

Sir Nick Faldo Charity Dinner A Golfing Legend Visits the HKFC

Presented in partnership with Mission Hills and supported by Hong Kong Golf Club



Faldo Five Ball (L to R):

Andrew Bourne, Will Glover, Sir Nick Faldo, Darren Fender, Ian Petersen



Nick recalling his six Majors



Fergus and Nick spotting auction bidders



Faldo with HKFC Golf Society Committee (L to R): Phil Head, Andy Ho, Richard Neish, Sir Nick Faldo, Ian Petersen, Fergus McCoig, Chris Meecham

On the evening of 16th March 2015, the Golf Society and the Club as a whole were honoured to host the legendary British six times Major winning golfer, Sir Nick Faldo, for a dinner and charity fund raiser in the Restaurant.

When I showed him round prior to the start of the evening, Nick was impressed by the quality and range of sporting facilities and activities in the Club as well as our unique setting intertwined with Happy Valley Racecourse.

Nick had just arrived in Hong Kong the previous day from Vietnam and Cambodia where he was inspecting some golf courses which he was designing. He was due to depart the following afternoon for Mission Hills in Shenzhen in China, where he would be hosting the Faldo Series finals on the Faldo designed course there. But, before doing so Nick played with four of us in the Faldo Five Ball and hosted a two hour golf clinic for another lucky eight at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

Our Club has been honoured by visits and performances from some of the greatest rugby, soccer, squash, hockey and bowls players. But we have only had the privilege of welcoming one other multiple Major winning golfer, who said of Nick "He had a work ethic that was quite unbelievable."

Coming from a man as driven as Gary Player, the only man from outside the USA to win more Majors than Nick, this is quite an accolade!

Nick's golfing achievements are nothing short of remarkable, especially when you consider that he only started playing at 13 after watching the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus in the US Masters. Only four years later, aged 17, Nick won the English Amateur and British Youth Championships.

In 1977, Nick turned pro, won his first tournament, came 8th in the European Order of Merit and appeared in the first of no less than 11 consecutive European Ryder Cup teams, all by the ripe old age of 20!

From there, he went on to become the most successful European golfer since the start of the First World War in 1914 when Harry Vardon won the last of his seven Majors.

Nick won three Open Claret Jugs and three Masters Green Jackets, and over 40 professional tournaments in total, as well as more Ryder Cup points than any other golfer has ever done on either side of the Atlantic. As a result, he was ranked as the No.1 Golfer in the World for no less than 97 weeks.

Nick's achievements are testament to not only his special golfing talent but also his personal drive, determination, dedication and hard work to maximize his potential.

According to former PGA chief executive, Sandy Jones, "it is his dedication and commitment that really

set him apart." This along with an ability to remain composed under pressure, avoid mistakes and intimidate opponents proved to be a recipe for his outstanding success.

While Nick is most famous for his stellar golfing playing achievements, he is also interested in many other aspects of the game, including golf club design, apparel, course design, commentary and last but by no means least the Faldo Series.

After hosting the golf events at Fanling on the 17th, Nick headed up to Mission Hills to host the Faldo Series Asia Grand Final event on the Faldo Golf Course from 18 to 20 March 2015. There, five of Hong Kong's best young golfers, including Leon d'Souza from this Club, competed against others from around the region.

Nick founded the Faldo Series in 1996 to give something back to the sport he loves by providing opportunities to young male and female golfers under the age of 21 from around the world. This Series has grown into some 40 annual tournaments in over 30 countries in which over 7,000 youngsters participate each year.

Notable graduates include current Mens' World No. 1 Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland and former Ladies No. 1 Yani Tseng from Taiwan. Who knows, in the future, the Series may help one of Hong Kong's young golfers break through to the highest level in golf.

Sir Nick was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in November 2009 for his

contributions and service to golf. He is the only living British golfer to receive such an honour.

So, as a token of our appreciation to Nick for taking the time to be with us, we organized the evening as a fund raising event.

Following a pleasant cocktail and an excellent dinner, Nick was invited to speak by Fergus McCoig who kindly "volunteered" for the job of MC at short notice.

Nick began by telling us a bit about the Faldo Series before participating in a Q&A session. After answering some of the many questions submitted by the audience in advance of the evening, Nick threw the session open to the floor and fielded everyone's questions with both



Nick Faldo and Noelle Riordan



Ian Petersen, Nick Faldo and Gilbert Collins



Simon Westbrook, Iain Roberts and Hugh Wu

insight and humour, thereby creating a convivial atmosphere which we all enjoyed greatly.

Nick then assisted Fergus to conduct the auction of the fabulous prizes donated by Nick. These included two tickets to the US Masters, sets of signed and framed pictures of all of Nick's Major triumphs, opportunities for four of us to play in a Faldo Five Ball and for eight of us to pick up golfing tips in a golf clinic at the Hong Kong Golf Club on the following day.

The Society has now donated all of the net proceeds of HK\$350,000 to the Faldo Series, for which Nick has given us his sincere thanks.

Nick was genuinely touched by the tremendous reception he received in Hong Kong from us. Moreover, Nick was charming, engaging with everyone present and always willing to pose for photographs and sign autographs. In doing so, he provided memorable moments to many people.

The evening ended with an exchange of gifts by Nick to the Golf Society of a beautiful framed selection of great signed pictures capturing his six Golf Major winning moments and by the Society to Nick of HKFC mementos.

The Golf Society wishes to thank Mission Hills our presentation partner in this event, without which it would not have been possible. We also thank Mission Hills for donating a four ball golf weekend package for auction as well as goodie bags containing golf hats and shirts for all attendees.

In addition, we thank the Hong Kong Golf Club for its support in providing us with the venue for the five ball and golf clinic events with Nick at Fanling on Tuesday 17th March 2015.

We thank all of those people who bid for and won the fabulous auction prizes donated by Nick. We also thank everyone who contributed donations to the lucky draw.

But of course our Society's greatest thanks go to the legendary sportsman, Sir Nick Faldo himself for providing us with this wonderful opportunity.

Finally, the Chairman of the Society, **Ian Petersen**, wishes to thank Committee Members **Darren McEntee** and **Dallas Reid**, Event Organiser **Phil Head**, MC **Fergus McCoig**, photographer **Laura Simonsen**, as well as **Winki Ho** and the rest of the Restaurant and back office team for helping to make this event such a success.

See you at the 19th hole.

Ian Petersen
Chairman, HKFC Golf Society

Golf Outings

HKFC vs RHKYC

Macau Golf & Country Club, Monday 2nd March

Our first ever match against Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club (RHKYC) in 2014 was one of our more social matches such that this year we opted to bring forward the post-match dinner so that the combatants might be in slightly better condition than they had been last year!

The teams were led off by their respective captains. RHKYC pulled out a small lead late in the front nine and before we knew it we were dormie 4. From there it took a heroic rearguard action from the skipper and his partner, **Iain Valentine**, capped by a birdie on the 18th, to secure a half in the opening rubber.

The 2nd flight had a ding-dong battle with barely a hole in it all the way around but sadly **Jonny Brock**'s nerve failed him on the 18th tee and he and **Anatole Le** lost that one. The 3rd group brought together what appears to be a new Dream Team of stalwart **Dallas Reid** and Chairman **Ian Petersen**. These 2 combined to devastating effect winning their match 7 and 6 to square the match.

Our next pairing was the redoubtable **JP Cuvelier** and long-hitter **Darren McEntee**. They had another close-fought match but eventually came through 2 and 1 to ease us into a narrow lead. The 5th flight was the marital pairing of **Jason** and **Malou Waldie**. These guys had to work very hard for their half with Jason's gross 73, 3 under his handicap, not enough for the win! And so with 2 matches still on the court we had a narrow 3-2 lead.

Were we worried? Never! Not with the likes of **Terry Wright** and **Fiaz Magdoo** in the next group. Tough competitors



that they are, they delivered a solid 3 and 1 victory to secure the match. And then, to rub salt into the wounds, **Jim Suttie** and debutant **David Muir**, won the anchor leg making the overall match score 5-2 and an ultimately convincing win.

For the record, **Jim Suttie** had the nearest pin on the 6th island green, RHKYC's **Ambrose Lo** took the nearest-in-2 on the 15th and **Duncan Spooner** took the longest drive on 18. ■

Duncan Spooner, Captain

Chinese New Year Nansha Golf Outing

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd February

16 Players set off from China ferry terminal in Kowloon for the short trip to Nansha Golf Club.

Before long, we were warming up on the very impressive driving range and short range area in readiness for the very difficult mountain course.

Day 1's format was Individual stableford points with handicaps and, being a short course off the white tees, one could expect some high scoring points. However, nearly all the fairways and greens are set on the sides of the mountain, making for some very difficult lies and ensuring a lot of missed putts and duffed chips.

In a display of girl power, best stableford was won by **Lana Woo** with 42 points, with 2nd and 3rd places going to **Lily Chan** and **Mary Soo** respectively on a count back, after both had scored 39 points. The best gross was shot by **Phil Head** with a rather unimpressive 84.

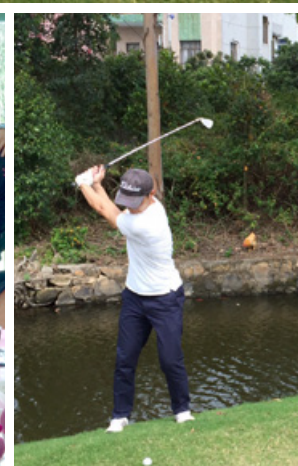
Mens' Longest Drive (Hole 10): **Phil Head**

Nearest Pin (Hole 4): **Lana Woo**

Nearest Pin (Hole 9): **Phil Head**

Nearest Pin (Hole 11): **Brian Taam**

Nearest Pin (Hole 17): **Teresa Huang**



After changing, we all met on the tour bus which was going to take us to a Hakka style restaurant, a 15 minute drive away from the golf club. But instead, the bus dropped us off at a much closer restaurant which was handy for the driver but left us without a reservation, although luckily they had plenty of room for us.

Day 2 was played on the slightly easier Valley Course and the format was a team stableford point event between:

Team A: consisted of **Phil Head, Ian McLeod, Peggy Chan, Eric Desgouttes, William Taam, Lana Woo, Allyson Ko** and **Brian Taam**.

Team B: consisted of **Hamilton Narby, Teresa Huang, Lily Chan, Bernie Young, Elaine Taam, Ian Petersen, Mary Soo** and **YP Soo**.

This was a fiercely contested event with a lot of fun camaraderie between both teams with some notable points being scored.

Bernie Young 48 points

Elaine Taam 46 points

Brian Taam 43 points

After the scores were counted and re-counted the final standings were Team A with 289 points and Team B with 285, well done Team A.

Lunch at the club was much better than the previous night's dinner and was washed down with a few bottles of champagne which had been won by Team A and a good time was had by all.

All agreed that the Society should definitely return at CNY in 2016. ■

Phil Head, Golf Event Organiser