

THE BHOYS ARE BACK IN TOWN

THIS YEAR'S Hong Kong Football Club IP Global International Soccer Sevens features professional youth teams from several English and Scottish Premier League clubs including those of Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Sunderland, West Ham, Glasgow Rangers and defending champions Glasgow Celtic. The Sevens features two tournaments side by side, the main tournament and the masters.

Ex-England football international, Andy Cole, will lead his own all-star team in this year's tournament. Cole, who won the UEFA Champions League, five Premier League titles and two FA Cups said he was looking forward to the challenge.

Joining him on the Andy Cole Jura All Stars will be former Manchester United players David May, Lee Martin, Clayton Blackmore and Andy Ritchie. Former England internationals Michael Thomas and Ian Walker complete the line-up with ex-Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair.

The masters tournament – which has been host to World Class legends such as John Barnes, Peter Beardsley, Alan Kennedy, Jurgen Klinsmann, Mark Walters, Ally McCoist, Rob Lee, Andreas Moller, and Chris Waddle – includes All Star teams of recently retired footballers of 35 and over.

This year, fans will get to see former Welsh international and ex-Southampton player, Paul Jones, playing for the Southampton Lloyds TSB All Stars and there might be an appearance by ex-Southampton and current Stoke City player James Beattie as a non-playing ambassador.

Children under 16 get in for free and, unlike the Rugby Sevens, one or two day tickets are available.



Venue: Hong Kong Football Club, 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley

Tickets:

- Website: <http://www.hkticketing.com/>
- Telephone: (852) 3128 8288
- e-mail: tickets@hksoccersevens.com
- In person: Hong Kong Football Club, 3 Sports Road, Happy Valley/Laxton Marketing, Unit 1606, The Broadway, 54-62 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai
- Weekend pass (Saturday - Sunday): **HK\$200**
- Day pass (Saturday or Sunday): **HK\$120**
- Friday evening: **FREE**
- Under 16s: **FREE**

Tickets are available to purchase in advance and only limited tickets will be available at the venue.

INNOCENT M'LUD

STAND-UP COMEDIAN, writer and actor, Jeff Innocent, is back in Hong Kong and appearing at Wan Chai's Punchline Comedy Club this month.

Jeff is widely acknowledged as one of the finest acts on the British comedy scene and has performed to audiences all over the world.

With a 'cockney-geezer' accent and East End bouncer looks – Jeff played a prisoner alongside Vinnie Jones in *Mean Machine* – people are often surprised to learn that he went to University as a mature student and has a Bachelors degree in Cultural Studies and a Masters Degree in History and Philosophy.

His style of comedy and subject matter - such as ageism and global warming - contrast brilliantly with his underworld image, to which he has genuine connections.

Born in the heart of London's East End, Canning Town, Jeff grew up as the son of a villain and instead of joining the family-firm, worked as a window-dresser on the fashionable King's Road and Carnaby Street. By night he was moonlighting as a DJ popularising Jamaican music.

After studying, Jeff launched his stand-up comedy career and now has many television credits as an

actor including *Edinburgh Nights* (BBC1), *Gas* (Channel 4), *I Love 1999* (BBC 1), *Later with Jools Holland* (BBC2), *The National Lottery Show* (BBC1), *The Stand Up Show* (BBC1), *Take the Mike* (ITV), *Time Gentlemen Please* (Sky), *Real Eastenders* (Channel 4) and *Brief Histories* (BBC3). An established writer, Jeff has also written for the *Independent* and *The Scotsman*.

"It should be made law that every British Citizen must go and see Jeff Innocent. He's that funny." *Evening Standard*

"Clever, honest, funny, hugely likeable comedy. I really loved this show." *The Scotsman*

Jeff Innocent will be performing at the Punchline Comedy Club at 9pm on **Thursday May 13th, Friday May 14th and Saturday May 15th** with comedians Richard Morton and Louis Ramey.

June's show will feature British comedian Rob Deering alongside Caimh McDonnell and Arj Barker.

Tickets are available for HK\$320 from <http://www.punchlinecomedy.com>
Viceroy (Now renamed DUETTO)
2/F Sun Hung Kai Ctr.,
30 Harbour Road,
Wanchai, Hong Kong
Tel: 2598 1222

PADDLE POWER

BETS ARE ON for this year's Stanley International Dragon Boat Championships, which will be held on Wednesday 16th June. Despite being held at the height of Typhoon season, the races have never yet needed to be cancelled or postponed.

Dragon boating is an important part of Chinese tradition that's developed into a modern sport of international acclaim and the Stanley Dragon Boat Regatta is traditionally held on Tuen Ng festival day, following the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Stanley event holds the record for the earliest history of expat participation, as well as always having the highest competitor, company and expat turnout.

"The traditional Chinese sport dates back 2,000 years and is thought to be related to a poet and statesman called Qu Yuan. The poet, after being wrongly accused of treason, threw himself into the Miluo River in Hunan province. Local people, who held Qu in high regard, rushed to boats to save him and hit the water with their oars to prevent the fish from eating his body. Thus was born the tradition of dragon boat racing and the date was marked as Tuen Ng to commemorate Qu's death."



The British can lay claim to some of the festival's more colourful incidents. In 1976 the race had perhaps its most spectacular finish when a team from the Grenadier Guards ploughed through the finish line at full speed and straight through an oncoming sampan. A navy team from HMS Tamar also hold the record for the boat that sank the most during one competition.

