

BIPC Chairman's Report 2023

Last year I wrote about what had been our first “normal” year since the impact of Covid and the pandemic in 2019 and 2020. Whilst that is mostly true, I think that our experiences during the past 12 months suggest that we have now entered a period of “new normal” as we get used to lower numbers at our Club gatherings. This is hardly unexpected, given the age profile of our membership, and it also seems that many have now opted not to make the journey to London for events such as the AGM and Autumn Lunch, and the Spring Lunch.

That said, there were almost fifty of us at the Spring Lunch held in April at the Union Jack Club and a similar number attended the Bournemouth Lunch in early May, for which our grateful thanks are due to both Barry Streets and Adrian Field respectively for their work in continuing to arrange these events.

However, and notwithstanding every effort on the part of Em Lloyd-Davies to stimulate support, the decision has been taken to discontinue the Northern Lunch as the numbers to make the event financially viable were not achieved.

On a more optimistic note, and following strong support last October, we are looking forward to another successful lunch in Sidmouth on Monday, October 9th and once again we are grateful to David Cawdery for his efforts in making this happen.

As in previous years, I must share with you details of changes to the Committee and the roles played by its members. Of particular note is the news that, after serving over 17 years as a key member of our group, including his time as an outstanding Chairman, Richard Webb is to stand down at the conclusion of this year's AGM and Lunch. It is all too easy to say just what an enormous contribution Richard has made, including his more recent role in running the Benevolent Fund, but it is entirely true, and his immense experience and knowledge, together with his warmth and ever thoughtful and wise contributions, will be hugely missed by us all.

I'm also extremely sorry that Barry Streets, who has been a Committee member since 2016 and took on the role of Social Secretary in 2021, will also be leaving the Committee at the same time as Richard. Barry has also provided humour, a deep knowledge of the Bank and the benefit of his experiences in

territories where few of us have worked, and these are qualities that we know cannot be replaced.

Earlier this year we also had to say an extremely sad farewell to Maria Heaney, our Committee Minutes Secretary since 2016 who stepped away from the Committee for health reasons. We are already missing her presence, her unfailing good humour, as well as her no nonsense approach to her role.

I'm happy to be able to finish on a more upbeat note, to the extent that, as recent Chairman's reports have highlighted, the financial health of our Club remains strong, thanks to the ongoing generous support of the Bank. This enables us to look forward with confidence that we will be able to continue to provide our core activities, for which I know that all members will be pleased to express and echo my own thanks to all of those who give their time to ensure that the BIPC continues to thrive.

Simon Culliford
August 2023