

Annual General Meeting Chaine des Rotisseurs Grand Bretagne

Beckington Room, Four Seasons, Hampshire Friday 8 October 2010 at 15.30

In attendance

Philip Evans, David Edwards, Vic Laws, Sheila Douglas, Rob McGregor, Barbara Maw, Jenny Handscombe, Derek Wright, Susan Attard, Mike Attenborough-Cox, Frances Griffiths, Janet Evans, Julia Edwards, Norman Wallage, Christine Wallage, Peter Brimelow, Marie Jones, Peter Jones, Tony Cox

Apologies

Charles Pritchard, Kae Mendham, Gerard Basset, Philip Douglas, Philip Mosimann

The BD opened the Meeting by thanking all those loyal Members who attended.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The Minutes were taken as read. There were no matters arising.

Bailli Délégué's Report

The BD announced that in spite of the recession 2009 – 2010 had been a very good year for Chaine GB, thanks to a robust, cheerful group of Members and Officers. While Membership had fluctuated for many reasons, the slight losses had been recouped, with much credit and thanks to all the Baillis for their efforts in achieving this. No specific figure is reported publically because this is commercially sensitive information.

The Competitions' success would have been impossible without the support of Gaggenau and Pernod-Ricard, both of whom were warmly thanked on behalf of Chaine GB. While 50% of the support for the Young Chef Competition has been withdrawn for next year, the BD was optimistic this would be covered from elsewhere. Nationality rules have been relaxed so anyone working in the UK is eligible to enter. The Young Sommelier Competition will be in two parts with a knockout round then finals, because it has become so popular.

The BD thanked Lesley Gray for her 11 years as Conseiller Culinaire and expressed Chaîne GB's appreciation for how much her and Andre Cointreau's support of using their school premises for the young chef competition. Westminster Kingsway promises to be a supportive future partner in this respect.

Commenting on the strong financial position of Chaine GB the BD said the forecast is good. Website usage by Members and others is growing, with 22,000 individual hits per quarter (up from 17,000). The GB Newsletter has been well received, with more space planned for the Baillages, advertisements to underwrite costs and outward looking features on Professional Members. Thanks were expressed to the Editor, Dan DuFon, for the great work he has done.

The Grand Chapitre 2011 program for Edinburgh from 1 - 4 July 2011 is well underway, while the Grand Chapitre for Bristol 5-7 October 2012 has an outline programme in place.

The BD thanked the Officers and Baillis for all they have done in this excellent year.

Argentier's Report

As seen in the 2009 Accounts, last year's deficit became a healthy surplus for these reasons: -

- the benefit of the first full year's fee increase
- significant drop in website costs
- healthy sponsorship with new partners in respect of the Young Sommelier Competition
- generous provision of the wines for Grand Chapitre
- excellent deals negotiated with great skill by the BD
- Pernod-Ricard supplying all wines and spirits for the Competition Finals

After retaining a contingency fund, the remainder of the surplus will be invested in encouraging recruitment of new Members.

Sponsorship is an extremely important part of the income stream, with incumbent risks and vulnerability in difficult economic times. The current partnerships with Gaggenau and Pernod-Ricard have been enormously helpful.

The Accounts were adopted.

Conseiller Culinaire's Report

The CC also thanked Lesley Gray for her contributions. The Young Chef Competition in Helsinki was very successful and well organised. Entry is now open for next year's GB Competition in March 2011. The International Final is in Istanbul in September 2011. The CC recommended that a Professional Member should be appointed to look after and recruit other professionals. A Competition Newsletter is now available for Professionals. Any support with recruiting and supporting Professionals will be greatly welcomed in recognition of the difficulties in engaging their interest in attending meetings, events etc..

The Bailli Yorkshire stressed the importance of keeping the balance right in the Bailliage between amateurs and experienced professionals.

Paris Report

Marie Jones, Member of the Conseil d'Administartion mentioned that the last magazine was different in its approach presenting a modern Chaine. Paris hoped it was received well. The next issue is due out in the first week of November 2010. While there is a major feature on Chaine plaques, it is a concern that many Professionals have not taken up their plaques worldwide since these are an opportunity for the Chaine to express its appreciation.

Membership worldwide is level after a dip last year, with new countries joining – Poland, Uganda, Slovakia, Russia, China and India.

The Annual Assembly will be in Alsace or Monaco on 9/11/2011. The best ever AGM was held in Bordeaux, well organised and with a high attendance. The BD thanked Marie for the close, good working relationship she has forged with Chaine GB.

There has been enormous growth in the ACCR with overall contributions in excess of €100k providing support for new projects in Kenya and Uganda in addition to existing schemes. The MCA stressed that the Chaine is keen for children to be involved in all ACCR projects. The BD mentioned the ease and success of automatic donation from the Grand Chapitre. He said that support is evident from Members for local projects in the UK. The MCA said any proposals should be put to Karim Heinen in the first instance.

The BD thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.03 pm.

Frances Griffiths

Acting Secretary