishing and running mini-hockey programmes at the Club as well as around Hong Kong.

The women's section persists in working to bring youth players through to the senior leagues and out in the hockey world at large. There are examples of section members who have moved from the mini hockey via the A team and National team to the Dino's and with the advent of the H team in 2017, affectionately known as The Cubs, there has been a steady flow of juniors coming up through the league.

One of the great joys of the Derby
Day was seeing the generational duos
playing. Sometimes on the same team,
sometimes against each other and
some in different matches plus others

in the stands. Sitting in the stands with the triple generation players of the Probert Clan (Heather with her daughter and granddaughter) several mum and daughter pairs (plus one quartet!) who played during the day, some of whom are pictured here, brings home what a 50 years it has been.

The organising committee led by Vicky Perry was creative and persistent in bringing the event into being with all the challenges of the pandemic and a huge thanks is extended to all of them.

I close by wishing the section another 50 years of success.

Helen Champion

Scan the QR Code to view more photos on HKFC website





COMES TOGETHER TO TRAVEL FROM HONG KONG TO HANOI AND RAISES OVER HKD420,000 FOR PO LEUNG KUK AND CHILDFUND RUGBY IN VIETNAM!

COMMUNITY

The whole Rugby Section came together with 39 teams ranging from under 4's Mini rugby teams all the way up to the 1st team senior squad to run, walk, hike, cycle and swim the 869km distance to Hanoi. In the end 16 teams worked together to cover this impressive distance in a month.

ver 330 participants joined in, including teams from our sponsors and overseas "HK Exiles". Individuals put in long hours on the road in the April sun and rain as well as groups joining together for hikes and walks or just a few extra runs after training! A HUGE thank you to all the teams who joined, the individuals and parents who donated helping the dollars and distance clock up to such a great number!

The funds raised will pay for a full year of the Childfund rugby programme in Hoa Binh province outside Hanoi, providing coaches, kit, equipment and training opportunities for children (and over 50% girls) to learn new life skills, breaking the poverty cycle in these communities. This further builds on the relationship established at the start of the season when the Club players and parents donated 888 pieces of kit to Vietnam.

Po Leung Kuk are old friends of the Rugby Section, with children from nearby Leighton Road a firm part of the minis teams since 2008 season. After a challenging year, PLK will use the funds to help children to exercise and explore outside the residential home where they have been locked down due to COVID for long periods. Sports, hiking and museum trips are all being planned with these much needed funds raised.



IDY CHUNG

walked over 300km and raised over HKD10,000 as part of Fire senior womens team. "I gained a lot from Rugby, time to give back! Po Leung Kuk is one of the charities very close to my heart, as lived there few years in my childhood – thank you for walking with me or donating!"











CLUB

Furthest distance winners of a year supply of Peroni beer thanks to our sponsors Asahi Group. With this prize in sight the first team had over 30 participants and were always very focused clocking up an impressive 2,229km. With the disrupted season finally cancelled leading into the challenge and fellow Club player Johnny Mac looking to do it all on his own, there was no shortage of drive for the Club side to get out be active. Multiple weekend hikes, post work runs and even a HK trail or two were thrown into the group. As they are on the field they took on the challenge together for great results.



Furthest distance and biggest fundraiser (Individual)

JOHNNIE MCCORMICK - HOUSTON

decided that he would run and cycle the distance to Hanoi on his own and ended up covering a mammoth 1,170km!

A brilliant effort from first XV hooker, Johnnie who was also our poster child in the SCMP and RTHK radio helping him to raise over HKD33,000!

A special mention to Under 19 coach, **Sam Challenor** who chased Johnnie for all of April, covering over 1,000km and raising over HKD7,500.





UNDER 10'S

Furthest distance for Mini Rugby -1,328km! 21 signed up and crossed the finish line fastest along with Mourant - raising HKD20,000 too! A brilliant effort from the team who met up for hikes with dads and some long runs of over 10km each - no wonder they are also winning on the pitch!

UNDER 11'S

Most donations winners overall who will get to enjoy a Masterclass training session with Rugby World Cup winning Springbok, Jean de Villiers – a Laureus

Ambassador. Many of the team joined up to drive donations from friends and family. Alex Fang, their lead fundraiser, said, "Even though I just joined the U11 team this year, they always made me feel welcome and helped me so much to improve my game. What I love about rugby is that it brings people together, I have made so many friends while playing rugby. The Hanoi Challenge was about giving something back - thank you!"











MINI RUGBY DISTANCE AND DONATIONS LEADERS

Under 4

- Sharon Yip
- S Claire Sin

Under 5

- m Dylan Marsden
- \$ The Bundy family

Under 6

- Max Jones
- Imogen Hartwright

Under 7

- M Zachery Lau
- Henry Morgan

Under 8

- M Nico Jones
- Reuben Mowser

- km Liam Moore
- S Evan Moore

Under 9

Under 12 George Grewcock

Under 11

S Alex Fang

m Ben Luvisutto

S Jonathan Law

Under 9/10 Girls Under 12 Girls

- m The Wall family
 - S Chris Caves

Under 10

Anish Fubiyashi

Mathilde Gaudre

S Eleanor Hartwright

- S Karl Tsui
- km The furthest distance
- \$ The most donations raised

MOURANT

First to reach the virtual finish line and complete 869km! One of our sponsors, leading offshore law firm Mourant joined in from the start and ended up clocking an impressive 1,942 kms, the second highest total overall.

MINI RUGBY

furthest distance and most donations per age group

The minis may have the shortest legs, but they have some of the biggest hearts! There were some brilliant individual and team efforts during a hot April when we also returned to training and playing. Minis players walked, ran and cycled their way to some impressive distances and were supported by parents, grandparents, family and friends who donated generously to reward these efforts for great causes.

Minis also contributed a top up to the funds raised online during the challenge through their annual subscriptions which meant that Minis contributed over half of the total amount raised!



\$61 per pint **\$240** per jug

Sportsman's Bar

Enquiries: 2830 9531 or sportsmans@hkfc.com

MINI RUGBY



C1 and FC2 both took to the field, played with vigour and commitment which saw both teams start well with wins. Only on the last games to have both teams undone with some fine work from Sandy Bay and DB Pirates.

FC₁

First game against Tigers saw the boys, a little sleepy but managed to wake up and win convincingly 5-1. Second game against the old foes of Valley Fort saw some impressive footwork by the boys with another impressive win, 5-1 again. This was interesting as VF were thought to be the one to watch.

Not to take anything away the boys played some great 7s, simple passing and feeding the line which resulted in the win. Third game is where we fell short against Sandy Bay. Some great rucking and clear out was the difference in the game. Taking a 2-0 nil lead in the first half saw the boys dig deep. Coming out for the second half they showed some grit and determination to level the game only for Sandy Bay to again win at the ruck, jackal the ball and score 2 impressive tries.

More training on the clear out needed but otherwise the boys did well.

FC2

First game was against Stingrays, usually a formidable team with some big units but today it was down to the nimble legs of the HKFC to come away with a well-fought 4-1 win. Second game, a bit one-sided, against the inexperienced South Lantau

Buffaloes. FC2 came out extremely strong and smashed the game away from the SLB team. A comfortable win 7-2 which then set the boys heads up high in the clouds ready for the Pirates. Third game, heads up thinking they were invincible only to have that crushed by a display of very good rugby by the Pirates. Again, simple rucking and clear out was sublime from the Pirates and this showed in the result a 6-1 loss.

Not to be disheartened the boys will be back for the next round on Mother's Day, this certainly did not go down well with all the mums, but the support is there.

Some work on the clear-out by Coach Jonty will ensue and I have a feeling that they will come back hard and look for revenge.

It's not over till the Fat Cow sings as they say so let's see what the next round brings.

FC3

FC3 first up and against a strong Kukris team. A battle ensued with some fine rugby on real grass as well. Unfortunately, a late try was to end a thrilling game and the first loss of the day.

Second game and with the old foes of VF to do battle with the boys turned the heat up and won in a convincing way 7-2. Again, some great rugby from the 3rd team and a well-deserved win. The last game for them, Sandy Bay, who rampaged through the rucks and won convincingly, 6-1. Not to be disheartened, the boys had a great day

So, at last the Richard Hawkes Trophy (RHT) starts, and the boys are all fired up ready for battle. First round split over two weekends, the A team at Kings Park and B team up at Tai Po, with a format change to 7s allowing more pitch space and the boys have adapted well.

in some rather wet conditions. Back to training and we will look forward to the next round.

FC4

A late addition to the RHT, following the 7s format, but these boys still put up a good fight in their games. Up first was Tigers, a formidable group of big boys and hard fighters. This turned out to be one of the best matches with a very hard-fought game. A late try unfortunately undid their great work and a 3-2 loss to start the day was not great but they took it on the chin. Second game against Aberdeen. Heads screwed on and out they go. A few words from Coach Russell and Jeremy and the boys played their hearts out. A convincing win put them back in the groove, 4-2 win. Last game of the day and against mighty Shatin. With the win in their minds, they took to the pitch and a great game of rugby was had. 2-2 at the interval and all to play for, some tired legs out there that kept pushing but a little sloppy at the clear-out saw the Shatin boys squeeze 2 late tries. Finishing on a loss was not what they were thinking but it was certainly a good day for these boys.

So, we enter the next round of games to be played over the coming weeks before we head to the finals in late June.

Still, lots to play for and the Richard Hawkes Trophy may well be on its way home...

Robin Zavou





U11 VS SAI KUNG STINGRAYS

After a couple of false starts earlier in the season the U11 boys travelled to Tseung Kwan O to take on Sai Kung Stingrays. This was the return leg following HKFC hosting Sai Kung in January 2020 - which seems such a long time ago.

We knew the Stingrays were one of the stronger teams in the U11 year group and so it proved. Our A team started off well in the first game and scored an early try. But Sai Kung's strong play at the breakdown wore us down and they came back to win 1-2.

Our B team came out ready to play and in a tight game there was little to

choose between the teams. Sai Kung jumped out to a 2-0 lead before Oscar Backelandt got one back, but the boys couldn't get the leveller.

The second time round for the A squad had a happier outcome. The boys learned from the first game and more than matched Sai Kung in the physical aspects of the games this time round. They were always in control and ran out 2-0 winners with tries from Leo Barton and Andrew MacQuhae.

The B team had another close fought second game and played some great open rugby getting the ball wide. They almost scored a great try in the corner

but dropped it at the last. Sai Kung ran out winners 0-3 but the game was much closer than the scoreline.

It was great to get back to more meaningful games instead of training and Sai Kung are one of the strongest teams in this year group. The way we matched them bodes well for upcoming games v Valley, HKUSB and DB Pirates.

Paul McSheaffrey

U10G/U9G

U10G/U9G ran joint training and friendlies with Valley Fort on 18 May and a joint training and friendlies with HKU Sandy Bay on 2 May.

At Valley Fort, the FC girls started with a joint training session to build camaraderie in the ethos of rugby, followed by friendly matches. Our FC U10G and U9G squads lined up against Valley's squads for the first competitive matches of the season. Great to see the high level of competitive spirit on display when playing against another club. The girls did great, had fun and were properly puffed after the matches.

At Sandy Bay, our U10G/U9G were



hosted by HKU for joint training and friendlies. Following a similar format, FC coaches led a joint training session for all the girls, followed by match play. The girls started with 7-a-side matches followed by 10-a-side matches. Although friendly matches, the competitive spirit of the games was

palpable. Our U10G conceded to a strong HKU side by 1 try in sudden death overtime. Our U9G dominated HKU U9G and came away victorious. All the girls had smiles on their faces at the end of the day. Great job girls!

Allen Schoonmaker





A great pick me up for brunch and available throughout the month of June.

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SQUASH

THE MAX AND TOMATO SQUASH MASTERCLASS

n 17th April we were delighted to have Max Lee (highest WR 12) and Tomato Ho (highest WR 42) hosting a Squash Masterclass at the HKFC, open to all comers from the Squash Section. A full house of 24 members were given the opportunity to have a hit with these two world class players and learn a few titbits that might just help them in this year's Club Champs and beyond.

It was a hugely beneficial session to all that joined in, and we hope it will be the first of many.

We caught up with Max for a quick chat about his career and his goals for the future.

Firstly, how are you feeling after your injury and are you back to full fitness? "It was a huge task for me getting back on a squash court after the injury (ed. following a car accident). Many doctor's

following a car accident). Many doctor's appointments and check-ups were needed before stepping on court. However, I was pleased to play squash again. Although my fitness level may not be fully recovered due to COVID-19 and the accident, fitness and movement have been my key objectives to focus on during training."

With a fabulous career including 14 tour titles and a highest world ranking of 12. What are your goals for the remainder of your pro career?

"Although I've enjoyed some achievements in squash, the aim for my squash career is still the same, that I should enjoy every moment. I enjoy playing, watching, coaching and analysing squash. Finding ways to play squash with different conditions and mindset and breaking through any limitations, they would be the goals for me on tour."

What do you look back on as your most important title and your greatest achievement in the sport?

"Being the 2017 Asian champion would be the most important title to me, as I learned how to pick myself up after a complete loss of confidence. I did not really taste much of the honour of winning this title. However, it provided huge insight and lessons.



The greatest achievement in terms of a result was the 2018 Asian Games silver medal, and in terms of performance was the 2016 Hong Kong squash open, reaching the semi-finals. They were excellent moments for me."

At 33 I guess you are in the twilight of your career as a tour pro. What does the future hold for you?

"I am studying a course in Physical Education and Recreational Management during my free time. The course merges perfectly with my squash career. The experience of my squash career, the practical skill of squash and the cognitive knowledge of sport are so well balanced that I should then be able to manage different conditions of coaching and the issues of sport management.

Personally, I would like to be part of the future of squash in Hong Kong. It would be great to see generation after generation of players coming through the Hong Kong system."

Squash seems to be more popular than ever in Hong Kong, with an abundance of junior talent. How do you see the future for squash here, and who do you tip for stardom in the future?

"It is absolutely true that there are many young squash talents in Hong Kong. Therefore, the squash environment will become even more competitive. In each layer of squash development, the young talent could compete with more different players. So, the variety of squash would become wider. Squash is full of variation of shot and mindset.

To challenge different players, the next generation could be able to have more experience of playing against a variety of styles. It would be a very positive sign for Hong Kong squash.

As to which juniors will come through and be challenging for senior titles in the future, I guess we'll have to wait and see.

I certainly hope squash tournaments will resume soon, so our Hong Kong squash players can perform, build experience and show they are the stars of the future."

And finally, when you hang up your squash boots, what will you hope to be your legacy to Hong Kong squash?

"When I hang up my squash boots, I hope that my spirit of enjoyment in squash will be remembered. When people look at my matches record, they can see what squash means to me. Winning and losing is not everything. Every move and play are a communication between yourself, the ball and spectators.

I sometimes try to put my squash philosophy into the way I live my life. How people live can influence how they play squash and vice versa. Thus, I hope people can use squash as a way of discovering themselves."

Next month we'll catch up for a chat with Tomato for some insights into her career to date and her goals for the future.

Keith

SOCCER

SOCCER CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE



Hello Everyone,

We are now coming to the end of the 20/21 football season in Hong Kong – one of the most turbulent seasons in memory,

but I am happy to report we have managed to complete our seasons (in some form!) for all our teams!

A huge congratulations to Albion, who managed to win the Yau Yee League.

and at the time of writing this, it looks like we will have a 1,2,3 in the first division with Wanderers and Colts both having impressive seasons too. Hope you enjoy the Albion season review below!

With the HKFA leagues running into late June, there is still plenty of football to be played, but I encourage all to get down to support the teams on Sunday's as they play through the summer heat! The first team have made a particularly strong start to their campaign, with a mean record of 0

goals conceded so far – read on to meet the people responsible for that!

Hoping that next season will run smoothly with less disruptions and restrictions on pitch usage – and to have only one pre-season for teams rather than 4!

Thanks to everyone in the Section for their hard work this season, both on the pitch and off it. Look forward to seeing everyone down at the Club!

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THE
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CENTRE







HKFC & HKFA'S MEANEST DEFENCE

MEET THE MEATHEADS RESPONSIBLE!

The HKFA season has finally resumed, and the 1st team have made an impressive start securing Nine wins from nine, conceding only one goal (from a direct free-kick).

The centre-back position has seen significant changes since the previous campaign. With only Bell Bell

remaining at the heart of the 1st Team's defence, we have welcomed and benefited from Martin, Oli and Tom's arrival.

Meet the affectionately termed "meat heads" that have headed away every corner and long ball and put a stop to all attacks so far this season.



Bell Bell Ghislain

AGE 35 HEIGHT 5'9"

CB IDOL Rigobert Song FOOTED Right

PREVIOUS TEAM

USRC

KEY ATTRIBUTE

Coachable, anticipation & ball-player



Tom Harrington

AGE 28
HEIGHT 6'2"
CB IDOL John Terry

FOOTED **Right** PREVIOUS TEAM

University College London (UCL) Academicals

KEY ATTRIBUTE

Speed/Strength/Heading



Martin Fray

AGE **35** HEIGHT **6'1"**

CB IDOL Virgil van Dijk FOOTED Right

PREVIOUS TEAM

German All Stars (GAS)

KEY ATTRIBUTE

1:1 defending and loves a tackle!



Oli Rossiter

AGE 29
HEIGHT 6'2"
CB IDOL Vidic
FOOTED Right

PREVIOUS TEAM

Tooting Bec (UK)

KEY ATTRIBUTE

Heading, positioning



ALBION WIN TITLE AFTER A MAGNIFICENT SEASON

HKFC Albion, playing in Division One of the Yauyee league, sealed their first league title since 2017 on Sunday 25th April at the club.

uch was the side's dominance this season that they were mathematically confirmed champions with four games to spare - having won 17 of the 18 matches played (their one draw coming against club rivals Wanderers).

Having had last season's league cancelled when in the top spot, it has been a long time coming for this group of players. And despite a range of obstacles - from the pandemic and all its implications to broken legs and shoulders - the side has shown remarkable consistency by managing to stay unbeaten over the last two seasons.

The league title was confirmed with a 5:1 victory over Spartans, a win which was welcomed by manager **Nick Day** and coach **Daniel Villena** who can now focus their attention on the cup. Spartans were quick to congratulate the new champions and handed Albion a bottle of champagne after the final whistle in a thoughtful gesture. The celebrations then started on the pitch and continued off it into the late hours - Albion delighted to finally get the

rewards for their efforts. Veteran Captain **Tom McGillycuddy** will look forward to lifting his 3rd League trophy on the final day of the season.

Other standout matches this season included a 3:0 victory over main challengers Club Wanderers - thanks to a brace from league top-scorer **Michael Hampshire** and a battling 1:0 victory over Colts having played the majority of the game with 10 men. Playing a wonderful attacking brand of football, the team had the perfect balance of a mean defence and a free-flowing attack, which was superbly anchored in the middle by **Adrian Worth** and **Lenard DeHaan**.

Goalkeeper Liam Grant, went on a

10-game run without conceding a goal. While goals were never in short supply - the side averaging over 4 goals a game. **Michael Hampshire** extended his lead in the league of top scorers to 25 goals in search for his first YYL Golden Boot award with teammates **Fiachra Macardail** on 14, **Mathieu Boyer** on 14 and **Albin Brion** netting 2 at the weekend taking his total to 7 respectively at the time of writing.

Albion's attention will now turn to become the first team in Yauyee league history to record a league and cup double. You wouldn't bet against them!

Albione Campione!

Fiachra Macardail





LAWN BOWLS

HKLBA ANNUAL PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2019

he previously postponed HKLBA Awards ceremony, due to Government restrictions, was eventually held on the 11th April 2021 at the Jockey Club Lecture Theatre.

Congratulations to all the winners from the Lawn Bowls Section.



Bowler of the Year

Camilla Leung, LBS Team A lady

CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

Women's National Indoor Singles

Winner Shirley Ma

Women's National Fours

Winner

Camilla Leung, Lydia Yang, Phoebe Ho, Priscilla Lam

Women's National Pairs

Runners-up Christina Yeung, Emmie Wong

Women's National Singles

Winner Camilla Leung

Women KTSI Premier League 2019

Champion Team HKFC

1-Div Emmie Wong, Christina Yeung Ki Yuk, Phyllis Wong, Lydia Yang Men's 2-4-2 Pairs

Runners-up Partick Choi, Terry Kung

Men's National Fours

Winner

C S Suen, Ian Yau, Partick Choi, Warren Cheung

Men's National Indoor Singles

Runner-up Patrick Choi

Men's National Singles

Runner-up Warren Cheung

Men KTSI Premier League 2019

Champion Team HKFC-F

9-Div **David Chiu**,

Denis Hamelin, Edward Yu, C.C. Leung

NEW SEASON UNVEILED

BY THE RITUALS OF PIG-CUTTING CEREMONY

he virus means we are still far from a return to complete normality. Yet, the challenges presented by COVID-19 shall never curb our bowlers' keenness and enthusiasm!

With support from the Club, the Section tried hard to follow the measures without killing the fun. The traditional pig-cutting ceremony for the new season was held on Saturday 10th April. This annual curtainraiser for the Premier league was then followed by mini-league game, which also served as a warm-up session for the upcoming season. All 78 bowlers enjoyed a joyful afternoon of bowling fun with generous servings of delicious roast pork takeaway.

The Section is fielding three teams in the women's league and six teams in the men's league. The opening matches for the new season started on 17th April 2021. "Arch-rivals", Men's HKFC-A and HKFC-B, faced off against each other (again!) in the highest division. The nail biting game produced a real spectacle to watch. Meanwhile, the ladies had a great start to the new season by



winning all three games. And our Men's D team also had a great victory on the same day. Well done!

Special measures and arrangements will be observed in the coming season (e.g. wearing mask while playing indoor games) to safeguard the safety of the players. Many of us have probably had

moments in which we wished life would get back to normal, but hey, isn't it just great to greet all your bowling friends again in the field?

In this new normal, where almost nothing seems entirely normal, we all look forward to a rewarding season and let's not forget: "Happy Bowling!"



SECTION BOWLERS SHINE IN NATIONAL INDOOR GAMES

Following the Government announcement on the relaxation of some of the social distancing measures, both long awaited Indoor Singles and Pairs competitions 2020 resumed recently.

Our Tony Cheung put forward his best to complete in the semi-final of the Men's Indoor Singles. This was an eagerly awaited match between two current Hong Kong Squad members that did not disappoint. The encounter was evenly matched with shots traded virtually every other end in the second half of the game. Yet, despite one great shot in the last end of the tie-break from Tony in an attempt to snatch victory, he ran past agonizingly close and lost out to Arthur from KCC.

Meanwhile, our Men's Captain, Warren Cheung (who was recently selected to be a HK Squad member) teamed up with the always reliable lead, Edmond Chan, in the Indoor Pairs competition. They have won all their games since last October and played some excellent bowls throughout. They came close to the final battlefield of the competition, just losing out to a bit of luck for their opponents in the semi-finals. Great Effort!

WARM-UPS BEFORE PREMIER LEAGUE START

Our teams aim to be in tip-top shape for the long-awaited start of the summer season League. Practices were organised in order to prepare our players. Roll ups in the evenings were back to our schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays for our women's and men's teams respectively. The men's B and C team found their form in the first intra-squad warm-up match in early April. Both teams showed no signs of rustiness after the long suspension of the league. The men's B team also arranged another friendly game with Yuen Long Lawn Bowls Club at Yuen Chau Kok Indoor Green.

LAWN BOWLS

KENNY TAM, MARSHALL TO AND PHYLLIS WONG

REPRESENTED THE CLUB IN THE HONG KONG CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Club's Kenny Tam (the Champion of the National Singles 2020), Marshall To and Phyllis Wong (the Champion of the Club's Singles for Men and Women respectively) took part in a two-day event to decide who was to become Hong Kong's National Champion of Champions for 2020. The Championship was joined by the champions of selected national singles games and also the winners of the annual singles championship of each of the leading bowling clubs.

The 36 Men and Women players were split into 8 and 7 groups respectively to play round robin games at different venues over two days. The winners of each group were than split into 2 groups and the group winners and runners-up then entered the semi-finals. Both Marshall and Phyllis did a good job in the round-robin tournament, Marshall's great consistency securing his place in the next stage of the competition.

Meanwhile, Kenny was very, very close to his second national title this year by securing first position in two round-robin games. Despite a solid start by Kenny in the semi-final, in the latter part of the game his opponent who was eventually crowned the winner on that day, pulled ahead to claim the game. Congratulations to all three who produced some excellent bowls which were greatly appreciated by the spectators!



NETBALL

MESSAGE FROM CHAIRWOMAN



We're pleased to see the Netball DSA running smoothly since we've been back, despite the military logistics setup to keep everyone as hygienic as possible. At the time of writing, our competing team, Whirlwinds, have reached the semi-finals of Division 2. We wish the team and coaches Karin

Looram and Melissa Atkins all the best in bringing some silverware home to seal the 2020-2021 season on a high note. All non-competing players have been training hard off-court, in both tactical play and fitness. Thanks to coaches Veronica Arnold, Nadia Cuvelier and Kath Ellis for positioning us for a strong come back next season.

Our AGM is around the corner, and with a number of departing members, we hope to showcase a new set of committee members at the next edition.

Natacha Cuvelier

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MATCH REPORT





Friday 19th March, 2021

The Whirlies managed to secure their second win of the modified league against Hong Kong Scottish Pipers. We led from start to finish, resulting in a final score of 23-10. It was a great opportunity for us to practice our combinations and apply what we had learnt in training, while also taking risks as we grew more comfortable throughout the game. Thank you to our lovely coaches Karin and Melissa as always!

Friday 26th March, 2021

Still at a draw after the third quarter, it was a tight game against the HKCC Dragons friendly game on Monday night. It was a bit of a rocky start for the Whirlies but the team did well hitting the circle edge and hunting for the ball which were both major things we have been working at training. Unfortunately, HKCC Dragons just peeled away in the last quarter, winning–16-14. A very good team effort and lots to take away from this game! Thank you to the coaches Karin and Melissa!

JUNIOR NETBALL

FROM THE CONVENORS

After what has felt like a relentless holding pattern, it has been wonderful to see the HKFC JNA community back in action and doing what they love the most... playing competitively on court. It was a huge relief to find out that the HKNA could run the Spring Tournament. The games have been shortened to 2 x 12 minute halves but the girls are ecstatic to be back on court showcasing and fine tuning their skills. We want to thank the HKFC JNA for their support, patience and for adhering to the restrictions so that we could return back to training as well as support our players courtside. In addition, it was wonderful to see everyone in the netball community band together and celebrate Netfest on Sunday 25th April, 2021.

Mary Vlogianitis and Rebecca Thompson



U12S SNOWFLAKES

After a number of months without matches, Snowflakes faced a stiff challenge on their return to competition on a very hot 11th April. Facing MLSA Galaxy, HKCC Hwamei and our own lcicles. The girls lost all three matches but their work ethic, fighting spirit and improving performances will give them hope of better results when they return to competition on 2nd May.

Jo Charter



U12S SNOWSTORMS

Sunday 4th April, 2021

"HKFC U12 Snowstorms played 3 impressive games, scoring 25 goals in total whilst only conceding 6!"

Against Valley in their first game, the team started strongly and were 3-0 up in the first couple of minutes.

Quick passing by the Snowstorms created more chances and they were 8-0 up by halftime. The second half was closer but the final score was 10-0, with Iris scoring 6 and Lois 4, including some impressive long shots.

Next up were Discovery Bay with final score 11-5, and then the Stingrays with a final score of 4-1. Many thanks to coach Adele for her coaching and encouragement.

Jeff Roskell

U12S BLIZZARDS

Sunday 4th April, 2021

After 4 months away, Blizzards looked raring to go as they stormed back into competition on 4th April. They opened with an 18-0 victory over HKCC Eagles with impressive shooting led by Charlotte Dun and some keen work by the rotating Blizzards defence squad securing the clean sheet. The girls promptly followed this up with a 10-0 win over Valley Black, with the midfield led by Maggie Dowding working very hard to recycle the ball at speed back into the Blizzard attack zone. Playing back-to-back matches, Blizzards then suffered a very narrow 3-4 defeat to the DB Jolly Rogers, with the girls battling hard all the way to the whistle. A great return to competition Blizzards!





U14S THUNDER

Sunday 11th April, 2021

After a long hiatus from playing against any competition, Thunder took to the courts (without any subs), with great enthusiasm. Despite the heat and the break, the gameplay was intense and sophisticated.

The first match provided a comforting ease, allowing them to find their effortless flow down the court, which was a joy to watch.

The next two matches were more challenging. The evenly matched hunger to win from their competition required them to dig deep, maintain their composure and stick to their strategic plan to come out victorious.

An amazing team effort, well done Thunder!

Mel and Jasmine Miers



U16S STORM

Fa Hui | Sunday 18th April, 2021

This second league day saw the U16 HKFC Storm come up against tougher opposition than they'd faced on day one earlier in the month. Storm were able to take advantage of Bridie rebounding some of Valley's missed opportunities and with Caiti and Lily maintaining accuracy with their shooting Storm came away with the win–12-9.

The last match of the league was the toughest - Storm were up against HKCC Swifts. Beca and Bridie took on the role of circle defenders; Elsie, Jules, Alannah and Evelyn shared the mid court positions, with Katy, Caiti and Lily playing in the attacking positions. Mid court was a very even match, but Storm's attackers enjoyed more consistent shooting success and Storm came away with a very good–13-10 win.

Helen John



U16S RED RAIN

Sunday 4th April, 2021

Red Rain started their first game after lockdown slowly with a narrow loss to Stingrays. After initially struggling to keep the ball against a strong Stingrays team, the girls came back really strongly in the final third reducing the gap to 9-8 before Stingrays closed out the game with a late goal.

After the initial loss, Red Rain came back strongly with two strong performances against Valley and Cricket club 11-4 and 16-0 respectively. Red Rain's movement in the mid court, accurate shooting and solid defence gave them comfortable wins in both games. All of the girls in the team made great contributions in what was an excellent all round team performance. Well done!

Kevin Lester



U19S MAVERICKS

Sunday 11th April, 2021

A long-awaited start back to netball with an excited Mavericks team on back-to-back games. The team jumped right into the first game with HKCC Phoenix. It was a well-matched first half with the goals split between the two teams at half time. A warmed-up Mavericks stepped up in the second half, bringing the game to a 16-11 win.

The immediate second game was against HKS Hearts. A relatively easier game for the Mavericks, with all round solid passing across the defense and mid-court, and even better and very stable shooting from our shooters. 21-10 for the final score to the Mavericks. Thanks to Coach Rachel for staying back to support the team.

Alfreda Yu

NETFEST 2021

U12S SNOWSTORM

The Snowstorm girls had a fantastic run at Netfest, playing lots of games against teams that they've never faced before. With a mix of players from Blizzards, Lightning and Snowstorm, the team did a great job in coming together quickly and learning to work with each other on the go. High accuracy shooting from our shooters, strong drives and feeds from our midcourters, as well as athletic intercepts and hard pressure from our defenders allowed us to win an amazing 4 out of 5 games!

Thank you so much to the dedicated Snowstorm parents who helped out with warm-ups and coaching, we really appreciate your commitment and enthusiasm!

U14S RAINSTORM

The U14 team went very well at Netfest with a combination of Rainstorm and Thunder players. With the team being a little short on defenders, some of our shooters and midcourters stepped up to give defence a go and all played fabulously in the unfamiliar positions.

Our players showed great discipline in attack with nice drives and great shots from our shooters, as well as fantastic tenacity in defence which resulted in lots of intercepts. Unfortunately the 2 wins were not enough to get into the semis and we ended the day third in our pool, but we still ended the day with our spirits high after a fun day of Netball!

Many thanks to the Rainstorm parents for supporting the team on a hectic day of coaching!



U12S BLIZZARDS

Blizzards brought their traditional squad enthusiasm for their 7.30am start for NetFest on 25th April, and with 5 wins in their previous 6 round robin matches they were hoping for a strong performance. Blizzards opened with a solid 4-1 win over SCAA Zircon, but their confidence (and chances of progressing through the competition) took a beating when they suffered four defeats in a row to DB Rascals, SKS Penguins, The Amigos and SCAA Gold. Despite the losses, Blizzards kept their heads and work rate up, and won their final group game against SKS Otters. A hard day for the Blizzards against older and taller opposition, and they will be keen to return to winning ways in their next round robin matches on 9th May. Go Blizzards!



U16S STORM

On Sunday April 25th the U16 Storm girls played in the annual HKNA Netfest at Fa Hui Park. This highly competitive format with fast paced games of 7-minute halves. Each team gave our girls solid opposition and true to form. Our centre court players - Alana Deblank, Megan Lui and Elsie Hulme worked well bringing the ball down the court while Beca John and Bridie Benfield battled away in defence going for every intercept opportunity. All 3 of the shooters - Katie Wildman, Lily Graham and Caitlyn Harbottle were brilliant in the goal circle. Coach Kath tested each of the girls out of position, testing them in other areas of the court. Overall, a brilliant tournament with all girls displaying superb sportsmanship, team spirit and integrity on court.

U16S RED RAIN

With a couple U14 players playing up to U16 for Netfest, Red Rain worked well as a team and gave each game 110% effort. We embraced the fun of Netfest and tried lots of different combinations, with some of the girls playing out of position and giving new positions a go. The girls also showed great leadership and teamwork in encouraging one another and working together to make sure everyone was happy with where they were playing. Unfortunately after a few tough matchups, we were unable to place at the end of round robin play. However, the girls still had a great day playing with some different team mates.

Lastly, thank you so much to the Red Rain parents who stepped up to help coach and manage the team!





HKFC DREAM **TEAM**

LADIES DAY LEAGUE **DIVISION 5 TEAM**



all are still fairly new to doubles tennis.

With the help of ATA Coaches Nathan and Matt we have now become a much stronger team. We finished the slightly shortened season 6th out of 6 teams, yet only trailed 7 sets behind the team above us!

The process to get to this stage has been a fantastic experience. We have become a close-knit supportive team and all have developed a love of the game. As we move into the new season, we eagerly look forward to competing on another level.

LADIES DIVISION 4 DAY LEAGUE

Despite the courts closure during the COVID pandemic, the Ladies Day League was only mildly affected by the disruption, with a slight delay to kicking off the spring session. Our Division 4 team (aka the "Hustle Queens") came 2nd with only a 2 point gap from being top when the Autumn session ended in November. Unfortunately, our ambition to claim the top spot didn't start well when the spring session resumed in late February, with injuries to key players and a number of losses in tight matches. We ended the season 4th in the rankings. The score difference was only 3 points between the 3rd placed team and HKFC and we beat the team above us both in the home and away matches during the season. This shows the teams in the top half of the division are a very close pack.



We are is already back in full swing with pre-season training with Team coach Dom Girones. Everyone is working hard to improve and get ready for the next season!



Regular tennis is a great way to keep the heart healthy, strengthen your bones, muscles and keep your brain sharp.

Seniors, like us, have joined the Men's Doubles 120+ (combined age) in the HK Veterans' Tennis Association league this season.

HKFC have 12 players in the squad (aged from 55 to 73) playing for fun, and to maintain a good level of fitness through tennis relative to our age. Teams from 17 recreation clubs are registered for this 2021 season.

If you are an HKFC member and over the age of 55 and interested in joining this team, please contact the Tennis Society hkfctennissociety@gmail.com



Katie Wildman Tennis Society Junior Reporter

PLAY HARD, WIN EASY

We are in the middle of term 3 and it has been a great season so far with lots of wins (and a few losses). Our junior Spring league season is coming to an end and to finish off, the junior teams will have an end of season party to celebrate our victories! We will have match plays in the coming Fridays along with a new tournament programme over the summer. Don't forget to sign up!

During our last Club Championships in March, we got to watch a few very entertaining matches. Antonio Lee was an inspiration for all junior players (and less junior players!). He went all the way to the Open's Men finals (at the age of 14) against this year's champion Josh Carter: a fantastic match to watch. In the junior category, Jack Cooper / Shiv Mohan were undefeated and came first in the open and closed junior doubles followed up by Christian Quach / Antonio Borra Cerruti in second. Jack also came first in the closed junior singles with Irma Sung as the runner up. Two full weekends of tennis resulted in a great event.

Congratulations to all junior A, B and C teams for their teamwork, sportsmanship and wins. Let's come back even stronger next season HKFC.

TENNIS TIP OF THE MONTH

VOLLEY FOOTWORK



Toby Clark
HKFC ATA
Head Coach





When a player advances to the net it allows them to put pressure on their opponent by reducing the amount of time they have to return the ball. In addition the closer the player gets to the net the more angles are available to them to put the ball away. Check out these fundamental and advanced footwork steps you can work on to help you on your volley.

Just scan the QR Code
to link through to the video, which
is from a series of instructional
videos with drills, exercises and
challenges the ATA team have
produced for players to work on
whether on or off court.

NIGHT LEAGUE SEASON COMMENCES

It has been an intense month of pre-season training for the members of the night league teams. The ATA coaching team has been taking all team squads through a series of doubles situations and point based sessions gearing them up for the start of the season beginning in mid-April. This coinciding with matches played throughout the Club championship weekends has meant preparation has been good.

Matches start from 7pm onwards up on tennis courts 4-6 Monday to Thursday, Spectators are welcome to come and support and see the teams in action.

Wishing all teams an enjoyable and successful season ahead. Go HKFC!!



Eden Course, HKGC Fanling Monday 12th April, 2021

As another match cancelled last year due to the pandemic, this match was eagerly awaited by both sides. This has been an annual fixture for a few years now and a match we have never lost - no pressure! Normally held in Macau, for the first time we were kindly invited by our hosts to play at HKGC Fanling and on the spectacular Eden course. In a way to make the match more social, a 2-ball scramble format was agreed and nice sunny day greeted us in the New Territories, with a steady breeze to keep us cool and test our target golf.

ur first seasoned campaigners Jonny Brock and Ryan Black, the latter sporting his new match shirt were quickly into their game against James Snelling and John Berry. They were never headed and were -2 on the card when they closed out on the 15th hole for a 4 & 3 win. HKFC 1 up.

Our European pairing of soon-to-depart **Jukka Hakli** and **Eric Desgouttes** also got out to an early lead as **Paul Over** and **Jonny Sun** took a while to settle. In a match where no shots were given, it was a fairly even affair with both pairs combining well. In the end, our pair stayed just ahead and credit to the both of them in a solid 3 & 2 win. HKFC 2 up.

Squashies **Phil Head** and **John Thompson** had never played together in a match and were told that one of their knowing opponents had lined up a 24-pack of beer to place in their cart, given their reputation and to make them crazy! Well, whatever happened actually

seemed to fail as our pair gelled. Whilst it was close throughout, HK Seniors JP Cuvelier and Peter Barrett got to 1 up at the turn. On the back nine. John made a couple of 20-foot putts to get us in front. Then with 3 to play, we were 2 up with both Phil and John missing short putts that on most days would have been a gimme. So, now only 1 up, with 2 to play. JP birdied the 17th to make it all square going down the signature 18th. It was a very tense hole, but we managed to win it to win the match, 1 up, with fist being bumped. A mention for Peter, who is 78 years old and was allowed to play off the White tee boxes. He out hit everyone on the 1st hole and our pair were then probably thinking did they make the right call. Fortunately, all's well that ends well. HKFC 3 up. Match over.

Next up were the familiar pairing of Andrew Wood and Matt Burke against Lawrence Eisentrager and Robin Wong. Andrew and Matt 'ham and egged' very well taking a 5 up lead and cruising. After a few halved holes, time was running out for the HK Seniors, who finally succumbed to a 7 & 6 defeat. At that point, our pair were par for the course. HKFC 4 up.

Last out were **Tom Hayman** and **Will Glover** who were not to know that the

match was already won and that we would be bring 'The Golden Globe' Trophy home for another year.

They were up against Captain **Chris Burley** and **Chris Lavender**. The latter a former Gurkha Officer who rattled off stories off his colonial days in Hong Kong manning the New Territories border with the PRC and sweeping up the Illegal Immigrants! Our pair were down most of the way, but even with some inconsistency they did well late on, managing to turn a position of 2 down to a 2 up win. HKFC 5 HK Seniors 0.

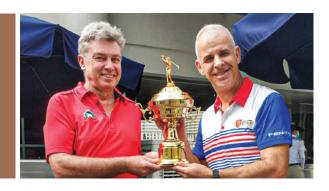
With two matches going to the last hole, the format was deemed a winner. It was very social and enjoyable for all and will be considered for the fixture next year, hopefully back in Macau early 2022.

The 19th hole verandah (or is it veranda) at Fanling is one of the best anywhere in the world, so many stayed on for what was a very social occasion. Not to be done, a few stalwarts made it back to the Sportsman's Bar in what was a real good day out. Special thanks to both Chris Burley and **Mike Edie** for all their arrangements.

Andrew Wood Captain, Golf Society

PRIZES WERE WON BY

Near Pin Winners #2 Jonny Brock #6 Ryan Black #9 JP Cuvelier #15 Jonny Brock #17 Jonny Sun



THE MACAU TROPHY

HK CLUB GS V. HKFC GS

South Course, Kau Sai Chau GC | Thursday 15th April, 2021

Yet another match that was cancelled last year due to the pandemic, this match between two of Hong Kong's more established clubs having many things in common, including members and members who enjoy their golf. This year saw HKFC's Mervyn Jacob, Mike Button and Don Roberts, their Captain, "bat for the opposition". On the other hand, HK Club regulars Graeme Brechin and Nick Allen were both keen to play for the Sports Road team, so lots of familiarity on display. Would our exodus of talent have any bearing on a trophy long held by HKFC?

vercast skies with a hint of rain later on was not too promising, but the mild and calm conditions suggested good shot making conditions. Graeme Brechin and Nick Allen were HKFC's lead pair against **Don Roberts** and David Law. A good contest by all accounts. lots of chitter chatter and a perfect start for HKFC who recorded a 3 & 2 victory. HKFC 1 up.

Seasoned players Chris Burley and Bill King were next out taking on Mike Button and Martin Cresswell. Mike was sporting a few new clubs, with a few more recently put on order, including what I can only describe as the most technical and unusual set of wedges I have ever seen. I'm reliably informed they should be hit as though using a putter. With such equipment in place and Martin being a strong 21 handicapper, our lads were up against it and eventually succumbed to a 2 & 1 loss. HKFC 1 HK Club 1.

Jonny Brock and Darren McEntee looked evenly matched against **Donald** Skinner and Anthony Wood (another strong 21 handicapper and no relation!). Darren was seeing a lot of the golf course, whereas Anthony was smashing drives as far as the two single figure handicap golfers in this flight, so we were really up against it. The HK Club taking the match 4 & 3 moving themselves into the lead. HKFC 1 HK Club 2.

this one out of the fire? Andrew Wood and the late arriving Will Glover hadn't paired up before, took on John Latter and Robert Gazzi. Both HK Club's players being regular players and local Golf Club members, so this would be a challenge. The first nine was nip and tuck, with no blood. Will playing consistently. The second nine Andrew started to put a few holes together and all of a sudden with a few holes won and now with the rain gently falling, our opponents were staring at defeat. Will made a great birdie on the 16th, game over. A solid 4 & 2 win. HKFC 2 HK Club 2.

They say save the best until the last and that we certainly did. Krzysztof Kostienko and Helen Hayward were playing Dave

Collins and Stefan Kracht. Krzysztof was slamming it close to the pins on the Par 3's where he was getting shots, which was suffocating the opposition and a steady lead was being built. This pressure was too much with our pair winning 5 & 4, so HKFC back in the lead with one flight to come in. HKFC 3 HK Club 2.

Squashies Nick Rickett and Kien Ng anchoring the team travelled up together whilst discussing team tactics in the taxi. They were

taking on Mervyn Jacobs and **Ted Osborn**. A happy ending for our team came with another solid 5 & 4 victory to round off a top team performance. Match over. HKFC 4 HK Club 2.

Being 2 to 1 down after 3 matches was slightly uncomfortable, but such is the talent of our team, a great comeback and the unbeaten streak continues. It was very social and enjoyable back at the clubhouse, with much talk about next year and it could be hosted by HK Club back in Macau early 2022. Let's see.

Andrew Wood Captain, Golf Society

Could HKFC put on the burners and pull

PRIZES WERE WON BY

Near Pin Winners #2 Chris Burley #5 Will Glover #16 Jonny Brock

Drive/Pitch #8 Ted Osborn

Longest Drive #15 Jonny Brock















L-R: Coach John, Gavin, Patrick, Ivan, Leo and Chun Tin

BADMINTON

HKBA DOUBLESTIFF TO LEAGUE REPORT.



BADMINTON SOCIETY CHALLENGE SERIES 2021

NK SPORTS BADMINTON TEAM

overall 25:14 games.

We will report more on our challenge series in May 2021 including when we played the Olym Badminton Club and Fire Services Department badminton teams.

ith the COVID situation gradually improving, the HKBA Badminton Doubles Leagues was resumed in April 2021. Due to time constraints, the HKBA decided to cancel a few categories and thus, the Society only has a Grade B Men's team that are playing in the League. They played their group stage against 主旋律 on 3rd April 2021 at Siu Lun Sports Centre in Tuen Mun district and Hong Ching (康青) on 17th April 2021 at the Kowloon City Sports Centre. Team 主旋律 was of a high standard and whilst the Society fought their best they still lost 2:7. On the other hand, the Society team was at their best when they played against Hong Ching (康青) and they won by 6:3. The Society team will continue team training and recruitment and strive for better results next year!



Young junior development players; *T-P* Coraline and Hyman



What do you like about HKFC?

"I like pretty much everything at the HKFC! I like all the different facilities and also I love the cafes and dining areas! I also really like how there are so many different opportunities in the Club for sports!"

What's your latest achievement in badminton and how do you feel?

"My latest achievement was being able to get into HKSI and being able to trial for another 3 months later on in the year! I feel very honoured and I also feel very happy! I'm also super thankful for all the sessions in HKFC and all the coaches that helped a lot throughout my journey!"

What do you look forward to your badminton development?

"I am really looking forward to playing for Hong Kong one day (hopefully), and also just playing for HKFC! I also really enjoy badminton, so no matter what I'll be happy!"

What will be your contribution to the Badminton Society when you become a Junior Associate Member (JAM)?

"My contribution to the Badminton Society will be winning more competitions for the team, and also just trying my best to influence more and more people to play badminton and to take lessons at HKFC! I will also be willing to do anything for the Club if needed!"

ACHIEVEMENTS

2019

YMCA Girls Doubles – Awarded Champion Islands District Badminton Competition, Girls Singles – Awarded Champion Fung Kam Cup, Girls doubles – Awarded Champion

2018

Inter-Region All Round Competition (Girls Singles, 2008 group) - Champion Hong Kong Bank of China Badminton Competition, Girls Singles, (Youth - 2008 group) - Champion Sham Shui Po District Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (under 10 years) - Awarded Champion Central Western District Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (under 10 years) – Awarded Champion Kowloon City District Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (under 10 years) - Awarded Champion Islands District Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (under 10 years) Awarded Champion

Jing Fa Cup Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (10 years old) – Awarded Champion

Jing Fa Cup Badminton Competition, Girls Singles (11 years old) – Awarded Champion

ISSFHK Badminton Competition (under 12 years) – Awarded Champion Foshan Nanhai Station City, Point Accumulation Ranking Competition (Girls Singles, born 08 or after) – Awarded Champion



Enjoy some truly English summer recipes from its many quaint boroughs, throughout the month of June. From endless rolling hills to cobblestone streets, there is so much of the country to be proud of.



Enquiries: 2830 9559 or bar@hkfc.com



SWIMMING AND TRIATHLON

THE POOL HAS RE-OPENED!

he Swimming and Triathlon team got back to training in the pool with the re-opening of the HKFC pool on 1st April! We have had packed sessions (within the guidelines) with full practices all month. It has been

great to get back in the water, back in shape and connect with teammates. A special thanks to our coach Dominic Tsui, who helped push for the reopening of all pools in Hong Kong with a successful petition campaign.





BOWLING AND INTEREST GROUP



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

An Annual General Meeting of the Bowling Interest Group (BIG) took place at the end of February with a new committee being elected. Huge congratulations to the new committee members and hope they will lead BIG into a new era.

Chairlady
Captain and Convenor
Secretary and Treasurer

Louise Wan Leo Yau Tracy Tam

UPCOMING EVENTS

Regular practice on Thursday evenings has resumed in preparation for the Hong Kong Interclub Ten Pin Bowling (HKITCB) League 2021 – 22 which will commence in October. All Club Members are welcome to join us for the training sessions. We welcome players of all levels, whether you are a beginner or an experienced bowler.

You are also welcome to join us for a fun game of 9-pin no-tap on Thursday, 8th July evening. 9-pin no-tap is a game where strikes are awarded for the bowlers who knock down 9 or more pins on their first ball – making it easier to achieve a perfect score of 300! Prize will be given to the winner of the game. Please come and join in the fun.

Hope to see you at the bowling alley on Thursday evenings!



Enquiries: 2830 9569 or coffeeshop@hkfc.com

COFFEE





EXERCISE OF THE MONTH

THE WORLD'S GREATEST STRETCH

BY WILL



- 1 Start with a lunge position
- Place both of your hands on the ground inside your knee
- 3 Lift the back knee up and sink your hip down
- Inhale, open up the hand (which is next to your knee) and your chest
- 5 Exhale, come back down to try to reach further away
- 6 Repeat for 5 times, try to get a better range for the next repetitions

TIPS Include this exercise for your warm up routine. It helps with both upper and lower body mobility.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



Dad's Day Out

ON SUNDAY, 20TH JUNE 2021

Tons to do for our dads at Coffee Shop, Restaurant and Happy Valley Suites Sunday Brunch.



In the Sportsman's Bar

FROM FRIDAY, 4TH JUNE

Friday and Saturday at the Front Patio Pop Up Station

Build your own Burger RETURNS!

Special feature "Pilsner Urquell Draught" is now on tap.



In the Restaurant

FROM TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE

Italy Regional Cuisine

Celebrating Italy's national day, the Restaurant explores its many regions, each with their distinct characteristics and proudest specialties.



In the Coffee Shop

FROM TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE

World Ocean Day Special: Sustainable Seafood Dishes

New selection of menu available throughout the month.



In the Chairman's Bar

FROM TUESDAY, 1ST JUNE

British Summer Recipes

Enjoy some truly English summer recipes from its many quaint boroughs. From endless rolling hills to cobblestone streets, there is so much of the country to be proud of.

WINE EVENTS

In the Restaurant

FRIDAY, 4TH JUNE

Dinner with Bubbles

In the Happy Valley Suites

THURSDAY, 17TH JUNE

Rieslings of the World Masterclass

In the Restaurant

THURSDAY, 24TH JUNE

Banfi Wine Dinner

In the Lockhart Room

SATURDAY, 26TH JUNE SUNDAY, 27TH JUNE

Summer Wine Fair

In the Coffee Shop

Themed Buffet Dinner: Indochine

Takeaway: h-KFC

In the Sportsman's Bar

Daily Special

Drinks Promotion: Monster Mary



In the Chairman's Bar

Set Tea: Summer Afternoon Set Tea
Cocktail: Pimm's Cocktail and Cousins

In the Captain's Bar

Japanese and Korean Style Sandwiches
Cold Brewed Iced Tea with Fruit

In the Family Lounge

Summer Fruit Tarts
Ice-cream Scoops with Cone and Sprinkles

PREVIEW IN JULY

In the Coffee Shop

Every Friday and Saturday evening

Surf and Turf Buffet Dinner

WINE EVENTS

In the Restaurant

FRIDAY, 16TH JULY

A comparison of two wine regions that are perfect for Summer Time: Burgundy vs Rhone

THURSDAY, 29TH JULY

"Introducing New House Wine" Wine Dinner

In the Happy Valley Suites

THURSDAY, 22TH JULY

Limited and Allocated Cuvees

In the Lockhart Room

SATURDAY, 24TH JULY SUNDAY, 25TH JULY

Rosé and Sparkling Wine Fair

In the Coffee Shop

Monthly Special: Chilled Chinese Appetizers
Drinks Promotion: Yakult Based Fruit Drinks

In the Restaurant

Paninaro Gourmet Dishes



In the Sportsman's Bar

World-Wide-Wings are back!

In the Chairman's Bar

Sake, Souchu and Japanese Gin and Whiskies

In the Captain's Bar

Poki Bowls

In the Family Lounge

Many Many Matcha Matcha

RESTAURANT

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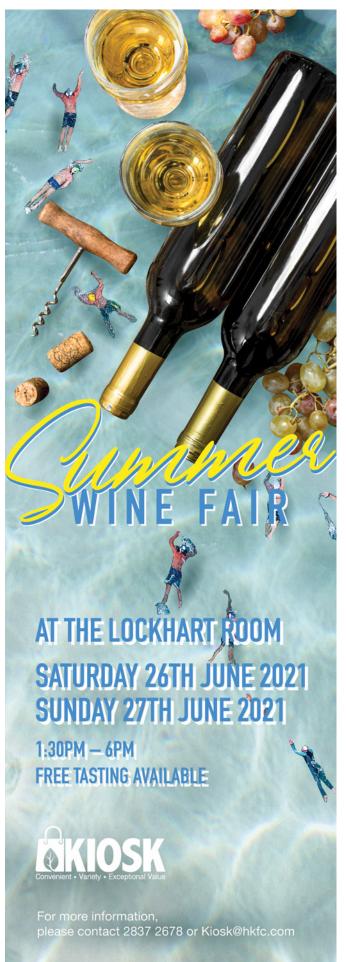
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T: 2837 2678 E: kiosk@hkfc.com

CATERING SERVICE

T: 2830 9513 E: catering@hkfc.com





DON'T WHINE,

WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE LOTS OF WINE EVENTS!

n the month of April, we had 5 wine events. I hope you all had a chance to join at least one of them. The Club always keeps a rolling schedule of these events at least a few months in advance so if you ever want to know what's coming up next and to make a booking, please contact the Restaurant staff at 2830 9562 or restaurant@hkfc.com.

We started off the month by trying something relatively new, a wine LUNCH. It was scheduled for Monday, 5th April which was a public holiday, something that I think was lost on everyone. We didn't get many bookings. After reminding our Members that it was a lunch on a public holiday, bookings started coming in. The wines were all from South Africa with some great labels, such as Bellingham, Kanonkop and Klein Constantia. What a great way to enjoy the day! We're not sure if we'll have many more wine LUNCHES but it was good to try something new.

Next up was an Italian wine dinner featuring some great wines from Zaccagnini. We had planned to invite an opera singer to serenade us on that night but alas, the darned pandemic curbed our enthusiasm. In the end, the room was full and so were the Club members and their guests by the end of the evenings. The wines were so great that the Club attending members bought 89 bottles to take home with them!

On 22nd April, we brought back a sake themed master class that had to be postponed last November. The sake was provided by Yoshinogawa who provided the expert knowledge and advice from famed sake lecturer Ryuichi Nagahara. It was a great exchange of knowledge and sake enthusiasm, perfectly paired with some Japanese snacks. On top of these, our monthly Wine Fair was on 24th and 25th April, bringing some great bargains and unique finds for members as well as our Spring Wine Home Delivery all month long, the perfect convenience of wines delivered directly to your home.

I PITY THE FOOL.

April Fool's Day is an annual custom on 1st April consisting of practical jokes and hoaxes. Jokesters often expose their actions by shouting "April Fools!" at the recipient. Mass media can be involved in these pranks, which may be revealed as such the following day. The day is not a public holiday in any country except Odessa, Ukraine, where the first of April is an official city holiday. The custom of setting aside a day for playing harmless pranks upon one's neighbour has been relatively common in the world historically.



decided that rather than fool

Welcome Rishad to be our new Sportsman's Bar Manager

or the whole month of April, we invited Club members to write down how they tricked their friends and family with an April Fool's Day prank during the month of April. We also invited them to do any prank right in the Sportsman's Bar, provided they let us know about it in advance. Prizes were provided by **Peroni** and the grand prize was "Beer for a Year" so the stakes were pretty high. We received so many crazy pranks written into us and had a great time reading them and trying to decide which were the best ones.

But there was one prankster that beat them all to it. Rishad Schaefer

> one of his friends, why not fool the entire group of

Club members that were in the Sportsman's Bar!! With the help of Randal Linhart, our Director of Food and Beverage and the team in the Sportsman's Bar, we provided Rishad with a manager's staff uniform on Sunday, 25th April. He then went around the Bar pranking everyone in sight.

First, he took an order for drinks but then brought the wrong drinks back to them. When they complained, Rishad pointed to the video camera and said "Happy April Fool's Day". Next, he introduced himself to several Club members as the Bar's new manager. After welcoming him to the Bar, he shouted out "April Fool". Finally, he brought the check to another Club member and asked him to add a huge tip to the bill. After some confusion and coaxing, the member did so and was promptly called an April Fool (tipping is against Club Bye Laws).

Huge congratulations for being so brave and funny. You are this year's grand

prize winner. Our 2 other runners up are Duncan Grewcock and Kieran Flynn who have won 3 cases of Peroni bottles and 5 pints of Peroni draught. These monthly activities are always good for a laugh and everyone knows that we could all use a laugh or two these days. Stay tuned for many more fun monthly activities that are always a blast for the lucky winners, some great with prizes. Thanks to prize sponsor MetaBev.

BRAVE AND FUNNY

"I told my sister by message in the UK that our parent's toilet flooded in the night and ruined the new kitchen. My sister sent my brother-in law round at Farm and woke up my parents, asking how they were handling the flood!"

Steven Crane

"I ordered a round of Long Island Ice Teas and 10 pints of Yau. When it come to paying the bill, I went to the toilet and left it to Dave Williams! FOOLED YA!"

Flynn



BOOKS AND MOVIES





Harlan Coben



Before She Disappeared

Lisa Gardner

Neighbors

Danielle Steel

NEW DVDS



Money Plane

Adam Copeland, Kelsey Grammer

Wonder Woman 1984

Gal Gadot, Chris Pine

86 Melrose Avenue

Dade Elza, Anastasia Antonia

Days of the Bagnold SummerMonica Dolan, Earl Cave

NEW BLU-RAYS



Son of the South

Lucas Till, Jim Klock

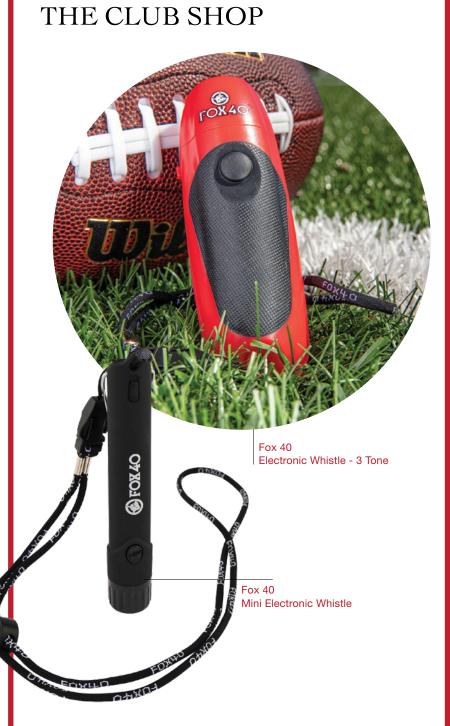
The Reckoning

Charlotte Kirk, Sean Pertwee

Shadow in the Cloud

Chloë Grace Moretz, Nick Robinson

Dark Web: Cicada 3301 Jack Kesy, Conor Leslie



ELECTRONICWHISTLE

Utilises a push button, which offers a hygienic solution for multiple operators. It provides a loud, clear and consistent sound every time.

BALLS

The badge of the 1st King George V Own Gurkha Rifles.

...HE PICKED THEM UP AND RAN WITH THEM...
...HE CHANGED HONG KONG RUGBY... AND HONG KONG'S CENTRAL DISTRICT WITH IT...

staff post and the

Born Vernon Owain Roberts in Wales in December 1919, he learned his first set of rules from his reverend father, then after further education in England and on the outbreak of war in 1939 sought a commission in the British Army. In July 1940, aged twenty, he was a 2nd lieutenant with the 1st King George V Own Gurkha Rifles. After five years of campaigns in the Middle East, Burma and Indochina he held a

rank of major. When his was one of the Gurkha regiments assigned out of the British Indian Army into the independent Indian Army in 1947, he decided he wanted out. The troopship Empress of Australia sailed him from Bombay to Liverpool in January 1948. Under his 'resettlement rules' an interview at Jardines in London earned him passage to complete his demobilisation process in Hong Kong, after which he fitted into a business suit and a desk at Hongkong Land. From there Vernon Roberts did a William Webb-Ellis, metaphorically and more than once - he picked up balls, put his head down, and ran with them. The rugby ball came first.

A BUSINESSMAN AMONG SPORTSMEN

To start with he played with the Army XV, then for Club later when he could call himself a civilian. Gordon Minto recalls him as a fly-half with a slick unload to commercial pilot John Warne and a staff officer's preference for strategy over physicality. Angus Petrie remembers Roberts a few seasons later being on a flank where he showed he could still run. All three represented Hong Kong in the first HKRFU match after its formation in 1952, played on the Club pitch against a touring Oxford University XV on 8 October 1952. The previous year Vernon Roberts had revealed his instinct for mixing rugby with business and adding imagination. Here was a promoter, a businessman among sportsmen. The first Taipan's Match at the Club in January 1951, copying the 'Barbarian concept', was his idea. "To arouse interest among the (taipans)," he explained, "and give the opportunity for civilian and service players to play in the same teams." Except for 1953, the HKFC Taipan's fixture remained an annual command performance until 1997.



The Henry Moore Double Oval sculpture, dedicated by Hongkong Land to the memory of Vernon Roberts, now in Connaught Place between Jardine House and the GPO (it was originally on the skyscraper's east side).



1952 -

The first official HKRFU match – Hong Kong vs. Oxford University at the Club on 8 October 1952. The Union's history reads that an RN lieutenant was Colony Captain, but it looks very much like Roberts holding the ball for the Hong Kong XV in their new 'navy jerseys with white collars (and) red stockings with light blue turnovers'. Oxford won 28-3.



1950 -

Roberts (centre) in Club hoops for a social rugby match in March 1950. On his left is John Warne, looking over his shoulder at left is Roy de Rome (inaugural HKRFU chairman 1952-58) and at right lan Carrel (Club Captain 1950-51); on his right is Frank Thorpe (Hongkong Electric) and in front is Dermot Nolan (Club Captain 1949-50) with Alec Taylor (Club Captain 1940-41/1946-47) on Nolan's left.

THE CLUB HISTORY

After 1963, when Roberts was elected chairman of the HKRFU, organised rugby expanded into Asia. The ARFU, with him on the executive, was formed for the 1st Asian Rugby Tournament in Tokyo in March 1969; he was ARFU president during planning for the 3rd ART staged in Hong Kong in 1972. By then he was President, too, of both Hong Kong Football Club (succeeding Jake Saunders in 1968) and HKRFU (since 1966). What came next, for Rugby and Roberts, was something special. The Hong Kong Sevens, having been conceived by others, then planned and organised in a rush at the end of 1975, with Roberts overseeing it all as both Union and Club President in the fashion of a military campaign from his regimental days—complete with pukka intonation and manners and the anachronistic monocle that were his trademarks—kicked off at the Club Stadium on Sunday, 28 March 1976.

MASTER'S APPRENTICE

Long before then Vernon Roberts had picked up another ball to run with – on a 'playing field' the size of Central District. On 1 January 1964 he was appointed general manager of Hongkong Land. The creator of both Land and Central had been Sir Paul Chater, a business mind extraordinaire of Armenian extraction who came from Calcutta to Hong Kong as it was in 1864, and rebuilt the place. In 1889, in a joint-venture with Jardines, Chater founded Hongkong Land to capitalise on the 60-acre Praya Central Reclamation he had conceived and had just seen Whitehall approve. In the

1960s it was time for Roberts to become the master's apprentice. By then extra Central real estate had been reclaimed from the harbour and there were new towers to be built on it. Roberts worked to a personal blueprint. His first dream was to connect Land buildings via pedestrian bridges and construct five-star shopping arcades on the lower floors of his office high-rises to bring shoppers into Central and give Lane Crawford 'a bit of competition'. On 1 June 1970, Land topped the Kadoories with a \$258 million bid for 53,000 square feet in front of St George's Building. At once construction began on a 52-storey skyscraper (Connaught Centre, today Jardine House) that would landmark Central for the rest of Roberts' reign.

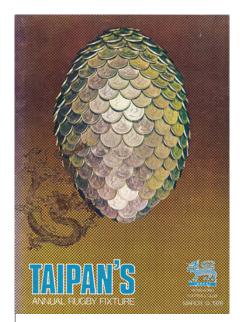
Lunchtimes during the week would see the Land chief minimise his broad vision and focus on the dice under his cup at a particular table in the Members' Bar of the Hong Kong Club. A regular in Roberts' liar dice school was legendary Noel Croucher – whose mentors in his makee-learnee days as a stock-market shaker had been Paul Chater and George Hutton Potts (HKFC's first Rugby Captain in 1894 and President in the 50th anniversary year of 1935-36). Croucher, who himself had been a Club Soccer Member just before World War I, used the dice school for what is today called networking. Land and Dairy Farm were pet equities of his; he had hoarded enough shares in 1972 to play 'a key role,' wrote Vaudine England in her detailed history of Noel Croucher, ' in the first contested take-over bid in

Hong Kong, the take-over of independent Dairy Farm by the Jardine-backed Hongkong Land.' (Insider trading was a culture in Hong Kong in 1972, not yet a felony.) Croucher was the sort of character, a first-generation Chater descendant, with whom Vernon Roberts, a second generation one, played business ball.

TRY LINE OF SUCCESS

Run With the Ball – Don't Kick It! was (and still is) the golden rule of seven-a-side Rugby, according to J.B.G. Thomas who wrote a piece under that title for the Hong Kong Sevens programme in 1977. It happened to be the rule by which Vernon Roberts lived. 1977 was, however, the second and last Hong Kong Sevens he attended. Both were staged at the Club Stadium, where he sat and watched as HKRFU and Club President, then stood to hand out the prizes and handshakes. He died of cardiac arrest on Friday night, 21 October 1977 at his home in Shouson Hill, the scene, recalls Peter Wight – Club Rugby Captain 1967-68 and ex-HKRFU/ARFU treasurer when Roberts was president of both – of 'some terrific parties for visiting teams'. He was 57. The Henry Moore sculpture unveiled in Connaught Place two months later was dedicated to his memory by Hongkong Land and christened Double Oval. It remains an apt monument to the man, symbolic of those balls that Vernon Roberts delighted in running over the try line of success.

By Denis Way



1951-1997 The appropriately-designed cover of the programme for the annual Taipan's Match in 1976.





1975 -The view across the harbour with Connaught Centre (Jardine House) dominating Central District.



1965 -

The first Central pedestrian bridge over Chater Road connecting two Land structures, the Mandarin Hotel and Prince's Building. (Courtesy of HKSAR Government Information Services Department.)



1977 -

Vernon Roberts, HKRFU and Club President, congratulates Cup-winners Fiji after the 1977 Hong Kong Sevens at the Club Stadium; the other hand on the trophy belongs to R.M. (Jock) Campbell, Cathay Pacific's senior promotions manager and early-1950s Club rugby player.



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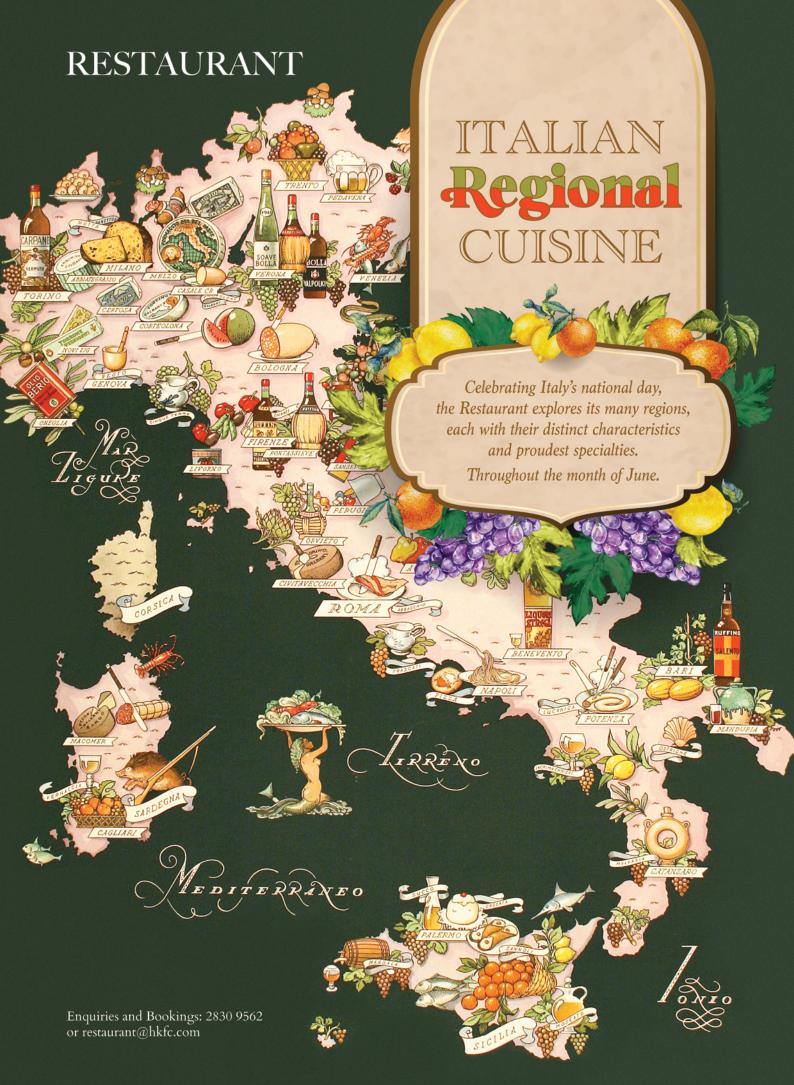
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