



**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2016-2017**



Stewart HAWKINS

Affiliation: Bloomberg News

Dear fellow members,

This club is a jewel and a rare one. Its global reputation for being a forum and symbol for upholding the basic principals of doing our job as journalists, artists and photographers is precious.

I get angry when I hear people say our profession is dying and that journalism is being corrupted globally with commercial or government-influenced infotainment, advertorial, spin and the 140-character grab and there's not much we can do.

The growth of the influence of the first three irritates me but, more importantly, throws up a challenge. It's our job to stand up to it. The latter ... well, that's just another tool for us to do that job.

I became a journalist and photographer because I really did believe what Einstein wrote in his book, "The World As I See It." I still agree with him. Ease and happiness are not ends in themselves. There are better things, higher goals. He said the ideals which lit his way, were kindness, beauty and truth.

The principal holds for what we do. Kindness first – our job is to make the world better NOT worse. Beauty – do it with clever, clean and accurate prose, witty critiques, smart tweets, insightful info-graphics, powerful images and art that satirises, amuses and educates. Truth – tell it like it is, the way you see it, with courage and conviction.

And the reason I want to represent members of this club is I'm frightened we may lose that vision of journalism. Although I started as a beat and political reporter, and then progressed to magazines, I've spent much of my career working for financial media outlets, the last five to six years dealing with some pretty complex data, apps and on-line distribution platforms.

This has taught me a number of things:

- 1) Media outlets can and should make money
- 2) Ergo - you should be paid properly for what you do – it IS valuable work
- 3) Just because it's "Lifestyle Journalism" doesn't mean it has to be BAD journalism

4) New media, social media, smart phones and digital platforms are just platforms - tools to help us perform our jobs.

The world and Hong Kong in particular are experiencing an exigency. Information people need to function in their daily lives, make political, financial and lifestyle decisions is what we're supposed to provide and it's becoming increasingly more difficult to provide it with integrity.

Our club is, or should be, a defender of our right to disseminate that information but we can't do it if we don't embrace new ways and the speed with which that information is distributed and sold and stand our ground on what we should be communicating.

My ideal is to attract more, younger journalists, the next generation who, regardless of the platform they use, maintain our principals. These are parenthoods statements, I know, and how we actually execute these ideals is the principal task of our club and probably our most complex. I'd like the chance to embrace this challenge.

BIO:

Stewart Hawkins, Asia Pacific Editor FFM, Bloomberg

Stewart has been with Bloomberg News for two years, and now works on the company's data-journalism project which mines the terminal's store of information to create breaking news.

Prior to this, he was editor in charge of the development and launch of the Australian Financial Review's multiple award-winning tablet app. He has also worked producing interactive graphics and on-line multi media material for apps and websites.

During 13 years at Fairfax in Sydney, he was editor of the Australian Financial Review's flagship monthly business features magazine as well as Sophisticated Traveler, and Luxe and was launch editor of Life and Leisure for the AFR. He also edited the Perspective Review and Observer sections of the paper.

Before that, he worked with News Ltd as a reporter and was nominated for a Walkley Award for his coverage of industrial relations issues for the 1993 Australian Federal Election.

He is also a photographer whose magazine work has been published in Australia and Hong Kong. His work has been exhibited in public and private galleries. He has spoken on photojournalism and chaired discussion panels and was privileged to briefly teach photojournalism for the BBC World Service Trust journalism education aid project in Somalia (2004).

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