

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**Kowloon Cricket Club**  
**No. 10 Cox's Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon**

The Kowloon Cricket Club (KCC) (九龍木球會) is a recreational centre for local foreign residents. It came into existence on 4 October 1904, following a meeting of Kowloon residents who were interested in forming a cricket club, and took a government lease on the present site. A committee to draw up a set of rules and entrance fees and to take initial steps to put the Club in order was established. The committee comprised J H Swan and Messrs J Celland, D Cowan, R J Macgowan, B J Stevens, P G Scott Cranston and J Parkes. *Historical Interest*

In 1908 the KCC Pavilion was officially opened by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard (盧押爵士). With the increase in membership, the old building was deemed inadequate and a new clubhouse was built and officially opened in 1932. The foundation stone of the new clubhouse was laid on 1 September 1931, and the building was scheduled for completion within three months. However the contractor faced financial difficulties. The building was eventually completed on 24 September 1932, and opened by Mrs. Southorn (the wife of Hon. W T Southorn CMG).

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945) the club was used for stabling horses and it was extensively looted and stripped of all wooden components for firewood. After liberation, an extensive restoration programme was begun. Improvements and extensions to the premises were continued thereafter, the last extensive renovations being carried out in 2003.

The KCC clubhouse is a two-storey building with a lower ground floor. The design is 1930s modern with a so-called butterfly plan which is an Arts and Crafts characteristic. The two wings have pitched roofs and the central part of the building has a gambrel roof featuring a small central gable containing a modern-looking clock facing the cricket field. The roofs are finished with modern profiled steel sheeting. The elevation facing the cricket field features a long horizontal verandah. The elevation facing Cox's Road is a stuccoed and painted pseudo-classical facade with Art Deco influence. The stucco finish is grooved to resemble masonry. The parapet wall is stepped up over the main entrance to form a pediment which supports a flagpole. The pediment is inscribed "1932" and "Kowloon Cricket Club". The main entrance has a box-like balcony over it at first floor level. An arched opening fitted with modern glazed doors opens on to the balcony from a bedroom on the *Architectural Merit*

inside. Windows are regularly and symmetrically placed. The side elevations of the two wings both appear to have been altered and modernised.

The combination of modern features with an Arts and Crafts plan is rare. The KCC is therefore an interesting building architecturally.

***Rarity, Built  
Heritage Value &  
Authenticity***

The KCC is one of the premier sporting and social clubs in Hong Kong and membership is severely restricted. It is very well known and, with its prominent position on the corner of Cox's Road and Austin Road, is a local landmark.

***Social Value  
& Local  
Interest***

The KCC is among the cluster of recreational clubs in the area, namely, Kowloon Bowling Green Club (九龍草地滾球會), Club de Recreio (西洋波會), India Club (印度會) and Municipal Services Staff Recreation Club (文康市政職員遊樂會) (all Grade 3). It is also within walking distance with other historic buildings, such as the ex-Portuguese Community School, also known as "Escola Camões" (前賈梅氏學校, Grade 2), St. Mary's Canossian College (嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院), Rosary Church (玫瑰堂) (both Grade 1), and Kowloon Union Church (九龍佑寧堂, Declared Monument).

***Group Value***