

ROTARY CLUB OF BRAMHALL AND WOODFORD

BULLETIN

Number 9

December, 1987

Editorial

The good news over the past month has been the resolution of the venue for our meetings. No longer are we wandering Nomads and hopefully we will be able to settle into our new home and enjoy once again a permanent abode. Appropriately our move starts a new calender year and whilst some will say that this will signify that we will all be another year older. The optimists will say that this will provide us with another year of opportunities. Whatever your personal view, may I take this opportunity of wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

It saves buying Christmas cards!!

Henry

A word, or several, from Himself

Greetings Fellow Rotarians,

Never let it be said that the Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford is predictable and complacent or in any way boring. In the past month we have convened at two venues on alternate weeks, (by the attendance record on two of the nights I cannot help thinking half of the Club was not quite sure where we were supposed to be meeting) - we had a quiz with Wilmslow which didn't take place - we had a quiz amongst ourselves - unannounced - both of which organised by Mike Drew by remote control. Nonetheless we thrive against all adversity.

On Wednesday the 28th of October we finally reached the age of maturity and at an informal but relatively serious occasion we were finally handed over to the auspices of the District by the District Extension Officer. The event is reported on separately in this bulletin and suffice it is for me to say that the few brief speeches were befitting the evening and we can be justly proud that we have fulfilled the requirements of the Rotary Movement in the formation of The Rotary Club of Bramhall. My thanks to you all for the concerted effort it has required to achieve this recognition, an effort which I am sure will continue in the future and maintain the Club's mark on the community.

On Wednesday the 25th November we meet for another 'first' in the Club's programme. A special A.G.M. for the election of President, First Vice, Secretary and Treasurer. My thanks to those who are standing for senior office for the first time and for re-election, I wish you every new and continued success.

Now the Festive Season is upon us and we have the Christmas Dinner to look forward to on the 16th December. To those of you who will not be there may I wish you a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year in 1988.

Venue

At the Council Meeting on 2nd November Ron Malabon reported on his committee's efforts to find a new venue. After hearing his report the Council approved firm bookings for January at Millington Hall in Station Road, Cheadle Hulme. Meal charges will be the same as for the present full meal at the Deanwater. Provisional bookings have been made for the rest of the year and will be firmed up when members have sampled the fare. Millington Hall is also the venue for the Rotary Club of Cheadle.

Points from the Council Meeting

Dennis Smith is still waiting to hear whether one or two teams are entering Youth Speaks. He has also researched Youth Presents Music - a competition for classical music groups up to age 18. Closing date is in November and he is circulating local schools etc. It will cost us £12.00 per entry.

An exchange visit from India is to take place during the Autumn of 1988. District are looking for councillors and programme suggestions. Social Committee reported a profit of £7.00 on the jazz night. Gee!!

Noel said that two tickets for the Santa Flight had been offered, and the committee were intending to offer these to two 15 year olds with Downs Syndrome. Council agreed. The flight will be on 12th December operated by a BA 757, taking off at 7.35 p.m. They apparently play around with lasers and then beam Santa aboard. Definitely a flight to miss - I mean who cleans up after the reindeer? Somebody suggested Community Service Committee - what a jolly good idea.

Noel also read at length a lengthy letter he intends to send in depth to the local businesses etc., re Bramhall Festival and the necessity for decorations and floats and all that stuff. The Treasurer said that we had a fair old bit in the General Account and the Charity Account is still waiting to pay out the Paris holiday from last year and Polio Plus had a total of £4,455.82 including a further donation of £70 received this evening. This has to be split with Hazel Grove and a meeting on 9th November should see this done.

The meeting was chaired by Treasurer Ken in the absence of more exalted beings. Of these:

Pres. John was dancing a Houdance on the Wimpys but came in halfway through, refused to assume the chair, then lay on the floor and heckled. I think they must have served him Creme de Menthe on the train or something.

V.P. David was missing believed to be in pursuit of a rare yellow waistcoat, red bowtied oozlum bird.

Secretary Geoff was suffering from a polyps, croup and tingling censation in the bottom.

The other absentee, Doug Murphy, rather unsportingly refused to fly home from Australia to attend.

LAST MONTH IN BRAMHALL

28th October - Handover Night

A galaxy of top table guests, along with 8 members from Hazel Grove and 3 from Poynton assembled to perform this final act in the formation of our Club.

Officially it is the night when the District Extension Committee hand over responsibility for our activities to District 105 and the District Club Service Committee.

After President John's opening remarks, District Extension Officer Mac Chatton arose and said that this was the last time he would address us as our formation officer. He recalled our first Charter celebration a month ago and said that by rule the Club had to remain under his care for one year after Charter. This year had been completed and we had learnt enough and done enough to become a full member of District 105. He said that we were to look to our founders and adopt their good habits but the Club has to form its own character. He remarked on our new members and increased membership since Charter. His personal thanks went to Mike Webb and Ralph Boardman for their hard work during our formative period. He then gave a brief history of our formation which started in 1985. He then presented President John with our formation documentation, in a very pleasant manner. Next to speak was the District Club Service Chairman, Jack Buckley, who likened us to a Building Society. Your editor carefully looked around the room but could not see the evidence - no counter, no bulletproof glass, no young ladies. It was concluded that Jack was somewhere else, an opinion that we reinforced when he told a joke about Paul McCartney and toilets (it is a well known fact that Paul McCartney does not go to toilets not with the whole of the Mull of Kintyre at his disposal). He did return in time to tell us that the District Club Service Committee was there in case of trouble - our rod and our staff, so to speak, in times of trouble and strife - and contact should be made with Derek Silverwood who is our personal Batman. Jack stressed, very pleasantly, that they would also be interested in our successes. He also spoke on a broader canvas in mentioning the aim of the 50 Clubs in District 105. He wanted to know when we would start breeding, staring hard but pleasantly at Simon and Jonathan (if he's relying on those two for his next ten Rotary Clubs he can forget it. All they do is smoke!).

Next it was the turn of President John who pleasantly reprised that which had gone before, said that in future we would have a lot more to think about - our aims had been mentioned at Charter Night. We would demonstrate to Bramhall & Woodford

what Rotary means. We would have to think about membership - we should aim to spread our 29 at Charter to three score and a bit. He said that a new member to the Club must see an enthusiasm dedication to the community. He also pleasantly thanked those who helped form the Club.

District Governor Jack said that the handover meeting was almost unnecessary. Our achievements are comparable to any other Club in the District. He also pleasantly thanked those whose help and guidance helped in the formation of the Club. We can always call on the District Executive for help - District will depend on our help. He hoped before long to see members on District Committees.

President Peter, of Hazel Grove, then pleasantly added congratulations from Hazel Grove and Poynton.

The very successful evening can be summed up as being well er pleasant.

4th November

Reported by Simon Smith:

This was the Club's first venture to the Bramhall Moat House and the general concensus was that the venue was quite adequate - although the meeting room was somewhat soporific. The meal started promptly at 8.09 p.m. and finished between 9.15 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. depending on where you were sitting.

Ron gave the usual apologies -

Henry read the minutes of the last council meeting and spared us Noel's weekly oration -

David Dewhurst completed his expenses -

John MOuld arrived late (he was worried that his guest Malcolm Harris had a better attendance than he did) -

The speakers, John Campbell and John Sankey gave us an enlightening talk on Young Enterprise with the aid of a video. This was followed by a lively discussion and a very brief vote of thanks by Simon Smith.

The meeting was closed by John at 10.43 p.m.

11th November

Reported by Germaine Greer Himself

The meeting was opened with enormous panache and flair by His Excellency President John at 2023 hrs prompt (and was closed by the Police at 2024 hrs prompt).

An 'interesting' pink chicken compost heap was served which was attacked (and killed) by Jonathan, who excused himself on the grounds that he had not eaten since 29th October. During the meal the President became preoccupied with trying to disentangle the string that was wrapped around the clanger of his official bell, which was later discovered to be a foul plot by attractive Ron Mallabon (aged 17) who was later heavily fined for disgusting behaviour. During the meal attractive

Vice President David Dewhurst (aged 45½+) vowed to become a vegetarian and returned to sleep. Henry fidgeted.

Emerging apparently unscathed from the 'meal' President John announced that he would appreciate a massive turnout for Hazel Grove's Charter Night in February. Attractive Geoff Brown, Honorary Secretary (aged 29) very kindly invited everybody to join him at the Rotary International Conference to be held in Philadelphia USA in May 1988 and 29 members (including 7 who were no there) instantly accepted. Henry fidgeted.

The Vice President woke up, The Secretary dropped off and Henry fidgeted.

Treasurer Ken summarised his final report on the recent Polio Plus club house collection. He expressed his thanks to all members for their efforts. He expressed disquiet at the number of other charitable institutions collecting at the same time as the currency of our licence feeling that this factor could have diminished our overall result. He considered that it had been a very useful exercise involving the schools in the distribution of envelopes and that the consensus of opinion is that it is right to involve the children and get them involved in the community. He announced the new total after adjustments for late collections and donations to be £4,643.44.

At this news, attractive Noel Smethurst (aged 26) wished to know if the bottle of brandy won by Mark Chatham for guessing nearest to the provisional total on count night would now be returned, but no satisfactory answer was forthcoming so Noel sat down and had his ninth cigar. The Vice President dropped off, the Secretary work up and Henry fidgeted.

Adding to Treasurer Ken's Polio Plus statement El Presidente Juan whose fingers were now quite sore from fiddling with his bell string, announced that he had received a communication from Bramhall High School to the effect that the school had some more charitable monies to dispose, and had approached him for his views. It is his intention, accompanied by Treasurer Ken to attend a school assembly and suggest that the money be associated with a community activity of Bramhall.

House & Membership: Attractive Ron Mallabon (aged 18) read out the apologies with the quiet assurance, grace and charm to which we are now all accustomed, astonishing everybody by including Mike Drew's name. He gave a warm welcome to Malcolm Harris who has a guest of John Mould.

Commercial Break President John ordered everybody to attend Hazel Grove's Charter Night in February. The Vice President dropped off, the Secretary woke up and Henry fidgeted.

International: Had nothing to report, so this session was concluded reasonably quickly, as were the questions.

At this point both the Vice President and the Secretary woke up, but Henry continued fidgeting.

Foundation & Vocation: On behalf of Dennis Smith, Attractive Ron Mallabon (aged 19) reported that there were two Bramhall High School nominations for "Youth Speaks".

Social: Due to the unusual non-attendance of Mike Drew, attractive Ron Mallabon (aged 20) who had not said anything for 23 seconds reported that he had heard a vague murmuring (nothing to do with the pink chicken - Editor) that the quiz against Wilmslow was not going to take place on the night that Mike Drew thought it was. In an attempt to clarify the position, attractive Henry Barker (aged 103) stopped fidgeting for a moment, and announced that Wilmslow could not turn up next week, but that he would attempt to organise the quiz which didn't happen in September for next week. Everything Henry had in mind in this restructuring clashed with something very important so he concluded that the quiz with Wilmslow would take place sometime, sat down again and resumed fidgeting. Nevertheless everybody was deeply grateful to Henry for this edifying clarification.

Community Service: Attractive Noel Smethurst (aged 26) reported that he had recently been in touch with the headmistress of a local school who was considering recommending two 15 year old mentally handicapped girls as recipients of the December 'Santa Flights' and that he would report subsequently.

Noel further reported his recent visit to District Committee Manchester East where he had discussed the idea of an angling day for mentally handicapped people interested in fishing. This is something he proposes to discuss in more detail with his committee, but meanwhile he appealed for anyone with angling experience to contact him.

Attractive Geoff Brown, Honorary Secretary (aged 29) reported that Hazel Grove had expressed a desire to help if Noel so wished, and if this was the case would Noel please contact Ian Bell.

At this point, attractive David Dewhurst (aged 45½+), Vice President, who had entered a state of grace, stood up and invited questions on Social topics. Nobody asked any which much relieved David as he admitted that he had no answers, so he sat down and soon dropped off again. Henry fidgeted.

M. le President announced that he would like to invite the Club to help ease the burden of District Governor Jack in that the D.G. is inundated with Rotary commitments nearly every night of the week, and it would be particularly helpful if members would accompany and/or drive the D.G. to some of these functions. A number of members volunteered their help and President John will follow this matter up.

Additionally, Il Presidente brought greetings from Leominster Club, situated approximately 1,000 miles away, who would be glad to welcome any of our members.

Attractive Mike Barker (aged 23) brought greetings from the Warrington Club where he reported a prerequisite for membership is a walking frame.

Attractive Geoff Brown (aged 29) brought greetings from the President of Bradford Club. Geoff was intrigued to note that their agenda included a 'hospital visiting report'.

Attractive Sid Davies (aged 27) reported that on his 39th trip around the world he had attended Rotary meetings of Wrexham, Sedgley & Wombourne, and Wanstead & Woodford Clubs, whilst on the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and accordingly brought their greetings. They would therefore like to have our banners in the fullness of time.

Attractive Jonathan Sheard (aged 9) in an attempt to introduce more vice into the Club, asked whether the Club should have a second Vice President. (The Vice President shifted uncomfortably, smiled thinly and returned to sleep). Attractive Geoff Brown (aged 29) in his capacity as Honorary Secretary replied feelingly that it was considered that there was no requirement for a second VP at this time as there would be nothing for him to do. The Vice President smiled sweetly and Henry fidgeted.

The highlight of the evening was an in-house talk by attractive Mike Barr (aged 77) based on his experiences in bomb disposal work. Many interesting anecdotes and tales of derring do were enjoyed by an enthralled audience and the tension could be felt throughout the room. Mike's talk was so eventful and intriguing that it was felt he should be called upon again to give us more of same. A very inadequate speech of thanks was given by unattractive Alan Knight (aged 98) who nevertheless thoroughly enjoyed all that Mike had said.

The evening concluded by Henry being heavily fined for fidgeting.

18th November

The Mike Drew quiz finally surfaced having been lost to posterity since September. The same could not be said for Mike Drew who had deposited question and answer with Treasurer Ken earlier in the evening. M.D. Himself was clad in evening gear, a uniform he wears when off to his day job as bouncer at that well known Manchester nightspot 'The Gay Insurer'.

The quiz turned out to be a classified example of the irrelevant being chased by the ignorant. There were one or two bright spots - Sampath's tendency to shout out the right answers to any question except those directed at his own team was helpful - Alan Knights frequently shouted 'Sieze her' was at first thought to be directed at the most nubile of the young ladies who had earlier served dinner, and some time elapsed before it was realised that he was in fact shouting 'Ceaser' and apparently directing his remarks at Treasurer Ken, who is also his Bank Manager, and who bore up well to these salutations albeit with slightly flushed cheeks and a set smile. Later still, some felt too much later,

it was in fact discovered that the cries were answers to questions directed at other teams and were a brave attempt to instill some humour into the occasion, and that the s.f.c. and s.s. worn by the Treasurer were caused, in the case of the former by whisky, and the s.s. was in fact a tight grimace at the appalling level of ignorance exhibited by the numbers generally. The quiz was won by Team A despite the presence of the Vice President.

A messenger from Dennis Smith announced that David Kossoff will be talking at Poynton High School on 25th November but an interjection at loud whisper level by Sec. Geoff Brown prevented your correspondent from gleaning why.

A trophy for the inter club (Hazel Grove and Poynton and us) Youth Speaks next month is to be purchased at a cost of £10.00.

It was also decided by a narrow majority of those present that D.J's will not be worn at the Christmas Party. Noel said that a meeting with the Messenger re Bramhall Festival would take place next week and that he had nominations for the Santa flight.

President John read out a letter from District Governor Jack Hewitt about Rotarians becoming J.P's. Our members usually face them rather than sit side by side.

Next Month

December 2nd. Meet at the Deanwater -
Capt. Peter Margesson "Atlantic Conveyor".

December 9th. No meeting.

December 10th. Joint meeting with Hazel Grove and Poynton
at Davenport Arms Hotel, 7.15 for 7.45
Youth Speaks teams are in action.

December 16th. Christmas Party at the Deanwater.

December 23rd & 30th. No meetings.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

NO, I DID NOT !

Yours faithfully,

Alan Knight

Portrait of a Rotarian

Our subject this month is Sampath Khumar who of all our members has travelled the furthest from his home town. What do you think he could have done?

Born: Madras, India in the middle of the monsoon and in sight of the ghee works.

Educated: In Madras from infant school to University. Finally emerged as Doctor of Medicine.

After University training took year off at an ecumenical monastery at Taize in France. The monks there leaned to the Benedictine persuasion but also brewed Chartrues cognac and a particularly revolting French version of irish poteen. The experience has left a lasting mark on Sampath.

Married: To Jolly. They were engaged in madras and married in Dewsbury. Clearly all that French experience was still with him. People usually leave Dewsbury to get married.

Children: A daughter of 13 and a son of 5. Like Dad the family is well spaced out.

Career: Spent 2½ years training as airline pilot but in his own words 'blew it'.
Trained 6½ years for his medical qualifications.
Anaesthetist in Dewbury.
Registrar Anaesthetist at Stepping Hill.
Community Medical Officer. Stockport Heath Authority.
Jolly is also a Doctor and is working part time in the Geriatric Unit at Stepping Hill.

Hobbies: Beach casting, Fishing, Clay Pigeon shooting and trying to remember what the monks taught him in France.

A Blow for Bramhall

The following appeared in the church notices at St. Michaels:
'A Grand Raffle will be held in January. Gifts and bottles of wind are required. Proceeds in aid of the Organ Fund'. There's a challenge for you. Plenty of pies and mushy peas should ensure a high quality contribution. Please ensure that strong corks are used on your bottles.

The Ladies Column

Our ladies seem to be remarkably reticent since the following are the only contributions received.

The first contains hidden mysteries and is veiled in allegory!

Your reporter Fatima whilst grubbing around for scandal with which to titilate your palates this festive season of goodwill to all, except the subjects of the column of course, came across some disturbing incidents which occurred during the month of August this year. Although Fatima is known throughout the British Empire as an Investigative Journalist par excellence, the very nature of these strange occurrences have been the subject of a cover up so successful that only a pig looking for truffles could have uncovered a fraction of the story that your erstwhile correspondent has discovered, and at this juncture not everything has been revealed.

It has been with some horror and not a little disbelief that your hack unearthed the beginnings of a story so incredible, a cornucopia of events so horrendous that whether the whole story will ever be able to be revealed is at this moment in the hands of those solicitors of note, Messrs. Sue, Grabbit and Run. They in their turn have had to appeal to even higher luminaries in their profession, the legal department of THE SUN newspaper, page three department of course.

At this juncture your fearless correspondent has decided against the wishes of the above, to ask the questions that must, in the interest of state security, be asked. This matter is so impotent, (no this is not a typing error) that in spite of all opposition she will go where no man has ever been and she will go alone. Yes, she is risking life and limb to bring this story to you, but ever fearless she is not to be deterred, so here we go:

1. Why did 2 drunken Rotarians and their wives (equally drunk) spend 6 hours on Stockport Station last August? - no they were not waiting for a train.
2. Why did 2 of the Beautiful People, married these many goodly years happily and otherwise, leave a trail of confetti, broken hearts and other such appendages, halfway across Europe?
3. Why did one of the beautiful people get trapped with her teddy and little else in a compromising position in la belle France?
4. What was the significance of the Hamburger with the Fennel in Italy?

Interested? Watch this space for the answers to these and many other naughty questions in the next episode of Soap, sorry, Henry's bulletin.

Fatima Sidebottom-Fflyte

Promises Promises

The Bulletin does not normally carry adverts. In this case we make any exception:

Ladies, do you want a night in Paradise?

A night when the moon explodes and the earth stops still?

A night when all your secret desires are fulfilled?

Then phone 439 9077 for instant satisfaction.

Eds comment: We felt that this deserved investigation. We have found that like coal, oil and barrels of beer at Rotary meetings the resource is finite and should you wish to take advantage, early action is recommended before it all fizzles out if in fact it has not already done so.

Psst Henry is still fidgeting.

Jose

November Bulletin

Our sincere thanks to Pam Malabon for her most reliable assistance in typing a bumper copy so expertly and quickly. And to V.P. David in printing it despite his troubles.

Next Issue

No more now until next year. Copy please by 30th December.