

THE SAVOY SOCIETY
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

I should firstly like to thank the Committee for their support throughout the year, which on the whole has been a successful one for the Society, can I also take this opportunity to thank Stuart Johnson in absentia for his generous support in hosting tonight's AGM. It was disappointing that two events had to be cancelled, the summer party at Great Hallingbury Manor and the November dinner at the Hyatt Regency. It was felt that the summer party was too far to travel and a Sunday did not work particularly well despite the show of hands at the 2009 AGM. The November dinner was cancelled due to lack of support which reflected the economic conditions at the time. A splendid evening was held at the Reform Club last September and particular thanks go to Michael McKercher for his generosity in hosting that party which has enabled the Society to make charitable donations and to subsidise the summer party due to be held at the Leander Club on 23rd June. There will be a back to work party at the RAC Club on 6th September and the Annual November Dinner due to be held on 10th November, hopefully at the Hyatt Regency.

The Committee had felt that as the society was no longer a beggar as such, it could be tougher on members who had not paid their dues and these members had been written to and excluded from the society if it were evident that their membership was not going to be renewed. It is therefore a much more accurate reporting of membership statistics which will be reported later. The Committee has agreed that membership fees will increase in 2011 to £25 for the year and the joining fee would remain at £25.00, new members joining in 2010 would be paying the increased subscription rate.

Much work had been done with Jon Wright on redevelopment of the website, which was now up and running although some updates needed to take place but the key change was that members were now able to pay by credit or debit card on line which should make the booking of events and the payments of subscriptions that much easier. Part of the rise of the increase in subscription is of course to cover the administration charges made by paypal but the Committee felt this was very much worthwhile in making the site a much more effective tool in society communication

I should now like to read a report from Stuart Johnson on the Savoy Society Mentoring Scheme which has become a huge success and truly given the society credibility within the industry, such that we expect to be over subscribed with mentees this year and I shall refer to that and to sponsorship opportunities throughout Stuart's report.

THE SAVOY SOCIETY MENTORING SCHEME UPDATE FOR THE AGM 14th APRIL 2010

I am pleased to report the SSMS has made great headway in its first year. In July last year 15 mentees all 2nd and 3rd year degree students were successful in completing the selection day activities and interviews. All were matched with a Savoy Society Mentor, who along with the Mentees had received a half day training from Sally Atkinson in order to approach the relationship in the most professional and structured way. In order to maximize the benefits, each partnership meets bi-monthly, or more frequently if required, along with email and telephone contact.

On 31st March the first Alumni Dinner was held at Brown's Hotel bringing together for the first time since July the Mentors and Mentees along with our principal sponsors and senior lecturers from universities. At the dinner we learned from two of the Mentees who spoke on behalf of all how much they had gained from the scheme.

All in all the first year has gained more foundation and respect that we ever thought it would in such a short time and we are now taking applications for this year's intake of Mentees. If you are not already a Mentor and would care to be, please contact Stuart Johnson at Brown's Hotel, whose email is given below.

The Scheme's success is also down to Springboard who administer it for us, financial and pro bono sponsors whom I would like to thank along with the Steering Committee:

The Lord Forte Foundation
Profile Recruitment
Casna
The Worshipful Company of Innholders
Howard Field
Louis Jadot
The Savoy Society
Sally Atkinson

Further sponsorship is also required in order to grow the scheme further, so if you personally, or the company for whom you work, would care to support financing in any way please contact Stuart Johnson. His email address is sjohnson@roccofortecollection.com