

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CELLAR CLUB INC.
HELD AT THE BURMA LODGE, RAROA,
AT 8.00PM ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 1997**

PRESENT. 47 people including 4 guests were present at the Annual General Meeting (See attached Attendance Chart). An excellent and possibly a record level of attendance.

APOLOGIES. Jocelyn and Graeme Fountain, and Christine Knowles.

DOCUMENTS HANDED OUT.

The following 5 documents were handed out to all those present:- Minutes of the 1996 AGM; Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet, and Auditors' Report, for the year 1996/97; President's Report for 1996/97; Voting paper on 1996/97 tastings; and The Cellar Club Inc. Contents of the Wine Cellar 16.4.97. As all Committee Members were present at the AGM these documents are not appended to these minutes.

1996 MINUTES. The minutes of the 1996 AGM were taken as read and confirmed as a correct record of the meeting.
(Moved: John Revell; Seconded: David Ward).

MATTERS ARISING. One spelling mistake in the 1996 minutes was noted. Keith Tibble's name was mis-spelt Tipple. No other matter was raised.

FINANCIAL REPORT for the year 1996/97.

The Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet, and Auditors' Report were read showing the Cellar Club Inc. in a very strong financial position at the moment. The profit of \$564 for the year being due to increased membership and attendance, and the generosity of some of the presenting wineries. The members funds now stand at \$3,740, including \$2,201 in cheque and deposit accounts and \$1,196 in wines stocked in the Cellar.

The Report was accepted.

(Moved: Noeleen Evans; Seconded: Francesca Menzies).

Alan Evans also thanked Wayne Kennedy for the excellent monthly financial reports which he provides for the Club.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT for the year 1996/97.

Alan Evans spoke to his tabled report on the achievements of the last 12 months. The year was another successful one for the Cellar Club Inc. with attendance levels increasing by 20% to an average of 40 people per evening, tasting over 70 wines during the year. The modest profit was due mainly to the generosity of many guest speakers and Companies. A special thank-you was extended to Wineries and Suppliers who supported the Club. Alan described the tastings and functions throughout the year showing that a balance of events had been achieved. To ascertain members' preferences for future planning a voting paper on the 1996/97 tastings was handed out. The Club Cellar has been maintained at the same level of wine stocked as last year. The policy of 2 dinners per annum again proved popular but discussion is now required on future options in view of the difficulty of finding suitable BYO restaurants for 55 - 65 people. Alan thanked the Committee for all their hard team work, especially Derek Thompson in his roles as Vice-President, Honorary Cellarmaster, and behind the scenes organiser.

The President's role was made so much easier by this and the Treasurer's and Secretary's good work. A special thanks was given to John Angus who is no longer able to stand for re-election to the Committee due travel commitments. Alan ended with information that it is healthy to drink wine, and that New Zealand now has a majority of excellent grape varieties under cultivation.

The Report was adopted.

(Moved: Carol Hinton; Seconded: Robin Semmens).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE for the year 1997/98.

The following 9 officers were nominated:-

		Moved	/	Seconded
PRESIDENT	Alan Evans	Derek Thompson	/	Wayne Kennedy
VICE-PRESIDENT	Derek Thompson	Alan Evans	/	Sally Clarke
TREASURER	Wayne Kennedy	Alan Evans	/	Derek Thompson
SECRETARY	Frank McCarthy	Carol Hinton	/	Wayne Kennedy
COMMITTEE	Sally Clarke	Warren Thessman	/	Annette Hood
	Sam Lawrence	"		"
	Francesca Menzies	"		"
	Don Morris	"		"
	Cecilia Parker	"		"

The last 5 Committee members were nominated en masse as they were all from the 1996/97 year.

All nominees were declared elected by approval from the floor.

ELECTION OF HONORARY AUDITOR for the year 1997/98

Graeme Fountain was nominated.

(Moved: Wayne Kennedy; Seconded: Victor Stagpoole).

Graeme was elected as the Honorary Auditor for the year 1997/98.

Graeme was thanked for his services for the past year and Alan Evans presented him with a bottle of wine in gratitude.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS for the year 1997/98.

It was recommended that the subscriptions remain at \$20 per member.

(Moved: Wayne Kennedy; Seconded: Don Morris).

The recommendation was carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

Membership 'Capping'.

The President said that consideration was now being given to having a limit of membership of 65 - 70 with a waiting list. This was because of the problems of booking suitable BYO restaurants and the management of popular tastings. He asked the floor for comment. The following were made:- Carol Hinton said that the Club is a wine appreciation club, rather than food and wine, and that membership 'capping' should not occur due to difficulties with restaurants.

Rick Julian said that 'capping' would spoil the friendly image of the Club by tending to make it appear exclusive. Sally Clarke said that a large audience is attractive to potential speakers and wineries wishing to sell their produce. On the other hand, Cecilia Parker said that too many people could lead to problems in organising tastings, and Victor Stagpoole added that large audiences create a lot more work for the committee. It was concluded to deal with the restaurant accommodation problem separately and not to limit club membership at this time but not actively promote it. Dennis Mann said that if membership levels became an urgent problem, then the Committee could always call a special general meeting of the Club.

Restaurant Options.

Alan said that he wished to have an input from the floor on the type of and location of restaurants and service preferred. It was agreed that everybody preferred a sit-down rather than a smorgasbord style of meal. Alan then asked the floor about cuisine preferences - would ethnic meals be suitable such as Chinese? A show of hands vote was made for the following styles of cuisine:-

Cuisine	Vote
Italian	100%
Thai	100%
Greek	60%
Chinese, Indian, Turkish, Indonesian	40%
Middle Eastern	30%

The conclusion was that the Club could be more adventurous and consider either Italian or Thai cuisines.

With respect to 'ordinary New Zealand meals' Annette and John Hood suggested using the caterer at the Heretaunga College. Brenda Young also recommended the caterer at the Miramar Golf Club. Another alternative is to use restaurants in Wellington with limited seating capacity and have dinners booked on a 'first in first served' basis.

Other matters.

Some members said that the tables in the Kashmir Lounge were too low. The Committee will speak to Deirdre Potter to see what can be done.

Derek Thompson moved for a vote of thanks to Deirdre Potter who has been very cooperative to the Club. Alan is to write a letter of thanks to Deirdre.

Ted Maguire moved a vote of thanks to Alan and the Committee for all the good work they have done in the past year. He was supported with a loud applause from the floor.

UPCOMING EVENTS.

Sara Bradey will be presenting Matua Valley wines on 11 June. The 9 July dinner will be at the Alfred Coles restaurant, Petone. Francesca said that she has booked Allen Hogan of Te Phara Ra wines for 8 October, and Dave Glover of Nelson for 11 February 1998.

The Annual General Meeting was formally closed at 9.00pm and followed by a supper and the tasting of some of the Club's wines.

CELLAR CLUB INC.

President's Report

1996/1997

1996/1997 was another successful year for the Cellar Club Inc and the move back to the Burma Lodge has proven to be a popular decision.

Both membership and attendance levels have certainly increased quite dramatically and this is reflected in the higher Monthly Meeting receipts in the Income account. Income from subscriptions has increased by 13% compared to last year.

We are now at one of the highest meeting attendance levels for many years -which is very encouraging especially as there are numerous intending members who will join after this AGM. Attendance has increased by over 20%, compared to the previous year, and the average is now over 40 per Evening. The importance of a non-commercially aligned Club is obvious.

Our total membership is now over 70 and the concept of perhaps limiting Membership or a waiting list may need to be seriously addressed. We need your input here!

Frank McCarthy has again been busy compiling this data to compare the attendance at each meeting during the year and maintaining a list of current Members. This is valuable data as it illustrates which type of function is popular at what time of the year and, even, who are the regular attendees! Thanks again to Frank for this data which will be invaluable for future planning of speakers and functions.

The Committee has maintained the policy of budgeting for each separate tasting or function to be self-funding and ideally to break-even. That is that the door cover charge should be set as low as possible but cover all of the expenses related to the function such as wine, room hire etc. Because wine generally only comes in 750ml bottles; the choice is usually 2 or 3, depending on attendance, so some "swings and roundabouts" are inevitable.

In view of the modest profit last year the Committee had again budgeted for a break-even result this financial year. Thanks, in the main, to the generosity of many of our guest speakers and Companies, we actually achieved a small profit for this year of approx \$500.00.

A special thank-you to those Wineries and Suppliers who supported the Cellar Club Inc. during the year.

The Committee has maintained the Club's cellar at around the same value as last year. This is a combination of wines that have been cellared for future tastings and AGM's, supplemented by left over and sometimes donated wine, with strategic purchases as funds permit. Some of the wines are, of course, used as "conversation wines" at the commencement of each function. A big thanks to Derek Thompson who, in addition to his duties as Vice-President of the Club, has continued as Honorary Cellarmaster and maintained the logistics of the cellar as well as excellent records and inventory valuations.

Tastings and functions during this financial year have been:-

What was your favourite?

April 1996 - "Royal Gold" - Gold Medal winning wines from the Royal Easter Show with Wine Judge Michael Heenan.

May 1996 - Annual General Meeting 1995/96

June 1996 - Wines from Te Horo Estate and Wine-maker Alastair Pain

July 1996 - Mid-year Dinner at Varant's Restaurant in Wilton with complimentary sherry supplied by the Cellar Club Inc celebrated by 45 members and friends.

August 1996 - "The Iberian Festival" Wine , Sherry and Port from Spain and Portugal together with food and dancers .

A fantastic celebration of Iberia from Grant Jones from Regional Wines and Keith Tibble from Burleigh trading (and a record 73 people !!)

September 1996 - De Bortoli wines from Australia with Paul Romjin.

October 1996 - The Connoisseur Wines of Dry River in Martinborough and Wine-maker Dr Neil McCallum.

November 1996 - Wines for Cellaring from Matawhero Wines in Gisborne and Wine-maker Denis Irwin.

December 1996 - The "End-of-year Christmas Dinner at Cafe Laffite in Oriental Bay with complimentary Methode Traditionelle supplied by the Cellar Club with a few Gold Medal wines from the 1996 Air New Zealand wine Awards. 59 Members and friends attended.

January 1997 - The 'Start-the-Year" Bar-b-Que at Derek Thompsons residence with complimentary meats and specially baked home-made breads from Francesca Menzies.

February 1997 - The wines of the Vidal Maria group presented by Shane Dickson.

March 1997 - Neudorf wines from Nelson and Wine-maker Tim Finn.

April 1997 - "Are Great Wines made in the Vineyard" - with viticulturist Glenys Hansen from Te Kairanga in Martinborough.

We have tried to maintain a balance of events during the past year. we have included 5 visits from wineries (4 of which were the actual Wine-makers) and some interesting tastings from wine agencies who represent a wide spectrum of wine styles and sources. Probably the highlight for many was the "Iberian Festival" with Grant Jones and Keith Tibble when a record 73 Members and friends attended. We intend to organise a similar Theme evening shortly!

An analysis of the tastings shows that we tasted over 70 wines 16 of which 8 were imported - good value for money at under \$1.40 per wine!

The policy of two dinners per annum has again proven highly successful with record attendances. As noted last year, we now have such a large membership it is becoming increasingly difficult to find a restaurant which can accommodate 55 to 65 people on a BYO basis in the format we have used until now. This may be an area for discussion later at this Meeting.

A special thanks to Vice President Derek Thompson for all the organising work behind the scenes and his additional duties as Cellarmaster. My role has also been made easier by the excellent and efficient work of Wayne Kennedy as Treasurer and Frank McCarthy as Secretary.

The Committee of Francesca, Cecelia, Sally, Sam, Don, and John have all pitched in to spread the load so that the Committee, and therefore the Club, has run very smoothly during the year.

This is also a chance to say thank-you to John Angus who will be unable to stand for re-election because of travel commitments. Thanks for all your help on Committee John.

Last year I reported on the so-called "French Paradox". That is the good news is that researchers now believe that both red and white wines are beneficial in reducing mortality from heart disease and other causes. It seems as though everyone is now jumping on this "band wagon". British researchers have now discovered that an extract component of red wine can lower blood fats - thus supposedly helping to prevent heart disease. The magic ingredients in red wine are polyphenols

They plan to take this extract and market in a non-alcoholic blackcurrant flavoured drink.

The research also indicates that a combination of polyphenols and alcohols are even more beneficial in preventing heart disease and prolonging life. The moral of the story is of course to grab a bottle of decent Cabernet Sauvignon rather than blackcurrant drink!

One aspect of the Club that I noticed when looking through some of the older records, was the change in the quality of wine we now enjoy at the Cellar Club Inc. This is reinforced by the statistics from the NZ Wine Institute that tell us that Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir and Cabernet Sauvignon have all overtaken Muller Thurgau in acres planted.

As the sophistication of our palates increases so this trend to a higher expectation of quality increases. This is where wine appreciation Clubs such as ours have a part to play.

But as Jancis Robinson said "... every glass of wine we drink represents a whole year of vineyard cultivation and perhaps several years of effort in the winery... yet most of us throw it straight down our throats, without even trying to 'read' it'. Hopefully Club's such as ours assist in this "reading".

Alan Evans
President