

## **JECSOFA – PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR 2025 AGM**

Hello and welcome to our 2025 AGM. If you feel inclined to have a bit of a siesta following such a good lunch, may I just ask that you keep the snores down to an acceptable level?

Unlike previous years, where the AGM has been our first event, we have already had two outings this year. In February we had a Wine and Truffles visit to Domaine Montansier, and were all very grateful to be lunching in the lovely warm distillery on a cold February day. By the time we left, I think we all had internal central heating from the quantity of truffles and wine that had been consumed, not to mention the Cognac!

Then in March we visited Maison Bache Gabrielsen in Cognac for a guided tour through the history of the house given by Christian Bache Gabrielsen, who retired over ten years ago, but is so dedicated that he came out on a Sunday morning to show us round and then gave us a very generous and informative tasting. This was followed by a fabulous lunch at Cognac Rugby Club, after which we watched the match and saw Cognac prevail in a closely-contested match against Le Havre.

The rest of our 2025 planned events are published on the website, but I have here a summary of the latest information and dates, which I shall pass around and you will hear more about some of them from our Secretary and our Treasurer shortly. Incidentally, there is an unexpected vacancy for a couple on our next outing, the trip to the Auvergne on 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May, so if anyone is interested, please come and see me for details. We have a wonderful itinerary planned, so don't miss this chance!

2024 was another successful year for the Club and the highlight was the tri-nations tour of Spain and Andorra, which we shared with our fellow club members from Barcelona and the Costa Blanca. The drives through the mountains were outstanding and some of the meals we had were unbelievably good, both in quality and in value.

## **JECSOFA – PRESIDENT’S REPORT FOR 2025 AGM**

We have had problems in the past with communication with members and some of this was due to the large number of email addresses on our mailing list. We have spent a lot of time slimming this list down to those who are actually interested in what we do and this, combined with a push to increase our membership has led to us having over 50 paid-up couples this year.

Our charity barbecue this year is on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August at the home of Trev Miles and Carine Raymonde in the commune of Bouteville in the Charente. Please make a note in your diaries and why not book yourself into a local hotel for the weekend? If you are unable to come, but wish to make a donation, please come and see any of the committee today. This year’s charity will be .....

I know I say this every year, but the two Johns, McLennan and Sharp as our Secretary and Treasurer respectively, put in a huge amount of work on our behalf, so please show your appreciation for their efforts.

Régis, our Vice-President also has a big input to the Club, in spite of having many other commitments, notably to supporting his own family, and indeed he has made time to attend today, even though he has to dash off to Paris immediately after the meeting, to help his son and grandchildren, so our grateful thanks go to him too for his continued help.

Finally, as always my personal thanks go out to you, the members for your support and of course to Annie, my wonderful wife who has to share me with three old Jags! Thank you all for coming and for listening.

***Chris Park.***

***President JECSOFA - E-mail: [parkie007@hotmail.com](mailto:parkie007@hotmail.com) - Mobile : 06 40 91 31 90***