



## Dragons off to a blistering start

It's been a while coming, but the KCC Dragons are now showing the kind of form that they have long threatened to unleash upon the Yau Yee League, with possibly the most talented and exciting squad in the competition. Manager Shyam Nainani has found the right balance of attacking verve and defensive composure, with the result that by the end of October, the Dragons had won all seven of their first league matches of the season, topping the First Division table and scoring 23 goals whilst conceding only four.

Match number eight however was the first big test of the season, against second-placed 816, the only other unbeaten side in the division.



Shyam (pictured) had the luxury of having almost every single member of his squad fit and ready, and for the first 20 minutes the Dragons were irrepressible. First

strike came courtesy of new recruit, Vernon Small, who met one of striker Keith Miu's bombing throw-ins (think Rory Delap on speed) with a close range header. Keith then provided a second, tip-toeing down the left before placing a low centre on the instep of the 816 defender, who under pressure from Neil Kee slid the ball into his own net. Mid-way through the first half, Paul "Lanky Boy" Crompton scored his eighth of the season with a tap-in following some more slick approach work, and 816 knew their number was up.

After such a high-octane start, Dragons took their foot off the pedal slightly, and 816 inched back into the context with a close range effort that initially saw the linesman flagging, but which was ruled good by the increasingly inconsistent referee. But at 3-1, the KCC boys had built an excellent platform from which to dominate the second half.

Before the hour mark, Shyam had shuffled his pack slightly, bring on Chris Pickles to add fresh pace to the attack, and the

Pickler promptly darted down the left before picking out Lank Boy with a low cross, that the league's third top scorer easily converted with his rarely used right foot. Sam "Flash" Trayford, on for Keith made a strong run into the box, shrugging off an attempt by the 816 defender to remove his shirt before hooking the ball narrowly wide, and Pickler and Marcel Sosnowski managed between them to direct a header straight at the 816 'keeper from a pinpoint corner delivery.

By full time, KCC were convincing winners, and 4-1 probably flattered the opposition, the only down note being the inexplicable yellow cards shown to Keith and to Steve Rigby on the subs' bench for having the temerity to point out the foul throw rules to a flustered linesman. The all-round performance was a joy for the KCC supporters to watch, with captain Luca Merlone commanding the midfield and 'keeper Richard "Sly" Young (seen here with the Dragons' assistant manager) in great shape behind a confident and well-drilled defence.



There are tough matches ahead, and the 100% record will face some stress in the coming Jordan derby match against USRC and two trips to Sports Road to face the Albion and Wanderers teams at arch rivals HKFC. But if the boys can stay fit – and avoid too many more surreal refereeing decisions – the squad looks in great shape to make it a great season for senior level football at the Club.

**Jonny Mac**



## Junior Teams in action with mixed results

Whilst the KCC Dragons have been tearing up the Yau Yee league First Division, our junior sides have been revving up their seasons with a mixture of HK Junior Football League and friendly matches producing some encouraging results.

Our top team in the HKJFL, the 1998s (U14s) has had to face several of the toughest teams in the league early on, but has emerged unbeaten so far. After draws with the HK Football Club 1 and HK Football Academy teams, we were looking for a good result against Discovery Bay Dragons, and came out strong, helped by the three permitted "over" age players, Karan Daswani, Mervyn McKinley and Alex Tonks.

But it was a bona fide 1998 player, Jake Smith who got the ball rolling with a curling effort in the 10th minute. He followed this with a long-range strike to make it 2-0, that Alex almost carbon-copied five minutes later, to leave the Disco Bay boys looking rather ragged.

Credit to the boys from the Lantau enclave, however, as in the second half they made a storming come-back, pegging our lads back to 3-2, before coach Collins made a couple of tactical substitutions – essentially putting our two biggest players in front of the defence – that effectively staunched the DB flow. If Karan had been able to fall a couple of feet further when fouled on the edge of the penalty area, the margin might have been more comfortable.

The two older teams, the KCC U15s and the newly formed U16s have begun



playing friendly matches, with somewhat mixed fortunes. In their first test, against a strong Happy Valley side, the U16s battled throughout, but one defensive lapse cost them and they eventually went down 1-0. Meanwhile, the KCC U15s also had their first match against counterparts from Happy Valley, and got a measure of revenge for the Club, with a convincing 2-1 win.

In their next match against KGV, KCC U16s took the lead after Harry Loasby was first to react after David Cheng smashed a penalty against the bar. However, the schoolboys benefited from a stroke of luck when a clearance hit the back of one of their players to rebound into the net, and after Jason Lo and Pranav Khemlani had both missed chances for KCC in one-on-ones with the opposing 'keeper, KGV poked home a winner after some more penalty area pinball to take the match 2-1.

With the 1998s (U14s) often playing their matches on Saturdays at 7:30 am and the older teams playing at 7:30 the same day, it is a long day for the BSS coaches. But the work done by Collins and Destiny is bearing fruit in the players' attitude and application and the KCC juniors are looking strong enough to challenge just about any Hong Kong team in their respective age groups.

*Jonny Mac*



## Urgent maintenance works at the pool 1 -18 November



**brazilian**<sup>®</sup>  
soccer schools  
HONG KONG

### Christmas Soccer Camp at KCC!

**Brazilian Soccer Schools will run a Christmas Soccer Camp at KCC - December 20-23 inclusive (Tuesday to Friday) - 9am to 12 noon daily. - Ages 5-13yo. Beginners welcome!**

**The camps are a mixture of skills training and games, all run by our professional coaches.**

**\$300 per 3 hour session for members, for more details and to apply see [www.bss.com.hk](http://www.bss.com.hk) or call number below.**



**Tel: 23859677 Fax: 23859700  
email: [admin@bss.com.hk](mailto:admin@bss.com.hk)**