



A member admires photographs of past chairmen of the club.  
會員正細閱會所歷屆會長的照片。

# Club with heart

Strong friendships and bonds of loyalty are formed at The Chinese Club which was founded more than 100 years ago

Members of The Chinese Club are immersed in both traditions of the old and comforts of the new. 華商會所會員既秉承舊有優良傳統，也接受新思維、新事物。

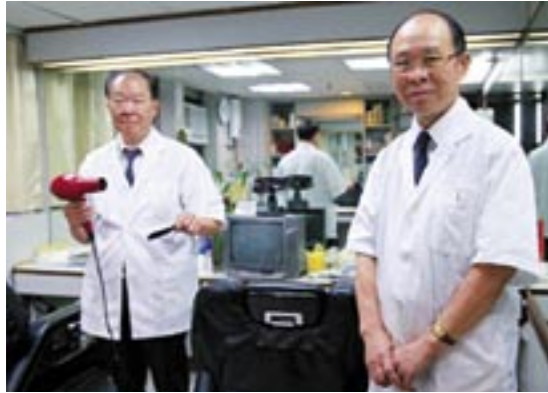
In a world of frenetic change, it's reassuring to know that at least some things stay the same. Consistency has been a hallmark of The Chinese Club in Central. The club is like a second home for generations of Hong Kong Chinese businessmen, and as they reflect on their lifetime achievements, it is likely that "their" club will evoke some of the fondest memories.

From the earliest beginnings, it has always been a club with people at its heart. The Chinese Club has more than a century of history, starting when Hong Kong was still largely a fishing and trading village. In those days, as today, businessmen wanted a place where they could socialise in friendly and familiar surroundings. Several private clubs were beginning to emerge in Hong Kong, but they were only for foreign businessmen. Chinese businessmen, no matter how rich and powerful, no matter how important their social standing, were ineligible to join.

And so The Chinese Club was formed. For the first time, successful local Chinese businessmen had a social meeting place to call their own. As a sign of their appreciation, members showed and continue to show great loyalty. So strong are the bonds of friendship formed within the club's walls that, once they join, members rarely leave.

The emotional connection has been passed on through the decades. It is so powerful, explains club chairman Wong Sau-ching, that today's businessmen, along with financiers, lawyers and solicitors, the second and even third generation descendents of the original members, still sit at tables where their fathers and grandfathers dined so many years ago.

"I have joined many clubs before, but none has the strong emotional bonds of The Chinese Club," says Mr Wong, expressing a widely-felt sentiment. Perhaps this is why so many reunions are held there.



The club features a Shanghai-style barber shop.  
會所內設有上海理髮店。

So close-knit is this club, adds Mr Wong, that the staff know each member individually, and can greet them by name.

At their club, familiar ways are upheld. As they did in days gone by, members engage in convivial conversation in the dining rooms, and read or doze in the library. The club barber shop is much loved; as it is one of the last places where members can still enjoy the authentic, Shanghai-style barber shop service they remember from the past.

The Chinese Club, through its influential members, has contributed hand-in-hand to the development of Hong Kong. It was always a venue for free discussion, and a place where ideas were actioned. Its members are known for their generosity, giving back to the community in any way they can. The club has shelved its own building programme many times over the years in order to channel funds to a greater cause.

The Chinese Club enjoys an esteemed status in society. In 1905, the Hong Kong Jockey Club first honoured the club by donating a title sponsorship in its name. Each year, The Chinese Club Challenge Cup is held at Sha Tin Racecourse on the auspicious date of January 1.

For many members, the club is such an important part of their lives that they attend every day. Such deep loyalty is also shown by the staff, many of whom have been with the club for years or even decades. Among them is Sunny, a 31-year veteran, who started as a waiter and has advanced to the position of accountant. Sunny says he feels like the club is his home – a sentiment with which many members and staff would agree.

Such is the loyalty to The Chinese Club that its membership has remained unaffected by outside challenges, including economic ups and downs. Its warm and friendly atmosphere will continue to provide a welcome social outlet for Chinese businessmen and women well into the future.



Many of the club's finest possessions have been donated by current and former members, such as these valuable antique books that can be viewed in the library.  
會所最珍貴的收藏品，大多數由歷屆會員捐出，當中包括圖書館內可供閱覽的珍藏古籍。



Food is a highlight of the club, and includes traditional Chinese food and classic western fare.  
會所重視食的藝術，傳統中菜和經典西餐是其不可或缺的一部分。

## 百年濃情 - 華商會所

世事變幻無常，還幸香港尚有一些老地方風采依舊。位於中環的華商會所，過百年來成為香港華人商賈的第二個家，一處交流營商經驗的好地方。以不變應萬變，正是華商會所的成功之道。

從開始至今，華商會所一直本著以人為本的理念。過百年前，當香港還是漁村小城的時候，一班華人商家希望能有一處地方讓他們在舒適的環境下打交道。當時縱使有各家私人會所相繼成立，但都只為洋人而設，華人商家即使財雄勢大，社會地位崇高，亦被拒諸門外。媚外的風氣催使華商會所的成立，顯赫的華人商家自此對會所一直不離不棄，擁戴至今。他們一旦成為會員，甚少會放棄會籍。

會員對華商會所的深厚感情，世代相傳，今日的會員，無論是營商，或從事金融或法律行業，很多都是第一代會員的後人，他們仍然坐在父親甚至祖父以前愛坐的地方，跟其他會員談天說地。

華商會所主席黃守正先生表示，他曾加入不少會所，但仍以華商會所的凝聚力最強，會員對會所存有深厚感情，難怪不少聚會都選擇於華商會所舉行。會所的員工，對會員的背景亦都了然於胸，跟會員打招呼時也能直接稱呼對方。

在華商會所，會員都各自有慣常一套，有的在宴會廳跟其他會員高談闊論，有的在圖書館閱讀或休息，而會所的理髮室更深得會員喜愛，這是在港少數還有提供正宗上海式理髮的地方，情味深遠。

透過舉足輕重的華商會會員，在彼此企業的交流和合作下，促成了不少豐功偉績，對香港建樹良多。樂善好施的會員在回饋社會上不遺餘力，會所過去曾多次將原來準備用來翻新會所設施的資金，捐獻社會。

華商會所在社會上地位崇高。1905年，香港賽馬會首次以冠名方式向華商會所致敬，時至今日，每年一月一日，在沙田馬場均會舉行華商會所杯賽。

對不少會員而言，會所已成為他們生活的一部份，每日都會到會所一聚。員工對會所亦忠心耿耿，服務年資短則數年，長則數十年。現時擔任會計的Sunny，由侍應生開始服務會所達31年，一如不少會員所感，他認為會所就是他的家。

無論社會出現怎樣的變遷，以至經濟起起落落，會員對華商會所始終愛惜如一，親切的服務加上各樣設施，將繼續讓華商會所成為華人商家的聚會之選。