



Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road,
Central
Hong Kong

31st August, 2018

Dear Sirs,

Support to Retain The Hong Kong Golf Club

In response to the recent hype about the shortage of land supply resulting in the possibility of the Hong Kong Government taking over some of the Hong Kong Golf Club's courses to make way for public housing, I am writing to you in support of retaining the Club for reasons that mean a lot to me as well as the local community of Hong Kong.

As the Co-Founder of The HUB Children and Youth Centre, a section 88 charity that has been providing a space in Sham Shui Po for underprivileged children to learn, to grow and to develop for the last six years, I am deeply grateful for the community support that the Hong Kong Golf Club has provided to our kids. The Hong Kong Golf Club has been hosting one of the longest running international golf tournaments - Hong Kong Golf Open since 1959, and has also been using that tournament as a fundraising charity drive to give back to the community. In 2016, The HUB was very fortunate to become one of the beneficiaries of the UBS Hong Kong Open and through the funds they raised and donated to our Centre, we have been able to start a "Health and Wellness" Program that benefited over 500 underprivileged kids in a year. With the help of their funding, we have been able to make this a sustainable program and continue to benefit more children and their families.

The kids at the HUB benefit not only from the Health and Wellness program that they funded but they also participate in The Hong Kong Golf Club's educational program on green conservation. As one of our outreach programs, our kids and families have been invited to join the "Tree Walk" in Fanling - a guided tour carried out regularly on specially designed tree trails over the Old Course at The Club. This is very inspirational to many of our kids who rarely get a chance to be involved with nature, and to have something so special readily within reach is what we treasure and want to provide for our future generation.

Naturally The HUB's interests will always bear significance in my heart. In addition to that, I have lived and worked in Hong Kong since 1998 and this is really a place which I call home. That is why I would like to see Hong Kong's heritage being preserved. With the Club's rich history, its landscape and its recognition as one of the top 100 golf courses in the world, it is important that we make sure it is protected and appreciated for what it is worth.

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The Hub Children & Youth Centre Ltd 香港樂童行兒童及青少年中心

Service Centre 服務中心
1/F, Greenich Mansion, 100 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, HK
香港深水埗青山道100號碧濠雅軒1樓
info@thehubhk.org
Tel 電話: +852 2720-5211 | Fax 傳真: +852 2720-5122

Office 辦事處
Suite 2211, Tower 2, Times Square, 1 Matheson Street, Causeway Bay, HK
香港銅鑼灣勿地臣街1號時代廣場2期2211室
info@thehubhk.org
Tel 電話: +852 2506-3110 | Fax 傳真: +852 2506-3220

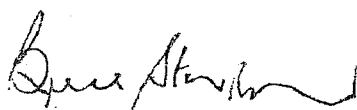


Besides, The Club plays a very crucial role in promoting the game of golf in Hong Kong. We have seen how the game has elevated in the last ten years through The Club's efforts in developing young talented players to produce the likes of Tiffany Chan who represented Hong Kong in the Olympics in 2016. I grew up in Australia and back where I came from, outdoor sports facilities like golf are easily accessible to the public. While I have been involved with providing for the needs of underprivileged kids in Hong Kong, I realise how little they are engaged in sports and a lot of it has to do with accessibility. Sports is a vital platform for nurturing young people's healthy body and minds and we would certainly like to have The Club as our partner in the future to continue providing sports facilities such as golf development for our kids at The Centre.

I do understand that there is currently an urgent housing need in Hong Kong but I believe there should also be a balance between concrete and green, work and well-being through recreation in a city like Hong Kong. Compared to the benefits of preserving the golf courses at the Hong Kong Golf Club for its history, heritage, green conservation and to maintain Hong Kong as a business and financial centre, an international hub and an attraction for major sports events, it seems such benefits far outweigh the gains from turning parts of them into public housing.

Having been here for over 20 years, I have witnessed so much heritage has made way to urban development over the years, not only will it be sad to see yet another piece of Hong Kong's heritage taken away but it is also a real shame to lose such a valuable charity and community supporter. Therefore I urge you wholeheartedly to back me up in retaining The Hong Kong Golf Club and help make all of us proud to call this "World Class City" our home.

Yours sincerely,



Bruce Stinson
Co-Founder
The HUB Children and Youth Centre

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