

## **KCC ROYALS REPORT FOR 2009-10 – Ravi Sujanani, Manager KCC Royals**

Another season for The Royals comes to an end. We played a total of 22 games (at time of going to press) with 12 wins, 1 draw and 9 losses, goals scored 79, goals against 74, goal difference 5. This roughly works out to about 7 goals per game which from a spectator sport point of view is TOTAL ENTERTAINMENT!!!! In a league format that would have probably seen us finish in the top half of the table. However, since there was no league and our opposition varied in age and ability it was a very successful and enjoyable season for The Royals.

With a squad of about 50 players made up of Members, Sporting Subscriber and occasional guest players of varying age, ability, shape and size, the Royals took on all comers that fancied a social game. The Monday night slot we have at Kings Park from 9-10:30pm is a difficult slot but there were a host of committed players with Geoff Figo, Graham Archer and Matt Meijers playing 17 of the 22 games in the season. Matthew Wake was top goal scorer with 21 goals from 16 games and was well supported by Tony Smith (before injury) 10 goals from 10 games, and Matt Meijers with 8 goals from 17 games.

Since we withdrew from the social league in 2008 for reasons well documented, we play games against sides from other social clubs such as HKFC – Dynamics, Rovers and Gazelles; Sandy Bay Strollers; Colloids; KGV Ex School Boys, Ying Lun; Yau Yee League Exco; Operation Breakthrough; German Old Stars; CWB Mariners; Leighton Football team and many others. The new teams we played this season were German Old Stars, CWB Mariners, Leighton Football team, Yau Yee League Exco, Breakthrough, Chatteris and the HK Reds (Liverpool Supporters Club in HK).

The Royals had a good degree of success against the HKFC social side at the start of the season beating the Dynamic and Rovers 7-3 and 3-2 respectively. However, towards the end of the season the Gazelles and Rovers on the return fixtures beat us 4-3 and 3-1 respectively.

We had games close and competitive games versus the German Old

Stars, Ying Lung, Colloids with the Royals putting up a great show and fighting spirit. The teams that we struggled against were Breakthrough and HK Reds who had some professionals and Brazillian Soccer School coaches respectively. They were younger and fitter than most of our players and that showed as the game wore on. All results as presented later in the report.

As is the tradition KCC were off to Bangkok towards the End of January for the RBSC Interport and to take part in the RBSC 7's tournament. We had an excellent turn out this year with 31 people going of which 20 players were from the Royals squad. As a result, KCC were able to enter 2 teams in the Open Competition (Dragons and Knights) and 1 team (Royal Vets) in the Vets Competition. Royal's players made up the majority of the Knights and Royal Vets teams.

The Interport game was played on a waterlogged RBSC football pitch and was impressive that the game was actually played. After KCC had taken a 2 goal lead, our hosts slowly got their act together and came away with a 5-4 win. The team was expertly captained by Jonny Mac and Goughie (aka SAF) doing the job of running subs on the night. We might have lost the game but we won the war and Tour Manager, Tony Smith insisted our hosts do boat races which we won easily.

The RBSC 7's was also played under wet and muddy conditions but was enjoyed by all. The Dragons and Knights team were in the Open competition with the Dragons making it to the Cup competition ¼ finals. The Knights made up of Royals players ended up in the Open Plate competition and after a great run lost in the ¼ final rounds to the eventual winners of the plate. The Royals team in the Vets competition also were in the plate competition but got knocked out at the QF stage of the competition – again by the eventual winners. Needless to say everyone had a great time.

Another annual match that is the played between the HKFC Rovers and The Royals is the Manfred Schoeni Trophy in memory of Manfred Schoeni who played for HKFC and German Old Stars. After having kept the trophy for the past 3 years this year HKFC Rovers got their revenge when they beat the KCC Royals + friends by 6-1 to win back the

trophy.

This year players from the Royals will once again represent KCC in the HKFC International Soccer 7s in the Masters competition. We are the holders of the plate after a brilliant performance last year. We will be up against the likes of IP Global All Star team and Andy Cole All Star team so wishing the boys all the very best for the competition.

It has been an excellent season for the Royals and as we go to press there is 1 more game left against the HKFC Gazelles on the 21<sup>st</sup> May which will be the last game of the season. It has been a pleasure being the Manager for the Royals and I hope that all the boys had a good time during the season. Some of the sessions at the KCC bar after a Monday night game were truly memorable.

I would like to thank Robert, Ah Kwong, Kings and all the KCC Staff for their help and support throughout the season.

'Ravi Sujanani'

*'Jonny Mac'*