

LITTLE SAI WAN GOLFING SOCIETY



Founded 1964

Annual General Meeting - 11 May 2016

Captain's Report

Good afternoon to you all, gentlemen ... and thanks to my fellow Committee members for your annual reports, your hard work, and your commitment to the smooth workings of the Society during the course of our 51st year.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today. In the modern world that we live in and with the Society increasingly embracing technology through WhatsApp and a Website refresh, I had planned to appear in front of you using Facetime. Sadly, we could not get Hong Kong Golf Club to put a screen up. So instead, you have another Committee member reading this Captain's Report on my behalf.

I want to start by saying a special "thank you" to Leigh Beaman, Graham Peacock, and John O'Doherty, who have all relocated overseas and have subsequently stepped down from the Committee. Leigh's membership in the Committee stretched over many years, and his contributions toward different aspects within the Society were invaluable. Although Leigh was unwell last year, I understand that he is playing golf regularly again and shooting some low scores ... great to hear!

Whilst Graham and John's tenures as Committee members were significantly shorter, both had major roles in last year's Ryder Cup & Sai Wan Cup tour in Thailand. Graham as one of the "traitors", and John was our Ryder Cup Captain. This event was certainly the highlight of my year with the Society. To see one of our "old boys", Johann Herzog, hole the last putt on the 18th green to win the Ryder Cup for Little Sai Wan ... after a 5-year losing streak ... was simply fantastic. Indeed, I am delighted to announce that Johann agreed to act as Vice Captain for the Ryder Cup & Sai Wan Cup tour this coming November. He will be supporting JP who was elected as Captain for the Little Sai Wan team. Together over the next few months, they will be selecting our 20-man team to go up once against the Big Sai Wan team. We hope to get some great new talent to play alongside several of our veterans.

So, as members of the Society, what were your highlights last year? The perfectly hit drives that won you the longest drive competition, the birdies that won you a share of the Two's pot, that 10-foot putt on the last hole to win your Ryder Cup or Sai Wan Cup match, or the 37 points that won you the monthly trophy?

And what has been your contribution to the Society? If not working behind the scenes as a Committee member, have you been a regular participant in the monthly events? Have you perhaps participated in the odd game organized through the Little Wai Wan "Occasionals WhatsApp" group, which seems to be gaining some momentum? There are many ways that you can make a contribution to our Society. I want to thank Charles Brian-Boys for the generous time and work undertaken by him & his team to re-design our Society's logo. Many of you may remember that some early ideas for a new logo were displayed at our Society's 50th Anniversary event. After extensive feedback, the new logo has been finalized and now appears on our Society's website. I also want to convey my thanks to Dallas Reid for his work in updating our website.

Please be aware that a great Society such as ours does not run by itself. The Society needs strong support from you, the members, at all of our events. It needs the unflagging efforts of our Committee to make sure it runs smoothly. It requires every one of us to assume personal responsibility in adhering to the rules of golf, showing respect to fellow members, and upholding the Society's values and by-laws on & off the course. The Society needs energy & enthusiasm from everyone to ensure its longevity for many years to come.

Gentlemen, as we push past our 50th anniversary toward our first century, I see all of us as custodians of this great Society. As someone once told me, "If you want to go fast - go alone. If you want to go farther - go together."

I thank you all for another great year. I ask you to join in a toast, as a gesture of your own personal commitment to keep our Society great.

"To Our Great Society"!

Thank you.

Antony Michell
LSWGS Captain