**HKGolfer** 

2018 Season Preview

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HONG KONG GOLF ASSOCIATION VOTED THE REGION'S NO 1 GOLF MAGAZINE ISSUE 131 HKGOLFER.COM JANUARY 2018 \$50

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UBS HONG KONG OPEN REVIEW





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#### **UBS Hong Kong Open Charity Cup**



Since its inception in 2015, the charity tournament has raised more than HK\$6 million, to become one of the highest-grossing fundraising events on the European Tour circuit.

Canton-pop singer, Hacken Lee, who became Charity Ambassador of the 2017 UBS Hong Kong Open Charity Cup earlier this year, has helped raise awareness of the tournament that gives local golfers an opportunity to play on the composite Championship Course at the Hong Kong Golf Club, which is available for play just nine days each year.

Proceeds from this year's tournament, which attracted nearly 200 players, together with funds raised from Charity Dinner and matching donations from Asian Foundation (Friends of Asia Hong Kong's sister foundation), will go to five local charities that focus on children and youth's physical and mental health and wellness: Benji's Centre; Chicken Soup Foundation Limited; Internet Learning Resources Centre; InspiringHK Sports Foundation and Music Children Foundation Limited.

Dr Caleb Chan, Founder and Chairman of Friends of Asia Hong Kong, the official charity partner of the Hong Kong Open since 2014, commented: "We are promoting sport as a platform to help local youth develop physically and mentally. This year, the beneficiaries have increased to five from four last year, and we hope that the dollar-for-dollar matched fundraising will become a trend in local fundraising initiatives."

#### Bali's Bukit Pandawa Named 'World's Best Par-3 Course'

The year-old layout won 'World's Best Par-3 Course 2017' at the World Golf Awards ceremony in southeastern Spain, an annual celebration of excellence in golf tourism.

It was the first time in World Golf Awards history that voters could select the world's top par-3 course.

"The inclusion of such a category says volumes about the future of golf," said JMP Golf Design Group's Bob Moore, who conceived the 18-hole, par-54 course overlooking the Indian Ocean and accepted the award on Bukit Pandawa Golf & Country Club's behalf. "We are embracing courses that have not historically been included in our perception of great golf experiences.

"I believe that one of golf's strongest growth markets lies in the creation of courses that can be played in relatively short time frames while providing a non-intimidating experience for young and beginning golfers. Bukit Pandawa is an example of beautiful golf design applied to a non-traditional layout."



The 18th hole at Bukit Pandawa Golf & Country Club in Bali

The imaginative collection of 18 championship-standard one-shotters was one of four finalists for 'World's Best Par-3 Course 2017.'

Turtle Hill Golf Club in Bermuda, Cromwell Golf Course at Nailcote Hall in England and The Zhang Lianwei Course at Mission Hills Shenzhen in China were also in contention for the award.

## **HKGA Annual Sponsors Golf Day**

The HKGA held its annual Sponsors Golf Day for the fourth consecutive year to look back and celebrate a successful 2017, while looking forward to a more exciting 2018.

Representatives from golf clubs, driving ranges and other sponsors and suppliers, along with members from the media, joined the HKGA staff for a stableford tournament at the Discovery Bay Golf Club. The golf day was subvented by the HKSAR government regarding the HKSAR's 20th anniversary. A complimentary golf clinic was also held at the Discovery Bay Golf Club for Tung Chung Catholic School students in association with the HKPGA. DBGC was very generous to provide students with free lunch, snacks & drinks.

The Sponsors Golf Day finished with cocktail in the evening followed by buffer dinner at the clubhouse. While guests were enjoying the wonderful food and wine, Tiffany Chan, the first Hong Kong golfer to qualify for the LPGA Tour, and several Hong Kong Team squad members including Leon D'Souza, Taichi Kho, Leung, Isabella Leung and Michelle Cheung were invited to share their thoughts and visions about their golf career and took questions. The lucky draw was definitely the highlight of the night with valuable gifts from our generous sponsors.

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