TENNIS HKFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

SOUASH THE ANNUAL WING DING CHARITY TOURNAMENT

## HOCKEY 2024 WORLD MASTERS HOCKEY WORLD CUP CAPE TOWN AND AUCKEAND





## CATERING CONSULTATION DAY 2025

12<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY JANUARY 2025

1PM - 5PM HAPPY VALLEY SUITE 1, 2/F

### FREE ADMISSION

By appointment only

Come down to the Club and sit down with one of our Catering experts to learn about our latest products & offers!

Coffee, tea with refreshments available

Wedding Package • Back Patio Themed BBQ Package Select Your Own Buffet Menu • Select Your Own Cocktail Menu Meeting Package • Children Birthday Party ... and more

ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS 2830 9513 | catering@hkfc.com



Hong Kong Football Club 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley, Hong Kong

tel (852) 2830 9500 facsimile (852) 2882 5040

Nick Hunsworth

Fook Aun Chew Robert Lawson

John Shanahan Mike Wood

Neil Jensen

**Neil Roberts** 

Mervyn Jacob

Damien Laracy

John Thompson

Mia Williams

Chris Page

Mullar Wan

Paul Skurr

Alan Morgan

**David Cross** 

Tony Sealy

Christophe

Horrenberger

Mandy Cheng

William Wong

Daniel Shum

Ken Mak

Simon Tang

Simon Chapman

Stephen Dowse

Will Murray

Vacant

Ken Lo

Joe Wan

Yan Mak

Iris Chau

Vanessa So

Kenneth Ng

Don Rider

#### GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President Vice Presidents

Chairman Honorary Secretary Honorary Treasurer Constitutional Affairs and Discipline Development Membership Sports & Recreation Major Events Hockey Officer Lawn Bowls Officer Rugby Officer Squash Officer Squash Officer

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM

General Manager Director of Finance Director of Food and Beverage

Executive Chef Director of Membership Director of People Senior Communications Manager Facilities Manager House Manager Information Technology Manager Retail Manager Security Manager Senior Sports Manager

#### DIRECTORS OF SPORT

Director of Rugby Director of Hockey Director of Squash

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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### THE CLUB GENERAL COMMITTEE 2024-2025



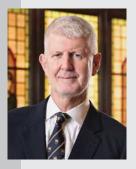
Nick Hunsworth President



Neil Jensen Chairman



Neil Roberts Honorary Secretary



Mervyn Jacob Honorary Treasurer



Fook Aun Chew

Vice President







Robert Lawson Vice President

John Shanahan Vice President

Mike Wood Vice President



Mia Williams **Major Events** 



Damien Laracy

**Constitutional Affairs** 

& Discipline





Mullar Wan Lawn Bowls



Don Ride

Membership

Paul Skurr Rugby



John Thompson

Sports & Recreation

Alan Morgan

Soccer



David Cross Squash

#### PORTFOLIO DETAILS OF STANDING SUB-COMMITTEES

The following portfolio functions have been summarised to show terms of reference previously approved by the General Committee (GC).

#### **POLICY WORKING GROUP - Neil Jensen**

FUNCTION: to ensure effective and proper implementation of the Club's Mission Statement by formulating policies for the decision of the GC and to keep agreed policies under review.

#### FINANCE - Mervyn Jacob

FUNCTION: to carefully consider the financial implications of proposals and policies brought forth by the GC, and to provide advice, and, if deemed appropriate, make recommendations to the GC for final approval.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS AND DISCIPLINE -**Damien Laracy**

FUNCTION: to review of the Club's Articles of Association, Bye-laws and Policy Statements to keep them relevant and useful. Monitor and review the constitutions/Bye-laws of all Club bodies for consistency. Standardise signage, notices, forms and provide advice on constitutional aspects are additional responsibilities. Finally, to take action on misconduct complaints to ensure compliance with the Bye-laws for the enjoyment of all Members.

#### **DEVELOPMENT** - Kenneth Ng

FUNCTION: to identify and evaluate suitable development initiatives for the Club's facilities in the short, medium, and long term, and to recommend selected proposals to GC for consideration and subsequent implementation.

#### **MEMBERSHIP** - Don Rider

FUNCTION: to oversee the admission of new Members, to monitor existing policies and to advise on membership-related matters, including procedures (including Sections) and compliance with these policies.

#### **SPORTS AND RECREATION - John Thompson**

FUNCTION: to promote and support the development of recognised sporting activities and competitive recreational activities for members, also collaborate with management to maximise the utilisation of the Club's sports facilities.

#### **MAJOR EVENTS - Mia Williams**

**FUNCTION**: to work with the event organising committees, provide assistance and support to ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to sponsorship contracts and event administration, and provide timely reports on major events to the GC.







## THE THOUGHTS OF THE CHAIRMAN 主席的話

Neil Jensen Chairman



As we welcome the new year, it's a perfect time to reflect on the eventful month of December. We successfully hosted several significant sporting events, including the **2024 World Bowls Junior Indoor Championships**, the **Protiviti HKFC ITF World Tennis Masters Tour** and the **HKFC EVISU International Junior Squash Open**.

A special highlight was the **WSF World Squash Team Championships**, awarded the "M" Mark by the Major Sports Events Committee of the HKSAR government. We extend our gratitude to the World Squash Federation. It was also a pleasure to host squash legends **Geoff Hunt**, **Sarah Fitz-Gerald** and **Jahangir Khan**, the latter of whom we proudly presented with an honorary membership on 10th December. Special kudos go to our Club members **Tomato Ho**, **Alex Lau** and **Henry Leung**, who represented the Hong Kong, China national team. I would also like to extend my special thanks to **David Cross** for his leadership and dedication throughout the event. His tireless efforts, alongside months of hard work by the organising committee, as well as the support of the Squash Section, our sponsors and the Club management team, were instrumental in making the tournament a success. Congratulations to all the winning teams and players who participated!

Looking ahead, January is set to be another exciting month for our Club. We kick off the year with the **New Year's Day Youth Rugby Tournament** on 1st January, followed by the **CNY Youth Hockey Festival** on 18th January. Our **Soccer 1st Team Hong Kong Premier League matches** will also take centre stage, with home games against Tai Po on 5th January, Eastern on 12th January and Kowloon City on 19th January. I encourage all members to come out and support our teams!

As we usher in 2025, I am delighted to announce the appointment of **Matt Rawnsley** as the new General Manager, effective 1st March. Matt brings a wealth of experience, and I look forward to working closely with him and our management team to enhance the services we provide and ensure our Club remains a leading sports institution globally.

Lastly, as we approach the Chinese New Year, I wish all our members a prosperous and joyful year ahead. May the Year of the Snake bring you happiness, health and success!

Neil Jensen Chairman

### NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Swimming Pool Complex will be closed for annual maintenance from 6th to 24th January 2025. It will re-open on 25th January 2025.

在迎接新年的同時,是時候回顧多姿多彩的12月。 我們成功舉辦多個重要的體育盛事,包括2024世 界青少年室內草地滾球錦標賽、Protiviti HKFC ITF世界國際先進網球巡迴賽及HKFC EVISU國際 青少年壁球公開賽。

獲政府大型體育活動事務委員會頒授「M」品牌認可的WSF世界壁球團體錦標賽尤其引人矚目,衷心感謝世界壁球總會的信任及支持。同時很榮幸迎來壁球傳奇Geoff Hunt、Sarah Fitz-Gerald及Jahangir Khan,本會十分榮幸於12月10日頒發榮譽會籍予Jahangir Khan,在此亦恭喜何子樂、劉子均及梁子軒代表中國香港隊出戰錦標賽。另外,感謝David Cross在是次錦標賽出色的領導及熱誠投入,David的不懈努力,連同籌備委員會數以月計的辛勤工作,再加上壁球部、贊助商及本會管理團隊的支持,無一不是錦標賽順利進行的重要一環。再次恭喜所有得獎隊伍及參賽選手。

展望1月,本會的精彩節目陸續有來。首先由1月1 日的**元旦日青少年欖球錦標賽**打響頭炮,緊隨其後 是1月18日的**農曆新年青少年曲棍球節**,此外本會 **足球部一隊的港超賽事**亦將成為注目焦點,他們 會於1月5日、1月12日及1月19日在主場分別迎戰 大埔、東方及九龍城。特此鼓勵所有會員前來本會 為球隊打氣。

隨著我們迎接2025年的新篇章,本人很高興宣布 任命Matt Rawnsley為新任總經理,任命將於3月 1日生效。Matt將為本會帶來豐富的經驗,期待與 Matt及管理團隊緊密合作,以加強本會提供的服 務及確保本會在全球體育機構中保持領先地位。

最後,農曆新年將至,祝本會所有會員蛇年快樂, 富貴吉祥,萬事如意,身體健康,步步高升!

主席 Neil Jensen

會員告示

綜合游泳池將由2025年1月6至24日暫時關閉以 作保養維修,並將於2025年1月25日重新開放。

## **JAHANGIRKHAN** HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CEREMONY

We are thrilled to honour **Jahangir Khan**, the legendary squash champion and Emeritus President of the World Squash Federation, with an honorary membership on 10th December.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest squash players of all time, Jahangir's remarkable achievements and lifelong dedication to promoting squash worldwide continue to inspire us all. In attendance, we are also thrilled to have two Honorary Members, **Geoff Hunt** and **Sarah Fitz-Gerald**, along with **Zena Wooldridge**, the WSF President. Please join us in welcoming Jahangir to the HKFC community.

> Scan the QR Code view all other photos taken on the nigh



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## GENERAL MANAGER'S MONTHLY MESSAGE 總經理的話

As we approach the end of 2024, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible year it has been at the Club. Seeing our community thriving, our facilities buzzing with activity and playing host to international events alongside daily operations has been a great feeling!

I extend my thanks to you, for making it all possible. The interactions among athletes, children and fans have been remarkable, and your positivity and understanding have been vital to our success in hosting international tournaments.

#### "What a month and what a year"

I'm proud to see the Club delivering on its vision with our sections and societies once again delivering on the events that we know and love, but now with the addition of Lawn Bowls, Squash and Tennis filling the stands.

The Club continues to thrive as a first-class venue, destination and home for global sporting talent – up-and-comers, champions and legends alike. The entire first floor has been bustling with choruses of applause and excitement. We are proud to have hosted the **Protiviti ITF Tennis**, **EVISU Junior Squash Open** and the first **World Bowls Junior Indoor Championships** held in Asia, welcoming 42 players from 21 countries. Our Sports Hall and Main Pitch transformed into dazzling amphitheatres, perfectly suited to the drama of the **WSF World Squash Team Championships**. It is testament to the Club, our reputation and community that honorary members, **Geoff Hunt** and **Sarah Fitz-Gerald**, enjoyed every moment of their return to Sports Road.

#### January: A month of wellness and recovery

Following on from last month's announcement, the plunge pools are scheduled to be installed in the Swimming Pool Complex by early 2025. Designed to support wellness and high-performance recovery, the pools will be capable of reaching temperatures between -7°C and 40°C and will be accessible to all members.

Throughout the years, we've looked across the Club to see where we can upgrade the facilities to better support high performance. We have proud and successful Hockey and Rugby Sections, a Soccer Team aspiring to secure its place as a sustainable Premier League contender, and growing demands for recovery facilities; the plunge pools represent a small but meaningful step in meeting the needs of all our members.

Wishing you and your loved ones a prosperous and joyful Chinese New Year.

Tony Sealy General Manager 來到2024年尾聲,想回顧一下本會精彩豐富的一年。看到我們各體育部門蓬勃發展,本會設施也熱 鬧起來,除了日常運作,還舉辦了多項國際賽事, 這種感覺真的太捧了!

Tony Sealy General Manager

> 我亦想在此感謝所大家成就了這麼精彩的一年。 運動員、小朋友及球迷之間的互動相當融洽,大 家的正向積極及諒解是我們成功舉行國際錦標賽 的關鍵。

#### 「相當充實精彩的12月<sup>,</sup>十分美好的一年」

很自豪見證本會實現願景,就是我們的體育部及 體育組再一次在大家認識及喜愛的比賽中交出好 成績,現在看台上更多了草地滾球、壁球及網球 的球迷。

本會繼續成為全球體育人才首選的比賽地點、目 的地及家園,當中包括後起之秀、冠軍級運動員及 傳奇球星。整個一樓樓層一直非常熱鬧,掌聲及歡 呼聲滿溢,我們十分榮幸舉辦了Protiviti ITF網球 巡迴賽、EVISU青少年壁球公開賽及首次在亞洲 舉行的世界青少年室內草地滾球錦標賽,錦標賽 更迎來來自21個國家的42名選手。本會的體育館 及主球場則變成精彩的競技場,非常適合WSF世 界壁球團體錦標賽的戲劇賽果。榮譽會員Geoff Hunt及Sarah Fitz-Gerald亦享受回到體育道的 時光,印證本會享譽國際,而且社區凝聚力強。

#### 健康一月<sup>,</sup>快速恢復

承接上個月的公布,綜合游泳池將於2025年初安 裝水池,可用作促進健康及高效率恢復的水池將 能夠達到零下7度至40度之間的水溫,並可供所有 會員使用。

多年來,我們在本會各處尋找可以升級設施的機 會,幫助維持高水平表現。本會有值得驕傲、大獲 成功的壁球部及欖球部,還有雄心勃勃想在港超 爭冠的足球隊,運動恢復設施的需求亦日益增長; 水池正是本會滿足所有會員需要的重要一小步。

在此恭祝各位與親人共同渡過繁榮愉快的農曆 新年。

總經理 唐施利



### YEAR OF THE SNAKE SE $\mathbf{\langle}$ Hours perating

for Food and Beverage Outlets

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The Food and Beverage Outlets operating hours will be slightly amended. Please refer to the below schedule for details:

	CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVE CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY TUESDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY WEDNESDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> JANUA		THE 2ND DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR THURSDAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	THE 3RD DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR FRIDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY
	The Club will close at 5pm.	Car Park will not be open.	The Club will re-open at 9am.	
COFFEE	7:30am - 5pm		9am - 10:30pm	7:30am - 10:30pm
RESTAURANT	Noon - 3pm	Noon - 3pm LUNCH : Noon - 3pm DINNER : 6:30pm - 10:30pm		oon - 3pm om - 10:30pm
CHAIRMAN'S BAR	Noon - 5pm		Noon - 11:30pm	Noon - 11:30pm
HAPPY VALLEY SUITES	Closed	Club Closed	11:30am - 3pm	Closed
— Tpon <u>lsmaa's</u> Bar			11am - Midnight	11am - 1am
CAPTAINS	8am - 5pm		9am - 10pm	8am - 10pm
Finally Letinge	11am - 5pm		9am - 6pm	9am - 6pm
BKIOSK	10am - 5pm		10am - 7pm	
P.J.Ban	11am - 5pm		9am - 6pm	7:30am - 6pm

Last food and beverage orders in all outlets are 1 hour prior to closing. For the F&B outlets opening hours after 1st February, please refer to the HKFC.com.

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# Operating Hours

The Sports Facilities operating hours will be slightly amended. Please refer to the below schedule for details:

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	CHINESE NEW YEAR'S EVE TUESDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	chinese new year's day wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> january	THE 2ND DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR THURSDAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	THE 3RD DAY OF CHINESE NEW YEAR FRIDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY
	The Club will close at 5pm.	Car Park will not be open.	The Club will re-open at 9am.	
SWIMMING POOL	7am - 4pm		9am - 7pm	9am 7am
TRAINING TRIANGLE	6:30am - 4pm		sam - 7 pm	8am - 7pm
FITNESS CENTRE	6:30am - 4pm			8am - 9pm
TENNIS COURTS				
GOLF SIMULATORS	7am - 4pm		9am - 9pm	
SQUASH COURTS				
SPORTS HALL				
BOWLING ALLEY	8am - 4pm		9am - 8pm	8am - 8pm
INDOOR GREEN				
CHILDREN'S PLAYROOM	10		9am - 6pm	
SNOOKER	10am - 4pm		10am - 8pm	
CLUB SHOP	10:30am - 4pm		11:30am - 6pm	
LIBRARY	ro.soam - 4pm			
CHANGING ROOMS	7am - 4pm		9am - 9:30pm	8am - 9:30pm

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♢



Welcome the Year of Snake at the Club with Lion Dance Performance!



#### ANNUAL LION DANCE PERFORMANCE

Starts at the Club Front Entrance at 11:30am. A must-watch performance for all Members.



If you are a buffet lover, don't miss out on our buffet options featuring traditional Chinese New Year's dishes, to complete your celebration.

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR'S BUFFET LUNCH

THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2025 to SATURDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

Noon - 2:30pm \$298 per adult | \$149 per child\*

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR'S BUFFET DINNER

THURSDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2025 to SATURDAY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2025

5:30pm - 9:30pm \$318 per adult | \$159 per child\*

T: 2830 9569 | E: coffeeshop@hkfc.com

#### HAPPY VALLEY SUITES

Kick off the Year of Snake by enjoying this sumptuous meal that falls between breakfast and lunch, with your favourite wines and beer.

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

SUNDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

11:30am - 3pm (last arrival at 2pm) \$538 per adult | \$258 per child\*

With unlimited serving of sparkling wine, house wine and beer for adults and chilled juices for children

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



Chinese Goodies and New Year Puddings are on the shelves. Come and visit the Kiosk at the Club's lobby to find out more.

#### CHINESE NEW YEAR BAZAAR

SATURDAY, 25TH JANUARY 2025 SUNDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2025

Venue: Lockhart Room, 2/F Time: 1:30pm till 6pm daily

T: 2837 2678 | E: kiosk@hkfc.com

Remarks: \* Child: aged 4-11, toddlers under 4 years old are free of charge



## **2024 WORLD MASTERS HOCKEY WORLD CUP** CAPE TOWN AND AUCKLAND

n October 2024, the Over 35 Ladies World Cup Hockey tournament in Cape Town served as a platform for the Hong Kong team to showcase their talent and spirit on the global stage. Representing the Hong Kong Football Club, a group of skilled and dedicated players were selected to compete, led by the experienced duo of Captain **Sam Hill** and Vice-Captain **Leigh Cumings**.

The squad, comprising **Nicola Bruce**, **Hannah Wright**, **Emma Sturgess**, **Hannah Duley**, **Charlie Webb**, **Sophie Lindsay**, **Jasmine Titmuss** in goal, **Dawn Strachan** and **Claire Watson**, brought a mix of experience and enthusiasm to the tournament. Each player was a vital piece of the team, contributing their unique skills and determination to Hong Kong's campaign in Cape Town. From the opening match against the Netherlands, where **Leigh Cumings**' goal showcased the team's fighting spirit despite a 1-5 loss, to the hard-earned draw against Australia with an equaliser from **Hannah Duley**, the Hong Kong team demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of formidable opposition.

Their breakthrough came in a thrilling encounter against the USA, where **Dawn Strachan** and **Claire Watson** found the back of the net to secure a confident 2-0 victory. This win not only boosted the team's morale but also highlighted their ability to compete at the highest level.

As the tournament progressed, the team faced tough challenges, including a heartbreaking 0-1 loss to Ireland in the final minutes and a narrow 2-3 defeat against Wales, where **Leigh Cumings** 

contributed to one of the two crucial goals.

However, the Hong Kong team refused to be disheartened, ending their campaign on a high note with a 2-1 triumph over France in their final game, thanks to the great goals from **Nicola Bruce** and **Hannah Duley**.

The inclusion of the Hong Kong Football Club players in the tournament not only showcased their individual skills but also highlighted the collective strength and unity of the team. Their performances inspired fans and players alike, leaving a lasting impact on the tournament and exemplifying the rich talent and passion within the Hong Kong hockey community. The team's journey in Cape Town symbolised the resilience, dedication and sportsmanship that define the essence of the beautiful game of hockey.





achieved Gold Medal success last year at the Masters Asia Cup held at HKFC in November 2023. The HK50 squad is a diverse group of Pakistani, Chinese, English, Scottish, Dutch, South African, German and Kiwi players drawn from six different Hong Kong clubs that bonded over the highs and lows of competing together as Hong Kong, China at the highest level.

The Men's team had tough pool games against South Africa, Chile and Argentina and did not make it to the quarter-finals, but under

solid 9-2 win against Japan.

There was good representation from HKFC in the O50's Hong Kong squad, including Andy Boulton ("Boulty"), Simon Chapman ("Chappie") as Coach, Justin Davidson, Chris Page ("Pagey"), **Charlie Poulton, Simon Shepherdson** ("Shep Snr") as Player Manager and Rene Thiel.

Notably, a few other HKFC members past and present were also competing in Auckland, including Alistair Clark with the International Umpires, Tim Loh

representing Canada, Jun Yokoe as the Japan team manager and Jason Parry representing New Zealand.

The squad played some very good hockey at times and grew together over the whole tournament, and the aim is to build on this momentum into the Asian games in 2025 and the next World Cup in 2026 with hopefully more age groups taking part a nd even more representation from HKFC members.



## IMPACT OF ESSENTIAL HOCKEY GEAR DONATION

years ago, a massive clear-out was undertaken and the Hockey Section sent a large donation to the Ustad Umar Hockey Academy in Toba Tek Singh, Punjab. This donation includes hockey balls, goalkeeper equipment (helmets, pads and kickers), training cones and previous season uniforms.

Goalkeeper kits, often prohibitively expensive, have been particularly wellreceived, enabling young athletes who otherwise couldn't afford such gear to pursue their passion for hockey.

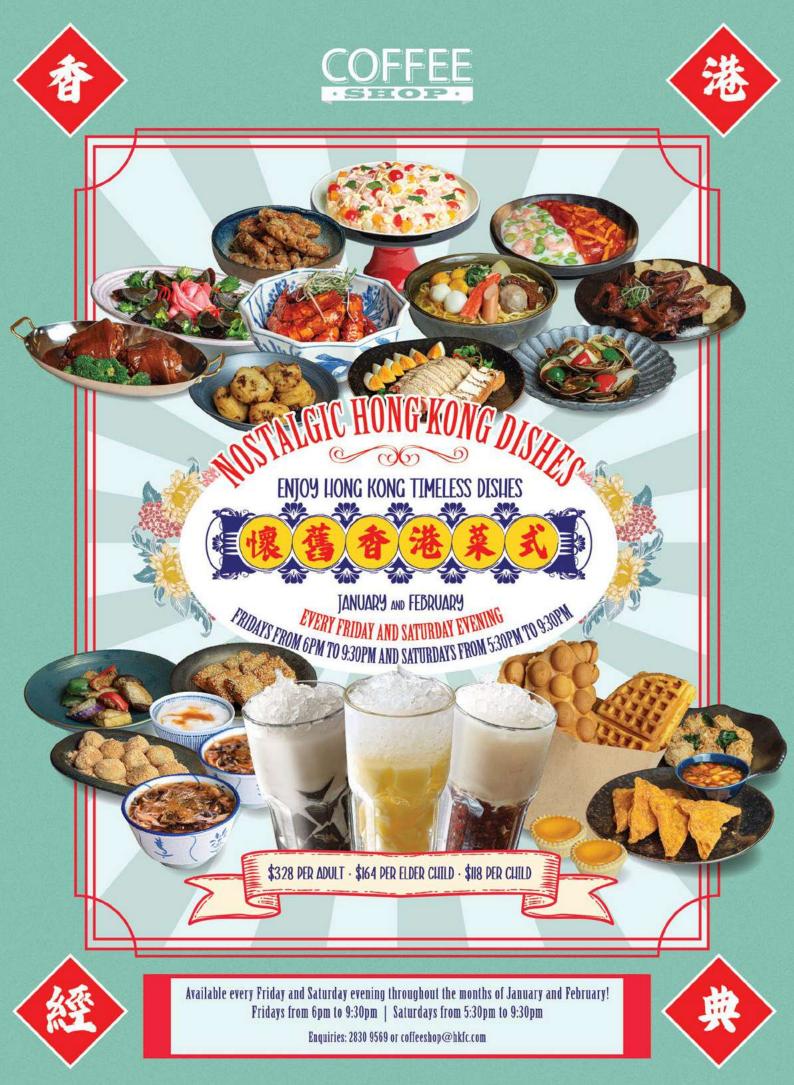
The impact of these contributions is significant. Ali Raza, a player from the Ustad Umar Hockey Academy, has recently been selected to represent the Pakistan U21 team at the Asia World Cup. The support from HKFC highlights the global spirit of hockey, fostering growth for future stars.

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eas and Intersion

To continue this support, a donation drive is scheduled for the weekend of 11-12th January, where all old kit, including previous season uniforms and any equipment, will be welcomed.







Men's C Team

#### LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION OF HONG KONG, CHINA PREMIER LEAGUE 2024

#### **HKFC MEN'S TEAMS**

HKFC A	Division 1	3rd/10	
HKFC B	Division 1	4th/10	
HKFC C	Division 2	Runner-up/10	Promote to Division 1 Kenny Tam, Best Skip
HKFC D	Division 4	3rd/10	
HKFC E	Division 5	Champion/10	Promote to Division 4 Johnny Tsang, Best Skip
HKFC F	Division 6	6th/10	
	H	KFC WOMEN'S TE	AMS
HKFC A	Division 1	Champion	
HKFC B	Division 1	8th/10	
HKFC C	Division 3	4th/9	
HKFC D	Division 6	3rd/12	



HKFC Women's A Team







*LEFT TO RIGHT* Raphael Chan, Kenny Tam, Dicky Mak, Edmond Chan

Men's E Team

*LEFT TO RIGHT* Chan Shu Wing, Cyril Leung, Francis Chau, Johnny Tsang, Neil Roberts, KK Ng



he end-of-season party for the Lawn Bowls Section, held on 10th November 2024, was a fantastic evening that brought together 113 members and guests for a night of celebration and camaraderie. The Lawn Bowls Section hosted 21 overseas guests, including players from 3 overseas teams, New Zealand, Scotland and Ireland, umpires and senior bowlers. It was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and thank those members who achieved outstanding results in the Premier League and various open competitions throughout the season. The atmosphere was filled with joy and appreciation, highlighting the dedication and talent within our community.

**Scan the QR Code** View more photos



Everyone enjoyed the festivities, making it a memorable conclusion to a successful season!





### INTERNATIONAL BOWLS CLASSIC 2024

The competition was held on 9th to 17th November 2024, with players from 14 overseas countries, regional representatives and local clubs. HKFC, together with Craigengower Cricket Club and Indian Recreation Club, were the venues for the event.

Apart from our Singles qualifiers and Pair representatives (Men's: **Stanley Luk** / **Stephen Chan**; Women's: **Yu Yee Sin** / **Gloria Ha**), 5 HKFC players were selected to play for the Hong Kong China Team in the event, namely **Lyndon Sham**, **Tony Cheung**, **Longinus Ha**, **Ada Lai** and **Phoebe Ho**. In the Men's Singles, HKFC players **Patrick Choi** and **Stephen Sy** qualified for the quarter and semi-finals respectively. Hong Kong China B (**Lyndon Sham / Tony Cheung**) also qualified for the semi-final in the Men's Pairs competition.

Congratulations to one of our guest teams, Scotland, for capturing both the Men's Singles and Pairs Championships!



The Hong Kong Football Club recently hosted the New Zealand team for the Hong Kong International Classic 2024. Seizing this opportunity, the Lawn Bowls Section invited **Mr. Seamus Curtin**, a distinguished player from the New Zealand team, to conduct a seminar. During the seminar, **Mr. Curtin** shared his insights on managing stress during competitions. The event was wellreceived and attracted around 30 members from our Section.





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## THE SOCCER SECTION CHAIRMAN

ear Members, As we step into the New Year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all of you. I hope you had a wonderful festive holiday, filled with joy and relaxation with family and friends. The turn of the year is always a time for reflection and gratitude, and I am excited to share some highlights from the start of our season at HKFC.

AIA

AIA

SPORTS

#### **CELEBRATING OUR 1ST TEAM**

One of the most significant developments this season has been the evolving style of play of our 1st Team. Under the guidance of our coaching staff, the team has embraced a more dynamic and attacking approach, which has not only been effective but also entertaining to watch. While results have not always been positive, the progress the young players and coaching staff are making gives grounds for optimism to our supporters. Every match has been a testament to the hard work and dedication of our players, and we look forward to seeing them build on this momentum in the coming months.

#### WOMEN'S TEAM ASCENDANCY

Our Women's Team has also been making waves, showcasing performances that have propelled them to the upper echelons of the league. Their commitment and resilience on the pitch have been truly inspiring. From nailbiting matches to stunning victories, they have captured the hearts of our fans and demonstrated the potential to challenge for top honours. It's a joy to witness their growth and success, and I have no doubt that their hard work will continue to pay off as the season progresses.

AIA

Additionally, I want to highlight the efforts of the Lucky Mile Women's Team who have made impressive strides as a new team in the league. Despite being newcomers, they have shown remarkable determination and teamwork, contributing to the vibrant of women's football at our Club. I'm sure that both teams will continue to shine.

#### STRONG STARTS IN THE YAU YEE LEAGUE

We've also seen strong starts from all our Yau Yee League teams. Each squad has shown great promise, competing fiercely and demonstrating the depth of talent within our Club. The camaraderie





SOCCER

and team spirit displayed in these matches reflect the values we uphold at HKFC. It's exciting to see our teams not only performing well but also developing as cohesive units that support each other both on and off the field.

#### FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL FOOTBALL

Fridays at the Club have become synonymous with entertainment, thanks to our Social Teams. The high-scoring matches and thrilling displays of skill have turned our Friday night games into a highlight of the week. It's fantastic to see so many new faces within these teams, creating a vibrant atmosphere that embodies the spirit of our Section that we cherish at HKFC. The laughter, camaraderie and friendly competition remind us all why we love this game.

#### FUTURE STARS IN THE HKFC ACADEMY

One of the most exciting aspects of our Club is our Junior Soccer and Academy programmes. The talent emerging from our youth teams is exceptional, and we're proud that several of our young players have received call-ups to the national team. This recognition highlights the dedication of our coaching staff and the commitment of our players who are embracing a forward-thinking curriculum that includes match video analysis, data insights, strength and conditioning training, and diet and nutrition seminars to enhance their performance. As we continue to nurture these talents, I look forward to seeing what the future holds for both them and our Club.

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

As we look forward to the rest of the season, I want to express my gratitude to all members for your unwavering support. Your enthusiasm and encouragement mean the world to our players and coaching staff. Together, we have built a community that thrives on passion for the game and camaraderie among friends.

The HKFC Standard Chartered Priority Private Soccer Sevens and Junior Sevens will be upon us before we know it in May. Invites have already gone out, and I'm pleased to share that a number of professional clubs from the Premier League and other countries have accepted – watch this space!

I encourage everyone to continue supporting all our teams, from the 1st Team to our junior players. Each match is an opportunity to come together, celebrate our love for football and cheer on our teams. Let's make 2025 a year filled with memorable moments, thrilling matches and continued growth for our Club.

Once again, Happy New Year! May it bring you happiness, health and a wealth of footballing joy.

Best regards,

Mark Grainger Chairman, HKFC Soccer Section

## TRADITION RUGBY KFG 1Us **26-27th Tradition** HKFC . **MARCH 2025**















ollowing a 2-month training block to open the 2024/25 season, the Mini Rugby Festival series kicked off with TigerFest hosted by USRC Tigers at King's Park on Sunday 3rd November.

The weather started off cool and pleasant for the early age groups before heating up as the day progressed, reaching summer temperature levels despite it being the last month

#### of autumn!

Luckily, the F&B stands were well stocked with drinks and ice lollies, making for lots of happy kids and smiling faces.

Excellent rugby was played throughout, with HKFC players adapting well to the new rules. Turn the page to read about the next mini rugby festival that happened only 3 weeks later!



"Oh, what a difference a year makes! Just 12 months ago, many of the kids were part of the 2 x U5 teams we took to TigerFest playing in their first ever rugby match, and against the youngest U6 division.

Along with all the new players this season, they did themselves, their parents and HKFC very proud – running in tries from all over the field and more impressively, tackling strong as a team forcing many 6-tackle turnovers!! A special call-out to all the parent coaches who have been hard at work during training and at TigerFest, organising and coaching the 5 x U6 teams we had. Thanks to coaches Joe, Don, Matthias, Barrett, Thomas, KK, Kiya, Fiona, Lou, Thu, Andrew, Yonnie, Andy and Jamie."

Yours in Rugby Doan, Head Coach U6



Two festivals in three weeks-U8 sent over 50 players in the first two rugby events of the season. Girls' and boys' teams played in TigerFest, whereas mixed teams were formed to take part in Sandy Bay Festival. Our girls showed teamwork and dedication in their matches; our boys gave their best through persistence and discipline. These photos are the roof! Thanks to Na, the U8 official otographer, for many of these ulous shots.

## U11 BOYS

Players and parents counted down to TigerFest, the first festival of the season. FC1 had a spectacular day, winning all four of their games: 5-0 against Shatin Shapei, 3-0 against USRC Tigers, 2-1 against HKU Sandy Bay and 1-0 against Sai Kung Stingrays. Meanwhile, FC2 and FC3 had a balanced day, winning two games and losing two. Great improvement from the boys under pro-coach Laetitia Bobo.







espite the weather forecast from the middle of the week, the morning started with a slight drizzle as Hong Kong was dealing with some unseasonal typhoon activity. The sweaters and jackets quickly came off as the skies cleared, allowing for some fast, clean rugby to be played.

Your reporter was involved in coaching several age groups on the day and

managed to get around to watch 3 more age groups on top of that. The difference in players' skills and step up in teamwork was a sight to see.

Well done to all the kids, parents and supporters for how they represented HKFC. Tune in to the January magazine for the report from Flying Kukris Festivals played over the fortnight following HKUSB's Festival!

#### **U6**

"Amazing", "Incredible", "That was so much fun". These words were heard from many proud parents as they watched our 50 kids play from 9am to 11am against teams from across Hong Kong. With a few kids unavailable due to other commitments, it provided more opportunities for others to shine in their absence, which they did with aplomb. Another festival in the books, bring on the next one!

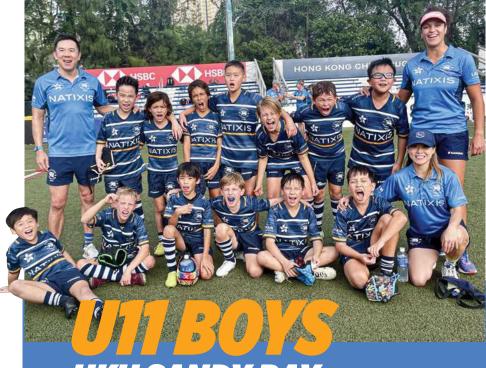
**ENJOYING** THE GAME TIME IN KING'S PARK! TIGERFEST & SANDY BAY FESTIVAL

RUGBY

Moving up from U8 to U9 sees players' transition from touch rugby to contact. Having worked closely with our pro-coaches to safely develop the required skills, the excitement was palpable as the boys got the opportunity to test their mettle at their first ever contact rugby festival at TigerFest.

More than 60 HKFC U9 players – by far the largest in the division – made their way to King's Park to face teams from 19 other clubs. As well as strengthening team bonds, the boys returned to the Club with happy memories and a winning record at both festivals. We thank our friends at USRC Tigers and Sandy Bay for hosting their events and look forward to more close fought matches in the season ahead.

#### SPORTS



## HKU SANDY BAY FESTIVAL

Building on the momentum from TigerFest, the U11 boys were full of grit as they prepared to participate in the second festival of the month. At the HKU Sandy Bay Festival, FC1 continued their success with a 6-1 victory against Shatin, a 2-0 win against Valley and a 5-0 triumph over Tigers, and also tying one match against DB Pirates.

FC2 had an EPIC day going 4-0 and getting satisfaction from defeating some teams they lost to in the previous festival. It was a solid team performance and the boys demonstrated their all-around attacking and defensive game, scoring 17 tries and conceding only 1. The team also welcome pro-coach Maggie Glassock who has recently joined the Club's ladies' team.

FC3 also had a great day, winning three games and losing one. Well done boys!





### THE ANNUAL



ON SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2024



SPORTS

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TOMATO

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DELICIOUS KETCHUP big thank you to the Football Club, participants and sponsors for another memorable year.

A fantastic afternoon of squash was enjoyed in a spirit of camaraderie, as players sweated through some memorable fancy dress costumes while (largely) maintaining the quality of exhibition squash which enthralled a large crowd.

Over \$340,000 was raised for Operation Santa Claus, a charity supporting those in need in the Hong Kong community. Thanks again to those who contributed so generously: St. James's Place Charitable Foundation, Burke & Company, HelpBnk, HKFC Squash Section, Pelican Financial, Rèn.





24 CLUB MAGAZINE



This year marked a spectacular milestone for our beloved Wing Ding – 26 years of laughter, competition and community spirit! Held at the Hong Kong Football Club, this fancy dress squash charity event continues to bring together players, families and supporters for a fantastic cause. All donations go to the wonderful Operation Santa Claus, ensuring that our contributions make a difference in the lives of those in need.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the masterminds behind this incredible event: **Phil Head** and **Nick Rickett**, whose vision and dedication have made the Wing Ding a cherished tradition. A special shoutout goes to **Dave Murray** and **Steve Gollop** for their tireless efforts in running and organising the event. Your hard work is deeply appreciated!

We also thank the Hong Kong Football Club for providing a fantastic venue, and all team convenors for their commitment to forming teams. We also extend our gratitude to the Hong Kong Football Club Squash Section for having a World Teams Championships booth at the Wing Ding and for donating 20% of merchandise sales to Operation Santa Claus.

This year, we had 12 teams competing, each with 10 players from Divisions 1 to 15, plus 3 junior players per team – an exhilarating line-up! The event ran from 9am to 5:30pm, with all players battling it out in a round-robin format. Each player faced off against their corresponding number from other teams, ensuring non-stop action.

As the horn sounded for each session, players sprinted from court to court, rallying hard before moving on. The energy was electric!

After the bottom eight players completed their matches, HK Squash Gear led with an impressive 1021 points, closely followed by Blade Revolution with 1003 points, and HKCC Premier Select with 913 points. However, the competition intensified in the final rounds. In a thrilling comeback, Blade Revolution surged ahead to secure victory with 1801 points, marking their 5th win in 26 years! HK Squash Gear took second place with 1721 points, while HKSPC HKFC Monsters climbed from sixth to third with 1638 points.



David Rundle perfectly captured the spirit of the event: "If you're not finishing the Wing Ding in a costume saturated with your own sweat, you're not doing it right." Phil Head, Carmen Lee and Zain Amjad fully embraced this ethos, committing to two teams over the past few years. Their infectious enthusiasm kept spirits high, while Paul Denham made a last-minute appearance to help his team in the second round, showcasing the true essence of teamwork and camaraderie.

The atmosphere was filled with laughter and sweat as players pushed their limits on and off the court.

Wing Ding is not just about squash; it's about coming together for a noble cause. All donations from the event go directly to Operation Santa Claus, which brings joy to children in need during the holiday season. Players' participation and generosity ensure that even more children will experience the magic of the holidays.

We were delighted to welcome **Tim Everest** who has been a significant part of the Wing Ding tournament for many years. His presence reminded us of the event's rich history and the community we've built together.

A massive thank you to everyone for your generous donations and participation in making this event a resounding success! We can't wait to see you all again next year for more squash, more costumes and, of course, more fun!

Here's to many more years of the Wing Ding!



## RAISED CHINESE FOOD **SLOW-SIMMERED PERFECTION**

## **\$179**

#### LAMB STEW WITH BEANCURD STICK AND WATER CHESTNUTS

Bamboo shoot, sugar cane, ginger, garlic, dry winter mushroom, preserved beancurd stick, cooking wine, oyster sauce, bean paste, herbs and spices

\$69

蘿蔔清湯牛腩

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



冬菇栗子炆雞

柱侯枝竹羊腩煲



French yellow chicken legs, onions, garlic, ginger. red bell pepper, sugar and soy sauce

#### **BRAISED BEEF BRISKET** WITH TURNIPS IN SUPREME STOCK

\$79

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肉

Braised beef brisket with turnips in supreme stock, ginger, garlic, star anise, cooking wine, white peppercorn, bay leaf, and sugar

**BRAISED PORK BELLY** WITH PRESERVED VEGETABLE

\$69

Five spice powder, cooking wine, garlic, soy sauce, rock sugar



## HKFC CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024: A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS WITH THRONGS OF SUPPORTERS!



he Club Championships this year were fantastic and exhilarating, held in perfect weather and proudly supported by the Swiss Consulate and Switzerland Tourism. The tennis courts are beautifully adorned with Swiss decorations in celebration of Swiss Month in November 2024. This event presents a wonderful opportunity for everyone to explore Swiss culture and discover travel tips, inspiring a desire to visit Switzerland in the future. A heartfelt thank you to **Nathan** and **Toby** for their hard work in organising all the matches.

Over the two weekends of tennis on 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th November 2024, we have determined the Club's best players. I hope everyone had the opportunity to enjoy some thrilling matches over the past couple of weekends. It was wonderful to see so many players and spectators during this time.

Our own Swiss Consul General, Daniel Freihofer, even flew his parents to Hong Kong to watch the matches! This year's finals were particularly exciting, especially the Men's Closed Doubles final where **Jordie Rhodes** and **Phil Dowding** faced off against the **Soo Brothers**. Jordie and Phil emerged victorious after a hard-fought battle. Jordie then went on to compete against Neal for the Closed Men's Singles title.

The Ladies' Closed Singles final was a marathon match between Mina Kang and Penny Austin, featuring long, looping rallies. In the end, Penny triumphed, taking home the winner's trophy. In the Open Mixed Doubles, after a shaky start, Mr. and Mrs. Clark overcame Karen and Nathan to claim the title, redeeming themselves after last year's loss. In the Closed Mixed Doubles, Vangie and Dennis faced Penny and Nadeem, with Vangie and Dennis targeting Nadeem's backhand and Dennis executing his signature slices to secure the win.



JANUARY 2025 27



In the Men's Open Doubles, Nathan and Nicky delivered a masterclass on doubles play, thoroughly defeating Mario and Jack. Julie Tringa won the Ladies' Open Singles title after Freida had to retire due to injury. The Men's Open final featured a closely contested match between Nicky Kunz and Andrew Town, showcasing fantastic rallies and creative shot selection. In the end, Nicky emerged as this year's champion.

Congratulations to Jack Cooper, Shiv Mohan, Jake Long and Callum Ewing for winning their respective junior titles.

Once again, congratulations to all the finalists and winners! Thank you all for your participation and support in this year's Club Championships. I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event. Open Men's Singles Open Ladies' Singles Closed Men's Singles Closed Singles Closed Ladies' Singles Open Men's Doubles Open Ladies' Doubles Open Junior Singles Open Junior Singles Closed Junior Singles Closed Junior Singles Closed Junior Doubles Closed Junior Doubles

Winner Nicholas Kunz Julie Tringa Jordan Rhodes Jordan Rhodes Penny Austin Nathan Booth & Nicholas Kunz Karen Hui & Rachel Hui Tanya Master & Toby Clark Vangie Gonzales & Dennis Chu Jack Cooper Jack Cooper & Shiv Mohan Jake Long Jake Long & Callum Ewing Phil Dowding & Jordan Rhodes Penny Austin & Karen Long









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## CONQUERING (OR SURVIVING) KAU SAI CHAU EA

FRIDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 2024 KAU SAI CHAU EAST

group of 20 spirited golfers gathered for a day of trials, triumphs and tribulations at the infamous Kau Sai Chau East Course. For some, it was their first encounter, while others had already experienced its penchant for devouring golf balls and crushing egos. Either way, all were well-prepared – many making pit stops at the local store to stockpile ammunition before boarding the ferry to Kau Sai Chau. And stockpile they did, though even that wouldn't save everyone from the carnage to come.

The morning started with a crisp chill, the damp conditions owing to recent rains. Soft fairways made for some tricky lies early on. However, the



weather gods smiled upon us as the round progressed, blessing the back nine with glorious sunshine.

#### A MATCHPLAY SHOWDOWN TO REMEMBER

This wasn't just an ordinary outing; the day also marked the grand finale of the 2024 Matchplay Championship. The stage was set for a nail-biting clash between **Jonny Brock** and **Colin Lunn** as they battled for the coveted title of Matchplay Champion.

It was a duel for the ages, with both players pushing each other to their limits. The contest came right down to the wire. On the 18th green, **Colin** had a putt to seal the championship. But golf, as always, had other plans – his putt just slid past, leaving the match tied. A draw! The title remains undecided, meaning this epic rivalry will need one more chapter to determine the ultimate winner.

#### WELCOME BACK AND FRESH FACES

Adding to the day's excitement, we welcomed back **Duncan Spooner**, a former Golf Society regular who managed to sneak in a round with us during his brief return to Hong Kong. Alongside **Duncan**, we were delighted to introduce **José Daniel Aguilar**,



Guy Norman, Nick Rickett, Douglas Morton, Shane Burges





**Stephen Wei** and **Douglas Morton**, a few faces braving the East for their first time as well as with the golf society. Welcome aboard, gents – we hope this baptism by fire doesn't scare you off!

#### GOLF





1st	Jonny Brock	29 points
2nd	Colin Lunn	29 points
3rd	Nick Rickett	28 points

#### **NEAREST TO THE PIN**

Hole 3	José Daniel Aguilar
Hole 5	Shane Burgess
Hole 7	Colin Lunn
Hole 8	Nick Rickett
Hole 13	Jane Fung
Hole 15	Duncan Spooner

#### LONGEST DRIVE HOLE 17

Women's Jane Fung Men's Greg Medhurst

## THE EAST COURSE: HUMBLING, AS ALWAYS

1st Jonny Broc

The East Course lived up to its reputation as a merciless confidence crusher. Stableford scores reflected the challenge, with every golfer apart from one, finishing under 30 points. Stephen Wei was the sole player to score over 30 points and achieved an impressive 35 points, but he graciously relinquished his podium spot due to an early departure, preventing him from attending the award ceremony. In true Kau Sai Chau fashion, one unlucky player managed to lose an eye-watering 20 balls to the course's unforgiving terrain - an unintentional but impressive contribution to the local hazards.

Interestingly, the Matchplay finalists weren't just battling for the championship; they were also locked in a fierce tie at the top of the Stableford leaderboard, both finishing with 29 points. A countback by hole was required, revealing that both players also scored 13 points on the back nine! Talk about evenly matched competitors.

Golf\_Winners, Jose Daniel Aguilar, Nick Rickett, Shane Burgess, Colin Lunn, Greg Medhurst, Duncan Sp Jane Fung, Jonny Brock

> Despite the challenges, the day was far from bleak. The stunning views of Kau Sai Chau, coupled with the great company, more than made up for the lost balls and bruised egos.

Congrats to all the winners and **Jonny** and **Colin**, may the rematch be as thrilling as this one!





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### **HKFC TORNADOES**

**LOCATION** Wong Chuk Hang **OPPONENTS** Valley Bobcats

FINAL SCORE HKFC Tornadoes **17 - 16** Valley Bobcats

#### **KEY MATCH MOMENT**

In a nail-biting encounter, our team emerged victorious with a final score of 17-16 against the Valley Bobcats. The match was a true test of skill and resilience, with both teams exchanging goals throughout the game.

The first quarter saw a balanced start, ending in a 4-4 tie as both teams showcased their defensive strengths. The second quarter was tightly contested, with the Valley Bobcats edging ahead to lead 8-7 by halftime. Our team rallied in the third quarter, tying the game at 11-11 as determination and teamwork shone through.

The final quarter was intense, with both teams fighting hard for every goal. Despite a setback early in the game when **Tatum** had to leave the court due to a dislocated pinky from a powerful throw by **Olivia**, our players showed incredible spirit and adaptability. In the end, we clinched the match with a welldeserved victory, demonstrating great teamwork and perseverance throughout this tough game. Well done, team!

### **HKFC MONSOONS**

**LOCATION** Wong Chuk Hang **OPPONENTS** Simba

FINAL SCORE HKFC Monsoons 25 - 18 Simba

#### **NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS**

After a string of defeats, Monsoons met old rivals on court – a team we matched in skills. The first quarter saw us take a surprise lead, which shook their defence in quarters to come. **Aditi's** towering defence complemented **Kerry's** nimble hunts and kept their offence at bay. Whilst **Sarah**, **Queenie** and **Claire** worked strategically and brought the ball down to our attackers, **Steph** and **Jackie** continuously switched around to keep their defensive players on their toes. All in all, a great win in the bag!

#### **PLAYER OF THE MATCH**

**Sarah** for never letting her guard down, putting on the pressure the whole match and inspiring the whole team to be as ball hungry as her.

### **HKFC CYCLONES**

LOCATION HKFC OPPONENTS Valley Lions

FINAL SCORE HKFC Cyclones **38 - 14** Valley Lions

#### **KEY MATCH MOMENT**

We wanted to show a bit of versatility for this game, with **Lucy** showing off her shooting skills alongside her feeding skills – switching from the shooting circle out to WA with ease. In our defence, **Eloise** moved out from GD to WD to make sure the ball moved up court smoothly.

In a friendly, (some might say) wellbehaved game, Cyclones kept building in each quarter, moving the ball around the court beautifully. Despite an unusually bouncy ring (!), we slotted an impressive 38 goals, and some amazing rebounds.

As a social team, we of course headed to the Sportsman's for a drink to celebrate and work on our end of the game cheer – it's the only part of our game that we're currently useless at!



#### **SPORTS**

The Club is proud to share <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the Hong Kong U16 academy touring squad was made up of HKFC junior players this year. In November, they travelled to Singapore to take part in the 13th International Youth Challenge in Singapore!

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Ade	elaide Williamson	Hazel Roskell	Ines Murchie	A CONTRACTOR
Kiar	na Lok Yin Lin	Lois Lui	Momoka Kobayashi 🛛 🍯	
Nat	alie Tang	Prisha Bahrunai	Zoe Holland	
Momoka Koba	ayashi and Nataline Tang			
		Kiana Lok Yin Lin and Ines Murchie		
		A A A A		Adelaide Williamson

SINGAPORE SPORTS SCHOOL

G

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

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NETBALL



6

BALL







n 2002, a small group of dedicated water enthusiasts came together with a shared dream: to create a community within the Hong Kong Football Club that celebrated the joys and challenges of swimming. This dream gave rise to the Swimming Society, a group that has since grown into one of the Club's most cherished and active sports clubs. The founding members were trailblazers in every sense - Guy Horne and Sheena Ashford-Tait, and their partners Jo and **Duncan**. They recognised the need for a dedicated swimming group within the Club's already thriving sports environment. Their vision was simple yet profound - to promote swimming, encourage camaraderie through regular meets and provide opportunities for members to compete and improve their skills in the water. They were quickly joined by their friends Alice & Richard Hutchens, Tony Lavery, David Howells, Patrick Ip, Kwong, Sophie Le Clue and Claire Darke. The Club brought us together in an amazing way and twenty years on, we're all still friends despite being scattered throughout the world. Early coaches included HKFC gym manager Tonia Peachey, James Shortis, Lloyd McBean plus Joe Wojcik for triathlon. What started with a few informal lap sessions quickly evolved into a structured team. The founding members worked tirelessly to organise events, secure pool time and create a calendar that balanced

**SPORTS** 

training sessions, social activities and competitions. They raced against the Ladies Recreation Club, Hong Kong Police and Fire Services. Having fireman Kwong as a HKFC swimmer was a distinct advantage that he could swim 100m (4 laps of the pool) without needing to breathe, so would win the underwater races. Hong Kong Olympian Arthur Li launched and ran the HKFC Swim Section youth squad pool training sessions, and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Jo Fargus cruised through training sessions and adapted to open water competition, effortlessly.

We competed in local triathlons, which resulted in the Club expanding to become a swimming and triathlon club. Laguna Phuket Triathlon was the flagship event. **Richard Hall** 

went further and qualified for the Ironman World Championships in Kona, Hawaii. Open Water Swimming took off around 2010 with the first races included the Clean Half Relay to complement the excellent biathlon Splash 'n' Dash series. It all laid the foundation for the vibrant swimming culture that HKFC enjoys today. In those early days, members swam not just for fitness but for the friendships formed poolside. Regular meets, both competitive and recreational, became a hallmark of the society. After training sessions, everyone would gather at the Coffee Shop for dinner - they even had a 'swimming club dinner' on the menu (super healthy salmon, rice and broccoli)! Christmas Socials were in the hands of **Debbie Handley** and were truly unforgettable. The group's commitment to inclusion meant



that swimmers of all abilities were welcome, a tradition that continues with Michael Sadler taking over as Section Chair in 2013 when the founders had left Hong Kong. As we reflect on over two decades of the Swimming Society, we owe a debt of gratitude to the founding members for their foresight, passion and dedication. They transformed an idea into a legacy and today, the Swimming Society stands as a testament to their pioneering spirit. Whether you're a seasoned swimmer or just dipping your toes into the water, you're part of a tradition that began in 2002 with a handful of visionaries. Let's honour their legacy by keeping the spirit of swimming alive at HKFC!

Where are those founders now? **Sheena** and **Duncan** are living close to Lake Wakatipu near Queenstown, New Zealand. They remain avid distance and cold-water swimmers and compete regularly in Masters competitions. **Jo** and **Guy** are living in French-speaking Switzerland. During COVID lockdown, **Joanne Horne** instigated a swim group all year round in Lake Geneva. As we write this article, the water temperature is 10°C with snow on the ground. **Guy** joins them occasionally and enjoys open water training in the milder months.

If we've missed anyone crucial or any special moments, please feel free to refresh our memories. A portion of super healthy salmon usually helps the process.

Dive in and make waves!

Sheena Ashford-Tait and Guy Horne 23rd November 2024





The 30th Laguna Phuket Triathlon was held on 17th November 2024, inviting athletes to participate in various races, including the Full Individual and Team Triathlon, Sprint Triathlon and Duathlon. This featured a unique sea swim through the crystal clear waters of Bang Tao Beach (including a multitude of colourful fish and squids making the swim very entertaining) followed by a scenic bike course through Phuket's countryside. The run course took participants through the stunning Laguna Phuket destination, finishing on the beach.

The Football Club relay team emerged victorious, taking 1st place overall in the relay competition in a time of 2 hours and 36 minutes. Well done to **Farah Master** and **Fred Clatworthy** for this amazing achievement!

Huge congratulations go to the HKFC Swimming & Triathlon Society athletes who achieved podium positions in very hot conditions:

**Nico Gontard** achieved an impressive 3rd place finish in the 6km swim in just 1 hour 49 minutes.

Christina Sjoholm excelled in her category, winning her age group.

Begum Demiral also secured 3rd place in her respective category.

Also massive well done to the rest of the football club cohort, including **Judith Stevenson** (6th), **Rupert Puels** (20th), **Jonathan Perrin** (13th), **Deb Hanley** (8th), **Vasco van der Flier** (8th). These results reflect the competitive spirit and diverse talent present at the society at HKFC. Congratulations all!







#### **SPORTS**

# **OPEN WATER EVENT**

The Shek O event proved to be an exhilarating and breezy day for the members of the Football Club swim and triathlon team. Serving as the final open water race of the year in Hong Kong, the cooler water temperature and intensified winds added an extra challenge to the competition. However, these conditions did not dampen the team's spirits as they united to proudly represent the Club, resulting in numerous podium finishes and well-deserved medals. Well done to all our HKFC swimmers who battled 3.4km in the choppy conditions for the following age group placings, including **Braedon Sharp** (1st) **Nico Gontard** (3rd), **Jo Hull** (1st), **Judy Stevenson** (4th), **Begum Demiral** (3rd), **Randall Arthur** (18th) and **Coach Dom** (2nd).















#### HKFC INTERNATIONAL SWIMMING COMPETITION SUCCESS AT SINGAPORE AND THAILAND MASTERS EVENTS



HKFC swimmers **Marcel Smit** and **Alison Tam** both had very impressive performances at the short course Singapore Masters held on 3rd November and the Thailand Masters held on 23rd & 24th November where both swimmers achieved a clean sweep of gold medals in all of their events. **Marcel** won the 50m Freestyle, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle with ease in Singapore whilst a special mention goes to **Alison** who also broke all 4 championship records in Thailand in the 200m IM, 200m Freestyle, 100m Butterfly and 100m Backstroke. Well done to both swimmers!

## OPEN WATER SWIMMING SUCCESS AT CHEUNG CHAU

On 2nd November 2024, the Cheung Chau Open Water Swimming race took place, featuring a 1.5km course. **Robin Leung**, who recently joined the society, emerged as the overall champion in a speedy time 27 mins and 16 seconds. Well done to **Robin** for this fantastic result!





# HKFC SWIMMERS SHINE AT HKCSA LONG COURSE MEET



On 1st December 2024, 13 swimmers from HKFC participated in the HKCSA long course meet held at the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park Swimming Pool. The team delivered an outstanding performance, securing 16 gold medals in individual events.

The relays were the highlight of the meet. The ladies' 4x50m Medley Relay Team (AG 120+) broke the masters record that had not been broken since 2012, finishing in an impressive 2:10.46. Congratulations to **Christina**, **Lucy**, **Farah** and **Melissa** for their stellar swim!

Additionally, **Christina**, **Farah** and **Melissa** teamed up with **Alison** to secure gold in the 4x50m Free Relay (AG 160-199), rounding off a successful day in the pool. The men's 4x50m Medley and Free Relay Teams, featuring **Braedon**, **Peter, Marcel, Robin** and **Anthony**, also performed admirably, achieving silver in both events. Also shout out to **Robin** and **Shane** for their podium finishes in the 100m Free and 50m Fly respectively, as well as **Coach Dom** for his continued support for the team.

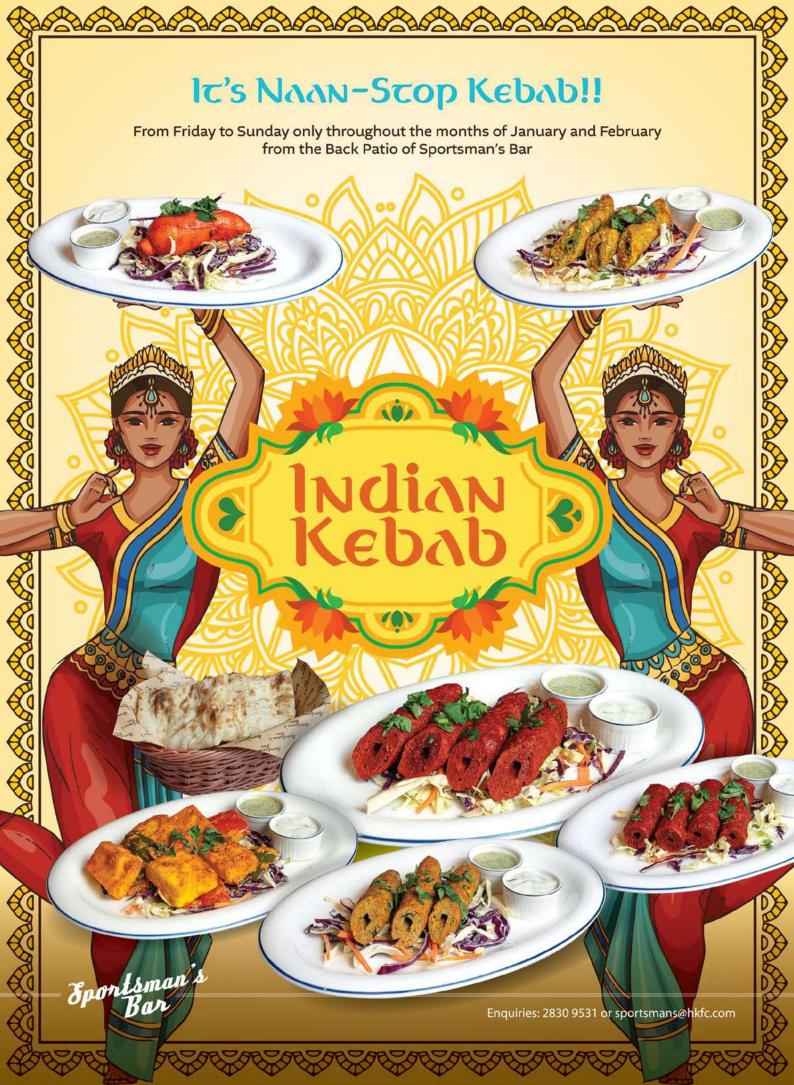




Congratulations to the following swimmers for their gold medal performances:

AG 25-29			
Lucy Barton	50m and 100m Breast		
AG 35-39			
Christina Sjoholm	50m Back		
Farah Master	100m Free		
Man Hon	50m Free		
Marcel Smit	100m Free and 50m Fly		
Anthony Lo	100m Free and 50m Breast		
	<b>G 40-44</b>		
Melissa Eichelberger			
Janet Wu	100m Fly		
Braedon Sharp	100m Free and 50m Fly		
A	G 45-49		
Alison Tam	50m and 100m Breast		
A	G 70-75		
Peter Inglis	50m Fly		





#### BADMINTON

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

# HAPPY LO JAPAN MASTERS

**appy Lo's** badminton career has entered another level she can now enter into the main draw of 300 level and qualifier in the 500 level super series and above. Her next goal will be to fight her way into the 1000 level super series. Japan Masters is a 500 level super series tournament that Happy qualified. She got promoted to main draw when her opponent walked over and faced Yvonne Li, world ranked at No.44, from Germany in the first round of the main draw. Happy was in a better shape on the

day and took the opponent down in 2 sets. In round 16, Happy was again up against an opponent she recently met, world ranked at No.4, Akane Yamaguchi. This time, Yamaguchi came prepared and was more focused on

court, and Happy beat in 2 sets. With the experience against top players in the world, Happy will return more prepared for the challenges ahead.

MATCH RESU	ULTS		EUMAMOTO MASTERS JAPAN Heldring to an electronic	MATCH R	ESULTS	
ΚυΜΑΜΟΤΟ ΜΑSTEI	RS JAPA	N 2024		КИМАМОТО МАЗ	TERS JAPA	N 202
🖬 LOSYH	12			🗖 Y LI	12	
A YAMAGUCHI	21	21		🙀 LO S Y H	21	12

#### LI-MING CHINA MASTERS

#### CHINA MASTERS

It was non-stop after Japan Masters and Happy had to travel to Shenzhen,

China for the Li-Ning China Masters 2024. This was a 750 level super series and most of the top ranking players participated. Her first-round was against Singapore No.1 and world ranked at No.13 Yeo Jia Min. Yeo was proven to be too strong for Happy and beat her in 2 sets. However, this was Happy's first encounter and also an opportunity to be part of a high-level tournament. She will certainly come back stronger!

# SALONI MEHTA

It is amazing when we all witness the growth and maturity of **Saloni Mehta** in her professional career. After winning the a national championship, she participated in two-week back-to-back tournaments in Indonesia, the Indonesia International Challenge and Indonesia Masters II. With the newfound confidence being the national champion, Saloni was ready for the challenges. Round 32 was against world ranking No.81 Chiara Marvella Handoyo and Saloni breezed through in 2 sets. In round 16, Saloni was against Hung Yi Ting from Chinese Taipei and world ranked at No.83. It was a more challenging match for Saloni, but she fought hard and won in 3 sets. Her quarter-final was against world ranking No.55 from Malaysia, Karupathevan Letshanaa. This was proven to be a more difficult opponent and Saloni bowed out

after third set. However, this was still one of the Saloni's best result and she will continue to improve.

WOMEN'S	SINGLES	
R3	2	
C HANDOYO	17	21
S MEHTA	21	23

WOME	N'S SINGL	ES	
	R16		
S MEHTA	21	11	21
HUNG Y T	13	21	17

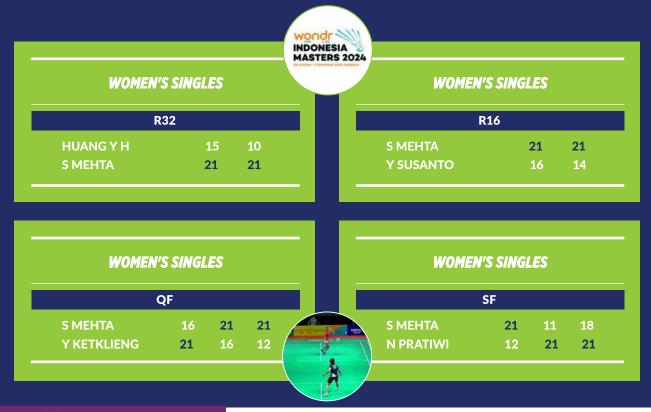
WOMEN'S S	SINGLES		
QF			
K LETSHANAA	21	19	21
S MEHTA	11	21	12

Saloni Mehta



**INDONESIA MASTERS 2024** 

The week after Indonesia Challenge, **Saloni** immediately dived into a 100 level super series tournament, Indonesia Masters II. With the experience in Indonesia Challenge, Saloni was more prepared and ready. She took both her opponents down in 2 sets in round 32, Huang Yu-Hsun from Chinese Taipei ranked No.68, and round 16's Yulia Yosephine Susanto from Indonesia who was ranked No. 107. Saloni then found herself against a player from Thailand, Yataweemin Ketklieng ranked No.191 who had just won last week's Indonesia International Challenge, and fought through 3 sets and secured her spot in the semi-final. It was a tough match against Ni Pratiwi ranked No.173 who had the support of the home crowd. Nonetheless, Saloni still, with outstanding performance in the semi-final though losing in 3 sets, won her first second runner-up in a super series. Well done Saloni!





#### **CORALINE LO SHU TING**

**Coraline Lo** will be getting ready for Woncheon Yonex Junior International Challenge in Korea from 25th November to 1st December 2024. She will participate in U17 girls singles and U19 girls doubles.



#### JUNIOR TOURNAMENTS REPORT

### **PRESIDENT CUP TEAM TOURNAMENT 2024 UPDATES**

On 3rd November, our junior squad players participated in the elementary level of the mixed team category in President Cup 2024. This open age tournament is an important team tournament for most of the junior players in Hong Kong due to the lack of junior league. Our junior team faced Team Pui Pui Lung "貝貝龍". Our players, aged in the range of 13 to 20, were not intimated at all by the young adults in the opposing team and took them down in 3:0. Their next game will be on 30th November 2024.

The ladies team was also well prepared to participate in their first President Cup 2024 match against Pui Ching Secondary School. The girls were in their good headspace on the day and took the team down in 3:1. They will play in the next round on 1st December.

Left to right:

Team Coach Alem, Lauren Lui, Joey Cheung, Ellen Lui, Cordelia Lee, Kenneth Chau, Perry Miu and Carson Chung





Left to right: Hannah Yip, Cara Yip, Evelyn Zhu, Joey Cheung, Ellen Lui, Cordelia Lee, Lauren Lui and Team Coach Mark



#### JUNIOR SQUAD MEMBERS REPORTS DISTRICT COMPETITIONS Congrats to our junior players for their achievements in the following local tournaments: 及第1 」屆全運 問體育節 202 Gi. Alvin Yap 成明 Wong Tai Sin District Singles 及11月23日 地點 中 Second Runner-up 活 ing the 75th ingofilhe Kenneth Chau en Mun Dist minton Co Tuen Mun Cup 2024 U18 Doubles Second Runner-up Kenneth Chau Tuen Mun District Doubles 4th place Param Mehta Kowloon City District Singles 4th Place Left to right: Lauren Lui and Ellen Lui Second Runner-up

Ellen Lui Tuen Mun District U13 Singles Champion

#### TEAM COACH REPORT

I was surprised when the national coach of Sweden, **Asgar Madsen**, contacted me to help one of his players, **Nils Stromo**, who came to Hong Kong as an exchange student as well as to enrich his badminton experience. **Nils** also competed in the Vietnam International Challenge while he spent his time in Hong Kong. However, the most valuable experience was the joint sparring session with HKFC junior squad and especially practice sessions with our elite JAM **Coraline Lo** to prepare her for the Korea Junior International Challenge in November 2024. It is good to have players of international calibre to come and spar with our junior squad players. HKFC is proven to be a perfect setup for international collaboration to take place. **Nil's** presence in HKFC is the beginning of global networking in the badminton community and I will look forward to further opportunities.

Furthermore, I am proud to witness recent achievements of **Happy** and **Saloni** with their advancement into the super series level tournaments. The road ahead won't be easy for both of them, but I am sure that with their newfound determination and confidence, they will continue to perform and hopefully more breakthroughs to come.



#### John Leung

Left to right:

Nils Stromo, Team Coach John Leung,

elite JAM Saloni Mehta and Coraline Lo

CLUB MAGAZINE

#### BADMINTON

#### JUNIOR MEMBER OVERSEAS ACHIEVEMENT

# **CURTIS CHEAH**

It is encouraging to see our overseas junior players able to not only continue their badminton development but also their accomplishments. Curtis Cheah is a junior member and both parents are strong advocates of junior badminton development in HKFC. Curtis departed to Canada this summer and arrived in Toronto to commence his academic pursuit. It was not easy for Curtis to locate a badminton club to continue his training and participate in competitions due to the long travel commute from Residence to local badminton training facilities. With his talent, it was not long before a club near his Residence is able to suit his training needs. His time to shine came when he competed for the first time in the Ontario junior badminton circuits. It was not a disappointing experience at all as Curtis



won his U17 singles Ontario Junior B level and was second runner-up in Ontario Junior A level tournaments. This is another example of bringing junior badminton from HKFC to the global stage.



n an exhilarating showdown that took place on 24th November 2024, the Hong Kong Football Club's (HKFC) Badminton Team SPMs celebrated a landmark victory in the intermediate level Men's Team category of the 2024 President Cup. Facing off against the formidable "Florescent" team, the HKFC team showcased skill, determination and teamwork, culminating in a hard-fought 3:2 win.

The competition was intense and closely contested across all matches comprising three men's singles and two men's doubles games. Each game was a demonstration of sheer tenacity and strategic prowess, with our players overcoming challenges and demonstrating the high level of training and commitment that the Club instills in its members.

This victory is particularly significant as it marks the first win for the HKFC Badminton Team SPMs in this prestigious tournament, setting a high bar for the season and highlighting

#### **UPCOMING JUNIOR EVENTS**

September 2024 – May 2025 HKFC Junior Badminton Team Challenges 2024

October – January 2024 President Cup 2024

#### January 2025 New Year Party and Internal Junior Sparring Competition

January 2025 onwards HKBA Doubles and Mixed Leagues

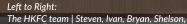
#### January – July 2025 HKFC Junior Badminton Internal Ladder 2025

#### May 2025

HKFC and Torq Sports Junior Badminton Tournament

> July 2025 HKFC and Torq Sports

Overseas Junior Badminton Team Tournament





the team as a force to be reckoned with in future engagements. The matches against Team Florescent were a testament to the spirit of sportsmanship and the competitive edge of our players.

We wish our SPMs the best of luck in their upcoming competitions!



M.



Lobster Tales: Epicurean Adventures from around the World. Throughout the months of January and February at the Restaurant

# RESTAURANT

Enquiries and Bookings: 2830 9562 or restaurant@hkfc.com



B ig congratulations to our young bowler, Jasper Liauw, who was 3rd runner-up after the semi-final in the U20 Boys' step ladder match at the "Belair Bowling 17th Hong Kong Individual Open Tenpin Bowling (Local) Tournament 2024".

He finished second with 901 in the 4 games at Stage 1 of master.

**Jasper** also bowled in the Men's Open Master of the Tournament and was the scorer of the only 300 perfect game in the entire tournament.

# LEAGUE SEASON STARTED

The 2024/25 HKICTB League started in November and HKFC had 2 matches against Hong Kong Cricket Club and Hong Kong Club by the end of November. Our team is doing great so far and season will last until June 2025, with 8 clubs participating in the league.





BOWLING

# FLAVOURS OF THE PAMPAS

# GUISINE

THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY.



ENQUIRIES: 2830 9559 OR BAR@HKFC.COM

To a wing with the

#### GINGER BLISS IN A GLASS -

# **Ginger Time**



#### GINGER MEZCAL

Diplomatico rum, Monin ginger syrup, fresh lime juice, fresh ginger tea, tonic water

#### GOLDEN GINGER PUD

Opihr gin, fresh orange juice, fresh ginger juice, fresh lemon juice, Monin ginger syrup, egg white

#### STORMY GINGER MOJITO

Nusa Cana rum, Myers dark rum, fresh lime juice, fresh ginger juice, ginger beer, mint leaves

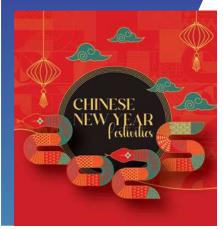


Enquiries: 2830 9559 or bar@hkfc.com



#### FOOD & BEVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS IN JANUARY

**FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS** 



Welcome to the Year of the Snake

The Annual Lion Dance Performance will be held on Sunday, 2nd February 2025 together with the Sunday Brunch at the Happy Valley Suites.

#### **CATERING**



#### Sunday, 12th January Catering Consultation Day TIME 1pm – 5pm

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

#### <mark>SPORTSMAN'S BAR</mark>



*Indian Kebab* It's Naan-stop Kebab!



*Beverage:* 1664 Brut | Buy 1 Get 1 Free Monday to Friday, 5pm – 7pm

#### COFFEE SHOP



Nostalgic Hong Kong Dishes Enjoy Hong Kong Timeless Dishes Beverage: Hot Lemon Coke with Ginger.



*Monthly Special: Healthy Chinese Recipes* Flavours and Wellness

#### RESTAURANT



*Lobster Around the World* Lobster Tales: Epicurean Adventures from Around the World

#### FAMILY LOUNGE



Chinese Dumplings in Soup Warmth in Every Spoon Beverage: Chinese Tea Selection

#### CHAIRMAN'S BAR



**Argentinian Cuisine** Flavours of the Pampas

*Beverage: Ginger Time* Ginger bliss in a glass



**Historical Afternoon Tea** Tea time through the Ages: an Historical Afternoon Tea Journey

#### **CAPTAIN'S BAR**



**Roscón de Reyes** A Royal Treat, the Spanish King's Cake **Beverage:** Healthy Blends

#### KIOSK



**Braised Chinese Food** Slow-simmered Perfection

#### CATERING



#### Chinese New Year Gathering Package 2025

From HK\$598 per person

Inclusive of a sumptuous buffet and unlimited serving of soft drinks and chilled orange juice for 2 hours during lunch buffet.

Bring joy and prosperity to all your friends and relatives. Book your event now while space is still available.

For details, please contact the Catering Office at 2830 9513 or catering@hkfc.com

Scan the QR Code





Friday, 17th January Olivier Leflaive Wine Dinner

TIME	7pm Welcome Drink, followed by Dinner
VENUE	Restaurant, 2/F
PRICE	\$988 per member \$1,038 per member's guest
Enquiries	and Bookings: 2830 9532

#### or restaurant@hkfc.com

#### Saturday, 25th January | Sunday, 26th January CNY Bazaar

TIME 1:30pm – 6:00pm VENUE Lockhart Room, 2/F Tasting available

#### **PREVIEW** IN FEBRUARY

#### FESTIVE PROGRAMME

#### Romance is in the Air... Celebrate the day with your Valentine

At the Restaurant, there's a Valentine's Day set dinner available.

#### WINE EVENTS

Thursday, 20th February 2025 Wine Master Class: **Cheese & Sake** 

Friday, 28th February 2025 Wine Dinner: **Chile Wine Dinner** 

Saturday, 22nd February | Sunday, 23rd February Wine Fair: **Quick Sales** 

#### **COFFEE SHOP**

Buffet Buffet: Nostalgic Hong Kong Dishes Monthly Special: Healthy Chinese Recipes Beverage: Hot Lemon Coke with Ginger

#### POOL BAR

New a la carte Menu

#### RESTAURANT

Lobster Around the World Festive Promotion: Valentine's Day Set Menu

#### SPORTSMAN'S BAR

Back Patio: Indian Kebab Super Bowl Breakfast: Sunday, 9th February 2025

#### CHAIRMAN'S BAR

Food: Argentinian Cuisine Tea Set: Historical Afternoon Tea Cocktail: Ginger Time

#### **CAPTAIN'S BAR**

Roscón de Reyes Beverage: Healthy Blends

#### FAMILY LOUNGE

Chinese Dumplings in Soup Beverage: Chinese Tea Selection

<u>KIOSK</u>

Hot Items: Braised Chinese Food

#### RESTAURANT

TEL 2830 9562 EMAIL restaurant@hkfc.com



TEL 2830 9569 EMAIL coffeeshop@hkfc.com

sman's

TEL 2830 9531 EMAIL sportsmans@hkfc.com



TEL 2830 9559 EMAIL bar@hkfc.com



TEL 2837 2622 EMAIL bar@hkfc.com



TEL 2837 2663 EMAIL bar@hkfc.com



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Tilley Aroma Reed Diffuser 150ml \$290
Mini Triple Scented Reed Diffuser 100ml \$280
CANDLE
Rainbow & Soy Candle 375g \$320
Rainbow Triple Scented Soy Wax Candle 375g \$320
REED & CANDLE SET
Reed Diffuser 100 ml + Soy Candle 160g \$280
PAMPER SET
Body Pamper Gift Set \$240
BODY CARE SET
Gift Bag Gift Set \$220



# CHINESE NEW YEAR BAZAAR

SATURDAY SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025

LOCKHART ROOM, 2/F 1:30PM TILL 6PM DAILY



ING KONG FOOTBALL CHE

CATERING SERVICE

LUNAR NEVYEAR Octoberrow

WITH HONG KONG FOOTBALL CLUB

#### NEW YEAR GATHERING PACKAGE

Start the new year with a bang and unwrap these new banquet packages. Book your event now while space is still available.

For details, please contact the Catering Office at 2830 9513 or catering@hkfc.com

SCAN HERE for menu and offers

