

# **Whitewater Valley Wine Society**

*Secretary: Keith Cooper, 07976 272822*

## ***Agenda for Annual General Meeting***

***To be held by Zoom on Wednesday 10th February 2021  
at 8pm***

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM (shown on pages 2 and 3)
3. Combined Chairman's & Secretary's report (see page 4)
4. Treasurer's report (see pages 5 and 6)
5. Election of Officers & Committee
  - Election of Chairperson
  - Election of Secretary
  - Election of Treasurer
  - Election of Committee Members

(Note: Nominations may be received until 12 noon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. See page 7 for instructions on how to be nominated.)

6. Any other AGM business

**WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The meeting commenced at 8.03 pm.

**Apologies for Absence:** Gerrie Bailey, Keith Betton, Mike Etherington, Richard Ford, Annie & Wishav Goel, Terry Holdsworth, Alice Matlak, Paula Mitten, Sue Moore, Peter Morrison, Bridget Sears, Jan Selwood, Tony & June Wallis, Nick Walters, Paul Wright.

**Minutes 2019 AGM:** These were accepted as a true record.

**Proposed By:** Alastair Dudley      **Seconded By:** Margaret Steer and then approved by members.

**Secretary's Report:**

Keith Cooper started his report by giving thanks to the following people:

- Margaret Steer for acting as Chairperson for the first part of the year and organising last year's Donnington event;
- Jim King for taking on the role of Interim Chair to chair our committee meetings, keeping us in order and his overall contribution to the Society plus organising the starter wines every tasting;
- Ian Johnson for all his work on the accounts, including the annual inspection, handling all the monies and membership;
- Nesta Downey for organising all the food and nibbles; in the production and printing of marketing material to attract new members; organising the Christmas tasting;
- Barbara Jones for doing the tasting notes for Hook Focus, minutes for committee meetings and the AGM.
- He then thanks other regular members for their help and support – Brian Mullins for organising pourers. Barbara Mullins for her help with the raffle, all pourers during the year, all who have organised food and nibbles.
- He ended by summarising his own responsibilities:
  - Day to day liaison with members; organising the speakers; circulating news releases and tasting information; running the website.
  - He summarised the range of speakers for the 2019/20 year – 5 were new, 3 were welcomed back. Highlights for him were Jo Locke MW, Leah Seresin and Janina Doyle from Vina Ventisquero.
  - The informal dining evening at the Falcon was regarded as successful and will probably be repeated this year.
  - He reminded all members to use our website.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Ian Johnson made reference to the Financial Report that had already been circulated. Some cost increases have occurred as predicted but that the Society remains sound with a small loss of under £100;

- Membership has fallen from 65 to the mid-50s with people moving away etc. but as attendance has remained consistent at an average of 42 he sees no reason to increase membership/tasting charges;
- He remarked that the move to on-line banking had been a success and thanked the membership for their cooperation;
- That as this is his 6<sup>th</sup> year as Treasurer he confirmed that he would not be standing for election from 2021 onwards.

Acceptance of the Audited Accounts was:

**Proposed by:** Brian John    **Seconded by:** Dave Palmer

The Accounts were then approved by Members.

### **Election of Officers and Committee:**

The following individuals have been nominated:

- Jim King is offering to continue as Interim Chairperson;
- Keith Cooper is offering to stand for re-election as Secretary;
- Ian Johnson is offering to stand for re-election as Treasurer;
- Barbara Jones, Nesta Downey, Clive Gibbons and Richard Ford are offering to stand for re-election/election as Committee Members.

All present agreed to vote collectively for the new Committee.

**Acceptance was Proposed by:** Liz Cooper                    **Seconded by:** Margaret Steer.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

## **Chair/Secretary's Report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

When we held our AGM last year, most of us had not even heard of Covid. So we cannot possibly have imagined how it would affect our lives, including our ability to meet as a wine club. We held only three meetings during the year, the last in March when we welcomed Stuart Porter from Corney & Barrow.

As a Society, we decided not to attempt to run our own Zoom wine tastings as the logistical implications are significant. This decision was partly based on the fact that local merchants Caviste and Auriol both quickly stepped up to host regular Zoom wine tastings. It was good to see many members participate in these events and I'd continue to encourage others to do so for the time being.

Jim King continued in his role as Acting Chair during the first half of 2020. However, in early autumn he decided to stand down from the Committee for health reasons. I'm sure that you would all like to join me in thanking Jim for the enormous contribution he has made to our Committee over the past 9 years. The good news you'll all want to hear is that Jim will remain a regular at our tastings and he still intends to keep "order", as well as continuing to source our raffle and starter wines.

In the autumn, the Committee co-opted me as Chair. And soon after we were delighted to co-opt Andy Shadbolt as a Committee member.

I'd also like to thank Ian Johnson for the 6 years he has offered his services as Treasurer of our Society. It is no exaggeration to say that Ian has transformed our finances during this time. In particular, he has led the way to move us online and to a cashless organisation. We didn't know it at the time, but this will be an enormous benefit as we operate in post Covid times. Ian has been untiring in his efforts and, whilst he is now stepping down from the Committee, he too will remain a regular at our tastings.

Throughout the year our Committee has continued to meet online and I'd like to thank Nesta Downey, Richard Ford, Clive Gibbons and Barbara Jones, all of whom have offered to continue on our Committee for another year.

There will be some jiggling of roles as we enter the new year, assuming that the members vote us all in! I have offered to stand as Chair, keeping my role as coordinator of our speakers and maintenance of the website. Barbara Jones' existing role, taking AGM and Committee minutes and writing for Hook Focus, will become the Secretary role. Richard Ford has offered to become our Treasurer. And Clive Gibbons will become your regular contact to book for tastings and events. Nesta Downey will continue her role as food organiser. Along with Andy Shadbolt who is joining our Committee, I thank all of the team for their ongoing efforts as we look to relaunch activities during 2021.

With the vaccines now being rolled out, prospects are looking much better for our Society. It may be that we can resume some activities before others. So as well as regular tastings at The Raven, look out for some visits to local wineries across Hampshire and Surrey. And I'm keen to hold some supper and wine evenings in local restaurants. I'm sure you'll all agree that we have been too long apart!

Keith Cooper, Acting Chair.

## **Treasurers Report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

COVID has affected everyone in one way or another and the Wine Society is no exception. Looking at the income and expenditure report you can see the blanks where we would usually show the results of activities and a quick glance at the footings show a massive drop in income and expenditure from £24,426 to £7,451.

However the Society, from a financial perspective, remains in a very strong position to face whatever comes next as well as keeping sufficient cash balances to pay for wine orders when we again become active. We have also been able to delay our Insurance premium of around £215 until shortly before we restart our meetings which has been pivotal in keeping our overheads down so we finish up with a surplus.

In October I put a proposal to the Committee that given the reality of the situation of only three meetings this year and, at that time, hope of resumption was perceived to be the spring 2021 we share the annual subscription paid in 2020 with 2021. This was agreed unanimously and therefore this report reflects that decision.

The attached income and expenditure report would, I hope, be self-explanatory save for the heading member's balances. This is £401 reflects the £6.25 for each member (£394) carried forward to 2021 (plus a couple of minor balances from members). One of the first activities of the incoming treasurer will be to take these funds to subscriptions for 2021.

As announced at the last AGM I am standing down as Treasurer after six years and also from the committee. Taking up a post you always feel you want to make a difference and I certainly believe I have met that objective.

Apart from taking the accounting away from a spreadsheet basis I have introduced budgets and financial planning which has, without doubt, kept subscriptions and fees at the same level for the duration of my watch and despite "playing numbers" I have done my part in ensuring the Society has always provided good value for money for the many interesting wine experiences.

The move from cash and cheques was visionary and virtually eliminated the queue at the door so you can all start tasting earlier and be post COVID prepared. Only one member has never made a direct payment and that person is uncomfortable with making any online payment. The eagle eyed will have noticed that no cash balance appears in the accounts

Now I can relax at meetings but before that I would like to thank all those that have supported me along the way, my reviewer of the accounts and to wish the incoming treasurer good luck.

In proposing my report I have two resolutions for your decision.

- 1) Confirm the committee decision to split the subscription paid in 2020 with 2021
- 2) Fees for tasting to remain at £15.00 for the ensuing year.

Ian Johnson Retiring Treasurer.

Whitewater Valley Wine Society  
**31st DECEMBER 2020**  
 Receipts and payments for the year ended 31st December 2020

	Receipts			Overheads	
		2020	2019		2020
2019					
762	Subscriptions	394	491	Committee Expenses	166
			215	Insurance	
			70	Website	60
			150	Wine glass purchase	-28
			294	Advertising	
	<b>Monthly Meeting receipts</b>			<b>Monthly meeting expenses</b>	
6000	Meeting fees	1,650	5029	Speaker fees/wine	1179
469	Visitors fees	36	526	Pre meeting wine	137
1174	Raffle	282	419	Refreshments	127
70	Cancellation fees	10	1360	Hire of Raven Hotel	420
			406	Raffle Prize Costs	125
	<b>Social events</b>			<b>Social Events</b>	
5815	Donnington 2019		5445		
690	Vineyard Visit		650		
938	Falcon Visit		956		
8415	Wine order receipts	5,079	8415	Wine order purchases	5074
<u>24333</u>	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>7,451</u>	<u>24426</u>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>7260</u>
93	Loss for year			Profit for year	191
<u>24426</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>7,451</u>	<u>24426</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>7,451</u>

		2019		2020
Current Assets			Current Assets	
Bank Balance			Bank Balance	7,243
Cash			Cash	
<b>Total assets</b>			<b>Total assets</b>	<u>7,243</u>
Current Liabilities			Current Liabilities	
Subs in advance		50	Subs in advance	
Balance of accounts		152	Balance of accounts	401
Wine purchase in advance				
Donnington 2018				
Loss for year		-93	Profit for year	191
Retained income		6743	Retained income	6,650
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>6852</u>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>7,243</u>

Treasurer Whitewater Valley Wine Society  
 Ian Johnson

Signature

Inspection Certificate  
 Certified correct in accordance with records presented

Signature

31st December 2020

# **Whitewater Valley Wine Society**

*Secretary: Keith Cooper, 07976 272822*

## **Election of Officers and Committee**

***To take place during AGM  
to be held by Zoom on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021  
at 8pm***

Nominations are invited from Full Members to stand for an Officer (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer) or Committee position. If you wish to stand, please follow the instructions below.

1. The Full Member of the Society to be nominated (the Nominee) must be supported by a Proposer and a Secunder, both of whom must also be Full Members of the Society.
2. The Nominee must send an e-mail to the Secretary at [kcooper.medlar@btinternet.com](mailto:kcooper.medlar@btinternet.com) clearly stating
  - for which role (Chair/Secretary/Treasurer or Committee Member) the Nominee is being nominated.
  - Which Full Member is proposing the Nominee.
  - Which Full Member is seconding the Nominee.This e-mail must be received by latest 12 noon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021. This e-mail must be copied to both the Proposer and Secunder.
3. The Secretary will reply to the Nominee to acknowledge receipt of the nomination, copying the Proposer and Secunder.