

(both players subsequently named by our hosts as men of the match) forced RBSC onto the back foot. A master strike from **Stewart McGuinness** in the 65th minute was fair reward for our hard work, followed shortly after that with **Neil Horton** finding the back of the net, HKFC leads 1-2.

Never a club content just holding on, the HKFC chargers continued to push on narrowly missing some well worked opportunities. The rain fell, the running continued and with a lot of men forward, a slight lapse in concentration saw RBSC catch us on the counter attack and level the game at 2-2. This sparked a frantic next 10 minutes with both sides pushing for the win and 2 minutes from time, **Phil Dowding** embarked on yet another blistering drive up the left wing. A good ball in to the feet of **Mark Hulbert** allowing him to deliver a first time pass to **Stewart McGuinness**, who in turn found yours truly unmarked out wide on the left; a cross in to **Hulbert**, who'd made his way in to the box, who chests it down to **Graeme Lane** who'd come screaming (literally) in from the right, a perfectly weighted square ball to **Antony Sassi** who took a quick look up and from 25 yards out found the back of the net with a bullet like strike. The masters win the trophy — weekend made.

■ *Christian Capurso*



Under 12 Girls Season 2014 to 2015 review

The HKFC Under 12 girls squad had a healthy increase in girls playing with 25 girls regularly training and playing matches. It was great to see the same girls playing as last season with the addition of friends, a few strong players and some who had not played before.

We regularly played friendly matches at the Peak on a Saturday afternoon which gave the girls a great opportunity to play matches

HKFC Soccer Section Season 2014-15 Awards

- HKFC Player of the Year - Robbie Scott
- Lucky Mile Player of the Year - Adam Bailey
- Albion Player of the Year - Tom McGillycuddy
- Wanderers Player of the Year - Andrew Wylde
- Colts Player of the Year - Andreas Thorsen
- Colts Player of the Year - Chui Wan Yeung
- Dynamics Player of the Year - Mark Grainger
- Rovers Player of the Year - Gavin McDermott
- Gazelles Player of the Year - John Charleston
- Veterans Player of the Year - Graeme Lane
- Ladies Player of the Year - Rebecca O'Brien
- HKFC Coach of the Year - Tony Hamilton-Bram
- HKFC Soccer 7s MVP – Freddie Toomer



ABOVE LEFT:
Kieran Flynn presenting
Tony Hamilton with the
Coach of the Year award

ABOVE:
JC winning yet another
Player of the Year vote

LEFT:
G presenting Ladies Player
of the Year to Rachel
O'Brien

and against different opposition. This certainly helped the girls improve and have fun on a Saturday afternoon.

We fielded two teams at each of the tournaments at KCC, Tai Tam and Maccabi throughout the season. The girls played well at each tournament, improving all the time and experienced success in reaching a few cup finals, winning a cup and a plate final.

The season finished with 4 girls taking part in the tour to Cambodia and teaming up with local girls to make a team and win the Cup final. It was a great experience and hopefully more girls can join next season.

There was a clear improvement in performance in the girls and very good attendance at training, matches and tournaments. We are proud that **Anna Aiello** was chosen to represent the Hong Kong Under 12 girls team and we are very fortunate to have so many girls enjoying and playing good football.

Player's player of the year: **Anna Aiello**

Coach's player of the year: **Lizzie Hau**

Most improved player: **Lisa Saffon**

Overall 2014 to 2015 was a very good season and we all look forward to a fun season ahead!

■ **Mike Sadler, Coach**

Under 14 Boys Tournament at CDNIS



The HKFC U14 Development Squad were provided their first competitive action of the season by competing in the Major League Football Academy's 'Champions League' 6-a-side tournament from the end of April through to the first week of June. The tournament focused on allowing development teams to participate in competitive matches. For coaches **Kieran Flynn, Jerry Simpson** and **Chris Plowman**, it also provided the opportunity to evaluate whether the season's hard work in developing the skills and techniques of the players had succeeded!

The tournament format was a succession of round robin games between 5 teams; each allocated the name of a team participating in this season's UEFA Champions League. The HKFC team had the unfortunate honour of playing under the 'Chelsea' pseudonym and hoped to improve upon their namesake's own pitiful performance in the competition!

Deploying a traditional 2-2-1 formation for each game, HKFC finished top of the table at the end of the round robin phase, losing only once to Manchester City, and qualifying for the Final against a strong and experienced Juventus side. In their group match, HKFC beat Juventus 3-2 in a tough fought victory, where they lead 3-0 at half-time and, in traditional Chelsea style, had to 'park the bus' to fight off a determined second half assault from their opponents.

Juventus again fielded an experienced team in the Final and HKFC's task was made even harder due to the absence of Player of the Season **Alex Timpany**, on a 'Holiday in Cambodia', and **Jasper Plowman**, exiting early from the tournament with a knee injury, which swelled to the size of the Elephant Man's head.

With **Ben Lee** and **Justin Mak** rotating as goal keeper and both employing **Hugo Lloris'** sweeper-keeper tactics, HKFC set up with a strong defence, including the impenetrable **Andrew 'Slide-Tackle' Simpson, Jude Schoeb** and **Aayush Batwara**. And it was the latter's penchant for attacking from defence, to the detriment of his coaches' and the supporters' hearts, that resulted in HKFC taking an early lead. With further goals from **Zach Measures, Jasper Smith** and **Justin Mak**, HKFC went in at half time 4 goals to the good. The second half saw a more dogged performance from Juventus, requiring shaggy haired **Lucan Flynn** to work overtime in midfield to quell any sustained response. A second goal from **Aayush Batwara** sealed a well-deserved 5-0 victory for the HKFC and provided the players with ample reward for the season's hard work.

Thanks are provided to Section members **Tom Halder** and **Gavin McDermott** for organising the event at the Canadian International School, which was enjoyed by all; and we look forward to participating in the event again next season. ■

White vs Blue — the EPIC battle !!!

Saturday 30th May saw the epic battle of the titans at the HKFC Citibank Soccer 7's when the HKFC Crusaders tournament squad was split into 2 teams to battle it out between them for Crusader supremacy.

Under the watchful eye of English Premier League referee Mike Jones, the game was not without incident.

Dives, debatable hand balls, sneaky taps of the ankle, pointed aggressive gestures and celebrations that would not be out of place in the Champions League were all let go in the name of keeping the game flowing!

A 4 - 1 scoreline to HKFC Crusaders white was a well earned victory and man of the match has to go to “**Cheech**” **Tsang Tsz Hong** for a superbly taken early goal and a victory celebration that had the crowd on their feet and one of his fellow team mates pinned to the ground!

The game also saw one of the best goals of the season from white team goalkeeper **William Russell** who managed to score from his own goal kick!!! A heavy footed, lofted kick bounced once and went over the head of the blue team keeper. Once again the crowd were on their feet.

“I was very proud of both teams and they certainly entertained the 7's crowd who gave them a well deserved rapturous round of applause as the final whistle went,” said Head Coach, **Nigel R Merritt**.

He went on to thank the 7's committee for giving the HKFC Crusaders the opportunity to play in front of their “home crowd”, to the Prudential for their continued sponsorship of the programme, the Soccer Section for their support and endorsement and to all the coaches who throughout the season have helped train the Crusaders and take the programme to its current level.

The crowd in the visitors stand were also on their feet (for the 3rd time!) to applaud the HKFC Crusaders as they walked their path of celebration on the way to the Sportsman's Bar where food and drink was laid on to satisfy the hungry players, who swapped stories re their recollections of the game which were often not as recorded! We won 11 - 1 I think said one member of the blue team! Bring in video playbacks I say!

The HKFC Crusaders season has now come to an end, but they will be back on the training pitch on Monday 14th September getting ready for their next tournament, Operation Santa Claus in December. ■

Nigel R Merritt

Correction: In the June 2015 edition, Nigel Merritt's email was printed incorrectly. His email should be nigel@nrmerrittassociates.com

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