

Our Club Goes from *Strength to Strength*

“...many of these newcomers to the city do not have friends or family in the region and the Club events program offers a convivial social environment to make new acquaintances and develop friendships.

Although the final lockdown restrictions have not been lifted the Club has successfully hosted numerous formal, business, and social events over the last month which have been extremely popular and have been well received by Members and their guests. One of the most personally edifying was the New Members “Welcome” dinner. Unlike some Clubs, our Membership numbers has increased over lockdown, which I think is a credit to the committee and the fantastic benefits being a Member of The St James's Club can offer Manchester business professionals. Lockdown has changed the working environment and the office/home balance. Many people coming to the city work for small businesses or are consultants and they want somewhere to use as a base, relax and to meet and entertain clients; The St James's Club offers the ideal solution. In addition, many of these newcomers to the city do not have friends or family in the region and the Club events program offers a convivial social environment to make new acquaintances and develop friendships.

I have been told that many life-long friendships have been formed in the Club over the years and I consider many Members as close friends. It is therefore edifying to see the return of the retired Members events and see so many enjoying each other's company, Club food and wine. In addition, John Wheelwright was our honoured speaker at the Founders Dinner, Members enjoyed his address on Club life and his anecdotes and stories from his visits for business and pleasure to reciprocal Clubs in the United States, China and beyond.

The Chairman's dinner is always one of the highlights of the events calendar, and the latest event lived up to its billing with a full house in attendance albeit sitting on table of 6 rather than one large, long



table. Attendees, many of whom had struggled to locate their formal wardrobe attire, enjoyed a fantastic menu, wine and of course the company and conversation of other Members. From a business point of view, both the Property and Media & Tech lunches have been extremely rewarding allowing the business community to meet and network, and with so much change going on, converse in person.

The July calendar has a lot to offer even though COVID restrictions have meant the postponement of the Ladies & Gentlemen's evening at Chester races to later in the year. There is the popular Property lunch and Wine Tasting, but this month Members have a couple of unique events to look forward to in a Charity Quiz, a Cultural Dinner which focusses on Eastern Europe, the first Gourmet lunch of the year and of course the particularly important Club AGM and Supper; the first we will have been able to hold for 2 years. I believe there is something for everyone, but the Club always welcomes new ideas and suggestions and encourages Members to organise their own themed events. Michael Naylor, our GM, will be happy to discuss your event ideas and help you with the planning and organisation; contact him on manager@stjc.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PRIVILEGES

Very few, if any Manchester venues can offer their guests the facilities, service and location that the St James's Club Membership enjoy. And although the Club has only been open a short time since the end of the lockdown period, a number of Members have taken the opportunity to organise and book private lunches and dinners in the Club utilising its fantastic private rooms and facilities.

Whether you are entertaining clients, colleagues, friends, family, or fellow Members the Club can bring groups together in a convivial and private environment that will certainly enhance you and your guests dining experience. The Club's staff has vast experience in the organisation of private events. GM Michael Naylor and Head Chef Steven Wright can help with the arrangements, whether you wish to offer your guests a buffet, set luncheon or dinner or a special and unique menu. It has been a tough year so why not indulge yourself and host a lunch/dinner in your Club; it is one of your privileges.

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO'S THE CLEVEREST MEMBER OF ALL?

During lockdown, some crazes emerged - Joe Wicks workouts, the banging of pots and pans on doorsteps to show support of our NHS and of course Zoom quizzes. And I'm sure many Members were convinced by friends and family to take part in these online competitions. Luckily, we can meet, albeit with some restrictions in the Club, and it has been decided to host a quiz and supper in aid of charity on the evening of **Thursday 8th July**. We have academics, doctors, professors, barristers, and judges in the Club... but who has the finest general knowledge amongst our Membership?

Cat Tomlinson and Danny Snape, the inaugural organisers, request Members to form teams, of up to 6 individuals to compete for St James's Club Quiz Champions title. Although unbelievable, I have been reliably informed this accolade is ranked second only in importance to the BBC Mastermind title, so we are expecting some tough competition with prizes and bragging rights for the winners. The quiz will take the form of a series of themed rounds, covering a diverse range of topics, this will ensure that no one group, or individual profession possesses an advantage.

The event will support the work done for the LUKEETA Foundation, a charity founded by Quiz hostess and Committee Member Cat Tomlinson. Lukeeta supports a local community in Jinja, Uganda helping families to build accommodation, provide drinking water/toilet facilities/medical supplies and an educational support program for children.

**For more information and to enter your team please email
accounts@stjc.org.uk**



MEMBERS INFORMATION

The Committee are delighted to have elected to Membership Mr Benjamin Pinnington, Mr Steven Deighan, Mr Eric Gold, Mr David Mills, Mr Paul Timson, Mr Wesley Barnes, Dr Matthew Saunders, and Associate Member Mrs Hannah Faulkner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Unfortunately, the date for the Club AGM and Supper has had to be rescheduled and will now take place on **Wednesday 28th July**. The Committee encourages all Members old and new to attend and enjoy the complimentary Supper following the completion of the meeting.

To the Point,



AN EASTERN EUROPEAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Prior to lockdown the Club ran several exceedingly popular cultural events, including Greece, China, and Italy. A Hungarian National Celebration was planned for May but the lockdown but pay to this although it will be rescheduled for another time. What this has shown is that there is an appetite in the Club for this style of event and one of our newest committee Members, Danny Snape, has kindly organised a cracking event for the evening of **Thursday 15th July** covering the vast and diverse area that is Eastern Europe and formerly part of the Soviet Union.

Members and guests will enjoy a full eastern European cultural experience, which will include entertainers providing music, Ukrainian singing, dancing, and sword fighting before the serving of a superb 4-course regional menu encompassing traditional dishes. This will be a unique, colourful, and entertaining evening. **Members are encouraged to book their places as soon as possible.**



Testing the Chef,

The Club's Gourmet Lunch

For those who enjoy the finest food and wine, the Gourmet luncheon has been a must-attend event. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, Rodney Lambert and Christopher Tetlow have been unable to host either a luncheon or dinner in the Club. Fortunately, they now have been able to select a date of Monday 26th July.

These events have been fantastic occasions when our Head Chef has been challenged by the hosts to produce a gastronomic journey. The creation and preparation of the menu is a key element of the event but selecting and pairing the fine wines and excellent service make it a tremendous culinary occasion, but add to that the company and conversation and you ensure an outstanding Club experience.



For further information please contact:

The St. James's Club
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Email: events@stjc.org.uk
Website: www.stjc.org.uk

SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Lunching every day
12.30-2pm

Evening & Private Dining
Can be made by arrangement of the
Manager

July

Comedy Evening
Thursday 1st
6.30-7pm

Retired Members Lunch
Monday 5th
12.30-1pm

Quiz Night
Thursday
8th- 6.30pm

Chester Races
Ladies & Gents Evening
- Postponed -

Property Lunch
Tuesday 13th
12.30-1pm

Cultural Dinner
Eastern Europe
Thursday 15th
6.30-7pm

LCCC 20/20 Cricket
- Postponed -

Retired Members Lunch
Monday 19th
12.30-1pm

Gourmet Lunch
Monday 26th
12.30-1pm

Associate Members Lunch
Tuesday 27th
12.30-1pm

AGM & Supper
Wednesday 28th
6.30pm

Wine Tasting
Thursday 29th
6.30-7pm



Don't forget to follow the Club on Twitter or join the WhatsApp Social Group!

