



Notes from Open Committee 5 September 2022

An open committee meeting of the MagnaMasters was held on Monday 5 September 2022 at Côte St Paul's Brasserie, 26 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7DR commencing at 12 noon.

Attending: Anthony Alston, Patrick Chapman, Christopher Ford, Ian Froud, Mark Henderson, Ian Locks, Martin Miles, Roger North, Patrick O'Reilly, John Shonfeld,, Tony Watson, Barrie Stewart, Jim Conybeare, Ian McIntyre, Bob Morrow, Nic Birtles, Derek Woods (17)

Apologies: **Peter Williams**, Graeme Groom, Graham Dickinson, Richard Herbert, Debby Ounstead, Neville Chamberlain, Stephen Bernhard, Kathleen Duncan, Gwen Rhys

The chairman paid tribute to David Illingworth, an actib

1 Chairman's welcome and introduction - A summary of the last 12 months and plans for the coming year

- Our first live outing was a walk around the Roman walls of the city led by Richard Herbert followed by lunch at Cutlers' Hall
- Big thank you to all who have organised events and also those who supported them
- In the autumn of last year we were invited by our President, Sir Alan Yarrow to dine at Fishmongers' Hall, one of the crown jewels of the City Livery Halls. A delightful evening. Sadly Sir Alan fell victim to Covid and Sheriff elect Andrew Marsden stepped in to do the welcome with wit and aplomb.
- Slightly improbably we decided also to go ahead with our February Gala Dinner, kindly hosted by Tony Watson at Leathersellers' hall. Numbers at both events were slightly down on our previous expectations but much enjoyed nonetheless.

2022

29 March - Evening with the Magic Circle - excellent evening albeit falling rather short of expectations on attendance

30 May- 2 June - Visit to Loire wine growing area - Nic Birtles and Jeremy Randall (fully subscribed and a huge success which, as we will hear, has encouraged us to look to the future with similarly adventurous ideas.) And thank you to Nic Birtles for all his organisation and attention to detail.

29 June - Dinner Lincoln's Inn - Tony Watson. This event will be capped at 20 to include Consorts and planned to include a tour of the Great Hall and archives. (Currently fully subscribed)

5 September - open committee today: thank you for attending

3 October - Visit to WWII operations bunker at Uxbridge organised by Chris Ford who will encourage us to sign up I am sure.

7 November - AGM, wine tasting and dinner, RAF Club, Piccadilly: we are looking for someone take on from Rass the hosting of the wine tasting

There is of course an open Invitation for offers to organise events in the coming year or in the future.

2 Minutes of meeting 9 September 2021 ([Link here](#)) "circulated" - can be viewed on website MagnaMasters.com/blog

3 Financial Report (Hon. Treasurer) - Martin Miles
Oral report by Martin.

4 Report by Hon Treasurer. Martin Miles table his report which showed a deficit on events of £2887.45. He pointed out this included two Gala Dinners in the one financial year (Fishmongers' and Leathersellers' Halls) through Covid disruption however all events had lost money. This had been extraordinary time and it had been very important to keep our activities going.

5 Discussion on new Deputy Chairman. The Chairman said there had been only one nomination so far: Ian McIntyre proposed in absentia by Richard Herbert. The chairman said he expected to emulate our first Chairman and keep the Chair for five years, another three on his two so far. Ian McIntyre said he would not expect to do more than two, raising the question of the absence in the Constitution of any guidance for the length of time in office of Chairmen. Ian McIntyre said he was willing for his name to go forward.

6 Upcoming Events (below) - Nic Birtles, chairman of the Events Committee

- June 2023 trip to Lake District (Neville Chamberlain and Stephen Bernhard) In the absence of both Stephen and Neville Nic Birtles and Ian Locks spoke to the programme in the pack, prepared by Stephen. It was hoped that his very special opportunity would be grasped by a sufficient number of members: there is a maximum of 28 attendees.
- Portugal visit 2024 (Nic Birtles) - Nic spoke to a proposal by Grape Escapes which looked like a very interesting and special trip to the Douro in Portugal in May/June 2024. The trip would be open to 10-15 Couples. Other suggestions tabled included:
 - Farm and the adjoining Container Port - Dr Ian Froud
 - Sobrage evening at the Oriental Club - Bob Morrow
 - Two suggestions from Tony Watson: Dinner in the Long Room at Lords; visit to muscular dystrophy research centre
- Visit to WWII command bunker - 3 October (Chris Ford) Chris said he was only three of four couples short of the 40 people expected for this visit.
- AGM, Wine Tasting and Dinner - Monday 7 November
- Eighth Gala Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall - 8 February 2023 (John Moore Gillon). IL said he had met with the caterers at the hall who had come up with what looked like a competitive deal for us enabling us to keep the tick price (just) under £100. It should be a splendid evening.

7 Any other business: IL thanked Patrick Chapman for his help in establishing a new registration and payment system using Ticket Tailor and Strike which had been trialled for this meeting without apparent difficulty. An issue on the availability of a list of attendees was being worked on.

The Chairman thanked those who had attended the meeting for their suggestions and contributions.

Chairman

