

CONCISE NOTES FROM A MEETING OF THE CROMWELL PROBUS CLUB SG ON 14TH FEB23

1. Chair: Chris Leah, with Ros Townsend, Lorna Baker, Gordon Steptoe and Dave Mack (admin) in attendance with apologies from Peter Horrocks (ill) to whom, on behalf of the Club, we all wish a speedy resolution.
2. Overflow Room. With the Brasserie capacity now being 35, it was agreed that rather than occupy the Brunel Suite in the cooler months for 35+ diners, we would consider overflowing onto the tables in the adjoining room.
3. Lunch Cost 23/24. Due to the general increase in food prices, it was agreed that, with effect from April, the Club would need to accept a moderate increase. Consequently, from 1 April the cost of a Lunch will be £20. Previously, the cost of Lunch has been subsidised at £5pp.
4. Subsidy to Cease. With funds dwindling in 22/23 at the rate of some £200 per Lunch (on average) there are now (as expected) insufficient funds remaining to support an extension of the £5 meal subsidy for any reasonable duration. Consequently, in FY 2023/4 with effect from the April Lunch, with no subsidy available, the cost to Diners will be a full £20 paid directly to Slepe Hall on arrival. The Club's accounts were audited by members of the SG.
- 5.. Dining Choices. To give diners a better dining experience and value for money in 23/24 there will be a wider selection of the 3 mains: (1) Red Meat (Lamb/Beef) + (2) White Meat (Chicken/Turkey/Pork) + (3) Fish (with type of fish being decided on the Tuesday before the Thursday), with a Chef's Vegetarian Dish of the Day being available should it be requested. Also dishes suggested by diners from the 2021/2 Meal Survey such as Cumberland Sausage, Mash & Peas; Fish, Chips & Peas; Liver & Bacon & Mash; , Steak & Kidney Pie; Lamb casserole etc would be introduced. Suggestions or reminders for mains options always welcome. Additionally, crushed New Potatoes will be replaced by mash and ALL veg will be 'cooked through'. Problems at Lunch need to be made immediately at Lunch.
6. Dress Standard. It was agreed that the Club's Dress Standard for FY23/24 would be retained as Smart Casual the universally-accepted standard of which for gents is Jacket & Tie. Relaxations would be at the discretion of the Host.
7. 3-Course Coronation Lunch on 18th May. Dress: Coronation attire (optional). If Slepe Hall can manage it at an affordable price (tbd but around £25 would be good) This would be 3-courses of appropriately named dishes (like for the Jubilee) such as Windsor Soup, Coronation Chicken etc.... ideas for names/dishes to Admin@ please. Naturally, there will be a Coronation Raffle ... more details on prizes after the April meeting of the SG. The guest speaker in May will be Claire Hardy, the Director of the Norris Museum.
8. Speakers Needed from within the Club. Diners supported the idea of 5-10 min chats by fellow diners. To date Peter Jennings is the last on Admin's list for April – anyone for June-November, please?
9. SG Chair Apr-Sep 2023 (incl). The SG Chair for the next 6 months (6 months for continuity) was agreed as volunteer Gordon Steptoe with Admin (or any other member of the SG) acting in his absence as Chair at SG Meetings.
10. Next meeting of the SG Tuesday 18 April 2023 with Gordon as Chair.

Dave Mack Admin 07519 534255