

Social Convenor's Report - Golf Society AGM 23rd May 2023

Our main social focus for this last year has been to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the HKFC Golf Society in true style. Little did we know how much effort and attempts that would involve. But I suppose that just reflects the nature of the game itself, which appears so easy when it goes smoothly but, as the old adage goes - "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip". And that was certainly true for our 30th anniversary event, both on and off the course!

After the spectacular success of our inaugural Christmas Cracker held at Shek O in December 2021, your committee decided that, with the extra sponsorship money that we'd successfully secured, we could once again afford to subsidise another event there. As a result, planning was made to stage our 30th anniversary celebrations also at Shek O, this time on Friday 30th September, with the hope and expectation that most of our members would have returned to Hong Kong by then, after many had seized their first opportunity in over three years to travel during the summer. Whilst we didn't quite secure the same, huge complement of 72 golfers, we did have 52 very eager members appear at the Club on the morning of the 30th, ready to do their best to outdo their previous December's merriments, a not easy task to say the least! However, just after most had picked up their shiny, new black 30th anniversary shirts, Fate intervened with an equally dark rainstorm descending across Hong Kong and, although a few hardy souls leapt aboard the bus through the gushing rain, we were sadly forced to postpone the event, as well as take out our deep disappointment in the various bars of the Club instead, which I'm happy to report we managed to do very successfully!

Having kindly been offered a replacement date just over a month later, on Tuesday 1st November (with Fridays at Shek O extremely hard to come by), the field was naturally reduced but a still very healthy 44 golfers prepared themselves and their livers to celebrate in true style. Sadly, yet again Fate intervened, this time via a full blown T3, with its own name -

Nalgae – descending upon us, which meant that we would have to delay the event yet again. With our 2nd Christmas Cracker planned for Friday 23rd December, we were fortunate to be able to secure another Friday, this time in February.

Thankfully, at least Fate didn't intervene with the Christmas Cracker, which, although it was held so close to the Day itself, 32 golfers were still able to 'force' themselves to attend and make a very solid, and liquid effort, both on and off the course, to match their prior year precedent-setters, despite being half their numbers. The bar had yet again been set high, or rather low, for our third attempt to stage our 30th anniversary celebrations just 6 weeks later, on Friday 10th February. Thankfully it did prove third time lucky with the weather, as 44 golfers arrived in Shek O to celebrate in style, with both glorious golf and excessive F&B. We chose to combine the event with a restoration of the Committee match between the Golf Society and the General Committee. Being truly generous hosts, we decided to focus on the festivities rather than the score, and allowed our 'seniors' to secure the trophy, whilst finally being given the chance to celebrate the start of our fourth decade as a Society in true style, which I'm happy to say we did. The General Manager of Shek O was yet again truly impressed by both the ability and quantity by which our members were able to refresh themselves after their exertions, something that comes only naturally to any HKFC social golfer, especially when having to walk round and carry your own clubs as well.

With all this going on, an assistant social convenor, Tom McColl, was recruited to help stage other events, with his prime focus being a second attempt at the Lawn Bowls night, which, like Shek O, had proven an enormous hit in 2021. Unfortunately, despite his best efforts, he was unable to secure a date. And, with his duties as a pilot being in greater demand with the C-19 relaxations, sadly he has had to resign. But we have been very fortunate to recruit another eager, young drinker, sorry society member in his stead and we look forward to all that Peter Ayres

will be bringing to the social side of our Society over the coming months and years. Under the heavy 'burden' of all these events, my hip has finally given way. So, whilst that gets resurfaced in preparation for future 'loads', Peter will be leading your Society's charge to the bars and other social venues. Please give him all your support, as well as ideas as to how we can keep the Society swinging merrily, both on and off the course, during 2023-24.

Onward and upward, and, as ever, down the hatch & hole too! 🍺 🍷

Cheers,

Jonny