

# Reunification Cup, Lotus Hill Golf Club

3rd and 4th November 2019

It seems getting ten golfers to China for a Saturday morning tee time is never simple and that's the way the Cup started. With the start sheet in handicap order with lowest out first **Jonny Brock** and **Terry Wright** off at 1 and 2 for HKFC always had fate against them and as it turns out a desperately slow shuttle driver who treated our golfers to a leisurely drive around Zhuhai waterfront and a crawl down the expressway.

Barely time to dump the bags the lads were straight onto the first tee. Jonny responded well with a nice drive down the middle and Terry's strong pull ..... well folks they are still looking for that one, through the tops of the trees and across the road! Easy to relax once the frantic dash to the 1st tee was completed both these experienced golfers settled into their work well with Jonny a very healthy 37 stableford points and Terry a creditable 35 after a pointless first hole in all senses of the word. The format of this competition is team of ten golfers scoring individual stableford scores with the highest and lowest discarded and the remaining 8 becoming the team score.

With the rest of the team out in a more orderly/leisurely fashion in most cases good news flowed in off the course as the golfers returned. Debutant **Ted Li** bringing home 38 points was the highlight with solid 34 point efforts from **JP Cuvelier** and **Nick Allen** just topping the 33 points of **Andrew Wood**. With the golfers targeting at least 30 points there were a few disappointed golfers with 3 scores not reaching that mark but having our lowest score retained at a respectable 28 points it ensured we would come away with a solid total.

Golf gave way to rugby briefly as the team watched South Africa shatter England's dreams of a Rugby World Cup title as the wheels well and truly fell off the Chariot and the golfing words of **Owen Davis** bizarrely seemed to mirror the difficulty England seemed to be having on our screen as he reflected on an unhappy round – "The harder I tried it seemed the harder it got!"

So it turned out that evening after totalling the team scores HKFC held a solid 21 point lead over Chinese Recreation Club (CRC) with 4 points back The American Club battling away with only 9 golfers and 15 points back to HK Country Club in 4th place.

Another solid performance surely could see the trophy back in the cabinet at Sports Road. What could possibly go wrong? Indeed, reflected the English.

Well just where do I start?

JP Cuvelier having slipped getting out of the shower Saturday evening was seemingly OK over the pool table later on but woke up with a shoulder that would not work. HKFC now faced with a 9 men team and no ability to drop the low score. Task now much more difficult but not impossible. Lots of news filtering through the course at crossover points of golfers not having a great day caused a little concern but a long way to go yet and much can happen.

Sunday's round started on the 10th hole so the finishing hole was #9 with lots of water and an elevated green with big deep bunkers. The 3rd toughest hole so everyone was getting a shot. Surely whatever happened before this point we could pick up some extra points on this last hole. Captain Wright walked off the last with zero points for the hole having been beaten by the bunker to be greeted by the news that both Jonny Brock and Ted Li before him had suffered similar fate. JP was next with the zero, he scored on each hole followed by Nick Allen who had a chance but missed the short putt to end the 9th with zero points as well. Next in the distance was the fluoro green shorts of Andrew Wood in what now appears to be Sunday ritual driving too long into the water and taking relief to hit the next into the bunker and score 7 for zero points. It could have been an action replay of 2018, had we not changed our shirts this year. A sad end to a solid round of 34 which topped the scoring with Wright's 34 also achieved with zero points on the 9th minutes earlier just by different means. So the fears that

having only nine golfers would be very difficult proved no less of a challenge than the actual 9th hole itself. First six golfers all in with zero points. **Anatole Le** and **Bill King** managed to break the duck and finally score some points on 9 but could this lack of ability to score on the 9th hole prove fatal?

Lunch was taken while the scores were being tallied. The organising team CRC with their staff busily doing the sums. Then a few murmurs and then smiles from the CRC table – that can't be a good sign. The numbers go up and the final result sees CRC with 483 points in first place to HKFC's 480 points with The American Club in the 3rd followed in by HK Country Club. Wow! What a tight finish and a bit shattering to lose by such a small margin after leading comfortably on day one.

Oh! How it could so easily have been! Lots of golfers with scores they were disappointed in, including Owen who like the English rugby side had still not recovered his Mojo from Saturday. Playing with just nine golfers clearly didn't help and of course that damn 9th hole. You can look for many reasons for not retaining the Reunification Cup but as usually happens in sports fixtures we just didn't play well enough to win. Any one of our golfers could have scored the extra 3 points on Sunday we needed to retain the trophy (with the possible exception of "broken wing" JP) but the fact is we didn't. Which is why we will be back next year to prove that we can.

Thanks to Lotus Hill for a well presented golf course.

■ **Terry Wright, Golf Captain**

*Footnote: Serious rumours have already started of an intensive 9th hole training camp for anyone wanting to be selected for next year's team.*

# Christmas Cup, Lotus Hill Golf Club

23rd and 24th November 2019

The Christmas Cup is a two day event normally held at Lotus Hill each year. Nine members joined this year's event with some new faces among the players. Following the cancellation of the morning ferry to Lotus Hill, we changed the travel arrangements to go by coach from Huang Guan terminal. To our pleasant surprise we were able to complete the trip between 7.45am and 9.20am with remarkably smooth traffic leaving us plenty of time to warm up on arrival at Lotus Hill.

The first to tee off were **Albert Lam, Steve Lee, Jonathan Li** and myself. I have played with Steve a few times before and Steve has improved tremendously. His driving is more consistent and the ball striking has greatly improved. However, his short game still needs to be improved. He eventually scored 5 pars and 39 points to claim second place for this event. When Steve finished the round, he was so happy to tell everyone that this is the first time to have 5 pars and shot below 100! Congratulations! Sadly for Steve, **Lana Woo** was on hot form again shooting 92 for 43 points to claim the victory! Meanwhile her team member, **Lily**, also shot 38 stableford points to claim third place.

On day two, we were playing Texas Scramble format. I was playing with Steve Lee and Jonathan Li, however we were struggling to make birdies. We only managed to score one birdie over 16 holes. At hole 17, I hit a pitching wedge and left 10 yards to putt. Jonathan went for the aggressive line and sank it for a birdie, so 2 under over the round. At hole 18, if you can drive 270 yards, you can go for the aggressive line by aiming for the small island. After seeing Jonathan and Steve drive, I am safe to go for the aggressive line. Lucky for us, the ball went over the island and left us 110 yards to go for the green. I hit a 52 degree wedge and left 6 yards for the eagle. Jonathan went to putt first and the ball just went left of the hole. Steve was able to read his putt and went on to sink the eagle putt! Marvellous teamwork to score 4 under par with gross 68 and net 59 to claim the victory on day two.



*Jonathan Lee driving off*



*Steve Lee contemplating a tricky situation*

Here is breakdown of the event:

## Nearest to the Pin

Hole 2 – Ted Li

Hole 11 – Ted Li

Hole 14 – Steve Lee

Hole 17 – Ted Li

Longest Drive Male – Albert Lam

Longest Drive Female – Lana Woo

1st Place – Lana Woo – 43 stableford points

2nd Place – Steve Lee – 39 stableford points

3rd Place – Lily Chan – 38 stableford points

Day 2 – Texas Scramble

Winner-Gross – 68 Net 59 – Ted Li, Jonathan Li and Steve Li

Happy Golfing

■ Ted

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- Guests must be accompanied by a Member onto the Club Premises.
- Children under 12 years old are not permitted.
- Children between 13 and 17 years old must be accompanied by an Adult Member.
- Should the number of bookings be insufficient, the event may have to be cancelled.



Elsa Lee a magnificent drive



Melbourne, Wright, Hakli and Shum



Cronin, Paul, Hayward and Brock laugh it up



Sam Shei putts for the win on 18

## HKFC Golf Society vs Kowloon Cricket Club, Macau GCC

25th November 2019

A stunning day greeted both teams as they approached Macau in the ferry. Cloudless with a touch of smog but very importantly only a light breeze so great conditions for golf.

A tight schedule saw HKFC's first pair almost straight off the bus onto the first tee. A quick couple of putts seemed to be all **Scott Laws** and **Bill King** needed as they started strong winning 3 holes straight to be 3 up after 3. Unfortunately the magic was lost at that point as KCC's **Vincent Lee** and **Sanjay Nainani** regrouped and went on to dominate this match and win on the 15th hole 5 and 3.

KCC off to a great start. Could KCC skipper **Duncan Paul** and **Barry Cronin** keep the momentum going. **Jonny Brock** and **Helen Hayward** would prove to be tough opponents right through to the 18th tee where the 2 teams were locked up all square. Combining well with strong play from Jonny on the front 9 and Helen finding form on the back 9 this match was settled in spectacular fashion with Helen carding a net eagle on the 18th to take the point for HKFC. A fine 1 over par back nine by Helen finished off with a rather large exclamation mark.

HKFC Captain **Terry Wright** and **Jukka Hakli** were next out against **Peter Shum** and **Barry Melbourne**. It wasn't looking good losing the first hole but the HKFC pair regrouped their composure immediately and won 5 of the next 6 holes to be 4 up. 4 down at the turn the KCC pair decided to dig their toes in and chip away at the lead until they reached the 18th tee

now only 1 down and the game getting tense but still very much alive. 2 solid pars from the HKFC pair however saw this match closed out in HKFC's favour 2up.

Next team to hit the 18th was **Andrew Wood** and **Sam Shei** for HKFC against **Johnny Cheung** and **Erle Pereira**. Had this match been decided yet? No. Despite being 3 down after 11 holes the HKFC pair had clawed their way back to be all square on the 18th tee. Another one down to the wire and a very relieved Woody sank the final putt to take this match 1up to HKFC.

A definite trend was evolving here with 3 matches being decided on the 18th hole all in HKFC's favour. Not wanting to be left out of the fun and a bit of tension HKFC's next pairing of **Justin Faulkner** and **Ian Petersen** grabbed their own piece of 18th hole drama by also winning 1 up on the 18th when Ian sank the final putt to secure the point.

Only 1 flight left and Terry and Jukka waiting on the 18th green had been well entertained by the unfolding dramas to this point. What would the last group serve up? You guessed it another 18th hole nail-biting decider. After hitting a lovely tee shot on 17 to comfortably claim the near pin **Elsa Lee** had been unable to sink the birdie putt to give her and **Dallas** a 1 up advantage on the 18th tee so yet another group arrived all square with just the 18th to play. Macau's 18th is a great finishing hole, a long par 5 flanked on one side by bush and the other the ocean. If that wasn't tough enough already they threw in a large lake in

front of the green to make the approach shot even tougher. Dallas and Elsa seemed to be in a strong position as we watched **David Brettell's** 3rd shot barely clear the lake and run up short of the green. Still with a very difficult shot left he calmly chipped to within a foot of the hole for a net birdie. Both Elsa and Dallas still had chances to halve with difficult 30 foot putts but unfortunately their 2 great putts narrowly missed and their net pars whilst being very good scores were not good enough on this day. **David Brettell** and **Daphne La Rosa** winning for KCC 1up.

Wow what a day! The fantastic weather made a perfect backdrop to this great battle where 5 of the 6 matches were decided on the 18th hole – that's getting value for money. Both teams played well and HKFC could feel very fortunate to come out on top 4-2 on a day where a couple of putts sinking for KCC could easily have seen that result reversed. The spirit of the matches carried on afterwards with the great camaraderie between the teams continuing over a few drinks and dinner. Great golf course, great contest and great weather were the reasons everyone was smiling.

Near Pins on the day to: Ian Petersen, Jonny Brock, Barry Melbourne, Helen Hayward and Elsa Lee.

Long Drives : Daphne La Rosa and Dallas Reid.

■ **Terry Wright, Golf Captain**



## CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES AT THE CLUB

Friday 24th January – The Club will be closed from 5pm onwards

Saturday 25th January – The Club will be closed all day

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January

#### ◆ RESTAURANT ◆

Carvery Semi Lunch Buffet

12noon to 2.30pm

2-Course: 168

3-Course: 197

Restaurant A la Carte Menu

6.30pm to 10pm

#### ◆ COFFEE SHOP ◆

Year of the Rat Lunch Buffet

12noon to 2.30pm

226 per Adult, 113 per Child (age 4-11)

CNY Family Dinner Buffet

5.30pm to 9.30pm

226 per Adult, 113 per Child (age 4-11)

#### ◆ HAPPY VALLEY SUITES AND CHAIRMAN'S BAR ◆

CNY Brunch

11.30am to 3pm (Last arrival 2pm)

423 per Adult Member, 443 per Adult non-Member

(with unlimited flow of Sparkling, House Red/White wine and Beer)

181 per Child Member (age 4-11), 204 per Child non-Member (age 4-11)

(with unlimited flow of chilled juice)

### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January

#### ◆ RESTAURANT ◆

Carvery Semi Lunch Buffet

12noon to 2.30pm

2-Course: 168

3-Course: 197

Restaurant A la Carte Menu

6.30pm to 10pm

#### ◆ COFFEE SHOP ◆

Year of the Rat Lunch Buffet

12noon to 2.30pm

226 per Adult, 113 per Child (age 4-11)

Dinner Buffet with Auspicious Dishes

5.30pm to 9.30pm

226 per Adult, 113 per Child (age 4-11)

# HKFC vs Little Sai Wan, Kai Sai Chau (North)

4th December 2019

Following days of jousting with the opposing traitorous Captain (our very own **JP Cuvelier**) over such matters as handicaps, playing the course and team members, we set off to Sai Kung with the larks in full voice against a beautiful sunrise. However, the Northern monsoon had arrived in Hong Kong the day before and it was down to a chilly 11C with some strong blustery winds.

En route, bad news, when I received a text message that one of their players had spent most of the night in "the little boys' room" after an overdose of sausages and sauerkraut. We thought that Oktoberfest was already over, but this occurrence to **Lorenz Zimmermann** deemed him down and out. So, once again, 12 became 11 and berthing at the Kau Sai Chau ferry pier on choppy waters, I was thinking who would have to play for fun.

Little did I know, the opposition true to their scheming, had during the check-in recruited a lonely Frenchman to replace Lorenz at the very last minute. **Pierre Lisnard** turned out to be a smart "acquisition", playing off a 6 handicap.

All pairings took place in a random draw by opposing players one-by-one at 8am sharp in the course Coffee Shop, with lots of light hearted banter with breakfast being served.

The format was 100% handicaps singles match play, which we rarely play.

The Results:

**Jeremy Porter** (7) defeated **Peter Aherne** (9) (3 birdies); 5 and 4 (scoring nett 73 and 75 respectively!)

**John Harris** (11) defeated **Scott Laws** (9); 3 and 1, with Scott suggesting we should convert our Outdoor Lawn Bowls rink to a putting green, such were his woes on the short grass.



Noel Prentice sending his match report to the SCMP

**JP Cuvelier** (15) defeated **Fergus McCoig**; 3 and 2, with some claw grip putting magic.

**Sandy McKintosh** (15) lost 5 and 3 to our ringer **Laurent De Greef** (6), another Belgian.

**Dave Collins** (15) and **Andrew Wood** (14) Captain on the day (also 3 birdies) ended up All Square.

**Nigel Farmer** (12) defeated our Flying Finn **Jukka Hakli** (15); 3 and 2.

**Peter Boothby** (10) defeated **Helen Hayward** (13); 3 and 2. Great to see a lady competing in this annual fixture for the first time.

**Noel Prentice** (15) defeated **Jonny Brock** (7); 3 and 1. Johnny assures us he will be back with a vengeance once his new set of irons bed-in.

A jet-lagged **Jim Costello** (4) lost to **Marco Jorge** (8); 4 and 2, with Marco making a nonsense of his sore back from overdoing it at football training the previous night.



The Captains, enough said

**Nick Gikas** (18) defeated **Justin Faulkner** (15); 4 and 2

Ringer **Pierre Lisnard** (7) defeated another French speaker, **Gilles Bonnier** (17); 3 and 2.

**Mark Cameron** (13) lost to **James Riordan** (17); 2 and 1. A fitting finale from James who left our shores mid-December, returning to The Emerald Isle. Best of luck from all the team and hope that you will continue playing for us when back on business.

So, it was not to be for us this year. Final score – LSW 8 ½, HKFC 3 ½.

Many thanks to all who showed up during what is a busy, festive month and on a golf course that was playing tough, against a very solid opposition.



## VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER

FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

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FEBRUARY PREVIEW

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## GOLF EVENTS - 2020 SCHEDULE

(As of 1st January 2020 - Subject to change when required)

### JANUARY

- 8/9 Jan (Wed/Thur) Junan Country Garden Golf Club  
17 Jan (Fri) Match vs FCC, KSC North  
20 Jan (Mon) KSC North

### FEBRUARY

- 8 Feb (Sat) Match vs MiB, KSC North or South  
13 Feb (Thur) Xili Golf Club  
21 Feb (Fri) AIA Pairs Event, HKGC Eden  
24 Feb (Mon) Match vs RHKYC, Macau

### MARCH

- 6 Mar (Fri) KSC South  
25 Mar (Wed) KSC East

### APRIL

- 9 Apr (Thur) Petersen Texas Scramble HKGC (TBC)  
21 Apr (Tue) Phoenix Hill Golf Club

### MAY

- 2/3 May (Sat/Sun) GS Committee vs General Committee, Lotus Hill (TBC)  
6 May (Wed) Clearwater Bay & Annual General Meeting (TBC)  
11 May (Mon) Match vs WAGS, Macau  
18 May (Mon) Match vs HK Club, Macau  
22 May (Fri) KSC South President v Chairman Cup (TBC)  
29 May (Fri) Intersection Cup, Macau (TBC)

### JUNE

- 10 Jun (Wed) Walmsley Cup at KSC East  
15 Jun (Mon) Match vs Big Sai Wan, Macau (TBC)  
26 Jun (Fri) Xili Golf Club

### JULY

- 15 Jul (Wed) KSC South

### AUGUST

- 21 Aug (Fri) Indoor Golf golfson

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 Sep (Thur) KSC South  
5/6 Sep (Sat/Sun) Ryder Bowl Match vs. American Club, Lotus Hill (TBC)  
11 Sep (Fri) Match vs HK Cricket Club, Macau (TBC)  
21 Sep (Mon) Phoenix Hill Golf Club  
28 Sep (Mon) Match vs DB Residents Club, DBGC (TBC)

### OCTOBER

- 6 Oct (Tue) Match vs HK Country Club, Clearwater Bay (TBC)  
15 Oct (Thur) Annual Club Champs at KSC North  
19 Oct (Mon) Match vs Little Sai Wan, Macau  
26 Oct (Mon) Clearwater Bay TBC

### NOVEMBER

- 2 Nov (Mon) Match vs HK Seniors, Macau  
7/8 Nov (Sat/Sun) Reunification Cup Match, Lotus Hill (TBC)  
11 Nov (Wed) KSC North Texas Scramble 28/29  
28/29 Nov (Sat/Sun) Christmas Cup, Lotus Hill

### DECEMBER

- 3 Dec (Thur) KSC East  
16 Dec (Wed) Christmas Gathering at Deep Water Bay



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