

Often described as the 'Pebble Beach' of Asia, Hong Kong's Clearwater Bay Golf and Country Club occupies a stunning location and provides a premier golfing experience for members and visitors alike. The course is invariably in immaculate condition, but, until recently General Manager Peter Downie, and the Course Maintenance team led by Chris Chase were never convinced that the quality of the bunkers matched the standards elsewhere, and the amount of maintenance required was a concern. This is not uncommon, even amongst top level golf clubs.



Weather damaged bunker

However Downie and Chase were determined to do something about it. Following an introduction by trusted amenity supplier Centaur Asia Pacific, EcoBunker Ltd were consulted on bunker improvement options.

Initial bunker trials on the practice area and the course proved that the combination of EcoBunker edges and a Capillary Concrete liner was highly effective. Before committing to a full course renovation, Downie invited further advice on the style and shaping of the new bunkers. EcoBunker were consulted and advised that Australian golf course architect, Harley Kruse had recently designed bunkers that could be a natural fit for the Clearwater Bay course, and furthermore these had been built with EcoBunker and Capillary Concrete. In February 2020, EcoBunker CEO Richard Allen, along with Harley Kruse, visited site and supervised the renovation of the two bunkers on the first hole in the proposed design style.



EcoBunker with CapCon liner

Richard provided engineering expertise while Harley delivered top class architectural input.

The outcome was a total success and one year later the club embarked on a full course renovation in several phases.

Work is now at a stage where the contrasts between the original bunkers and the newly constructed EcoBunkers can be clearly witnessed. Hong Kong, like many areas in that climatic zone is vulnerable to extreme and intense rainfall: particularly damaging to golf bunkers. These photographs show



Aesthetically shaped

the aftermath of a 300mm in 24 hour rainfall event. Original bunkers are washed out, requiring hundreds of man hours to repair, whilst the EcoBunkers (with a capillary liner) are completely undamaged and playable immediately after the rainfall event. Setting the amazing maintenance savings aside, the new bunkers mean less disruption to golfers and more potential playing time on an unrestricted golf course.

The combination of EcoBunker edge and the Capillary Concrete liner has been described by Peter Downie as the ***'Gold Standard'*** of bunker construction. The 'Cap Con' provides a fast draining layer, but also regulates the moisture content of the sand to deliver consistent playing conditions. Meanwhile, the EcoBunker system provides a low maintenance permanent edge. This is important to prevent soil contamination, deliver a consistent profile that deflects surface water flow away from sand areas and preserves the beautiful shaping work for generations to come. We are delighted to be associated with Clearwater Bay GC and look forward very much to seeing the completed project.



Harley Kruse with EcoBunker CEO Richard Allen