



BENTO BOX: ISSUE 2



A Message from the President: Glenn Brown

[Click here to view Glenn's video greeting.](#)

In our previous issue, we left off with how Bento has grown to how we know it today, as one of the world's largest sushi companies outside of Japan. Let's continue the story and learn about our sushi partners, starting with YO!, our parent company.



Founded in 1997, YO! turned the restaurant world on its head by being the first to bring the excitement of the 'kaiten' sushi conveyor belt and Japanorama to the UK. In April 2003, YO! expanded outside of the UK and opened the first franchise in the UAE.

Since taking over as CEO of YO! in 2017, Richard Hodgson has sought to continually innovate and evolve the restaurant group to one of the largest Japanese food businesses outside Japan. As seen during the COVID-19 pandemic, YO! UK restaurants introduced digital dining and upgraded the iconic 'kaiten' conveyor belt, creating the most exciting and innovative restaurant in the UK this year. [Watch this video to learn more.](#)



Rolling on 23 years since YO! switched on the first belt in the heart of London, there are now over 70 restaurants and 50 kiosks under the YO! brand worldwide.



MOVEMBER®

\$8000 Raised!

The BENTO MO BRO TEAM had joined forces this year to bring awareness towards men's health and grow glorious moustaches in the process.

They crushed their initial goal of \$1000 and raised over \$8000!

[Check out their fundraising page to see their amazing results!](#)



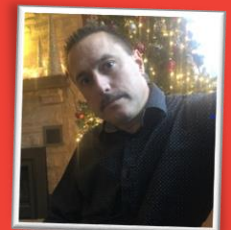
Saket - Finance



Jim – Account Management



Glenn – President



Keith - Finance



In 2017, YO! became more than a UK restaurant brand by acquiring us, Bento Sushi. The combination of YO! and Bento have further enhanced our group's ability to be the partner of choice for grocery and institutional food service, creating exciting opportunities for our valued team members on both sides of the Atlantic.



After Bento, YO! further expanded the group of companies by acquiring Taiko Foods Ltd. in 2018. Since 1997, Taiko has been producing the very best quality sushi and Asian food to go products for the UK supermarket sector. This acquisition takes YO! into the next stage of its development, and further expands its global multi-format and multi brand sushi business with extensive manufacturing operations in both the U.K. and North America.



In 2019, SnowFox joined the YO! family. Founded in 2005, SnowFox is one of the largest operators of sushi kiosks in the United States, managing over 700 full-service kiosks, primarily in supermarkets. SnowFox takes pride in their strong relationships with their retail partners and franchisees, and have taken on global significance through the YO! merger, aligning best practices to keep them ahead of the competition as retail sushi market leaders!



Over the past 2 years, YO!'s business has transformed, becoming much more than a UK restaurant brand. These incredible developments have given YO! the opportunity to partner with leading retails across North America and the UK, including Kroger, Loblaws, Walmart, Sobeys, Waitrose, Sam's Club and Tesco, operating 2,200 kiosks, seven factories, and well over 70 restaurants.

We should be very proud to be a part of such an innovative and exciting organization!