

HKFC Golf Society
2022-23 Captain's Report to the AGM
May 23, 2023

I am happy to share with you that I have officially started my role as Captain from January 2023. However, some of you may already know me when I started serving the Golf Society Committee since 2003. It has been a long journey, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with such fantastic team and make many new friends along the way.

As you all know the past year has been challenging for everyone, and the pandemic has affected our lives in many ways. Despite the restrictions and limitations, the Golf Society managed to play a total of 9 out of the 13 planned matches from May 2022 to April 2023. Another improvement from previous year during the pandemic. With no access to our course at Macau Golf and Country Club and Lotus Hill, most matches were played at KSC, the Hong Kong Golf Club and Discovery Bay Golf Club. And our immediate past Captain Andrew Wood (aka Woody) and Acting Captain Terry Wright had done an amazing job by bringing victories to most of our matches including match against the RHKYC Kellet Golf Society, the WAGS, The HK Seniors Golf Society.

It's important to note that the matches were played in accordance with COVID-19 protocols - who doesn't love a bit of social distancing and mask-wearing on the golf course? And, despite the challenges, the society still managed to organize a match with our relatively new rival – the MiB Golf Society (Men in Black) at Discovery Bay Golf Club. Unfortunately, we lost the match to MiB due to the lack of local knowledge on such difficult course, better luck next time I guess. But at least, our team received commendations for our sportsmanship and camaraderie – which is almost as good as winning, right? The event ended with a very enjoyable prize presentation and social dinner at the patio of The Discovery Bay Golf and Country Club - because what's a pandemic without a bit of socializing? Of course, there were challenges – the pandemic presented a few hiccups here and there, resulting in last-minute cancellations and changes to match schedules. Weather also causing problem when there was the match against the RHKYC Kellet Golf Society in October 2022 at KSC South. Signal No. 1 was hoisted that morning with the potential of Signal No. 3, meaning KSC might be closed. Despite the fact of a typhoon and the potential course closure, nearly all golfers from the HKFC Team turned up at KSC while only 1 golfer turned up from Kellet Golf Society and important note to mention - a lady golfer! The HK Tricolor Pairs was affected by storm and rescheduled from August to December at Fanling where Jonny Brock and Henry Lai came third in the Society Pairs category by losing just 1 point to the winning pairs of WAGS B.

Continuing Woody's great achievements in 2022, I started our first match against the Hong Kong Club with a big win of 6 to 0 in December 2022. When I thought its not too difficult to bring victories, I started to taste bitterness and losing following matches to LSW and Kellet Golf Society (RHKYC) respectively. My fellow committee members started joking by saying I start making space in our trophy cabinet next to the indoor lawn bowl by giving away our trophies to our opponents. Afterall, I definitely make friends all over the world. I mean, who needs trophies when you've got camaraderie and sportsmanship, right?

Despite the cancellation of the Reunification Cup at Lotus Hill GC in 2020, 2021 and 2022, we are already taking proactive steps to ensure it returns to Lotus Hill toward the end of 2023, and discussions with other clubs are already underway. Additionally, our annual match against the Hong Kong American Club, the highly anticipated Ryder Bowl, which is typically held at Lotus Hill, was forced to relocate to KSC due to border restrictions. Although the HKFC Team fought valiantly to reclaim the trophy and bring it back to Happy Valley, it was narrowly lost to the American Club, resulting in the rather sizeable Ryder Bowl returning to Tai Tam. But we are confident that the HKFC Team will come back stronger and more determined than ever before.

In the start of 2023, we didn't manage to have a match with the FCC this year in January due to their lack of golfers to fill a team. The Hong Kong Seniors Golf Society had also decided to play fewer matches in 2023, which is a real shame because it means the match with them didn't happen either. But, at least the GS match distribution list maintained a healthy number of golfers. We of course welcome new members into the team. Following the same practice, I have tried to rotate the team players as much as possible, without weakening the team line-ups, so that we had proportionately more different players in 2022 than in prior years.

All in all, the HKFC Golf Team had a successful year despite a global pandemic. We are clearly a resilient bunch who can adapt to anything thrown our way. I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead this fantastic team, and I look forward to many more years of success and camaraderie. Finally, I wish to thank all members of the golf society for your continue support and understanding. I also wish to take this opportunity to thank Woody for his great achievements as Captain for his 2 years. Thank you Andrew and lets give a round of applaud to Woody.

Andy Ho
Captain