



Wind Valley lives up to its name

With a typhoon in the offing and T3 about to go up, the hardy members of the Golf Society travelled up to Wind Valley on Wednesday, 22 June for the 6th Event in the 2011 Stableford League. With occasional strong winds and intermittent heavy rainstorms on the journey up we were prepared for an interesting day and so it proved. Some people have differing views on the weather and Alan Thorburn likened the weather that day to a normal summer's day in Scotland.

The only tee times available were from 8:15am, so an early start was necessary and those leaving from KCC left at 5:45am. We had all arrived at Wind Valley by 7:45am and the first flights were ready to go. As we prepared to tee off it started to drizzle and then the winds picked up and the rain intensified so we had a tempestuous start to the round but that lasted for a couple of holes and the rain stopped. The next four hours took us through a wide range of weather conditions from bright sunshine to heavy storms, each phase followed by something completely different – just one of those changeable days.

Asghar Ali enjoyed himself on the front 9 with 5 pars and a birdie in an excellent 38 but his back 9 brought only one par as he closed with a 46, but his total of 84 was enough to bring him the Best Gross trophy. Playing partner Alfonso Cordero was the next best with 86; his balanced round of 43/43 with 3 pars on the front 9 and 4 pars on the back 9.

With a number of big hitters around the Longest Drive for Men went to Tommy 'Mr Muscles' Tam with Kim Lamsam taking the Ladies' prize.

The 13th hole was a lucky one for Tommy Tam and Danny Lim as their tee shots on the NP hole were measured by various means and were an identical distance from the hole, so they each received a prize.



Results

Longest Drive:

Men: Tommy Tam Ladies: Kim Lamsam

Nearest the Pin:

Hole 4: CM Mak
Hole 7: Asghar Ali
Hole 13: Tommy Tam/Danny Lim.
Hole 17: Alan Thorburn.

Stableford:

1st: Sarwar Mohamed 37pts
2nd: Alfonso Cordero 34pts

3rd: Andy Ko 33pts (c/b 16)
4th: Duncan Wong 33pts (c/b 12)

Best gross:

Men: Asghar Ali Ladies: Kim Lamsam

Stableford League starts to warm up

Three of the last four editions of the Stableford League have been very close affairs with a tie at the finish and the countback system brought into action to determine the Champion.

The 2011 Stableford League moves into the second half of the season with a close battle at the top with Danny Lim holding a four point lead over Richard Tinlin with CM Mak in third place and Tommy Tam in fourth place. But a number of players are yet to complete the required four results and Michael Cheng, Peter Fung, last year's Champion Andy Ko, FK Lim, Alfonso Cordero, Roy Lamsam and Peter Leung are all capable of moving swiftly up the league as they complete more events.

The July event will see us returning to Mission Hills to play the Annika Course on 13 July. We haven't played this course for about three years so it will be refreshing to get back to this beautiful undulating terrain, which presents some interesting challenges.

The August event is a two-day trip to Palm Island where we will be playing with Ca-thay Pacific Inflight Services Department. This should be a very entertaining trip on their interesting courses.

September has a three/two/one day

trip to Pine Valley and Lakewood with the Lakewood Stableford League event sandwiched between two Pine Valley days and taking advantage of a Sunday and public holiday on the Tuesday. The Lakewood course was excellent on our first trip there last July and with two days at Pine Valley, this is a trip to be savoured and the excellent cuisine at Pine Valley along with the marvellous golf course makes this a mouth-watering excursion. Don't miss it!

This will bring us up to the Annual Golf Society Championships Day at Kau Sai Chau on the South Course on Tuesday, 4 October. This is always a wonderful day and after an exhilarating trip to Kau Sai Chau we have the prospect of an evening with a marvellous KCC buffet and great entertainment.

That sets the scene for the next few months GS events but less we forget some very important hints to incorporate into our golf regime, here are a few reminders which will help us to play at a reasonable pace and make the golf more enjoyable for everyone concerned.

Golf Hints

A few items which if followed should make your golf more enjoyable.

Before you start:

- Be on the tee ten minutes before you are due to play
- Ensure that you have in your pocket or easily available the ball that you are going to use, plus a spare
- Tees, ball marker and pitch mark repair tool
- Score card

Despite what some pros say, it is not necessary to have a pre-shot routine that involves three attempts to visualize the shot, four practice swings, plus another look to make sure.

By all means concentrate on the shot but get on with it.

Be considerate to others:

Your partners:

- Don't move about or make a noise while they are playing

- Don't stand in their line of vision
- Watch where their ball goes – if it is in trouble it is better if four people think they know where it is, rather than only one

Other players:

- Keep up with the group in front
- Keep quiet if your tee and their green (or vice versa) are nearby
- Rake bunkers and replace divots

Don't ever mark your card on the green – unless you are waiting for your partners to finish playing – if you have the honour on the next tee, play first and mark your card afterwards.

On the tee:

- When it is your turn to play, be ready as soon as the players ahead of you have played
- Know what ball you are going to play
- Watch where the ball goes, all the way, and identify a significant marker of its position if it is off line
- Know the rules about whether there is a need to play a provisional ball (the spare one in your pocket or on your person, remember?) and declare it to be so – if you don't it becomes the ball in play, even if you find the first ball

On the fairway:

- As you get close to your ball, note the distance markers and count down so that by the time you reach your ball, you have a fair idea of how far you have to go
- While walking to your ball, also consider the plusses and minuses to be applied to the distance e.g. green uphill or downhill, ball on an uphill or downhill lie, wind direction and strength
- Having done the calculations (quickly!) select the club and hit it. Again watch the ball all the way
- Be aware of where your partners are and give them room to play their shots – you don't always have to stand behind other players, but you mustn't restrict their route to the target (and as you know, some players need a wider route than others!!)

In the rough:

- You are allowed five minutes to find your ball. If more than one in your group

is in trouble, you should all be looking for the lost balls at the same time, so that the maximum delay is five minutes for the group as a whole

- Make sure you know the rules about hazards (particularly lateral water hazards) paths, out of bounds and what options are available when declaring a ball unplayable
- A general piece of advice is that when you find your ball it is better to get back into play in one shot. There may be times when it is important to play a bold shot to the green, but in most cases it is better to be safe

On and around the green:

- Once your ball is on the green, take your trolley or cart around to the point nearest to the direction of the next tee (don't ever leave your trolley or cart in front of the green!)
- Mark your ball and repair your pitch mark
- Assess your putt – obviously it would be good to hole every putt, but in most cases it will be good enough to get to within two or three feet of the hole, therefore it isn't necessary to identify every last subtlety of the green
- If you can, without standing on other player's lines, putt on until you hole out
- Remember to consider others – is your ball in their way and should be marked? Do they need the flagstick attended, removed or left in? Don't let you or your shadow interfere with their line of vision
- Before you leave the green, tap down any spike marks, particularly within three feet of the hole

To some these hints may sound like a list of restrictions designed to take all of the fun out of playing golf. If you follow them you will find that the enjoyment factor will be increased – even if all that happens is that you don't get abused by your committee or course marshals at certain courses.

I hope you all have some good trips and are able to play some interesting courses during this summer, but of course I hope we can see many of you in our upcoming events.

Cheers,
Richard