



**W**ishing one and all a very Happy New Year! May the new year bring prosperity, health and happiness to you and your families.

Having received clarity on the Club's land lease and achieving several milestones in 2014, we transit into 2015 with further certainty on the Club's future and necessary development needs.

### **Club Financials**

In the past year, we have consolidated the Club's financial position and will continue to strengthen it. With regard to Q1 2014/2015 financials, we are pleased with the increased operating revenue against budget. The management has filled up senior positions and most of the other operational positions that were previously vacant, in accordance with our budget. We have also continued to allocate more resources towards improving the condition of the golf courses. There were increased expenses on repairs and maintenance due to the wear and tear of the clubhouse facilities. We will continue to be vigilant over staff costs and operating expenses.



### **Land Lease**

The Club's land lease renewal continues to be the GC's focus. Following MinLaw's offer on 21 February 2014, the GC has been actively engaging the Labour Movement (LM) on the demarcation of the Bukit and Sime golf courses and the sharing of ancillary golfing facilities at the Bukit location. This agreement was originally to be reached by 28 February 2015.

SICC and LM met on a number of occasions between March-August 2014. On 26 August 2014, a Points of Agreement capturing the agreed key items was duly signed by both parties.

Following the execution of the Points of Agreement, both parties met on a weekly basis to give effect to the operational side of those major items listed in the Points of Agreement. In addition, both parties have had various site visits and meetings with the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) and the Land Transport Authority (LTA) for the purposes of the joint application (by SICC and LM) for the temporary occupation licences land and discussions on the impact of the proposed Cross Island Line on the Bukit golf courses.

The various agreements (Memorandum of Agreement, License Agreement and Facility Agreement) drafted by our lawyers have been sent to LM for its comments. LM has indicated that it needs more time to obtain clearance from various external agencies and government authorities. On 27 November 2014, the Club wrote to MinLaw to seek an extension of time for SICC and LM to conclude the relevant agreements. On 9 December 2014, the Club received a letter from MinLaw extending the deadline up to 31 May 2015. Regardless of this extension, the Club endeavours to finalise these agreements as soon as possible, following which the GC will seek your endorsement on the agreements before they are executed.

With respect to the Island location, SICC submitted its application to the SLA for the land lease renewal on 15 July 2014. We are awaiting the outcome of our application.

We hope to conclude the agreements soon and focus our energies on preparing the Club's facilities for members' continued enjoyment.

### **Catering to Golfers Post 2021**

With the impending loss of the 18-hole Sime Course in 2022, the Island location golf courses and facilities require reviewing with a view to redevelopment in order to absorb an overflow of golfers from 2022. The Club is therefore exploring all options towards expanding golfing capacity at Island location in a phased development by creating three full 9-hole courses (from the New and Millennium courses); and possibly creating an 18-hole Island Golf Course which would be less affected by weather conditions. While the GC and I share Members' sentiments with regard to the century-old Island Course's unique characteristics, we are looking at means between preserving its' character and at the same time improve playability of the Island Course during inclement weather and catering to future traffic demands.

As the Club is situated near the nature reserve and reservoirs, any proposed improvement plans have to be supported by the necessary submissions to National Parks and other statutory bodies for approval. The Club is presently reviewing these requirements and conducting the requisite research to ensure that we are armed with the relevant knowledge in developing any plans.

At the last AGM, members were informed of the formation of the Planning & Redevelopment Committee (PRC), which has been tasked to look into the future redevelopments and upgrades at the Island and Bukit locations. Comprising professionals with expertise from various industries, the PRC will look into proposals for:

- The redevelopment and upgrading of the courses at our Island location.
- The Island Clubhouse and undertaking a study to see if current facilities will be adequate post 2021 with anticipated traffic increases.
- The redevelopment of the Bukit Freehold Land to replace the facilities catered for in the current Bukit Clubhouses.

The PRC's Terms of Reference will be tabled at an Extraordinary General Meeting tentatively scheduled in the first quarter of 2015, for members' approval.

Beyond the expansion of golfing capacity at the Island location, we have to look into the needs of our general membership. The Club will soon embark on a members' survey to gain your views on the Island golf courses redevelopment, expansion of facilities at the Island location and the facilities that will be required on the freehold land at the Bukit location. The results of this survey, coupled with a detailed facilities review, the status of our financials and audit of our current operations, will serve as a guide for the PRC, helping them identify areas for improvement and providing a structure for their deliberations and recommendations.

Your participation in this survey is vital and I encourage members to take the time to complete and return it in due course.



## Improving Golf Courses and Golfing Facilities

The GC and I are committed to ensuring the golf courses offer the best possible playing conditions. The Club will continue to increase resources and expertise towards improving the condition of our golf courses.

As you are aware, the condition of the New Course greens has been of great concern. In the December 2014 issue of the *Islander*, the Club's agronomist wrote about the New Course's fundamental design flaws. He highlighted the inconsistency of the construction materials used, and the ad hoc renovation methods that utilised inferior quality turfgrass.

As we look to the future and plan for the proposed redevelopment of the Island location golf courses, which will take some time to commence, we are now looking at various options which include reconstructing some of the New Course greens based on the same construction methods implemented at our new Island Putting Green Complex. These works may require the closure of part of the course for a period of time. Members can be assured that we shall provide further details and seek members' feedback before any works and course closures are implemented at the New Course.

## Buggy track at Bukit Course

To address future traffic demands on our golf courses and to enhance members' enjoyment, the Club is also proposing to construct a buggy path at the Bukit Course, which is currently a walking course.

## Internal Controls

Reviews of our processes and policies to prevent any lapses in the Club's system of internal controls are ongoing. The Club recently carried out an urgent review to ascertain if there were any lapses in the members' accounts. We are pleased to note that the Club's Audit Committee has reviewed the internal audit findings and there were no non-existent member accounts found. Our members' accounts are also in order.

## Catering to Members' Needs and Values

Going forward in this New Year, the Club is looking into how we can best cater to members' needs and facilitate their families' enjoyment of the Club. Upgrading and refurbishing of facilities will be reviewed to meet future development plans.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to members of the GC and the sub-committees for their contribution and support, and the management and staff for their effort and dedication. I would also like to thank members for their support and valuable feedback as we all work towards a Club that we can continue to be proud of.

**Tay Joo Soon**  
President