



Chairman's report September 01 2022 to August 31 2023

David Fulton

Introduction

I am pleased to report that another successful year can be recorded, and all the signs for the Club's future are very encouraging indeed. While the difficult period caused by Covid will remain part of the Club's history, so too will the special efforts of a hard working committee, supportive members, and a rota of enthusiastic and qualified wine educators to keep us informed and entertained.

Our subscription year now runs from January - December, in line with our programme of monthly meetings.

The transfer to The Old Barn Hall has proved to be successful. Members, particularly our new ones, appreciate the opportunity to meet and socialise with different members each month.

Membership

We now have 85 members, and a waiting list of 19.

Roger Stafford, our Membership Secretary, has played a significant role in managing our membership, including regular contact with the waiting list to keep them involved best he can - this includes inviting them to at least two meetings a year, and also to our special events.

A strong membership is important. It gives the Club flexibility, enables us to cope with rising costs, and invest in our monthly meetings and occasional events. It also helps us to contribute to our community with donations made this year to the BCA (Bookham Community Association) and to the local Food Bank.

Financials

Kevin Forder, Treasurer, has kept the Club on 'an even keel' as you will see from his financial report. Our aim to maintain a balance of £2000.00 has been achieved. Online banking and payments continue to work well, although sadly we have been unable to continue with payments by card on the night due to restrictive banking regulations. Kevin's management of the financials has been much appreciated.

Thanks also go to Paul Sanders for acting as our 'auditor' again for 2022/23.

Membership fee 2024

I am pleased to say that the annual membership fee will remain at £20.00 from January 01 2024.



The Monthly Raffle

The monthly raffles managed by Patricia Robinson continue to contribute meaningfully to our finances. Patricia's enthusiasm and commitment is much appreciated.

Meetings and Tastings

Our Club President, Heather Dougherty, continues to provide much appreciated support, quietly in the background ... always available to share her knowledge on all things wine, giving our meeting and events an extra 'edge.'

In December 2022, we celebrated Christmas with a festive supper and wine tasting. The evening was enjoyed by all members and guests attending.

At the last weekend in July 2023 we organised a wine tasting evening in partnership with Laithwaites, followed by a superb Hog Roast main course, plus cheese and desserts; all expertly planned and managed by Ian Robinson. A very successful evening enjoyed by all members and guests.

These events require a great deal of work to ensure success. We have Ian Robinson to thank for the events we have enjoyed, together with the help of many 'stalwart' volunteers, too many to mention 'but you know who you are!'

Our regular monthly programme of wine tastings has provided members with a great variety of wines, themes, and many countries visited. Our presenters have entertained and imparted their knowledge. Eric Martin has managed our rota of monthly pourers and jug washers; thanks also go to our volunteers for pouring the wine and washing.

All the details of our meetings are to be found on the Club's website, which I hope you visit regularly!

Communications

The increasing use of the Internet and email has helped the Club to communicate efficiently with members, particularly with invitations to meetings and the facility for members to RSVP and pay their fees for their attendance, enabling the committee to plan accordingly.

The website continues to provide an excellent 'shop window' and information hub for members and the wider community.



My thanks to Kate and Claudio Ramponi who are responsible for managing the Club's IT. Claudio is also on hand to settle our presenters in with their laptop connections to our projector.

Committee Structure 2023/24

There are important committee changes planned for 2023/24. These are:

Chairman: I am stepping down after five years and Kevin Forder has agreed to take on the Chairman's role and duties. I will also cease to act as Programme Manager.

Treasurer: Kevin will hand on his role of Treasurer to new committee member Derek Buck.

Secretary: Sandra Holland will pass on her role of Secretary to David Read, also a new committee member.

Membership Secretary: Roger Stafford will pass on his role to Sandra Holland

Programme Manager: Roger Stafford will become Programme Manager

Eric Martin and Philip Spooner will continue as committee members, while Ian Robinson and Vivienne Varley wish to step down - Patricia Robinson also wishes to 'retire' from her raffle duties.

We now need to gain your approval on the new committee, and the proposed changes we plan to make.

I would like to record my thanks to all committee members, and Patricia, for their unstinting support and contributions to the management of BWC, and its success.

I am confident your 'new' committee will enable BWC to continue successfully.

Programme 2024

Following the formal aspects of the AGM I will present our new programme for 2024.

Thank you

Best wishes
David Fulton
Chairman

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