



Dear Fellow Members,

I am happy to report that we have made significant progress on many fronts to improve the operations of the club and in tackling the major redevelopment projects. There are many issues, and it is important to focus on those that have a critical bearing on the Club and its future and which matter most to members. The detailed report follows below and indicates the direction the General Committee (GC) is taking towards these matters, always with members' interest at heart, and to secure SICCC's future as Singapore's premier club.

### ***Review of the Club's Constitution***

In March 2018, we welcomed Mr Tan Chee Meng as a Nominated General Committee Member. Senior Counsel (SC) Tan, who currently chairs the Constitution & Legal Committee (CLC), will strengthen the GC in its deliberations in several areas, in particular, on the review of the Club Constitution. As you know, we are currently undertaking a review of our rules and have sought members' feedback on proposed amendments to the Constitution. I would like to thank members who have done so. This review process will take some time and the General Committee (GC) will be engaging members again. We will be recommending the changes to the Club Chairman and the Registry of Societies for approval then. This is an important exercise because we need to ensure that our rules remain practical and relevant to evolving members' needs.

### ***Land Lease Agreements***

Concluding the land lease agreements with the authorities remains one of the top priorities to secure the Club's future. On the Island land lease, we are near to finalising the Building Agreement for the construction of public access along the reservoir edge near New Course. This is a key milestone which will enable us to complete the land lease renewal application by Q2 2018. We will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) soon to get members' approval on the terms and conditions and the premium payable for this lease renewal.

The Bukit land lease renewal is dependent on the outcome of the LTA's Cross Island Line feasibility study due end of this year. We will keep members informed of progress on this front.

### ***Island Golf Course Redevelopment***

We are excited about our plans to redevelop the New and Millennium courses into a 27-hole course which will increase our golfing capacity when we hand over Sime Course in 2021.

The Golf Redevelopment and Planning Committee (GRPC), together with the golf consultant and architect, are working closely with the authorities on this proposed new golf layout and finalising the site survey studies. Even as I am writing this message, all parties are hard at work, on the golf course details, budget, layout diagrams and video flypast, so that we will be ready to present our plans to members at a dialogue in the month of May.

Following the dialogue, we will hold an Island Golf Course Redevelopment (IGCR) EGM in June where the plans will be formally presented to members for approval.

While the GRPC is working on the redevelopment plans for the 27-hole golf course, Project Committee is exploring plans to upgrade some of the facilities at Island location, in anticipation of higher usage from 2022.

The plans include:

- 1) Constructing covered bays at the upper level of the Island Driving Range;



- 2) Constructing link walkways between the Island Driving Range and the Lookout and Eagle restaurants to improve connectivity and buggy movement; and
- 3) Having an additional F&B outlet at the driving range which will also serve golfers during turnaround.

### ***Bukit Freehold Clubhouse***

We have received 15 proposals on the Bukit Freehold Clubhouse from renowned local and foreign design and architectural firms in the design competition held in October 2017. The panel of assessors has just completed their assessment of the proposals and will recommend the most suitable proposals for GC and Club Chairman's endorsements in the coming months. Thereafter, details of the two final designs, plus the "5 Acre Woods" design offered at the April 2017 EGM, will be presented to members prior to a dialogue in early Q3 2018. A Bukit Freehold Clubhouse EGM will then be held in the same quarter to allow members to vote on the three options.

### ***Improving Club Operations***

A key issue which the GC focused its attention on was to strengthen SICC's management team. A club of our size and reputation with four 18-hole courses, 12 F&B outlets and various sports and recreational facilities at two large locations requires dedicated management to ensure high standards.

We are pleased with the appointment of two key personnel, Mr Ray Stopforth, our new Assistant General Manager and Mr Chris Gray, Director of Golf Course Maintenance.

Ray, a PGA Professional has more than 20 years of club management experience and will assist our General Manager in the daily clubhouse, golf, sports and lifestyle operations.

Chris brings with him more than 30 years of experience in golf course management, in agronomy and involvement in the hosting of professional golf tournaments in many countries. Since coming onboard, he has been overseeing immediate intensive maintenance works on all four courses to improve their playability. He will be actively involved in the planning of the Island Golf Course Redevelopment project, and is committed to leading the Golf Course Maintenance team to improve course conditions in a sustainable manner.

### ***Giving from Our Hearts***

Our annual May Day Charity event is fast approaching and I would like to call on the support of all members to donate to this meaningful cause. This year, we will have the honour of our Patron and President of the Republic of Singapore, Madam Halimah Yacob to grace the May Day Gala Dinner on 1 May 2018. We look forward to your generous support for the event.

### ***New Website***

Our revamped website was rolled out on 2 February 2018. Regrettably, some of you had difficulties logging in. This was due to old passwords which were encrypted in a dated system not being able to be ported over to the new IT system, and requiring members to input a new password in the initial log in. We will learn from this and resolve to do better in future. In the coming months, new features will be introduced in the website to enable members to make online bookings and transactions.

### ***Feedback and Communications***

This month, we are launching the "Snap & Share with Sally" initiative. We are making use of the popularity of WhatsApp to enable members to provide feedback easily and quickly to Management. You can act as our eyes and ears, and we welcome your active participation in helping us improve our services to members. More details of this initiative are in Page 10 of this magazine.

I look forward to seeing you at the Club.

Thank you.

Andrew Low  
President