Ian Brownlee

Ian Brownlee arrived in Hong Kong from New Zealand in 1977 and played for the Valley Rugby Club.  He represented Hong Kong in 1978-79. In 1985 he started coaching Valley and continued for 15 years winning championships in 13 of those years. In 1986 he was appointed National coach for the Hong Kong 7’s team and  15’s team.  He was on the HKRU Board during that time and initiated the Development Program to address the looming loss of rugby players which, would occur in 1997 with the British Forces leaving Hong Kong and fewer rugby players in the Hong Kong Police.  The development system put in place at that time resulted in the progressive increase in players up to the numbers now involved.   He was instrumental in keeping  Kings Park as a sports ground and not becoming a housing site after the military handed it back to the Hong Kong Government in 1997.  In 1998 -2000 (please check dates) he was Director of Facilities on the HKRU Board and initiated the development of a rugby pitch at Tin Shui Wai, which was a new town he had helped plan when working for the Hong Kong Government. In 2000 he coached struggling Aberdeen Rugby Club to their first-ever, surprising, Grand Final victory over his old club Valley, something they have never forgotten !