

Mission Hills Golf Event Friday 11th March

This was our second outing to Mission Hills in as many months. This time around we were booked to play on the Ernie Els course. With the weather being so cold in Hong Kong we were only six strong in the field, but two groups of three balls proved very manageable for this social event.

Drama struck immediately for myself as event organiser: we had driven up to the Mission Hills shuttle bus located next to the China border, ordered breakfast noodles, and I was setting off for Immigration when I realized I had left my passport at home! This was a first in my 18 year career of travelling into China for golfing events, so with my tail between my legs, and my stomach full of noodles, I took an expensive taxi ride back to HK, hoping that the traffic wouldn't be too slow to return in time for the tee-off. I soon found myself in the inevitable jams, thinking of the great golfing opportunity I had missed. However, this did not deter the 5 remaining players from heading on to enjoy the fantastic hospitality of Mission Hills and the Els course.

The sadly decapitated, 'Headless' pairing of **JP Cuvelier** and **Jonny Brock** decided to take advantage of a relatively empty course, teeing off early with no warm up in cool and dewy conditions, to scuttle around in under 4 hours - another rarity for golf in China! JP also took advantage of his own differences (2 decades, 8 shots and 400 yards off the tees) to beat Jonny on the 18th hole with a well-deserved victory.

A few flights behind, at the correct tee-off time, the trio of **Margaret Tsai**, **Albert Lam** and **Steve Lee** also progressed smoothly, escaping any rain and enjoying a very sociable game. Indeed so sociable was the quintet that they all ended up winning one prize each in the Nearest



the Pins and Longest Drive competitions, dividing up the spoils equally in the restaurant afterwards, before taking the bus (and their passports) back to Hong Kong. They managed to reach the Club in just under 2 hours in spite of the Friday night traffic, yet again proving that a day trip to Mission Hills can be easily managed ... just as long as you remember to bring the correct documents with you!

■ **Phil Head, Golf Event Organiser**

Kau Sai Chau East Course, Tuesday 22nd March

With the golf course being completely closed the day before our event, I had very little hope that we would be able to make our way to KSC let alone play golf, but with the website assuring us the course was open, seven players reluctantly jumped on the 7.30am bus and made their way up to Sai Kung in hope of a day of fairways and greens albeit with them being very wet.

We arrived on the first tee on the East Course to surprisingly calm weather, a tad cold and overcast but apart from that, very pleasant golfing conditions. This must have disappointed **Johnny Lam** as he was the only player who pulled out of the event.

The first group to tee off consisted of myself, **Dan Ternes** a long standing

squash buddy of mine, **Peter Nie** and **David Lindsay**.

With no stableford competition to play for due to the lack of numbers, a very social round of golf ensued.

The second group to tee off were **Dominic Ng** with wife **Angela Koo** and **Patrick Wong**.

Thankfully we were playing off the white tees as nearly all of the par 3's are treacherously long off the blues.

I managed to take the honours on the first nearest the pin on hole 3; Dan secured the second on hole 5, while Peter Nie managed to take the next two on holes 8 and 13, leaving Dominic to usurp Dan's fantastic attempt on the last

par 3, hole 15 and only just missing his birdie putt.

The longest drive was played on hole 9, and with Dan's ball missing the fairway it left yours truly to split the fairway to take the prize.

Angela also took aim and found the same fairway to claim the ladies longest drive on the same hole.

Although the weather was a little on the chilly side, we all managed to stay dry the entire round and it was a very pleasant experience to play at KSC when it was pretty much deserted.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next event.

■ **Phil Head, Golf Event Organiser**