

The Jesters Club (Hong Kong Outpost) v The Ladies Recreation Club, 20th April, 2024

For the first time, the Hong Kong Jesters, clambered up Hong Kong's exclusive Old Peak Road in Mid-levels summiting at the Ladies Recreation Club (LRC) established in 1883 as one of Hong Kong's private member's clubs.

Perhaps more commonly known as a tennis club with 10 tennis courts, the LRC also boasts two glass backed squash courts.

The Jesters amassed a team of 7 players, some of whom are Jesters and others, friends in squash with the same values and sporting spirit.

There had been a few late changes to the LRC lineup, strengthening their ranks so it was always going to be a tough proposition, but this did not dampen the spirits of the Jesters team who were determined to have a great afternoon of squash and banter.

Making her debut at 7 for the Jesters, Veronica took on LRC's Jake, one of the late replacements who could have held his own a place or two higher. In the spirit of fair play, LRC agreed to an Irish scoring format (Jake only scoring on serve) which helped to balance things out, but despite a great effort from Veronica and sportsmanship, Jake triumphed at 3-0.

At 6, Ashwin also debuting for the Jesters, was up against LRC captain Sunny who had moved from number 3 to 6 position which proved to be a tough proposition for Ashwin who wasn't able to keep up with the younger Sunny won 3-0. Ashwin then took up his place perched on a bar stool courtside for the next few hours with a beer in hand and lots of coaching expertise on offer.

In at 5, yours truly was keen to make a positive impression on the scoresheet, despite taking a couple of blows to the body in game 1 against Owen, Ex South African/Irish Rugby player I was able to take the third game 22-20 and a 3-0 win.



At 4 Simon, having played a few times for HK Jesters previously and with a 2 to 1 win ratio was up against Peter who proved too strong for Simon winning 3-0, perhaps the wine dinner Simon attended the night before didn't help!

At 3, Yurisa who as a junior had been one of Hong Kong's regional juniors was up against current teenage prodigy Zain. This was probably the best match of the afternoon, lasting 45 minutes with Yurisa digging deep to defeat Zain in 4.

At 2, Julian, one of the recent in-take of Jesters following HK Jesters visit to London, was up against Spaniard foodie Horacio. This match would prove crucial in the overall result, Julian and Horacio both giving it their all, Horacio with his characteristic discreet fist pumps after every point, sadly for the Jesters, Julian finishing up the wrong side of 3-1.

At 1, our very own William Wallace, Gillem, Scottish Jester was up against Simon, a regular hitting partner, despite both teams agreeing Irish scoring in Simon's favour in view of his recent injury, in true sportsmanship he declined to take this advantage and they battled out on court looking like they were 20 years younger than there 50+ years, Gillem proving too strong and recording a 3-1 victory.

Match over with a score 3-4.

|  The Hong Kong Jesters | | |  |
|--|----|----|--|
| GILLEM | 3 | 1 | SIMON |
| JULIAN | 1 | 3 | HORACIO |
| YURISA | 3 | 1 | ZAIN |
| SIMON | 0 | 3 | PETER |
| DAVID | 3 | 0 | OWEN |
| ASHWIN | 0 | 3 | SUNNY |
| VERONICA | 0 | 3 | JAKE |
| HK JESTERS | 3 | 4 | LRC |
| | 10 | 14 | |



After a quick team photo we are off to dinner, Jesters winning the dinner score 7-4. After a couple of large format bottles of Pintia from Toro a handful of Jesters headed down the hill to the Captains bar at the Mandarin Oriental and beyond for a couple of nightcaps before the evening was wrapped up.