



**13TH WING DING FANCY DRESS CHARITY
SQUASH TOURNAMENT 2011 AT THE HONG KONG
FOOTBALL CLUB**
WWW.WINGDING.HK

“GOING BALLS TO THE WALLS FOR HONG KONG’S MOST NEEDY”

**The Million-Dollar Fundraiser: Wing Ding’s The Real Thing by Dan Kadison,
Kadison Media [www.kadisonmedia.com].**

You can donate. You can participate. You can sit back and take it all in. But each year one holiday fundraiser, the Wing Ding Squash Tournament, never ceases to amaze.

On Saturday, November 19th, 14 teams come prepped and ready to raise money for charity; to remember a special member of the Hong Kong community; and to play a unique form of memorable squash.

Last year’s Wing Ding raised over HK\$1 million for the city’s most needy, and tournament organizers this year were delighted to announce that the fundraising hit that magical mark again.

This year’s annual squash tournament -- held once again at the Hong Kong Football Club -- brought in an astounding HK\$1.084 million through entry fees, auctions, raffle sales and individual donations

“Last year’s total of HK\$1.075 million was an incredible one-day record for



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an annual sports tournament – and I’m so proud that amount has been equaled and surpassed this year,” said Tim Everest, the Wing Ding organizer.

“The tournament, now in its thirteenth year, started as a tribute to Kam-wing “Wing” Yuen, a wonderful, giving man, who was a physically-disabled employee at the Urban Squash Centre,” said Everest. “Mr. Yuen passed away in 1998. While the Wing Ding has never forgotten him, the event has evolved into a spectacular feat of compassion and giving, and, after the amount of money raised over the past two years, it’s my belief there’s no turning back. So be on the look-out for bigger and better from the Wing Ding.”

Every dollar raised by the Wing Ding goes to Operation Santa Claus (OSC), a holiday campaign organized by the South China Morning Post and Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK).

Each year, the OSC appeal, established in 1988, selects multiple beneficiaries, promotes their causes throughout the holiday season, and distributes funds to the charities for specific, significant and substantial projects.

This year, 16 charities were selected as OSC beneficiaries, and while the



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groups’ missions are different, together they help Hong Kong’s young, old and needy.

Since 2003, the Wing Ding has gathered an astounding HK\$ 3.8 million for charity -- with HK\$ 3.7 million of that amount going to Operation Santa Claus.

“This event has brought all the major squash clubs together, united them through sport to help other people . . . it’s a real honour,” said Everest. During a break in the action this year, a special guest named Darren Chan entered the room.

Chan is the project officer for Direction Association for the Handicapped, one of several beneficiaries that received Operation Santa Claus funds last year.

Chan, 39, himself is handicapped, paralyzed from the neck down after a traffic accident a decade ago on the mainland.

After visiting last year’s Wing Ding, Chan had such a good time that he wanted to see everyone again.



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“You could see him renewing friendships that he made here last year,” said Everest. “It was hugely touching.”

For those who haven’t witnessed a Wing Ding, the actual eight-hour event is one of the most spirited, wild contests to be held in any of Hong Kong’s sporting venues.

The rules are simple – 140 people, representing 14 teams and 10 levels of expertise, compete during a running-style of play.

Each player faces thirteen opposing members from his or her grouping, and at the end of each three to four-minute match, they must madly dash to the next court.

There are no breaks between play, no water cooler visits, no casual chatter or definitely no jokes on the fly.

Competitors fiercely race to their next court, jostling for position, hungry to score a couple of free points before their opposition makes it to the same court.

But there’s one more catch: Each adult player must wear a funny, creative



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or inventive costume (which incorporates their team’s designated colour).

Albert Cho’s team wore white judo outfits. Paul Errington’s group donned ballerina outfits with pink tutus and matching wigs. Jeremy Norris’ crew dressed like the Village People (he was the Native American Indian). Henry Ng was a Super Mario Brother. Matt Robinson looked like a grown leprechaun. Rasheed Shroff’s group appeared as black spiders.

This was Albert Cho’s second year at the Wing Ding, which he jokingly described as “a combination of Mardi Gras and the Asian Games.” While the competition was just as hard this year, Cho said it was definitely worth the effort.

“I think it’s a very creative way of raising money for a great cause and getting people to come out . . . and have a good time,” Cho said.

Last year, Paul Errington was dressed in a full chicken outfit. This year, he was bedecked in pink. Next year, it’s anybody’s guess, but Errington will be back as the tournament is unlike any other one in Hong Kong.

“I think we’ve got a lot of people that have come along this time for the first time just to see it, and I think it’s just a totally unique experience,”



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Errington said. “Even for us, when we play, we still thoroughly enjoy it, every time’s different, it’s just really, really good fun.”

Errington is so impressed by the charity event that he’d like other Wing Dings to be held in other cities throughout the world.

“It’s colourful, it’s fun, it attracts attention,” said Errington.

While organizers would love to see Wing Ding go overseas, coordinators are already expanding efforts here in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Squash Association (HKSA) endorsed the Wing Ding for the first time this year.

The Kowloon Cricket Club also planned to hold a modified tournament with participation fees also going to the Wing Ding for OSC.

And the Hong Kong Cricket Club raised funds at their formal Squash Ball and also donated participation fees from a quiz night at Delaney's in Wanchai.

Eventually, the hope is that the Wing Ding concept takes hold across all sporting disciplines in the city, said Everest, whose Hong Kong Football Club



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team, festooned in Sponge Bob Square Pants garb, not only won the award for top fundraising team, best effort for costume, but also took top squash competition honours with 1668 points. Coming in second was the Ladies Recreation Club team (1661 points). The USRC team grabbed the bronze position with 1620 points.

Special guest, Thierry Lincou, a former world number one player, won the award for best squash effort. It was Lincou’s first-ever Wing – which he played with a smile on his face and pink ballerina’s outfit on his body.

Said Everest: “Thierry’s presence and participation was truly special. His play just added to the event and we were so honoured to have him with us. He did not bat an eyelid when asked to play in fancy dress – that is the ultimate accolade from a professional sportsman. You know, I am just so immensely proud of the Wing Ding and what it stands for amongst squash players and beyond. One thing is clear, everyone was a winner today and left with a smile on their faces knowing that they had been involved in a special event for the local community.

Before we start planning for next year, the Wing Ding would like to thank the Hong Kong Football Club -- for allowing us the use of their wonderful facilities -- as well as Susanna Chan, Rovana Lai, David Murray, Neil Roberts,



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Simon Ng, and Cathay Pacific, which contributed the top raffle prize, a pair of Business Class Tickets to Bali, worth HK\$30,540 and won by Catherine Ho. Other amazing raffle prizes were donated by Royalty Jewellery Wholesale Co; Delon Photo and HiFi; Cyril Murkin (HK) Ltd; VIM Pilates Studio; Paul and Susanna Davies; Starlight Jewellery; Elegant Watch and Jewellery; Prince; Lululemon; Li Wing Textile Ltd; Golf Corner, Fook Aun Chew [Esprit]; Parklane Hotel; Speed Travel; Neil Roberts; Travel Expert; Andy Ho; Astor Jewels; Mr and Mrs Simon Ng; Hong Kong Croquet Club; Royal HK Yacht Club; Diestel and Partners; Teresa Chan; Eddy Wong; Charles Lassman; Dinesh Hathiramani; LRC; Lee Robinson; Berry Bros and Rudd; Adrian Ng..... and more.

“I really want to thank everyone in this space, but I can’t, so thank you, one and all. You helped make this day an undeniable and significant success.”

We are all looking forward to making plans for the 14th Wing Ding in 2012!

With warmest festive wishes,

Tim Everest

M: +852 9104 6383 / E: tim@hk.polargrp.com



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