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Curry pie scores at Man U cafe

You'll enjoy the place even if you can't kick a football



If the British curry pie (above), which comes with mashed potato, is not your cup of tea, try the soft shell crab salad (below).

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WHEN it comes to sports, my participation is strictly of the spectator kind and only if there is food involved.

Take football, for example. A sport that has a huge following among local Indians, discussed with as much passion as expat Indians reserve for cricket. And I still don't have a clue what the offside rule is, not that I care.

So when a friend invited me to sample the food at the Manchester United Cafe Bar at Boat Quay, I accepted reluctantly. When it comes to sports-themed cafes and bars, I've had one too many bad culinary experiences.

However the football cafe franchise from Manchester's Old Trafford serves up some nice dishes. Like the fish and chips (\$17.90), a traditional English favourite.

The batter was crisp and not too thick. The chips or french fries were good although I would have preferred proper English chips – big chunky strips of potato.

Another old Trafford favourite is the British curry pie (curry chicken served with mashed potato, \$16.90). We all know how the curry has become a British staple (an act of colonial revenge perhaps?) and this pie is homage to that.

It has a flaky pastry cap which goes

well with the mild, tasty curry, but I felt the spice factor could have been ramped up a bit more.

The mashed potato was good but if you prefer rice, the cafe is happy to swap.

What I really liked was the crispy soft shell crab salad (battered soft-shell crab with a cucumber salad and ginger flower dressing, \$15) and the Manchester combo platter (sausages, chicken wings, short ribs and onion rings, \$28) – a perfect snack plate to share among friends.

A must-try is the Red Devils' Pudding (hot chocolate pudding served with vanilla or chocolate ice cream, \$7.90) – a nice end to the meal.

The menu also has some local favourites like black pepper beef and chicken rice to appeal to the Singaporeans and there is a section for junior as well with

junior club burgers and nuggets.

And considering how Manchester United is doing in the English Premier League at the moment, the cafe might be a good place for rabid Man U fans to chow down and lick their collective wounds.

Liverpool fans are not invited.

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