



**HM SHIPS PEACOCK, PLOVER AND STARLING  
EXERCISING IN HONG KONG WATERS  
WITH TWO FAST PURSUIT CRAFT  
1992**

The next major event in the history of the squadron took place on 19th November 1984 when HMS Peacock and HMS Plover arrived in Hong Kong. These were the first two of a new class of vessel designed especially by Hall Russell of Aberdeen for service with the Royal Navy in Hong Kong. HMS Starling joined the squadron in January 1985, and HMS Swallow followed it in April with HMS Swift joining later in the year. The new Hong Kong Squadron was now complete.

This however was not the end, in 1988 HMS Swallow and HMS Swift departed these shores together with the 3rd Raiding Squadron Royal marines. This left HM ships Plover, Peacock, and Starling each with its own Royal Ma-

rines detachment to continue, as they do today, with the spirit and determination associated with the Hong Kong Squadron.

The squadron's primary role is to assist in maintaining Hong Kong's stability and the integrity of her territorial waters. It co-operates closely with the Royal Hong Kong Police, the Immigration department, Marine and Customs and Excise departments. It also functions as an ocean search and rescue service. In Hong Kong today the squadron is called in to perform these tasks regularly, with the high risk Anti-Smuggling Ops thrown in for good measure. We will be here to wish Hong Kong a bright future and prosperity in 1997.

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## AN UNBIASED REPORT!!

**OK, SO THE** team that have put this publication together may be just a little bit biased. All being members of either the management or committee, and all being serving or ex-serving Royal Navy ratings. To discover a truly un-biased opinion we need look no further than the guests that have stayed here over the years.

The following paragraphs show just what sort of impression the China Fleet Club left on some of its paying guests:

This hotel is excellently run, everyone has been helpful and kind. I can only express regret that it will be closing down. A great loss to Service and ex-Service people.

- YORK

Regret closure of an excellent facility.

- NEW ZEALAND

My last experience of the China Fleet Club was in 1949. We wondered how the new club would compare - we are pleased that all the old traditions of friendship and hospitality have been maintained.

- WEST MIDLANDS

The Fleet Club continues to maintain its reputation. It's a shame that it must close.

- HAMPSHIRE

For the past thirty years I have enjoyed the China Fleet Club. When I had the opportunity to vacation with my wife for the first time, I couldn't think of a better place.

-TAIWAN

Efficient, courteous, friendly staff, combined with clean, smart rooms and good food made for a relaxing last two days in Hong Kong after the rigours of a MQ outmaster!!

- DEVON

Restaurant facilities excellent, menu's are very good - accomodation floor staff very helpful and courteous as are reception staff. Saddened to hear of the possible closure of this "haven" which will be a sad loss to all.

- KENT

We love you - please don't go.

- OXON

Obviously not all comments received from guests were as favourable as the above. Just to show that the editorial team are willing to show the faults as well as the better points, we thought we would include at least one, of the very few, unfavourable comments:

.....Though sometimes the toilet was a little difficult to flush!!

HELSTON

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## VIP VISITORS

**SINCE 1954 THE** China Fleet Club has managed to carefully preserve a valuable VIP's visitors book and to say there are a few personalities within its dark and dusty pages would be a small tall story.

Our first thoughts were to mention some of the 'star' names but as none of us are close to being experts in deciphering signatures, the task proved impossible, especially since we think some had paid a visit to one of our illustrious bars prior to putting pen to paper.

So in the interest of brevity and in no particular order - deep breath!

Governors of Hong Kong	3	First Sea Lords	7
Second Sea Lords	8	Admirals of the Fleet	2
Ships CO's	65	Members of Parliament	10
Cincfleets	4	Captains of the Fleet F.E.S	14
CBF's	6	Director WRNS	4

Queen's Messengers	1
Naval Provost Marshalls	1 (WHY?!)
Bishops of Dover	1

To everyone, in whatever capacity you made your visit, thank you. Judging by the number of people to return, you certainly enjoyed a hearty welcome.

### The China Fleet Club - The Managers

Mr. F. Hill	March 1934 - December 1941
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#### Jan. 1942 - Sept., 1945 Japanese occupation

Mr. W.J. Waghorn	October 1945
Mr. H.H. Greenslade	March 1949
Mr. J.T.J. King	November 1952
Mr. J. Fairless	April 1956
Mr. C.H. Rowe	April 1959
Mr. K.L. Palmer	July 1964
Mr. D.J. Cooper	November 1969
Mr. J.F. Mephram	August 1974
Mr. P.R. Baldwin	March 1980
Mr. D.B. Watts	April 1989

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## THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

**THROUGHOUT THE HISTORY** of the China Fleet Club many different causes, both Naval and Civilian, have benefitted from donations granted by the Charitable Trust.

To list all grants, donations, sponsorship and other types of assistance made in the club's history would probably fill the whole of this publication. To give an indication of the sums of money provided by the Trust, listed below are details of the amounts allocated during the club's final seven years.

ANNUAL GRANTS TO HMS TAMAR WELFARE FUND	HK\$ 430,000.00
ANNUAL GRANTS TO THE HONG KONG SEA SCHOOL FOR STUDENT SPONSORSHIP	HK\$ 116,400.00
BONHAM TOWERS COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT	HK\$ 312,119.38
HARCOURT COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT	HK\$ 189,850.08
PORTSMOUTH HOME CLUB REFURBISHMENT	£ 600,000.00
CHINA FLEET COUNTRY CLUB SALTASH	£ 10,000,000.00
MINOR GRANTS	HK\$342,401.00
MAJOR DONATION FOR STEPHANIE NG, DAUGHTER OF A MEMBER OF STAFF, FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY	HK\$50,000.00
DONATION TO PROJECT 'ORBIS', MOBILE EYE SURGERY UNIT	HK\$10,000.00

Overall a total donation of nearly HK\$ 1,500,000 has been made in Hong Kong with an additional £ 10,600,000 to benefit the men of the fleet in the UK. We feel sure that there will be a large number of people looking back on the China Fleet Club with more than just fond memories.



**GENERAL COMMITTEE**  
Back Row (From Left)

LRO HADDEN, WREN KELLIE,  
RPO SPEAR, LWTR WAGSTAFF,  
CPO ILES, WO PAYNE.

Front Row (From Left)

CAROLINE FIELD, MR. WATTS,  
CAPTAIN T SUNTER RN,  
CDR M K HEMSWORTH RN,  
CPO MCHALE.

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## MEMORIES

**OVER THE YEARS** countless members of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines have visited the China Fleet Club. Many Associate Members and Guests have also sampled the facilities the club has to offer. What memories will they have of the club?

A group of Ratings currently serving in Hong Kong, give their feelings on the closure of the club below.



The closure of the China Fleet Club will be a very sad occasion after nearly 60 years of service to the ratings of the Royal Navy and the military and civilian communities of Hong Kong. Many ratings of today's Navy have never seen the Club. I count myself for-

fortunate in having seen the old and the new and in a strange way it is a proud moment to be in Hong Kong at the Club's closure knowing that despite the sadness of the closure, the ratings of the Royal Navy will continue to benefit from the forethought of their long gone predecessors, through the founding of the China Fleet Country Club.

WOMEA Trevor Payne



Where do I begin? A "Point D'appui" for not only Naval, but Associate Members and Guests. Who hasn't stayed in one of three lounges until last orders and beyond? The shops are another delight, often I, amongst others, have wandered around with eyes bigger than my purse, arms already

overloaded. Having played a small but very rewarding part in the Christmas Pantomime perhaps the thing I shall miss most is the Auditorium. Entertaining hundreds (or was it thousands?) of eager audiences will remain etched in my memory as one of the highlights of using the club. Knowing that this facility will no longer be available for such occasions will perhaps be the greatest loss of all.

WRNWTR Dawn Mosley



This is my second tour in Hong Kong, and I remember leaving the last time in 1981 having a beer in the "Old China Fleet". In the corner were the same old crowd that mustered every Saturday lunchtime. We had a couple of San Migs, I said my goodbye's and

left never to return. Drafty in his wisdom sent me back in 1990. First Saturday, first stop, the "New China Fleet Club". Into the Kelly Lounge and who should be there but the same people I had left nearly ten years previously! Some have returned to UK, some have passed away, but the China Fleet for me will always be the place where you could meet and greet old friends. It will always be fondly remembered.

WOMEA Jim Copeland



Convenient because it is Situated close to TAMAR, and even closer to Wanchai, I have used the Fleet Club on numerous occasions. For shopping in its excellent American Shopping Mall, for meals in the Amethyst restaurant, for various functions in the Fleet

Rooms and for the recreational facilities. I feel that I will miss, more than anything, the Kelly Bar, which has provided both myself and I am sure thousands of predecessors with an oasis of tranquillity in the midst of the bedlam which is Hong Kong.

POWTR Billy Bremner



## OUR FUTURE

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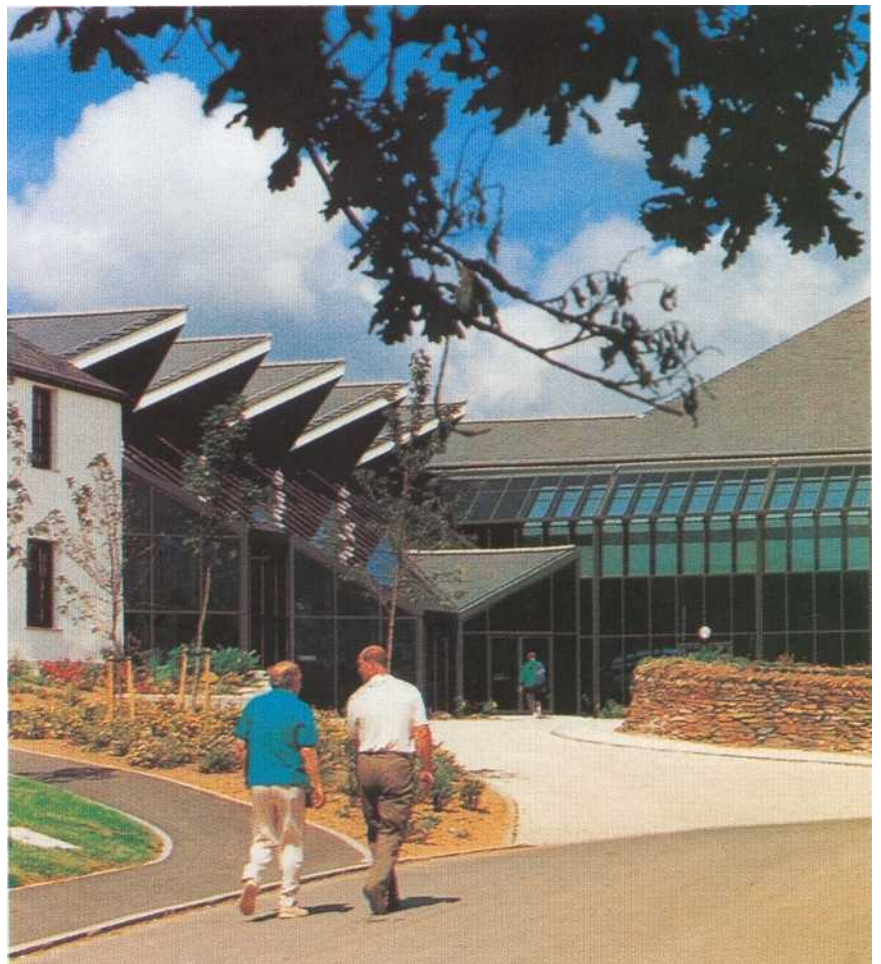
### CHINA FLEET CLUB, SALTASH, CORNWALL



### FROM THE ASHES THE PHOENIX RISES

**ON THE 14TH** April 1989 a ground-breaking ceremony occurred and on 1st June 1991 the Mayor of Saltash, Councillor Susan Hooper, opened the club for business. The club was formally opened by His Royal Highness Prince Charles, Prince of Wales on 5 December 1991.

The purchase of the club land and the construction of the buildings and facilities were paid for entirely from funds realised on the sale of the assets of the China Fleet Club in Hong Kong. The club is situated on the site of Skinham Farm, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The farmhouse and barn, which are Grade 2 listed buildings, have been incorporated into the new complex. The club land extends to 180 acres, most of which is now taken up by the golf course.



### HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

The club has forty self-catering holiday apartments. Set close to the clubhouse, and bounded on the other side by the golf course, this is a truly idyllic location for a holiday or a home-from-home for those with husbands (or wives) in ships.

Most of the apartments are four-berth, with a few six-berth. The bedroom in the four-berth units contain single beds and there is a double sofa-bed in the sitting room. The second bedroom in the six-berths has two bunk beds. Cots are available if needed.



All apartments have a fully-fitted kitchen. The television, video, telephone and energy are all included in the price. In fact, everything is provided except towels, cleaning materials and food. A coin-operated launderette is a short step away. A baby-listening system is fitted. When staying in the apartments, you enjoy membership of the club and can use all the facilities on the same basis as other members. Prices are per apartment per day - where applicable the cost of Temporary Associate Membership is extra.



Apartments are let for a minimum period of three nights. An administrative charge is made for a shorter period. Six 'hotel' rooms are also available for which the minimum stay is only one night. Those who reserve an apartment can book certain facilities including the golf, up to a month ahead.

## **SPORT AND LEISURE**

There are activities galore at the club. Most are reserved for members, but the hiring out of facilities by outside organisations does occur at off-peak times.

The leisure pool is a prime attraction, with its laned twenty five metre lagoon pool shallows, water cannon, seventy-five metre flume, children's rock pool and tropical sitting-out area. The Beauty and Fitness Suite offers aerobics, a full range of weights and fitness equipment, and a small beauty salon. The suite also includes a jacuzzi and sauna, and sun beds are available separately. The sports hall, known as the Clubswinger, offers a wide choice of sports, including badminton, basketball, five-a-side soccer, hockey, volleyball and short



tennis. Also available are two squash courts, tennis courts, snooker and a traditional skittle alley.



## CATERING

The China Fleet Country Club's food and beverage manager heads the club's catering and banqueting department. With a restaurant, three bars and a comprehensive banqueting service all operating to the highest possible standards, the China Fleet Country Club provides the ideal venue for many events at very competitive rates.



The banqueting services are extensive, covering, for example, business and company events, dinner-dances, official dinners, cocktail parties and receptions for thirty to five hundred people. The club's Kingsmill Suite seats up to fifty-five for meetings and dinners and also provides space for smaller receptions, or can be used as hospitality rooms as part of larger events. Greater numbers are catered for in the

Clubswinger, which converts into a tented banqueting hall.

The club has a wide range of menus to suit all events - from formal dinner to a buffet or reception. The Farmhouse restaurant has sixty covers, and the Navy and Tamar bars serve real ale and a wide choice of food.

## GOLFERS CORNER

The club boasts a first-class par seventy-two eighteen hole golf course of 6,550 yards. Even the non-golfer cannot fail to be charmed by the scenic beauty of the rolling countryside, the woods, and the extensive water frontage. A challenge for the experienced player, but not too daunting for the novice, this is a course with an excellent reputation gained within weeks of opening.

The tee must be booked. The course is normally closed on Mondays and restrictions may apply on other days. Needless to say but, book early, as demand very often exceeds supply for this exciting course.

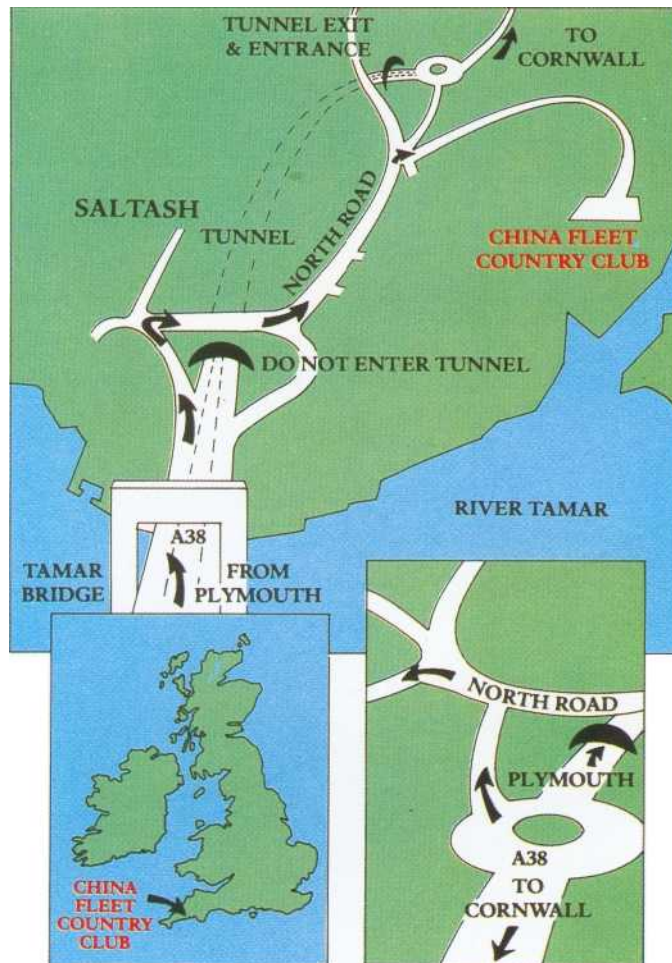




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## FINDING OUR NEW HOME

**THE COUNTRY CLUB** is only one mile from the Tamar Bridge as shown on the map. Approaching from Devon, continue over the Tamar Bridge, keep to nearside lane and take the first exit left, and then immediately right.



Approaching from Cornwall on the A38, turn left at the small roundabout immediately before the tunnel. You will find the club signposted on the left.

The China Fleet Club, Hong Kong, is exceptionally proud of the efforts made by our friends in the UK to give our new 'Dragon' breath. We hope you can find the time and have the pleasure of paying this wonderful club a visit in the near future.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS AT: China Fleet Country Club TEL: 01752 848668  
Saltash FAX: 01752 848456  
Cornwall  
PL12 6LJ  
ENGLAND



