

**HKFC Golf Society**  
**2021 Captain's Report to the AGM**  
**20th May, 2021**

Thank you all for taking the time to attend our Society's AGM. I am delighted to personally be able to attend and report for the first time as Captain on what my fellow Committee members have also said has been a most challenging and strange year for the Golf Society, and indeed the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, and thankfully though, it has been both an enjoyable and successful one for our team out on the local golf courses.

Whilst our first match of 2020 against FCC proceeded, our following fixture against MiB for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in February was postponed just the night before, as Kau Sai Chau GC was closed due to a positive case! This was followed by cancelled fixtures against RHKYC, the AIA Pairs, HK Seniors, HK Club WGD, MiB again, BSW, MiB for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, HK Country Club and The Reunification Cup, until finally we got back out on the fairways in October to play The Ryder Bowl against the AMC locally for the first time. Further fixtures against WAGS, the Par-3 Cup for the 1<sup>st</sup> time on the CWB Academy course, LSW and 4<sup>th</sup> time lucky MiB in December wrapped up the calendar year. So, out of 14 planned matches, only 6 eventually took place and none on our "home" courses in Macau and China. I think both Ted and I aged about 10 years last year!

I do have full details in regards to the players in 2020, which shows that in our 6 matches played, we had altogether 36 different players playing in a total 68 rounds and 19 of them played at least twice and one of my tasks is to try to achieve that each player plays at least two matches in order to activate the Club subvention, which assists or Society finances.

As we entered 2021, whilst reflecting on the testing experiences of 2020 behind us, we realised that we had to address the continuing affects of the pandemic on our membership and we asked ourselves how were we going to mitigate losing access to our revolving debentures at Macau Golf and Country Club and Lotus Hill Golf Resort in Panyu, China for a longer period.

From my point of view as Captain, we had a similar number of squad players as in previous years, but due to the dearth of golfing opportunities, closed borders, etc., the healthy numbers now applying to play matches were often 20+, once it reached 34 players, for 12 places vs. the usual 14 or 15 applying to get the 12 spots.

So, after much debate, often lively, we looked at four areas - inclusion, reduced subsidy, hosting and rotation - all of which have been implemented and apply for the foreseeable future. In trying to rotate the team players as much as possible, without weakening team line-ups, we will have proportionately more different players in 2020 and 2021 than in prior years.

Thankfully and fingers crossed this year, we have played all 6 scheduled fixtures on more or less on a home/away basis, where the home Society uses their golf bookings and reciprocates the following year.

I do also have full details in regards to the players so far in 2021, which shows that in our 6 matches played, we had altogether 34 different players playing in a total 64 rounds and 16 of them played at least twice.

All this has happened and even with the new challenges, I am very proud to report that we remain unbeaten under my stewardship at time of going to press of Played 10 Inter-Society matches; Won 8, Drawn 2. Within that period, we retained The Ryder Bowl, one of our two majors, with The Reunification Cup cancelled.

In addition, a number of new players have and will make their match debuts, many with younger age profiles than most of our stalwarts, some who have now left our shores. With that, a special thanks to Bob McKirdy, Warren Weener, Scott Laws and our very own Membership Officer, Jukka Hakli. We wish them and their families well and hope to see them back on our fairways one day soon!

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Golf Society for your support, patience and understanding and hope that this pesky virus is beaten meaning you will all be out on the course more often soon to enjoy the great game of golf. After all, it is fun!