

# FOOTBALL



## HK Junior Football League Season Kicks Off at KCC



# KCC Royals in Legal Action

KCC now have three competitive football teams, with the entry of the Royals into another amateur league, the supposedly more “socially oriented” Hong Kong Legal League. But as manager Dave “the Pelvis” Christmas (pictured



in pensive mood) and his squad have found in their first two matches, action in the Legal League is every bit as tough as that faced by the Knights and the Dragons in Hong Kong’s leading amateur competition, the Yau Yee League.

The Royals’ first league match, on a warm Monday evening at King’s Park was against the intriguingly named Goodfellas. Bolstered by a sprinkling of talent from the Dragons, we looked well organised at the start, although there was little goalmouth action until Peter McMillan clattered into one of the made men 25 yards out. The goodfella picked himself up and rifled a bullet into the top corner before James Gough could even get his hands up.

Early in the second half the Goodfellas target man proved this was no one-off hit by repeating the trick from open play,

and within minutes another teammate had got into the act with a further long-range effort. Staunch defence marshaled by “the Pelvis” and Geoff Ho prevented a bloodbath, and if Luca Merlone had been a little more disrespectful of the opponents he might have made inroads into the deficit when presented with a string of scoring chances. But it was the ‘fellas who finished the scoring, with another clinical strike to leave the Royals 4 - 0 runners-up on the night.

Next up were a team simply called Studz, which featured a mix of “socially oriented”-looking players reinforced by a German ‘keeper and four African youngsters. The Royals started the match in a 5-4-1 formation (which sounds like a good happy hour deal), and looked robust in defence without being able to create much for Sam “Flash” Trayford or Jon “Slow Exposure” McKinley up front. Pushed ever deeper by the probing opponents, we finally fell behind to a shot from 25 yards that gave Goughie no chance.

Down 1 – 0 at half time, “the Pelvis” took some unsolicited advice from a couple of the more ancient players and reverted to a more familiar 4-4-2 set-up. Revelling in the new-found space on the flanks, Jim Down (pictured) and Joe Fahy were able to provide Flash and sub Matt Wake with a bit more ammunition, and the Royals twice came close to equalising, only for the German ‘keeper to block and awe.

Meanwhile, we were running out of ‘keepers – first Goughie retired with a bad leg then Ravi Sujanani limped off

with a bad leg. Jessie Rao made it three bad legs, and whilst we were finding our feet, Studz once again found the net, with an improbably good free-kick from 25 yards following a challenge from Paul McGunnigle that would have made Charlie Manson wince. Showing unlikely reserves of fitness, the Royals kept looking for that elusive first Legal League goal, and Luca, Flash and Wakey all had further opportunities. But despite an improvement on the previous week’s showing, it was another clean sheet for the opposition, and a 2 – 0 defeat was not an unfair result, although we would argue that we deserved a goal.

KCC Royals’ foray into the competitive arena has therefore yet to bear fruit in terms of results. But the feeling amongst the players is that this is a good opportu-



nity to play regular matches at a higher standard, and also to give younger or squad players from the Knights and Dragons a taste of match action. With a little less conversation and a little more action it won’t be long before we start to take the law into our own hands.

***‘Jonny Mac’***

