



Michael O'Callaghan

Personal statement for Coolhurst GMC Bar Secretary

As Bar Secretary I would form a Coolhurst Bar and Social Committee. Its membership will be open to people with ideas for promoting the bar, social activities, and developing the infrastructure of the patio, kitchen and bar.

This bar committee would build on ideas from members and create a plan of activities for the year, including wine tasting, speaker evenings, quizzes, film night and events with live music in the Clubhouse. The Bar Sec represents the voice of members, addressing the bar and how it operates, and the range of food and drink. The Bar secretary operates on behalf of members, in cooperation with the Club manager who has line management responsibility for the bar. The Bar Sec supports our already very good bar and kitchen, to generate more activity and more fun.

I would bring to this role my knowledge of how the Club works. I have previously been Squash Secretary, Social Secretary and a Director of Coolhurst Ltd. I have been Club Secretary since 2017. In that role I have organised the AGMs of 2018, 2019 and 2020, and one Special General Meeting, and these seem to have avoided the organisational problems that plagued previous AGMs.

In 2019 I proposed the motion that was then supported by members, with a 75% + majority that shrank our GMC from 14 members to 10, streamlining meetings.

Some track record to convince Members I would deliver. In my previous GMC roles, including Social Secretary, I have run:

- film nights where we've projected films onto a squash court wall (including Metropolis, French Connection, Belle Epoque).

- quizzes, as quiz master and question setter and before lockdown, ran a popular wine tasting.

- speaker evenings which have seen the Clubhouse packed out on a Saturday evening. These have included a former Coolhurst Chair telling the unbelievable but true story of how she was called to sing a leading role at Covent Garden with only half an hour's notice, and the moving life story of a member of long standing who escaped from Nazi Germany and went on to start a string of major charities in England. We've heard a BBC Radio 4 broadcaster telling us about Amritsar in 1919, and we heard about the Real Rock Follies, all in our unique and intimate Club environment.

Bar Secretary is a GMC role, and in I would continue to support activities in areas where I've built up background knowledge, across squash, building projects, finances and more. I would aim to support the Chair in running an efficient and effective committee.

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