

The Cellar Club Inc



Established in 1980

July 2020 Newsletter

AGM Edition

FROM THE EDITOR

The Club's AGM will be held on 8th July commencing at 8pm at the Johnsonville Community Centre, 3 Frankmoore Avenue, Johnsonville.

The President's Report and the full accounts have been uploaded to our website for easy access for members and the Agenda is below:



The Cellar Club Inc

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT

THE JOHNSONVILLE COMMUNITY CENTRE,

3 FRANKMOORE AVENUE, JOHNSONVILLE

WEDNESDAY 8 July 2020

COMMENCING AT 8pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies:
2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for the year 2018/19 held on Wednesday, 8th May 2019:

3. Matters Arising:
4. Financial Report for the Year 2019/20:
5. President's Report for the Year 2019/20:
6. Notices of Motion: Proposed Rules Changes

Resolution 1

That the existing rule 3(c) be replaced by

A financial member shall be one who, at 31 March in each year, complies with Rule3(b) and whose subscription has not fallen into any form of arrears or non-payment except as provided in Rule3(f). A member who complies with this clause shall be deemed to be a member in good standing.

Resolution 2

That the existing rule 3(h) be amended by adding

Life Membership shall give the holder all rights and privileges of ordinary membership except they are exempt from paying any (annual) subscription.

Resolution 3

That the existing rule 4(c) be amended to read

All payments shall be made by cheque or electronic payment duly authorised as instructed and passed for payment by the Committee."

Resolution 4

That the existing rule 9(b) be amended to read

At each Annual General Meeting of the Club each financial member, being a member who complies with Rule3(c) or is a Life Member, who is present shall be allowed the power of one vote."

Moved by Richard Taylor, Seconded by Wayne Kennedy

Rationale for rule changes

The rule changes are to clarify the voting rights of first year members and life members and to tidy up the rules around the member's rights.

7. Election of Officers and Committee for the year 2020/21:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee

9. Subscriptions:

10. General Business:

At the conclusion of the AGM, supper will be served,

accompanied by wines from the Club's cellar

LOOKING BACK: Crater Rim Tasting:

39 members attended for the evening and orders for the wine & 5 cook books exceeded \$3K which is one of our more successful orders:

An interesting note from our orders is that the 2019 Wairarapa Viognier was the preferred wine, with the 2018 From the Ashes Riesling second. The Viognier also illustrates how they grow grapes and bottle wine from various areas around NZ, even though they are based in North Canterbury.

The list of wines we sampled during the evening for your recollection is below:

2017 Waipara Sauvignon Blanc
2018 From the Ashes Riesling
2019 From the Ashes Pinot Gris
2019 Waipara Viognier
2018 Waipara Chardonnay
2019 Waipara Rosé
2019 From the Ashes Pinot Noir
2015 Banks "Rata" Pinot Noir

LOOKING FORWARD – upcoming events

- Wednesday 12 August – Victor Kattenbelt of Confidant Wines
- Wednesday 16 September – Alan Evans and Ageing of quality wines
- Wednesday 21 October – St Clair Family Estate, Marlborough
- Wednesday 18 November – Club Anniversary dinner at Bellamy's (run by Logan Brown)
- December tbc

AN INVITATION: now that we're past the shortest day/longest night of the year for this Equinox, if anyone would like supply a short article about their 'Drop of the Day', i.e. their go to wine for this season, to share with the rest of the Club, please feel free to submit it.

GLASSES ROSTER

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to be part of the Glasses Roster.

SCREWCAPS

Screwcaps are still very welcome, please bring these along to any Club meeting and leave them with Anne, remembering that the cause that benefits from this collection is Kidney Kids NZ and their families.

WINE NEWS

Wine with Wings

Contrary to what the name might suggest, The Flying Winemaker doesn't own a plane, nor does he hold a pilot's licence. But there is sincerity in Eddie McDougall's moniker, yes, he does literally jet in to make the wine.

Born in Hong Kong, based in Australia, Eddie might be relatively new on the scene in Wairarapa, but he is an established name in other parts of the world; an award-winning winemaker, chairman of the Asian Wine Review, wine judge and TV personality behind one of Asia-Pacific's most dynamic wine brands, The Flying Winemaker.

He swooped into the region in late 2018 buying the Gladstone Vineyard with lofty ambitions to make the best and most expensive wine in New Zealand.

Last year, his first vintage, he made two special wines at Gladstone that he says, will turn heads when they're released: a field blend of three aromatic white varietals and an icon Pinot Noir that will be positioned as 'New Zealand's most expensive wine and best pinot'.

Eddie grew up in Brisbane and was studying for a business degree and working as a waiter in the early 2000s when he had a wine epiphany one night. Someone handed him a glass of Alsace pinot blanc and he was hooked. He enrolled in a winemaking degree and worked vintages across Australia and Italy. In 2009, he launched his wine label, making wine in the King Valley (Victoria), and later, Margaret River (Western Australia), buying fruit and leasing space in other people's wineries.

His big break came in 2009, when he moved back to Hong Kong to set up the city's first urban winery, shipping frozen grapes in from Europe and Australia. That's when he earned his Flying Winemaker name, attracting the attention of television producers. Fast-track to 2018 and he was again looking for opportunities, initially in Australia, but when nothing caught his fancy, he looked across the Tasman.

'I was happy to go wherever good wine is made, and Gladstone ticked all the right boxes

Making it such a great acquisition was that at Gladstone, all the 'really hard work' has been done, he says. 'We believe that it is still the oldest white wine vineyard in the area – the first Sauvignon Blanc grapes were planted in 1986'.

Pinot Gris and Riesling have also since been planted, and instead of making three wines Eddie makes a blend of all three.

'Coming here we want to represent the region, and on a brand level to represent what our true unique selling point is ...we think we can make some serious, serious wines'.

In addition to the winery site, Gladstone Vineyard also own considerably larger blocks of vines at nearby Dakin Road, as well as leasing crops from other growers. It is from the Dakins Road block that Eddie hopes to produce his icon Pinot Noir – to be called The Wairarapa – which he says will be the most definitive wine of the region, only made in the best possible years, 2019 being one of them.

With a global team based in Hong Kong and currently exporting throughout Asia, Australia, Norway, UK and USA, the sky is the limit. But he is not ignoring the domestic market and is determined to continue Gladstone Vineyard's reputation for hosting terrific events.

Building on the success of the nearby Harvest Festive, Eddie aims to run up to four events a year at the winery. Exactly what they will be and when, wine lovers won't want to miss out if his super cool Rose' Revolutions, a mainstay on the calendar in Asia, are anything to go by.

Meanwhile, if you are in the neighbourhood, the cellar door is open daily from 11am-5pm (except public holidays), but don't expect to see Eddie, after all, when you have wings you gotta fly.

By Walt Dickson. First published in Wairarapa Lifestyle Magazine, Winter 2020.

For more on Wairarapa winemakers, visit www.wairarapalifestyle.com

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