

Tournament sets its sights on a big fundraising target for Operation Santa Claus

Squash players aiming to make a million

Lana Lam

Dozens of squash players will work up a sweat in the hope of raising HK\$1 million for charities in Hong Kong tomorrow.

The 12th annual Wing Ding squash tournament will boost the coffers of the 16 beneficiaries of Operation Santa Claus, a charity appeal organised by the *South China Morning Post* and RTHK.

The squash tournament is named after Yuen Kam-wing, a physically-handicapped man who worked at the Hong Kong squash centre in Admiralty during the 1980s and 90s.

He died in 1998, aged 33, due to complications with his illness.

Tournament co-ordinator Tim Everest said the event paid tribute to a man who, despite his poor health, always remained positive.

"The whole idea is about remembering the spirit of Wing, a severely handicapped man who smiled every day," he said.

"He was fiercely optimistic and he was such an example of hope. He always felt he was lucky to be alive."

In keeping with that spirit, the wall-bangers on the squash courts at the Hong Kong Football Club tomorrow



South China Morning Post

people can get pretty gloomy. One day, I might need someone's help and I would hope that someone would make these philanthropic efforts, too."

The tournament was founded in 1998 by two of Wing's friends, Phil Head and Nick Rickett, and the event became a major donor to Operation Santa Claus six years ago.

Since 2003, it has raised more than HK\$1.6 million for Operation Santa with a record result last year of more than HK\$500,000.

"One million seems like an extraordinary amount this year, but once we build it, I can't see why we can't get to four, five million," Everest said.

"The spirit of giving is very strong in Hong Kong. I've got a business to run but you've just got to make time."

"The key to all this is passion, and it's one of the most enjoyable things I do all year."

The event raises money through entry fees, raffle tickets, donations and an auction tomorrow evening after the tournament.

Major raffle prizes and auction items include two Cathay Pacific business class tickets to Bali and week-long stays in luxury resorts in Thailand, Indonesia and Japan.

HKshopOnline.com has joined in by pledging one third of its profits from the sale of selected gift baskets.

Everest, who runs a fur trading company, confirmed yesterday that the money raised so far had already exceeded last year's effort with a big hand from insurance giant Aviva and the fur industry.

"I think Wing probably knows about the tournament," he said.

"He would have a cherubic face looking down from heaven. To think that someone can be remembered 12 years after passing away, I think he would be 10 feet tall."

For more information, visit www.wingding.hk



Tim Everest, organiser of the Wing Ding squash tournament, gets in the fun spirit of the event which will raise cash for Operation Santa Claus. Photo: May Tse

Help make a difference

How you can give

- Donate online by credit card at osc.scmp.com
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- Donations of HK\$100 or more are tax-deductible. If you'd like a tax receipt, please send the completed donation form and original bank receipt, with your name, address and phone number, to the above address
- Contact us at osc@scmp.com or 2680 8159 or visit us online at osc.scmp.com

One million seems like an extraordinary amount. But the spirit of giving is very strong in Hong Kong

Tournament coordinator Tim Everest on the fundraising target

row will play in outrageous outfits as each of the 14 teams of 10 players has been given a team colour.

One year, a man played in a lime-green "mankini", complete with matching feather boas.

"This tournament is a fun event but once we get on court there's quite a competitive edge," Everest said.

The event starts at 11am with hours of non-stop action as teams play 13 three-minute games without a break.

"It's a mad dash for points," Everest said, inviting the public to watch the tournament and join the fun. "The whole concept is using sport to do something constructive, to put a smile on faces because

Campaigner against child abuse completes a 30-year crusade

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administrator at the Against Child Abuse Action Group in 1979.

The organisation had been set up that year after news of a severely abused 10-year-old girl was splashed across local headlines. A year later she left to pursue her master's at the University of Hong Kong, and worked as a lecturer at Shue Yan College before rejoining Against Child Abuse as director at the age of 32.

As an advocate, her job is also to encourage policy change, legislation, and to seek more resources.

She remembers a case where a boy molested his younger sister. Through counselling it was discovered that she was not the only victim—her brother and father had also been sexually abused in childhood.

"It isn't possible to influence relationships within a family by just talking briefly with them," Lui said. "It's a long-term commitment. It takes time and effort to know them well. And more and more families out there need it, thanks to the widening wealth gap."

Bureaucracy and complacency in the government and the public annoy her. "Bureaucracy often leads us away from the roots of problems, like sprinkling drops of water on a big fire.

And complacency tells us that, somehow, a matter can be dealt effectively with solutions that have been tried before. People say 'It's been like this for years, there can't be a problem'."

Looking ahead, she says the government must deal with the growing gap between rich and poor.

"I've come across many families living in small, leaky homes right opposite high-end residences of the rich. The widening wealth gap in the city is a problem that aggravates child abuse and domestic violence."

She also encouraged the government to set up a child commission to represent the interests of the young.

Lui said her businessman husband—whom she met at the Society for the Deaf and who thought it would be better to be her child than her husband—had supported her unwaveringly.

Her son, 26, is a lawyer, and her daughter, 24, is studying for a masters degree in law. To Lui, the key to parenting is to "strike a balance between being neither too restrictive nor too liberal, too laissez-faire".

The poem *On Children* by American-Lebanese writer Khalil Gibran has a place in her heart. Her favourite line reads: "You may house their bodies but not their souls/ for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow".



Priscilla Lui joined Against Child Abuse in 1979, became director at 32 and spent decades furthering the cause of children's rights. Photos: SCMP Pictures

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JEWELLERY & WATCHES

SUNDAY 28 NOV 1PM



FANCY PINK DIAMOND RING

Stone: 5.67ct Natural Fancy Pink VS2
Size: 11.83 x 9.40 x 6.53mm
Weight: 13.5g
Size: 11
Certificate of Authenticity by GIA, report numbered 17261543
Estimate: HK\$8,500,000 - 10,000,000

MODERN & CONTEMPORARY ART

SATURDAY 27 NOV 1PM



MARLENE DUMAS (1995)

After the Kiss, 1996 oil on canvas, 200x100cm, signed, titled and dated on the reverse.
Estimate: HK\$5,500,000 - 7,500,000

GERHARD RICHTER (1992)

Grey, 1991 offset print on lightweight cardboard, with a layer of translucent varnish, mounted on plastic, 97.1x66.5cm, signed, dated and numbered 24/25 on the reverse.
Estimate: HK\$800,000 - 1,200,000

AUCTION

Friday 26 Nov 18:00 Contemporary & Editions
Saturday 27 Nov 13:00 Modern & Contemporary Art
United Asian Auctioneers
Sunday 28 Nov 13:00 Jewellery & Watches
Sunday 28 Nov 16:00 Wine

VIEWING

Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 Nov 10:00-20:00
Sunday 28 Nov 10:00-12:00

LOCATION

Hong Kong Exhibition Centre
3/F, Low Block, China Resources Building
26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong



CONTACT

email: info@aaa-alliance.net tel: +852-2824-8574