



Obituary - Michel Goulon – Grand Connetable 1987 - 2008

It is with great sadness we announce the unexpected passing of a dear friend to Goustevin Scotland.

Michel Goulon was in the wholesale wine trade working between Rouen and Paris when he first became a member from the early days of the Confrérie since its creation in the mid- sixties. An imposing figure, he made an impressive sight especially in his ceremonial robes. Multilingual, his tenacity, kindness and quiet forcefulness plus an excellent knowledge of French wines made him an ideal leader of our fraternity.

Michel had a great aptitude for organising chapitres, gala dinners and visits both at home and abroad. His planning and attention to detail were meticulous. He was very keen to promote the Confrérie abroad and to set up branches in other countries. He was the French motivator for creating a Consulat in Inverness in 1977 (later to be upgraded to embassy), also the embassies in Salerno (Italy) and Germany (Zeltingen-Rachtig, Mosel). Probably his pièce de résistance was the international visit in 2012, when representatives from all the embassies and more, visited Alsace which included a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Later that evening a full Chapitre was held in its Winston Churchill Suite. Michel retired as Grand Connetable in 2008 and became Grand Maître des Ambassades until 2013 with responsibility for all international liaison and activities

Around 1977, Michel became a close, personal friend of Connetable Nicol Manson and his wife Beverley. Thereafter, they attended all the Goulon family marriages and important large family celebrations and Michel and Denise attended theirs. Michel adored Scotland and enjoyed a good malt when the occasion permitted.

Michel (88) sadly passed away on 3 June after suffering a brain haemorrhage a few days earlier. Connetable Nicol extended condolences to his wife Denise, sons Jean-Francois & Olivier and daughter Véronique and a floral tribute has been sent on behalf of Goustevin Scotland.

TRIBUTES

Conseil Member Dick Beach said: “He was a tower of strength and was a particular type of Frenchman with a big presence. He was so kind to us all and kept the Goustevin in line with always a movement forward.

Conseil Member Ormond Smith said: “His interest and devotion to the ideals of the Goustevin never faltered and under his chairmanship, as Grand Connetable, the Goustevin flourished and expanded. Michel was always interested in meeting fellow members and the warmth of his welcome and his enthusiasm was always apparent to his visitors, particularly from Scotland. For over 40 years our friendship endured. Even in his latter years, he continued to remember his “amis Ecosais” and in fact, two days before he took ill, he got in touch to express birthday greetings to me, a much appreciated gesture. Goustevin Scotland has indeed lost an old, true and loyal friend.