



HKFC Hockey 6s to debut field hockey “All Star” match: World Hockey Challenge Hong Kong in 2013

25 of the world’s top players and Olympic stars from Australia, Great Britain and Holland take part in HKFC Hockey 6s & World Hockey Challenge

The Hong Kong Football Club Hockey 6s (HKFC Hockey 6s) will return in 2013 with an expanded international team competition featuring 25 of the world’s top men’s field hockey athletes, headlined by Australian legend Jamie Dwyer, one of the most recognised field hockey stars of all time.

The HKFC Hockey 6s will be played at the Hong Kong Football Club on Friday and Saturday March 29th - 30th 2013. The competition will offer both elite and social levels with four international teams, (up from two in last year’s tournament), competing in a round-robin competition. Those teams are Australia, Great Britain, Holland and the Hong Kong Barbarians.

For the first time in its history, the HKFC Hockey 6s will begin with a full 11-aside exhibition match, the World Hockey Challenge Hong Kong, on Thursday evening, (March 28th).

The World Hockey Challenge will feature the stars from the four [representative](#) teams competing in the international section of the HKFC Hockey 6s. The elite international stars participating in the international component of the tournament will be combined into two full 11-aside teams for the World Hockey Challenge Hong Kong. The regulation 70-minute match will start at 7:30pm.

Patrick Watts, Chairman of the HKFC Hockey 6s Committee, commented on the 2013 HKFC Hockey 6s saying, “We are very excited at the continued growth of the HKFC Hockey 6s. This year’s tournament is breaking new ground in international hockey and the HKFC Hockey 6s Committee are delighted to continue Hong Kong’s well-established tradition of introducing innovative and entertaining formats in international sport in the mould of the Hong Kong Rugby Sevens and Cricket Sixes.

“If the World Hockey Challenge proves to be an accepted and well-supported format there is every chance that Hong Kong can be home to an international match like this on a regular basis, which will be a great catalyst for the continued growth of field hockey in the community,” added Nick Studholme-Wilson, HKFC Hockey Section Chairman.

It is the first time that an All Star format like the World Challenge Hong Kong has been trialed at the HKFC Hockey 6s and the match has received the endorsement of the International Federation of Hockey (FIH), who also sanction the HKFC Hong Kong 6s.

FIH President, Leandro Negre commented "It is sure to be an exciting event that gives players of all levels a chance to compete in an international setting. It says a lot about the popularity of hockey that the tournament continues to grow each year."

Following the World Hockey Challenge Hong Kong, the HKFC Hockey 6s will take centre stage on Friday and Saturday with an international round robin competition featuring the stars playing for their national sides interspersed with the burgeoning club competition. An expected 30 international and regional club sides will contest the club competition, creating an exciting festival of hockey in March.

Among the premier international players involved in the four-team competition at the Hockey 6s and the World Hockey Challenge Hong Kong are the current captains of Australia and Great Britain, Jamie Dwyer and Barry Middleton respectively.

Dwyer, co-captain of the Australian national team and 2004 Olympic Gold medallist, will lead the Australia team in Hong Kong. Dwyer also won Bronze medals in Beijing in 2008, and London in 2012, and won gold with Australia at the Champions Trophy in 2012 in Melbourne and the Field Hockey World Cup in 2010. He is a five-time FIH World Player of the Year most recently winning the award in 2011.

Middleton will lead out Great Britain, a side filled with current national team members and veterans of the team that finished fourth in the London Games in 2012 including Rob Moore, Ben Hawes, Dan Fox and James Fair.

The Holland Select team is stacked with present and former internationals including current national team member Quirijn Caspers and Michael Green. Green, an ex-Germany international and former FIH world player of the year, is a current board member of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

Laurence Docherty, Constantijn Jonker, Rob Derikx, Geert Jan Derikx and Sander van der Weide will also be part of the Holland team for the Hockey 6s.

The HKFC Hockey 6s offers an important platform to raise the profile of Hockey in Hong Kong. As such, the 2013 tournament will host a series of clinics for local schools and youth and will also help mark the debut of the Jamie Dwyer Hockey Academy, a long-term initiative to raise the standards of local hockey at the grassroots level.

Global field hockey icon Jamie Dwyer, who is currently involved in the first season of the Hero Honda Indian Hockey League, modeled along the lines of India's Premier League (IPL) cricket, commented on the upcoming tournament saying: "I have been very impressed with the HKFC Hockey 6s and am delighted to be working closely with the tournament and the Hong Kong Hockey Association to create the World Hockey Challenge as an exciting addition to the tournament. I look forward to bringing a top-class Australia team to play against some of the world's premier players in Hong Kong and am keen to return to continue coaching some of Hong Kong's many talented young players."

In keeping with the mission to grow the game at the grassroots level, a mini and youth Hockey tournament will be held prior to the international 11-aside match (TBC).

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