



NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2024

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Annual General Meeting

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on 4 April 2024. A detail Executive Committee presentation given at the meeting is attached to this Newsletter hence is not repeated here.

Ian Yarwood and Kylie Reynolds stepped down from the Executive Committee at the meeting. Tony Nutt and Sadik Miah were appointed Membership Officer and Secretary respectively, having been co-opted to serve during 2023.

We must thank Ian for his long service to the Club and Kylie for an exceptional performance in organising Events throughout 2023. We currently have vacancies in replacing these roles and I will comment more fully on these below.

Whilst we have maintained a full programme of interesting events, the year has been dominated by significant administrative changes. We implemented Wild Apricot, a membership and events registration package in January 2023 and later in the year replaced the initial PayPal payment option with Stripe, a leading and more user-friendly global payment option. Thanks go to John Hughes for his extensive efforts in achieving this. We now have a system that saves significant manual effort for both Members and the Club whilst giving fully up to date information on membership and event registration.

Thanks to Iris Holt, we also made a lot of progress on the RBC website in 2023 and including pages on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram. Whilst these are important in attracting new members, I'm conscious from our last Member poll that a lot of our members do not use social media. Hence, we will recommence more frequent Newsletters to Members this year.

A second administrative exercise commenced recently is to update the Club Statutes and Rules which were last updated in 2013. These need to reflect the internet and email age and update certain statutory information. The exercise is a prerequisite to opening new bank accounts which are necessary to get a better interest rate on cash funds we hold.

Thanks go to Andrew Jones, Charles Roberts and David Wright for forming a subcommittee to undertake this task.

This extensive administrative change has been significantly consuming my time as Chairman in 2023. I am looking forward in 2024 to focus at the front end on building the Club, confident that we have an efficient and up to date administration in place.

Executive Committee Resources

My email to all Members dated 23 March 2024 outlined the need for additional resources to maintain the Club's activity, and particularly three roles - a Club Development Officer, a Cascais Events Officer and an Events Administration Officer. We have to date disappointingly had a nil response as far as events are concerned. Kylie will continue in transition until June, but we now need to engage event resources without delay to maintain service as usual.

At the AGM I compared two extremes of operating models used by our peer groups:

- a) The IWP model which has a team of 36 individuals each allocated a specific activity e.g. walks, coffee mornings etc.
- b) The American Club of Lisbon, similar in size to the RBC but with paid administrative resources. Subscriptions are €225 for Single members and €325 for Couples.

My goal currently is to move the Club to a "mini IWP model", i.e. not with 36 members on the team but by engaging more individuals allocated to specific events so that no one person has an excessive workload.

We have already achieved this model in Lisbon:

The Lisbon Events team - Richard Keech, Ninna Taylor, Miles Edlmann and Mark Wheeler have been working closely with Kylie and agreed to take on specific activities for 2024. Richard will arrange lunches at the Grémio Literário, Miles has arranged mini golf and wine tutorial events and Mark is arranging a Trafalgar Day event. In addition, Miguel Cerqueira has undertaken to arrange one or two events this year. The team has also recommenced the Lisbon Happy Hours.

This is a commendable effort by our Lisbon based colleagues. We need to emulate this for Cascais with a small team of 3 or 4 members each prepared to take on one or two events.

We also need to recruit the Events Administration officer, mentioned in my mail dated 23 March 2024 and responsible for recording events on the Wild Apricot system. The Club Development Manager role, previously mentioned, also remains to be filled.

Please contact me chairmanrb@gmail.com if you can assist on these roles.

Payments by Stripe

Payment by Stripe rather than by bank transfer is the most efficient option both for Members and for Club administration. Once you have initially set up debit or credit card information in Stripe it is stored in encrypted form. Subsequently all payments of either subscriptions or events can be made by little more than two clicks of the mouse.

For Club administration, Stripe payments are automatically computer matched against the amount due. Bank transfer payments involve additional manual work and time delay in recording, for example compared to Stripe payments where your membership subscription is immediately activated.

Accordingly, we ask all Members to use Stripe wherever possible and will be happy to give any assistance to Members where necessary.

Arthur Milton
Chairman Royal British Club

MEMBERSHIP FUN FACT!

As an International Social and Business Club the RBC has members from nationalities across the globe. At last count we have members from 28 different countries!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Click here to see ALL upcoming [RBC Events](#)

ST GEORGE'S DAY LUNCHEON

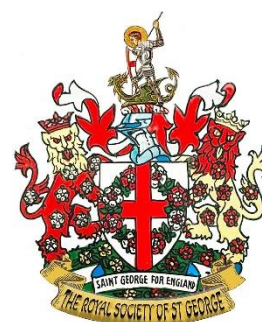
There is still time to grab a ticket or two to this annual multi-society event to be held at the Centro Cultural de Cascais on 24th April. You can still book over the weekend with final numbers to go to the CCC on Monday morning.

We are delighted to announce that this year we will have two guest speakers. We have the pleasure of our President attending and speaking for the first time, plus Inês Meira Araújo from the Cultural Heritage department of Castelo de Saô Jorge will talk to us as to how the castle came to be named after the patron saint of England.

The menu includes traditional English dishes such as:

Fish and Chips, Mushy Peas, Beef Wellington, Scotch Eggs, Roasted Ham, Shepherd's Pie, Apple Crumble, Eton Mess and Bread Pudding!

Click here for more information and to register
[St George's Day Luncheon](#)



GRÉMIO LITERÁRIO LUNCH AND SPEAKER

Our second event for 2024 at the Grémio Literário will be held on the 14th May.

The speaker for this event will be Tiago Nuno Ramos Vieira from EPAL who will talk to us about the fascinating history of water in Lisbon.

Save the date - Full details to be announced soon.



Don't forget our regular Happy Hour's each month:

Lisbon - Thursday, 26th May

Cascais - Friday, 26th April & 31st May

The May Cascais Happy Hour will be a big one as the RBC will be celebrating the **10th Anniversary of the Cascais Happy Hours!**



You can find all Happy Hour dates here!
[RBC Events](#)

PAST EVENTS

FINANCE WORKSHOP



The first major event for 2024 saw an excellent turnout with almost 50 members attending a Finance Workshop at the Hotel Baía in Cascais, presented by Matthew Krystman of Blevins Franks.



Topics included Changes to the Non-Habitual Residency Regime in Portugal – including how to still get in by the end of 2024, post NHR planning – tax optimisation for once the 10-year status expires and move. The workshop was followed by morning eat on the terrace.

SOCIAL LUNCH AND PRESENTATION



Our first Social Lunch of the year was held on the last day of February at the Grémio Literário in Lisbon and was extremely well attended. We'd like to thank Patrick Siegler-Lathrop for spending time with our members discussing the US Presidential election system and the upcoming 2024 election. He gave us all a brilliant insight into the American election system and the prospects for 2024.



A HUGE THANKS TO THE ONGOING SUPPORT FROM OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS AND CORPORATE MEMBERS

We greatly appreciate your continued support!

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Like our Facebook and Instagram pages to help keep up to date with club events. You can also subscribe to our new YouTube channel for the latest event videos.

Full details for future events will be provided closer to the date and may be subject to change. Other events are being considered.

[Unsubscribe](#)