



SIBN AGM 2019  
7th November 2019  
19:30-21:00

Draft Minutes

Agenda:

- Presentation of attendees
- Review of the year 2018-2019
- Feedback on previous activities
- St. Patrick's Day ball 2020
- Election of Committee

Review of year 2018-2019

Events

- Previous AGM in collaboration with Liberty Seguros, October 2018
- Embassy-led event with Minister for European Affairs, November 2018
- Successful Christmas party at The Irish Rover, December 2018
- Establishment of a regular informal monthly event, January to April
- Event on fiscal implications of Brexit on Spanish and Irish residence, April
- Flagship event on Women in Business, June

Other

- Introduction of a member platform for identifying and contacting relevant members and for the management for events
- Establishment of event commissions is a recognised route to increasing the activity of the network
- The SIBN counterparts in Portugal are recognised as a good example of business-led activities however, balance between the business and social focus is important
- Communications as always, is a central pillar of success for the Network.
- Consistent events should be encouraged, e.g. last Thursday of every month, and can be centred around an individual member to share experience and knowledge
- Members see the potential for the Network to develop a more consistent contribution to charity through the supporting the sending of a Spanish child to Ireland for a year. The current structure of the Association does not support activities like this.



## St. Patrick's Day Ball 2020

- The ball will go ahead on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- The call for volunteers has received over 20 responses and the first meeting will be held on Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> November
- Interested Volunteers can contact [admin@sibn.es](mailto:admin@sibn.es) to be involved.

## Committee 2019/2020

The Network has elected the following members to the committee:

Position	Elected Officer
President	Elizabeth Aston
Vice-president	Nuria Luguera
Secretary	Brendan Rowan
Treasurer	Paul Tighe
Communications	Jorge Acevedo
Webmaster	Lynda O'Mahoney
Vocales	Raúl Marigorta
	Mal Murphy
	Carlos Burgos
	José Luis Brey
	Robyn Mullan
	Rory Geraghty



Welcome from the President

Dear SIBN Members,

It is my pleasure and honour to have been elected as your new Spanish Irish Business Network President. We have a great committee lined up (including a few familiar names) to serve you for the next period.

As an active member of the SIBN during the past 10 years and having been involved in all 4 St Patrick's Balls to date, I thought it was my time to step forward and lead this great network, following in the footsteps of previous SIBN Presidents and committees, all of whom have done an outstanding job.

As we kick off our activities for 2020, I promise you that we will endeavor to create a Committee that reviews what you, our members, want from the SIBN, where we should invest our time and effort and how we engage in new activities moving forward.

I believe we all appreciate the rich cultural, business and social dimension that SIBN offers. Each new Committee brings its own unique flavour and winning formula and hopefully this one will be no different. We all know that taking on any voluntary commitment is complex, as everyday work and life demands can be overwhelming. Nevertheless, the value and diversity that we derive from taking time out to share our talents and create an environment where we can network, interact socially, learn things about business and enjoy cultural experiences, make it more than worthwhile. Additionally, with every charity Ball we raise significant funds that make a huge difference to a great cause with a home in both Ireland and Spain.

I believe our first goal is to ensure that we have a fantastic St Patrick's Day Charity Ball next year and planning around that has already kicked off, plus one or two other events that we are considering pre-Christmas. You will be hearing more about all of this soon.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the near future and for those newcomers amongst you, welcome to the SIBN.

Best regards

Elizabeth Aston  
SIBN President



Carta de bienvenida de la Presidente

Estimados miembros de SIBN:

Es un gran placer y un honor para mí haber sido elegida como la nueva presidenta de SIBN. Tenemos preparado un Comité excepcional (incluyendo algunos nombres familiares) para brindaros un gran servicio durante el próximo periodo.

Como miembro activo de la SIBN durante los últimos 10 años, y habiendo estado involucrada personalmente en todas las Galas de San Patricio celebradas hasta la fecha, pensé que era el momento de que diera un paso adelante y liderara esta gran red, siguiendo los pasos de los anteriores Presidentes de la SIBN y Comités, todos los cuales han hecho un trabajo excepcional.

Comenzamos nuestras actividades para 2020 con mi promesa de que nos esforzaremos por crear un Comité que tenga en cuenta lo que vosotros, miembros de SIBN, queréis de la organización, dónde queréis que invirtamos tiempo y esfuerzo, y qué actividades queréis que desarrollemos según vamos avanzando.

Creo que todos apreciamos la rica dimensión cultural, comercial y social que ofrece la SIBN. Cada nuevo Comité aporta su seña de identidad y su fórmula ganadora y, con suerte, éste no será diferente. Todos sabemos que comprometerse como voluntario es complicado, ya que las demandas del trabajo y la vida diaria pueden ser abrumadoras. Sin embargo, el valor y la diversidad que resultan de que nos tomemos tiempo para compartir nuestros talentos y crear un ambiente donde podamos establecer contactos, interactuar socialmente, aprender cosas sobre negocios y disfrutar de experiencias culturales, hacen que valga la pena. Además, con cada Gala benéfica recaudamos una cantidad significativa de donaciones que marcan una enorme diferencia para una gran causa con hogar en Irlanda y España.

Creo que nuestro primer objetivo es asegurarnos de que tengamos una fantástica Gala Benéfica del Día de San Patricio para el próximo año, la planificación de la cual ya está en marcha. Además, estamos considerando uno o dos eventos para antes de Navidad. Pronto recibiréis noticias sobre todo esto.

Espero encontrarme con muchos de vosotros en un futuro cercano, y para aquellos de vosotros que os habéis unido recientemente, bienvenidos a la SIBN.

Un cordial saludo,

Elizabeth Aston  
Presidente de la SIBN