



# The Hong Kong Golf Club

For immediate release

30 July 2013

## **Fanling venue of Hong Kong Golf Club (HKGC): a world-class sport facility vital to promoting golfing in Hong Kong (HK)**

### **HKGC's world-class facilities enhancing HK as a world-city**

Being a sport with a long history in Hong Kong, golf is gaining increasing popularity, and has recently been included as an Olympic sport. Founded in 1889, HKGC has long been the champion in promoting golf in Hong Kong by providing golfing facilities of international standards, enhancing both professional and amateur golf internationally. It helps to enhance Hong Kong as a world-class city with a diverse and wide range of sporting activities.

### **Fanling courses: the century-old sports heritage in HK**

The HKGC facilities enable Hong Kong to host major international events. The Fanling venue, as a century old golfing heritage with its history starting in 1911, has been home to the Hong Kong Open. Apart from Grand Prix Macau, the Hong Kong Open is the only world-class sport event with a history of more than half a century in the region, and is one of the selected few world-class sports events held annually in Hong Kong at the same venue. The international event promotes the image of Hong Kong as an international city with world-class golfing facilities, attracting overseas viewers and making it possible for talented local golfers to match skills with some of the best in the world. With its unique history and heritage, it is unparalleled by other golf tournaments

in the region. The Fanling site was also used for the venue of 2008 Olympics Equestrian event in Hong Kong, testifying its importance in international sports.

### **Promotion of golfing by partnering with HKGA**

HKGC's facilities enable the development of golf by partnering with the Hong Kong Golf Association (HKGA) on providing facilities on a weekly basis for junior golf development.

The HKGC provides weekly access for the HKGA's junior development programme. The national coach, together with the HKGC's golf professionals, provide tuition to both international and beginner level players. This access plays a major role in ensuring golf in Hong Kong continues to grow with rising standard especially with its recent inclusion as an Olympic sport.

### **World-class facilities accessible by the public**

The HKGC is self-financed, where membership subscription is vital to maintaining the courses and club facilities. It operates on private funding, with a total expenditure of \$130 million in the last year alone.

The courses cater to members as well as visitors locally and all over the world with unmatched public walk in and advance booking access on weekdays and non-public holidays. In 2012, over 30% of the rounds were played by non-members including both local and international visitors (excluding golf by villagers). As a tenant, the HKGC has always complied with our lease conditions and pays a market rent as dictated by the lease.

The HKGC also has an arrangement with the Sheung Shui District Rural Committee whereby the local indigenous villagers can play on the Old Course free of charge every day after 3 p.m. There are around 800 registered villagers who played almost 14,000 rounds in 2012.

### **On NENTNDAs**

The HKGC shares the public's concern for the best use of land resources, and the anxiety of all those villagers and farmers affected by NENTNDAs. As regards to the

future planning of land use for the Fanling site, the HKGC will continue to respect the decision of the Government in the overall interests of the community. But at the same time, the HKGC would strongly urge that due consideration be given to maintain Hong Kong's position as "Asia's World City" with golfing and sporting facilities appropriate of its international status.

### **Caring for the underprivileged**

The HKGC has always been partnering with the community to care for needs of the underprivileged. For the last 5 years, the HKGC donated over \$10 million to various institutions, including Buddhist Po Ching Home for the Aged Women, Buddhist Po Ching Care and Attention Home for the Aged Women, HK Evangelical Church Bradbury Sheung Shui Family Centre, Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – HK Children and Youth Centre, Sheung Shui Junior Police Call, North District Hospital. The HKGC also makes a yearly contribution to Home of Loving Faithfulness (Kwu Tung) to look after needy children and adults, and sponsoring for the last 15 years therapeutic lessons taught to children with autism in the Heep Hong Society - Jockey Club Early Education & Training Centre (Sheung Shui). We shall continue our endeavour to share with the needy, and bring warmth to the underprivileged in our neighbouring community.

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