

## 19th Hole for June/ July 2015

On 24th June 2015, the Golf Society held its AGM in the Lockhart Room.

At the AGM, approval was given for the Society to increase its annual golf levy for the first time in nine years from the fee of \$600 set in January 2007 to \$750 with effect from 1st January 2016.

Given that, this fee provides Society members with use of golf debentures and golf clubs for hire at both Macau and Lotus Hill, plus subsidized golf lessons, subsidised events and competitive matches, as well as bag tags, handicap services, social events, an enhanced website and access to a lot of information about golf in the region, this still represents excellent value for our members.

The Society took the opportunity of the AGM to launch its new enhanced website [www.hkfcgolf.com.hk](http://www.hkfcgolf.com.hk) and began by inviting our members to register online in a user friendly way that can be accessed via both mobile phones and computers for the events scheduled to be held in July 2015 and thereafter.

At the end of the AGM, the Chairman for the past three years, **Ian Petersen**, handed over to the incoming Chairman, **Chris Meecham** and the new Golf Society Committee consisting of:

<b>President</b>	<b>Ian Petersen</b>
<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Chris Meecham</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Margaret Tsai</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ivan Yuen</b>
<b>S &amp; RSC Rep</b>	<b>Dallas Reid</b>
<b>Captain</b>	<b>Duncan Spooner</b>
<b>Handicaps</b>	<b>Desiree Wong</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Terry Wright</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>James Suttie</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Darren McEntee</b>
<b>General</b>	<b>Mary Soo</b>

## Golf Outings

### HKFC Golf Society vs WAGS

**Macau Golf and Country Club, Monday 1st June**

**I**t was whilst rummaging around in the trophy cabinet to retrieve the trophy for another event that I stumbled across a rather attractive silver plate inscribed with HKFC GS vs WAGS. Curiously, this was last contested in 2004! Knowing a couple of active WAGS members, I wondered whether this fixture could be revived. The invitation was keenly accepted and arrangements were made.

WAGS is a longstanding golf society in Hong Kong, whose name hails from their original playing slot on Wednesday afternoons. We were hoping to disorientate them by playing on a Monday and dragging them over to our 'home' course in Macau.

The respective captains chose and ordered their pairings before they were revealed 'Ryder Cup-style'. First out, a redoubtable pairing of **JP Cuvelier** and **Dallas Reid**, a

pairing you'd bet your house on – and yet approaching the turn they trailed. It was clearly going to be a mighty battle. Fortunately, their age-defying fitness levels pulled them through 2 and 1, and we took an early lead.

In the second flight, a fine pairing of youth and experience was beyond our opponents and **Jim Suttie** and **Anatole Lee** prevailed 4 and 3. Anatole did well to stay focused with Jim unable to remember or pronounce his name and resorting several times to calling him Ayatollah!

Knowing the calibre of his team, the Captain in the 3rd flight, paired with debutante **Diana White**, took pity on their opponents, succumbing meekly to a 4 and 3 defeat. Moving swiftly on to our 4th pairing of stalwarts **Andrew Wood** and **Fiaz Magdooom**. They blew their opponents away 6 and 4, turning around an early deficit with a winning streak of 7 holes!

Flight number 5 comprised hockey talents, **Jonny Brock** and **Gary Sharma**, or Seve Sharma as he will be known henceforth. Finding



themselves 3 down with 5 to play they then won 4 on the trot and halved the last to secure a famous victory, and with it, the match.

It's always good to have a strong pairing in the last flight, you never know when it's going to go down to the wire. And pairings come no stronger than the reunited dream team of **Terry Wright** and **Lynda Coggins**, both seasoned internationals in their own sports. Such is their level of professionalism that the first beers weren't cracked open until victory had been secured.

And so HKFC ran out 5-1 victors. To be fair to our opponents, this scoreline does them no justice, noting that they had at some stage led all 6 matches. We enjoyed a meal and a few drinks afterwards and vowed that it would not be another 10 years until the plate was contested again. ■

*Duncan Spooner, Captain*

## Annual HKFC Golf Society Strokeplay Championship

**Kau Sai Chau – North Course,  
Saturday 6th June**

The sun shone, perhaps a little too brightly as the day dawned for the 2015 Club Championship with several contenders waking up with title hopes, including the defending champion, **Phil Head**, looking to become the first three time winner of the trophy. Four others had previously won it twice (also in a row) but then never again, at least so far! One of those, **Duncan Spooner**, was looking to rectify that record, along with **Terry Wright**, who had put an end to Duncan's own hatrick dreams with a win back in 2012. **Dallas Reid**, who has long fantasised about victory in this event, turned up clad atypically in plain white, perhaps hoping that the year of the sheep would prove fortunate for him? Looking to keep that dream just that, however, were **Jonny Brock**, the runner up in 2014, the debutant diplomat, **Tony**



2015 Club Championship at KSC North Course

**Ambrosino**, another promising low handicapper and the ever-competitive, Belgian bandit, **JP Cuvelier**. Beyond these 'magnificent' seven lay a host of mid to high handicappers in one of the larger fields for this event. Could it be their title and/or would they carry off one of the day's other spoils?

As play got under way around mid-day, they say it is only mad dogs and Englishmen who venture out in such heat, but it was Hong Kong's own **Johnny Lam** who very graciously accepted the responsibility of teeing off first (with 3 non-HKFC members in view of the uneven number of players). By all accounts he had a very sociable round, which is just as essential an element of the day as the scramble for the silverware. Meanwhile those yet to tee off hid in the shade or under an umbrella; at least those wise enough to have brought one along!

Next off were the hockey grouping of **Matt Burke**, **Fraser Hern**, **Will Glover** and **Simon Weller**, three of whom are well used to hitting a small, white ball very hard with a stick whilst sweating bucket loads. However, the accuracy required over 300 yards as opposed to a 'mere' 30 took its toll, with Will leading the way, posting a 93, and Matt's century perhaps not aided by deciding that Crocs were the most appropriate footwear for the day! Fraser at least managed to turn up (for once), although he still failed to submit a card, whilst Simon, the only

non-hockey player, won the longest drive on the 17th (the 8th as we played it) having just eagled the hole before, a par 4 across a gaping ravine. Glory beckoned! However, not for long, as he played the second nine in 'triple twenty', including two double figure holes, eventually carding a 105. He would, though, be far from the last player to fall victim to the closing nine....

Meanwhile our Chairman, '**Jumbo**' **Petersen**, led off the hopeful 2nd flight alongside **Tony Ambrosino**, **James Riordan**, a recent prize-winner at CWB, and **Declan 'Longstockings' McDaid**, who, hailing from a country steeped in golfing tradition, was certainly not going to go out in the mid-day heat in anything other than the proper attire:-





They too though found it hard to play well beneath the sweltering sun, with James scoring 95, after a strong start, and Declan topping off his outfit with an equally dapper 104. Tony's lack of match practice led to 'a score in the 90s' whilst Jumbo decided discretion was the better part of valour in not submitting a card; it's the taking part that counts after all.

The 3rd flight comprised **Jim Suttie**, **Guy Devenish**, **Eric Desgouttes** and **Patrick Watts**, all of whom were looking for 'one for the pool room'. Sadly three of them were 'dreamin', with Eric displaying typical Gallic resilience by walking off after only nine holes claiming 'fatigué'. Suttie though at least had a decent excuse for posting a century after being nearly hit by a ball on the first tee...twice! First as he teed off, and then as it rebounded from the starter's hut whilst his own ball whistled off into the distance. Patrick, perhaps seeing double due to the heat, played the wrong ball and so graciously disqualified himself. Guy, in contrast, was one of the hardy few who managed to hold his game together over the course of the day, being the first of only two players to play below their handicap (gross 94, nett 71); a commendable effort in the searing conditions and also testament as to how difficult they were.

Off 4th were **Jonny Brock**, **Don Rider**, **Duncan Spooner** and **JP Cuvelier**, who displayed all his competitive cunning by being the only player to employ a caddy. This aided his initial efforts, which looked promising, but, as with so many others, he later faded away as did his shots, to record a 90. Meanwhile, Don, with his not one, but two new hips, posted a truly singular Nelson (111) thereby laying down a healthy marker for the keen golfer award. Whilst this was going on, the two other 'serious' contenders were playing copycat golf, both good and bad, with Jonny beating Duncan for the nearest the pin prize on the 14th, sandwiched by both duffing short pitches over/into bunkers and later double bogeying the 17th before thankfully the sun settled behind the clouds. That enabled Jonny to play

the ten remaining holes in 1 over par, carding a solid 77 and taking the prize for most birdies along the way, whilst Duncan had one more blow-out but nevertheless became only the second and final player to play below his handicap (84, nett 71). That triple bogey though was to prove his double undoing as it enabled Guy to claim the nett competition on count-back and another of his old time foes to snag the bronze medal spot.



The 5th flight included three relative novices to KSC in **Joe Wheeler**, **Paul Walters** and **Darren Measures** under the watchful supervision of the experienced campaigner, **Terry Wright**. Indeed Joe had asked innocently at the start if he needed a trolley and should be thankful that we were an honest lot in saying 'Yes!' Otherwise his century plus four could well have been higher. Darren, who had been drafted in by Phil unaware that buggies were not allowed, made another rookie error in not applying sunscreen all over, with his resultant, lobster calves meaning that he won't be resting on a chaise-long reflecting on his round for a while yet (not that he probably would want to without his favourite tippie to hand). As anyone knows, the KSC rough, aka bramble bushes, can be very unforgiving even in the mildest of weather let alone the summer months, and the course accordingly took its fair share of golf balls from all, including Terry who lost his first shot of the day. However, he's not known as 'thermometer' for nothing and consequently kept his cool in the

heat of battle, managing to progress relatively smoothly thereafter, carding a respectable 83, which once again meant that he had edged out Duncan, this time for 3rd place overall in the gross competition. If only he hadn't lost that ball, but such is golf, especially with no Baldrick to look for it!

6th off were **Dale Willetts**, **Anatole Le**, **Brent York** and **Dallas Reid**.

Anatole was yet another to fall victim to the conditions, scoring 93, half as much again as his handicap, which was actually better than most of the field, a number of whom did not complete several holes, with Dale becoming the second player to feel that the front nine were more than enough in what was rapidly becoming HKFC's very own 'Marathon des Sables'. Brent, however, battled on, maintaining a happy countenance in the face of golfing adversity, easing the other's scoring struggles with his ever-pleasant demeanour. In spite of this, whether it was the warmth or simply the excitement of the event, the normally steadfast Dallas couldn't keep control of his shots, even posting a quadruple bogey at one stage, thereby sharing 5th spot on 90 with JP and so bidding adieu to his title hopes for yet another year. But, just like Tiger Woods, who performed a similar feat over the same weekend, we know he will return.

The penultimate group consisted of **Jonathan Li**, **Colin Lunn**, **Richard Neish** and **Brian MacDougall**.

These golfing stalwarts clearly had their eyes set on other goals beyond mere tin cups, being determined to extract full value for their money, with only Mr Li failing to score a century, and that by a mere one 'run', whilst the other three battled it out for the keen golfer award. No-one though could match Colin's hunger for the title as he posted a closing 14 and 10 over the last two holes to shoot 119; a very worthy winner indeed of that particular accolade! On a further positive note, this was one of only two groups where all four players were able to submit completed scorecards.

The final fourball included three 'social' players, **James Larsen**, **Paul Bennett** and **Rob Wilkinson**, alongside the

defending champion and triple-title-seeking, **Phil Head**. Their serious approach to the day is clearly evidenced by Paul's warm-up routine:-

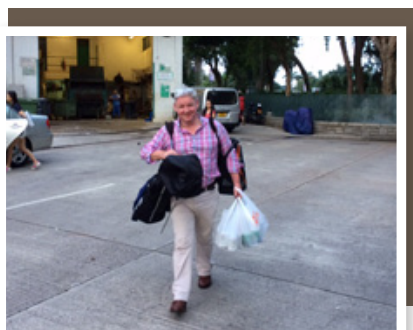


As they relaxed into their rounds, this laid-back attitude clicked with Cool Hand Head, who got up and down from all corners to remain at level par after ten holes, which meant (albeit unbeknown to him at the time) that he could afford to bogey every other hole to 'achieve the unachievable'. Just as the sun took shelter behind the clouds, however, the closing nine claimed its final victim as Phil's game also lost its sparkle and he rather sportingly performed the equivalent of bogeying every hole instead. Nevertheless he still carded a laudable 80 to claim 2nd spot outright, thereby swapping positions with Jonny from the previous year, a neat twist to a great day's competition.



With the golf and heat finally over (after rounds lasting a draining 5 1/2 hours) the refreshment attempts began in earnest. Combined with the delays on the course this caused a bit of a scamper to catch a late ferry home,

with eight players still managing to miss that one, naively expecting an empty shuttle bus to carry them down to the said ferry, forgetting that 'rules are rules' in Hong Kong and that the driver would not move until his allotted time slot, whatever the logic. Very wisely, 'Longstockings' pre-empted the multiple fines that were being plotted by all those hard-boiled souls waiting on the return coach by acquiring two bags full of 'rehydration salts' for all.



These proved to be fitting whistle-wetters ahead of the sumptuous F&B laid on back at the Club, where prizes were distributed amidst an over-abundance of food and tales of heat-struck woe as the fable that was the 2015 club championship came to a deservedly, well rehydrated conclusion. Huge congratulations to all those who organised and participated in it and especially to those who lasted the course on what proved to be a very demanding test of golfing mettle.

If you fancy the sound of testing your own metals, then why not put the first Saturday of June 2016 into your diary now? Whether it's keeping Dallas's dream alive for another year or simply breaking 100 - in either direction - it's a great day out and will be even more so with your participation. A year is more than enough to build up those spousal brownie points. Or even better, why not combine them, as unfortunately the ladies' event had to be called off due to too low a participation in contrast to the high turnout of 'real men'. Or maybe they had simply looked at the weather forecast and decided that they were neither mad dogs nor Englishmen, Irish, Scots, Chinese, Australians, Kiwis or even Belgians with their own manservant!

Either way, happy golfing to one and all for the back nine of 2015. May the sun shine brightly (although not too fiercely) on all of your efforts. ■

*Jonny Brock*

## HKFC Golf Society v. Little Sai Wan Golf Society

**Macau Golf & Country Club, Monday 15th June**

Little Sai Wan has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is a very prestigious golf society, based at Hong Kong Golf Club at Fanling. Suffice to say, it comprises some very serious golfers. And so, its Captain, a certain **JP Cuvelier** you may have heard of, rather fancied his chances of getting one over on HKFC and winning this inaugural match between our golfers.

The format of play, as demanded by our opponents, was to be singles matchplay. As we travelled over to Macau on the ferry, a draw was conducted to see who would play whom. With 11 players drawn from each team, it was clear that those remaining in the bag were none other than their captain, **JP Cuvelier**, and our own esteemed Chairman, **Ian Petersen**. "Well, that's one point in the bag" was written all over JP's face. Little did he know...

Blessed with a day of glorious sunshine we were relieved to be using buggies, it would have been a tough day if walking. And so the captains led the way. The mojo was firmly in the HKFC cart in this flight. HKFC's **Captain Duncan** and **Chairman Ian** were both in the zone and were never headed. Our opponents, Roger Best and JP fought gallantly and played solidly but they had no answers to the HKFC onslaught that resulted in our Captain and Chairman recording 6&4 and 5&4 victories in their respective matches. 2 - 0!

In the next grouping, we had the terriers - **Nick Allen** and **Will**





HKFC GS vs Little Sai Wan GS at Macau Golf &amp; Country Club

**Glover.** Nick was in redoubtable form whilst Will struggled for consistency and so the overall scored moved on to 3 - 1.

Our third group was pleasingly strong – **Dallas Reid** and **Peter Aherne** – both very familiar with their foes. Dallas played almost faultless golf to humble his opponent 7&5. Peter came up the last all square but conceding a shot to his opponent. With quite a gallery now surrounding the 18th green, Peter's birdie putt slipped past the hole but fortunately his par was good enough to halve the match. So HKFC's lead was extended to 4½ - 1½.

We had our low handicappers in the next flight – **David Muir** and

recently crowned HKFC Golf Society Strokeplay Champion, **Jonny Brock.** David's 5-handicap proved too tough on the day and he went down to LSW member, Dale Willetts. Jonny fought back well in his match and, to half the gallery's delight, secured a 1-up victory on 18. At 5½ - 2½ HKFC sat on the brink of a famous victory. But who was going to get us over the line?

Step up **Terry Wright!** Before any tension could arise, Terry brought his game home a comfortable 5&3 victor. Little did we know it at the time but HKFC wouldn't score another point. **Jim Suttie** couldn't live with some scintillating golf from his opponent. And in the last flight, **Andrew Wood**

lost to his opponent's gross 73 and **Anatole Le** narrowly lost a tight and slightly controversial match.

This was a victory to savour, against illustrious opponents. And boy did we savour it! The beers flowed in the Clubhouse, on the ferry and back at the Sportsman's Bar.

In one of my pre-match emails, I had referred to LSW as 'a bunch of golfers'. JP had taken issue with my lack of reverence for their esteemed society. On this occasion, however, HKFC's stellar play reduced our opponents to being merely a bunch of golfers. Until next year!! ■

*Duncan Spooner*

## Walmsley Cup

**Kau Sai Chau – South Course, Wednesday 24th June 2015**

It was a dark and stormy start to this year's event and after the previous two days of torrential rain, it was lucky that we managed to step foot on the golf course.

Fortunately the weather held out for most of the round, but the amount of deeply driven sunken balls told a tale of a very wet golf course.

Only 24 players set out to play this year and with the men's and ladies' tournaments being combined due to there being only a few lady entrants, so yet again **Dallas Reid**



was dreaming of glory at the annual Walmsley Cup set on the short but tricky South Course at KSC.

Dallas was first out with **Terry Wright**, **Phil Head** and **Nick Allen** and in good sporting fashion the formidable Allen and Head team challenged Reid and Wright to a better ball match to complement the efforts of winning the Walmsley Cup. As predicted this turned out to be a nail biting match with the lead too-ing and fro-ing until the 9th when Reid and Wright went 2 up, from then on it was nip and tuck before Allen holed out to half the match on the last green.

In the second grouping of the day, the erratic but exciting play of **James Riordan** and **Andrew Wood** was overshadowed by the amazingly consistent play of **Jonathan Li** who shot 85 for 40 stableford points.

3 more groups set off before bringing up the rear were **Skipper Spooner**,

**Jonny 'club champ' Brock**, **Stephen 'I'm in here' Bottomley** and **Norman 'I've got the day off' Wong**. Sadly, thanks to the slow play ahead, Brock, Bottomley and Wong could not concentrate on their games, and only Skips, who had spent the last year increasing his handicap by 50 percent, focused on winning this particular silverware. Sure enough he did not disappoint shooting a 75, 5 strokes below his handicap, a round that 'El Bandito' himself would have been proud of.

So the final standings at the end of play were: 3rd place **Jonathan Li** with 40 points, 2nd place, **Duncan Spooner** with 41 points and this year's Walmsley Cup Champion was **Cathy Neish** with 44 stableford points. The best gross score went to **Duncan Spooner** with a 75.

Longest drives on hole 17 went to **Jonny Brock** for the men and **Malou Waldie** for the ladies.



Nearest pins went to **Malou Waldie** on hole 2 and **Jonny Brock** on hole 5, while **Cathy Neish** took both holes 11 and 16.


After a few celebratory drinks we all headed back to the Club for the GS AGM and a few more drinks and nibbles to follow.

See you all at the next event.

Happy golfing. ■  
**Phil, Golf Event Organiser**

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