

MINUTES OF THE LADY TAVERNERS GUERNSEY REGIONAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE OGH HOTEL ON MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2011

Chairman's Report

Zoë began by welcoming 48 Members and Friends to the Lady Taverners Regional General Meeting and Dinner, extending a particularly warm welcome to our Honorary President Lady Malbon and our guest Ruby Graham. She also welcomed past Chairmen Dorothy Paint and Karen New, who continue to support so many of our events and meetings, and Lisa Mitchell – one of the founding members - and Jean Chambers who was on the original Lady Taverners Committee back in 1986.

Thanks were extended to all of our Members and Friends who supported the charity so enthusiastically during 2010. The Committee were also delighted to have received so much interest from prospective new members and Zoë welcomed our guests: Susan Clark, Brenda de la Mare, Anna Lisa de Tassis, Debbie Falla, Natasha Ellyatt, Marion Fallaize, Jan Griffin, Ann Hunt, Sandra King, Margaret Le Flem, Gill Long, Helen Martin, Sally McAteer, Cherry McMillen, Steph Robilliard, Chris Smith and Pam Staples.

2010 was another busy and successful year for the Guernsey Region during which we have raised £18,430 for the benefit of special needs children. We started the year with a Cocktail Party kindly hosted again by Gill Adams. The raffle raised nearly £500, including a donation from Body & Sole who gave us a percentage of the proceeds from the lingerie and swimwear sold during the evening. We are also grateful to the Guernsey Laser & Aesthetics Clinic for the champagne and to Gill for the delicious nibbles.

In March we tried a new event with the Daniel Sandler Beauty Day at St Pierre Park Hotel. A series of beauty workshops were held for the 50 ladies who joined us to learn how to achieve a new look. The raffle prize of a selection of Daniel Sandler cosmetics was won by Marlene Flouquet. We also had a pottery stall, and Sarah Bryan-Orr and Jo Pedersen very kindly offered ladies some mini reflexology sessions. Included in the ticket price was a delicious Afternoon Tea, and this new event raised £710.

In April we held the Grand National Lunch which is our biggest event of the year. 340 ladies joined us for a champagne reception in the Terrace Bar, followed by a 3 course lunch in La Fontaine Restaurant. Everyone dressed up for the occasion and we were fortunate to be able to enjoy a glass of wine in the sun on the terrace after lunch. Boscher's bookie took our bets and Spearpoint kindly sponsored the sweepstake. Raffle prizes included a luxury weekend break at the Grand Hotel in Jersey sponsored by Carey Olsen and a weekend at the Braye Beach Hotel in Alderney sponsored by Blue Islands. At the end of the afternoon we reinstated the tradition of joining the Lord's Taverners in the Terrace Bar. We were delighted to have raised £9,000 during the afternoon, with the help of sponsorship from Coast Media.

We were blessed with sunshine again in July for our Wimbledon Ladies' Final Afternoon in the Regency Room here at The OGH, sponsored by Skipton International. 140 ladies joined us for a glass of Pimms in the garden before a Salad and Strawberries & Cream Lunch. We then watched the Wimbledon Ladies Final match on the big screens around the room. The Star Prize in our Raffle was a weekend at The Grand Hotel in Jersey which was won by Debbie Falla. During the afternoon, we raised nearly £5,000!

The Creaseys Shopping event in November was the surprise of the year, when an incredible 170 ladies bought tickets to do some early Christmas Shopping, taking advantage of 10% discount plus extra discount vouchers on all purchases! More than 50 ladies joined us afterwards for dinner at Dix Neuf, including 4 ladies from the newly formed West Sussex Region. We were delighted to raise £1,460, and are grateful to Creaseys for generously providing wine, a raffle prize and a pot plant for everyone to take home!

Another regular fixture in our calendar is the Christmas Fayre & Afternoon Tea. The OGH served a delicious, traditional afternoon tea and stalls included skincare, handbags, scarves, pottery, Butterfly Boutique fashions, cashmere socks and Coryn & Sally's handmade Christmas goodies stall, raising £1,018.

The last event of 2010 was our Christmas Celebration Evening at the Courtyard Brasserie. Father Christmas welcomed us with a glass of mulled wine courtesy of James and Val Scowen, and we enjoyed a three course meal in their festively decorated restaurant. After dinner we played Fran's Guess The Santa

Game before asking Lady Malbon to draw the raffle for us. We are grateful to have received so many lovely raffle prizes, and raised £991 during the evening, and are delighted that Lady Malbon and Ruby Graham were able to join us for both of these last two events.

Grant Applications

We were very pleased to award a grant of £4,000 to the Vale Infants & Primary Schools PTA for their Climbing Frame Appeal, allowing them to reach their £36,000 target. Out of about 400 pupils at the schools, 82 have special needs so this was a perfect project for us to support.

We were also pleased to sponsor some Photography Workshops for special needs children as part of the Guernsey International Photography Festival in May. As we were unable to meet all the costs, Lisa and Greville Mitchell also very kindly donated £500 so that this very worthwhile project could go ahead. We hope to be able to help them with this year's event as well.

So far this year, a grant has been submitted for £5,000 towards a sensory room at The Croft, a respite centre which caters for up to 75 young people with special needs. It seems to fall within our remit, so we very much hope to have some good news about this soon.

We are always looking for projects to support so we can spend the money we've raised, so if you know of any projects with which we may be able to assist, please let one of the Committee know.

Lord's & Lady Taverners Conference

In May, Bev and Zoë attended the third joint Lord's and Lady Taverners Conference in Nottingham. This was a huge success, being a great forum for chairmen from all regions across the UK to share ideas and we were delighted to be representing Guernsey as not only the longest established but also one of the most successful regions in the UK again.

2011

Moving on to this year, we got off to an encouraging start with our January Dinner Meeting seeing nearly 50 ladies taking over the Alpine Chalet for Cheese & Chocolate Fondues. 2011 is a special year for us as we shall be celebrating our 25th Anniversary with a Silver Ball on 17th September. We are proud to be the first ladies' region to be established in the UK, and since 1986 we have raised more than £300,000 for the benefit of special needs children.

Our next event is the return of the Tarrant Quiz next month which is a joint event with the Lord's Taverners, and our next Dinner Meeting will be held at L'Escalier on Monday 4th March.

Forthcoming diary dates for 2011 are:

Saturday 9th April – Grand National Ladies Lunch at St Pierre Park Hotel (now sold out)

Monday 11th April – Dinner Meeting

Monday 13th June – Dinner Meeting

Saturday 2nd July – Wimbledon Ladies Final Lunch at The OGH

Lady Taverners Committee

Nearly four years having passed since Zoë took over from Karen as Chairman, she noted that she must stand down in May next year. She expressed her gratitude to Karen for having given her the opportunity to head up such a worthwhile charity and friendly club – it's been the most rewarding and incredible experience. Zoë invited Members to consider whether they wish to become more involved to avoid the Region being closed down. (NB A nomination for Chairman was received subsequent to the meeting to be formally announced at the March meeting).

Zoë then thanked her hard-working and enthusiastic committee, and asked Bev, Fran, Helen and Coryn to take a bow in acknowledgement of the tremendous effort that they have put in again over the last twelve months. Helaine has stood down from the Committee but Yvonne Lepp has kindly offered her support with our events this year and Jane England has kindly volunteered to help with the Silver Ball.

Finally on a sad note, Zoë noted that this was the last function that Lady Malbon would be attending as she and Sir Fabian are leaving the Island next week. She thanked her sincerely for all of her very valued and enthusiastic support for our charity over the past five years which has been greatly appreciated. We will certainly miss her kindness and friendship as she retires as our Honorary President next week. (NB A gift was presented to Lady Malbon at dinner following the meeting).

Dorothy thanked Zoë and the Committee for their work for the charity during the year, and Zoë closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their valued and continued support.