

Historic Building Appraisal
Club de Recreio
No. 20 Gascoigne Road, King's Park, Kowloon

The Club de Recreio (which in English means “Recreation Club”; in Chinese: 西洋波會) was founded in 1911 by prominent members of the Portuguese community in Hong Kong. The sporting and recreational facilities provided by the club include a badminton court, bowling greens, tennis courts and a hockey field. Originally formed to cater for Portuguese, the membership of the club is now dominated by Chinese.

*Historical
Interest*

The Club de Recreio first acquired a piece of land at the corner of Peking and Hankow Roads. Later, the growing membership propelled the Club into moving to a bigger site where the Miramar Hotel now stands. By 1925, the site again proved insufficient for the growing membership, and the Club moved to the present site at King's Park. The present clubhouse in King's Park was built in 1928.

During the Japanese Occupation (1941-1945) most of the Portuguese members moved to Macau. Some of the men who had joined the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps against the Japanese invasion were either killed in action or died in the prisoners of war camp. In recognition of their service, their names were inscribed on a stone tablet which now stands at the main entrance of the clubhouse.

The design of the clubhouse bears Neo-Classical and Art Deco influences. The building is a one-storey high flat-roofed structure with white painted rough-cast rendered walls. The elevation facing the car park has a simple portico with a triangular pediment with a classical style entrance featuring Tuscan Order columns and glazed doors and fanlights. The windows are regularly spaced with brick soldier arches and matching cills. The windows are modern aluminum replacements with window-mounted room coolers. The rear elevation is a similar symmetrical composition featuring a long stepped Art Deco pediment. A colonnaded open verandah once existed but this has been enclosed by glazing. Internally a vocabulary of classical features can be seen including panelled and glazed doors, moulded architraves, columns, pilasters, and a magnificent Baroque style mantelpiece. To the west of

*Architectural
Merit*

the main block is a narrow extension used as staff quarters, which is a simple utilitarian structure with stucco walls and a pitched roof.

The clubhouse, although extensively altered, still retains Neo-classical features and should be considered as having built heritage value as part of a cluster of recreational clubs in King's Park with historic group value.

**Rarity,
Built Heritage
Value &
Authenticity**

The social value of the club lies in the role it has played in providing social and recreational facilities to its members. Situated on a prominent corner of Wylie Road and Gascoigne Road it is a well known local landmark.

**Social Value
& Local
Interest**

It is among the cluster of recreational clubs in the area, namely, Kowloon Cricket Club (九龍木球會, Grade 2), Kowloon Bowling Green Club (九龍草地滾球會), 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 of St. Mary's Canossian College (嘉諾撒聖瑪利書院), Rosary Church (玫瑰堂) (both Grade 1), the ex-Portuguese Community School, also known as "Escola Camões" (前賈梅氏學校) (both Grade 2), and Kowloon Union Church (九龍佑寧堂, Declared Monument).

Group Value