

WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting

10th February 2021

The meeting commenced at 8.05 pm via Zoom

Apologies for Absence: Nigel and Nesta Downey, Gerrie Bailey, Sue Moore, Jim King

Minutes AGM 2020: These were approved and accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Proposed by: Tony Wallis

Seconded by: Andy Shadbolt

Combined Chair and Secretary Report:

Keith Cooper referred to his report which had been circulated with the AGM papers. He expressed his regret regarding our inability to meet because of the Covid pandemic. He explained why the Society had decided not to organise virtual tastings because of the massive logistical considerations involved and the fact that two local merchants were doing so – Auriol Wines and Caviste with many members participating.

KC specifically wanted to thank the following:

- Jim King, who 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. KC thanked Jim for the enormous contribution he has made to our Committee over the past 9 years.
- Ian Johnson, who for the last 6 years has offered his services as Treasurer of our Society. KC commented that 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.
- Nesta Downey, Richard Ford, Clive Gibbons and Barbara Jones, all of whom have offered to continue on our Committee for another year.

KC advised the meeting that there will be some changes on the Committee as we enter the new year:

- He is offering to stand as Chair, keeping his 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.
- Clive Gibbons will become your regular contact to book for tastings and events.
- Nesta Downey will continue her role as food organiser.
- Andy Shadbolt who has now formally joined our committee.

KC thanked all of the team for their ongoing efforts as we look to relaunch activities during 2021.

KC finished his report by commenting that, 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, he hopes there will be some visits to local wineries across Hampshire and Surrey. And he's keen to hold some supper and wine evenings in local restaurants.

Treasurer's Report:

Ian made reference to his recent report, already circulated, regarding the reduction in income because of the Pandemic. However, the Society continues to be financially strong and secure. The committee has already supported his suggestion of splitting the subscription paid in 2020 with 2021 and to keep subscription fees at £12.50 pa. He confirmed that he is standing down as Treasurer after 6 years and feels he has made a helpful contribution in introducing budgets and financial planning, thus ensuring good value for money wine experiences. He is especially pleased with the response of members to move to a cash-less organisation with on-line payments. [Raffle matters have still to be resolved]. He thanked members for their support and wished his successor, Richard Ford well. He ended by proposing two resolutions for members to accept:

- Confirm the committee decision to split the subscription paid in 2020 with 2021
- Fees for tasting to remain at £15 for the ensuing year

Resolutions were proposed by Clive Gibbons and Seconded by Alan Kent. Members present voted in favour.

Keith Cooper wished the retiring Treasurer a happy retirement!

Election of Officers and Committee

The following individuals have been nominated:

- Keith Cooper is offering to stand as Chairperson. Proposed by Alastair Dudley, seconded by Liz Cooper. This was carried by members.
- Barbara Jones is offering to stand as Secretary. Proposed by Richard Ford, seconded by Ken Pickworth. This was carried by members.
- Richard Ford is offering to stand as Treasurer. Proposed by Ian Johnson, seconded by Barbara Jones. This was carried by members.
- Nesta Downey is offering to stand as Committee Member. Proposed by Nigel Downey, seconded by Tony & June Wallis. This was carried by members.
- Clive Gibbons is offering to stand as Committee Member. Proposed by Keith Cooper, seconded by Richard Ford. This was carried by members.
- Andy Shadbolt is offering to stand as Committee Member. Proposed by Jim King, seconded by Keith Cooper. This was carried by members.

There being no other AGM related business the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

There followed a question regarding whether the Committee had any intention of organising any private Zoom tastings via local merchants. KC replied that he felt Auriol Wines, charging £35 for 2 people [wine collected] most probably had their hands full and Caviste's charge of £80-120 for two people [wine delivered] would most likely be considered too expensive and therefore impractical? Alastair Dudley added that Enjoy Discovering Wine's Alumni Club also have on-line tastings on a monthly basis for £40.00 [wine delivered].

KC ended the meeting by asking whether members would be interested in a Wine Quiz on 10th March. The response was positive.