



## Dragons on Fire – Knights Looking for Turnaround

The holiday period has seen the Club's two Yau Yee League First Division teams meet with contrasting fortunes. Whilst the KCC Dragons have taken the full six points from their two matches, the Knights have come unstuck against two of the top three sides in the League, conceding nine goals in the process.

The pre-Christmas fixtures saw the KCC Dragons take on the newly promoted HKDC Mobsters. Despite pounding the opposition penalty area, the Dragons managed to come away with only a 1-0 win, courtesy of a first half goal by Low Chung Yin. The holiday break put some zip back into the team's strikers, as the first match of 2010 saw the Dragons cruise to a 3-0 lead against the German All Stars, and despite a fight-back by the opposition, the final score-line was a comfortable 5-2, with two goals each for Chris "the Pickler" Pickles and Jason Trenberth after an opener from midfielder Luca Merlone.

These results saw KCC Dragons climb to fourth in the table, and at least a top three finish is still a possibility if they can beat the teams above them.

The Knights faced two challenging matches over the Christmas period, and at Sports Road were never really in the match after conceding two early goals against second-placed Club Wanderers. Despite a goal from George Derisley, the HKFC were

### Yau Yee League Division One – 11 January 2010

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Albion	13	10	3	0	37	14	23	33
Club Wanderers	13	10	1	2	36	12	24	31
USRC	13	8	2	3	22	16	6	26
<b>KCC Dragons</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>
816	13	7	3	3	21	14	7	24
Club Colts	13	6	2	5	19	15	4	20
German All Stars	13	6	2	5	28	27	1	20
HKDC Mobsters	13	4	1	8	13	30	-17	13
Antonhill	13	3	3	7	20	27	-7	12
HKDC Squadron	13	3	0	10	14	33	-19	9
<b>KCC Knights</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>7</b>
Swiss XI	13	1	2	10	11	29	-18	5

simply too strong for our young side, and the KCC Knights finally capitulated 4-1.

Against USRC in the first match of the New Year the Knights made an excellent start, leading 1-0 at half-time through a goal from Vikan. But after a half-time resignation threat from their coach, our Jordan neighbours came out much stronger in the second half, and with injuries to two defenders proving crucial, the Knights ran out of steam, eventually going down 5-1.

The Dragons now seem to have found a measure of consistency, but the season will be defined by how they fare against the "big three" sides that currently top the table. The HKFC teams may just be too far ahead, but USRC can certainly be reeled in.



*KCC Knights in action*

For the Knights, it is a question of maintaining concentration and intensity over the full 80 minutes. There is plenty of talent in the side, but the players need to get some good results sooner rather than later if the KCC is to keep two teams in the top flight.

**'Jonny Mac'**

## Royals Prepare for Thai Challenge

The final match of 2009 saw the Royals take on the Leighton side, who included our very own Graham "the Arch" Archer amongst their ranks. Leighton were playing their first match together, and the Royals soon found the soft spot on the left flank, which was repeatedly exploited, Royals running out comfortable 5-1 winners with goals from Dave "Riddles" Ridley, Wakey and Matt "M&M" Meijer. "The Arch" came close to adding to Leighton's tally in the dying moments, but was unable to take full

advantage of some extremely generous Royals defending.

With the 2010 Interport match and 7s tournament at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club just around the corner, Manager Ravi "the Master" Sujanani decided that 2010 should start with some tougher opposition, in an attempt to tune up the side for the Thai caper.

The first match was an away fixture against the always competitive Sandy Bay Strollers.

It may have been the after-effects of over-indulgence in turkey and mulled wine, but the match quickly turned into quite a feisty affair. After conceding an early goal, the Royals came storming back with goals from Ravi, Jimbo, Prav, Rahul and Andy to win 5-1 and take the spoils.

The tune-up continued against the German Old Stars, close relatives of the Yau Yee First Division team the German All Stars – so close in fact, that many of the players were from the Yau Yee squad. Although the score-line (more of that later) suggests German supremacy, both teams were

## Junior Football – Return to Action

The KCC junior teams returned from Christmas and were straight into action, with the 1996, 1997, 1998 and 2000 teams all playing league matches or tournaments in early January.

The 1996s and 1997s took on the Hong Kong Football Club second teams, with very different results. At Sports Road, a depleted KCC 1997s team fought hard but ultimately went down 5-0 to the Football Club. The 1996s fared rather better. Having lost 3-1 to HKFC2 just before Christmas, they came out from the start looking determined to set the record straight. The defence, in which Nicholas Lee, Fergus McKinley, Adam Tonks and Austin Ward were always first to the ball and decisive in the clearance gave the midfield the perfect platform to launch counter-attacks into the opponent's half, and from one such break Barton Leung forced the ball home after good work down the right by David Cheng.

In the second half, the defence was, if anything, even meaner, and Roshan Daswani, Alex Tonks and Justin K were giving the Football Club midfielders no time on the ball. After Roshan had forced a corner on the right, David sent in a tempting cross, which Fergus had two bites at before Daniel Palmes lashed a cracking volley into the roof of the net

from eight yards out. Football Club heads went down, and the KCC closed a comfortable 2-0 victory which saw them leap-frog HKFC2 and move into third place in the Hong Kong Junior Football League table.

Meanwhile, in the 1998 tournament at King's Park KCC's A Team were storming through their group, winning three matches and scoring 9 goals in the process. They then breezed through the Cup quarterfinal 4-0 only to lose 2-0 in the semis to eventual winners Hong Kong Football Academy. The B Team won their Plate quarterfinal 2-1 but were also beaten in the semis, by a narrow 1-0 scoreline.

Finally, a lively 2000 tournament at the KCC saw our A Team retain their Cup status after winning a play-off following a quarterfinal loss. The B Team could get no

further than the Plate quarters this time around.

Once considered something of a "soft touch", the KCC junior teams are now much more competitive, even challenging the traditionally strong HKFC and Football Academy teams. The 1996s are showing the way, having beaten both Academy and Football Club teams this season and there is also noticeable improvement in many of the other sides. This is due in part to the efforts of the new junior football coaching team, but most of all to the players themselves, who are showing great commitment and pride when playing for their Club, and are a credit to the KCC throughout the junior football league.

*'Jonny Mac' and various sources*



active in the opposition box. The Old Stars however were more precise with their technique in front of goal, showing plenty of Vorsprung and not a little Schadenfreude as they cruised to a 5-1 win. Despite the loss, "the Master" was pleased with the Royals display, especially as he was the goal-scorer for KCC.

Next month, all the news that's fit to print from Bangkok. Look out for a long article on the Juniors then.

*Ravi and 'M'*



*Lining up against RBSC for the 2009 Interport at KCC*