

BMI Annual Chairman's Report for the year 2019.

Dear Members

When thinking about writing my 7th Annual report some weeks ago I never anticipated that we would all now be suffering this critical situation with the Coronavirus Pandemic, which has claimed many lives and at the moment not appearing to see an improvement in the short term well being of the BMI Club.

A club that is now 102 years old and has been through two world wars, Spanish Flu and the Great Depression, now sadly closed for the foreseeable future. We must be positive and look forward to the day when we will all be able to use the facilities again, meet our friends, be entertained and enjoy an excellent pint or a nice glass of wine. I do hope that is not too long and, in the meantime, send you and your families, on behalf of the Committee, our very best wishes for you all to stay safe and keep well. In the meantime, let me assure you that we will be ready to reopen when we can, we are utilising the help supplied by our Government to continue to support our staff and the club is being securely looked after during this period by Alec and Mary.

You are aware from the Secretary's e-mail that there will be no AGM this year and that in consequence like most other organisations all committee members will stay in post until the next AGM.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask you all to remember all of our members who sadly passed away last year.

For the year 2019 I can report that we had a successful year, our income over expenditure was better than 2018. Our Steward, as always, maintained excellent buying practices and therefore maintained a really good margin.

The Monday Coffee Club went from strength to strength and for the first time for a number of years a snooker team was formed thanks to the efforts of Phil Hartley, which played Wednesday evenings in the league and had a very successful first year. At the time of writing the League was suspended due to the Coronavirus pandemic but the club was 10 points clear at the top of the league with 7 games to play and also in both of the Gloucestershire County semi-finals.

We agreed to introduce a discount scheme of 10% for those members who would pay for their drinks on their loaded member's card; this was for a trial 3-month period and would have been reviewed in April. The initial results were that this had been a success so far and takings were on the up compared to the same period last year. We have also increased the number of entertainment events and introduced a Sunday lunchtime Jazz event. A couple of very enjoyable days for the Cheltenham Festival and the Grand National were enjoyed by members, with an excellent buffet lunch provided by our Steward. We mustn't forget that another wonderful Pensioners Xmas Lunch was held.

Finally, I would like to thank Alec & Mary and the rest of our staff for their excellent as always service during 2019. Once again thanks to our Treasurer Ian Crowe has kept our finances in good order. Equally can I say thank you on your behalf to all those serving on the Committee carrying out various roles all dedicated to making the BMI, your club, a friendly, inviting place to come.

Keith Pearson Chairman