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



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Affiliation: Baskerville Chambers

My name is Kevin Egan. I am a barrister. I am seeking re-election as 1 of 4 Associate Governors in the upcoming 2016-2017 Board of Governor (“BOG”) elections. I have served on the BOG for all but 2 of the last 24 years as either an Associate Governor or Second Vice President.

Why vote for me? Because of my long years of experience I know how the BOG works. I therefore bring stability and continuity to the BOG, something that new aspirants for the position are simply unable to offer.

This request for your support is especially directed to those of you out there who are ASSOCIATE members. I have been uncompromising over these many years in my support for and defence of the rights of ASSOCIATE members. As a result I am unpopular with a certain group within the Club who will do their best to ensure that I am not re-elected. Be warned for you will in all likelihood be approached by them to vote for anyone but me!

You may well ask “why does this concern me. I am already safe and secure as a member?” Let me give you a little bit of history and it concerns ASSOCIATE members in particular.

When I joined this Club in 1980 as an ASSOCIATE member there was 1 joining fee and 1 monthly subscription fee that everyone paid regardless of membership category. What is the position now, 36 years later?

An ASSOCIATE applicant pays a joining fee of HKD25,000. A Journalist pays \$1000 and a Correspondent HKD2000. An ASSOCIATE now has to wait in a queue to join where the average waiting time is 2-3 years. There is no waiting time for Journalists or Correspondents – they simply “jump” the queue.

Once an ASSOCIATE attains membership he immediately starts to pay the full monthly subscription of HKD950. Not so the Journalists or Correspondents. They pay HKD250 in the 1st year, HKD500 in the 2nd year, HKD750 in the 3rd year and only start to pay the full HKD950 in their 4th year. Put bluntly the ASSOCIATES are being made to subsidize the Journalists and Correspondents!

The representation on the BOG is even more discriminatory. The Club membership numbers in the 3 relevant categories are set out below –

<u>Category</u>	<u>Numbers of members</u>	<u>% of total</u>
Correspondents	375	19%
Journalists	182	9.2%
<u>Associates</u>	<u>1421</u>	<u>71.8%</u>
Total	1978	100%

There are 17 positions on the BOG, 10 of which are reserved for Correspondents including the Presidency and the 1st Vice-Presidency. There are 2 positions available for Journalists and 4 for ASSOCIATES. There is one “swinging” position – 2nd Vice-President – which can be filled by either a Journalist or an ASSOCIATE member. Leaving aside the last position it means –

Correspondents (19% of members) control 62.5% of BOG seats;

Journalists (9.2% of members) control 12.5% of BOG seats;

ASSOCIATES (71.8% of members) control 25% of BOG seats.

Perhaps now you will start to appreciate why you need someone on the BOG to jealously protect the interests of ASSOCIATE members!

Finally, when you receive your ballot papers, please vote and lodge them in the box provided. In the past we have had very poor voter turnout with around only 1 in 7 of eligible members voting. It only takes a few minutes to vote and if you want your interests guarded and protected make sure that 1 of the 4 ASSOCIATE Governors that you vote for is me.

If you wish to discuss these or any other matters I am in the Club most days and would be happy to discuss them with you. A staff member will point me out.

Thank you,
Kevin Egan
(Life) Associate No. 3110