A Very Warm Welcome to the

British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V.

Evening for Sponsors

Wirtschaftsclub Düsseldorf, 23 May 2017

www.britishbusinessclub.de
History of the British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V.

• Club founded on 8 July 1958, when a group of British businessmen gathered at Friedrich-Lau-Str. 13 to form what was then called *The British Businessmen’s Luncheon Club Düsseldorf*

• The first official meeting did not take place until a year later, when the Club’s first committee was appointed, with Mr H J Bowe, HM Vice-Consul as the first Hon. Chairman. The Committee was also made up of an Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, a Catering Officer and a Toast Master. While the post of Toast Master died out in 1963, the Catering Officer survived a further three years.

• The first Honorary President of the Club was Her Majesty’s Consul-General in Düsseldorf, Mr R G A Meade, and this has become an unbroken tradition, with Susan Speller the current President.

• On 4 December 1962, the Club was officially registered in the Vereinsregister under VR4502 as “The British Businessmen’s Club, Düsseldorf e.V”

• The Club has a long tradition of close ties with the British Forces in Germany, first established in 1965 when Colonel F H Potter OBE, Station Commander, Düsseldorf, became the Club’s Hon. Vice-President. Sadly, with the departure of the British Army from Germany, the link is disappearing, although there are still close contacts with the British Legion.
History of the British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V.

- The Club followed a regular format of a monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, which included a meal and a guest speaker in a number of locations, such as prominent hotels and the Industrie Club

- After many years of debate, the Club eventually voted for businesswomen to be permitted as members in 1997. Thelma Matuk became the first female member of the Club in 1997 and later the Club’s first lady chairman in 2012

- It would take another ten years before the Club was renamed British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V.

- The Club has been privileged to host many distinguished people as after lunch or after dinner speakers in its first 60 years of its existence, as you will soon see

*with particular thanks to Tony Harris, Patrick Dickinson, Ian Mackenzie and Andrew Gardiner for their input into this brief club history*
BBCD Speakers from the World of Politics

- Sir Edward Heath - Former Prime Minister
- Denis Healey - Former Defence Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Ken Livingstone - Former Mayor of London
- Michael Portillo - Former Conservative Minister and TV personality
- Baroness Shirley Williams - Former Labour Minister an SDP founder
- Clement Freud - Former Liberal MP and TV entertainer
- Edwina Currie - Former Conservative Minister and author
- Oberbürgermeister Thomas Geisel - Current Mayor of Düsseldorf
- Lord Michael Bates - Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairman of House of Lords
BBCD Speakers from the World of Business & Commerce

• Bernd Pischetsrieder – Former Chairman, BMW Group, and Former Chairman, Volkswagen Group
• Reinhard Künstler – Former Chairman, Jaguar Germany
• Richard Noble - Light Aircraft Manufacturer and holder of the World’s Land Speed Record
• Sir Robert Stheeman - CEO of the UK Debt Management Office
• Lord Digby Jones - Former Director General of the CBI and Former Minister of State for Trade and Investment
• David J. Haynes, Former Chairman, Grohe AG, Düsseldorf
• Robert Green, Managing Director of Klingenburg GmbH, Gladbeck
BBCD Speakers from the Media World

• Sir Patrick Moore - Astronomer and TV Legend
• Michael Bentine - Comedian and original Goon
• Ray Alan - Ventriloquist with Lord Charles
• David Jacobs - Veteran DJ, TV and radio personality
• Michael Fish - TV Weatherman
• Roger Mosey - Former Senior Executive at BBC and currently Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge University
BBCD Speakers from the Sporting World

• Sir Henry Cooper - British Heavyweight Boxing Champion
• Farouk Engineer - West Indian Wicket Keeper
• Christopher Martin-Jenkins - Cricket Commentator
• Sir Trevor Brooking - England Footballer and TV Pundit
• Sir Chay Blythe – Around-the-World Yachtsman
• Fiery Fred Trueman – Yorkshire and England Fast Bowler
Regular Club Activities

• Club lunches and dinners with speakers
• Evenings and dinners with musical accompaniment
• Receptions kindly hosted by the British Consulate
• Annual Christmas Party
• Burns’ Night, a highlight of the Düsseldorf social calendar
• Visits to companies like Grohe, Krupp Mannesmann & Ford
• Annual golf tournament at Kosaido
• Annual cricket match against Christ Church
• Club squash league
• Stall at the annual British Flair event at Burg Linn, Krefeld
• Annual General Meeting in April every year
Club Cultural Activities

- Backstage visit to the Düsseldorf Opera and viewing of the Magic Flute
- Visit to Skulpturenpark Waldfrieden, Wuppertal, with works mainly by Tony Cragg but also some other sculptors
- Violin performance by Anna Schevchenko-Böhmer
- Visit to performance of Music Show Scotland
- Champagne and wine tasting events
- Düsseldorf Lyric Opera show scheduled for September 2017
Club Profile and Details

• Well over 120 members from Düsseldorf, NRW and wider afield
• Just over 50% of members are British, as decreed by the constitution, with a wide range of other nationalities
• Some 25% of membership currently are ladies
• Annual membership is EUR 70 (EUR 50 for first year)
• Most events are open to non-members
• About 12-24 events are held each year
• Members includes business men and women, lawyers, accountants, consultants, teachers, opera singers and a wide range of other professions
Amongst the many charities that the club has supported are:

• Bahnhofsmission (50% of Burns’ Night raffle for many years)
• Royal British Legion (50% of Burns’ Night raffle, since 2015)
• Help for Heroes (50% of Burns’ Night raffle, until 2015)
• Queen Mary University of London (for a student spending time in Germany)
• Friedensdorf International, the charity supported by Lord Bates during his walk from London to Berlin in 2015
• Wolfgang Hofmann in 2016 and 2017 runs in Reading Half Marathon for BIBS as Oberbürgermeister’s official representative
• Helped in many cases by our club sponsors
Current Officer Holders of the Club
Honorary President: Susan Speller, British Consul-General, Düsseldorf

Honorary Chairman: Brian Hicks

Honorary Vice-Chairman: Vincent McCue

Honorary Secretary: Trevor Kerslake

Honorary Treasurer: Paul Stheeman

Honorary Social Secretary: Monique Kerslake
The Club’s Need for Sponsors

- The Club needs sponsors and support every year, in particular for the Golf Day at Kosaido, Burns’ Night and the Christmas Party
- There are also other events where sponsorship helps, such as when eminent speakers come to the club and travel expenses or a fee are paid
- There are sponsorship opportunities for most events on the club calendar
- Our Members have the great opportunity to network with the Sponsors and the Club is widening and increasing its range of activities and business areas
Benefits for Sponsors

• Free web link on the BBCD website section for sponsors
• If sponsors do not already have a web link, please contact Monique or Brian
• Website is now being regularly updated and functioning properly, albeit under increased security measures
• Additional free web link possibilities in connection with specific events that are advertised on the website
• Access and exposure to a wide variety of local British and other communities
• Club website will be developed further in the coming months, with a lot of new content to be added
• Sponsors have the opportunity to be a partner of the British Business Club, so it is a Win Win situation on both sides – increasing information flow
• Opportunity to join interesting events
British Business Club Düsseldorf and Current Sponsors

- British Consulate
- Hotel Nikko
- Teehaus Benrath
- Schwaderlapp & Kröll Steuerberater
- UB Architecture Interior Garden
- ABD Business Center
- Body and Soul wellness and spa
- Holmes Place Düsseldorf
- Golfino
- Optik Bölter Brillen
- Flowers and emotions

- KOSAIDO Golf-Betriebs GmbH
- Trainer Kosaido (Stefan Horlacher & Gary Warner)
- Scottish Development International
- Lush GmbH
- EKD Gelenkrohr
- Fudge Shop
- aesthaMedica
- Let’s Talk
- Coaching and Consulting Heléne Rhodin
- The Tea Ladies
- Grohe AG
- Steel Systems
Thank you,
BBCD Sponsors!