

ABOUT THE GUERNSEY SPORTING DINNER CLUB



Due to the unique nature of the Club, we thought it useful to provide a summary of what it's all about in the following Q&As.

Q. What are the Club's objectives?

A. The primary objective is to raise funds for the Guernsey Cricket Board, primarily but not exclusively for youth cricket development. The GCB, which itself has charitable status, is committed to ensuring that its fantastic youth development programme is fully sustainable as it continues to evolve and expand, and so this is the primary focus for the Club.

A secondary objective is to put on four fantastic evenings of entertainment every year to help us to reach our fundraising goals.

Q. What's the structure?

A. The Club is a Guernsey company limited by guarantee. Each Member has a vote in how the Club is run, and will be liable to pay a maximum of just £1 in the event of the Company being wound up. Benefiting the GCB is the main stated objective of the Company.

The four directors are its founders, Jeremy Sharratt, Steve Hogg, Chris Edwards and David Piesing, who joined together to launch the Club, with Barry Williams as our Patron. The constitution provides for annual elections of directors/officers. But remember that this is a club run for the Members and we want the Members to have a full say in how the Club operates going forward.

Q. What sort of guest speakers are being lined up?

A. We anticipate that the four guest speakers each year will come primarily from the worlds of cricket, football and rugby, but from time to time we will bring speakers from other sports. We want to attract household names who you will want to come and hear speak. The membership/financing structure of the Club enables us to do that.

If Members want us to try to secure a specific guest speaker, and if it's within our price range, then we will do our utmost to get that speaker. If Members have close connections to help us to reach certain target speakers, then please let us know.

Q. Where and when will the dinners be held?

A. Our "home" is The Farmhouse, which is the perfect location for sporting dinners of this size, and where high quality food can always be relied upon. Two dinners are held between January and April,

and the other two dinners are held between September and November. We always avoid weekends and school holidays. Generally we aim to hold dinners on a Tuesday night to minimise clashes with other island events.

Q. How does the membership work?

A. Individual Members are required to pay an annual subscription of £120, payable either by standing order of £10 per month or by annual lump sum. This entitles the Member to a £20 discount on each of the four dinners, as well as an extra £40 which is partly to help us to finance/underwrite each event, and is partly a donation. We make no secret of or apologies for the highly transparent fundraising objectives of the Club, and by raising funds in this way we won't need to fundraise quite so aggressively at each dinner.

Corporate Membership is available and has proved extremely popular. Corporate Membership can be for anything from 2 places upwards, and guarantees the Corporate Member than minimum number of places at each dinner. Corporate Membership is also £120 per place (as per Individual Membership), but the annual membership fee for Corporates is payable annually by lump sum in January.

Both Individual and Corporate Membership can be taken out at any time during the year, and a pro-rata fee will be payable for that year, based on how many of the 4 annual dinners remain at the time of joining.

We have structured the Club membership in this way for a number of reasons.

Firstly, it helps to ensure that the fundraising aspect is a success, and secondly if we are to secure the best available names as guest speakers, then we have to commit early to paying their fees and travel expenses. What we cannot afford is to have to cancel dinners due to poor support and then have to still pay the speaker and absorb cancelled travel, hotel and venue costs. By operating a subscription system in this way, we know that the revenue is there to underwrite the dinner even if the Member cannot manage to attend (in which case the Member will have made an extra donation !). By providing as much notice as possible of the date of each dinner, and by avoiding weekends and peak holiday periods, we hope that Members will note the date of future dinners in their diaries and ensure that they are able to attend.

Q. What is the cost of each dinner?

A. The cost has just been increased (for the first time since we launched in 2012) from £35 to £40 for Members, and from £55 to £60 for Non-Members, the £20 difference recognising that Members have already paid £20 per dinner within their Membership fee. If Members bring guests who are Non-Members, which we warmly encourage (subject to place availability), then the Non-Member guest rate of £60 will apply.

Q. How can Non-Members attend?

A. Naturally, every Member must have the right of first refusal. Our aim is to try to get 150 people to each dinner, and Members always come first. Non-Members usually attend as a guest of a Member, but we like to also invite potential new Members as guests and we will often go out to a club or association and ask then if they wish to take an ad hoc table for a specific dinner. There are some Corporates who are not Members and who do not wish to take a table at each dinner, but who will often take a table as Non-Members at two or more dinners each year.

Q. How will we communicate?

A. We will require an email address and/or mobile number for each Member. Email will always be the preferred communication method. It makes the running of the Club so much simpler if each Member can be relied upon to respond promptly and reliably. We go out to all members several weeks before each dinner and we ensure that we get either a confirmed Yes or a No from each Member so that we know how many Non-Members can be accommodated.

We have a Twitter account which is @GuernseySDC and we also have a page on the GCB website which is www.guernseycricket.com-guernsey-sporting-dinner-club

Q. What about sponsorship?

A. We are keen to secure a sponsor for each dinner as this will make a huge difference to the fundraising efforts. It's an ideal event for local companies to sponsor and to bring along a table of clients as guests. The current sponsorship rate is £1,500, which entitles the Sponsor to a pre-dinner champagne reception at the Farmhouse, plus dinner for 11 guests with the Guest Speaker who will sit on the Sponsor's table to make up the table of 12, plus corporate branding of the table menus and the seating plan. Guests go home having had a truly memorable evening really getting to know a sporting legend, and our feedback from sponsors to date has been extremely positive.

Hopefully the above Questions & Answers will answer most queries, but if you have any queries or wish to discuss anything with us then please email us at guernseysportingdinnerclub@yahoo.co.uk

We very much hope you will wish to join and look forward to seeing soon at our dinners.

David Piesing

Director & Secretary

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