



**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for Associate Member Governor  
Board of Governors 2017-2018**



**Paul CHRISTENSEN**

**Affiliation: Retired Telecommunications Executive**

I have been an Associate Member of this fine club since 2001, and this is my second time running for Associate Governor. My “prize” for failing to be elected last year was to be invited to join the Finance Committee, the F&B Committee, and the Beverage sub-Committee, and I have been actively involved over the last year. I am grateful to Eric Wishart & Jake van der Kamp, with whom I have worked on those committees, for proposing and seconding my candidacy this year.

On F&B I have been particularly involved in the wine side of things: hosting wine dinners & socials, and helping to drive the ongoing improvement of the wine list. I have also been looking at ways to better handle draught beer, where we currently have very high wastage rates. Through the Finance Committee I reviewed the proposal and made recommendations (which were broadly accepted by the Board) for the upgrade of the Point-of-Sale billing system.

In earlier years I also served on the Food & Beverage Committee in 2007, and was responsible (with VG Kulkarni and Hoi-Lo Chan) for the selection of the current generation of health club equipment; I captained the FCC Second Pool Team, and represented the Club at cricket. I also run a regular team at the FCC Quiz.

So basically I'm familiar with many aspects of the Club (and yes, despite that, my masochistic side still wants me to stand for the Board!).

Whilst of course the FCC is first and foremost a media club, we must recognize that it is also a business; it is therefore important that at least one or two board members should have a solid business management background. I fit that bill, and if I were elected I would continue to bring a strong interest in F&B (and a good knowledge of its economics as part-owner of a bar in Wanchai), financial and technical literacy from my background in general management in telecoms, and, being retired, the ability to commit a significant amount of time to the affairs of the Club.

Particular areas that I would like to focus on during the coming year include:

1) Bert's

In the last year Allen Youngblood has done a great job of bringing us a much improved variety of high-class music, but sadly there are still many evenings where Bert's is rather sparsely populated. We need to continue to explore different ways to attract people downstairs.

## 2) Food & Beverage

There is still work to be done on the wine list, particularly the more upmarket “icon” wines. On beer we need to find a way to not pour away 25% of the draught beer that we buy (currently due to the kegs being so far from the taps), and encourage members to look at the bottled beer list, which represents far better value than the draughts. On food the Main Dining Room menu is still in need of an overall “theme”, and I hear many members commenting on apparently inconsistent pricing on the menus generally. More can also be done to improve the vegetarian and vegan options on the menu for the increasing number of members who prefer to avoid animal products. Finally, we must stop sending the dozens of glass bottles we empty every day to the landfill and find a way for them to be recycled.

## 3) Transparency & communication with members

Many members are happy with the way the Club is being run, but there are a significant and quite vocal number who feel that the Board does not communicate transparently or in a timely manner with interested members on major issues facing the Club. I feel that the purpose of electing a board is to give them the authority and responsibility for running the day-to-day affairs of the Club, but agendas and minutes of meetings should be published more widely and in a more timely fashion to enable members to be more engaged in the process.

The Club's website was overhauled last year, and we now employ a Digital Editor, but we still do a pretty poor job of using digital technology to keep our membership updated and informed effectively.

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Whilst the above are some of my current views, if elected I would of course wish to be responsive to the views of the Associate members whom I would represent. I am a regular user of the Club and can be found in Bert's or at the Main Bar several days most weeks (and in the Health Club not as often as I should be). Please feel free to come and discuss these or any other issues of concern to you.

Thank you for reading this far and, most importantly, whether you support me or not, please take the time to vote and encourage all your friends and acquaintances at the Club to do so. This is particularly true if you are an Associate Member: the voting turnout of Associates in recent years has been distressingly low, and it is important that the Board is seen to include representatives of as large a proportion of members as possible.