



PGA OF HONG KONG

The 29th instalment of a series that takes a random look at each member PGA.

“Access to World-Class Knowledge & Expertise...”

Although golf has been played in Hong Kong for more than a hundred years, largely due to the British influence, it has only been in comparatively recent times that the sport has truly taken off alongside the positive explosion of interest around the Far East in general.

This emergence of the region among the world’s major players - already becoming crystal clear with such developments as the phenomenal Mission Hills complex in China, and the flow of Asian players of both genders into the professional tours - was further confirmed as The PGA of Hong Kong became International Members of The PGAs of Europe in November 2008.

When Lee Parker, the PGAHK Director of Training accepted the badge of membership at the Annual Congress in Murcia, it was a positive indication that here was yet another region outside of Europe that was ready and eager

to join forces in absorbing and spreading best professional methods among its practitioners’.

To add an Asian flavour to that of South Africa, South America (Brazil) and the Caribbean (Jamaica), was a further touch of spice for an organisation that has become increasingly diverse and global in its perspective of a game whose borders know no bounds.

Since then the PGA of Hong Kong, founded

in 1970, has underlined its determination to constantly upgrade the quality of its training policy with a programme designed to achieve Education Committee approval. This is publicly stated on their website in explaining why this part of Asia decided to join forces with Europe;

“With the view to continually improving the standard of coaching and professional golf, the HKPGA has long held the objective of delivering a high quality golf professional training programme to aspiring professionals in Hong Kong.” it reads.

“Since launching the Golf Professional Training Program in 2003, the association has continued to add new elements to it... In addition to demanding a high level of personal golfing skill the association places academic and practical emphasis on trainees’ knowledge of Psychomotor Learning, Sports Science and the Golf Swing, Swing Theory, Practical Coaching Skills, Equipment Technology and Customisation, Golf Management, The Rules of Golf and Business and Marketing

“By being accepted as a member of The PGAs of Europe, HKPGA has shown and proven its ability to launch and present a comprehensive Golf Professional Training Programme that it is the trade mark and copyright owner of the PGA name and brand and the governing body of professional golf in Hong Kong.

“Being a member of The PGAs of Europe gives the Association access to a wealth of world-class knowledge and expertise, which ensures we receive first hand information on the latest cutting edge technologies and techniques, which in turn allows us to help improve the golfing knowledge of our members, trainees and the golfers of Hong Kong.”



Leading Hong Kong pro William Fung

Picture: Charles McLaughlin/HK Golfer Magazine

PGA of Hong Kong The Facts

President: **Wilson Choy**
 Head of Training: **Lee Parker**
 Secretary: **Viola Wong**

	2009
Facilities	4 Member clubs with a total of 135 holes 1 public facility with 54 holes 6 Driving Ranges
Amateur Players	16,000 registered
PGA Professionals	103

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Did You Know..?

- The Royal Hong Kong Golf Club was formed in 1889 by ‘13 golfing enthusiasts’ on some open land.
- Within two years membership had grown to 100, so a small shed was built as a changing room.
- World War 2 virtually bankrupted the club but members and local business gradually performed a rescue act.
- Eventually the quality of the club and its courses led to the staging of the Hong Kong Open and such famous world players as Peter Thomson, Mr Lu (Lang-Huan), Tom Watson and Jose Maria Olazabal became champions there.
- The first Johnnie Walker Classic in Asia was won there by Nick Faldo with a course record 62 in 1990. Bernhard Langer was winner a year later with a 63.



Local junior prize winners at Hong Kong GC.

‘Adding an Exotic Dimension to Golf’

As the facts and figures (left) show, Hong Kong - one of those exciting destinations where East meets West, and where two cultures feed off each other to mutual benefit – has four member clubs, a public facility boasting 54 holes and six driving ranges.

Some sixteen thousand handicap players enjoy all that the multi-faceted sport has to offer and they can call on the services of more than a hundred PGA professionals for coaching and all of the other essential services.

All of which suggests quite forcibly that the world golfing community is to carry on being blessed with a continuing in-flow of oriental players who add an exotic dimension to a world sport that, until recent decades, consisted almost entirely of Europeans and white Americans.