

WINE COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting of the Wine Committee meeting on Wednesday 31st January 2024 at 15.00
In the Glover Room

Present: Mr Johnson (Wine Steward), Mr G Ross, Ms Lizzy Conder (Bursar), Mr Corke (Director of Hospitality), Dr L Van Holstein, Prof D Chambers, Prof John Gibson, Mr E Parker & Ms. P Yardy Saban (Secretary)

Apologies:, Prof Douglas Hedley, Dr A Stillman, Mr C Herrmann & M

The outstanding loan from the College (charged at 3% per annum) is now £86,388 (down from £109,111 in 21/22) which gives the cellar a net book value of £85,660. We hope to have the loan paid off in 3 - 4 years. The market values of our wines are almost all increasing at more than 3% per annum and the prices for Fellows and the College are generally between these two values. This covers the cost of purchase, cellarage and replacement, without making excessive profit.

Mr Corke was congratulated for all of the work that had been done and the strategy that he has put in place with the half-yearly wine tastings.

It was agreed to start using the older wines and ports in the cellar or look at selling some of the Ports and Sauternes. The Director of Hospitality to look into this.

Action: Director of Hospitality

7. Purchases over the last year and plans for present year

The main purchases were of cheaper wines, for student-related events, Fellows and the choir.

We have recently purchased some Grand Cru Chablis for 2026 that took over a year to source. We also hope to buy some Rhone and Burgundy wines for about £6000 to £8000.

We have most of the wines we might need for the 700th anniversary in 2026 in stock. There may be a May Ball for Alumni and a campaign launch happening. The Director of Hospitality will contact the Development Director to see if there are any special wines required for these events.

Action: Director of Hospitality

8. Any other business

We are looking at buying more English wines but they are still very expensive. At the last feast, we used a House of Hemmant Blanc de Blancs sparkling wine which had really good feedback and is £8 - £10 cheaper a bottle than champagne.

Lee to arrange a tour of the cellar for any members of the committee that would like to see it.

9. Date of next meetings

The next meeting will be on 23rd January 2025 at 15:00 in the Godwin Room.

AGM dinner will be on Wednesday 20th March 2024 in the Small Hall, starting at 19:00, and on Wednesday 26th March 2025 for the following year.

Distribution List:

Ms Lizzy Conder (Bursar)

Ms Arletta Bialecka-Blount (Front of House Manager & Fello

Professor David Chambers

Mr Lee Corke (Director of Hospitality)

Dr Van Holstein

Professor John Gibson

Mr Christopher Herrmann (MCR representative)

Professor Douglas Hedley

Mr Aylmer Johnson (Wine Steward)

Mr Graham Ross

Dr Anne Stillman

Ed Parker (UCS representative)

Ms Paula Yardy Saban (Secretary)