



A Team

Since reporting in last month's magazine, the A Team has played four more games and remains undefeated. We achieved a 5-3 win over KBGC A, defeated HKFC A 8-0, drew with KBGC B 4-4 and defeated CCC A 6-2. This means we sit 10 points clear at the top of the 1st Division.

In the last magazine, I said that we hoped the B Team would take points off all the other teams in the league and this they are indeed doing. Well done, B Team! KCC in 1st and 2nd positions has not been seen for a long time, if ever.

The A Team has three more games before the end of the first half of the season. Unfortunately, we will lose Noel Kennedy for the whole of the second half of the season



but I will plan my strategy once we have completed the first half and, if at all possible, remain undefeated. I strongly believe that one of the reasons for the A Team's success is minimal change to a winning team. Another reason is good team spirit

and I thank all of the players for accepting my decisions and supporting each other.

Let's keep it up!

Mike Dowie
A Team Captain

B Team

After a poor start to the season, the team slowly started picking up momentum. With a fantastic team spirit and players pulling for each other, we managed to win the next four games on the trot. I have always believed that we have the calibre to perform at this level and given time, the team will gel. This has been proven right and my thanks to all the players that have contributed in lifting the team to second on the table.

Our first win came at the expense of VLBC A and what a win that was. The rinks of CC and Gary were leading all the way and cruised home comfortably by the score of 28-12 and 16-10 respectively.

Andrew and his front men were struggling throughout, and after the 12 end was 6-18 down. A minor miracle happened, in the remaining 6 ends they took 16 shots to their opponent 1 and won the game 22-19.

Verdict: An 8-nil win. The awakening.

The game away to HKFC B was rained off and was postponed to the evening of 2 June.

Andrew and rink was again up to their old tricks, giving their opponent a head start of 9 shots halfway before bouncing back to take 17 shots on the last 11 ends to win by a margin of 7 shots (24-17). Andrew, the excitement doesn't do your captain's heart any good.

On the corner rink, CC and team had their night-goggles on and with a better view of the jack completely demolished their opponent. After 15 ends he was leading 26-2, but graciously gave back 5 shots on the last 3 ends to his host. For a moment I thought CC didn't believe in taking prisoners.

The captain was doing all right till a loss of a 6 on the 12 end resulting on an 11-16 defeat.

Verdict: A good comeback 6-2 win



The away game to CLP brings us on a NT tour. The green, from past experience, used to be a graveyard for bowlers, but it turned out to be much better than expected.

Andrew must have got my earlier message

and this time jumped the gun from the start. He was 15-7 up halfway through. But habits are hard to change; again his rink took the last 6 ends and won by a handsome margin of 18 shots. It's not a complaint – keep it up.

Another good performance from CC and co. The game is almost over by the 8th end after leading 16 nil. It's sometimes difficult to keep full concentration with such a huge lead, and his rink saw out the game with another telling 23-11 win.

After the 10th end the captain's rink was 1 shot up, but a loss of a 5 and a 4 in three

ends saw the game fall apart, ending 18-24 in the red.

Verdict: Another 6-2 win, followed by a noisy celebration on our homeward bound celebration, with a little bit of help from a full eski.

After three victories against fellow minors, if I may put it that way, our next game is to take on last year's champions – KBGC A away. Gary Knowles, back from leave has been drafted to strengthen the side. The game plan was to give our best and not to lose maximum points against top teams; any points taken is considered an added bonus. Well, it turned out that nobody bothered with the game plan and the team took the short triumphant march down Cox's Road with 6 points in the bag.

The game was a thriller, after the first two rinks have finished the score was 2 points apiece, with the opponent enjoying a one shot advantage in aggregate. CC won (17-16); Gary lost (15-17).

This set the stage for Andrew's rink to decide the outcome of the game and score. On the last end his rink was 2 shots up on the board and 3 shots down on the head. With the rest of the spectators mesmerised, Andrew delivered his last wood to trail the jack a yard for a count of two to collect the win plus the aggregate, a shot worth 4 precious points.

Verdict: Beating the defending champions 6-2 on their own turf!... what more can I say?

Gary

CONVENOR'S COLUMN

Premier League 2009

A really good start to the season with Men's A and B lying top and second respectively in the First Division, along with C and D top two in their respective divisions.

This may be unprecedented in the history of the HKLBA – A and B first and second in the First Division and B remaining in the first division for a fourth year running!

A Convenor's dream, as I wrote two months ago, although it is still early days with a long way to go. Taste success early should boost our morale and performance. However, we must continue to battle hard, each game at a time, to fight and maintain our current level.

Greens

Summer recess is almost upon us by end of June and priority on greens maintenance will take over with the possibility of closing both greens for three weeks in order to do collective coring, fertilising etc., and have adequate time for unforeseen inclement weather delays.

Our Greens Convenor, KK will no doubt keep a close eye on National Competitions which may need to be played at home green, before closing them.



C Team



D Team

THE LADIES' COLUMN

While writing this article with two more weeks to go before the end of the first half of the season, we find the A Team sitting at mid table with both the newly promoted Bs and Cs still struggling at the bottom of the 2nd Division.

With the injection of new team members, different combination of line-up in order to fit the new format of play, plus the re-turf of the greens (much heavier, as most ladies commented) – all these factors have affected the outcome of our games far more than we anticipated. However, history taught us, in all process of changes, those that are willing to hang on and ride the storm will come out much stronger. I am encouraged to find most of the players share the belief in being an inclusive team player, offer their best effort to perform and not to direct their blame on other's wrongdoing. With this attitude in mind, I trust that we will get through this rocky path together soon.

When you read this, the mid-season break will have started. Minor maintenance work on the green will continue with playing area slightly reduced. However, please take every opportunity to practice with your team members and prepare to face the games ahead.

Mark your dairy: Official practice game prior 2nd half, tentative on 22 August.

Anna

Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm. – Winston Churchill