

GM Report to Board of Directors

April 11, 2025

BOARD KEY DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Advertising value (e.g. Marunouchi Tokyo brand).
- Children in club facilities and at events, and age restrictions.
- Reducing the initiation fee for Regular members.
- Revising the Guest Membership policy.

CLUB & FACILITY

- **Met with Nihon Monitor** regarding the value of club advertising/sponsorship, such as the Mitsubishi brand “Marunouchi Tokyo” in the club banner and table-skirt. I would like Board guidance on two options:
 - Retain Nihon Monitor to provide an estimate on the value of the advertising of Marunouchi Tokyo in the banner and table-skirt. The fee would be between 100,000 yen and 500,000 yen depending on the level of research requested. The Marunouchi Tokyo banner agreement was valued at 1.75 million yen per month in a rent discount for 2.5 years. The table-skirt agreement is ongoing and is 227,272 yen in monthly revenue. Unofficial value estimated at: TBC
 - Or, at no cost, issue a joint press release with Nihon Monitor openly seeking advertisers. This could be limited to the banner and table-skirt, but could also be expanded to include options as advertising on the website or in club email etc. This would need to be structured and iron-cast to protect the club from any potential influencing of course, but it also could be a basis for retaining multiple advertisers and sponsors. Advertisers may have some branding in the banner and other high visibility areas, whereas sponsors would be able to publicly state they support freedom of the press and the FCCJ through donations to the FCCJ. Unofficial value estimated as up to: TBC
- **Regarding children at the club**, some comments have been received from both members and staff, and I have observed children under the age of 12 in the Main Bar on weekdays on several occasions. To initiate discussion, I would like to suggest the following to replace the current guidelines:
 - Children must be accompanied by a member at all times and shall conform to generally accepted standards of good behavior.
 - Children refers to anyone under the age of 18, member and nonmember.
 - Children may be guests in the Pen & Quill and Masukomi Sushi Bar for lunch and dinner.
 - Children may be guests in the Main Bar **on Saturdays only**, and until 5pm on weekdays in August. Additional restrictions may apply when there are events in the Main Bar.
 - Children may attend private functions and club events as deemed appropriate by the organizer.
 - Children shall not have access to the Library or meeting rooms.
 - **Current Rules Regarding Children:** Because this is a private club used by some for professional purpose, the presence of young children is not encouraged. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult when in the club. The FCCJ **welcomes families to use the Main Dining room (Pen & Quill)**, as well as the special programs provided for families. However, **members'**

children aged 12 or above will be allowed access to the Main Bar until 5 p.m. on weekdays and also children under 18 are permitted in the Main Bar on Saturdays and on Sundays when the Main Dining Room is closed, provided that they are under the supervision of the member parent or grandparent. A few members have on occasion assumed a right to bring children into the Main Bar. This has resulted in awkward situations for other members and for the staff. The staff is instructed to ask anyone bringing children into the bar area at inappropriate times to leave. Members who bring children to the Club are, of course, expected to keep them quiet and under control at all times.

- Ricoh declined to barter in exchange for a membership card printer and software, however they will reduce the cost from 2.3 million yen. Waiting on revised estimate.
- Waiting for proposal from third-party for potential monetization of club archive.

STAFF

- The union formally accepted without any disagreement the new work rules regarding childcare and family care leave and workplace harassment.
- Iwamura-san has accepted new contract.
- Staff lunch will be held on April 13 with 19 attendees.
- Two staff remain on long-term sick leave.

MAIN BAR

- ANAC requested to increase prices across the Board from April, Management has agreed in general, but with effect from May 1. ANAC noted that the price of ingredients has risen significantly since taking over operations in October 2023, for example main ingredients have risen by 18%, but soft drinks have risen by 40%. ANAC reported they have tried to maintain prices by switching to alternative products, but it is simply not feasible. ANAC also stated they lost 27,466,000 yen from April 2023 to February 2024.
 - Food menus will increase by 100 yen for items under 1,000 yen, by 150 yen for items between 1,000-1,500 yen, and by 200 yen for items over 1,500 yen.
 - House wine will increase by 300 yen per bottle, but no increase per glass.
 - Soft drinks, including coffee, tea, coke etc, will increase by 50 yen.
 - Management requested to keep the Correspondents' lunch under 1,500 yen including tax. The new price will be 1,496 yen (previously 1,430 yen) with coffee/tea reduced to one cup.
 - The price of the hamburger and cheeseburger will not change until management and the Food & Beverage Committee agree the quality is consistent and improved.

MEMBERSHIP

- Planning to hold monthly new-member orientations.
- In view of the minimal number of Regular members applicants and drastic reduction over the years in this, the club's pool of voting members and Board candidates, Management proposes for discussion making the initiation fee zero yen, or a nominal 1,000 yen. Currently the initiation fee is 37,500 yen for Regular members, and 2,000 yen for Young Regular (under 40) and Outside Kanto Regular (defined as living and

working predominantly outside of Tokyo-to, and Saitama, Chiba, Kanagawa, and Yamanashi prefectures). Approval to change the initiation fee requires a vote at a General Meeting.

- The Articles and Bylaws define a **Guest Member** as a person on a brief visit to Japan who is recognized by the Board of Directors as otherwise basically qualified as a Regular, Professional Associate or Associate Member. Any Regular member may also sponsor a Guest membership. However, the Bylaws limits Guest membership to a period of thirty days, and may be extended twice for thirty days each time upon Board approval. In the event a Guest membership is extended beyond the initial thirty days, the Guest member shall be required to pay retroactively one month's dues for the first thirty-day period of Guest membership and shall also pay monthly dues in advance for each subsequent thirty-day period (or part thereof) during which the Guest membership continues. Longstanding club practice is for Guest Membership to be for a period of one month, and not 30 days as stipulated in the Bylaws, and any extension also for one month. The extension also does not require Board approval as stipulated in the Bylaws. Management recommends revising the length to be one month for reciprocal press clubs, for ease of date setting when extending, and enabling the sponsoring party or management to approve the extension. Management also recommends limiting the number of times a Guest membership may be utilized annually, there is currently no limit.
 - In addition, Management previously noted the intention to increase the number of reciprocal clubs, from outside of press clubs, however the standard for these clubs is often limited to two-week visits, three times annually.

MASUKOMI SUSHI BAR

- Improved revenue trend continues, March 3.6M vs. 2.7M in February 2025, and 2.3M in March 2024.

RECEPTION

- Donation box for Hanif placed at Reception and member generosity is heartwarming.

LIBRARY

- Met with Kyodo News Digital to discuss possible reduction in cost from current 3.6 million yen.
- Reviewing printer and copy machine system used by members.

CLUB EVENTS (EXCLUDING PAC)

April 12 Saturday Nite Live

April 15 Film Screening

April 25 Palace Run

April 26 Shakespeare

April 30 Exhibition Reception

May 7 or 8 Film Screening

May 8 PAC: Documentary & Press Conference

May 14 Book Break

May 16 Tokyo Sinfonia

May 21 Hanif Farewell

May 30 Freedom of the Press Awards

May 26 Wine Tasting

May 28 Student Tour

June 4 Exhibition Reception

June 7 Shakespeare