

President's Report on 2018

2018 was not the best year that we've ever had.. but it was not bad. Membership numbers have remained reasonably steady, 84 members lapsed but 79 new members joined. Overall that's a loss of just 5 members.... Not bad!

Unfortunately the daily attendance numbers didn't keep pace with the Membership numbers. They have gone down from 6111 in 2017 to 5835 in 2018...a reduction of 276. Not bad But it's the 5th year in a row that attendance has gone down....and that's bad.

The Committee spends a great deal of time in their Meetings assessing these figures and what attracts the most Members on specific days. There's not much we can do about Monday or Tuesday, although we do our best to encourage the Special Interest Groups. Christine does her best to think of interesting THURSDAY topics for your information and entertainment. But the "proof of the pudding is in the eating". If you don't turn up.....then we got it wrong.

(It's not really a part of a 2018 report but the best recent attendance was for the presentation about Concorde in Jan...65 members attended) ... but that was not a 'computer topic'.)

Of course, we are aware that more and more people are proficient with Computers, laptops, smartphones etc. and so they don't attend the Club because they are seeking tuition. Fortunately, 'troubleshooting' help is still needed and Monday is still our busiest day. But we are aware that, on Mondays, quite a few Members use the Club as a Social Centre; they sit in their usual places, with their usual friends....and simply have a chat and enjoy their usual coffee.

So, the number of Members we have and the daily attendance that they provide is a concern because it has financial implications for the Club and it's important that we understand the changes that are taking place because we need to adjust to them.

As a result of that, I was checking earlier AGM Minutes and noticed, in the Minutes of the 2007 AGM, that Chris commented on the prospects for the Club. In answer to a question about the possibility of JCC acquiring premises of its own She

commented.....” there is a tremendous amount of work entailed in looking after premises and besides with communications as they are perhaps the Computer Club would not be required.”

She was correct in her view at that time but I can assure you that we haven't yet reached that 'nightmare' scenario and we will do our best to avoid it coming about.

As I said, not our best year..... but not bad.

Sadly we are losing 3 of our long serving Committee Members at this AGM. Peter Bayliss who joined the Committee in 2006 and Ron Moss who joined the Committee in 2009 have found that they now have too many other commitments to be able to continue as Committee Members. We will miss them very much and we are grateful for and very appreciative of..... the time and effort that they have given to the Club.

The third Committee Member that we are losing is Vic.

He has been the mainstay of the Hardware group since he joined the Committee in 2007. He is probably the best known of our Committee Members, people often come in on a Monday and say “ I need Vic”ignoring the rest of us.

But sadly his health has not kept up with his enthusiasm and he has decided that he now needs to step down.

His health is of more concern to us than the loss of his ability and experience.....and I'm sure that you will join me in wishing him well in the future.

But, hey!!, I'm not exactly known as a pessimist.

This is still the greatest Club in Javea and we have a new nominee for Committee in Soren Christoffersen, who is seeking election to the Committee. I have no doubt that he will be an excellent addition and I hope you will support his nomination.

Now I would like to show Membership numbers in a little more detail.....the diagram on the screen shows the details of JCC Membership over the last 14 years. In 2009 it dropped to 414 from a high of 650 but since 2009 it has recovered somewhat to the current figure of 485 and that has been reasonably consistent for the last few years. As I said earlier, 84 members lapsed in 2018 but 79 new members joined and that is NOT

BAD considering the threat of Brexit which has undoubtedly resulted in people returning to the UK. We are not the only Club to be affected by that.

During the year, we also greeted another 'new face' in the Club that needs a comment from me that's the face behind the Bar. Jackie replaced Amanda at the beginning of the year as our 'bar lady' and she has certainly cheered the place up, In fact.... She was originally only employed during JCC hours but the Bridge Club clearly envy us and have now made her a full-time employee so that they also can benefit from her enthusiasm.

Next, I must apologize to you for the Newsletters that are **SOMETIMES A LITTLE LESS THAN SERIOUS**.... But the intention is to get your attention, to make it interesting and sometimes amusing..... so that at least you'll read it instead of just 'binning' it. Hopefully that will encourage you to attend if you are aware of what is available in the coming week.

And I can not end a report without thanking the people that ensure that JCC continues to be successful.....all the Committee.....Chris for the Thursday presentations.....Tom for his invaluable help troubleshooting and for his presentations.....the Cash Desk ladies (Pat, Theresa and Betty) for their welcoming smiles, very important ... as that is what greets Members and Guests when they arrive.

And to my wife for leading the Card Making Group which provides me inadvertentlywith so much inspiration for the Newsletters.

And finally to thank you for your continuing support of the Club.