

HKFC Golf Society

2020 Chairman's Report to AGM

Thank you all for taking the time to attend our Society's AGM. I am sorry I am not personally able to attend as I am still behind an Iron Curtain dropped by the South Africa government some months ago. There are worse places to be stuck!

This year has certainly been one of the strangest for the Golf Society, and indeed the world. The first half of the period operated smoothly with our usual bi-monthly social events and frequent competitive matches against other Golf Societies in Hong Kong which will be reported on by our Captain. Our main internal Championships were all won by first time winners, with Stan Szeto winning the Matchplay knockout event, Allyson Ko pipping Elsa Lee to win the Ladies Club Championship, and after coming close on many previous occasions, yours truly beating Phil Head to take the Men's Club Championship. In our Inter-section Challenge, Squash emerged triumphant winning both the nett and gross events with some remarkable scoring at Macau. To counter the brutal HK summer heat, we launched a first Simulator event at the SCAA which was very popular and will hopefully be repeated when possible.

Then golfing disaster struck with the appearance of the COVID-19 virus and our world rapidly shrank with travel to China and Macau becoming impossible and later all golf in Hong Kong closing down too. This led to a great deal of extra work for Ted Li, our Events Organiser and Andy Wood, our Captain in trying to find alternative dates and locations and then ultimately having to cancel events for which they had already made great efforts to organise. They continue to battle to sort out our full 2020 fixture lists as soon as circumstances permit and have already got the ball rolling again in line with the current social distancing policies.

Unfortunately, thanks to the virus, we still do not have a new simulator in place, but the Committee has been working closely with the Club to ensure that the new system meets the needs of our members and is installed as soon as possible.

As you may be aware if you have read the AGM documents, I will be stepping down this year as Chairman after a very enjoyable spell supervising the GS's activities. I will remain available to serve on the Committee. It has been a privilege to serve in this position, and by and large stress free thanks to the tremendous support from the other Committee members to whom I am most grateful. I am also grateful to the Club's staff who continue to support the Society in many ways and who are always helpful and efficient. At the time of writing this I am not exactly sure of all the candidates for the Committee this year, but I know we have several new candidates (including obviously for Chairman) who I am sure will add their ideas and enthusiasm to the Society and keep it going from strength to strength. A special mention is also needed for Desiree Wong who will be stepping down after many years of contribution to the Committee, not least of all recently in keeping an eagle eye on members' handicaps! Finally I would like to thank all the members of the Golf Society for your support, and hope that you will all be out on the course soon and enjoying the great game of golf.