Membership of British Business Club Düsseldorf
If you wish to become a member of the British Business Club Düsseldorf, please go to https://www.britishbusinessclub.de/become-a-member.html

60 years old on 8 July 2018!

The British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V. (BBCD) is a vibrant and friendly club with more than 150 members from Düsseldorf, Nordrhein-Westfalen and further afield. Approximately 50% of members are British, as decreed by the club constitution, with a very wide range of other nationalities.

Members include business men and women from a wide range of professions including lawyers, accountants, consultants, teachers and even opera singers!

- Some 25% of the membership are ladies
- Annual membership subscription is currently EUR 70 (EUR 50 for first year)
- Most events are open to non-members
- Approximately 16-24 events are held each year

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### Activities

A BBCD organises a wide variety of activities, including:

- Club lunches and dinners with a broad range of speakers
- Evenings and dinners with musical or operatic accompaniment
- Receptions kindly hosted by the British Consulate-General
- Annual Christmas Party
- Burns’ Night celebration, a highlight of the Düsseldorf calendar
- Visits to companies like Grohe, Krupp and Ford
- Annual golf tournament at Kosaido International Golf Club
- 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

The club also supports various charities, including the Bahnhofsmission and the Royal British Legion.

### History

#### History of the British Business Club Düsseldorf

The club was founded on 8 July 1958, when a group of British businessmen gathered at Friedrich-Lau-Strasse 13, Düsseldorf, to form The British Businessmen’s Luncheon Club Düsseldorf. The first Honorary President was Her Majesty’s Consul-General in Düsseldorf and this has become an unbroken tradition of the club. The club’s current Honorary President is Rafe Courage, the current British Consul-General.

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 had close ties with the British Forces, first established in 1965 when Colonel F H Potter OBE, Station Commander, Düsseldorf, became the Club’s Honorary 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.

After many years of debate, the club eventually voted for women 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 from 2012 to 2015. The Club was renamed British Business Club Düsseldorf e.V. in 2007.

#### Speakers

The club has hosted many distinguished speakers, including:

- Sir Edward Heath - Former Prime Minister
- Denis Healey - Former Defence Minister and Chancellor
- Baroness Shirley Williams - Former Labour Minister and SDP founder
- Lord Michael Bates - Deputy Speaker of House of Lords
- Düsseldorf Oberbürgermeister Thomas Geisel
- Reinhard Künstler - Former Chairman, Jaguar Germany
- Sir Robert Stheeman - CEO of the UK Debt Management Office
- Lord Digby Jones - Former Director-General of the CBI
- David J. Haynes, Chairman, Grohe AG
- Robert Green, Managing Director of Klingenburg GmbH
- Sir Patrick Moore - Astronomer and TV Legend
- Michael Fish - TV Weatherman
- Roger Mosey - Former Senior Executive at BBC
- Sir Henry Cooper - British Heavyweight Boxing Champion
- Sir Trevor Brooking - England Footballer and TV Pundit
- Sir Chay Blythe - Around-the-World Yachtsman
- Fiery Fred Trueman - Yorkshire and England Fast Bowler