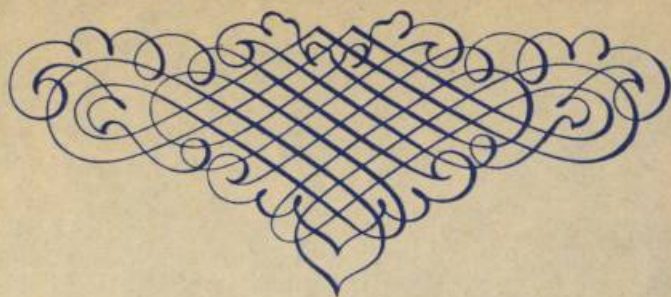


ROYAL VISIT PRESS RELEASE



Wednesday, April 2, 1975

MORSE PARK - OASIS IN DESERT OF CONCRETE

Thousands Of Young People Will Have Chance To See Queen

When the Queen visits the Morse Park swimming pool on the morning of May 5, thousands of people will be on hand to welcome her, and most of them will be members of the younger generation whom the Queen always enjoys meeting.

The season will then be in full swing, and the swimmers will have come from the teeming estates of Wang Tau Hom, Lok Fu, Wong Tai Sin and Tung Tau. For them, the Morse Park swimming pool complex is an oasis in the concrete desert of the four biggest housing estates in Kowloon.

The Queen will be the second member of the Royal family to visit the complex. In 1972, Princess Alexandra was also there.

Like the other six swimming pool complexes on either side of the harbour, the Morse Park project was financed for the Urban Council and the Urban Services Department by the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, which had also given a large grant towards the development of the 44-acre Morse Park itself.

Morse Park holds the record for the highest number of attendances at any public swimming pool on a single day - 13,300 on one occasion last year.

/The pool

The pool was officially opened on December 4, 1970, by the then chairman of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club, Mr. J.A.H. (now Sir John) Saunders.

It consists of one 50 by 21 metres main pool, one 50 by 20 metres secondary pool, one diving pool, one paddling pool, and a children's play area. Other facilities include covered refreshment areas for swimmers once they leave the pool, and a covered grandstand with room for more than 800.

This grandstand is usually packed with excited, shouting children - and sometimes excited, shouting parents - when, many times during the swimming season, galas or school swimming championships are held in the pale-blue, inviting water of the Olympic-size main pool.

Morse Park itself, outside the complex, provides a wide range of recreational amenities, including basketball courts, a roller-skating rink, and an open-air theatre.

The Park is managed by the Urban Services Department on behalf of the Urban Council, and provides an outlet for youthful energy in the off-season months of December, January, and February when the pools are closed.