

Gentlemen,

The Society currently has 84 members, of which 14 are country and/or life members, meaning we have 70 “active” members, some being more active than others.

During the past year we have added 10 new members while three members resigned and four opted for country memberships. Two people did not respond at all to the call to renew their membership and have subsequently been deleted from the membership list.

Seven of the new members have handicaps in single figures so the standard of play going forward should continue to be high.

There has been a suggestion that the 18 handicap limit could be relaxed to attract more new members, however this is not advisable given the need to avoid slow play, as instructed by HKGC.

One committee member voiced his concern that with the paucity of available tee times in Hong Kong due to the China border closure, LSWGS could become the target of opportunist golfers who would seek membership simply to be able to get a game.

While this is a possibility - and in fact some evidence has emerged that it has happened, we remain vigilant in the assessment of guests who wish to go on to become members, as all new members must first play with two committee members before being accepted for membership.

The committee urges members who invite guests to ensure that they are competent players and who can get around the golf course, unaided, within the four-hour time limit.

Please also remember that a member who introduces a new member is responsible for the conduct of the new member so please invite only people who will add to the fabric of the society, and not someone who might just cause our collective downfall.

With the ongoing proposal to turn half of the Old Course at Fanling into public housing units the pressure on allowing societies - even though we are few, to play on a monthly basis is bound to attract unwanted attention from HKGC members and so it is critical that we fly under the radar by avoiding slow play at all times. Please also remember that the use of mobile phones is banned at the club.

We are truly blessed to have held playing rights at Fanling since 1964 and we must do everything possible to maintain our status. Only new members with the required skills and the right attitude to contribute to the fabric of the society will help us in our quest.

Richard Castka  
Handicap Secretary  
LSWGS