

# CLUB



HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB 香港足球會 APRIL 2021



## MINIS BY THE NUMBERS

*Squash*

**A CHAT WITH  
THE WORLD NO. 1  
ALI FARAY**

*Your daily fitness routine*

**WORK DEEPER MUSCLES  
WITH MEDICINE BALL**

*Sportsman's  
Bar*

Spices and fresh herbs dominate Mediterranean cuisine, giving it the unique and fresh flavour that everyone has come to know and love. Life is so completely zany and free, by the Mediterranean sea.



# **Mediterranean Skewers and Wraps**

## **FROM EVERY PORT OF CALL**

Available at the Sportsman's Bar Front Patio Pop-up  
every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in April.

Enquiries: 2830 9531 or [sportsmans@hkfc.com](mailto:sportsmans@hkfc.com)



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## GENERAL COMMITTEE

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<b>Vice President</b>	Fook Aun Chew Bobby Lawson Iain Valentine John Shanahan
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<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Fredric Teng
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<b>Director of Finance</b>	Ricky Chan
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<b>Facilities Manager</b>	Evan Tao
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<b>Human Resources Manager</b>	Angela Chan
<b>Executive Housekeeper</b>	Lily Huynh
<b>Digital and Communications Manager</b>	Denise Chow

## 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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# HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB **YEARLY STAR AWARDS**



**E**MPLOYEE OF THE YEAR  
Samson Cheng



**S**UPERVISOR OF THE YEAR  
Wong Wai Man



**L**EADER OF THE YEAR  
Tracy Fung

# THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

## 主席的話

Michael J. Wood  
Chairman



We are now well into the first cycle of vaccinations against the COVID-19 virus which hopefully bodes well for the coming months and a wish to be able to see light at the end of the tunnel. In addition, with reduced cases being reported and the continuing relaxation of social distancing measures, the general atmosphere is now more positive.

On a happier note I attended the deferred **Employee of the Year Awards** for 2019/2020 and also presented a number of **Staff Long Service Awards** culminating in the 30 year long service award for **Eva Tsang**. This was a very pleasant afternoon and all done with appropriate social distancing measures in place. The Employees of the Year are as follows:

**Employee of the Year** was **Samson Cheng** from the Kitchen

**Supervisor of the Year** was **Wai Man Wong** from Housekeeping

**Leader of the Year** was **Tracy Fung** from the F&B Office

As ever, the Club remains vigilant to any potential problems resulting from the current circumstances and in line with this you will note that we have enhanced measures for entry to and exit from the Club which is in line with Government recommendations. This is done to ensure the best possible protection for our Members and Staff.

Please remember to bring your membership card to scan at the entrance and ensure that any guests have the Government **LeaveHomeSafe** application available to use and have been told about this before they arrive at the Club. Unfortunately, there have been a few guests of members who have stated that they refuse to use the Government app, and on this basis they have been and will continue to be refused entry to the Club.

Michael J. Wood  
Chairman

自新冠疫苗接種計劃推出以來，已經有十多萬香港人接種第一劑疫苗，希望這是未來幾個月疫情放緩的好兆頭，甚至會能夠看到一切回復正常的曙光。再者，隨著感染個案下降及社交距離措施不斷放寬，現時香港整體環境也出現好轉。

正因如此，延期足足一年的2019/2020年度**最佳員工頒獎儀式**終於順利舉行，本人很高興可以在場頒發多項**員工長期服務獎**，最後更能夠親自向**曾茂香**頒授30年長期服務獎，令頒獎儀式得以完美落幕。當日氣氛相當愉快，大家亦有做足社交距離措施，以下是年度最佳員工的得獎者：

全年最佳員工獎—鄭德政（餐飲部）

全年最佳主管獎—黃慧文（管家部）

全年最佳領袖獎—馮翠絲（餐飲部）

雖然一切朝着樂觀方向發展，但大家不能因此鬆懈，本會會一如以往繼續保持警覺，將近日放寬措施所帶來的潛在風險減到最低，有見及此，大家會留意到本會依照政府建議加強了限制出入措施，務求所有會員及員工得到最佳保障。

故此，為方便大家出入，請緊記攜帶會員證及確保同行訪客在到訪本會前已知悉需要掃描「安心出行」應用程式，方可進入。很不幸地，近來有幾位與會員同行的訪客明確表示不會使用「安心出行」，故此本會已經並將繼續拒絕他們進入會所範圍，還望大家配合。

主席 胡米高

## OBITUARY

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

**Alan Powrie.**

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



# HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB **LONG SERVICE AWARDS**



**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
Eva Tsang



**25 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
Tony Sealy, Vivian Yeung



**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
Chung Yuet Ling, Chan Ming Tai,  
Rebecca Chiu, Kong Nga Wing



**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**  
Wong Cheuk Yin, Joyce Kwok, Derek Chan,  
Ng Fook Leung, Alan Siu



**5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Andy Sze, Erica Shiu, Woody Li, Cheung Chi Hong, Cheung Wai Oi,  
Chow Miu Yi, Fu Mei Yi, Huang Zhijian, Wong Wing Shu, Wallace Chow, Eddie Ng

# FROM THE DESK OF MARK PAWLEY

## 總經理的話

Sadly, for the second year running there will be no **Rugby Week** in early April. And, we have just been informed that as a further consequence of the pandemic that the **International Soccer Sevens**, normally held in May of each year, has also had to be cancelled for the second year running. I note too that at time of writing, the **HK Squash League** has just cancelled the 2020/2021 Squash League season. On the plus side, we still have nearly all of our sports and recreational facilities open so, at least members are able to still train and, where possible, still involve themselves in those representative sports that still have their respective playing seasons in place.

While we may be a little quiet on the sporting front this month it seems that Food and Beverage are ploughing on regardless with a number of enticing monthly promotions which are highlighted on page 24 and 25 of this magazine. Of note would be the **Mood Indigo promotion in the Restaurant** (with purple asparagus being in season) and the novel **Easter Sharing Platters available for take out from the Coffee Shop**. Also, in the **Coffee Shop on Friday and Saturday evenings**, in the month of April, we are continuing with the very popular **Japanese Sakura Dinner Buffet** which we ran at weekends in March.

For wine lovers, on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April we have the Iconic Wines of South Africa wine lunch** which is followed on **Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> April by a "Live Opera" Wine Dinner** (with the opera performance being subject to a change in current Government policy as regards "Live" music). For sake lovers we have the **Yushinogawa Sake Wine Master Class on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April** and after this we have a **Wine Fair in the Lockhart Room over the weekend of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**.

As the Chairman has noted in his article we recently held an **Employee of the Year Awards** presentation in conjunction with the presentation of a number of **Staff Long Service Awards** for the year 2019/2020. **Many congratulations are in orders to our Employees of the Year and a Big "Thank You" to all our long serving Staff.**

I look forward to seeing you all at the Club.

**Mark Pawley,**  
**General Manager**

**Mark Pawley**  
**General Manager**



很遺憾一開始便帶來壞消息，就是今年連續第二年未能於四月初舉辦**欖球週**，而剛剛更得知由於疫情的進一步衝擊，過往於每年5月舉行的**國際七人足球賽**同樣連續第二年被迫取消，再在下筆之際，**香港壁球聯賽**亦決定取消舉辦2020/2021香港壁球聯賽賽事；不過往好的方向想，本會差不多所有體育及康樂設施仍然開放，至少會員能夠照常操練，有機會的話還可以在部份如常開季的體育項目中大展拳腳。

儘管今個月應該沒有太多有關體育賽事的動靜，但餐飲部依然在疫情下逆流而上，推出多個每月限定的誘人推廣，重點已經一一詳列於24及25頁當中，其中不得不提的是**Restaurant的靛藍風情特色料理**（紫蘆荀剛好當造）以及**Coffee Shop的外賣自取復活節分享拼盤**。此外，有鑑於**Coffee Shop三月逢星期五及六晚供應的櫻之花語日式自助晚餐反應熱烈**，我們決定將花語為「生命」的櫻花之味延續至四月，讓大家再次回味一番。

也許愛酒之人對以上美食沒有太大興趣，但是**4月5日（星期一）的南非精選餐酒搭配午餐**總不能錯過，緊隨其後還有**4月16日（星期五）的「對酒高歌」品酒晚宴**（歌劇表演將因應政府有關「現場」音樂表演的防疫措施而會有所變動），我們更為清酒迷特設**4月22日（星期四）的吉乃川清酒品酒班**，最後以週末**4月27日（星期六）及4月28日（星期日）在Lockhart Room舉行的酒展**作結，保證大家樂而忘返。

喜事一浪接一浪，正如主席先前提到，我們最近舉行了**2019/2020全年最佳員工頒獎儀式**，並一同頒發多個**長期服務獎**。在此恭喜三位年度最佳員工，以及向所有長年累月為本會服務的職員致以衷心「感謝」！

期待與大家在本會相見！

**總經理 龐禮文**

Tell us how you fooled other Club Members this year and the funniest ones  
can win big prizes, sponsored by **Peroni**.

Or why not fool them down at the Bar to get immediately on the leader board?  
Just be sure you tell the Staff beforehand.

Deadline is 25<sup>th</sup> April and winners will be announced on 29<sup>th</sup> April.

# I PITY THE FOOL!



# APRIL FOOL'S DAY

*Sportsman's  
Bar*

Enquiries: 2830 9531 or [sportsmans@hkfc.com](mailto:sportsmans@hkfc.com)

## EXERCISE OF THE MONTH

# REACHING SUMO SQUAT WITH A MEDICINE BALL

### ABOUT MAVERICK

Maverick is a highly experienced and qualified personal trainer, running coach, boxing coach. He can help you to improve both health and fitness levels, achieve your weight management goals, and improve running skills and performance. Maverick is also an experienced martial artist trained in boxing. Whatever your fitness goal, Maverick will ensure that you are able to meet your goals safely and enjoyably.

**Personal Fitness Trainer**  
International Personal Trainer  
Academy

**Athletes Coach**  
International Association of  
Athletics Federations

**Distance Running Instructor**  
Asian Academy for Sports &  
Fitness Professionals

**Boxing Instructor**  
Hong Kong Boxing Association

**Kick Boxing Trainer**  
International Professional  
Combat Council

**Functional Training Trainer**  
Springs Programme

### BENEFIT

To improve cardiovascular fitness, targets the gluteus maximus, quadriceps, inner thigh muscles, hamstrings, core, shoulders, and arms.

Do 10 reps as 1 round and 15 seconds off each for 6 rounds.



**1 Starting posture:** Stand with your feet wider than shoulder-width apart, toes turned out, holding the medicine ball on the floor with both hands

**2** Drive through your heels to stand as you swing the weight overhead, keeping your arms straight, squeezing your glutes at the top

**3** Engage your core and keep your chest lifted and back flat as you shift your weight onto your heels, push your hips back

**4** Bend your knees to lower into a squat, repeat the rep immediately when the medicine ball reaches the floor, push your hips back

**REMARKS** 1. Exhale as reach up. 2. Aim to complete each round in a shorter time. 3. You may consider different weights of medicine balls for each round, however, the movement should remain smooth and consistent.

## MINI RUGBY

# BY THE NUMBERS

**W**e take a look at the numbers underlying HKFC Mini Rugby's, the Minis, success.

On Sunday mornings the biggest mini rugby project in Hong Kong rumbles, stumbles and (sometimes) grumbles into action: from very early until lunchtime, when our former Minis, the Colts, take over.

During this 2020/21 season, on a normal rugby Sunday, Minis connects over 700 players with over 230 coaches, divided among eleven age groups from U4s to U12s, across half-a-dozen playing pitches.

Those not in the Club on Sunday mornings may not witness this large project. But here is an appreciation of the numbers needed to keep the training running on time.



U12 vs Valley

Hundreds of young girls and boys train for, and play rugby every Sunday morning

## 710

boys and girls registered in the 2020/21 season

### FROM U4 TO U12

9 age groups

### FROM U9 TO U12

girls-only age groups

Minis play rugby in mixed teams until they reach eight years old (U9) when contact rugby begins.

At this point, the option of joining girls-only teams arises.

Coaches that care

Over **230** volunteer coaches of all types – Mums, Dads, former players, new to the game. All types of coaches are welcome at Minis

Approximately HKD500k per season invested in coaching costs, both for professional coaches (Pro-Coaches) and coaching education for volunteer parents.

## 14

Head Coaches

## 7

Pro-Coaches

## 7

Team Managers

Each age group in Minis has its own Head Coach. Many of the larger groups also depend on a Team Manager to manage the athletes (and, more importantly, the parents). Since the 2019/20 season, Minis' contact age groups include a Pro-Coach – rugby players who typically play for HKFC's First Teams, Ice and Club, and give our young players that extra edge.



Delivering Mini Rugby throughout the season

Over **30** Sunday Mini Rugby sessions for all ages

Over **30** mid-week sessions on Mondays or Thursdays for U9s and older age groups

Monthly meetings of Mini Rugby Committee

**6**  
Mini Rugby festivals

**1**  
overseas tour to Singapore

Mini Rugby is a year-round activity. Registration commences at the end of June. Rugby kit is issued in August and training starts in September. Rugby training continues during most weekends, rain or sun, until April, and during the season there are half-a-dozen festivals. There is an overseas tour, usually to Singapore in November or May.



Minis at the 7s

Keeping Lockdown Rugby going via Zoom sessions

**240** minutes of Zoom sessions per month

**8** sessions per month

**4** age groups targeted: U9 and U10s (joint session) and U11 and U12s (joint)

During the Lockdown Months, Steve Jones, HKFC's mini coaching coordinator, has organised online sessions during midweek afternoons. Kids complete physical exercises for half-an-hour during a Zoom session. Includes Rock'n'Roll!

Getting hundreds into the right rugby kit

Over **700** sets of (named) players jerseys, shorts, and socks

Over **240** sets of coaches' tops, shorts, hoodies, and caps

Over **200** new rucksacks for all U5 players and new joiners in all years

**3** weekend kit distributions, including chances to name jerseys

**1** season-long partnership with Samurai, the world leader in sports kit

Minis issues fresh kit each season to hundreds of players and coaches. A dedicated Kit Director performs this logistical challenge supported by a large team of volunteers on kit distribution days. By tradition, a year stamp and sponsors' logos make every season look unique.



Minis at 7s



Pro coaches



Pro coaches

## MINIS PLAYERS AND COACHES THIS SEASON

Age	Head Coach	Players	Volunteer coaches	Pro Coaches
U4	Alvin Sin	45	1	0
U5	Rob Shaw	59	30	0
U6	Chris Kenyon-Edwards	95	38	0
U7	Dean Cooper	98	33	0
U8	James Woods	96	31	0
U9	Declan Hogan Mark Tsui	79	26	1
U10	Duncan Grewcock Alex Davey	61	22	1
U11	Paul McSheaffrey	46	18	1
U12	Robin Zavou	56	15	1
U9G/U10G	Ben Hartwright Allen Schoonmaker	35	15	2
U11G/U12G	Rob Wall	40	8	1
		<b>710</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>7</b>

### Minis and the Sevens

**437**

adult tickets

**447**

children tickets

**11** exhibition games

**1** march past with  
all the players and parents

Every year, HKFC Minis compete with other clubs in the early mornings of the Sevens weekend. These matches take place when many Sevens' revellers cannot even comprehend that there are two 6 o'clocks in the day! There is also a march-past where hundreds of HKFC Minis players and dozens of coaches wear Club colours on the Main Pitch. Over 400 of the Minis families attend at least one day of the Sevens. This is the only World Rugby 7s tournament which permits the participation of Mini Rugby.

Delivering Hong Kong's  
"Season Finale" Mini Rugby Festival

**11,500** people visiting  
Football Club during the day,  
players and parents

**4,300** participation medals issued,  
players or not

**3,800** players playing 658 games  
between 329 teams of mini rugby  
involving from U5 to U11

**41** rugby pitches marked out across  
Club and Happy Valley pitches

Hosting the Kim Lam Cup (U12 Girls)  
and Richard Hawkes Trophy  
(U12 Boys) finals day

Every year, shortly before the Sevens weekend, HKFC hosts a huge Mini Rugby festival, using pitches at Club and Happy Valley. It is usually the last festival of the Mini Rugby season. Visitors to the Club exceed ten thousand, enjoying a huge rugby day that culminates in the U12 season finals.



ChildFund Pass It Back in Hoa Binh, Vietnam



# RUGBY SECTION COMMUNITY

Minis are an important part of the home games for our Senior Premiership games, with our U12s providing games as curtain raisers against the corresponding minis teams. Often players from these games will go on to act as ball girls or ball boys for the main game (and earning HK\$50 for their troubles courtesy of the HKRU).

Sharing the rugby spirit with others

## HK\$70,000

raised for donations to charity as part of the joining fee

**888** pieces of kit donated to ChildFund Pass It Back in Hoa Binh, Vietnam (in 2020)

**53** children from Po Leung Kuk registered to play rugby at HKFC

**HK\$55,000** donated to Po Leung Kuk to support chaperones for those players training at HKFC and Happy Valley pitches, or attending Mini Rugby Festivals

Minis Charity Group, of volunteers and coaches, to ensure maximum impact

Every season Minis tries to share rugby spirit by actions, not just words, showing the values of caring and consideration. Particularly treasured is the Minis partnership with Po Leung Kuk, the orphanage near HKFC, who regularly introduces rugby to new players. To further underline charity impact, in 2020 minis signed a charity partnership with Laureus Sport For Good and set up a Charity Group to ensure their altruism has real impact.

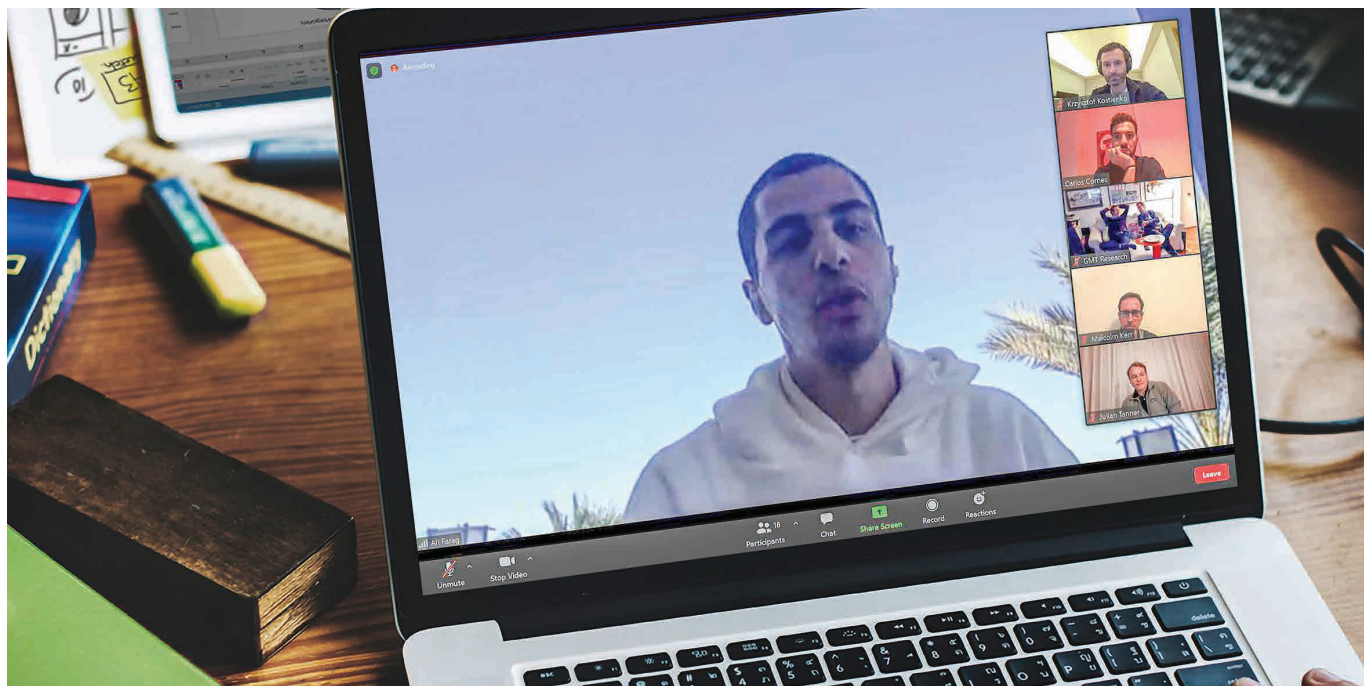
Partnering with sponsors

Hundreds of thousands of dollars (HKD) per season in sponsorship. More is ever welcome, by the way – and in demand!

5 signature sponsors on Mini Rugby kits. From financial services to IT leaders, they have a name on Minis jerseys and shorts

Partnering with the wider commercial world is important for Minis. This season Minis have six signature sponsors, which besides bringing in sponsorship money, connects sponsors with the junior rugby world through events and meetings. Minis have also signed an agreement with Laureus Sport For Good, a charity organiser





## SQUASH

# A CHAT WITH THE WORLD NO. 1

# ALI FARAG

### Who is the mentally toughest player you had to play against?

"I would have to say Mohamed el Shorbagy, for me the most important challenge to be successful in life, not only in squash is to be very very hard to break down, and he is so tough to break on court. Even if he's not 100 % on the day he is gonna find a way to hurt you. If you want to beat him you will have to be at your 110%. I totally respect that and I try to learn from him all the time."

### Who is the most talented player on tour?

"Obviously you have to say Ramy Ashour, he is at another level, but now

that he is retired, I think it would be a combination between Fares Desouki, Karim Abdel Gawad and Abouelghar. If I could take 10% of each of them I would be lucky."

### Who is the toughest Hong Kong player you had to play?

"Max Lee. I played a match against him in the HK classic 2016. I was seeded to beat him and we played in the last 16. You know how the crowd is in HK and they were cheering for him all the time and he played an unbelievable match. I learnt a lot from that match, it taught me how to beat the HK players. They all have a unique style of playing."

### What's your daily routine for training?

"We have the season from September to June. And we have July and August of, which is the most important part of the year for me. This is when I fuel my tank with really hard training. You have to build your strength, endurance, your speed, your tactics... So during my summer training I do an off court training session in the morning that lasts 2 hours, snack and go on court for my first squash session of the day for an hour or so. I get some lunch and nap, resting it is a huge part of our training as well. Then back to the Club at night play a tough match with the other Egyptians, we really push each other to the limits! This is the beauty of living in Egypt you can play with a different player everyday!"

## QUICK QUESTIONS!

### Hardest match you've been involved?

"Against Paul Coll in the British Open, it was the end of the season and he's such a fit lad. We both ended up about to cramp..."

### Best Hong Kong memory?

"My first ever PSA tournament was in Hong Kong, it was 2009 and I didn't know where my level was. I beat an Indian guy who was in the top 100 and then lost to Leo in the quarter finals."

### Best venue on tour?

"Grand Central Station in New York and the pyramids in Egypt."

### What's your favourite warm-up song?

"It changes every-time, I like remember the name, its one that really fires me up before a match."

### Sporting idol?

"Peter Nicol."

### Favourite food?

"Depends on the mood but, I would have to say Sushi!"

### Football team?

"Arsenal!"

Thanks to that Ali!!



# WE SALUTE YOU MALCOLM

As I'm sure you've heard, after 20+ years of gracing the squash courts of the HKFC Malcolm Kerr is moving back to the UK to expand his leisure consultancy empire. We of course wish him the very best of luck.

To many Malcolm has been the single most influential person in the Section during his time at the Club and it's only right that we send him on his way with a tribute to his many achievements as both a player and administrator.

As a player Malcolm has won just about everything. His accolades include HKFC Men's Champion, Master's Champion, Super Masters Champion (well that's what it says on the board...), Division 1 Champion, Asian Masters Champion, Hong Kong Masters Champion (various age groups), and has represented Scotland at Masters level. He also has an annoyingly good golf swing..

As an administrator Malcolm has been your representative on the HKFC General Committee fighting the good fight for the Squash Section and for the past two years as Chairman of the Section. In 2014 he personally organised and underwrote bringing the World Squash Masters to the HKFC. An enormous undertaking that drew rave reviews from the hundreds of competitors that joined from countries far and wide. Alongside our annual PSA International tournament the World Squash Masters put the HKFC firmly

on the world map as a destination for major squash tournaments.

More recently Malcolm has overseen bringing in Carlos as Director of Squash and ushering in a new era for the Section. His last initiative, alongside the likes of big Dave, is a bid to bring the World Teams Championships to the HKFC, which would even surpass the PSA tournaments by bringing the biggest names in world squash to the Club. Fingers crossed.

On a personal note Malcolm and I have played more times than its possible to count, and have had many an almighty battle along the way, being adversaries in a number of men's, masters and super masters finals, and I'm pretty sure the ledger isn't in my favour.. When you step on court with Malcolm you know you're going to have to dig very, very deep to earn that win. Not an inch will be given.

It has been my pleasure to call Malcolm a friend, doubles partner, teammate and toughest opponent. A proud Scotsman who actually buys a drink, and a man with a strong opinion about anything and everything. Never a dull moment!

Anyway Malc, on behalf of the Squash Section we salute you. Now get that London squash tour organised!

**Keith**





Ferg in non-regulation shirt and Nick vs. Jeremy



Chris and Don and those hot pink shirts

## GOLF

# HACKS V. HACKERS AKA FCC GS V. HKFC GS

Kau Sai Chau North Course | Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Golf is back! This was our first match of 2021 after being postponed from January due to the continuing COVID-19 shut down of all golf since early December. This has been an annual fixture since 2014, where FCC gained a creditable draw, but have lost ever since. Normally held in Macau, for the third successive year, we were back at Kau Sai Chau and the North Course.



Andrew and Rich in the sunshine



Matt and KK happy in their Dragon shirts

The Hacks vs. Hackers trophy somehow went missing in 2019 between Sai Kung and Sports Road. Fortunately, our eagle-eyed Captain saw it buried amongst the Lawn Bowls silverware in our shared trophy cabinet! It's an aptly named cup and rather beautiful, so happy it's back with its rightful owners. Two rusty teams and us not putting out our "Big Guns" due to our rotation policy would make this a more closely fought affair.

After months of glorious sunshine, rain was to greet us as we entered Sai Kung town. Not ideal, but the forecast was promising. Unfortunately for FCC, one of their players could not get his retractable car roof to work and pulled out due to the rain! They must be cursed, as one of their players also pulled out last year, when his car was hit by a scooter the previous night. Would they rue our extra man again I wonder?

Fergus McCoig and Nick Allen were first onto the 10th tee (our 1st), to get the action underway. They were up against the lone **Jeremy Bolland**, so surely, we could get off to a winning start? Fergus hits it long and Nick putts well even with his 3-wood, so what could go wrong? I saw them approaching the 6th green where it was all smiles, as they had already closed out a 6 and 5 win. HKFC 1 up.

Stalwart **Chris Burley** and **Don Roberts** were playing for the first time together, so I wondered if they could "ham and egg" well enough in this all HK Seniors GS match-up. **Greg Cornfield** and **Fritz Pfrang** are a seasoned pair, so this social affair changed a little after our pair went 3 down after just four holes. However, they turned it around by the



Big Tom and John looking down on their opponents



Will and Justin admiring our opponents lady caddies

back nine to get themselves level. Tidy golf being played, alas unfortunately for our pair one had 7 pars and the other had 6 pars, all on exactly the same holes! That's just the way it goes sometimes in better-ball. FCC winning 2 and 1. Match All Square.

**Andrew Wood** and debutant **Rich Maton** needed something to nudge the team ahead against **James Au** and **Matt Chung**. Thankfully, Rich showing no newbie nerves started well with the Captain somewhat shaky. The North Course plays longer than The East or South and we were winning the par 4's and 5's to put them under the cosh. By the 10th hole, a strong lead had been built and with Andrew now finding his form, we were not letting them back in. Fists were bumped on our 14th hole for a 6 and 4 win. HKFC back to 1 up.

The fourth match had **Matt Burke** pairing up with **Krzysztof Kostienko** (aka KK) taking on FCC's **Henry Fung** and **Ilan Horowitz**. A pivotal match in the grand scheme of the contest. Our pair started well enough going 2 up to then go down by the odd hole for most of the contest. Ilan started playing some gamesmanship by suggesting it was a 2-shot penalty from the drop zone to try to break the comeback, with KK carrying his opponent on the front half and Matt finding his rhythm on the back nine for long enough to eke out a hard fought halve. Match 2½ - ½ up, with 2 to play.

**John Thompson** and **Tom Hayman** were not to know that a win would bring the trophy home for a 7th year in a row against **Joseph Chu** and **Robin Wong**. FCC were not giving up without a fight and in what was another close

encounter, fair play to the Journo's who played very well to get a point on the board for FCC to keep them alive with a victory 2 and 1 – therefore closing the gap to 2½ - 1½, with just the last flight to play out.

I had put out a strong anchor pairing in the knowledge that it could well be the decider. **Will Glover** and **Justin Faulkner** both not new to the big match atmosphere and working well under pressure up against another decent pairing of **Qing Feng** and **Roger Choi**. Nip and tuck all the way in what was a cracker. As they say, save the best 'till last! So, it all went down to the final green with us just about pulling through 1 up. Fabulous drama and all played in the best spirit. A very close overall result - HKFC winning 3½ - 2½.



Nearly a great day for FCC

## PRIZES WERE WON BY

### Near Pin Winners

- #3 Tom Hayman
- #7 Justin Faulkner
- #11 Greg Cornfield
- #14 James Au

### Drive/Pitch Winner

*an Eagle 2!*

- #15 Tom Hayman

### Longest Drive Winner

*boomed 280 yards!*

- #8 Fergus McCoig

So, an even sweeter victory given a nail-biting finish and an excellent start to 2021 to keep the unbeaten 2020 run going for our talented Golf Society Team. We look forward to defending it hopefully back in Macau early 2022.

FCC are making this fixture more competitive, but if they could just get all 12 players out, who knows the result. For now, this trophy remains in our cabinet. Hands off Lawn Bowls!

Lastly, some stayed on at the clubhouse and then went on into Sai Kung town for a few fizzy beverages, others zipped back to The Sportsman's Bar for liquid refreshments. After all, each victory is more than a reason to celebrate!

**Andrew Wood**  
Captain, Golf Society

## BADMINTON

# JUNIORS BACK TO TRAINING

After a long 2 months away from badminton, the COVID restrictions have finally been relaxed, and selective sports facilities have reopened. 2020-2021 has been a difficult year especially for Society team training, development and gaining tournament experience. Both juniors and seniors are eager to get back on court and hoping to catch up with all the time that was lost.



Coach John (black jacket) and chairman David Man

## TEAM PRACTICE BACK TO SESSIONS AND PLAN TO STRENGTHEN TRAINING

Badminton Society teams have also resumed their practice on Friday. In order to strengthen the junior performance programme and team training, committee also arrange and collaborate with ICC to establish a regular team practice schedule every Tuesday and Friday. The development and training plan will be the focus of the Society's upcoming 3-year plan. Two court hours have been reallocated from the Sunday morning session to Tuesday evenings.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Badminton Society Annual Party

Combining Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year and probably Easter

Tentative April 2021

### Grassroots Sunday Programmes

To be announced

### Challenge Series

Resume in April 2021

### Junior Tournaments and Challenge Series

To be announced

## SWIMMING AND TRIATHLON

# HKFC SWIMMING HAS FIRST RACE OF 2021



Alex Fong in action

This month, the HKFC Swimming and Triathlon team was excited to compete in our first official race of 2021, the Cold Half Marathon, on 21st February, 2021. The Cold Half Marathon Swim is a 15km winter marathon charity swim on Hong Kong Island from Stanley Main Beach to Deep Water Bay Beach. It can be completed solo or in a 2 person team and is segregated into two categories. Naturally Ocean, which is no wetsuit, or Wetsuited and Buoyant which is with a wetsuit. With water temperatures topping out at 20°C, the event really lived up to its name, even with a wetsuit!



And they're off!



Cat, Alex and Lachlan before the race



Judy and Begum

### COLDXTREME 2021

Solo/ Male / Natural

Alex Fong 1st place

Solo / Male / Wetsuited

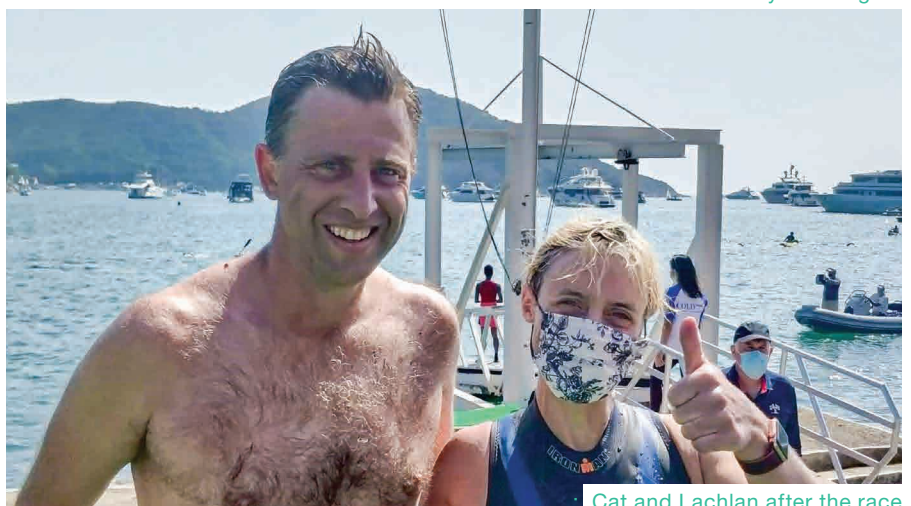
Mayank Vaid 6th place

Mixed Relay / Wetsuited

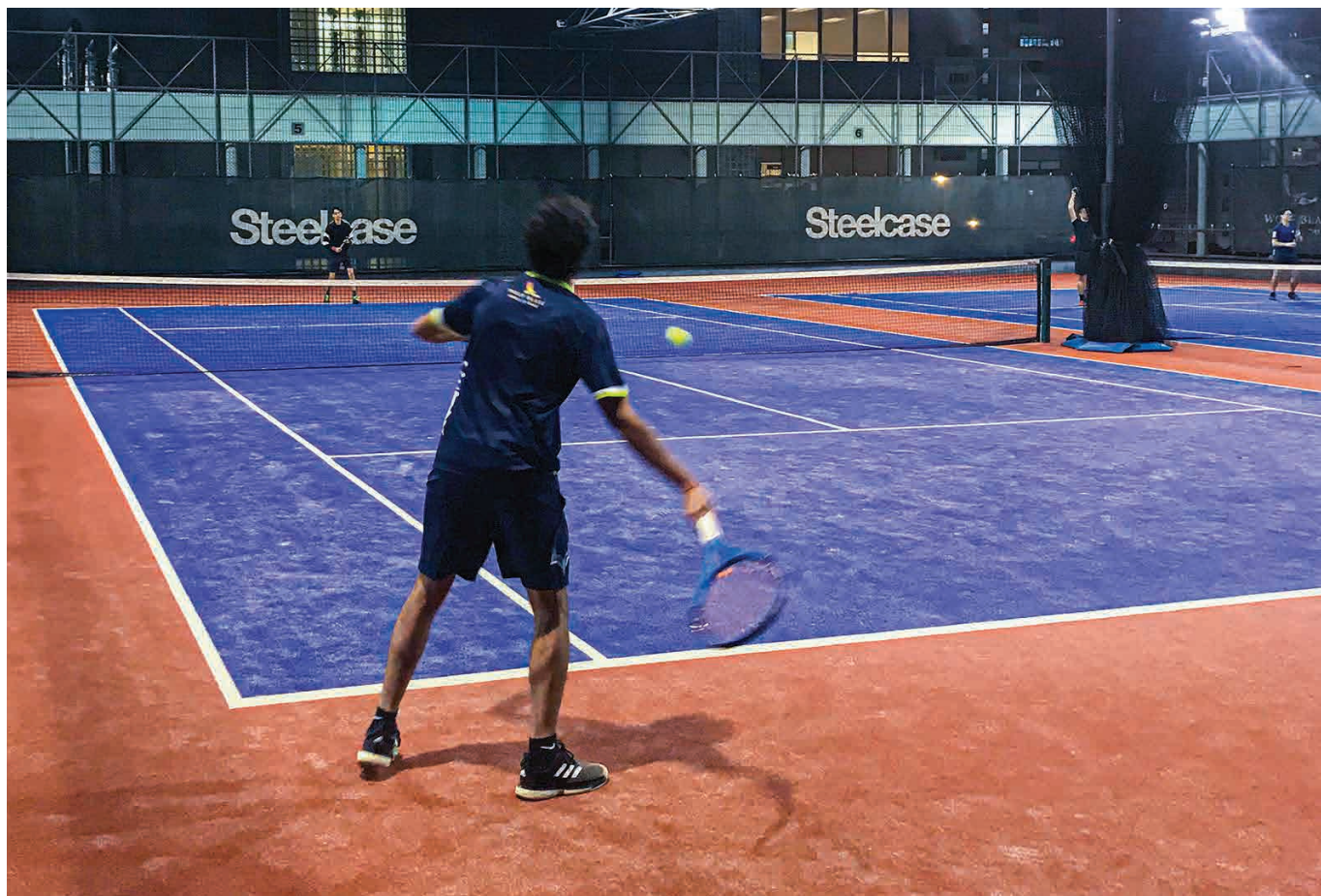
Lachlan Wolfers 1st place  
Catherine Sen

Female Relay / Wetsuited

Begum Demiral 2nd place  
Judy Blaine



Cat and Lachlan after the race



## TENNIS

# START OF SUMMER SEASON

All teams have had a solid start to their pre season training campaign. With most players taking up the opportunity to better their games with team coaching sessions run by ATA, all divisions are gearing up to the start of the season. The Summer league starts mid April, and everyone is looking forward to getting back into matches following a long lay off due to the COVID shutdown. The B team is excited to try and finish top again and are working really hard to achieve this.

We have a lot of fresh new faces from within the Club taking the opportunity to get out and play some tennis. We are really excited for these additions and can really see the expansion of the Tennis Society and its players.





**ATA**  
TENNISACES

# EASTER TENNIS CAMPS 2021

3 WEEKS OF EASTER TENNIS CAMPS  
 CAMP 1 : 29 MARCH - 1 APRIL (4 DAYS)  
 CAMP 2 : 6 - 9 APRIL (4 DAYS)  
 CAMP 3 : 12 - 16 APRIL (5 DAYS)



## MIXED DOUBLES LEAGUE UPDATE

**W**ith the re-opening of the tennis courts, two night league mixed doubles teams have started their campaigns for HKFC. The teams made up of three pairs competing in one set against each of the opposing

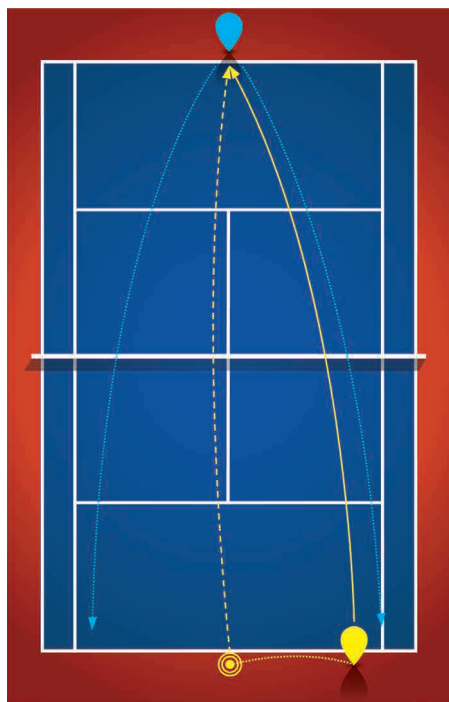
team's pairs, have seen the Mixed 1 team have a tough start to the season losing their first two matches to strong opposition from KCC and CRC. On the other hand, the Mixed III team started off with 2 home wins of 9-0 (against

CWB and Jockey Club) and continued the winning form with an 8-1 victory in the away match at Club de Recreio.

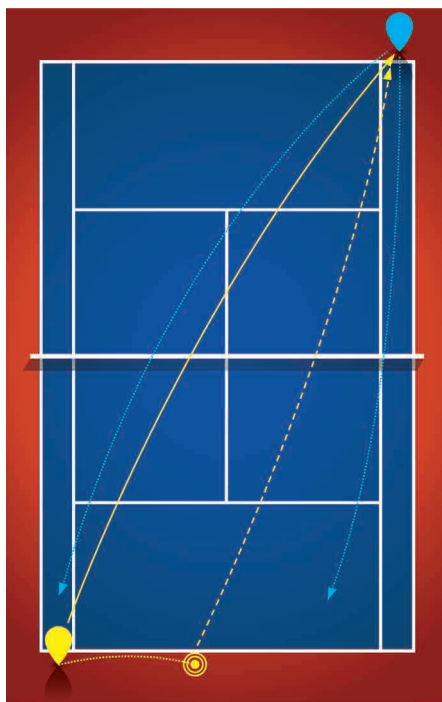
Wishing the teams all the best for the season!

## TENNIS TIP OF THE MONTH

# TENNIS COURT POSITIONING IN SINGLES



- 1** If you hit down the middle of the court your recovery position would be in line with the centre mark.



- 2** If you hit cross court, in order to stop the opponents hitting the angle you need to recover off centre on the side you hit your cross court shot from.



- 3** If you hit down the line, you should recover off centre on the side where the open space is so you are in the centre of possible return for any cross court angles from your opponent.



**Domenec Girones**  
HKFC ATA  
Tennis Coach



Opponent



Player



Recovery position

Direction range of opponents shots

Centre of possible return

Players direction of shot

In a tennis rally situation, how you position yourself on court after you hit your shot is critical to allow you to get to the next shot as fast as possible. This is called your recovery position.

A good recovery position will allow you to:

- Move early to most of the balls and execute your shots whilst being on balance.
- Spend less energy to get to the balls.
- Retrieve otherwise irretrievable balls.

The recovery position will depend on:

- The direction of your shot
- The depth of your shot
- The position of your opponent

When both players are at the baseline. An easy rule to follow according to the direction of your shot (always try and position yourself in the centre of possible return from your opponents position at contact. Noting this is not always back to the centre mark on the baseline.

Another situation to consider is the depth or length of your shot. Usually your opponent will attack or challenge you if you give them a short ball. Being aware of that and covering the open space of your side (position yourself more in the middle) will give you more chances to get that ball back.

Understanding the position of your opponent it is also very important to your recovery position. Let's say you are dominating a point and they are under pressure. The majority of the time this will lead to receiving a weaker or shorter ball. Being aware of that, and positioning yourself and ready to step up into the court will give you more time to set up and hit an offensive shot into the open court.

Court positioning plays a big role in tennis and can even be the one factor making the difference between winning or losing a match. Get out there and work out your recovery position!



**Katie Wildman**  
Tennis Society Junior Reporter

## GETTING TO KNOW ATA INTERNATIONAL COACH KRISTIN GODRIDGE

This month I chose to interview Kristin Godridge, Australasia Tennis Aces (ATA) director and founder. At the young age of 17, coach Kris was ranked the Number 1 Junior Female Tennis Player in the world, competed at all four major tennis tournaments (Wimbledon, French Open, US Open, Australian Open) and won various international junior titles such as the US Open Junior Girls Doubles twice. Here is what I found while interviewing our very own coach Kris:



### When did you start playing tennis?

"I started playing tennis at 4.5 -5 years old as my parents were social tennis players and used to bring me to our local club. I used to grab a ball and racquet and play against a brick wall for hours. Absolutely loved it.

So I basically begged Dad to start lessons. Dad brought me down to the local coach... who told him I wasn't ready. Too small, too young... as a kid that was the worst thing to hear. Dad knew I was ready, it may not be the quickest process but give her a chance he said but unfortunately it was a no. So my dad just started playing with me. One year later a new coach had started at our local club, he took one look at me and said do you want to play? The rest is history and his enthusiasm and passion for the game started my love for tennis. That is one of the many reasons ATA Tennis is passionate about giving all players a chance to play tennis. You never know what a child is capable of until you start teaching them and growing their game."

### What influenced you to play tennis?

"My Dad, Bill Godridge was an all round sportsman. A tennis player, runner, and Australian Rules professional football player for Footscray. With him being an all round athlete just made me want to be active and have a go."

### How often did you train?

"On tour I used to train 6 hours a day plus strength and conditioning."

### What is your biggest strength as a tennis player?

"I had a big forehand weapon, good backhand topspin and slice, good fast volleys, and did well under pressure (credit to my great coaches - all of them!)"

### What are your weaknesses as a tennis player?

"I think it would be in my younger years trying to stay more zen as I got older I was able to compete and control my energy levels."

### What is the most difficult moment during your tennis

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SCAN TO REGISTER

### journey that you have overcome?

"Injury - I had to retire younger than I wanted to I wasn't ready to walk away from my Tennis career."

### When and why did you decide to stop playing and focus on coaching?

"I wouldn't say I chose coaching it kind of chose me. I had to retire quite suddenly one minute I was playing Federation Cup for Australia and getting ready for the Olympics the next I was in a hospital bed being told my shoulder wasn't going to handle the WTA international tour anymore. So I went to live where my boyfriend (now husband) was which was HK, and well started coaching. I remembered thinking: "Is this for me?". As I went along I realized I was good at it and I learnt that Social Tennis Players and all tennis players actually love and cherish the game more than the pro's and so began my coaching journey and thus started ATA Tennis."

### What is a piece of advice that you wish you got before you started playing matches?

"Embrace the challenge of playing your best tennis in a match situation don't be scared of the pressure. Trust your game keep fighting hard."

### Do you think players should be penalized for smashing a racquet during a game?

"Absolutely but tennis and competing can be super duper frustrating but smashing your racquet is just unacceptable. Unwritten tennis rule all players know it."

### If you were to play against anyone anywhere, who and where would you choose?

"Great Question - I was lucky enough to play all of the Grand slams 6-7 times so I would say - Wimbledon Centre court final against Halep or Williams (When I was on form)"

### Lastly, Williams or Halep?

"Love them both because they bring a different diversity to the game."



## HOCKEY

# ‘STEPS’ UP TO THE PLATE

With no hockey for several months, many of the HKFC Hockey Section were seriously missing the adrenaline that comes with competition and fitness levels were taking a battering. To encourage one another to get out on the trails, 160 hockey players took part in a 30 Day Step Challenge (16th January - 14th February), with the As, Cs, Es and Gs competing against the Bs, Ds, Fs and Hs to see who could do the most steps.

Those taking part managed to walk, limp and run over **45 million steps** over **30 days** with an average of over **300,000 steps** being walked by each person. **Katy Mountain** (857,559) and **Ollie Chiu** (751,059) from the Women's A team and **Rob Barker** (725,469) from the Men's H team topped the table with the unstoppable Dinos claiming the prize for most steps walked by an individual team (8,814,630).

A good effort all round. Now, with signs ahead of the season re-commencing, on to winning some hockey matches!



**30 DAY STEP CHALLENGE**

16 January - 14 February

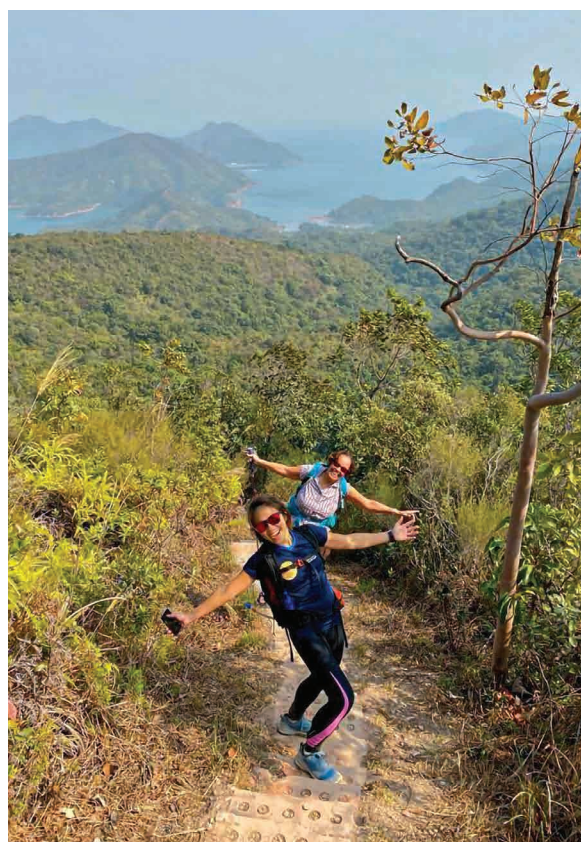
	Average per person	Total steps
Team 1	347,570	19,793,185
Team 2	322,637	25,810,981
		45,604,166

**TOP STEPPERS**

	Team	Player	Total steps
1	Ladies A	Katy M	857,559
2	Ladies A	Ollie	751,059
3	Men's H	Rob B	725,469
4	Men's H	Anthony B	679,172
5	Dinos	Pat	672,365
6	Ladies G	Karen	671,543
7	Ladies G	Colette	630,530
8	Dinos	Liz	626,872
9	Dinos	Alison	581,000
10	Ladies G	Penny	563,481

**TOP TEAM**

Dinos	8,814,630
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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH



## Hopping for Hope!

Hop on down to the Club for a delicious spread and fun activities at the Coffee Shop and some delicious delights to take home from the Kiosk, including our famous hot cross buns. Easter set menu is also available in Restaurant.



## In the Restaurant

FROM TUESDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

## Mood Indigo

Powerful and dignified, it's a cool, deep color and also a natural one. Discover a palette of purple asparagus, violet artichokes, octopus, eggplant and sweet potatoes.



## In the Sportsman's Bar

FROM FRIDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL

## Mediterranean Skewers and Wraps from every port of call

Spices and fresh herbs dominate Mediterranean cuisine, giving it the unique and fresh flavour that everyone has come to know and love.

Life is so completely zany and free, by the Mediterranean sea.



## In the Chairman's Bar

FROM THURSDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL

## Springtime Libations

Enjoy these light, refreshing, colorful cocktails made with fresh ingredients and premium spirits.

Perfect to welcome the crisp, sunny months of Spring.

## WINE EVENTS

In the Restaurant

MONDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**Iconic Wines of South Africa  
Wine Lunch**

FRIDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**Live Opera Wine Dinner**

In the Happy Valley Suites

THURSDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL

**YoshinoGawa Sake Wine Masterclass**

In the Lockhart Room

SATURDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

SUNDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

**Wine Fair**



In the Coffee Shop

Takeaway: **Easter Sharing Platter Takeout**  
Monthly Special: **Farm-to-Fork**

In the Sportsman's Bar

Daily Special: **Mediterranean Dishes**

Fun Activity: **I pity the fool!**

Beer Promotion: **Peroni**

In the Chairman's Bar

Set Tea: **Le Gouter**

Monthly Special: **English Prime Rib Carving**

In the Captain's Bar

**Savoury Pies and Tarts**

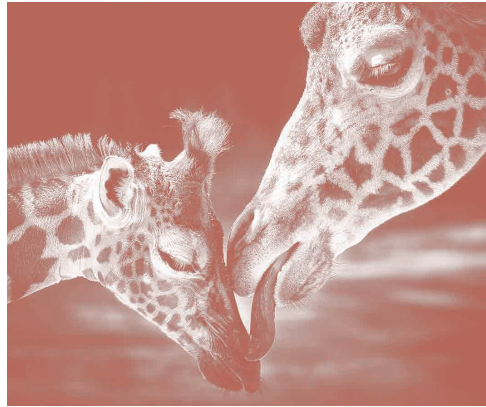
In the Family Lounge

Special product: **Yan Chim Kee**

**Carrot Cake**

**Healthy Smoothies and Protein Shakes**

## PREVIEW IN MAY



**We love our Moms!**

*A host of offerings are planned for this very special Mother's Day celebration.*

## WINE EVENTS

In the Restaurant

FRIDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Cols du Val Wine Dinner**

In the Happy Valley Suites

THURSDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Italian Hidden Gems Masterclass**

In the Lockhart Room

SATURDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY

SUNDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY

**Wine Fair**

In the Coffee Shop

Themed Buffet Dinner: **Indochine**

Monthly Special: **Chinese Super Food Dishes**

In the Restaurant

**Heritage Heirloom and Harbour Harvest**

In the Sportsman's Bar

**Cinco de Mayo returns!**

In the Chairman's Bar

**Classic French Cuisine**

In the Captain's Bar

**Savoury French Crepes**

In the Family Lounge

**Crafted Soft Drinks**

## RESTAURANT

T: 2830 9562  
E: restaurant@hkfc.com

**COFFEE  
SHOP**

T: 2830 9569  
E: coffeeshop@hkfc.com

**Sportsman's  
Bar**

T: 2830 9531  
E: sportsmans@hkfc.com



**CHAIRMAN'S BAR**

T: 2830 9559  
E: bar@hkfc.com

**CAPTAIN'S  
BAR**

T: 2837 2622  
E: bar@hkfc.com



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# IN THE COFFEE SHOP FARM-TO-FORK

From Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April

**F**arm-to-fork refers quite simply to the distance food must travel from where it was grown to when it reaches your mouth. It is based on the idea that food is best when freshly harvested and locally produced. It also encourages people to swap processed, genetically modified foods for natural local products.

Enquiries: 2830 9569  
or coffeeshop@hkfc.com



## APPETIZER AND SALAD

### Warm Beef and Beetroot Salad

\$108 🌱

*Charcoal grilled beef sirloin, roasted beetroot, arugula, croutons, ricotta cheese, toasted walnuts and balsamic dressing*

### Shredded Chicken Salad

\$95

*Thai spice marinated chicken breast, sweet corn, local cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, sweet bell peppers, Thai basil, hydroponic vegetable salad with Thai dressing*

### Malaysian Fried Beancurd

\$78 🌱 🌱

*Stuffed with crunchy sar kor (jicama), carrots, local cucumbers, bean sprouts and red chili served with a trio of Asian dipping sauces: sweet soya, peanuts and tamarind*

## MAIN COURSE

### Mediterranean Style Roasted Salmon Fillet

\$115 🌱

*Served with sautéed vegetables and lemon-garlic sauce, seasonal beans, red and yellow sweet peppers, red onions, raisins, pine nuts*

### Parmesan Pork Chop

\$108

*Grilled and baked with parmesan cheese and crispy breadcrumbs, served with Marinara sauce and crunchy salad, hydroponic vegetables, cherry tomatoes, guava and carrots*

### Wok-fried Beef Fillet

\$88

*With pumpkin, bitter squash, onions and preserved black bean sauce, served with steamed rice*

### Stir-fried Lotus Roots

\$78 🌱

*With red bell peppers, local green zucchini, string beans, Shiitake mushrooms, carrots, water chestnuts, black fungus and vegetarian oyster sauce*

🌱 Suitable for Vegetarian  
🌱 Contains Nuts





Mango Napoleon Cake



Tiramisu

This month, the Club will be offering a brand new selection of cake suggestions for you to take to any special occasion, for friends, family or work colleagues. We've kept all the favourites and introduced some new, irresistibly delicious creations for you to try. We thought we would sit down with Chef Ming to find a little more about the new line up.

### Chef Ming, what excites you about this new cake menu?

"I love to create desserts for our Club Members. I love to see the smiles on their faces when they open the cake boxes. I have some excellent support from Chef Yan, our Executive Chef and I feel that my experience and creativity are really appreciated so that makes me love what I do. And everybody loves a bit of cake."

### What are the Club favourites and why is that so?

"Oh, the **Mango Napoleon Cake** seems to be the Club Members' favourite. You could even call it our signature cake. The mangos are imported fresh from the Philippines and we always use the ripest, sweetest ones. The cake wafers have a crunchy, flaky texture because they are made on the same day that they are picked up on. Freshness is the key to this cake. Another favourite is beloved in all of Hong Kong for a 2002 movie of the same name, **Tiramisu**. We make it with Mascarpone cheese imported from a small artisanal cheese maker and soak the biscuits in not 1 but 2 types of liqueur: amaretto and marsala."



Sesame Marble Mousse Cake



Hazelnut Chocolate Mousse Cake

### Tell us about a new creation and what inspired you to make it.

"I would like to introduce you all to the **Sesame Marble Mousse Cake**. The black sesame seeds are roasted in Japan and ground to a fine powder in our Pastry kitchen. The icing has a very unusual pattern that uses a shiny icing to make the cake look like finely polished marble. I was inspired by a black sesame pudding that I ate as a child but the icing technique gives it a modern, contemporary look."

### And what do you think is the most decadent cake that you offer?

"Chocolate lovers will go crazy for the mix of toasted Hazelnut cream and 66% Valrhona chocolate in our **Hazelnut Chocolate Mousse Cake**. It has a silky smooth texture and that mild bitter taste of chocolate heaven."

## COFFEE TALK WITH **CHEF MING,** OUR PASTRY CHEF



Mixed Fruit Tart

### What can you recommend to Club Members if they don't know which cake to buy?

"A safe bet for anyone who's not sure of the preferred flavours of those you'll share the cake with is the **Mixed Fruit Tart**. It's colourful, fresh and light with a pie tart crust and vanilla cream. Right now those fruits are coming into season, especially the fresh figs that top it off. It's the perfect cake for every occasion and the colours will be sure to brighten up the day."

### Thanks for sharing time with us Chef Ming, we know how busy you are, making all of the incredible dessert promotions throughout the Club. What's coming up next?

"Oh, I can't choose to mention 1 feature over another, there are so many of them. You can be sure that they will be reflecting some delicious creations for the Spring months heading into Summer so be on the lookout or you might miss them."

Please look for Chef Ming and his desserts on your next trip to the Club. And be sure to pick up the new Cake Order form or find it on our website.

# BOOKS AND MOVIES

## NEW BOOKS

**Offerings**  
Michael Kim



**The Skylark's Secret**  
Fiona Valpy

**The Henna Artist**  
Alka Joshi

**Buried**  
Lynda La Plante

**The Yellow Bird Sings**  
Jennifer Rosner

**A Promised Land**  
Barack Obama

**The Book Of Two Ways**  
Jodi Picoult

**Anxious People**  
Fredrick Backman

**Squeeze Me**  
Carl Hiaasen

**The Coast To Coast Murders**  
James Patterson

## NEW BLU-RAYS



**Archenemy**  
Jessica Allain, Mac Brandt

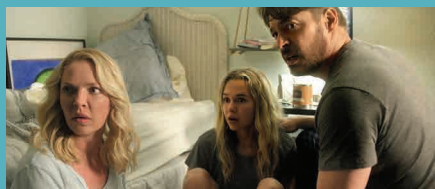


**Wander Darkly**  
Sienna Miller, Diego Luna

## NEW DVDS

**Wander**

Aaron Eckhart, Tommy Lee Jones

**Fear of Rain**

Katherine Heigl, Harry Connick Jr.

**Centigrade**

Vincent Piazza, Genesis Rodriguez

**The Swordsman**

Jang Hyuk, Man-sik Jeong

**Elizabeth Is Missing**

Glenda Jackson, Maggie Steed

**Wander Darkly**

Sienna Miller, Diego Luna

**Baby Done**

Rose Matafeo, Matthew Lewis

**Love, Weddings & Other Disasters**

Maggie Grace, Diane Keaton

**Sputnik**

Oksana Akinshina, Fedor Bondarchuk

**400 Bullets**

Jean-Paul Ly, Andrew Lee Potts

**Fatale**

Hilary Swank, Michael Ealy

**The Informer**

Joel Kinnaman, Rosamund Pike

**Random Acts of Violence**

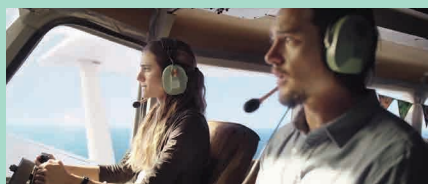
Jesse Williams, Jordana Brewster

**Freaky**

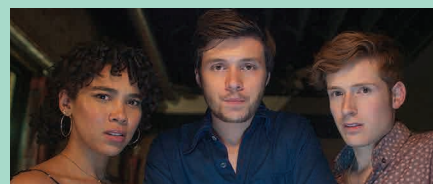
Vince Vaughn, Kathryn Newton

**The Informer**

Joel Kinnaman, Rosamund Pike

**Horizon Line**

Allison Williams, Alexander Dreymon

**Silk Road**

Nick Robinson, Jennifer Yun

**The Swordsman**

Jang Hyuk, Man-sik Jeong

**Fear of Rain**

Katherine Heigl, Harry Connick Jr.

**Centigrade**

Vincent Piazza, Genesis Rodriguez

**Love, Weddings & Other Disasters**

Maggie Grace, Diane Keaton

**400 Bullets**

Jean-Paul Ly, Andrew Lee Potts

**Fatale**

Hilary Swank, Michael Ealy

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# FRANK BROWNE AND HIS CLUBMEN OF RENOWN



Club's Shield Champion XI of 1899 – Standing on the far right is the diminutive figure of Frank Browne, HKFC Honorary Secretary that year, later President. Captain H.W. Looker is the man with the ball, A.R. Lowe is centre of back row with H.R.B. (Dick) Hancock second from left. Fred Kew is seated on the ground in front, his brother Chad at far right of the row behind him.

See page 25 of "along the sports road."

**H**e was a little fellow in a white coat. He landed in Hong Kong in 1893 and sailed away in 1915. For the intervening 22 years he earned his keep as chief chemist at the Civil Hospital – not the most exciting of jobs perhaps, except when bubonic plague invaded in his second year. But he had a passion that was larger than the working life he led. By the time he returned to England, he had served the HKFC as a dedicated official for twenty years in succession, had overseen the winning of the Club's first competitive silverware in 1899 and 1908, and had been instrumental in the proper establishment of the Hong Kong Football Association. The chemistry that Frank Browne loved the most was Soccer.

## A SIGNATURE TWINKLE

He came down the gangplank with a twinkle in his eye, the same twinkle that would become his signature, plus two qualifications. One ensured his recruitment and shipment to the East as 'Analyst' at the hospital, the other was a Soccer referee's certificate issued by the London Football Association. In 1895-96 he took over the responsibilities of Honorary Secretary at the HKFC – a post he would 'reluctantly,' in his own words, said with a laugh, hold on to for the next decade. It was no coincidence that, all at once, things began to happen on the local Soccer scene.

That season the first inter-club Soccer competition was staged, with seventeen sides contesting the Hongkong Football Challenge Cup. The next season the tournament became the Challenge Shield. In 1898-99, Frank Browne finally had the Club recruits he needed to mix together and come up with a formula that turned them into winners. The players in Club's 1899 champion XI would do more than play winning Soccer. A selection were destined to

contribute to Hong Kong more broadly off the pitch, in renowned fashion.

## CLASS OF 1899

First there was the Club Captain, solicitor H.W. Looker, who came to Hong Kong in 1894. In October 1898, kicking off what was an historic football season, he was co-donor of a 'handsome silver challenge cup,' the trophy for the first six-a-side Soccer tournament organised at HKFC. Herbert Looker became a partner of famed legal eagle Victor Hobart Deacon, and in 1907 was one of seven subscribers who founded the Law Society of Hong Kong, his name being listed with other historic monikers in law like Master, Harston, Hastings and Wilkinson. In 1920, Looker left for England where he reputedly launched a career as an MP. He died in 1951, aged 80.

Then there was The Flyer – Manchester-born chartered accountant A.R. Lowe, who played with a bandaged knee and took over from Looker as Club Captain from 1900 to 1902. Lowe's name endures in Hong Kong. The accounting firm that is the descendant

## THE CLUB HISTORY

Club's Shield Champion XI of 1908 – Oscar Eager is at far right of front row, Fred Kew is second from left in back row. Frank Browne is not in this picture; that year he was the stand-in President at HKFC meetings.

See page 35 of *"along the sports road."*



of the practice he founded in 1902 today annually checks the HKFC books; meanwhile there are other membership clubs that still make out a traditional cheque for their audit fee to 'Lowe, Bingham & Matthews.' In 1920, A.R. Lowe was elected by the Justices of the Peace as an Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council, where he liked to annoy the administration by standing up for the rights of the 'little man,' on matters such as overcharging by the telephone company, faulty Government accounting when it came to fair distribution of opium revenues, and constitutional reform. In 1924, Lowe died in Matilda Hospital of complications from typhoid fever, aged just 50.

### THE BROTHERS KEW

And there was Frank Browne himself. In 1903 he retired as HKFC Hon. Secretary, moved on to the Club Committee and was elected President in 1905, again in 1906, then stayed in the role de facto for several years, sitting in at meetings as proxy for a succession of absent superiors who had more public priorities. By 1908, the year the Club XI won its second Challenge Shield, moves were afoot to set up a Football League, a scheme that Browne was initially against. Sensibly deciding to swim with the tide, he initiated the establishment of a Hong Kong Football Association, of which he was Chairman. Due to affiliation with the English FA not being recognised as the vital credential it was, it failed.

One Clubman played in both the 1899 and 1908 Shield victories, as the goalkeeper. He was Fred, younger of

the Brothers Kew born in 1873 and the first men with Chinese blood to pull on a Club football shirt. Chad Kew was a qualified dentist, having learned his skills as an apprentice to legendary American entrepreneur-dentist Dr Joseph Wittlesey Noble. In 1899, Fred was learning the dental trade himself, in his brother's surgery at 39 Queen's Road, above A. Tack's furniture store. Chad Kew moved to Shanghai, then to England just before his death in 1951; Fred died a year later in the USA.

### DAB HAND DICK HANCOCK

In 1908, Fred Kew had still been a brilliant goalie at the age of 35. Equally brilliant at the other end of the field

was striker Oscar Eager, who worked for Shewan, Tomes & Co., a trading company which regularly provided recruits for HKFC sides. One, a member of the 1899 Champion Club XI who that year travelled from Canton (Guangzhou) to play, was H.R.B. (Dick) Hancock. He became Hong Kong's longest-serving sports official of his era. Cricket was his other strength, enough for him to be Hong Kong's interport skipper. He was also a dab hand at tennis and rackets. When the HKFA formed for the second time, successfully, in time for season 1913-14, Hancock was elected the FA's inaugural President. He also accepted the Football Club Presidency for 1917-18, then was elected President of the Hong Kong Cricket Club in 1922, a post he retained all through his years in Stanley internment camp (where Oscar Eager in January 1945 was a fatal victim of a stray bomb during an Allied air attack) before stepping down in 1947. He died soon after.

Dick Hancock, the only post-Pacific War survivor in Hong Kong of Frank Browne's Clubmen of Renown of 1899 and 1908, would have sat with his HKFC mentor for the last time at a meeting in 1915 of the reformed HKFA, of which Browne was Vice-President. It was the year the little chemist with the perpetual twinkle sailed home to England. A nervous voyage it would have been, with German U-boats and raiders about. Frank Browne's other job, Soccer, was done: his HKFA was this time set to survive, and at the end of season 1915-16 the Club XI would win its third Challenge Shield, in his genuinely reluctant absence.

By Denis Way



A 1945 USAAF photo of a bombing raid on occupied Japanese facilities around Victoria Harbour. The docks in Hung Hom have been hit, as have some of the shipping in the harbour; a Zero fighter can be seen (above the Tsimshatsui area in the photo) rising and wheeling into the attack. A stray bomb from a raid like this one on 16 January 1945 hit Stanley internment camp where Dick Hancock was imprisoned. One of the fatalities was Oscar Eager, member of the Club Champion Shield XI of 1908.

In the foreground at far left can be seen the Happy Valley Race Course and HKFC grounds to its north which at the time were being used as a worksite for the sculpting of the Japanese War Memorial being erected on Mount Cameron.

See page 96 of *"along the sports road."*



# MOOD *Indigo*

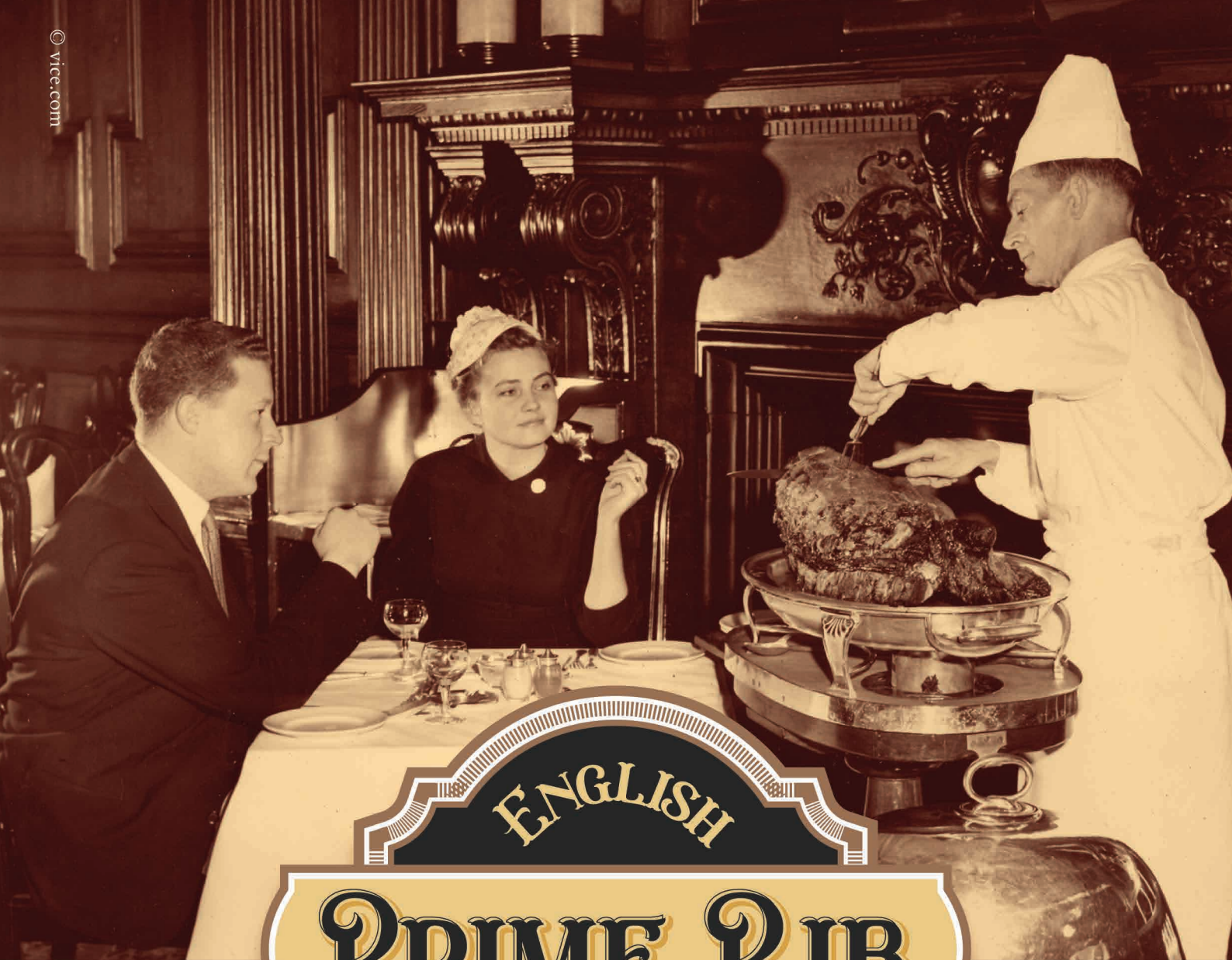
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