

S. C. R. Wine Club.

Minute Book.

Committee Meeting - Wednesday 25th November 1959.

A meeting of the S.C.R. Wine Club Committee was held on Wednesday 25th November 1959, at which Professors ~~Smith~~ Sykes, Dr. Finberg & Mr. Clouid were present.

The date of the Annual General Meeting was fixed for February 3rd 1960.

Next, there was some discussion of the date on which the Annual Subscription should be paid and it was finally agreed, upon Professor Sykes' suggestion, that the date of payment should be any day within one calendar month of the Annual General Meeting.

The last topic on the Agenda was the cost of wines served with meals by the Catering Managers of the Percy Bee Building and the corkage charge that he might reasonably make on wines brought in by members of the Common Room. It was decided that the first question did not properly fall within the cognisance of the S.C.R. Wine Club. As regards the second, it was thought that 6d. was a large corkage charge as might reasonably be demanded and Dr. Finberg agreed to take up the matter with Mr. Bann.

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9 March 1960

On February 4th 1959 a meeting of some twenty members of the SCR interested in wines was held in the Senior Common Room and the Senior Common Room Wine Club was formally constituted. Its aim was declared to be to enable members of the SCR to purchase wines and spirits at favourable rates. There was some discussion about qualifications for membership, as a result of which it was agreed that it should be confined to members of the SCR. The Officers of the Club were to consist of a Chairman, a Secretary/Treasurer and the Chairman of the SCR, ex officio, and the above were to be empowered, if they thought fit, to coopt not more than three members of the Club to be members of the Committee. The Chairman of the Club and the Secretary/Treasurer were to be elected annually. Dr H.P.R. Fibberg was unanimously elected Chairman, and Mr J.D. Cloud Secretary/Treasurer. The above, with Professor L.G. Sykes, as Chairman of the SCR, in virtue of the powers conferred upon them by the Club, coopted on to the Committee Professor P.H. Nowell-Smith and Mr R.L. Bishop. The subscription was fixed at 2s 6d.

The Club membership now stands at thirty-two and during the period of slightly over twelve months covered by this report £498.12.9 worth of wines and spirits have been bought by Club members through the agency of the Club. It would therefore seem that the Club's existence has satisfied a genuine need. As was anticipated by the Committee when the Club was formed, the principal demand has been for low-priced table-wines and sherries, but the analysis of the year's buying shows a remarkable range of demand. It seemed, and still seems,

advisable in view of the modest number of our membership to confine the total of our suppliers to four. During the first four months of the Club's life most of our buying was done through Messrs. Harveys, but since then our buying has been more equally distributed between all our suppliers, and this catholicity of interests is mirrored in the current short-list of recommended wines that we have sent out to members of the Club.

The income of the Club derived from subscriptions has been £4.0.0. and the expenses £2.7.4, leaving a total balance of £1.12.8.

HPR. Finberg

15th February 1960

J.J. Clow - Secretary.

REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 16th March 1961

The Club's first Annual General Meeting was held on March 9th 1960. The Report of the previous year's business was read and passed; the officers of the Club were all re-elected. There was no other business.

The second year of the Club's existence has brought with it an enormous increase of sales: in a period of slightly over twelve months £1124.11.5 worth of wines and spirits have been bought through the Club, compared with a sale of £498.12.9 in the previous year. This increase is most gratifying and shows more clearly than ever that the Club has justified its founders by fulfilling a very real need: thanks to the Philanthropic Activities of the Wine Club, members have been saved well over a hundred pounds during the last year. A detailed analysis of wines and spirits bought during the period is in course of preparation; the chief change in buying habits which the Secretary has observed in the last year is a proportionately increased sale of spirits, a change which perhaps reflects the increase in members' salaries during 1960.

I do not foresee any comparable increase in sales during the next year, unless the membership of the Club increases. In fact, the doubling of the Club's sales has not matched

any corresponding enlargement of membership - membership of the Club has increased by only three, from thirty-two to thirty-five - but has been due solely to members making a better use of the facilities offered. In particular, during the period under review, only one new member of the Common Room of hon. Professional status has joined the Club. Now, since membership of the Club is so manifestly to the advantage of anyone who drinks wines or spirits, offering as it does a reduction of 10% or more on shop prices as well as a much larger range of choice than elsewhere, those who are already members would be performing a public service if they informed their friends in the Common Room of the benefits which the Club provides.

In view of the enormously enlarged burden of clerical work entailed by the increase of sales, it has been thought advisable that in future the offices of Secretary and Treasurer should be separate, and that the Club should have its own Bank Account.

Income from subscriptions + the balance carried over from the previous year amounted to £6.7.8, expenditure to £3.14.4, leaving a balance of £2.13.4. Expenditure next year is likely to be much heavier, as hitherto no Bank Charges

have been made; but with the opening of a Club Account they are inevitable.

HPR. Finberg.

(Chairman)

13th March 1961

F.J. Cund (Secretary)

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

15th May 1962.

The Club's second Annual General Meeting was held on 16th March 1961. Dr. M.P.R. Finberg was reelected Chairman hon. con.* As foreshadowed in the Report, Mr. Cloué resigned from the position of Treasurer of the Club, but was reelected Secretary. Mr. J. Day was elected Treasurer.

The third year of the Club's existence has seen a further remarkable increase of sales: during the financial year 1961-1962 £1964.2.7 worth of wines, spirits, and cigars have been bought through the Club, compared with £1124.11.5 in the previous year and £498.12.9 in 1959-1960. I had written in last year's Report that I did not anticipate a marked increase in sales this year unless membership of the Club increased; I urged members present to point out to other members of the Senior Common Room the great advantages attached to membership of the Club, and it would certainly appear that the philanthropic service which we provide has been more generally appreciated since then, for the membership has more than doubled, standing at seventy-two at the end of 1961: corresponding figures are thirty-five for 1960 and thirty-two for 1959.

The period of fourteen months between the last Annual General Meeting and the present one has brought with it one innovation in the Club's activities: in addition to the provision of wines, spirits, and cigars at wholesale or Club prices to members, it has sponsored three wine tastings at which Messrs. Harveys, Dolamores and Avey's respectively have shown a selection of their table wines. These occasions proved both enjoyable and instructive, and moreover have attracted an increasingly large attendance. It is hoped to provide two or three tastings each session which will enable members to find something to their taste in every category of wine; discrimination will be all the more necessary, as the price of French & German wines, which has remained remarkably stable for the last few years, will certainly rise very sharply in the course of the next twelve months.

Looking to the future, I foresee a continued but more gradual increase in sales and membership; indeed, if the day to day business of the Club increases by very much, some form of fundamental reorganisation will become necessary, as it will be beyond the powers of Secretary and Treasurer to cope with the volume of sales. As it is, it will certainly become necessary for them to ask for assistance from public spirited

members of the Club next December and January,
for the sale of wines during the season of Christmas
is on such a scale as to engross an unwarrantable
amount of the Committee's time.

(* omitted: — The Report of the previous year's business
was read and approved.)

14th May 1962.

HPR. Finberg
(Chairman)

F. J. Wood
(Secretary)

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26th June 1963.

The Club's third Annual General Meeting was held on 15th May 1962.
The Report of the previous year's business was read and passed;
the Club's officers were re-elected unanimously.

The fourth year of the Club's existence has seen a further increase
of sales, though, as I predicted in my last Report, this has not been
so remarkable as in previous years. During the financial year 1962-1963
£2399.79 worth of wines and spirits were bought through the Club.

Comparative figures for the three previous years are as follows:

1961-1962 £1964.27

1960-1961 £1124.11.5.

1959-1960 £498.12.9.

Membership of the Club remains the same as last year, namely seventy-two.
Some members have dropped out, others have come to take their place.
This is not, perhaps, surprising, since about half of the members make
use of the Club's services only at Christmas, and should they, for one
reason or another, fail to place a Christmas order with us, their member-
ship lapses. In the course of the year there has been a large increase
in orders of six or more bottles and a slight decrease in small multiple
orders; this trend is to be welcomed, as, when orders can be sent
directly to members, the service is quicker and causes less trouble

to the Secretary & Treasurer.

Only one wine tasting has been held since the last Annual General Meeting, sponsored by Messrs. Harvey & Sons, but I hope that it will be possible to arrange three tastings in the course of the coming season and thus to maintain our average of two per year.

Looking to the future, I do not foresee any large increase in sales during the coming year; indeed, I doubt whether the Secretary and the Treasurer could cope with any marked increase in the volume of business. As it is, we were only able to deal with the Christmas rush thanks to the assistance of Professor Nowell-Smith, Dr. Davidson and Dr. Cohen who helped with the accounts and the delivery of wines; for this assistance we should like to express our gratitude. We shall be obliged to our members for help once again next Christmas. The increase in the price of French wines which I predicted in the last Report only took place and those members who have suitably cellars and any spare capital are strongly advised to lay down as much claret as they can, since this tendency is certain to continue. It is perhaps worth pointing out that some of our suppliers will lay down wines in their own cellars under optimum conditions at a nominal charge.

25th June 1963

H.P.R. Finberg (Chairman)
J.J. Clark (Secretary)

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

14th October 1964

The Club's fourth Annual General Meeting was held on 26th June 1963. The Report of the previous year's business was read and passed. Dr. Howard Jones asked about facilities available to the Club for immediate delivery of orders; the Secretary in reply drew attention to the 48 hour service provided by Messrs Bromleys.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club was held on 18th March 1964 to elect a new Treasurer to succeed Mr Day who was taking up a Visiting Lectureship at the University College of Rhodesia & Nyasaland and was accordingly forced to resign. The Chairman, Professor Finberg, formally thanked Mr Day for the services which he had rendered to the Club during his two years as Treasurer, thanks which are here recorded in the Minutes. I would like to add my own personal thanks to Mr Day; for I know how much time he gave unstintingly and uncomplainingly to the administration of the financial affairs of the Club. The volume of work goes up every year and places an increasingly heavy burden on the Treasurer. In Mr Day's stead Mr K.L. Wallwork was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the Secretary: this proposal was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer will be making a more detailed financial report on the year's business: it is sufficient to say here that during the financial year 1963-1964 £2590 worth of wines & spirits were bought through the Club as compared with £2399 in the previous year. The Membership of the Club remains about the same, 80 as compared with 70 in the previous year. It is surprising that not more members of the Jervis Common Room take advantage of the facilities provided by the Club; all new members of the Common Room are regularly notified each October or November. This year I shall notify all existing members of the Common Room as well as new members; furthermore, we propose to keep a small stock of the more popular sherries & table wines for immediate sale, an innovation which would, we think, add to the attractiveness of membership of the Club.

During the year under review we sponsored two wine tastings, one in the Autumn term provided by Messrs Patons & the other in the Summer term provided by Messrs Harveys. We hope in the coming year to arrange a Wine Club dinner during November. If this proves to be a success, it will be repeated. We also hope to arrange at least one tasting.

14/2 October 1964

(Chairman)

(Secretary)

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

16th November 1965

The Club's fifth Annual General Meeting was held on 14/2 October 1964. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports on the previous year's business were read and passed. The Treasurer having drawn attention to the accumulated deficit incurred by the Club, Professor Pye suggested that existing members should donate 2s 6d per head to pay off the deficit. After discussion it was decided instead to raise the annual subscription from 2s 6d to 5s. The reelection of existing officers was proposed by Professor Pye & seconded by Dr I.M. Davidson.

The year under review saw the introduction of an innovation, namely the holding of two dinners under the sponsorship of the Club, the first in the Autumn and the second, in May, to signalize the retirement of the Chairman, Professor H.P.R. Finberg. Both dinners were well attended, attracting 40-50 guests. At the latter life membership of the Club was conferred on Professor Finberg as a mark of esteem & gratitude for his services to the Club. A wine-tasting provided by Mrs Bank at the end of the Summer term met with a disappointing response, partly because of the inconvenience of the date chosen & partly perhaps because of the cost. In the current session we hope to organise one or two wine tastings & another dinner.

→ The result of our membership drive at the beginning of last session was gratifying: numbers rose from about 80 to 114 in the course of the session. The sale of table wines & spirits from the Secretary's stock has increased considerably; this development of the Club's activities has proved its value by its popularity.

Our sales have again increased, rising from an estimated £3,064 during the session 1963/4 to £3,518 in the last session. However, various factors lead me to suppose that the volume of our business is unlikely to increase very much in the next year. I allude to the ending, or partial ending, of Retail Price Maintenance in the wine trade and the very considerable increase in the price of wines & spirits during last session, an increase mainly but by no means entirely due to the imposition of the Import Levy in October 1964 & the raising of all rates of excise on wines & spirits in the 1965 Budget. On the one hand, the cost of wines & spirits bought through the Club has gone up by a shilling on the cheapest wines to four shillings on spirits, but on the other the sale price of these items in the shops has not always increased to the same extent; indeed it is actually possible to buy popular brands of whisky & gin for slightly less than our price, & consequently there has been a small but noticeable decline in our sales of these items. Moreover, there has been an increase in the number of schemes, e.g. those sponsored by the A.V.T.,

offering price reductions comparable with ours. In the circumstances it is worth reminding members that the Wine Club still offers advantages available nowhere else. We can obtain a much larger range of wines & spirits because of the number of wholesalers with whom we deal. As against the city shops it is worth emphasising that we offer about 20% discount on virtually all wines & this means that wines & fortified wines, especially the latter, are still much cheaper when bought through the Wine Club. As compared with the schemes sponsored by the A.V.T. the Wine Club makes no charge for transport no matter how small the order. Even the most generous of competing schemes makes a substantial delivery charge for orders of less than 6 bottles & most require a minimum of 12 bottles. This addition to the cost of the wines & spirits can in certain circumstances make the purchase of wines through such schemes actually more expensive than the purchase of the same items over the wine merchant's counter.

< Chairman - Office Vacant >
Secretary. J.G. Clout
Chairman of SCR *[Signature]*

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27th January 1967

The Club's sixth annual general meeting was held on Tuesday, 16th November ¹⁹⁶⁵ with Professor Wassenaar in the chair.

The Secretary's & Treasurer's Reports were read and passed.

The Chairmanship of the Club was vacant owing to Professor Finberg's retirement at the end of the previous season and Professor N. Pye was elected to the office. The Secretary & Treasurer were re-elected to their posts.

As was promised in the Report placed before the last annual general meeting, there were two wine tastings & one dinner sponsored by the Club last season. The first tasting, ~~sponsored~~ provided by Wassenaar in November 1965, proved extremely popular with members & was attended by about sixty people, a record in the history of the Club, though Wassenaar's subsequent bankruptcy following so soon upon the tasting prevented them from deriving the financial benefit which might have been anticipated from our appreciation of the generally high quality of their wines. The tasting of Paterson wines held in May & the dinner held in July did not attract the same support, possibly on the score of expense; however wine tastings are bound to be more expensive in future, now that most of the cost of the wines

has to be borne by the Club and not by the Suppliers.

Membership during the 1965/66 season remained more or less stable (120 members as opposed to 114 during the previous season). Sales showed a slight increase - from £3064 in 1964/5 to £3416 in 1965/6. (My estimated total of sales for the previous season was excessive: we changed over from the financial to the academic year as the basis for our accounts & I suspect that the figure I gave to the last annual general meeting in fact covered a period of 18 months.)

It is perhaps worth noting in the Report that, as many members have already discovered for themselves, after the imposition of the excise surcharge in July 1966 many large stores have increased their profit margins on spirits and thus, despite the ending of Retail Price Maintenance in the wine & spirit trade, our club prices for spirits have once again become competitive. In particular, the 'house' gins & brandies of our suppliers are almost certainly cheaper than any full-strength gins & brandies to be purchased in Leicester.

H. L. Komberg
<in Kenof > CHAIRMAN.

SECRETARY. J. D. UOLA

The Committee

< on 27th January 1967 >

Chairman :- Professor N. Pye.

Secretary :- Ms J. D. Clond

Treasurer :- Ms K. L. Wallwork.

Chairman of S.C.R. as ex officio member: Professor A. Wasserstein.

Co-opted members :-

Professor M. L. Kornberg

Ms T. P. Wiseman < replacing Dr. Y. A. Briggman
who retired in December 1966 >

Miss P. H. F. Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

16th February 1968

The Club's last Annual General Meeting was held on 27th January 1967. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, Professor Pye, the Chair was taken by Professor Kornberg. The Secretary's report was read and agreed to. There was some discussion on a matter raised in the Treasurer's report, namely the charging to the Club account of nearly ten pounds' worth of wines ordered from Messrs Patens at the beginning of October 1966 for delivery to the Percy Bee Building: all attempts to trace the purchaser had proved unavailing. In response to questions the Treasurer explained that our wholesalers had been instructed to accept orders hereforward only from the Secretary and Treasurer or persons explicitly authorised by these officers to make purchases of wines and spirits. This action, it was felt, was sufficient to prevent a recurrence of similar malpractices. (I would add that there has in fact been no recurrence.) There followed some discussion on ways of making good the loss, but no conclusion was reached other than that the Treasurer should persevere in his efforts to discover the identity of the purchaser or purchasers. The Treasurer's report was then accepted. The officers of the Club offered themselves for re-election and were re-elected. There being no other business, the meeting then ended.

The Club's activities followed the pattern laid down in previous years. On the trading side the chief development was the location of a source for relatively inexpensive Madeira, a development which has led to a considerable increase in the sale of Madeira through the Club. Business this Christmas was lighter than usual, but this is partly explicable as due to deliberate policy: as a change of Treasurer took place in December, it was felt undesirable to place too great a burden on the new Treasurer & consequently the activities of the Club were not publicised, as they normally are, in the pre-Christmas period.

The Club sponsored the usual entertainments: on 3rd May 1967 Grants of St James's provided us with a tasting chiefly of inexpensive wines. On 28th June we held a dinner at which Professor H.P.R. Finberg, our former Chairman, was principal guest. On 9th November an extraordinary General Meeting was held to elect a new Treasurer: the appointment was made necessary, as Dr. Wallwork was leaving Leicester in January to take up a post at the new University of Ulster. Mr. A.R. Roper was elected to succeed him, and a vote of thanks to Dr. Wallwork for his work on the Club's behalf recorded. Another dinner was held on 6th December in honour of the Treasurer in the course of which the Chairman paid tribute to his services.

In the course of the present academic year we hope to offer at least one wine tasting and, on the suggestion of Mr. Burt, to inaugurate a regular series of dinners based on regional cooking & wines.

The present Committee consists of:—
Chairman: Professor N. Pye
Secretary: Mr J.D. Cloud
Treasurer: Mr A.R. Roper.
Chairman of S.C.R. as ex officio member: Professor A.R. Humphreys
Co-opted members:

Professor H.L. Kromberg.
Miss P.H.F. Young
Dr T.P. Wiseman.

CHAIRMAN: *Norman Pye* 16.2.68

SECRETARY: *J.D. Cloud*

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING. 19th February 1969

The Club's last Annual General Meeting was held on 16th February 1968. The officers of the Club offered themselves for re-election and were re-elected. The Secretary's report was read. In connection with his report, the Secretary was urged to organise a series of regional dinners with the Catering Manager, and to arrange a wine tasting with Messrs Harveys. The Treasurer then gave a financial statement, explaining that there was an unexplained deficiency of about £80. A discussion then ensued. Dr A.M. Evans proposed an annual audit & the proposal was seconded by the Secretary. This proposal was carried. Professor Kornberg proposed, as a measure to clear off the deficit, the imposition of a handling charge of 6^d in the pound, the subscription to remain at 5 shillings & to be subsequently abolished once the deficit had been cleared off. Professor Hoskins agreed with Professor Kornberg & felt that his suggestion was better than a flat rate of 6^d on each bottle sold. Professor Humphreys tentatively suggested an increase in the subscription, but withdrew his suggestion after the amount which might be expected to accrue from the 2.5% handling charge had been calculated. He then formally proposed a levy of 6^d per pound or heavier fraction thereof

on all purchases through the Club, and this proposal was carried. Dr O.P.D. Cutleridge proposed that there should be a regular check on stocks of wines held by the Club. The meeting closed after 50 minutes, at 2.10 P.M.

As requested by the A.G.M., the Catering Manager provided a series of regional dinners: there have been 4 to date and a further one has been arranged for March 5th. These have proved popular with members, but the Club has made a loss of about £5.0.0 on them because on at least one occasion considerably more members signed up for them than actually turned up. It is possible that there was some ambiguity in the Secretary's notice, but the Treasurer and Secretary will regretfully have to insist that anyone who has signed the list & whose signature still appears on it when the list is removed & the number of dinners passed on to Mr Ball, will have to pay for his dinner, since the Club has to settle its account with the Catering Office on the basis of the numbers submitted the previous day.

The Harveys' tasting expected by the Secretary has proved remarkably elusive. He was told first of all that they could not provide a tasting in the Spring of 1968, but would provide one in ~~the~~ November & then that they would

provide one at some unspecified date this year. This has in fact been the first year since the Club's inception in 1959 that we have not been offered a tasking by any of our wholesalers. I suspect that this is due to the problems afflicting wine merchants currently. There have been two increases in excise duty on wines & spirits since the last A.G.M., a quite unparalleled tax increase, and credit is short. The 50% import deposit will bear very heavily on the smaller wholesalers & in short, the position is a gloomy one.

Apart from the regional winters which have proved a gastronomic success, this has not been a very cheerful year for the Club. I do not wish to anticipate the Treasurer's report, but though the financial rot has been stopped, the activities of a pilferer during the Christmas period set us back over £20. We have now installed a more sophisticated lock on the stock cupboard which would appear to have defeated the pilferer's ingenuity; at all events, we have lost no more stock since the beginning of the year. Our membership at 107 and our turn-over at £2,315 both show a decrease. Undoubtedly both membership and turn-over would have decreased further, but for our having secured wines & spirits from a Cambridge source at under normal wholesale rates. Our prices

are now extremely competitive. Unfortunately, their defective checking of goods & rather primitive methods of accounting, coupled with the fact that we have to settle our account with them within 7 days of delivery, have placed an added burden on the Secretary & Treasurer, & both would appreciate it if members could suggest some way of lightening their burden at Christmas time. Any suggestions for the improvement of services provided by the Club would also be welcome.

The Committee consists of:-

Chairman: Professor N. Pye

Secretary: Mr J.D. Clou 1

Treasurer: Mr A.R. Roper.

Chairman of S.C.R. as ex-officio member:-

Co-opted members:

Professor H.L. Kornberg

Miss P.H.F. Young.

Dr T.P. Wiseman.

CHAIRMAN. *Norman Pye*

SECRETARY J.D. Clou 1

19th February 1969.