

Match Secretary Report

AGM 02.06.2020

Between May 22nd, 2019 and June 2nd, 2020, 13 competitions were played. We had to cancel the competition on July 7th 2019 because of bad weather and were then affected by Covid-19 on April 22nd and May 6th of this year. Luckily, we have been able to get additional tee times at Kau Sai Chau in both May and June and will at least have made up for the two events we had to cancel because of Covid-19.

Altogether, we had 268 members competing in the monthly fixtures of LSWGS and anywhere between 1 and 7 guests, mostly 1 or 2. This is similar to last year. The weakest turnout was November (11) and February (10) with the strongest showings on May 11th and June 2nd with over 30 members playing. Over the year we achieved an average of 20,6 players per competition which is a slight decrease compared to last year, but altogether a good result.

During the past 12 events we have recorded 3 wins for Noel Prentice and 2 for Jonny Brock and Matt Burke. John Harris, Nigel Farmer, Roger Best and Dallas Reid won once. This makes it 7 different winners over the year.

We have welcomed a good number of new members who come to our competitions regularly which is very good to see. John Harris, Peter Boothby and more recently John Coupland, to name a few.

There is a correlation between turning up and winning prizes, Nigel Farmer has played 12 of the 13 comps, and if you make it up to 10, chances are good that you will win at least a keenest golfer prize, like Martin Clinch or myself. The most efficient player of the year is Noel Prentice with 3 wins out of 10 appearances.

In the 2019 match play competition we actually finished the season before the end of the year with Stephen Ahmoye clinching the title ahead of Vance Lee as runner up.

The Order of Merit 2019 was won by Jonny Brock ahead of Noel Prentice in a close season finish. For 2020 we have changed the format and now award points according to the number of players in the field. At the time of writing this report, Vance Lee is leading the 2020 OOM ahead of Nigel Farmer and Mark Cameron.

There was no Ryder Cup in 2019 and a new format and venues are currently under consideration. The third edition of the new trophy against the Hong Kong Football was played on Wednesday 4th of December 2019 in Kau Sai Cha North course. 12 LSWGS players competed in a single format against a tough opposition. Having lost the first two editions and coming up as winners in 2018, we managed to win comfortably by 8 ½ to 3 ½ this year.

Thanks to many members' feedback through the members' survey, we have had the opportunity to introduce a few enhancements throughout the last twelve months,

such as doing different team competitions, putting competitions and a change in the Order of Merit computation.

In going forward, I have two proposals as your Match Secretary.

Firstly, I would propose to introduce a seeding system for the Match Play competition 2021, with the prior year Order of Merit winner being seeded first, the Match Play winner seeded second and the two runners up of these competitions seeded 3rd and fourth respectively. Bye's, if any, would then be awarded in that sequence.

Secondly, there are two possibilities to reduce workload and management of our competitions significantly and add some more fun to the game.

Firstly, there is a very good APP called Golf Genius and we have reached out to them for an offer. Amongst others, KSC as well as AIA are using this app for their tournaments and they speak highly of it.

I am also in discussion with the administrator of our website about the introduction of an automated registration system for our competitions and events, similar to what the HKFC is operating.

This would reduce preparation work for the Match Secretary considerably and we will put this in front of the committee for consideration once the features and costing are clear.

As every year, a special thank you goes to our monthly sponsors such as Snell Golf, GolfAsian and Justin Davies of St James Place.

Lorenz Zimmermann
Match Secretary