

**Historic Building Appraisal**  
**The Clubhouse, Hong Kong Golf Club Fanling Golf Course,**  
**Fan Kam Road, Fanling, N.T.**

The Fanling Golf Course had been laid out by 1911 and the **Clubhouse** *Historical Interest* was built in **1914**, after the Kowloon-Canton Railway pushed through in 1910. The Hong Kong Golf Club was set up in 1889 with its first course at infield of the racecourse in Happy Valley. At that time the racecourse had to be shared with the navy, army and other recreational clubs for their activities such as drills, polo, football, hockey, etc. The shared use of the ground caused much inconvenience to the golf players, for example, they could not drill holes on the grassland. Therefore, they had long been call for a new location specifically for golf playing.

The year of 1898 marked the signing of the Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory (展拓香港界址專條) whereby a large land later known as the New Territories (N.T.) was put under the British control. The British acquisition of the N.T. gave those living in the urban areas a chance to extend their livelihood northward. Later on, the Hong Kong Golf Club acquired from the N.T. villagers a large section of land near Kam Tsin (金錢) of Fanling as the new golf course in view of its vicinity to the Kowloon-Canton Railway.

Before the construction of the Clubhouse, a matshed was erected at the 9th hole where a half-way house (小食亭) (Grade 3) is now on the golf course, which allowed the golfers to take a rickshaw to the 1st tee and then send it on with lunch and drinks to the 9th. In 1912, an additional 55.62 acres were added to the Club's land and in 1913 another matshed was erected as a gathering point for the golfers. The Clubhouse was completed in 1914 to provide a resting and socializing place for the male members of the golf club. The first floor was equipped with accommodation facilities of a changing room, cubicle bathrooms fitted with Shanghai tub and a dormitory with cots covered by mosquito nets.

During the period 1941-45 the golf course was taken over by the Japanese. Trees were cut down for fuel, and most of the greens were used for vegetables cultivation. After the war the Clubhouse was handed back to the Golf Club, and fully restored in the 1950s, during which a new doorway was opened from the changing room to the car park. During the 1970s and 1990s, two extensions were built adjacent to the original Clubhouse in order to provide space for a new caddie shelter, shop, club storage room, bedrooms, dining room, bar and changing rooms for both sexes.

The 'Dormie House' – as it was originally known – was designed by E. J. *Architectural*

Ram of **Messrs. Dennison, Ram & Gibbs**, an architectural practice which later evolved into **Messrs. Leigh & Orange** – which was also responsible for the design of the historic Ohel Leah Synagogue (1902) (Grade 1). The Clubhouse is a two-storey structure built to a symmetrical T-shaped plan of north-south orientation with the front façade facing south. *Merit*

In front of the Clubhouse is the spacious lawn of putting green. A small flight of steps leads to the porch at the front of the Clubhouse. The façade is supported by six **classical columns** of Doric plinths and capitals, providing a shadow area for a rest. Above the porch there is a balcony for the first floor, with windows and doors regularly arranged. Other external features include the horizontal strip of **dentil ornament** at the cornice and the two **chimney stacks** on the roof. Externally the building is painted in bright white.

Architectural alterations to the Clubhouse were carried out in the past. For example, the small extension on the left hand side was built in 1992 and the large extension on the right hand side was built in 1970. Externally, the original wooden casement windows have been replaced by the metal-framed ones. The original ceramic tiles at the roof have been replaced by corrugated sheets. Internally, a re-modelling of its interiors (designed by Messrs. Leigh & Orange) was carried out in 1958. The Clubhouse's interiors are painted in light white and light brown. There is a large lobby at the ground floor, with bar and chairs nicely arranged. A fireplace can also be found there. At the end of the lobby there is an arch leading to the staircase to the first floor.

This Clubhouse, having existed for almost one century, certainly has built heritage value. Despite the alterations and extensions, the original Clubhouse remains as the facility building which has been serving the Club members for nearly a century. Externally the six classical columns, two chimney stacks and the pitched roof have kept their authenticity to a large extent. *Rarity, Built Heritage Value & Authenticity*

The Fanling Golf Course is dubbed one of Asia's most scenic and historic courses. It is also the playing field of the Hong Kong Open champion since its inception in 1959, which means that it is historically important. Many ancestral graves of the nearby villagers are scattered on the golf course. *Social Value & Local Interest*

The Clubhouse has group value with the half-way house (小食亭) (Grade 3) and the Fanling Lodge. Nearby there are two declared monuments: Hau Ku Shek Ancestral Hall (居石侯公祠) and Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall (廖萬石堂) as well as Hau Mei Fung Ancestral Hall (味峰侯公祠) (Grade 1), and a number of historic buildings at Tsung Pak Long (松柏塱) such as Hakka Wai *Group Value*

(客家圍) (Grade 1).