

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB

(ESTABLISHED 1849)
(INCORPORATED 1964)

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EMERALD BAY, SAI KUNG – NEW TERRITORIES
DEEPWATER BAY – HONG KONG ISLAND

Background on Resolutions – 2024 AGM – October 26, 2024

Background – Proposal to increase Monthly subscription fees by 100HKD

The GC recommends a fee increase of 100HKD for all Members currently paying a monthly subscription of 600HKD. The most recent monthly subscription fee increase, from \$477 to \$600 was approved by the membership at the June 2021 AGM, over three years ago. The monthly fees are not keeping up with inflation and the Club is facing increased running costs to maintain our clubhouse, meet government licence requirements and employ the right staff to provide the services required. Other clubs in our tier have monthly subs two to three times the amount we currently charge, and yet we have two of the best locations in Hong Kong. Over the past year, we have had a number of unexpected expenses to ensure adherence to governmental regulations (such as the removal of the illegal office space), or to make required repairs (such as the road to Emerald Bay), or to conduct general maintenance (such as replacing trees and laying grass in Emerald Bay). We expect our inflation running costs and upgrade costs will only increase. To support projects (such as solar panels to reduce our carbon footprint) and to continue the general upgrades (building painting and possible kitchen renovations in Emerald Bay), and longer-term projects the increase in monthly fees is a clear necessity.

Background – Proposal to increase from one-year to two-year term for GC members

The current GC recommends revising the current one-year term for GC members, to a two-year term. If approved by the membership, the change would go into effect in the next AGM (2025). The GC believes this shift will provide more continuity and stability to the GC, an important factor especially leading up to the renewal of our Private Recreational Lease in 2027. The GC also believes that a two-year term will help ensure that the longer-term strategic plans for the club are implemented effectively and can become a reality. An AGM would be conducted on an annual basis as required by law, to provide continued transparency to the Membership, but full balloting and election of the GC would take place every second year.

Background – Nomination of Ritchie Bent to be elected as a Life Member

A proposal has been brought forward mainly from the Emerald Bay VRC community to recognize Ritchie Bent and promote him to be a Life Member. Ritchie Bent (B-0029) arrived in Hong Kong in December 1977 after joining the Hong Kong Police and what was originally a two-year contract with the Police turned into ten years and a lifelong love of Hong Kong.

In 1988 he joined Jardine Matheson & Co and held a variety of roles, spending the last 15 years as Group Director of Human Resources until his retirement in 2015. He then established his own company, 'The Global Head Office', stepping down in 2022 due to ill health. Ritchie has been a life-long sports enthusiast, running, swimming, cycling and surf skiing on a regular basis. After moving to Pak Tam Chung in 2013, Emerald Bay Clubhouse became his second home and a focal point with many friends, staff and the VRC community as a whole. Ritchie's regular presence at the Tuesdays,

Thursdays and Saturdays surf ski meetups were always a highlight, and usually followed by a wonderful VRC breakfast or meal. After his cancer diagnosis, Ritchie continued to swim using one arm for as long as possible, always supported by a kind and caring team of friends from the VRC.

Ritchie embodies the spirit of the VRC: the love of water sports, resilience of competing paddlers, and the community of friendship and support from fellow members. He is one of the most committed members in the life of the Club. He continued to conduct his work-related meetings in the Emerald Bay clubhouse, bring much-appreciated revenue to the VRC and becoming Emerald Bay's highest spender in 2023, despite his ill-health. His countless Emerald Bay friends, paddlers and community would like to recognize Ritchie's many and long-standing contributions to the VRC by recognizing him with a Life Membership.