

LITTLE SAI WAN GOLFING SOCIETY



Founded 1964

AGM 6th December 2022

Gentlemen,

As of the start of the year The Society had 84 members, of which 15 are country and/or life members, meaning we have 69 “active” members, some being more active than others.

During 2022 we have added 10 new members while several members have resigned and many others have not played at all. The ongoing effects of the immigration restrictions mean previously active members have relocated temporarily but I fear that this will become a habit and the request for renewals for 2023 will see a significant reduction in full members. Some of these will become Country members, but the pattern of struggling to fill fields that we have seen will continue in 2023. I am expecting the society to have a smaller membership in 2023 than the previous year despite the recruitment of significant new members.

Seven of the new members have handicaps in single figures so the standard of play going forward should continue to be high, but new members and guests need to be encouraged to maintain a 4 hour round target by more experienced members to maintain our reputation as the pre eminent society in Hong Kong.

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, and to run strong, competitive competitions. We want to continue to attract members who can consistently play to a handicap under 18 because the competitions will tend to be won by players with a reasonable Stableford score and not make it impossible for the lowest handicappers to compete.

A strong, competitive membership, with a knowledgeable understanding of how to behave at our host’s venues, both on and off the course, is vital. We will continue to be welcomed at Fanling in what has become a more crowded market of societies, if these tenets are carefully nurtured.

Recently there have been meetings where guests have handicaps above 18 and the committee urges members to only invite guests who stand a chance of meeting the membership criteria as we would prefer not to reject applications that are subsequently received.

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 overall fabric of the society.

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.

Finally, I am resigning from my role as Membership Secretary today as I am also joining the list of emigres in early 2023! I would like to publicly state my gratitude to the Society for all the great days I have enjoyed with LSW in the last decade, the lifelong friendships I have made, and the support I have received from my fellow committee members. I am sure that LSW has an exciting future and that Vance will prove to be an excellent successor as Membership Secretary. Its not goodbye as I will become a Country Member and look forward to making one or two outings per annum in the future.

Will Glover
Membership Secretary