

HKFC Golf Society Vs Kowloon Cricket Club Golf Society

This was the first competitive golf match between these two proud clubs that are both an important part of the sporting history of Hong Kong. It is surprising it has taken so long to bring the two teams together.

A dull overcast day saw the attendants on the ferry distributing extra sick bags to the passengers journeying to Macau. A clear sign we were in for a blow. Fortunately we all survived a mild trip with a few bumps breakfast intact and arrived at Macau GCC to find a strong breeze crossing the course. Being on top of the hill Macau has always been exposed but with the recent typhoon removing most of the trees there was nowhere to hide from the wind now.

Society Chairman **Dallas Reid** and **Owen Davis** lead off against KCC Captain **Sanjay Nainani** and **Suresh Gopisetty**. 2 down after 7 the HKFC pairing were playing well but not making headway until Owen kicked in with some key shots and making good use of his handicap turned the match to result in an ultimately comfortable 3 and 2 victory to the HKFC pair.

HKFC Captain **Terry Wright** and **Andrew Wood** faced a similar predicament 2 down after only 4 holes. With **David Brettell** putting out of bunkers to win holes it was not going to be easy to turn this around! A purple patch with Woody's putter on fire around the turn saw HKFC go a hole up only to slip behind again on the 15th. Clawed back to even after 17 holes it was all up for grabs on the 18th. Watching Woody's tee shot disappear off the tee into the

hazard gave KCC some immediate hope but a solid par in the wind by Terry wasn't able to be matched and HKFC had secured a 1up win in an extremely tight match.

Jonny Brock and **Gordon Marsden** were next up and by all accounts had this match under control throughout and every time KCC would threaten to take a hole good shots were matched with even better shots. **Ashok Mahtani** and **Eric Kee** frustrated their best efforts were constantly covered as the HKFC pair closed out a strong 4 and 3 win.

Next **JP Cuvelier** and **Jenny Chapman** took on KCCs **CM Mak** and **Mary Ching**. JP for once in the unusual position of not being the most senior golfer in his fourball with Mary Ching having the edge over JP in both years and good looks. This clearly had JP rattled with the HKFC pair 2 down well into the match. Fortunately the strong shoulders and calming influence of Jenny carried JP until these two caught fire and won 6 holes in a row to win 4 and 2. The HKFC pair possibly a little lucky that the strong wind and cold temperatures got to their opponents on the back nine.

Duncan Spooner next up with HKFC debutant **Sam Shei** who despite feeling nervous rolled in fabulous putts on each of the first 2 greens. This match was tight all the way and went down to the very last hole with Duncan again proving to be the consummate host allowing **Gabriel Lam** and **Vincent Lee** to gain the first win for KCC 1up.

The final match saw the husband and wife



Winning Captain Terry Wright receives trophy from KCC's Sanjay Nainani

pairing of **Jason** and **Malou Waldie** taking on KCCs **Johnny Cheung** and **Duncan Paul**. Another very tight match with Malou being challenged as much by the cold temperatures as the golf opponents. Her preference most certainly being her nice warm home course in the Philippines ahead of Macau in the cold and wind. Despite the conditions Jason and Malou ground out a 1up victory to give HKFC the win.

The final result a 5-1 victory to HKFC was probably quite flattering when you consider three of the matches went all the way to the last green and could have gone either way. Local knowledge probably a big advantage to HKFC given the conditions.

All in all a very successful first match between two good teams that were socially very well paired and an enjoyable time was had in each others company. Good signs for this to become an entertaining and popular event for many years to come.

■ **Terry Wright Golf Captain**

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Xmas Cup Lotus Hill

25th/26th November

Our usual smooth event administration had something of a hiccup for this event, as we were able to only reserve 8 tee times and nine players had booked. "Fortunately" **Steve Glover** had back issues and so was delighted to drop out leaving us with a perfect eight players for the event. Hopefully Steve's back will make a prompt recovery.

As **Phil Head** was playing a squash event elsewhere in Asia I offered to be the "on the spot organiser" which meant a heavy suitcase heading to China full of prize balls for the two days of competition.

On the first day we had a standard Stableford event. On the second a team Stableford event. In addition the prestigious Christmas Cup was on offer for the player with the greatest total Stableford score over the whole weekend.

Lily Chan was suffering a 7 stroke "adjustment" to her score (reduced to 6 on Sunday) following her phenomenal 50 point score in our last event. Despite this she competed well scoring 31 and 36 points over the two days.

However no-one could compete with **Lana Woo's** outstanding 40 points on day one and so went into the second day with a 5 point margin over the next player (me). However I was confident that the pressure of sleeping on the overnight lead would prove too much and she would come back down the field on Sunday.

After Saturday's game we decided to head into town for dinner, and enjoyed an excellent dinner in a huge restaurant near the ferry terminal. When I say "huge", they were hosting a wedding banquet for 1000 people but had no problem whatsoever fitting us in. The fine food was washed down with plenty of interesting wines, not least a peach prosecco which I decided was perhaps best left to the ladies.

On day two, we reversed the flight order, and allotted players to their respective teams based on Saturdays score, with the two top scorers in opposite teams, etc. Generally scores were higher on Sunday, but despite my hopes of a collapse from Lana, it was not to be, and despite a one shot penalty for her Saturday performance, she recorded another excellent 40 points to be top scorer both days and walk away with the Xmas Cup trophy.



Nick playing the course under par – till this visit to the bunker!

Meanwhile the Sunday team event was very tight, and only after a very harsh ruling from Nick Allen on me regarding what clearly should have been a free drop from a flowerbed, Team Lana (**Lana, Nick, Steven Lee and Dominic Ng**) emerged the winners by 109 to 107 points.

So an excellent weekend at the lovely Lotus Hill course in splendid weather; particularly excellent for Lana winning day one, the overall Xmas Cup, and leading her team to victory on Sunday. Maybe this is a message to the Captain to pick her for the Reunification Cup in future!

Scores Summary

Day 1

1st	Lana Woo
2nd	Dallas Reid
3rd	Owen Davis
Best gross	Nick Allen

Day 2

Winning team	Team Lana (Lana Woo, Nick Allen, Steven Lee and Dominic Ng)
Xmas cup Champion	Lana Woo



Another small dinner at the same restaurant



Everyone eagerly awaiting the food