Clifford BUDDLE  
Affiliation: SCMP

BIO
I am a senior editor at the South China Morning Post and have been a journalist for more than 30 years. I worked as a court reporter in London before coming to Hong Kong to join the SCMP in 1994. My roles have included news editor, deputy editor, and acting editor-in-chief. I currently oversee culture coverage and write about legal and political affairs.

Through my coverage of court cases, I developed an interest in the law. I passed the Common Professional Examination in 2000 and a Masters degree in human rights law in 2005. I teach media law at the University of Hong Kong part time and law more generally for HKU SPACE.

I have been a Journalist Member Governor on the board for the last three years and am a co-convenor of the Press Freedom Committee and Constitutional Committee.

STATEMENT
The FCC is, as we all know, a great club with fine traditions. During my three years on the Board of Governors, I have sought to ensure that the club upholds these traditions while adapting to meet new challenges.

We must ensure that the club remains a home-from-home for our members, a wonderful place to meet friends and colleagues for a drink or a good meal. High standards must be maintained.

But the FCC also has an important role to play in promoting freedom of expression in Hong Kong and the region. It is a place where journalists can gather to generate ideas and to discuss issues of concern to the profession. Journalists and journalism lie at the heart of the club.

As a co-convenor of the Press Freedom Committee and a journalist for more than 30 years, first in London and then Hong Kong, I strongly support the role of the FCC in protecting the rights of the media.

The FCC has, for more than 20 years, supported reporting on human rights issues through the annual Human Rights Press Awards, a prestigious competition rewarding excellence in this important field. As a Co-convenor of the Press Freedom Committee, I have helped organise the awards.

My responsibilities as a Co-Convenor of the Constitutional Committee have involved ensuring that the club’s rules are respected and our legal obligations fulfilled.

The club enjoys a diverse membership. But it would good to have more young journalists among our members. We need to do more to create an appealing environment for young journalists at the club and to make them aware of all that it offers.

If elected, I will strive to ensure the FCC continues to flourish, for the benefit of its members and the broader media community in Hong Kong.