

## KCC Sides Up for the Cup

Recent Yau Yee League results continue to show the Dragons and Knights performing well but frustratingly failing to put together a consistent run. However, both teams notched up convincing wins in their initial Yau Yee Cup encounters, and with the early elimination of two strong rivals, the Cup could be our best chance for silverware this season.

The Dragons' first Cup opponents were Second Division University, a well-organised team that kept the scores even until half-time – however the KCC side stepped up the tempo in the second half to rattle home six goals without reply and comfortably secure a berth in the next round. Not to be outdone, the Knights also handed out a 6-0 drubbing to their opponents, Second Division Oxford (SFALO).

In other matches, League highfliers Club Wanderers and USRC were both knocked

### Yau Yee League Division One – 13 December

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Club Albion	11	10	1	0	33	10	23	31
Club Wanderers	11	8	1	2	23	8	15	25
USRC	11	7	2	2	17	14	3	23
816	11	6	2	3	18	12	6	20
German All Stars	11	6	1	4	24	20	4	19
KCC Dragons	11	6	0	5	24	16	8	18
Club Colts	11	5	1	5	17	15	2	16
HKDC Mobsters	11	4	0	7	12	28	-16	12
HKDC Squadron	11	3	0	8	14	26	-12	9
Antonhill	11	2	2	7	19	27	-8	8
KCC Knights	11	2	1	8	16	25	-9	7
Swiss XI	11	1	1	9	10	27	-17	4

out, and a favourable draw in the next round could see both KCC teams advancing to the quarter-finals.

Back in the First Division, the Knights were narrowly beaten 3-2 by Antonhill and then lost 2-0 to HKDC Squadron, before stunning the German All Stars 4-2 to register a much-needed second win of the season. The Dragons continue to oscillate between the sublime and the mediocre, with a 1-0

defeat to Jordan rivals USRC sandwiched by two excellent wins, 4-1 against Club Colts and 4-0 against the Swiss XI.

As the table shows, the Dragons are still in reach of a top three place, whilst the Knights' short-term focus will be on climbing out of potential relegation trouble – more results like the recent victory over the Germans will do the trick.

**'Jonny Mac'**

## Royals' Reality Check

Having won six in a row, with Christmas approaching, Royals Manager Ravi "the Master" Sujanani decided to take the squad out of its comfort zone and line up a few tests against tougher opposition.

The first test was against the KGV Old Boys – who turned out to be anything but "old". In fact, two of the KCC's very own bright young things Bryan Dowie and Amro Abbas were in the opposition line-up. As usual when faced with a huge age (and pace) disparity, the Royals conjured up a mixture of experience and foul tactics to ensure that it was a very close game, albeit one that was won by the KGV "Old" Boys 3-2. We had a couple of great goals from Nadeem and Arch's mate Dave to celebrate, but how we did not score to level the game at 3-3 was something of a mystery given some intense late pressure and the number of free headers on goal that our advancing 'keeper was gifted by the opposition.

The next game was scheduled against a team called Breakthrough, a charity that helps youngsters play football. Judging by the quality of the team, the donations have been coming in thick and fast, as Breakthrough not only had some very fit 20-year-old Nepali boys but also three or four recent Hong Kong pros. We later discovered that Breakthrough was at the top of the Diadora League, having scored 28 goals and conceded 1 in their league campaign thus far. In keeping with the charitable mood of the evening, the Royals allowed the opposition to net six times, although we did manage one breakthrough of our own, a magnificent strike by Mally Leigh from 35 yards into the top corner... 'ave it!

Having lost two in a row, Ravi was feeling the pressure, expecting any day to get the dreaded "vote of confidence" from his board (i.e., the Football Committee). Word was going around that "the Master" was about to become "Rafa" Sujanani.

Appropriately enough then, the next fixture was against HK Reds (Official HK Liverpool Supporters Club). Surely, we would beat the misfiring Scousers and get our season back on track. As it happened, the HK Reds had bolstered their ranks with a few youthful coaches from Brazilian Soccer School, and despite a determined showing by the Royals and another brilliant solo effort (this time by Jonny Mac), once again we were on the wrong end of a 6-1 score-line.

Still "Rafa" pushed on, although the last fixture in November looked as though it could be his swansong unless he was able to halt the Royals' dismal run. The opposition came from the Clearwater Bay Mariners, featuring KCC's Ian Richardson and Steve Rigby in their ranks. The seamen were taking the game seriously, getting a new set of kit and a team bus for the game. But that was all they got, as with several of the regular Royals players back in the side, the Royals ran out comfortable 8-0 winners with two goals apiece from

# Juniors Building on Early Lessons

Like their senior counterparts in the Yau Yee League, the KCC's junior sides in the Hong Kong Junior Football League have had a mixed first half of the season, with the 1996s recording a couple of excellent wins, whilst the 1997s are showing signs of recovery after a couple of heavy defeats against tough opposition.

The 1996s (pictured right) began their campaign against Tai Tam, and despite hitting the bar could not make their pressure tell, eventually settling for a 0-0 draw. In the next game they faced a tough challenge against the Hong Kong Football Club first team, and despite a performance full of grit and some good early moves, we were ultimately beaten convincingly by 5-0.

The following week, the KCC 1996s faced the unbeaten table-topping Hong Kong Football Academy team, and against all odds, after going 2-0 down they stormed back to win 3-2 on the back of goals by

Wakey and Johnny Mac and one each from Mally, Luke, Smithy and Ravi.

Confidence renewed, the Royals went into their last match before the Christmas break planning to plunder a few early presents against the HK Football Club Rovers, following on from their 7-3 spanking of the allegedly superior HKFC Dynamics back in October. Sure enough, despite a stuttering start, the well-oiled Royals machine found its way up through the gears to motor past the Rovers 3-2 and cap a successful return to form, ensuring that "the Master" can sit more comfortably in the Royals' hot seat as the January transfer window approaches.

Finally, we would like to wish all the players and their families in the Football Section a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Ravi and 'M'**



Barton Leung and a late Daniel Palmes penalty. The team carried on the good work in the next match, the return against Tai Tam, this time making no mistake by crushing the tigers 4-1, this time Daniel got two and Barton one goal after Shaan Mirchandani had opened the scoring. The

last match before Christmas however saw us slipping back down the table – despite a late rally and a debut goal for Jake Smith, KCC slipped up 3-1 against the fast and well-drilled HKFC second team.

The fixture calendar saw the 1997s play their first three matches against HKFC first team (twice) and HKFA. Against very experienced and physically strong sides, KCC lost 6-0 to HKFA and HKFC, and then 5-0 to HKFC in the return. However in the last match before the season break the 1997s played well to hold a decent Discovery Bay side to a 0-0 draw, and as they face some of the weaker teams in the New Year, Manager Ravi Panjabi is confident that they will pick up more points.



**Knights**



Both teams have made good progress in training and on the pitch, and they will miss their coach Justin, who is returning to Canada to continue his studies. He has worked hard to improve our young players, and the boys have responded well. We hope to see him back with the BSS coaching team soon.

**'Jonny Mac'**