

# OASIS

November-December 2017

Your *oasis* — a place where you can find tranquillity and sustenance  
USRC Members' Bi-monthly Magazine





# USRC CHRISTMAS

## CHARITY EVENT

Gift/Toy Donation to Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Your Gift will Definitely Make a Difference!

*The USRC is once again coordinating with the children's ward of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital to donate new toys to children who are not able to be at home during Christmas. The toys and gifts will surely bring joy and happiness to them.*

*To ensure the toys are suitable for each child, please clearly mark if it is for a boys or a girls and the age group. Gifts are to be placed in the box at Reception from 20 November to 20 December 2017.*







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**Projects & Security Director** Les Pearce

**Sports Director** Eddie Wu

**Grounds, Environment & Community Director** Kenneth Chiu

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**Football** Alan Urmston  
**Lawn Bowls** David Robinson  
**Rugby** Marco Cassandro  
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**Football** Alan Urmston  
**Lawn Bowls** Cindy Robinson  
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Oasis is a bi-monthly publication of United Services Recreation Club.

#### Advertising

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#### Produced by



**R&R Publishing Limited** Ian Harling  
Tel: (852) 2126 7815 Web: RRPublishing.com.hk

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# Mid Autumn Festival “Bai Sun”

The Mid Autumn Festival Worship was held on 4 October by the Marquee Deck where most of our staff was there to do the offerings...





## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

### *Dear Fellow Members,*

The final quarter of 2017 is underway with Christmas and New Year being just around corner. As usual November and December will be very busy as your Club prepares for the year-end functions and activities. When planning your social and business banqueting and also take-away catering orders for the festive seasons, please keep the excellent services of the USRC in mind and make early bookings to avoid disappointment. Full details of planned events and booking arrangements are readily available on our website or in this edition of Oasis.

Congratulations to all the participants of the Annual Swimming Gala on making this family event a huge success this year and gratitude to the staff and management for all their co-ordination and hard work. Every members of the families enjoyed thoroughly competing all water races organized in the new pool and the most reasonably priced sumptuous buffet lunch provided by the F&B Dept. was a highlight of the day and gained huge applause of all customers. A big thank you to Marco and his catering team!

With the onset of the beautiful weather, various sporting sections are in full swing participating in Winter Leagues or International Competitions. The General Committee wishes all participants the very best of luck in their best endeavours.

As to the Club affairs, I am glad to say that the USRC continues to remain in good shape with a healthy state of finance being enjoyed and membership level being strengthened progressively without existing comfort level of all facilities afforded to Members being diluted. For the fulfilment of our corporate social responsibilities commitments, a Social Responsibility Sub-committee chaired by the Grounds, Environment & Community Relations Director, Mr Kenneth Chiu, is being formed to promote and coordinate all philanthropic events organized by individual sport sections and the Club as a whole.

On behalf of the General Committee, may we wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Patrick Cheung*  
Chairman



Chairman and Mr Dennis Ng attending the 68th Anniversary of the Founding of the PRC National Day Reception on 1 October 2017



### **親愛的會員：**

立冬將至，聖誕除夕亦不遠矣。一如往年，本會在這段時間將為添上節日氣氛而忙得不可開交。閣下如計劃舉辦宴會又或要求外帶餐飲服務，還請盡早向本會職員預約。有關本會活動及預約安排的詳情可見於本刊及本會網站。

謹恭賀各位水運會健兒，您們的參與為本會帶來又一個成功的親子活動；亦感謝各位員工及管理層在背後的貢獻。會員在新泳池中激烈較量，水花四濺的同時，當中的另一焦點，由餐飲部悉心提供，價廉物美的自助午餐亦讓客人讚不絕口，在此向Marco及他的團隊致以感謝。

秋高氣爽，不少體系活動都進行得如火如荼，委員會祝願各位能在不同賽事中告捷。

關於本會會務，很高興能告知大家委員會順暢運作如常，財政健康，會員制度也在不會影響現行設施服務質素下得以優化。為了履行本會的企業社會責任承諾，場地、環境及社區主任Kenneth Chiu先生將主導一個社會責任小組委員會，統籌本會所有慈善活動。

謹代表委員會祝願各位歡度聖誕，喜迎新年。

*Patrick Cheung*  
會長



## Employee of the Month – September

Yip Chin Hoi, our Gardener, receiving his “Employee of the Month” award in September from our Facilities and Maintenance Manager, Mr. Ivan Lui



## Employee of the Month – October

Lau Tak Ming from Maintenance receiving his “Employee of the Month” award in October from our Facilities and Maintenance Manager, Mr. Ivan Lui



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## Congratulations, Kei!

Our kitchen staff Kei was promoted to Chinese Chef.  
He received an award for his promotion.





## GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE

*Dear Member,*

It is hard to believe how fast 2017 has gone by. We are already in November with the festive season just around the corner.

I would like to thank all the Members who participated in the Member Survey which is currently being compiled. Overall, the results are positive and we appreciate all the constructive feedback. We will share the results in January 2018.

Moving into December, we have plenty of activities to bring the family close together during the Christmas season. In addition to dinner on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we will have dining promotions in all the dining outlets as well as a delicious festive take-away menu including all the traditional goodies that you would expect for the holidays.

Business in our dining outlets is essentially flat with the prior year but running approximately 10% behind budget. While this appears to be a result of the broader environment in Hong Kong as restaurant business is down across the board, we are taking action in providing more promotions and opportunities for our Members. We currently offer free corkage Monday to Thursday and free parking during lunchtimes, from Monday to Friday, for diners to the Gascoigne Room. Our sumptuous Café buffet is one of the best deals in town, so please consider the club next time you're dining out.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at the Club!

*Noel Burns*

General Manager



### 親愛的會員：

2017年轉眼已快成過去，現今已是11月，一個洋溢著節日氣氛的季節又快將來臨。

在此感謝所有參與了本年的問卷調查的會員。問卷結果正在處理中。總括而言，會員的回應十分正面，也很有建設性。我們會於明年1月公佈結果。

在12月，我們將舉辦各種親子活動來歡度聖誕。除了平安夜和聖誕節當天的宴饗外，會內各餐廳都會提供膳食優惠，亦會有富有節日味道的外帶餐單供各位選擇。

本會餐廳的商業表現與去年相若，但錄得約一成超支，相信與香港餐飲業整表現下跌有關。同時我們積極推出不少會員優惠，當中包括為Gascoigne Room顧客提供星期一至星期四免開瓶費及星期一至星期五午餐時間免費泊車等。我們的Café豪華自助餐亦是全港不二之選，還請各位駐足享受。

聖誕快樂，新年快樂！

*Noel Burns*

總經理



## Chateau Musar Wine Training

The Chateau Musar wine training was held for the F&B front of house staff on 20 October at the Gascoigne Room. The staff was trained on our range of house premium wines and other fine wines.





## EXECUTIVE CHEF'S MESSAGE

*Dear Member,*

Summer is over and we have finally some really nice weather, great for al fresco dining, poolside parties and more!

The magazine is filled with Christmas related menus and promotions, please do go through them and make your bookings timely to avoid disappointment.

There are several wine tastings planned, and I would like to especially mention the Cool Climate Pinot Noir tasting on 1st of December. This is not to be missed and just in time to order some lovely wines before Christmas.

A very interesting Lebanese Wine Dinner featuring Chateau Musar winery is in the works. Sadly this dinner was not ready in time to feature in this magazine but please do look out for it in The Club's emails or noticeboards.

The Club has identified an available roof top area to start a trial on growing the Club's herbs & vegetables at the Club with a Hydroponics system. This method will reduce our carbon footprint and improve control over the quality of our locally sourced products. A test plot can be seen on the rooftop of the old pump room, and if all goes well with this it will be extended to grow many more herbs & vegetables. Ideally we will be able to grow a forest of vegetables and herbs on the property! Please do come and have a look at how this develops.

I wish everybody a great festive period and see you around the Club!

*Marco Veringa*

Executive CHief/ F&B Manager



### 親愛的會員：

夏去秋來，金風送爽，正是戶外進餐及湖邊派對的最佳時節。

有關今年的聖誕餐單及優惠已盡錄本刊，還請細閱並盡早預約以免餐廳滿約。

本會將舉辦數個品酒活動，我想在此一提12月1日的清涼氣候黑皮諾葡萄酒品酒活動，特別適合在這種時節享用，請萬勿錯過。

我們亦在籌備一個黎巴嫩特色的酒宴，屆時將能品嚐繆薩爾莊園的葡萄酒。不過相關詳情未能趕及於本刊公佈，請留意我們今後的電郵通訊及公告板。

另外，我們已在本會天台找到一個適合的位置嘗試進行水耕栽培，以種植自己的香草及蔬菜。這將能減低我們的碳足跡，亦能更好地控制本地食材的品質。試驗地點在天台的舊水泵房，如一切順利，您在不久的將來將會見到一個屬於我們的空中園林！歡迎前來參觀這項計劃。

祝大家有一個愉快的節日，本會見！

*Marco Veringa*

行政總廚 / 飲食部經理

# Knipser Wine Tasting

The Knipser Wine Tasting was held outside the Gunners Bar on 22 September. It was attended by a number of members who enjoyed the wines on show from Germany.





# Winter Selection

Available at December 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>

*Starts from 11:30am at all outlets*

Mulled wine

**HK\$ 48 per glass**

Mince pies

**HK\$ 20 per piece**

Hot chocolate milk

*Made with real Callebaut chocolate,  
topped with whipped cream and mini  
marshmallows*

**HK\$ 45 per mug**



Pictures are for reference only.

# Grace Vineyard Wine Dinner

The Grace Vineyard Wine Dinner was held at the Gascoigne Room on 7 September. It was a six-course wine dinner paired with amazing wines. The dinner was hosted by Ms Judy Chan, the President of Grace Vineyard.





# Ecosystems on the edge: A woodland landscape in urban Hong Kong

By Prof Gordon S. Maxwell, FRSB, FLS

## 1. Introduction.

This article is about our green oasis in the heart of urban Kowloon. This oasis is The United Services Recreation Club (USRC) on 1.9 ha of reserved land near Kings Park, not far from the Jordan MTR and near the HKPU and adjacent to the PLA Kowloon base camp. The Club and its landscape has a long history going back to 1911. During World War Two (WW2) some of the buildings here were occupied by the invading Japanese army. Few trees survived the war years and a scarred and bombed landscape in 1945 called out for trees and attention. What you see today here on this site is evidence that given the opportunity, bio diverse and substantial trees can grow on Kowloon's bed rock of granite and disturbed soil.

## 2. Do we see an ecosystem here?

No it would be unscientific to describe the wooded landscape of the USRC as an ecosystem. It is however, a tree-decorated landscape with some welcome and positive ecosystem properties. We say that the landscape that makes up the Club grounds is not an ecosystem because by definition, a true ecosystem should be self-sustaining. This site depends a lot on external inputs provided by humans to ensure that the landscape retains its Club facilities. So, although the trees can capture their own energy (from sunlight) this energy does not account for all the inputs required to maintain the grounds.

One important feature of this site is its overall shape. The 1.9 ha is not totally linear. Nor is it a square. Because of its slightly

irregular shape the site has an edge-to-area ratio that is quite good and favourable to some wildlife. In park management a good edge-to-area ratio is regarded as useful in management terms because the edge of a semi-natural zone is not too abrupt.



## 3. Some positive & valuable ecosystem properties on the USRC landscape.

**3.1 Variable habitats.** These range from vegetated gentle slopes to shaded corners, to what some ecologists call micro-habitats made by individual trees and damp patches with combinations of small stones and dense leaf litter.

**3.2 Air repair.** The trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns and bryophytes of this site do much more than sustain the soil. You may detect, and I hope you can, that the air associated with the vegetation here has a hint of freshness about it. Do you, do your lungs; does your body notice in a quiet, relaxing and refreshing way that the air you breathe is somehow nicer, fresher and purer than the air of the roadside?

Yes, the plants that make up the vegetation of this small landscape supply newly produced oxygen to the local environment. Some Club members come here and even bring their colleagues as well to hold an open air

meeting. A meeting that seems to be more effective than would the same meeting held inside an unnatural, air-conditioned office room. The improved effectiveness is almost certainly due to better air.

**3.3 Carbon capture.** The process that makes oxygen and carbohydrates during photosynthesis has been given a

relatively new, trendy eco-title. Today, it is called carbon capture. Carbon capture and oxygen release go together in the plant world (which includes trees of course) like rice & rice bowl. It is hard to imagine one without the other. It is important to understand that plants also carry out respiration as we (and all other animals) do. Indeed, all living things do respiration. Plants in the presence of sunlight can do photosynthesis (carbon capture which includes the transformation of carbon dioxide and water into carbohydrates) as well as respiration. The good news ecologically is that they do more photosynthesis than respiration. A net excess of carbon fixation over carbon release. At night, photosynthesis stops. Respiration does not; it continues. Too many students of biology & ecology somehow seem attracted to the incorrect idea that plants do photosynthesis (only) and animals do respiration. The ecological importance of photosynthesis is, as you will expect, massive. Photosynthesis is the basis of all food chains. And because plants can do photosynthesis they are described by ecologists as producers. Those organisms which eat plants are called herbivores or first level (order) consumers. Those which dine on herbivores are given the ecological functional title of carnivores or second order consumers. Organisms at the top of a food chain (also called an energy transfer chain) are often described as terminal predators and top predators.



**3.4 Noise buffers.** The trees of this USRC landscape provide another eco-function; noise mitigation. They help to deflect, to absorb and thus mitigate the urban noise pollution generated by dense vehicular traffic. How this helps the human and bird occupants of the landscape is hard to measure in psychological terms. The actual sound level can be measured with a dB meter. But its effect on the mind is hard to determine. Different people respond to traffic noise in different ways. Nevertheless most who do escape to this tree-dominated site seem to value the noise abatement. [abatement is another, alternative term for reduction.]

**3.5 Dead tree trunks?** Should we think of them as dead? These are far from useless. The dead wood provides both energy sources and habitats for another ecologically important category of organisms. These are the decomposers. The easiest decomposers to see are the bracket fungi. Such fungi live on and from the dead wood of a tree trunk. Bracket fungi have enzymes which can digest hard woody tissue and from this digestion process release the energy locked inside the complex molecules which make up wood. This decomposition process also helps to re-cycle the elements from which the wood was formally made. Please think hard about this. Two very different ecological processes operate when bracket fungi, as wood decomposers obtain energy locked up inside wood: one is energy release the other is about the carbon dioxide getting into the carbon biogeochemical cycle. In this cycle carbon is set free as carbon dioxide and water molecules are also set free during this process of respiration. The breaking down of the complex carbohydrates and other macro-molecules which make up the biochemicals in wood sets free energy. Some can be used by the bracket fungi. Some can't and is lost as heat. In contrast, the carbon & nitrogen atoms which were also once part of the molecules contained in wood, are able to be re-cycled.

**3.6 Living tree trunks.** The Club grounds exhibit a massive Chinese Banyan tree. This magnificent specimen of *Ficus microcarpa* graces the footpath above the bowling green. In some villages an Earth God shrine can be found at the feet of a Banyan. The tree is selected and respected by village people because it is typhoon tolerant and tough. Ecological and cultural services provided by *Ficus microcarpa* include shelter; as a natural green umbrella and as a habitat for birds & bats together with lizards and epiphytes. In ecology the niche concept is used to help us describe the set of environmental needs a particular species requires to survive. In the context of niche a habitat is far more than a place. A habitat that can provide a home must also provide food and a set of physical





conditions which enable a species to exist. In short, the niche concept is about resources. A huge Banyan tree like the one we see here furnishes more than one habitat (compare a trunk hole e.g. with the dense foliage of the trees canopy) and the same tree provides resources for a bio diverse fauna. Some ecologists look upon a tree like the giant Banyan as being an ecosystem.

**3.7 Birds.** The birds which use the USRC landscape are of two broad types: visitors and residents. It is not easy to identify which is which. Some 8 different bird species have been observed carrying out activities which help them to meet their niche requirements here. To date the bird biodiversity recorded on this 1.9 ha oasis in urban Kowloon includes:

- Japanese White Eye\*; Tree Sparrow\*; Black-necked Starling\*; Myna\*; Greater Coucal (a rare & unexpected, maybe unique sighting on Nov., 4, 2015)
- Crested Bulbil
- Magpie Robin
- Black-faced laughing Thrush

**3.8 For an ecologist** as distinct from a 'bird lover' or bird watcher, the most important question is what do birds do in an ecosystem? What are their ecological functions? In many ecosystems birds are key consumers of invertebrates (like insects and annelid worms) and fruits and seeds. Bird biodiversity may be closely linked to tree and shrub biodiversity.

The roles of birds at this 1.9 ha wooded landscape here in urban Kowloon has not been studied. See Maxwell (2016) for some ideas about birds in ecosystems on a Hong Kong island in the Sai Kung region, Tap Mun.

**3.9 Slope stabilization.** Many of the trees within the Club grounds assist in slope protection. Their root and stem systems can extend like a natural bio-engineering structure over slopes. Such a system works sustainably and provides yet another habitat for ground foraging vertebrates such as lizards and many birds. Some of the inconspicuous plants belonging to the ferns and bryophytes can also establish on such habitats. Here the micro-ecological conditions of lower sunlight and semi-shade may favour small, shade-tolerant plants. Were these slopes to be covered with shotcrete (as is so often seen in Hong Kong) a natural protected slope habitat would be replaced by a man-made unnatural surface, shotcrete.

**3.10 Epiphytes.** Epiphytes are plants which grow on the surface of another plant. Usually, epiphytes are small plants which use the trunk or branch of a larger plant as a way of obtaining optimum light for growth. Epiphytes are not parasites. All they do is use a part of a tree as a habitat. A small fern or a moss are typical epiphytes. When we describe the biodiversity of an ecosystem like a sub-tropical forest we should also include this niche category.

## 4. Some concluding thoughts.

Do small protected areas like our Club landscape consisting of a good range of trees matter in the conservation of biodiversity in the HKSAR? Another important consideration for the present and future is the need to integrate ecosystem thinking with our daily and mostly urban life style. Can places like Kowloon Park, Kowloon City Park and other green areas located in built-up urban areas usefully contribute to providing ecological services needed by people in urban areas? Or, is this the sole function of country parks? Can places like this green oasis of just 1.9 ha be seen as essential components of community health? Most people live & work in built-up areas, in urban environments and can't go out to country parks or rural places or off-shore islands like Tap Mun to obtain fresh air.

## 5. References.

- Lock, F. & Hui, W. (2004) *Appreciating Wild Birds*. AFCD.
- Maxwell, G.S. & Leung, S. Ming, Kat (2011) *Trees of The United Services Recreation Club*. Pub. Gordon Maxwell. ISBN 978-988-15517-1-9.
- Maxwell, G.S. (2016). *Ecosystem Dynamics of Tap Mun*. Occasional Papers, OUHK.



United Services Recreation Club

Hang Kong's Best Kept Secret

# Garden Cafe

## Christmas Eve Set Dinner

### Dec 24 2017

#### Menu

**Prawn and avocado cocktail**

*Brandy sauce*

or

**Hot crab cakes with frisee and apple salad**

*Hot chili and garlic aioli*

or



**Three Crostinis**

*Avocado, mushroom and tomato*



**Wild mushroom soup**

*With truffle oil*



**Roasted butterball turkey with trimmings, potato lotus and Brussels sprouts**

or



**Potato gnocchi, ceps mushrooms**

*In a rich and creamy tarragon sauce*



**Christmas pudding with brandy sauce**

or



**Yule log cake**

*With fruit coulis*



**Coffee or Tea**

**Adult HK\$232 ; Child HK\$ 116 (Aged 3-11)**

For reservations, please contact Garden Café at 3966 8638  
or via email: [fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk](mailto:fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk)

**Cancellation & No-show Policy:**

- (1) 100% full charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day of the event.
- (2) 70% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day before.
- (3) 50% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled 2 days before.
- (4) No penalty charge will be applied if the reservation is cancelled 3 or more days in advance.

**LIKE US ON :**





# Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Dinner

## Dec 24-25 2017

### Menu

#### Seared scallops


*Mushy pea puree, tomato and Edamame salad and chorizo oil*

*Crusty rye bread croutons*

or

#### Five assorted tapas lollipops

or

 **Crusty grilled rye bread, grilled green asparagus, 63 degrees poached duck egg**

*Fresh parmesan shavings and garden flowers*

#### Lobster bisque

*Boston lobster meat, brandy and cream with snipped chives*

or

 **Wild mushroom soup**

*With truffle oil*


#### Roasted butterball turkey with trimmings, potato lotus and Brussels sprouts

or

#### Seared barramundi fillet

*Pumpkin and potato gratin, tomato confit, crabmeat and mussel sauce with chervil*

or

 **Potato gnocchi, cepes mushrooms**

*In a rich and creamy tarragon sauce*

#### Christmas pudding with brandy Sauce

or

 **Dessert surprise**

#### Coffee or Tea

*Served with mince pies*

**Adult HK\$ 488; Child HK\$ 244 (ages 3-11)**

For reservations, please contact Gascoigne Room  
at 3966 8650 or via email: [fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk](mailto:fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk)

#### Cancellation & No-show Policy:

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- (2) 70% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day before.
- (3) 50% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled 2 days before.
- (4) No penalty charge will be applied if the reservation is cancelled 3 or more days in advance.

# CHRISTMAS DAY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

25 Dec 2017 ✨ 11:30am-3pm

At Garden Marquee



Come join us for a bubbly Christmas day brunch with free flow of wines, Bloody Marys and a sampling of Santa's favorites



Christmas Brunch Menu  
Hong Kong's Best Buffet Dinner



Adult HK \$558 (with alcohol)

Adult HK \$470

Child HK \$279 (ages 3-11)



For further information about the menu or book a reservation,  
please feel free to contact Ms. Wing Ho at 3966 8632  
or via email: [fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk](mailto:fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk)



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- (2) 70% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day before.
- (3) 50% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled 2 days before.
- (4) No penalty charge will be applied if the reservation is cancelled 3 or

**LIKE US ON :**





# Garden Marquee

## Christmas Day Champagne Brunch

Come join us for a bubbly Christmas day brunch with free flow wines,  
Bloody Mary's and a sampling of Santa's favorite's, from 11:30 until 15:00.

### Menu

#### Beverages counter

Fresh squeezed pineapple, water melon, apple, orange, carrot, pear,  
celery, cucumber juice, wine bar and Pannier Champagne

#### Appetizers

Iberico ham station, Smoked & gravlax salmon with capers and red onion,  
Assorted Italian antipasti, Two variety's olives, Grilled eggplant & zucchini, Marinated mushrooms

Prawn cocktails, Fine de Claire oysters, Coffin bay oysters, Boston lobsters,  
Prawns, Snow crab claws, King crab legs on ice

#### Salad bar

Caesar salad, Assorted lettuce mix, Freshly grilled tuna nicoise salad, Grilled pork neck salad,  
Avocado dressing, Balsamic and tomato dressing, Italian dressing, Honey mustard dressing

#### Soup

Wild mushroom soup

#### Show cooking Fideua

A sort of seafood paella made with short pasta instead of rice, fresh squid,  
prawns, cod, salmon, mussels, clams, whelks, scallops, crab meat stock and tomatoes

#### Carvery

Whole roasted lamb with mint sauce & mint jelly, assorted mustard and gravy

Whole roasted suckling pigs with apple sauce

Maple syrup and chili rubbed, cedar plank smoked salmon fillets

Sous vide cooked and char grilled grass fed sirloin steaks

Whole roasted turkey with stuffing, chestnuts, cranberry jelly and gravy

Honey glazed Virginia ham with pineapple Madeira sauce

# Garden Cafe

## New Year's Eve Family Buffet

31 Dec 2017 ♦ 6pm-10:30pm

**Adult HK\$ 512**  
**(+\$100 incl. unlimited Sparkling Wines)**  
**Child HK\$ 256 (ages 3-11)**

For reservations, please contact Garden Café at 3966 8638  
or via email: [fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk](mailto:fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk)

\*We apologize there will be no a la carte on this night\*

**LIKE US ON :**



#### **Cancellation & No-show Policy:**

- (1) 100% full charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day of the event.
- (2) 70% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled on the day before.
- (3) 50% charge penalty applies if the reservation is cancelled 2 days before.
- (4) No penalty charge will be applied if the reservation is cancelled 3 or more days in advance.



# Garden Café

## New Year's Eve Family Dinner Buffet

31 Dec 2017 ♦ 6pm – 10:30pm

### *Menu*

#### Appetizers

Chilled oysters & prawns on ice  
Home smoked and marinated salmon with Horseradish cream, onion and capers  
Smoked turkey breast with apple celery and walnut salad  
Mango, bell pepper and shrimp cocktail with dill mayonnaise  
Shaved Serrano ham with pickled olives and cornichons  
Selection of sashimi with soya, wasabi and pickled ginger  
Chinese BBQ meat station with goose, pork, chicken, suckling pig, jellyfish and crispy cucumber

#### Salads

Mizuna lettuce and baby gem lettuce  
Tomato and toasted red pepper salad with basil  
Mozzarella cheese and olive Tapenade  
Cucumber with sesame seeds and crab meat  
French dressing, Thousand Island and balsamic dressings

#### Soups

Seafood Brodetto  
*Garlic bread soldiers*  
Baker's board with rolls and whole breads

#### Carving

Traditional turkey carving with stuffing served with chestnuts, cranberry sauce and giblet gravy  
Roasted herb crusted prime rib of beef with green pepper corn cream sauce

#### Chinese congee station

Lobster congee  
*With fried dough stick, spring onions and peanuts*

## Sunday

## Monday

## Tuesday

### Christmas Day Brunch

25 December  
Garden Marquee  
11:30-3:00 pm

### New Year's Eve Family Dinner Buffet

31 December  
Garden Cafe  
6:00-10:30 pm



5

- Social Tennis (CT 3) 3-7 pm. (CT4)3-8 pm
- Social LB 10:00am – 8:00 pm (All members)
- Football YYL Game

6

- Pilates Group Class 4 pm, 7pm and 8 pm



7

- Playgroup 9:30 am– 11:30 am
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## Wednesday

## Thursday

## Friday

## Saturday

1

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- LB League Team Practice 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
- Pilates Group Class 7pm and 8 pm
- Squash Team Practice (Ct 1 & 2) 6:45 pm – 10 pm
- Football Training Night

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- Bridge 9:30 am – 12:30 pm (Gunners Bar)
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- Senior Cricket 7-9 pm

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- Playgroup 9:30 am– 11:30 am
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- Taekwondo 4:30 – 6 pm (Squash court)

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## Monday

## Tuesday



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- Football YYL Game

4

- Pilates Group Class 4 pm, 7pm and 8 pm

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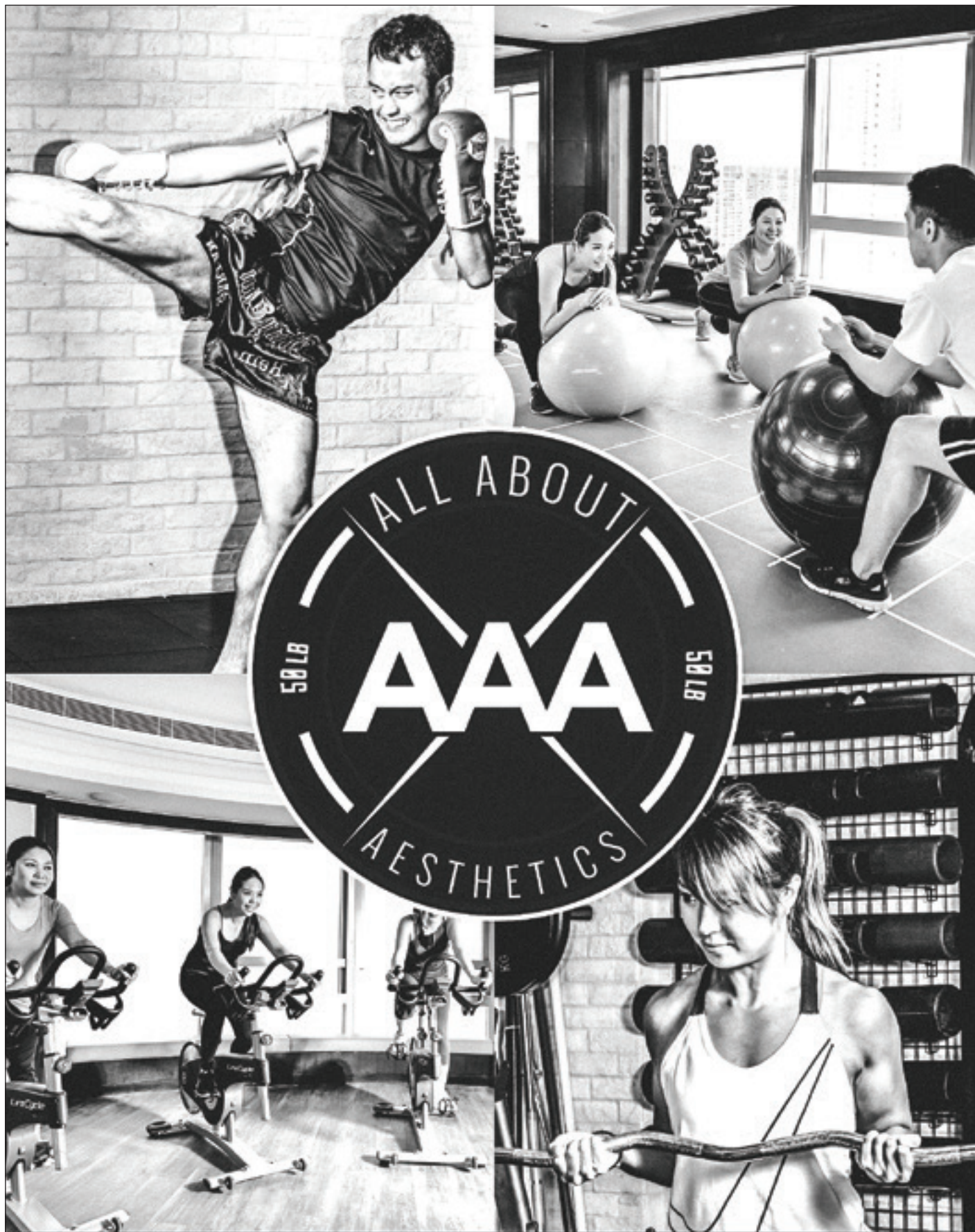
# Annual Swimming Gala 2017 Results

	Event	Age Group	Style	Winner	Finishing Time	1st Runner-up	Finishing Time	2nd Runner-up	Finishing Time
	1	Under 5	"1 Length W/ noodle"	Aillis Chong	00:28.00	Alexis Wat	00:34.00	Hailey Koon	00:34.63
	2	Under 5	"1 Length Small Pool"	Cancelled					
	3	5 & 6	25m freestyle	Jonah Shepherd	00:24.85	Michael Sze	00:27.93	Darius Chan	00:28.20
	4	5 & 6	25m breaststroke	Jonah Shepherd	00:28.77	Michael Sze	00:33.43	Mikkel Daryanani	00:34.74
<b>Boys</b>	5	7 & 8	25m freestyle	Joshua Chan	00:16.84	So Chun Yin Lincoln	00:17.78	Alexander Brown	00:19.54
<b>Girls</b>	6	7 & 8	25m freestyle	Bernice Hung	00:20.22	Audrey Duan	00:21.37	Hailey Tang	00:22.38
	7	9 & 10	50m freestyle	Calum Bloxham	00:33.97	Oliver Chan	00:37.30	Joshua Chan	00:47.09
	8	9 & 10	50m freestyle	Peony Lee	00:28.50	Abigail Lau	00:33.30	Skye Chan	00:36.84
	9	11 & 12	50m freestyle	Joseph Lim	00:27.21	Chi Yu Lee	00:27.87	Aidan Chong	00:40.41
	10	11 & 12	50m freestyle	Emma Hui	00:31.59	Jasney Clarisse Naumann	00:34.69	Lyla Brown	00:36.01
	11	13 & 14	50m freestyle	Cancelled					
	12	13 & 14	50m freestyle	Simran Shamdasani	00:44.12				
	13	7 & 8	25m breaststroke	"So Chun Yin Lincoln "	00:21.03	Joshua Chan	00:23.26	Sebastian Chan	00:28.12
	14	7 & 8	25m breaststroke	Hailey Tang	00:25.88	Audrey Duan	00:27.00	Denise Tsui	00:27.15
	15	9 & 10	50m breaststroke	Calum Bloxham	00:46.81	Joshua Lim	00:50.00	Oliver Chan	00:51.70
	16	9 & 10	50m breaststroke	Peony Lee	00:37.97	Abigail Lau	00:43.26	Skye Chan	00:47.75
	17	11 & 12	50m breaststroke	Chi Yu Lee	00:36.88	Joseph Lim	00:39.66	Aidan Chong	00:47.44
	18	11 & 12	50m breaststroke	Emma Hui	00:42.91	Jasney Clarisse Naumann	00:43.45	Lyla Brown	00:44.13
	19	13 & 14	50m breaststroke	Cancelled					
	20	13 & 14	50m breaststroke	Cancelled					
<b>Men's</b>	21	15 or above	50m freestyle	Andrew Hung	00:27.12	David Lam	00:27.85	Lam Tat Ting	00:29.37
<b>Ladies'</b>	22	15 or above	50m freestyle	Julie Tuan	00:33.90	Gabrielle Hung	00:37.32	Lindy Ng	00:37.63
	23	"Senior 60 above"	50m freestyle	Cancelled					
	24	"Senior 60 above"	50m freestyle	Cancelled					
<b>Parents &amp; Children</b>	25	1 Adult & 1 Child (Under 14)	Family Relay	Joseph + Mr. Lim	00:27.31	Alex + Charlie Carter	00:29.75	Lincoln + Mr. Lam	00:31.12
	25	1 Adult & 1 Child (Under 14)	Raft Out" Relay	Jack + Julian Ragless	00:38.37	Christina + Mr. Chow	00:39.32	Ailis + Mr. Chong	00:48.53









**PERSONAL TRAINING**



# Classes & Activities at the USRC

## Aqua Exercise

### **Abra Tsui**

Email: ducgoo@gmail.com

\$450 Private lesson

\$250 Semiprivate lesson

Members only

Refer to instructor for schedule

## Bridge

### **Mimi**

Tel: 9120 3789

### **Julia**

Tel: 9830 7131

Thursday: 9:30am–12:30pm

No charge (must call before attending)

## Cricket

### **Muhammad I. Gull**

Tel: 9421 4741

Email: sportsofficer@usrc.org.hk

Individual Lesson (including) Beginners,

Intermediate & Advance Cricketers

\$350 per hour (member)

\$400 per hour (guests)

Group Lesson (minimum 2 to 6 persons) –

\$700 per 1 ½ hour

Team Training (minimum 2 to 6 persons) –

\$800 per 2 hours

Junior's Individual Lesson

\$300 per hour (member)

\$350 per hour (guests)

Junior's Group Lesson (minimum 2 to 4

kids) – \$600 per 1 ½ hours

Junior's Team Training (minimum 2 to 6

persons) – \$700 per 1 ½ hours

(Beginners or any age kids are welcome)

## Football

### **Alan Urmston**

Email: alanu@netvigator.com

Wednesday: 7:30-9:00 pm, King's Park

\$50 for 90 minutes' playing time (adult)

## Gym Familiarisation

Contact Reception 3966 8600/611

for registration and scheduled class times

– 30 minutes per lesson

Private lesson \$100



## JM Pilates Studio

Tel: 9194 5856

Email: jmpilates@yahoo.ca

Group classes

\$165 per class (member)

\$1,650 for 10 classes (guest)

Monday: 4pm and 7.30pm

Wednesday: 7.30pm

Friday: 4pm

Saturday: 10am and 1.45pm

Pre-registration recommended

Private lessons

\$650 (member)

\$700 (guest)

Available throughout the week, Monday-

Sunday

## Personal Training and Muay Thai Coaching

### **Humphrey Tsui**

WhatsApp: 5541 2201

Email: Humphrey@allaboutaesthetics.

com.hk

Personal Training 1 on 1 package

Trial Session \$400

1 session \$750

10 sessions \$700

20 sessions \$650

Small group 2 persons

1 session \$450/person

10 sessions \$400/person

Small group 3 persons

1 session \$400/person

10 sessions \$350/person

## Playgroup

### **Nicola Barguss**

Tel: 9775 4944

Tuesday: 9:30am, Friday: 9:30am

\$50 for the first child (member)

\$88 for the first child (guests)

\$35 per additional child or parent

## Squash

### **Ilyas Gull**

Tel: 9421 4741

Email: sportsofficer@usrc.org.hk

Adults

1. Private lesson for adult \$350 per hour

2. Group of 2 \$600 per hour

3. Group of 2-4 \$800 1½ per hrs

Juniors

1. Private lesson \$300 per hour

2. Group of 2 \$500 per hour

3. Group of 2-4 \$600 1½ per hrs

## Swimming Classes

### **Eric Fung**

HKSCA Level 1 Coach

Tel: 9603 9620

Email: kyfung.eric@gmail.com

Private Lesson (for members only)

1 person - \$450

2 persons - \$600

3 persons - \$780

4 persons - \$880

## Tennis

### **Battad Tennis Coaching Co**

Andrea Charity U. Battad

Tel: 9026 5685 (evening till midnight)

Email: andreacharitybattad@gmail.com

Private Lesson

\$600 per hour (member)

\$700 per hour (guests)

Group Lesson (minimum 2 to 4 people)

\$200 per hour per person (member)

\$250 per hour per person (guest)

## Tennis Coaching

### **Chris Hunt**

HKTA Qualified Coach, Licensed Level II.

USRC Junior Tennis Teams Captain

(Under 14s and Under 18s)

Tel: 9316 6191/ 2550 5094 (evening till

midnight)

Drop-in group lesson:

\$180 per hour per child

Saturday: 10am – 11am (beginners group)

Saturday: 11am – 1pm (intermediate group)

Thursday: 6pm – 7pm (intermediate group)

Super group lesson – by appointment only:

\$260 per hour per child

Tuesday: 5pm – 7pm (improvement class I)

Thursday: 4pm – 6pm (improvement class II)

Private lesson (for members only)

1 person – \$520, 2 persons – \$680,

3 persons – \$880, 4 persons – \$1,080,

5 persons – \$1,350, 6 persons – \$1,620

\$200 per hour per person (member)

\$250 per hour per person (guest)

## Yoga

### **Jesse Tong**

Tel: 9488 5869

Friday: 10:30am – 12noon, \$180 per lesson



# Cricket News

by Ahmed Saleem  
Cricket Convenor



The 2017/18 season has started slowly. Matches have been heavily affected by Hong Kong's varied weather – a “working week” of clear skies and sweltering temperatures, has often been replaced by weekend thunderstorms, heavy rain and flooded out-fields. And then of course, there has been the disruption of the typhoons.

Despite this, all teams are now back in training. Sessions are taking place as follows:

- Men's:** Thursday, 7.00-9.00pm
- Women's:** Wednesday, 6.00-8.00pm and Saturday, 5.00-7.00pm
- U-15 & U-17:** Tuesday & Thursday, 7.00-9.00pm
- U-13:** Saturday, 11.00am-1pm
- U-11:** Saturday, 11.30am-12.30pm

Please contact Head Coach, Ilyas Gul, for details. All new players are very welcome.

## Men's

Our Saturday side has seen one match abandoned due to the rain, and suffered one defeat. The abandonment of the game against KCC Saracens was particularly frustrating, with the side having batted first a posted a total of 238 in 35 overs and in a dominant position when rain came.

On Sunday, we are off to a good start - chasing down a total of 184 for the loss of only 4 wickets to defeat CHK Dragons. New player, Ahasan Abbasi, made a major contribution scoring a century on debut.

## Women's

Our ladies remain as committed as ever, but have had a difficult start to their T20 League, with 3 defeats (and one match abandoned). Spirits are strong however, and great progress is being made under the careful eye of new Coach Yasmin Daswani who is a member of the Hong Kong national squad.

## Juniors

Under new coach Niaz Ali, our U-17 and U-15 squads are putting in some very constructive early season practice, and benefiting from Niaz' skills and expertise as a Level 2 coach.



Senior team players with Yasir Arafat





U-11 all charged up



U-11 with coach Kashif



U-15 & U-17 with Coach Niaz



Coach Yasmin Daswani



Ilyas Gull & Kashif with Yasir Arafat

Unfortunately, to date, the U-17s have not been able to translate this into results on match day, with only one win out of four played.

Our U-15 side however, despite two abandonments sit top of their table, with one strong win under their belt, defeating DLSW by 6 wickets.

The U-13 squad, made up of all of last year's winning U-11 players and a core of returnees, is back in the nets but yet to play a match.

Our new group of U-11 players, has a 'full house' of one win, one loss and one abandonment after the first three matches. A big thank you to Mr Kashif Shams who has stepped in to help manage this group, and to our leading player Ahasan Abbasi who is providing coaching support.

USRC 15 started their season by beating DLSWCC team by 8 wickets while chasing 140. In this game they were required to chase 143 against a strong KCC side. KCC straight away put USRC on the back foot by getting 4 quick wickets with the new ball. The captain of USRC, Danish, and Usman, then started to rebuild by putting on a partnership of 70 runs, Usman departing soon after the drinks. Danish continued to play exceptionally, but two quick run-outs at crucial moments reduced the chance of a USRC win. Danish had other ideas. The amazing last wicket partnership of 40 runs led USRC U-15s to an incredible win, with Danish unbeaten on 77.

# WINE TASTING

## Cool Climate, Australian Boutique *Pinot Noir*

Date: **Friday 1st of December**

Time: **6.30pm to 8.30pm**

Location: **Gunners Bar Entrance**

Wines for tasting include:

2016 Dexter Pinot Noir (95 Points)

2016 Tasmanian Icon Pinot Noir

2015 Nocton Estate Pinot Noir (93 Points)

2016 Derwent Estate Pinot Noir (5 Star Winery)

2015 Goatly Hill Pinot Noir (95 Points Huon Hooke)

2015 CRFT Chapel Valley Pinot Noir (94 Points)

2015 Riposte 'the Sabre' Pinot Noir (95 Points)





# Football News

**Alan Urmston**  
**Football Convenor**



## November-December 2017

The season is underway and it's been mixed fortunes for our teams. Here's a report on the games played in September-October.



### USRC Gunners

Gunners, who play in Division One of the Hong Kong Legal League, have played five games, winning two and losing three. To be fair, the defeats were against the early-season high-flyers, Discovery Bay (0-5), Forward (1-3) and Hong Kong Scottish (1-2). Fortunately, they have been able to steady the ship with wins over San Pellegrinos and Club Tropicana (both 2-0). At time of going to press, Gunners were lying in mid-table in the League.



### USRC 1911

The Club's vets. team, 1911, played three games during the early season, winning two of them and losing the other. The wins came against BTDT (3-2) and HKFC (3-1). The lads will be the first to admit that the result against HKFC, last season's champions, was a bit of a shock. But it was fully deserved. Two goals from Greg Tuner and one from Anthony Vasey did the job

but it was an all-round great performance. The lads were hoping for a repeat in their next game, against Discovery Bay Vets, and took an early 2-0 lead, but some strange referring decisions let DB back into the game and with their tails up, went on to win it 4-2. 1911 were in joint second place in the Legends League after three games.



### USRC Vitesse

Vitesse is the Club's social team and had played three games in the early season period, unfortunately losing all three, against Caroline Hill, Sai Kung Beach Boys and Christian Action FC. The first of these games was in memory of famous Caroline Hill player, Tang Kin Tung, who sadly passed away in the summer and who had played against USRC in our charity match back in January. There will be more games upcoming for Vitesse, and hopefully a win or two!

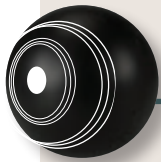
### Charity Match

This year's Charity Football Match will take place on Saturday 9th December from 10am at King's Park. It will be a match between a USRC XI and Seiko FC, one of the giants of Hong Kong football. Like last year, we plan to play the match in front of an invited audience of senior citizens, followed by a buffet lunch at the Club. We hope that Club members will come along to watch the match and cheers us on. Look out for more details in posters around the Club in the coming weeks.

### USRC Football Academy

Our junior football academy is run by Brasil Top Skills (BTS) ([www.brasiltopskills.com/](http://www.brasiltopskills.com/)) under Head Coach Eder Ferreira. There are exciting programmes coming up so check out the website, the Football Section notice board or ask at Reception for details.

If you would like to get involved in USRC Football, check out the notice board for further information or drop me a line ([alanu@netvigator.com](mailto:alanu@netvigator.com)).



# Lawn Bowls News

by Irene Leung

## Premier League 2017

Our team players had been very focus and diligent practicing in order to achieve desirable results. With the improvement of weather, not much rain and less scorching sun, we found practice outdoor more manageable.

As there were games to be played away on carpet surface, we increased our practice on carpet green like Siu Lek Yuen.



To maintain “work life balance”, our bowlers went for dinner after the practice and held the Chinese of tradition of “Chase the Moon” celebration during the Mid-Autumn Festival.



The practice paid off! On the day when it matters, our Ladies B team bowlers were able to pull off a memorable win in Siu Lek Yuen.





## USRC Club Singles 2017 Competition

A record number Of 12 women and 10 men entered in this year's Club Single competition. It will be carried out in round robin games in stage 1. Deadline of completion is before January 2, 2018. So, during this period, we can find our players competing with each other from time to time on the green seriously and yet happily.

## USRC Club Singles Competition 2017

### Stage 1 - Round Robin Stage

#### Grouping - Men

Player No.	Group A	Group B
1	Elton Chang	John Luk
2	osiah Lam	Dicky Wong
3	K K Chan	David Robinson
4	Stanley Wat	Allen Cheng
5	Calvin Chan	Kelvin Lin

#### Fixture - Men

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
1 vs 4	3 vs 1	5 vs 3	2 vs 5	4 vs 2
2 vs 3	4 vs 5	1 vs 2	3 vs 4	5 vs 1
5-Bye	2-Bye	4-Bye	1-Bye	3-Bye

## USRC Club Singles Competition 2017

### Stage 1 - Round Robin Stage

#### Grouping - Women

Player No.	Group A	Group B
1	Ann Lam	Cindy Robinson
2	Anita Wong	Anissa Ng
3	Irene Leung	ggy Yip
4	Elise Lo	Irene Ho
5	Tammy Tam	Helen Lo
6	Joanna Wong	Mandy Ho

#### Fixture - Women

Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
2 vs 1	3 vs 4	6 vs 4	4 vs 1	5 vs 6
3 vs 6	6 vs 1	2 vs 3	5 vs 3	1 vs 3
4 vs 5	2 vs 5	1 vs 5	6 vs 2	4 vs 2

Below is the grouping and fixture: Training and development:  
Two types of training activities had been arranged:

### 1. Lawn Bowl Rules and Etiquette

It was held on September 11 by Dr. Annie Yeung. This is important as we need refreshment of mind from time to time. The session was well received with good response and feedback.



### 2. Skill Refinement Workshop held from Oct 3, 2017

This is the third round of workshop held this year. It was held every Tuesday for 4 consecutive weeks. Our coach this time was Mr. Y S Leung. A maximum of 8 members were given the opportunity to attend this workshop. Other interested members were able to observe by the side to learn more about the bowling skill and technique.



## In House Qualifying Competition for HK International Classic 2017

With our Women A Team in Division 1, it guarantees a place for USRC to participate in the HK International Bowls Classic which is a renowned world bowling event being held in Hong Kong each year.

In order to select a representing team, an in-house qualifying competition was held and we are pleased to announce that Miss Anissa Ng and Miss Ann Lam won the competition. The pair will represent USRC to compete in the HK International Classic Pairs Competition 2017. Wish them a good game and good luck!



## Lawn Bowl Section Charity Day 2017

The Lawn Bowls Section annual charity event was held on November 5, 2017. The chosen beneficiary this year was "Feeding Hong Kong". A local registered charity with a mission to fight hunger in the city and reduce the amount of quality food being sent to our landfills. An accredited member of the Global Food Banking Network, they collect high quality food from over 165 companies that would otherwise be thrown away, then sort, store and redistribute them to a network of

welfare organisations, who in turn feed thousands of people in need. They also work to raise awareness about poverty and food insecurity in Hong Kong and promote healthy eating and nutritional education to the most vulnerable groups in our community.

Similar to last year, we kick off with the Charity Sale. A number of sponsors and LBS members donated merchandise for the sale which helped to raise fund for the charity. Ten sponsor teams from private clubs have been invited to participate in the Invitation Game with us in our Club. Their sponsoring fund would all be donated to the Charity Organisation. Big thanks must be given to our members, particularly the Charity Committee, who worked so hard in the preparation work and also achieved smooth organising on the day. Special thanks must also be given to the Club's Management Team who extended all their support in this special occasion.

Besides the Charity Day itself, we have also helped in forming a likely partnership between "Feeding Hong Kong" and one of our sponsors, Winner Food Products Ltd., who had already donated 300 cartons of Doll Instant Noodles for people in need.

At the time of submitting this article, (which was well before our Charity Day), we were unable to report the final sum that LBS has raised for the charity this year. We will report further in the next issue of Oasis.

**樂聚三軍會 餉澤惠社群**

5-Nov (Sunday) 12 noon 蘭桂坊中環

Fun & Fund

慈善義賣, 滾球邀請賽  
歡迎參加, 共襄善舉, 同善同樂

**Lawn Bowls Section Charity Day 2017**

Featured programmes include Charity Sale and Invitation Game  
All donations will go to the charity organization "Feeding Hong Kong"

贊助機構 Sponsors: 中國國際, 源記

善款捐贈: 樂善社 Feeding Hong Kong





United Services Recreation Club  
Hong Kong's Best kept Secret

## Christmas Food Order Form 2017

Cold Mains	Price	Quantity	Amount \$
Cold cut platter with roast beef, apple ham, country pate, salami, pastrami, and Parma ham (1000 grams per tray)	\$208/tray	_____ Tray	
Cheese platter with 5 cheeses, grapes, crackers and walnuts (1000 grams cheese per tray)	\$328/tray	_____ Tray	
Home-made sliced apple wood smoked salmon with Horseradish sauce (1000 grams per tray)	\$328/tray	_____ Tray	
Hot Mains	Price	Quantity	Amount \$
Roasted Rose's maple glazed ham on the bone *Size: Approximately 4.9-6.3 kg per one *Serves approx. 8-12 people	\$178/kg	_____ Pcs	Exact amount will be charged according to its raw weight.
Roasted Rose's maple glazed ham on the bone *Size: Approximately 8.6-9.9 kg per one *Serves approx. 14-18 people	\$178/kg	_____ Pcs	
Roasted turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce *Size: Approximately 5-8 kg per bird *Serves approx. 8-12 people	\$138/Kg	_____ Pcs	
Turkey and ham are all served with roast potatoes, red cabbage, Brussels sprouts, parsnips and gravy. ** Please note that all weights for cooked meats are raw weighted. **			
From the Bakery	Price	Quantity	Amount \$
Mince pie (60 grams per one pie)	\$20/pc	_____ Pcs	
Home-made Christmas pudding (500 grams in vacuum bag with 200 ml brandy sauce)	\$168/pc	_____ Pcs	

Minimum **THREE** working days advance notice for orders, available from 1 Dec to 30 Dec 2017.

Orders must be placed before 16 Dec 2017. Orders placed after that may not be fulfilled.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No.: \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (Home)

Date of collection: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: ☐ 10 A.M. – 12 P.M. ☐ 4 P.M. – 6 P.M.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Ms. Wing Ho via email [fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk](mailto:fnb.adm.asst@usrc.org.hk) or hand it to the reception desk.  
For inquiries, please feel free to contact Ms. Wing Ho at 3966-8632.

### For Office Use

Date of order received: \_\_\_\_\_ Reference Number issued: \_\_\_\_\_

Order confirmed on date: \_\_\_\_\_ Order confirmed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_



# Squash News

**Colman Ng**  
Squash Convenor



## Junior Squash Training

The Squash Section is planning to conduct a series of junior squash training for the younger members of the Club. Target participants are school children between the age of 6 and 18 with little or no previous training in squash and are interested in taking up the sport. Subject to availability of vacancies, school children in the nearby community who are non-members may also participate. It is our objective to, through the training programme, identify and groom up young players with good potential to be introduced to squash, with the hope that they can be further developed to become elite players in the long term. Training sessions will be conducted by a qualified squash coach outside normal school hours. Interested parties are encouraged to contact members of the Squash Committee for enquiry. Subject to the number of interested participants, further details will be announced in due course.



Wilfred Lai participated in the Racquetball Championship 2017

## East Asian Racquetball Championship

Mr Wilfred Lai, Secretary of the Squash Section, visited Kaohsiung, Taiwan on 13 and 14 August and took part in the East Asian Racquetball Championships 2017. The team from Hong Kong comprised 2 men and 2 ladies. Although not entirely identical to squash, racquetball is considered a

derivative of squash, but with slightly different rules using a slightly bigger racquet playing in a larger court. With a bigger and bouncier ball, players don't have to bend down so often thereby exerting less pressure on their knees. Without much previous practice, the Hong Kong team had to struggle to compete with their local counterparts as expected. Apart from the tough competition in the court, participation in the tournament had been an enjoyable experience in having established friendships with new friends in Taiwan.

## Summer League 2017

USRC teams have just completed a successful Summer League campaign with 2 of the 4 teams coming away with silverware. The summer leagues have historically been played for fun during the summer break but the level has improved significantly in recent years and now the teams are much more competitive and the level is comparable to the Winter league. For the first time USRC had 2 teams competing in Division 1 with USRC 1 being narrowly beaten to the title in the last match of the season in a head to head decider. However, this has been the best performance ever from a USRC team and congratulations to all the players. USRC 2 was a young team playing for the experience in Division 1 and got the wooden spoon but much more is expected from them after this humbling season. Special thanks to Shivam Hemnani for putting his head on the block and coming away with nil points (he claimed to have enjoyed it anyway!). USRC 3 had a similar story to the last few years and was in the top 2 in Division 3 for most of the season until the last few matches but slipped to 3rd in a very tight league. USRC 4 also finished 3rd in Division 4.



Our M3 Squad for 2017-18



With the hot summer season behind us, the Winter League and Masters competitions are to start in mid-October 2017. USRC have registered a total of 5 teams in the competition in Divisions 3, 4, 7 and 15; and Masters M3. The USRC teams are looking forward to another year of highly competitive matches, and hopefully attaining additional honour and silverware for the Club.

### Wing Ding Charity Squash Tournament

The traditional annual Wing Ding Charity Squash Tournament is scheduled to be held on 2 December 2017. This is an unconventional annual charity event that collected hundreds of thousands of dollars for the needy with funds being raised through public donations and auctions. This is a high-profile squash charity event in commemoration of the late Mr Yuen Kam Wing, a legendary character who was born physically handicapped. He led a humble yet inspirational life as an

employee at the HK Squash Centre.

As in the past, the USRC is planning to field a squash team comprising 10 players dressed up in the most colourful yet wacky costume to compete in the Tournament. This is a full day squash event in which players from different teams had to play non-stop for half an hour each, switching courts once every 3 minutes, trying to score as many points as possible. This is an excellent opportunity for members of the Squash Section to contribute to charity through playing squash in the most unimaginable outfit. All members are most welcome to donate generously for the good cause of helping the needy and underprivileged. All donations will go to Operation Santa Claus which is overseen by the SCMP and RTHK. Members who wish to donate to the Wing Ding USRC Squash Team are most welcome to contact me or anyone of the Squash Committee Members.



Wacky squash outfit put on previously by the USRC Wing Ding Team



# Tennis News

**Martin Li,  
Tennis Convenor**



## Winter league

After a long summer vacation, the winter league kicked off on Sept 18. Five out of seven teams won in the first week of the leagues matches, boosting the team spirits to a new height and hopefully laying a good foundation for this period for winning more matches going forward.  
Best wishes to all the teams!

## Championship

Men's E team beat all opponents and won the championship last season. Captain Kenneth Chiu was accompanied with their team members to attend an award presentation ceremony organised by the Hong Kong Tennis Association at the Jockey Club's Lecture Theatre, located on the 2/F, Olympic House, 1 Stadium Path, So Kon Po, Causeway Bay on September 13. All members of the tennis section are proud of the team's excellent performance and wish them another grand slam in Division D this season.



Kenneth Chiu (left) & Dilip Wadhwani (right)



The C.C.C. Shield, E division with friends

## Tennis Uniform

All tennis team members will be getting new uniforms for the coming season. This season, a long-sleeve jacket will be provided instead of t-shirt and shorts in response to the mainstream request from all members. Special thanks go to Ken Chan, Thomas Lee and Katy Cheng as they put a lot of efforts in locating a reliable supplier and negotiate a wonderful price from them for producing the uniforms with such good quality within a limited budget. The new uniforms will be dispatched to all league players very soon.



USRC Mens & Ladies Tennis Jackets



## Happy Tennis

Happy Tennis scheduled on October 21 from 2 pm to 7 pm will be postponed to December together with the Tennis Section year end dinner in order to have more team members participate at the event, especially Indian members since the original schedule conflicts with the period of the celebration of 'Diwali'. This time, a team round-robin competition format is adopted. All teams will be mixed and matched with players from different divisions in order to create more competitive, yet fun-filled ambience.

## Excellent Members

Our Junior Sports members Jenny Wong and Cody Wong won the championship at the Beijing Junior series girls' doubles.

## Open Day

An Open Day will be organised on November 18 (Saturday) for the partial fulfillment of the Club's corporate social responsibilities in terms of working with a local community organisation for the invitation of students from underprivileged families to enjoy playing tennis at the club. All tennis team members are welcome to join and support in the event on that day.



Stephanie Tang and Charmaine Chau won the Yau Tsim Mong Ladies' Doubles Championship for the fifth time in a row.

## Order form for Cool Climate, Australian Boutique Pinot Noir

Description	Normal Price	Member Price	Order QTY	Total Amount
<b>2016 Dexter Pinot Noir (95 Points Mike Bennie)</b> Aromas of dark berry fruits such as blackberry and plums, with background aromas of dried herbs and spices. The complex flavours are of blackberries, plums, spices and hints of oak. It has a soft entry with mid palate fruit sweetness and lovely texture. The finish is long with balanced acid and fine tannins. Very limited stock.	\$365	\$349		
<b>2016 Tasmanian Icon Pinot Noir</b> Lively colour - ruby and purple hues. Very pretty nose, with floral notes, strawberry and spice. Bright and juicy fruit on the palate; subtle oak influence adds to the savoury finish.	\$189	\$179		
<b>2015 Nocton Estate Pinot Noir (93 Points James Halliday)</b> Bursting bright strawberries and raspberries elegantly open up in the glass to reveal fresh cut violets and traces of truffles and toasty oak. The youthful palate shows us more of the same raspberries but with Morello cherries and an elegant, almost nuttiness from the oak. Unquestionable value for money here, a must buy!	\$199	\$189		
<b>2016 Derwent Estate (5 Star Winery James Halliday)</b> One of the best pinot releases ever from Derwent Estate at Granton on the western bank of the Derwent River. Perfect balance, intense and luscious fruit, full, lingering flavours.	\$279	\$265		
<b>2015 Goaty Hill Pinot Noir (95 Points Huon Hooke)</b> A darker deliciously brooding style of pinot. Bright red fruits and toasty oak on the nose, but the palate is beautifully different with much darker, sublime fruit and a luscious savoury finish. One not to be missed.	\$279	\$269		
<b>2015 CRFT Chapel Valley Pinot Noir (94 Points James Halliday)</b> The coolness of this south facing site always produces our most textural Pinot Noir, and often the lightest in colour. Orange-peel and spearmint showing again this year, a unique Chapel Valley character we see every year, as well as the abundant fresh blueberries and strawberry. Bright and lively, elegant as always, with a silky textural mouthfeel.	\$299	\$285		
<b>2015 Riposte 'the Sabre' Pinot Noir (95 Points James Halliday)</b> While the bouquet of violets and wild strawberries gently amalgamate the subtle spicy oak, bursts of velvety raspberries and sour cherries fill the palate with a departing note of white pepper. A real beauty meets the beast.	\$245	\$234		
TOTAL ORDER HK\$				

All wines are subject to availability  
Free delivery on orders of 12 bottles or more (mixed wine is acceptable)  
Your membership account will be debited on delivery  
Wines sent to the club will be kept for 7 days only. The club will not be responsible for any loss or damage  
The discounted price above are valid until 30<sup>th</sup> December  
No return will be accepted once the order is confirmed. The final decision remains with the management of the USRC  
Delivery will take place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of December.  
Pass order form to Reception or Gascoigne Room

Name (block letters).....Member Number:.....

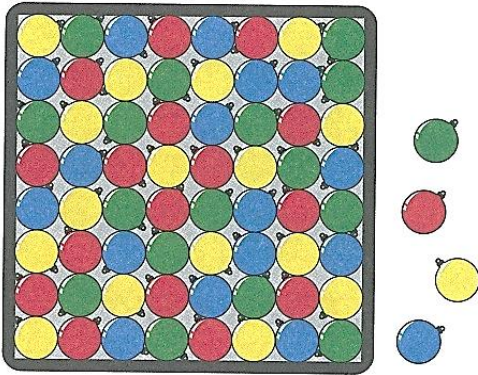
Delivery Address.....

Signature..... Contact Number.....Preferred Delivery Date .....



# Three-Minute Puzzles

## Christmas Tree Ornaments

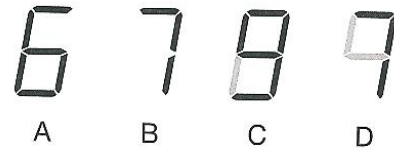


There are 64 Christmas tree ornaments packed into the box. True or false: It is possible to add 4 more and then repack all 68 into the box without the ornaments overlapping each other.

True

False

## 270. Next Symbol



Which symbol should replace the question mark?

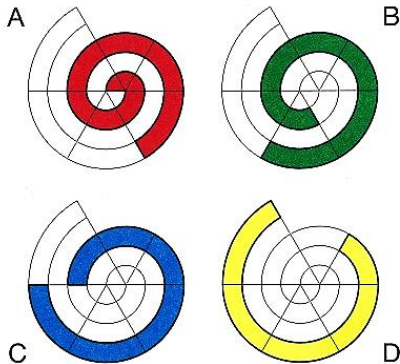
A

B

C

D

## Four Spirals



Which spiral is the biggest?

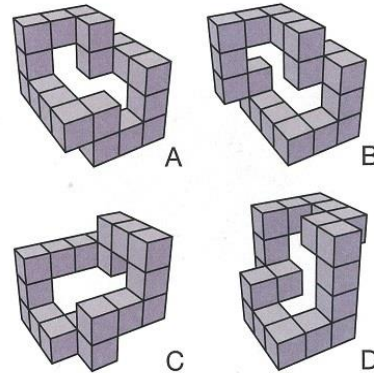
A

B

C

D

## Eighteen-Cube Ring



Which view of 18 cubes in a ring does not match the other three?

A

B

C

D

Submit your answer to the Club reception **on or before 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017**. All correct entries will receive a **FREE SMOOTHIE\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please note only one entry will be accepted per membership





United Services Recreation Club  
Hong Kong's Best Kept Secret

永富酒業有限公司  
EVERWISE WINE LIMITED

# Trendy wine styles around the world

Date : Friday, 10 November 2017  
Time : 6:30 – 8:30pm  
Venue : USRC – Gunner's Bar Entrance



## Sparkling

Le Vigne di Alice, Extra Dry, Prosecco  
Superiore, Italy N.V.

## White

Terres Secrètes, "Croix de Montceau"  
Saint-Véran, Bourgogne, France 2014

Maior de Mendoza, "Sex Appeal"  
Albariño, Rías Baixas, Spain 2016

Hospices de Colmar, Gewürztraminer,  
Alsace, France 2013

## Red

Miquel Jané, Baltana Selecció (Cabernet  
Merlot), Penedés, Spain 2013

Paxton, "MV" McLaren Vale Shiraz  
(Biodynamic), Australia 2015

Hospices de Beaujeu, "Cuvée Jean Gaudet",  
Morgon, France 2015

Cantina di Negrar, "Le Roselle" Ripasso,  
Valpolicella Classico Superiore, Italy 2015

Château Arnaud, Saint-Estèphe, Bordeaux,  
France 2012



# QUIZ

1. Jennyanydots was what kind of cat?
  - ☐ Gumbie
  - ☐ Jellicle
  - ☐ Peke
  - ☐ Pollicle
2. Which food item is used in an annual race at Olney?
  - ☐ Banana
  - ☐ Cheese
  - ☐ Oranges
  - ☐ Pancakes
3. What is the only bird that can hover in the air and also fly backwards?
  - ☐ Buzzard
  - ☐ Hummingbird
  - ☐ Kestrel
  - ☐ Osprey
4. What colour is the flesh of an avocado?
  - ☐ Blue
  - ☐ Green
  - ☐ Red
  - ☐ White
5. Who had a hit with "Bridge Over Troubled Water"?
  - ☐ Donovan
  - ☐ The Mamas & the Papas
  - ☐ Simon & Garfunkel
  - ☐ Cat Stevens
6. Name the missing member of One Direction: Harry, Zayn, Niall, Liam
  - ☐ James
  - ☐ Leon
  - ☐ Louis
  - ☐ Tom
7. In which country was Checkpoint Charlie located?
  - ☐ England
  - ☐ France
  - ☐ (West) Germany
  - ☐ Vietnam
8. Who earned the nickname "Slow-hand"?
  - ☐ Dan Brown
  - ☐ Eric Clapton
  - ☐ Chris de Burgh
  - ☐ Chris Rea
9. Which country does Wensleydale cheese traditionally come from?
  - ☐ Cornwall
  - ☐ Devon
  - ☐ Somerset
  - ☐ Yorkshire
10. In rhyming slang what is a Joanna?
  - ☐ Car
  - ☐ Piano
  - ☐ Radio
  - ☐ Television

Submit your answer to the Club or fax 2724 0949 on or before Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017. All correct entries will be placed into a draw. The Winner will receive 3 Courses Set Lunch for two person at Gascoigne Room. Good Luck!

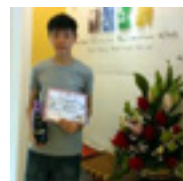
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Please note only one entry will be accepted per Membership*



Sep & Oct Crossword Puzzle drawn by  
Member Mrs. Kiernan



Congratulations to Sept & Oct Crossword Puzzle Winner,  
Matt Lui accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Yung

# Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Sydney



Since 1903 the Royal Automobile Club of Australia (RACA) has provided discerning members with the perfect Sydney location to meet, dine, stay or socialise.

The establishment of the Club in 1903 was a response to the need for a body to represent motorists on early legislation affecting the first automobiles on the State's roads. RACA undertook key responsibilities such as the insurance of these early vehicles, and, of equal importance, the issuing of the State's first 'competency certificates' for drivers.

RACA today has evolved into one of Sydney's premier business and special interest Clubs, proudly occupying its heritage-listed headquarters in Macquarie Street, Sydney and a vibrant active and diverse membership from around the country.

RACA extended the range of 'pleasure driving' in New South Wales through arrangements for the distribution of petrol, first within a radius of 25 miles of Sydney, and later through an extended area. As such, the Club was a major contributor to the opening up of the State of New South Wales, at a time when the railways were still regarded as the primary future of regional transport. The Club's organisation of regional and inter-state trials further demonstrated the ability of motor vehicles to provide reliable and speedy transport over the long distances of the newly-federated nation.

The Club also supported Australia's military efforts from its earliest years. A previous governor of New South Wales, Sir Harry Holdsworth Rawson, braved a 1906 journey from Moss Vale to Macquarie Fields to inspect the contribution of RACA's Automobile Corps to the Continuous Army Training scheme at Liverpool, arriving successfully despite carburettor troubles and a change of vehicle en-route.

Today the Club continues to prosper with a strong and active membership, fine events programme, accommodation,

dining, fitness centre, garage with car parking, business centre facilities and is a sought after function and wedding reception venue.

RACA houses 29 accommodation rooms for members, reciprocal members and their guests, with styles ranging from the original 1920's single bedrooms to our newly refurbished rooms overlooking either Sydney Harbour or the Botanical Gardens. The accommodation facilities are perfect for that special weekend away or the mid-week

corporate stay, with access to all the Club's facilities and our professional and helpful front office team always available to assist, your stay is sure to be a special one.

Members and their guests may book into one of the 29 rooms at the Club's central city location. The rooms are well appointed with air conditioning, TVs, tea and coffee facilities, mini bar, Free Wi-Fi throughout the building and other modern conveniences. Room service is available during restaurant hours and the Club Reception is accessible 24 hours, 7 days per week. Check-in time is 2:00pm and check out time is 11:00am.

With the superb location at Circular Quay, The Royal Automobile Club of Australia is easily accessible for guests. The building is an amazing venue for corporate dinners, receptions, product launches, meetings and networking events.

There are a range of function rooms, suitable for any event, including large gala dinners. With customised in-house catering options available. Our team make sure that you have everything you need.





## List of Reciprocal Clubs

COUNTRY	CITY	CLUB NAME	COUNTRY	CITY	CLUB NAME
<b>Australia</b>	Adelaide	Naval, Military & Air Force Club of South Australia	<b>Malaysia</b>	Ipoh	Royal Ipoh Club
	Brisbane	United Service Club		Johor	Segamat Country Club
	Canberra	Canberra Club		Kuala Lumpur	Royal Commonwealth Society
		The Commonwealth Club		Penang	Penang Club
	Melbourne	The Kelvin Club		Port Dickson	Royal Port Dickson Yacht Club
		Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club		Sabah	Sandakan Yacht Club
		Royal Automobile Club of Victoria			The Tawau Yacht Club
	Perth	The Western Australian Club	<b>Mexico</b>	Jalisco	University Club de Guadalajara
	Sydney	The Royal Exchange Club of Sydney			El Palomar Country Club
		Royal Automobile Club of Australia		Mexico	The University Club of Mexico
	Victoria	The Royal South Yarra Lawn Tennis Club			
<b>Belgium</b>	Bruxelles	International Club Chateau Sainte-Anne	<b>New Zealand</b>	Auckland	The Northern Club
	Gent	International Club of Flanders		Dunedin	The Dunedin Club
				Napier	The Hawkes Bay Club
<b>Brazil</b>	Rio De Janeiro	Clube Americano Do Rio De Janeiro		Wellington	The Wellesley Club
					The Wellington Club
<b>Canada</b>	Vancouver	Hollyburn Country Club	<b>Philippines</b>	Baguio City	Baguio Country Club
		Jericho Tennis Club		Cebu	City Sports Club Cebu
		Terminal City Club			
	Victoria	Union Club of British Columbia	<b>Portugal</b>	Lisboa	Gremio Literario
<b>Republic of China</b>	Taipei	American Club Taipei		Oporto	Oporto Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club
		The Landmark Club			
<b>England</b>	Bath	The Bath & County Club	<b>Scotland</b>	Aberdeen	The Royal Northern and University Club
	London	The Army & Navy Club		Edinburgh	The New Club
		Carlton Club			The Royal Scots Club
		Naval & Military Club			
		St. James Hotel and Club	<b>Singapore</b>	Camden Park	Hollandse Club
		The Lansdowne Club		Singapore	Ceylon Sports Club
				Yishun	Orchid Country Club
<b>France</b>	Paris	Saint James Paris			
<b>Germany</b>	Berlin	International Club Berlin	<b>South Africa</b>	Cape Town	The Cape Town Club
	Frankfurt	Union International Club		Durban	Durban Club
				Grahamstown	Albany Club
<b>India</b>	Ahmedabad	Karnavati Club			
	Bangalore	Greenacres Country Resort	<b>Spain</b>	Barcelona	Círculo Equestre
	Cochin	International Club		Bilbao	Sociedad Bilbaina
	Jaipur	Jaipur Riding and Polo Club		Madrid	La Gran Pena
	Jodhpur	UMED Club			
	Kerala	Sri Mulam Club	<b>Sweden</b>	Stockholm	Military Club of Stockholm
	Mumbai	Golden Swan Country Club			
		Royal Bombay Yacht Club	<b>Thailand</b>	Bangkok	The British Club
		The Bombay Presidency Radio Club			
		The Umbergaon Club	<b>Trinidad</b>	Port of Spain	Trinidad Union Club
	Pune	Residency Club			
<b>Indonesia</b>	Medan	The Exchange Club	<b>U.S.A.</b>	Bellevue	Bellevue Club
<b>Ireland</b>	Belfast	The Ulster Reform Club		Berkeley	The Berkeley City Club
	Dublin	The Stephen's Green Club		Cincinnati	Cincinnati Athletic Club
<b>Japan</b>	Kobe	Kobe Club		Kansas	The Kansas City Club
<b>Kenya</b>	Nairobi	Nairobi Safari Club		New Haven	New Haven Lawn Club
	Mombassa	Mombassa Club		New York	The Cornell Club
<b>Luxembourg</b>		Cercle Munster			The Williams Club
				Philadelphia	The Racquet Club of Philadelphia
				Portland	University Club of Portland
				San Francisco	The Marines' Memorial Club & Hotel
				Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara Club
					University Club of Santa Barbara
				Washington DC	The Army & Navy Club
					The Rainier Club

Clubs in bold are recently added clubs to our reciprocal list

# AROUND THE WORLD

## WINE TASTING EVENT

Gunners Bar Entrance  
8th December 2017 (Friday)  
18:30-20:30

**FREE TASTING**

Super Discount for Members Only

DOMÄNE  
WACHAU

A LISA

Bacca Nera

Bidoli

CHATEAU  
CARONNE S'GENNE  
RAUT-MEDOC

DECOY

MAD FISH  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Domaine du Parc Gaby  
Châteaufort du Pape



United Services Recreation Club  
Hong Kong's Best Kept Secret

Wine Sponsored by

