



SAVOY

SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 14th April 2010 Brown's Hotel

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies received from: Stuart Johnson, Andrew Farquharson, Virginia Masser, Ian Merrick Michael Holiday Willy Bauer John Aust Gino Salinas

2009 Minutes

The minutes from 2009 were approved. Proposer Charlie Hutchings, seconder Andrew Phillips.

Matters Arising

David pointed out that there may have been confusion at the last AGM regarding applications for membership of the Society by people working for the current Maybourne Group. To clarify he explained that at an EGM in 2008 it was agreed that anyone who had previously worked for a Savoy Group hotel was eligible to apply as long as they were not currently employed by one of those hotels, now under the Maybourne Group umbrella.

Chairman's Report

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

Treasurers Report

Membership

During 2009, there were 5 potential new members who failed to commit, 15 existing members were removed due to non-payment of dues and during the year there were 10 new members. Up to the end of the year, there were therefore 153 members against the 169 at the end of 2008. Year to date 2010, membership stands at 156 which includes 2 new members and 8 potential new members who were put forward at the Committee meeting prior to this AGM.....

Financial Income

Subscriptions are reduced, as you will see from the attached sheet, by £187.00 year on year. This was due, of course, by the reduction in the membership above. Whilst in previous years we have discussed the online collection of payments, you will now be aware via the Society website that Paypal is now an option and along with the current Standing Order collection, this will ease the Treasurers time consuming process. In view of this, reminders have not been sent this year due to the new website providing a facility whereby members are unable to log in with their personal ID if they have not paid their subscriptions. This already has proved successful and more subscriptions are coming in earlier.

Events

As you will see from the attached figures, there was a substantial profit made by the Society partly due to the kind gesture by Michael McKerchar at The Reform Club being able in the end, to absorb the charges for the Summer Soiree of which we were unaware and was a generous surprise as previously mentioned by the Chairman. Furthermore, the Society would have subsidised both the Summer Party and the World Travel Market Dinner, but due to lack of Society support and possibly the idea of a Sunday event, both these events had to be cancelled at short notice. Hence, funds are healthier than would have been expected.

Administration

Running expenses are once again down, as this year we have only purchased the annual booklets and general stationery costs. The website running costs were reduced during 2009 whilst the Committee decided the way forward and we are grateful once again for Jon Wrights input on the new website which the cost of this will be reflected in the 2010 Treasurers report. Certainly in view of the healthy balance sheet, the Society is more than able to cover this worthy facility for members.

Balance sheet

As previously reported, there has been a decrease in expenditure and I can confirm that the opening funds were £1,603.00 with a closing balance of £3,841.00. The reserve account remains unaltered bar a little interest of 14p per quarter at £1,437.73! This closing balance also includes a Charity Donation to Springboard Hospitality Training Scheme of £500.00 along with our annual £50.00 to Hospitality Action.

Accounts

On behalf of the Committee and Membership we would like to once again pass on our thanks to David Cawte our Auditor and am delighted that he has agreed to stand for a further year. I would also like to mention at this point, as many of you may already be aware, that it is not my intention to seek re-election for Treasurer and Membership should I be asked to serve for a further year. Due to further business commitments, it is sadly no longer feasible and equally in view of my PA Lynn Packham moving on to pastures new in the near future, it would be sensible within the next couple of months to seek a successor. I would at this stage like to place on record, our appreciation of Lynn's invaluable contribution to the Society over the last 4 years and indeed I know that she will always be happy to assist us in the future should the need arise.

Treasurers report was accepted: proposer Francois Touzin, seconder: Luciano Nesello

Membership and Subscription Review

David announced the increase in member dues to a joining fee of £25 and an annual subscription of £25 (£20 for retired and overseas members). Proposer: Charlie Hutchings, seconder Francois Touzin

Appointment of Trustees and Honorary Auditor

David Cawte agreed to continue standing as Auditor and was thanked for his work so far. There are no changes to the Trustees.

Election of Officers and Committee

After mid June Mark Yates will no longer be acting as Treasurer and Membership Secretary. He and Lynne were thanked for their work to date and replacements will be sought. Other than that the committee was reelected Proposer Andrew Phillips, seconder Khalid Sheikh.

Savoy Society Mentoring Scheme

In Stuart's absence David reported on the success of the Savoy Mentoring scheme (see above) and stressed the need for more sponsors and sponsorship.

AOB

In answer to a question regarding the date of the AGM it was pointed that in the past it had always been held in January but over the years had been delayed until May. An April date made more sense for reporting the financial situation.