



HKFC v HK Country Club

Friday 6th October 2017, Kau Sai Chau East Course

With HKFC's part-time skipper **Terry Wright** on another extended vacation in NZ and Japan, we were once again casting around for a stand-in captain. **Dallas Reid** was summarily passed over in light of his abject loss at Macau a few months ago. And so with alternatives being limited to the likes of **Jonny Brock**, it fell once more to yours truly to lead the team out.

Country Club had given us a sob story about struggling to raise a team and had asked that this year we waive the usual maximum handicap criteria. So it was clear from the get go that we would be conceding a plethora of shots. We have had a number of very sociable matches with these guys however so we were happy to cut them some slack if that was what was needed to get a full team out.

Looking to establish an early lead, HKFC's first pair out was the heavyweight combo of **JP Cuvelier** and **Tom McColl**. They had a good

tussle with stalwarts of the Country Club team, **Simon Cheung** and **Toby Doeringer**, but JP's putter caught fire on the back nine which secured a comfortable 4 and 3 win.

Our second pairing featured long-time tennis partners, **Gilles Bonnier** and I, trying to transfer the magic to the golf course. We were up against a Franco-Japanese pair of ladies. Conceding a shot a hole and 150 yards on most tees, we were going to have to play out of our skins to survive this one. And we didn't! Still, someone has to offer up some consolatory crumbs or the opposition might not come back next year, and at least we could claim to have been chivalrous.

Next up we had the experienced pairing of **Nick Allen** and **Alistair 'What's the Hurry' Murray**. Numbers must've been tight for Ali to have been picked again after missing his tee time when last selected! But given the chance, he was out to cement his place in the team

and these 2 notched up a good win to put our noses back in front.

The penultimate pairing of hockey players, **Jonny Brock** and **Gordon Marsden**, started shakily with Jonny using half his handicap on the 1st hole. But the big match nerves soon settled and by all accounts he didn't do much wrong thereafter and so the match victory was secured.

Although technically, the margin of victory in the last flight, where **Brian MacDougall** once again inspired his playing mate, on this occasion **Andrew Wood**, to greatness, was such that these guys may actually have secured the victory before their teammates in front of them. Well played you two but you could learn a thing or two from your captain about not rubbing your opponents' noses in it!

And so the trophy was retained, with a 3rd win from three recorded. After a reviving beer in the clubhouse both teams headed into Sai Kung for a well-supported (and well-libated) dinner!

■ **Duncan Spooner**

Reunification Cup 2017

The Club Golf Team arrived at Lotus Hill with every reason to be confident. A strong win in 2016 with seven of these golfers back again to defend the trophy. The recent dry weather saw the course in good condition. The usual banter was shared with our now familiar and hopefully nervous opponents on the way to the course. The Club team renew they needed to play good golf to win this tournament as it's a stableford competition and 25 of our 30 opponents have handicaps higher than every one of the our golfers.

Day 1 always sees the lowest handicaps out first so **Jonny Brock** led the charge against the lowest handicappers our opponents had to offer. A very solid 34 points from Jonny the best in his group and a good start for the team. **Phil Head** managed to improve on Jonny

with 35 points and also top his four ball keeping the Club ahead of the field. **Dallas Reid** next up with 33 points and **Terry Wright** with 40 points equalled the best the opponents in their group could offer and still kept the momentum building with these very solid scores. **Lee Wainwright** followed with a great score of 38 points a full 8 points better than the next best opponent in his foursome. The early Club confidence clearly proving justified at this stage. With half the field safely in **Duncan Spooner** was next in with a reasonable 30 point haul but significantly the first HKFC golfer today to have his score bettered by an opponent with **Philip Lee** from Hong Kong Country Club the first to achieve that feat with 40 points. **Anatole Le** restored the balance with his own excellent 40 points topping a high scoring group. The last three groups struggled in over the last few holes with the sun gone and light disappearing fast. The lights that line these last few holes failed to work but that did not prevent **JP Cuvelier** and **Andrew Wood** bringing in 34 points each and 27 from **Eric Desgouttes**.



Terry Wright receives the Reunification Cup for the winning HKFC team



Anatole Le – “Best Gross Score” with his opponents – never too young for golf!

Saturday's team score is calculated by throwing away the highest score and lowest score and adding together the remaining 8. This left HKFC with counting scores ranging between 30 and 40 for a team total of 278. A little down on last year but still stronger than the best the opponents could manage – 237 by the HK Country Club. Chinese Recreation Club close behind with 232 and the American Club with 229. The very useful 41 point lead proving the simple theory if each golfer bests his foursome the team will come out on top and this was achieved by 8 out of 10 of our golfers.

Clearly a lead like this deserves to be toasted and celebrated with gusto and this occurred well into the night and then on into the morning. The good food and company was combined with the necessary commitment to rehydration after a thirsty round of golf. Everyone found a small amount of sleep at some point in the night but unfortunately sleep wasn't to be the problem it was the waking up that proved to be difficult !!!! Apparently water is much safer to rehydrate with! More to come on that

Needless to say Sunday's golfers were a slightly subdued bunch and arrived at the first tee generally without a lot of spring in their stride or time to spare. This was a problem shared to a small extent by the 4 teams but fair to say dominated by the Club like the scores were on Saturday. The best Sunday HKFC score was a strong 38 by Jonny backed up by a pair of 37s from Anatole and Eric with all the other scores being solid with

only 3 scores below 30 points. This surely would be too strong for the 3 opponents after Saturday but drama now ensued.

A rule violation no less and an official enquiry ! The rules state that “golfers more than 5 minutes late for their tee times will be disqualified”. Despite the whole field of 40 golfers managing to play 18 holes and finish the round they did not all go out in the order designated on the start sheet and several had not in fact been there within 5 minutes of their tee time. Opinions varied as to the severity of the infractions and indeed any punishment for these crimes. Vigorous captain's debate ensued with the resulting less than unanimous decision being that the offending players would be disqualified and their scores would not count.

How would this change the result? Fortunately for the golf contest not at all, with players from 3 teams being disqualified and even with sore heads and little sleep the Club golf team recorded a Sunday score of 249 equal to the American Club and slightly better the CRC and HK Country Club. This ensured the strong Saturday score carried the team to victory and the Reunification Cup for the 3rd year in a row. A lot of fun and some great golf played in good company. Also of note was Anatole Le winning the prize for best gross score across the 4 teams over the two days after 2 strong rounds of golf.

A valuable lesson learned you ask ????? Only time will tell so better set your alarm clocks and tune in next year !

■ **Terry Wright – Golf Captain**

Chairman vs President Challenge

26th October 2017

This year's challenge was held on Kau Sai Chau's North course which is debatably the hardest of the three public's golf course's in HK.

The weather however was perfect for golf although possibly warmer than average for late October.

The format this year was two ball better ball with 75% of players handicaps. **Dallas** and **Ian** who are this year's respective Chairman and President, decided on the teams which on paper were very evenly matched. With 14 players signed up, this correlated to two teams of 7 players, three 4 balls and a two ball.

Dallas and I started the event with the only singles matchplay match of the event. Dallas eased to a 3 hole lead after 6 holes, but I managed to scrape back to 1 down after 9 and just nudged into a 1up lead after 11 holes. After 15 holes we were all square. An unforced error on the short par 3 16th took me to 1 down, and an missed birdie putt kept that score going into the 18th hole. Unfortunately I could only manage a half on the 18th to succumb to Dallas and the Chairmans team 1 down. Great match Dallas.

The second grouping to tee off were **Matt Burke** and **JP Cuvelier** representing the President team playing against **Terry Wright** and **Malou Waldie**. Terry being the strongest player was giving shots to the rest of



group but this wasn't to deter him and Malou from taking a very convincing win 5 and 4, with the help of some fantastic chip-in's from Malou, to put the Chairman's team 2 up in the match.

Ian Petersen and Jenny Chapman needed to play some magical golf to keep the Presidents teams hopes alive, but alas their opponents had other ideas, with James Suttie and James Riordan taking a convincing win 6 and 4, which gave the Chairmans team an unassailable lead.

Thankfully the last grouping of Don Roberts and Allan Hay playing against Jukka Hakli and

Lawrence Chong were able to bring home 1 point to the Presidents team with a solid 5 - 3 win over Jukka and Lawrence. Final score:- 3-1 to the Chairman's team.

The nearest the pins and longest drives winners were as follows.

- NP # 3 Dallas Reid
- NP # 7 JP Cuvelier
- NP #11 Don Roberts
- NP # 14 Phil Head
- LD M # 17 Matt Burke
- LD W # 17 Jenny Chapman

Congratulation to the Chairman's Team for a fine victory.

- Dallas Reid
- Terry Wright
- Malou Waldie
- James Suttie
- James Riordan
- Jukka Hakli
- Lawrence Chong

See you all at the next event.

■ Phil Head

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Friday 10th November 2017



You have to love golfing in Hong Kong in November, glorious sunny weather, 28 degrees, zero humidity and beautiful blue skies...

The scene is set for our last golf event of 2017 on Kau Sai Chau.

Three groups of 4 set off, first with myself, **Jonny Brock, Dallas Reid** and **James Riordan** setting a blistering pace with birdies on nearly every other hole producing a very interesting sideline match play event, but even with some very lucky bounces from me and Jonny, the opposition of Dallas and James were 1 up after 9. The back 9 didn't seem to go our way unfortunately and we managed to succumb to a 3 - 2 defeat. There were some great acrobatics from James the Giant Peach as he River Danced all over our putting lines,

and a feat of anti-gravity as one of my downhill putts suddenly shot uphill to produce a surprise birdie.

The main event of Individual Stableford points was now being calculated in the restaurant as the second group of players slowly made their way in. **Rosemary** and **Kenneth Hu** came in with a 39 and 35 stableford points respectively, while **Owen Davis** and **Allan Hay** came in with a 30 and 42 points, with Allan's 42 points looking to be in contention for the title.

But it was not to be, as **Lily Chan** carded a record 50 stableford points which took the rest of her group consisting **David Lyndsey** who scored 23 points, **Steve Lee** 23 points and **Alan Homeming** 31 points, totally by surprise, not to mention the entire golfing society.

Nearest Pins and Longest drives as follows.

- NP 2 Dallas Reid
- NP 5 Dallas Reid
- NP 11 Owen Davis
- NP 16 The Green
- LDM 14 Jonny Brock
- LDW 14 Lily Chan

So well done Lily for shooting a gross score of 79, 7 pars and a birdie, a lifetime best score.

As per Golf Society custom the winner was obliged to buy the beers on the bus on the way back – thank you Lily.

See you at the Xmas events.

Happy golfing

■ **Phil Head**

