



Standard Chartered
SOCCER SEVENS
HKFC 2024

ASTON VILLA EYES EIGHTH CROWN IN SILVER ANNIVERSARY OF THE HKFC STANDARD CHARTERED SOCCER SEVENS



*Aston Villa lift the trophy in the 2023 HKFC Soccer Sevens
Credit: HKFC Soccer Sevens*

HONG KONG, 28 March 2024 – Seven-time winners and defending champions Aston Villa return to Hong Kong once again to headline the line-up of Premier League clubs at the 2024 HKFC Standard Chartered Soccer Sevens as the event celebrates its 22nd edition at the Hong Kong Football Club.

The Villans won the three-day tournament in 2023 as the event made its return for the first time in four years and the club based in England’s Midlands will travel to Hong Kong to do battle in a 16-team field in the Main Event from May 24 to 26.

“It is our great pleasure to welcome our defending champions, Aston Villa, back to Hong Kong for what will surely be another thrilling edition of the HKFC Standard Chartered Soccer Sevens,” says HKFC Chairman, Neil Jensen.

“This year marks the 25th anniversary of the first HKFC Soccer Sevens and over the years we have seen the tournament go from strength-to-strength as it has overcome all manner of obstacles to stand as one of our city’s most prestigious and enduring events.



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“We are looking forward to seeing another batch of the best young players in world football descend on the Hong Kong Football Club and deliver yet another a weekend of entertainment and excitement.”

Aston Villa’s Omari Kellyman was the tournament’s Most Valuable Player in 2023 as the midfielder inspired his team to a 3-0 win over Hong Kong’s Tai Po FC in the final, adding his name to the lengthy list of top class talent to have graced Sports Road over the years.

The latest edition of the tournament, which was first held in 1999, will be the first to be backed by new sponsor Standard Chartered Priority Banking.

Aston Villa’s 2023 win was their seventh in the Main Event and they will share the stage this year with three-time winners Newcastle United as well as fellow Premier League outfits West Ham United, Fulham and Brighton & Hove Albion.

Regular visitors Rangers will also make the trip as will English Championship high-fliers Leicester City, twice winners of the title.

Tai Po FC, last year’s beaten finalists, will return to fly the flag for the Hong Kong Premier League alongside the HKFA U23s.

“We are delighted to be returning again after such a fantastic experience last year, the warm welcome and the way we were looked after made the whole experience such a memorable time.” Said Villa Academy Manager, Mark Harrison.

“Our players and staff are really looking forward to taking part again and hopefully can have the same outcome as last year, although we appreciate it is going to be a real challenge with the quality of all the teams involved.”

The Masters Tournament will be headlined by defending champions Wallsend Boys’ Club, who will be joined by the Professional Footballers’ Association All Stars and former winners Discovery Bay.

“Wallsend Boys Club HK will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of their first appearance at the HKFC Soccer Sevens and we are looking forward to challenging for a third consecutive Masters Tournament title in May,” says Tony Sealy, Chairman, Wallsend Boys Club HK.

“Wallsend Boys Club HK has produced many top class players over the years, including Premier League title-winning England internationals Alan Shearer and Michael Carrick, and it is a privilege to once again be able to represent such an outstanding organisation.”

The draw for this year’s event will be conducted at the Hong Kong Football Club on April 12 and the action will kick off with the Masters Tournament on May 24. The Main Event commences on May 25, with both competitions running through until May 26.

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Notes to Editor:

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Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges.

The history of Standard Chartered in Hong Kong dates back to 1859. It is currently one of the Hong Kong SAR's three note-issuing banks. Standard Chartered incorporated its Hong Kong business on 1 July 2004, and now operates as a licensed bank in Hong Kong under the name of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC.

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About Hong Kong Football Club

Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC) was founded in 1886 with a mission to facilitate the development of sporting activities in Hong Kong. Our vision is to be recognised as one of the leading not-for-profit sports clubs in the world. We started with two main sports: rugby and soccer, and with the dedication and enthusiasm of our members, we have evolved into a club which promotes, hosts and plays a total of 11 different sports including hockey, squash, lawn bowls, netball, tennis, badminton, swimming and triathlon, golf and tenpin bowling.

Regarded as one of the finest sporting clubs in Asia, the 64,000-square-metre Club building offers the largest range of facilities among all the sports clubs in Hong Kong. HKFC not only provides Hong Kong with a world-class venue for many major international sports events, such as Rugby Tens and Soccer Sevens tournaments, but also plays a key contributor to Hong Kong's thriving sporting and social community.

Website: www.hkfc.com

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