## CIIIB



HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB

港足球會 APRIL



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SQUASH

## HKFC VS HKCC A SQUASH SECTION SHOWDOWN

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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.





Simon Tang

Simon Chapman





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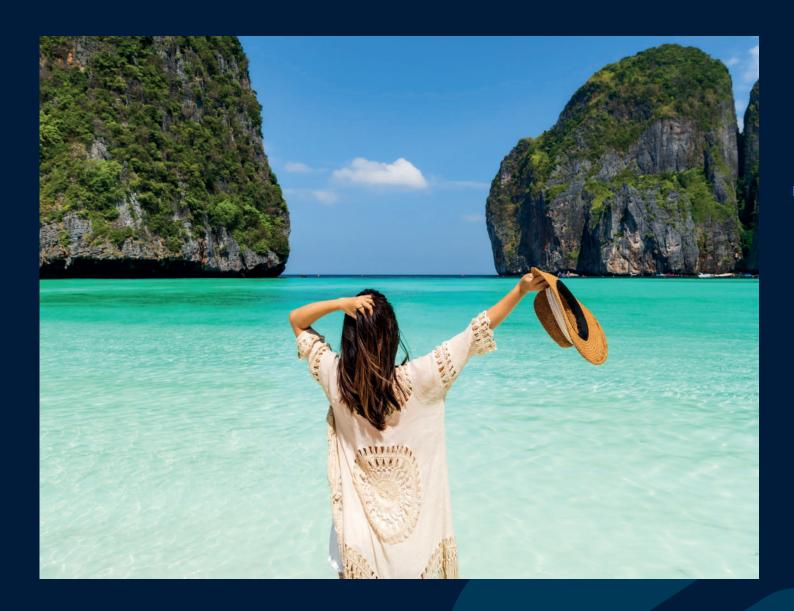












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## THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

### 主席的話



Neil Jensen Chairman

As we approach the Easter break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the exciting events that have taken place at the Club over the past few weeks. In late February, we hosted an interview with **Sean Dyche**, former manager of Burnley and Everton football clubs. This event not only provided valuable and entertaining insights into the world of professional football but also served as a successful fundraiser for the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.

March has been a busy month, with two of our flagship sporting events taking centre stage. The **HKFC International Lawn Bowls Open** brought a new level of excitement to our greens. The **Tradition HKFC 10s,** one of the highlights of our rugby calendar, was as thrilling as ever, with top-class teams competing in a fun and festive atmosphere. Our thanks go to the organising committee, Club management and staff for their tireless efforts in making this event a success.

We're also proud to have hosted the Men's Quadrangular Hockey Tournament and Women's Hockey Invitiational Tournament, organised by Hockey Hong Kong, China. It was fantastic to see our Club members representing the Hong Kong national teams and achieving impressive results.

At the time of writing, three of our rugby teams – HKFC Natixis Dragons, Ice and Club – have made it to the Grand Championship.

The Club's new General Manager **Matt Rawnsley**, who joined us in March, is settling in well and is eager to meet with members and contribute to the Club's continued success.

Looking ahead to April, we have an exciting line-up of events. On 6th April, our Soccer 1st Team will face off against BC Rangers in their home game. The **HKFC Hockey 5s** will take place on 18-20th April, featuring fast-paced action and skilful play.

Finally, save the date for the **Annual HKFC Sports Awards Gala** which will take place on **7th June**. We will be releasing more information soon, so stay tuned for details.

I look forward to seeing you down at the Club in April. Have a great month ahead.

Neil Jensen Chairman 踏入復活節假期,想藉此機會回顧一下過去幾個星期在本會舉行的精彩活動。首先,我們2月底邀請了前般尼及愛華頓領隊**戴治**蒞臨本會,是次活動不僅為大家提供有關職業足球世界的寶貴見解,而且成功為勞倫斯體育公益基金會籌得善款。

之後的3月可謂相當熱鬧,先後有兩項矚目焦點的旗鑑體育盛事。香港足球會國際草地滾球公開賽將我們草地滾球場的比賽體驗提升至全新境界:作為欖球日曆上其中一場重要賽事·Tradition港會十人欖球賽一如以往地精彩,頂級球隊在歡樂的節慶氣氛中一同較量。感謝活動籌委會、本會管理團隊及員工努力不懈的付出,讓活動得以順利舉行。

我們亦很自豪為**中國香港曲棍球總會**舉辦的 **男子曲棍球四角邀請賽**及**女子曲棍球邀請賽**提供 主辦場地,能夠看到本會會員代表港隊參賽,甚至 取得驕人成績,實在太好了。

下筆之際,我們有3支欖球隊打入季後總決賽, 分別是HKFC Natixis Dragons、Ice及Club。

3月加入本會的新任總經理**羅施利**逐漸適應工作環境,他很渴望與各位會員相見,以及為本會的持續成功出一分力。

展望4月·我們有一系列緊張刺激的賽事等着大家。本會足球部一隊將於4月6日在主場迎戰標準流浪·而帶來明快節奏及精湛球技的 香港足球會曲棍球五人賽則會於4月18至20日舉行。

最後,**年度香港足球會運動員頒獎慶典**將於 **6月7**日舉行,記得記下這個大日子,我們將陸續 發放更多資訊,詳情請留意本會的最新消息。

期待4月與大家在本會相見,祝大家未來這個月 過得美滿。

主席 Neil Jensen





## GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

總經理的話

Matt Rawnsley General Manager



My sincere thanks to all of you whether members or staff, who have given me such a warm welcome in my first few days at the Club. It's clear to me that there is a real pride that exists within the HKFC family, and I'll do my very best to honour the trust you have put in me to run the Club. I thought it would be a good idea to give you some background on my career to date and give you some insight into the rest of the Rawnsley family who will be joining me in the months to come.

My career has been quite diverse. I was a professional cricketer for 10 years, playing at Worcestershire CCC, with overseas contracts in the off seasons in Auckland and Harare for 4 seasons each. After finishing playing professionally in 2003, I went into sales of construction machinery, which led me into my first leadership role at Caterpillar, looking after sales and distribution in emerging markets in North Africa, Middle East and CIS. After a few close calls during the Arab spring in late 2010 and early 2011, I left Caterpillar to take up my first MD role for another American company Barnes Inc, looking after European operations for their engineered components division, supporting supply chains in automotive, aerospace and medical sectors.

Then came the call from Worcestershire CCC who, after a tough period, needed a new leadership team to navigate the future. It was great to be involved in sport again, and after a 15-year absence from professional sport, confirmed to me that I wanted the rest of my career to be within it. After a two-and-a-half-year stint, I moved to Edgbaston Priory Club in February 2020, a month before the pandemic. Over the next 5 years, the club recovered from a very challenging time, back to pre-covid levels on membership while exceeding financial expectations. My time there was a great education on the value of membership clubs in society, particularly those that play a role in encouraging and promoting participation in sport, while also facilitating excellence at elite level, a philosophy that I hope fits well in my new role as your GM.

My wife Celia and my children, Tom 15 and Anya 14, will be coming out to Hong Kong for a holiday at Easter, before moving out here permanently after the school year finishes in July. I'm sure you will extend the same warm welcome to them as you have to me, and I'll be keen to connect them to members who have similar interests and the same school, which is not confirmed at this stage.

Over the next several weeks, I'll endeavour to be very visible around the Club and will welcome meeting members and their guests, with your insight and constructive feedback being a critical part of my induction. Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I look forward to meeting you soon.



初來乍到本會,便已感受到會員及員工們的熱烈 歡迎,在此衷心感謝大家。我明白在香港足球會的 大家庭中有著一份自豪感,我會竭盡所能,不會 辜負大家對我管理本會的信任。也許在此先跟 大家介紹一下我迄今為止的職業生涯背景,及未來 幾個月將與我會合的羅氏一家。

本人的職業生涯頗為精彩多元,我曾是10年的職業板球員,效力於Worcestershire CCC,亦在休賽其間與海外的Auckland及Harare球隊各有持續四個季度的合約。於2003年結束職業板球員生涯後,便投身建築機械的銷售工作,並在Caterpillar擔任領導職務,負責北非、中東及獨聯體等新興市場的銷售及分銷。在2010年末及2011年初阿拉伯之春期間經歷過幾次驚險後,我離開了Caterpillar,在另一間美國公司Barnes Inc首次擔任董事總經理職位,負責工程零件部的歐洲業務,支援汽車、航空及醫療業的供應鏈。

隨後Worcestershire CCC來電,表示在經歷了一段艱難的時期後,需要一個新的領導團隊來引領未來。當時很高興可以再次接觸與運動相關的工作,在離開職業運動15年後,我更堅定餘下生涯都會留在運動界的想法。經過兩年半的工作後,我於2020年2月轉投到EdgbastonPriory Club,當時正是疫情前一個月。在接下來的5年裡,Edgbaston Priory Club成功從相當艱難的時期恢復過來,會員人數回到疫情前的水平,同時超出了財務預期。我在那份工作深刻體會到體育會所在社會中的價值,特別是在鼓勵和推廣體育運動參與方面所發揮的作用,同時也促進精英水平的卓越發展,我希望能夠將這理念完美融入本會總經理的職位。

我的妻子Celia、15歲的兒子Tom及14歲的女兒 Anya將於復活節前往香港度假,他們於7月學年 結束時便會正式搬到香港,我相信大家會一樣 熱烈歡迎他們。雖然現階段尚未確實,我亦渴望把 他們與興趣相投及在同一間學校讀書的會員 聯繫起來。

未來幾個星期,我會於會所與會員及訪客們打 招呼,聽取大家的意見回饋是本人新上任的重要 一環。感謝大家花時間閱讀,期待很快與大家 相見。

總經理 羅施利





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## HONG KONG CRICKET CLUB



CRICKET MATCH REPORT:

## HKFC vs HKCC

## A SQUASH SECTION SHOWDOWN

Inder the canopy of a chilly Friday afternoon, the Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC) Squash Section squared off against their eternal rivals from the Hong Kong Cricket Club (HKCC) Squash Section at cricket in a battle that promised not just sweat and tears, but also a showcase of sporting prowess seldom seen outside a squash court.

HKFC won the toss and were first up to the crease, and if their start was anything to go by, they had come to the pitch with fire in their bellies. The scoreboard surged to twenty-eight runs in the opening overs, a scorching pace that had the opposition reeling. But just as the crowd settled in for a run-fest, fate decided to play spoilsport.

**Anthony Ford** after hitting two early sixes, **David Cross** and **Damian Laracy** fell quicker than a squash ball in a dead rubber rally, causing a tactical pivot to

preserve wickets and bat out the full thirty overs.

Captain Courageous **John Thompson**, donning his cricket gear like a knight ready for battle, led from the front. His masterclass of a half-century was not only a beacon of hope but also a milestone – the first-ever fifty for the squash section in this historic tug of war.

**Alex Chew**, earning his first cap in the cricketing arena, showcased defensive prowess that made experienced campaigners nod in approval. Partnering with **David Rundle**, he helped steady the ship. Contributions from

Stephen Gollop, Vikram Lulla and Julian Tanner gave fleeting glimmers of brilliance with some fine batting, but the HKCC bowlers, like hawks, swooped in to snag wickets at critical junctures to stop any ongoing momentum.

When the scoreboard read a dismal 88/8, things looked bleaker than a night without floodlights. Enter **Ajay Hazari**, cloaked in a Jedi grey outfit, wielding his bat like a lightsaber. He managed to slice through the field and carve out precious runs, but his efforts took them only to 99/9. The final resistance came from a gallant 10th wicket stand between **John Thompson**, who came back in after retiring at 30, and **Alistair Putt**, their defiance pushing the

**Alistair Putt**, their defiance pushing the total to a respectable 136 all out, which made it a trickier run chase for HKCC.

HKCC's reply began with a bang, a towering six off the very first delivery that left the spectators gasping and the fielders scrambling. It was clear they intended to make short work of the target. However, the dynamic duo of **Vikram** and **Julian** held their nerves, delivering economical spells and claiming four wickets between



them with the precision of seasoned surgeons, putting pressure back on the batting team.

Alastair and Anthony picked up the gauntlet next, chipping in with a couple of wickets each. Yet, their radar seemed to suffer from bouts of static interference, with runs leaking at a runa-ball. At 100/8, the match hung in the balance, a knife-edge encounter where one wrong move could spell doom. The cricket club still needed thirty-seven to win with only 2 wickets remaining.

With the pressure mounting, HKFC's bowlers needed to pluck the final wickets, but HKCC's tailenders proved to be more resilient than expected. Nudging and nurdling, they patiently accumulated the necessary singles, inching their way to the target with composed poise.

In the end, HKCC emerged victorious, scraping through to their target in a nail-biting finish that left spectators

with their hearts in their mouths. While HKFC fell just short, the match was a testament to the tenacity and sportsmanship of both sides, with cricket being the ultimate winner. The HKFC fielding was exemplary throughout with solid wicket keeping by Dave Cross and some excellent catches notably from **Anthony Ford** and David Rundle.

In proper fashion in this friendly encounter, there was excellent hosting by the cricket club which cumulated in a buffet dinner, washed down by the odd beverage where the talk of the evening was "what could have been" and "if only"s. The HKFC team are already looking forward to next year to gain revenge and bring the trophy back to Sports Road.





his season has been going good so far. L2A has been consistent in winning most home matches with other League 2 teams or tying with them, but has also suffered an occasional blow from Kowloon Cricket Club, whom the team fondly refers to as its rivals, as well as the 'Jessica' teams.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS SEASON

One of the biggest highlights of the season was on 7th January, where the team witnessed and participated in two enthralling matches: the match between Renee (L2A position 1) and Celia (L2B position 1), and between Karen (L2A position 4) and Hailey (L2B position 4). Both these matches took place under high pressure, not only because the skill level was matched between the opponents, but the scores went higher than 11 and onto 17/19!

Renee and Celia were determined to

win that game and kept pushing until the scores peaked at 19, where Renee won the game in the end. In the Karen and Hailey match, the game scores were really close, with a 11/13 and a 12/10, and the match score even closer, 3-2.

Proud as we were of Karen pushing through the games, we couldn't be prouder than when she won the match set right at the end, after losing two and when she won three.

Not always serious like this though, L2A is never in dearth of smiles nor laughter. Incidents like Ipsa completely forgetting she had a match and turning up hours late, Hailey remembering she needs to change into her squash shoes after 2 games in and Olivia playing the match with a one dot ball instead of a double dot would not be out of place to mention under the highlights section.

No, L2A is quite capable of making fond memories, not only those filled with laughter and playfulness, but with

passion-filled matches and drive inside the court as well.

#### **TEAM EFFORT**

This season so far has reflected on our efforts as a team. We have persevered and fought, occasionally succumbing to defeat at the hands of Kowloon Cricket Club and Jessica L2, but in all honesty, it has brought us closer than ever.

Nothing better than cheering on your teammates when you aren't already refereeing the match, secretly crossing your fingers, hoping for a victory. Whether it's Karen present in almost every match to cheer her team on, or Hailey jumping at the chance to referee a couple more matches, the team never lacks enthusiasm.

L2A is proud of itself, with many more wins to come!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS SEASON L2A vs L2B							
	Renee Wu	3		Scores		0	Celia Uen Shan Choi
1		19	11	11			
		17	8	7			
2	Ka Ki Tang	0		Scores		3	Yurisa Yeung
		7	2	6			
		11	11	11			
	Ipsa Mishra	0		Scores		3	Hei Yau Law
3		6	9	4			
		11	11	11			
4	Chung Ching Karen Wong	3		Scores		2	Hayley Hoi Ning Ip
		10	11	11	11	11	
		12	13	8	4	6	



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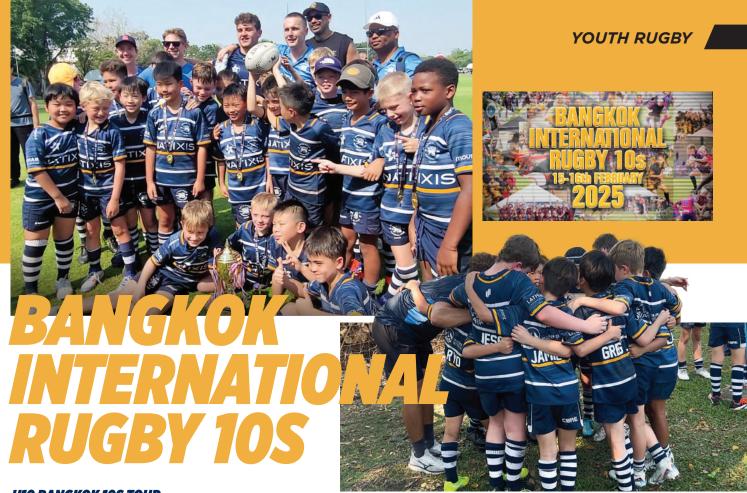
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#### **U10 BANGKOK 10S TOUR**

10 boys entered two teams into this year's Bangkok International 10s tournament – HKFC White and HKFC Blue. With 12 teams from 8 different clubs across 3 countries in the U10 bracket, it was a mix of knowns (2 teams each from Sai Kung Stingrays and Discovery Bay Pirates) and unknowns (teams from Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur).

HKFC White drew a tough pool, with their opening match against a strong Stingrays Blue team. However, spirited defence by the boys caused Stingrays to fumble two of their potential tries, and after a line break by Larry, the final score was 5-15 loss. The boys kept their heads up in the next game against DB Pirates - two quick tries from Larry in the first few minutes gave us the lead, and a run down the wing from **Japsher** brought the final score to 15-5 in our favour. White's last pool match was against a very physical KL Tigers (who would end eventual runnersup in the tournament). Despite an excellent defence by the boys, Tigers managed four tries. However, Whites did themselves proud by being the only team to score against Tigers in the pool stages, thanks to an amazing dummy

pass by winger **Tristan** which fooled the Tigers backs, allowing him to get close enough to the try line to offload to scrum half **Tom K** for the try. It was enough to secure the Whites 8th overall on day 1, putting them in the plate knockouts on Sunday.

HKFC Blue seemed to have an easier time of the pool stages, with their first match against Stingrays White ending 40-0, with tries from Alastair, James, Ryo, George, Greg and 3 tries from **Jesse**. Seemingly not satisfied with the score, the boys won the next match against Bangkok Japanese 45-0 with additional tries from James, Alastair, 2 more tries from **Jesse**, and an amazing 5 tries from **George**. The final match was against Bangkok Lions Yellow, seemingly our strongest pool stage opponent, but still a comfortable 30-0 win (tries from Greg, Jamie, Ryo, and two tries each from **George** and **Jesse**). The exemplary performance left Blues first overall in day 1, with almost double the number of tries of the second-place team (KL Tigers) and competing for the cup.

In the plate semi-final on Sunday, Whites faced up against Bangkok Japanese. For the first half of the match, the teams seemed quite evenly matched, each team scoring two tries (Larry and Tom B for the Whites). However, the Whites seemed to have the drive and stamina, and a further two tries (from Tom K and Tom B) secured the win at 20-10 and a place in the plate final against Nak Suu. The local team opened the scoring quickly with a blistering try, but the Whites immediately responded with a try of their own from Sam to hold Nak Suu to 5-5 at half time. The boys came out on fire in the second half, with tries from Edric and Marc sealing the win and the Plate.

For Blues, the cup semi-final was against rivals Stingrays Blue. Maybe the boys were out for revenge on behalf of the Whites, but they gave Stingrays no quarter and rebuffed all of their attacks. Two tries from **Jesse** and one from **George** to make it 15-0, and the boys were through to the cup final against KL Tigers. The Tigers were a very physical team, and the coaches expected it to be a war of attrition. However, our first try came immediately from the kick-off thanks to a long, floating high kick from

#### **SPORTS**

**Ryo** which was collected by **Jesse** and brought home over the line. KL Tigers immediately fought back and, on several occasions, almost made it to the try line. However, the boys held firm, and second half tries from **Jesse** and **Greg** ended the final 15-0 in our favour, winning the Cup.

I am immensely proud of both teams for all the hard work they put in during the tournament and in training beforehand. The depth of talent in U10 really shows with a total of 42 tries scored by 14 different players. Special mention to the Blues who did not concede a single try all tournament, and to our top try scorers Jesse (11) and George (9) from the Blues, and Larry (4) from the Whites.

#### **HKFC WHITE**

Atlas, Carter, Caspar, Edric, Japsher, Larry, Mannix, Marc, Samuel, Tom B, Tom K, Tristan.

#### **HKFC BLUE**

Achilles, Alastair, Eashan, George, Greg, Harry, James, Jamie, Jesse, Kei, Max, Ryo





#### U18 BOYS PLAY U19 AT BANGKOK 10S

It was Valentine's Day, and 15 of our **U18** boys were heading off to Thailand to participate in the Bangkok 10s Tournament. We were competing in the **U19** age group. Early Saturday morning, we arrived at the venue and noticed some big lads that we would be up against. Fear not, the team was raring to go.

Up first were the KL Tigers, and it was a tight affair that Club edged 7-0, marking a positive start. Next up was a very good team from Singapore, the Dragons, and despite playing well against them, we just couldn't contain them towards the end and conceded two late tries to finish up losing 24-7. Our final group game was against the Cobras, another team from KL. Our 10's gameplay was improving and with added confidence, we won the game 12-0. The victory meant we had made it into the Cup semi-finals.

On Sunday morning, with some sore bodies from the previous day, the team were eager to go. The semifinals pitted us against our local rivals Valley. Despite putting up a great fight and suffering a couple of sin bins, we came up short losing 12-0. The final game was for third place and the Plate trophy. The squad was depleted due to injuries and sickness, and with just 11 players, we faced a team called **Simon** from Thailand. It was a battle of attrition and will; the team did extremely well and won 12-0, collecting the 3rd place Plate Trophy.

It was a fantastic experience for all and a well-run tournament. A big thank you to the parents who came along and provided amazing support, and to **Anthony Coebergh** for coaching the team throughout the tournament.









### 85 PLAYERS FROM JUNIOR YOUTH RUGBY IN KUALA LUMPUR!

On Friday, 21st February, a 200-strong touring group from HKFC – including 85 players across U6, U7, U8, U9 Boys and U11 boys – touched down in Kuala Lumpur for the annual KL Tigers 10s International Rugby Tournament held over 22nd-23rd February 2025.

The boys and girls represented Club with terrific sportsmanship and created a lifetime of memories! U8 & U9 took along two teams each, and after all pool matches, both resulted in final playoff matches on Sunday afternoon against each other – guaranteeing the silverware would be fought over with unrivalled passion and intensity. Read on in the age group reports to find out who won ...

A big thanks to our fabulous

Tour Director /
Chef de Mission Charles Firth
for leading the organisation and
preparations behind such a big tour.



## FIRST TOUR, FIRST TROPHY FOR THIS U6 GROUP

After late withdrawals, 8 of our **U6** kids travelled to KL to play in the 8-a-side tournament with teams from Malaysia and Singapore.

With 5 matches each day, in weather opposite to wintery Hong Kong, all with no substitutes – the energy showed by our youngsters was incredible.

**Day 1** started strongly, taking 7 points (1 draw, 2 wins) in the first 3 matches against TRC, KL Tigers and Cobrats. Fatigue started to settle in and with concentration wavering, we ran into a dominant Singapore Irish side, going down 4-1 before a very close 3-2 match against Dragons to finish day 1 with a 2-2-1 record.

**Day 2** started the opposite, dropping points in the early matches before the kids found a steely resolve, finding

ways to make tackles, get onside and score tries with quick passing. After defeating Cobrats 3-0, we pushed eventual Cup winner Singapore Irish all the way in a 3-2 nail-biter before finishing the tournament on a high, avenging the Dragons defeat from day 1 with a 3-2 win to cap off a successful weekend.

All of touring players (Lancelot Shum, Ashton Lee, Justin Lam, Harvey Fung, Micah Chow, Ares Boscia and Sarah Le) gave their all which is all we can ask of them. A very pleasing 4th place finish with accompanying and medals back on the mantlepiece!

Many thanks to the supporting parents and **Coach Lou** for making this a special event. A big, final shout-out to our 3 touring mum coaches, **Coach Fiona**, **Coach Thu** and **Coach Kiya**!!

Yours in rugby, Doan (Head Coach U6)



#### **SPORTS**

**U8's** HKFC Dragons and Phoenix had a busy fixture of 14 games in KL over the last weekend of February. Our two U8 teams played a really close match in the Final.

The girls and boys brought home the Bowl, which is well deserved. They should be proud of themselves, having given their all both on and off the pitch. Behind the scoreline is the huge team effort from every single one of them – we could not ask for more.

More importantly, they brought home very fond memories and built camaraderie within the touring squad.





HKFC **U9** took two teams to Kuala Lumpur to defend the title they had won as U8 the previous year. U9 in Singapore and Malaysia play a more complex game than in Hong Kong, introducing scrums, line

outs and full rucks, so there was some intensive training in preparation. Huge

thanks to our pro Coaches Izzy, Madison, Rosie and Jackson for all their efforts.

The 28 players split into two equally matched teams – FC Blue and FC White, drawn in opposite pools as the

competition started. FC White had an unfortunate loss to eventual champions Putrajaya Rugby Academy, before dominant wins over HK Sandy Bay, Singapore teams Saints, Dragons B and Centaurs and another local Malaysian side TM2 Hurricanes to finish second in their pool.

In the other pool, FC Blue had strong victories over Singapore Cricket Club,

Tanglin Rugby Club, Singapore Irish and home favourites KL Tigers, but a controversial draw with local club Cobrats and a narrow loss to Singapore Dragons A also left them second in their pool.

That meant the third-place playoff and plate final would be FC White vs FC Blue, and in a hard-fought match, FC Blue prevailed. The trophy coming back to Club, however, was one for the whole squad, with all 28 players making their mark and having a fantastic trip.

For FC Blue, special call-outs to **Aiden Hou** who provided a constant attacking threat and multiple tries, and team captain **William Bundy** who led in terms of tackles and turnovers alongside a number a tries. For FC White, some ferocious tackling throughout the squad was the backbone of their success, with **Sebastian Yip** leading the charge.

**U11** took a 16-man squad to Kuala Lumpur for a very eventful weekend at the KL Tigers International 10s tournament. After an unfortunate 1-0 loss to Singapore Centaurs in the first game, the team rallied to win all the remaining games and finished 2nd in their pool. They were tied on points but fell slightly short on tries scored – an incredibly close contest.

While the team was disappointed to lose 4-0 in the plate final against the Singapore Cricket Club Rugby Academy, SCC will be joining HKFC's international youth tournament in April, so we will be ready for a rematch. With their talent and some tighter discipline in attack and defence, we are a real chance!

Shout out to **Coach Tom Cameron** and pro **Coach Laeti Bobo** for their work

on our scrums. They were rock solid all weekend and delivered some timely turnover ball. Lucas Cochran put in another standout rucking performance; Jasper Chan delivered another series of his trademark try-saving tackles, often against much bigger players at full speed; Leo Ouyang returned to the try-scoring scene with a number of impressive "putdowns"; Daniel Arsriry ran hard all day, making valuable ground for the team; Norman Mui was consistent and reliable in defence every time he came on.

Huge thanks to Coaches Larry, Shaun, Rob, Seb, Isaac and Lucan for their massive coaching effort along with Coach Charlie for being the team's first aider. And to Coaches Ken and Janice for their coordination, which meant the whole event ran like clockwork and was a lot of fun!





## SENIOR YOUTH'S GIRLS AND BOYS RUGBY TEAMS

**DO CLUB PROUD** 

A quick review of Club's Senior Youth successes in Hysan 15s:

U18G | Cup & League Champions

**U16G** | Cup & League Champions

**U14G** | Cup & League Champions

U18B | Premiership

League Champions & Cup Runners-up

Championship

League & Cup Champions

U16B | Premiership

**Cup Runners-up** 

Championship

League Runners-up & Cup Champions

U14B | Premiership League & Cup Champions

U13B | Premiership League & Cup Champions

That's lot of silverware for the display cabinets at Club.

The girls now move to the Hysan 7s Tournaments, and the boys take on the Hysan Tens Tournaments. Wishing them success for these next challenges ...

**DENIS BROCK** 

February 2025









## 15'S RUGBY SEASON

The **U18** boys have had a tremendous season. The squad bonded well, with U16 boys moving up and joining the existing U18 team, as well as integrating new players.

Our Premier Team went through the league season undefeated, winning the league trophy. In the Grand Final, they

were narrowly defeated by Valley and finished as runners-up.

Our Champs Team not only won their league, but they also emerged victorious in the Grand Final to claim a clean sweep

Congratulations to all on a fantastic league campaign by the boys! A special thank you to our professional coaches Ben and IP





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# SECTION HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY RECAP

#### **SOCIAL FOOTBALL**

ebruary was a month of ups and downs in our Social Football league. Dynamics faced their first loss of the season against a youthful Sky Pro team, ending in an 8-5 defeat. However, they rebounded with a solid victory over Rovers, triumphing 3-2 despite facing dubious refereeing decisions. The Gazelles had a challenging month, notably throwing away a commanding 3-0 lead in a match against the HK Referees, ultimately losing 5-3. While results were mixed, we remain optimistic for future performances.

#### **COMPETITIVE FOOTBALL**

In competitive fixtures, the Men's 1st Team had a tough run, losing 3-0 to Lee Man and suffering defeats to Kitchee, while Lucky Mile also faced a heavy loss against Central & Western. However, the Women's Team delivered an outstanding performance, emphatically beating Harmony Eagle 7-0, showcasing their skill and determination.

Wanderers gained revenge for a prior defeat to Albion in the Cup, narrowly winning 1-0 in the league. The Club Academy continued their impressive form, scoring a remarkable 8 goals against HKU70's. Additionally, Club Academy secured a strong 3-0 win against KCC Dragons, while Albion triumphed over Wanderers with a 2-0 victory, marking Wanderers' first defeat of the season.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Excitement is building for the upcoming HKFC Standard Chartered Soccer Sevens, set to take place from 16-18th May. This annual event promises thrilling matches and an electric atmosphere, bringing together teams from various levels of competition. We are also excited to announce that Liverpool legend **Graeme**Souness will be the guest speaker at the Sportsman's Dinner on 15th May. Please mark your calendars for these important dates as we look forward to an unforgettable weekend of football and camaraderie!





### ACADEMY PLAYER PROFILE TRISTAN VIERKADE



Meet **Tristan Verkade**, an exciting talent born in 2008 who has been making waves in the HKFC Academy since joining at U13. Now a key player for both the U18 and U22 teams, **Tristan's** skill and determination have garnered attention and respect from coaches and teammates alike.

This season, **Tristan** has already made a significant impact, netting 2 goals for the HKFC U22 team and contributing an impressive 3 goals for the leagueleading HKFC U18 squad. His ability to find the back of the net demonstrates not only his striking prowess but also his commitment to team success.

**Tristan's** journey in football began early, earning his first call-up to the Hong Kong Youth Representative Team (HKYRT) at just U10. His dedication has since paid off as he was recently selected to represent HKYRT in the U17 AFC Qualifiers, where he made 4 notable appearances. This opportunity highlights his growing reputation on the international stage and showcases his potential to become a future star.

Off the pitch, **Tristan** is known for his sportsmanship and work ethic, serving as an inspiration to aspiring young players in the academy. As he continues to develop his game, the HKFC community eagerly anticipates watching this talented forward shine in the years to come. Keep an eye on Tristan Verkade; his journey is only just beginning!



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#### **SPORTS**





CUBS - WOMEN'S F TEAM:

#### A SEASON TO REMEMBER

his season has been one for the books so far for the Cubs HKFC F team! With an influx of fresh talent, the squad has been buzzing with energy. The new players have brought enthusiasm and passion to the pitch, and the older team members have stepped up as mentors – acting as the ultimate hype squad and guiding their teammates like seasoned pros.

The biggest highlight? The Cubs earned a well-deserved promotion to Division 2! Competing at a higher level hasn't been easy, but they've risen to the challenge with grit and determination. Every game has been a learning experience, and the Cubs are proving they belong among the division's best.

They have been delivering goals with sharp instincts and fearless finishing. Their ability to turn chances into points has been vital in keeping the Cubs competitive.

This season also brought changes in leadership. **Coach Will** stepped in with fresh ideas and a positive outlook, helping the team adapt to Division 2 with confidence. At the same time, the team had to say goodbye to **Coach Ken** – a bittersweet moment. **Ken's** dedication and passion have left a lasting legacy, and he'll always be a Cubs legend.

To top it off, some of the Cubs have stepped up to play for senior teams, showcasing the incredible talent within the squad. It's inspiring for the younger players and proof that the future of Cubs hockey is bright.

With so much progress this season, the Cubs are just getting started. Here's to more goals, growth and success.





## MEN'S DS TEAM:

### **SEASON SO FAR**

The HKFC Team D's season has been a thrilling mix of highs and lows, showcasing a blend of experience and fresh energy. With 15 games played, 6 victories, 4 draws and 5 losses, the team currently holds fourth place in the second division, trailing Pak B, Antlers and Diocesan.

Despite the current standings, the season is far from over, and there's ample opportunity to ascend the ranks. The squad is a diverse collection of talent, age and ambition, united by a relentless passion that translates into mostly positive results on the pitch.





Anchored by notorious senior Club legends and invigorated by new recruits, Team D embodies a dynamic blend of trial and error. Under the thoughtful guidance of **Alvin Kwong** and **Will Murray**, the team is developing a structured playing style characterised by a hit and hit again philosophy. As the final stretch of the season approaches, Team D is focused on climbing the table and securing a spot in the top 3.



## JUNIOR: U8S UPDATE

The 24/25 hockey season has seen the U8s go from strength to strength. The beginning of the HKFC U8 season started with the Kai Tak Mini Hockey Tournament at Kings Park Hockey Ground in November, where the youngsters got their first taste of the season's competitive hockey with the team reaching the quarter-finals.

With guidance from the hockey director and **Coach Will**, the team bounced back for the Home Centre Mini Hockey Tournament. With a solid defensive structure in **Evie-May**, **Kiera** and **Kane**, **Julie** and **James** in the midfield fed attacking forwards **Jasper** and **Sloane** for a flurry of goals. The HKFC U8s were crowned U8 Champions and **Jasper** was named MVP of the tournament.

The team was further motivated by receiving invitation to be mascots for the HK Woman National Hockey Team in November – the spirited pups rubbed shoulders with the Hong Kong women's side.

The team secured a first runner-up in the Elite Mini Hockey Tournament, reached the semi-final in the HKFC Mini Hockey Tournament and were the first runner-up at the Shaheen Mini Hockey Tournament. The U8 team can look back with pride on a season filled with hard-fought battles and team camaraderie.







Register Now www.HKFC5s.com









he North Course at Kau Sai Chau was the venue for our February golf day, with **Jonny Brock** taking the reins as event organiser. With 24 players in the field, the course proved to be a tough test, playing dry and brittle with unforgiving greens full of bobbles. Even the bunkers played their part, with one player racking up an impressive eight shots to escape the sand.

The challenging conditions took their toll on the field, with 14 centurions (those breaking the 100-shot barrier) officially recorded. That excludes the four players who chose not to submit their cards but likely found themselves in the same boat. A staggering 18 out of 23 players hitting triple figures must be some sort of record!

There was some drama on the leaderboard, with **Jonny** nudging **Chris Burley** into fourth place on a countback of the back nine (which, confusingly, is actually the front nine). To add to the chaos, **Jonny** mistakenly awarded the Best Gross prize to **Helen Hayward** with a 94, only to realise later that **Chris** had actually scored a 93. Thankfully, he had already received a sleeve of balls for his help in transporting them to KSC and for his near-miss in the standings. **Helen**, however, was more than

deserving of her prize for Best Female Gross and for her tireless work picking up all the flags – thank you, **Helen!** 

Amidst all the drama, one of the biggest highlights of the day came on the 3rd hole, where **Dori Dainton** nearly pulled off her second hole-in-one on the same hole. The camera never lies, and she was agonisingly close to another moment of golfing glory!

Despite the tough conditions, it was another fantastic day out for the Golf Society. A huge thank you to **Jonny Brock** for organising the event and to everyone who participated. Whether you were a winner, a loser, or just there for the laughs, we hope you enjoyed the day. See you all at the next event – let's hope the greens are a little kinder!



#### STABLEFORD WINNERS

Andrew Wood	37 points
Robin Zavou	35 points
Jonny Brock	33 points

#### **BEST GROSS SCORES**

Chris Burley	93
Helen Hayward	94

## NEAREST TO THE PIN (NTP) AND LONG DRIVES (LDS)

Jonny Brock	Hole 13 (in 2)
Stephen Wei	Hole 14
Andrew Wood	Hole 2 (in 2)
Dori Dainton	Hole 3
Andrew Wood	Hole 7

#### **LONGEST DRIVES HOLE 17**

Men's	Andrew Wood
Ladies'	Helen Hayward



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\$104 per elder child\* **\$118** 

\* Age for elder child: 8 – 11 years old Age for child: 4 – 7 years old Free of charge for infant below 4 years old

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# FAT CHOY SOCIAL GAME

FRIDAY, 31ST JANUARY 2025

hinese New Year Fat Choy Social Game was held on 31st January 2025 at indoor green, with 60 bowlers participating in an afternoon of fun-filled social game.















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Sportsman's Bar

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#### **ELITE JUNIOR MEMBERS REPORTS**

TUESDAY, 28TH JANUARY - SUNDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

oth of our elite JAMs, Saloni Mehta and Happy Lo, were in the main draw in this year's Thailand Masters. Their opponents were very strong including Putri Wardani, world ranked 12 against Saloni in R32 and Saloni lost in 2 sets. Happy was up against a talented Thai player Tidapron Kleebyeesun, world ranked 71 and Happy lost in 3 sets.



## **CONCLUSION OF ASIA MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP**

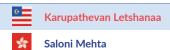
## SALONI MENTA

#### TUESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY - SUNDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

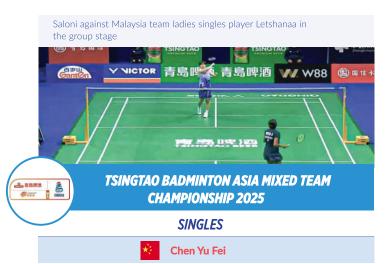
**Saloni** then continued her journey to compete for Hong Kong, China team in the Tsingtao Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship 2025 held in Qingdao, China. Hong Kong, China national team had a tough draw in the group stage, together with Indonesia and Malaysia. Saloni played the first singles against Malaysia's **Karupathevan Letshanaa**, world ranked 53. Even though Saloni lost in 2 sets, Hong Kong, China national team still won an overall game of 3:2 and secured their spot in the quarter-final.

Saloni against Malaysia team ladies singles player Letshanaa in the group stage

TSINGTAO TINGTAO TIN



Hong Kong, China national team then met up with China national team in the quarter-final. Saloni was the first ladies singles player against ex-world ranked 1 and China first ladies singles, **Chen Yu Fei**. Saloni did her best under the circumstances, but Chen was proven too strong and **Saloni** lost in 2 sets. Hong Kong, China national team also lost the overall game and concluded their journey in the quarter-final.



Saloni Mehta



Hong Kong, China national team head coach Wong Choong Han ( $\textit{\textit{LEFT}}$ ) and Saloni Mehta ( $\textit{\textit{RIGHT}}$ )

## PREPARATION FOR EUROPEAN TOUR



While **Saloni** was competing in Asia Mixed Team Championship, **Happy** stayed local to prepare for upcoming European tour, German Open and Orleans Open. Happy is looking forward to results that will allow her to improve her world rankings and chances to compete in the World Championship in Paris this summer.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS ON**

## "THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF TEAM HONG KONG, CHINA AT PARIS 2024"

SPECIAL STAMPS

祝賀中國香港代表隊於2024巴黎奧運取得卓越成績

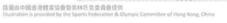
Congratulations on the Outstanding Achievements of Team Hong Kong, China at Paris 2024



Happy autographed on the Hong Kong Stamps Paris Olympics 2024 collection

Hong Kong Post Stamps has designed a set of special stamps and first day envelopes on 30th December 2024 to commemorate the achievements of our 2024 Paris Olympians.

Happy Lo (LEFT) has become one of the Olympians on the national commemorative stamp collection



限程單級計 Designed by CHAN Ching-tru



**HKFC JUNIOR SQUAD REPORTS** 

#### **TEAM CHALLENGE SERIES**

2024 - 2025

SATURDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2025 CLUB PATTERN

After a long Christmas and Chinese New Year's break, our team challenge series has resumed on 21st February with Club Pattern. It was an evening of exciting matches to allow our players to prepare for their upcoming mixed league. Our young players showcased their progress and we won an overall 11 over 13 games.



Annabelle Kui participated in the Chinese YMCA age group singles tournament and won a second runner-up. Congrats to Annabelle!

#### TEAM COACH REPORT

After the long holidays, February was a month for players to recuperate and prepare for the upcoming challenges. While Saloni just concluded Asia Mixed Team Championship, Happy will be heading to Europe for her German and Orleans Open, and Coraline will attend an overseas training camp in March 2025. Both Saloni and Happy will target the qualification in the World Championship in Paris in July 2025.

We have resumed our team challenges to provide sparring opportunities for players to prepare for events such as HKBA Mixed League and the first Yau Tsim Mong Invitational Team League (Spring season). The younger players in U15 and U12 categories are also being invited to compete in Yuen Long Fung Kum Cup again this year. These exciting events will motivate our players to continue putting their best effort in training.

John Leung

#### **UPCOMING JUNIOR EVENTS**

abelle Kui with her trophy

September - May 2025 **HKFC Junior Badminton Team Challenges 2025** 

> March 2025 onwards **HKBA Mixed League**

January - July 2025 **HKFC Junior Badminton Internal Ladder 2025** 

March - May 2025 Yau Tsim Mong Invitational Team League

May 2025 **HKFC and Torg Sports Junior Badminton Tournament** 

> June 2025 **Fung Kum Cup Junior Team Tournament**

July 2025 **HKFC and Torq Sports Overseas Junior Badminton Team Tournament** 



## THE BADMINTON SOCIETY MEN'S TEAM ENTERED INTO THE **FINAL STAGE**

## AT THE CIRCLES LEAGUE

On 23rd February 2025, an exhilarating showdown unfolded as the Hong Kong Football Club's (HKFC) Badminton Team SPMs celebrated a landmark victory in the B Grade Men's Team category of the 2025 Doubles League. In a thrilling encounter against the formidable "翎錄" team, the HKFC players demonstrated exceptional skill, unwavering determination and seamless teamwork, culminating in a resounding 6:2 triumph.

Each match consisted of three pairs of men's doubles, where the first team to secure six leads emerged victorious. The intensity of the competition was palpable as players from both teams displayed remarkable athleticism and strategic acumen. Every rally was a testament to the hard work and dedication that both teams had invested in their training, making for a series of gripping matches.

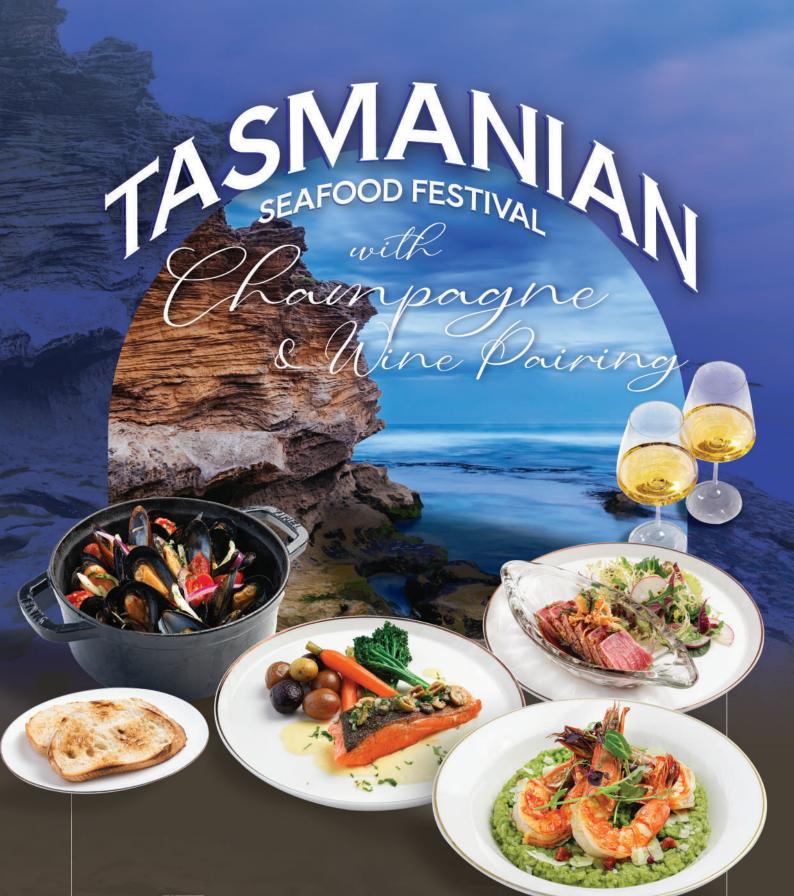
As the games progressed, the HKFC team showcased their resilience, overcoming significant challenges posed by their opponents. The players executed well-coordinated strategies, effectively communicating and adapting to the dynamic flow of the matches. Their ability to maintain composure under pressure was particularly commendable, reflecting the high standards of training and commitment that the Club instills in its members. This victory not only highlights the team's current form but also sets a precedent for future competitions.

This win is especially significant for the HKFC badminton team SPMs as it marks their advancement to the Group Stage, matching last year's achievement of reaching the Quarter-finals. The team's impressive performance against "翎錄" is a testament to their competitive spirit and sportsmanship, showcasing what can be accomplished through dedication and teamwork.

As the tournament progresses, we look forward to seeing how our SPMs build on this momentum. We wish them the best of luck in their remaining competitions and are excited to support them as they aim for further success in this year's tournament!









A Shore Thing: Exceptional Seafood, Exquisite Pairings Throughout the months of March and April at the Chairman's Bar.

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## HIGHLIGHTS IN APRIL

#### **FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS**



#### Saturday, 19th April 2025

#### 1st Ever Easter on the Pitch

**т**ме 2 – 7рм

Games open from 2pm Egg hunt at 4pm Movie at 5pm

**VENUE** Main Pitch

PRICE Adult

\$100 per member \$150 per non-member

Junior \$200 per member (Aged 4 - 17) \$250 per non-member Child \$20 per member

Child \$20 per member (Aged below 4) \$30 per non-member



#### Egg-ceptional Hoppy Easter!

#### Coffee Shop

#### Easter Buffet

**DATE** Friday, 18th April to Monday, 21st April 2025

#### Easter Buffet Lunch with Junior Chef Master Class

DATE Sunday, 20th April 2025

#### Restaurant

#### Easter Wine Lunch

DATE Saturday, 19th April 2025 Sunday, 20th April 2025

Kiosk

**Easter Goodies** 

#### **FAMILY LOUNGE**

#### Tiramichoux

Choux Pastry Meets Tiramisu Magic!

Beverage: Thai Milk Tea

#### CATERING



#### Saturday, 26th April 2025

#### **Catering Consultation Day**

**тіме** 1 – 5pm

**VENUE** Happy Valley Suite 1, 2/F Free Admission, by appointment only



#### **Graduation Dinner Package**

Scan here for menu and offers





For venue visits and enquiries, please contact the Catering Office at 2830 9513 or catering@hkfc.com

#### SPORTSMAN'S BAR



#### Band Bash

**DATE** Saturday, 19th April 2025

The third Saturday night of

each month

**тіме** 7 - 10рм



Let's Get Skewered: Shashlik Style!

#### RESTAURANT

#### Mangalica Pork: The Kobe of Pork

Experience the unrivaled quality of the rare breed

#### HAPPY HOUR



#### Sportsman's Bar & Captain's Bar

#### Super Bock

Buy 1 Get 1 Free

**DATE** Monday to Friday

**TIME** 5 – 7pm

#### Captain's Bar

#### **Bot Beer (Bucket)**

Available throughout the month of April

#### CAPTAIN'S BAR



#### **Cornish Pasty**

Cornish to the Core, Delicious to the Crust

#### **COFFEE SHOP**



#### Fukuoka Yatai Food Stalls

Feast on the Flavours of Fukuoka's Night Market!

Monthly Special: Bibimbap Beverage: Japanese Soda Float

#### POOL BAR



#### Global Fried Chicken

Crispy, Juicy, and Inspired by Flavours Around the World!

Beverage: Japanese Soda Float

## WINE EVENTS

#### Thursday, 10th April 2025

#### Wine Master Class: Greek Wine and Food

**тіме** 7рт – 8:30рт

**VENUE** Happy Valley Suite 1, 2/F

PRICE \$298 per person

(\$50 refund for any wine purchased right after the class)



Saturday, 26th April 2025 Sunday, 27th April 2025

#### Wine Fair: Mom and Dad Celebration Gift Fair

**ТІМЕ** 1:30pm – 6pm

**VENUE** Lockhart Room, 2/F

Tasting available



Friday, 25th April 2025

#### Wine Dinner: Bulgarian Wine Dinner

тіме 7:30pm Welcome Drink,

followed by Dinner

**VENUE** Restaurant, 2/F

PRICE \$888 per member

\$938 per member's guest

#### KIOSK



#### **Dutch Oven Stew**

Slow-cooked Goodness, Ready to Serve at Home!

## PREVIEW IN MAY

#### **MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAMME**

Coffee Shop: Buffet Lunch and Dinner with Mother's Day Activity

Restaurant: Set Lunch and Dinner Happy Valley Suites: Mother's Day Brunch

#### **MASTERCLASS & WINE EVENTS**

Thursday, 22th May 2025 Masterclass: **Keto Diet** 

Friday, 23th May 2025

Wine Dinner: French Wine Dinner

Saturday, 24th May | Sunday, 25th May 2025

Wine Fair: Introduction of the New House Wine

#### **COFFEE SHOP**

Buffet Theme: Cocina Española

Monthly Special: Classic Cantonese Dishes Beverage: Sangria / Virgin Sangria

#### **POOL BAR**

Hot Dog by the Pool

Beverage: Sangria / Virgin Sangria

#### RESTAURANT

White Asparagus

#### SPORTSMAN'S BAR

Back Patio: BBQ Wood Smoked Meat & Fish

Saturday, 17th May 2025 Time: 7 – 10 pm

Monthly Special: Band Bash

#### **CHAIRMAN'S BAR**

Food: French Alsatian Cuisine Tea Set: Le Salon de Thé

Beverage: Classic French Cocktail

#### CAPTAIN'S BAR

Food: Lampredotto Sandwich Beverage: Protein Drink

#### FAMILY LOUNGE

Food: Tuscan Chicken Pie Beverage: Milo Dinosaur

#### KIOSK

Hot Items: Lu Wei

#### RESTAURANT

TEL 2830 9562
EMAIL restaurant@hkfc.com



TEL 2830 9569
EMAIL coffeeshop@hkfc.com



TEL 2830 9531
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TEL 2830 9559
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TEL 2837 2622 EMAIL bar@hkfc.com



TEL 2837 2663 EMAIL bar@hkfc.com



TEL 2830 9531
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TEL 2837 2678 EMAIL kiosk@hkfc.com

#### CATERING SERVICE

TEL 2830 9513 EMAIL catering@hkfc.com











## New Arrivals





N-PKU

1. Rugby Head Guard \$1280

2XU

2. Run Visor \$150

#### **PILLAR PERFORMANCE**

**3.** Collagen Repair - Tendon & Ligament Loose Powder Unflavoured - Pouch (255g) \$430

Ultra Immune C Powder Tropical Pouch (200g) \$390
 Triple Magnesium Professional Recovery Powder

Berry - Pouch (200g) \$360

**6.** Triple Magnesium Professional Recovery Powder Pineapple Coconut - Jar (200g) \$360 **7.** Micro shaker \$120

TA ENERGY

8. Electrolytes Hydration Tabs \$75 9. Energy Gommes (5 flavours) \$25

10. Organic Energy Bar (2 flavours) \$28



## Proud to support **HKFC rugby section** since 2014 and the **2025 HKFC 10s tournament**



Natixis other sponsorships:

Racing 92 15-a-side since 2007

Racing 92 Natixis 7s since 2020

Natixis Corporate & Investment Banking is a leading global financial institution that provides advisory, investment banking, financing, corporate banking and capital markets services to corporations, financial institutions, financial sponsors and sovereign and supranational organizations worldwide.







