



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



**Paul CHRISTENSEN**

**Affiliation: Retired telecommunications executive**

I have been an Associate Member of this fine club since 2001, and although this is my first time running for Associate Governor I have been involved in various aspects of the Club over the years. These have included serving on the Food & Beverage Committee, being responsible (with VG Kulkarni and Hoi-Lo Chan) for the selection of the current generation of health club equipment, captaining the FCC Second Pool Team, representing the Club at cricket, running a regular team at the FCC Quiz, and being actively involved in the selection of new bottles for the wine list.

Whilst of course the FCC is first and foremost a media club, it is important to recognize that its finances depend crucially on the 70% or so of the membership who are Associate Members, and I feel it is important that we are strongly represented on the Board. If I were to be elected I would bring to the board a strong interest in F&B (and a good knowledge of its economics as part-owner of a bar in Wanchai North), financial and technical literacy from my background in general management in the telecoms industry, 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 include:

1) Bert's

This is my favourite hangout at the Club, and whilst it's nice to have a more relaxed environment than the Main Bar, it is clear that on many evenings it is utilised far less than is good for the finances of the Club. We need to explore different ways to attract people downstairs, and in my view this should include reopening the bar during the afternoon. It should also be open on Sundays so that whenever sports are being shown in the Main Bar there is a sport-free alternative. We also need to review how the live music in Bert's is organised and promoted.

2) Governance

Like the majority of the membership, I am in favour of term limits for Board Members and if elected I will continue to push for that. I also believe that we need to work harder to avoid people being elected unopposed, which happens all too often. This involves encouraging more people to stand, making voting easier (possibly through the website), and, perhaps, introducing a "None of the above" option on the ballots.

### 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 currently the only information members get is the Board and Committee minutes which are published 4-6 weeks behind time, making it hard for interested members to make their views known in a timely fashion. I believe that the agenda of all Board and Committee meetings should normally be published a week before the meeting to enable members to make their views known to their representatives in advance, and that minutes should be published within one week of each meeting.

Where there are key issues facing the club then the membership should actively be canvassed for their views (as with the review of Silver Membership and of Membership fees), and the continued use of (occasional, targeted) member surveys is something I would encourage.

A major overhaul of the Club's website is nearing completion, but it is important that we keep looking for new and more effective ways to inform and engage members in the activities and future of the Club.

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 who 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. 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.