

Bob Baker

BRAMHALL AND WOODFORD ROTARY CLUB

BULLETIN

No. 8: NOVEMBER, 1987

FLASH FLASH FLASH

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE FOR NOVEMBER MEETINGS:

4th November	Moat House
11th November	Deanwater
18th November	Moat House
25th November	Moat House

FLASH FLASH FLASH

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR HELPMATE, THE LITTLE WOMAN READS THIS AS SOON AS YOU DO, IF NOT EARLIER. THERE IS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR HER.

Make sure you at least take this copy home. Apart from the message the perusal of the deathless prose will elevate, inspire and instruct.

Right! Having got rid of the flashers lets get on with the rest of it

EDITORIAL

To say that the members present at our meeting on the 21st October were agog is possibly understating the case. The cause will be reported fully later but briefly, the Dearwater management have said that they can no longer accommodate us. Poynton are also in the same position. One knows now how those Victorians felt when they were booted out of house and home by the wicked unscrupulous landlord. However, life goes on and so do we. You will see from page 1 that we are not without a home albeit temporary and Ron and his committee are busily working on a future more permanent residence. Any suggestions to Ron please - do not do anything more. Because of the situation and in order to "inform all members of the position, your bulletin is a week earlier than usual, but none the less beautiful for that. Also in this issue our first Ladies page(s) which will be a regular feature from now on.

GENTLEMEN, THE PRESIDENT (AND LADIES TOO)

Date line 4.30 pm Sunday 25th and Henry B has just phoned to say "extractum digitalis et donatum dictum est".

You will observe reference to the telephone - the bills have been paid and I am now contactable - to those who did not read last month's bulletin this will mean very little - probably even less if you have.

October 87 will be remembered as "walking-in-the-rain-for-Rotary-month". It started with delivering envelopes in the rain for Polio Plus it continued with collecting them in the rain and going back in the rain to collect from those who had the nerve to be out or on holiday or some such. Then later in the month, at District Conference, walking to and from our Hotel to the Conference Centre for the several functions also at times in the rain. Good for the soul I hear somebody say - it maybe - but not for the sole.

However both occasions, in their own different way, typified many aspects of Rotary. The first a serious, labour intensive, expertly managed piece of dedicated Rotary service for a very worthwhile project. For which I give my personal thanks to those members who put in a lot of hard work before the collection even started and a pat on the back for all us lesser mortals who just had to collect envelopes. The second function was of a less serious nature apart from the erudite orations emanating from the stage at the Conference itself. I am sure that the weekend itself is to be reported on in more detail elsewhere in this publication, but what I will say is that it did typify a great feeling of bonhomie and fellowship not only within our Club but with the many other Clubs I have had association with over the past year. Last year two of us and our Ladies attended, this year it was ten couples - next year let us go for the Trophy - I can highly recommend the weekend for many reasons !!! (whose room was the President seen going into?)

Thanks to Geoff for organising the Hotel and thanks to those attending for your support (I shall be giving it back to Alan next week).

Now for the approaching Festive Season - with two Charters and a President's Night between now and when we have our Christmas Party - look forward to seeing you all at the Dearwater or will it be the Alma Lodge or Moat House or Millington Hall, or, or - the unknown future is breathtaking!

Yours in Rotary
Pres. John

LAST MONTH IN BRAMHALL

7th October

Reported, with a Scots accent, by Mac McLeod
Guest Speaker was Mr. John Bissell on the subject of Youth Exchange

John, who is no stranger to our Club gave a very interesting and enlightening talk on the subject and produced a very informative leaflet covering the three different types of Exchange.

What proved to be the more interesting aspect of exchange was the cultural differences and he quoted from his own experiences of having an American boy living as part of the family for ten months whilst his daughter was in America with the boy's parents and his feelings at the departure at the end of the period of what had become "his" son. Many examples of the differences were highlighted from helping oneself to Burgers without the words "may I" to the German female student who was eventually sent back after three or was it four Rotarians almost landed in the Divorce Court. The thought of such goings on brought forth shouts of "address". I fear that was only Bravado and had they found themselves in similar circumstances would have run a mile - perhaps with the single exception.

13th October

Our joint meeting with Hazel Grove to count the loot from the Polio Plus collection. Treasurer Ken is reporting on the campaign elsewhere in this issue and all that remains is to say that those assembled counted their fingers sore (and in some cases their toes to, when totals rose above 10). The bankers in our midst enjoyed themselves counting, checking, weighting, bagging and moaning - just like they always do. Total counted on the night was £4,430.52. A sweep was held on the final total and amid much wailing and gnashing of teeth was won by Mac Chatton, District Extension Officer.

21st October

Committee night, although most people did not realise this because of the re-arrangement of the programme. Nonetheless, a goodly number of apologies were received.

The Secretary reported that:-

1. A letter from Hazel Grove informing us of 6 members attending Handover Night.
2. A letter headed "Adam needs a turbo". Adam is an 8 year old suffering from cerebal palsy. His family are trying to raise a sum of £3215 to buy an all performing turbo powered wheelchair. £800 has already been paid to Everaids the manufacturer as a deposit and Adam's Dad has written to all the service organisations (Round Table, Lions etc) appealing for help. Geoff has talked to him and found that Adam was born prematurely at 2 lb 3 oz and a brain not fully developed. Geoff has been in touch with Everaids asking about extended credit and/or discounts. Community Service to discuss.
3. Council meeting held on 5th October, minutes were read.

Vocation

Dennis reported that the progress of the Bramhall High pupils we had placed in

work experience had been monitored by the careers master who expressed himself as delighted with results so far. The school cannot take up our offer on disadvantaged children yet. The new video on job interviews is in hand. Youth speak. There are two teams and we are to hold a joint meeting with Poynton on December 10th to rehearse them. The Committee is also investigating Youth Music.

International

Doug said that the Committee have organised a charity theatre evening for January 21st. This will be at the Players Theatre. A Travel Evening is to be held again this year on 23rd March 1988. This will concentrate on Africa, Caribbean and Canada.

We had been invited by Hazel Grove to co-host their overseas students night. This would be outside a normal meeting. Now decided to invite students and Hazel Grove to our meeting on 20th January.

Social Committee

Mike Drew said that:-

Jazz Night 31st October - Less than 50% of members had responded. Attendance looked like being 60 instead of 80 or 90 required. Urged all those attending to bring as many guests as possible.

Christmas Dinner 16th December. He is organising entertainment. This will be singing of the barber shop type.

President's night 13th February.

Safari Supper - some time in the Spring.

House Committee

Ron bombshelled the meeting with:-

Last Monday he had received a phone call from the Deanwater cancelling our arrangements for 4th, 18th and 25th November. He had subsequently written to the Deanwater asking if December was firm, particularly, that of the 16th. No reply yet to that letter. A letter had been handed to him during the meeting from the Deanwater management but signed by one of the junior staff and addressed to "Bramhall and Poynton Rotaries" saying that in essence it would be difficult to accommodate us in the future and whilst there was no wish to ask us to leave straight away, we are requested to find alternative accommodation as soon as possible. Arrangements had been made to meet at the Moat House for the three November meetings at a cost of £7.50 per head. There would appear to be no desire by the Moat House to take us on a permanent basis immediately, because of building rework in early 1988. Investigations are going ahead for a more permanent alternative venue.

Programme

Your editor reported on the programme which is detailed on the detachable sheet at the end of the bulletin.

Community Service

Noel reported that:-

1. Turbo chair The Committee felt it would be wrong to raise all that money for one person. It would be more appropriate to devote the proceeds of one event to the appeal. This could be organised in the early part of next year.
2. Santa Flight Two tickets are available at £35.00 each. Doctors and churches are to be contacted regarding suitable recipient.
3. Bramhall Festival Both Round Table and NSPCC very enthusiastic, they wish to participate fully and a committee to be formed of one representative from each plus Treasurer Ken. Mail shots are to be sent to all shops re decorations and to professions and industry regarding floats.

Council Meeting

Held on 5th October at Ron Malabon's. Much of what was discussed came out during the committee night, but you might like to know that:-

Mike Drew attended, after being asked to identify himself. He apologised for forgetting the quiz in September the plaque will be available by end December (where will it hang we wonder?)

A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER

(Unfortunately not a £50, £20, £10 or even a £5 note)

At the last Council meeting I was passed a copy of the Annual Accounts for District and your Editor suggested that it might be a good idea if I were to give an analysis of the accounts in the next Bulletin. Having looked at the accounts, I have decided that it would need a regular contributor to Punch magazine to write an article that would prove the slightest bit interesting or amusing on such a topic. I don't possess such literary qualities, so I have decided that it would probably be more appropriate at this time to make a few comments about Polio Plus now that we have come to the end of the gruelling campaign. I would, however, just add that the District Finances do appear to be in good order, provided that the funds have not been invested on the stock market!

With regard to the Polio Plus Campaign, may I first of all thank everyone of you for the effort you have put into this task and special thanks to the rest of my committee, Geoff, Alan and Dennis. Without their sacrifices of time and effort it would never have got off the ground. At the count on the 13th we finished up with a figure of £4430.52, but since then Hazel Grove discovered that one of their rounds had not been collected so they went out en masse and came up with a further £75. We also discovered that one of our bags of envelopes had not been brought along on the night and this has produced a further £56, making an approximate total of £4560, to be split 50/50 with Hazel Grove. There is to be a further joint meeting with the Hazel Grove Polio Plus Committee on the 9th November when all the loose ends will be tied up.

With all due respect to Noel and Doug, this has been our first major fund raising effort and, obviously, we will have learned some lessons for the future. We will certainly need to make some enquiries as to why we were provided with a licence to collect funds at the same time as three or four other organizations, and I will discuss this matter at our forthcoming meeting with Hazel Grove.

Furthermore, it was disappointing that some of the schoolchildren, let us down in not delivering their envelopes, but I think that we should look on the more positive side and be grateful to the large majority of the children who did honour their commitment. The organisation of the collection would have been far easier if we had not involved the school but I am sure you will all agree that, in doing so, we have fulfilled one of the prime objects of Rotary; namely, to involve the local community, especially the youth, in worthwhile projects.

In retrospect, I enjoyed the house to house visits. It certainly provided a revealing insight into human nature. You will all have your stories to tell, or perhaps some of you may not wish to reveal some of your encounters! One incident that I recall was being asked by one girl to wait inside the hall while she tried to find some money. The place was filthy and cluttered up with a pile of junk, including three bicycles in various states of repair. The girl kept rushing about the house getting very agitated and a voice from upstairs, presumably her mother's, kept moaning on about all these b... envelopes that kept being delivered. In the end, with the girl getting more and more flustered and not producing any cash, I made a tactical withdrawal in case she tried to offer something in lieu of money!

Once again, many thanks for all your efforts. It would have been nice to have raised the £100 per member which we had targetted but we should not be disappointed. I believe that when Hazel Grove did a similar collection of Hazel Grove and Bramhall five years ago, they only collected just over £2,000 and inflation has not gone up by 100% since then.

P.S. If anyone really wants to see the District Annual Accounts, I will be pleased to provide copies, or perhaps your editor in his dual role of programme arranger, might want me to present an after dinner presentation! That would keep the attendance down!

Ken

THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Bulletin reporters at Llandudno have sketched the weekend thus:-

First reminiscences from Ron Malabon

Arrive in well known North Wales resort on Friday afternoon with wind blowing half gale and rain more horizontal than vertical. Recognise Black BMW and find last parking space for miles next to it. This happens to be just opposite our hotel so not far to stagger with luggage. Check in and landlady offers to carry suitcase for me! (Do I look that old and decrepit) - yes, I hear you all say. Having nearly dislocated her shoulder trying to lift aforementioned case, we are informed that our room is on third floor and there is no lift. I carry the case and resolve by the second landing that next time we will have two cases so that Pam can carry her own wardrobe around - this is the day of equality after all. Peruse usual notices and find that baths are by arrangement. As there is shower cubicle in our room this is no problem but later find out that bath is minus tap and plug so presume one contacts plumber not reception. Discover that our bedroom window is fire exit for third floor. How do others escape if our door is locked? Answers please to fire prevention officer Llandudno.

Cocktail hour arrives and passes pleasantly. Enjoy super meal during which more alcohol is consumed. The President takes wine with those without a shower in their bedroom, Noel tells a Jewish-Catholic joke and Alan Knight does impression of our Vice-President with aid of red shirt, later returning to more

sartorial elegance. Eventually a division of opinion arises between those who want to go to the dance and those who want to stay warm and dry (at least on the outside). Join Presidential Party in stroll along promenade to Aberconwy Canolfan Centre where informal dance is being held. Cloakroom lady expresses surprise that people are still arriving as she is busy finding coats and umbrellas for those departing (It is by now nearly 11pm). Chat to D.G. Jack and get introduced to Muriel Rhodes who turns out to be DG of Inner Wheel. Some nifty footwork around dance floor enables me to introduce Muriel to Mary and Pam and leave them in deep discussion while I circulate. Dance finishes all too quickly so return to hotel to find rest of party still in bar now shrouded in tobacco smoke. And so to bed.

Saturday dawns, eventually, to reveal another grey day. Decide against jogging along prom or pre-breakfast swim in sea and put kettle on for early morning tea. After breakfast men gather for short walk to Conference. Wives talk about choice of spending large amount of money on shopping spree or large amount of energy walking up Great Orme. Having left wife ill in bed Geoff immediately falls into passionate embrace with landlady of next door hotel. Eventually we arrive at the Arcadia Theatre for the start of Conference.

A prompt start made at 10 am. Address of Welcome in Welsh by Victor Williams, Mayor of Borough of Aberconwy keeps most of audience in stunned uncomprehending silence until with a twinkle in his eye he lapses into English. Various other dignitaries speak and concentration begins to lapse then DG Jack starts his speech and you could hear a pin drop. He refers to John Donne "no man is an island", Thomas Jefferson, Paul Harris, Polio plus and the importance of family in Rotary. Finally, he reckons when asked by his maker what he has to say for himself the reply would be his gratitude for being part of Rotary. (This narrative does not do justice to Jack and the emotion he so truly feels about Rotary). There are many lumps in throats during the standing ovation which follows.

After coffee Bill Ives from USA, the persona representative of President of Rotary International Chuck Keller comments on membership which is increasing in Africa and Asia but declining in UK and USA. Women are taken into US Clubs if the particular classification is vacant. There would appear not to be a strong push from Womens libbers. Rotary is an amorphous organisation with autonomy for individual clubs, a mozaic providing service.

Doctor David Goodall, a Liverpudlian, whose favourite colour is blue, gives details of the help he received from Rotary in 105 and USA whilst spending 13 years as a missionary doctor in India. Keith Malyon gives vote of thanks to the speakers. Chief Sergeant at Arms Eddie Cranmer raises quite a few laughs with his dry humour.

Lunchtime finds us on an expedition to find a suitable pub and we bestow our favours on Plumes. Meet two fellow Rotarians from Crewe who agree Jack gave a super speech. Discuss fund raising for Polio Plus. Noel tells true story about two ladies he met at Lime Street Station and admits to being a naive 26 year old. This must be back in the days of steam trains. Resume seats at Conference for question and answer session. Apparently a new venture at request of several clubs. The audience is only about half that which attended the morning session. Panel of experts offer range of advice and opinions on a series of questions. Q. Should Rotary have a new project for 1990's? A. Europe not keen on top down approach, several districts in RIBI not keen on another World appeal for at least 5 years. Q. Is the Paul Harris fellowship/award in danger of becoming debased? A. Trustees still consider

it a promotional scheme which provides \$1000 for the Foundation account each time, there is a continuing problem between buying an honour and giving an honour to someone whether inside or outside Rotary. Q. Insurance covers public liability but not Rotarians. A. Phone broker and take out small additional premium. Q. Rotary aims for world peace, little is published on twinning, what can be done? A. Plenty is being done even behind Iron Curtain, liaison through District Officer who has list of clubs overseas looking for contacts. (President John and Noel are now fast asleep). Q. Can attendance at service committee meetings count towards ordinary attendance? A. No. John awakes and poses question to all established clubs on why membership isn't increasing and why attendance is poor when it is good in new clubs like Bramhall and Woodford including one member with 100% record (Noel gives halo a quick polish). Q. If International Service changes its title to World Community Service will it have less impact? A. Probably not - Doug please note you can get grants for special projects from Rotary Foundation.

After two hours Jack closes the session and considers it to have been a success.

Return to hotel to meet up with wives who have variously attended the Inner Wheel meeting, been shopping or walking up the Great Orme. Assemble in bar formally attired and hear that Doug and Joyce have waterbed in their hotel room - thanks to a leak from the shower in the room above. Enjoy another super meal and walk back to theatre for dance only to find everyone else got there early and there are no chairs or tables left. With aid of Bryn Owen coffee tables are acquired and a dozen or so chairs are wheeled across the floor amidst several hundred dancers. Excellent barbershop quartet from Stockport provide cabaret. Simon admits to being able to sing so with chorister Noel and hopefully the co-operation of Dennis and Sid we plan a musical extravaganza for 16th December.

Sunday morning is bright and sunny. There is a naval vessel in the bay and an army patrol on the promenade, so feel fairly safe venturing along to United Service of Worship conducted by Arnold Harrison. Music by local Salvation Army band and Bramhall United Reformed Church choir. A quick coffee break then another address by Bill Ives a past Director of Rotary International and much to Alan Knight's delight - a pest controller. For his job "you need fast feet and quick reflexes, but remember to leave at least two alive!" A very polished speaker who combines humour with his serious message of the 4 C's - competence, commitment, creativity and concern.

Roy Whitby, President elect of RIBI brings message from President Elfed Davies who is ill and talks about Polio Plus and the young generation. District Governor Nominee Bernard Needham gives vote of thanks to both speakers and suddenly the conference is almost over. The Sergeant-at-Arms announces that the bent umbrella has been returned to its owner. The Rose Bowl award for the best community service project is not awarded this year because in the opinion of the past district governors the entries were of a low standard. The attendance shield for the best turn-out at conference is won by Stretford (55%) with Ashton 2nd (49%). The collection at this morning's service raised £710 half to go to Polio Plus and half to the Savenga Mission Hospital in West Bengal where David Goodall used to work. Finally, D.G. Jack sums up the weekend and declares the Conference closed.

A very enjoyable time with good fellowship, good food, moments of uplifting serious thought and others of great hilarity. Don't just take my word for it - ask the others who went for their opinion of the weekend. Then make a note in your diary of 4-6th November 1988 when I hope to see you in Scarborough.

Secondly, Cascandra was there:-

Ten members of our club with their ladies spent a memorable weekend in Wales.

Friday

Everyone was welcomed by President John and Mary at a champagne reception. After dinner, during which noses were changed, the more conscientious members walked to the civic reception. The more enlightened stayed to continue boozing. We were rejoined 30 minutes later by the more conscientious (yawn) members.

Saturday

During the conference, the ladies were out and about. Several chose to shop window gaze, whilst the more energetic climbed the Great Orme. Leading the party were Alison (Hilary) Smith and Val (Sherpa) Chadwick. We understand no ropes or crampons were used.

During the boozy lunchtime at "The Frog and Nightgown", we met the President and Secretary of Crewe Club - Another Club who are to plagiarise our ideas to raise money for Polio Plus - this time with a contribution to our funds (hopefully).

At night we attended the District Governer's Ball!! - although we didn't see Jack until Auld Lang Syne! Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. Pat Knight, dancing like Mick Jagger and panting like John Travolta danced John Handley off his feet. President John, promoting the club as usual, made sure he circulated with the members of other clubs (or the wives of members of other clubs!!) - nice one John. V.P. David, wondered why he was dancing in his overcoat, only to find he was wearing Simon's dinner jacket - Was this senility creeping in again or was it because he had the kitty ???

Sunday

Some went to Morning Service, some went walking, most turned up for the closing speeches - and very good they were. Most people partook of lunch in Llandudno and after, proceeded carefully home. All in all an excellent, inexpensive, weekend - a laugh a minute - Here we come Harrogate - sorry - Scarborough.

POINTS WORK MENTIONING

The luck of the Irish, Doug Murphy took a shower with Pat Knight - only problem - they were on different floors at the time.

President John - drunk again - was found wandering into Val Chadwick's room - claimed he was in right room but wrong floor - nice try John.

Sunday saw Alan Knight, trying to stop Ken Chadwick's car (his bank manager to boot) leaving Llandudno by lying down on a pedestrian crossing - other people may have a sleeping policeman - we have a sleeping Knight!

Rumours have it that the noise of the waves lapping the shore during the night was actually Ron Malabon and Geoff Brown snoring (not together).

Alison and Simon's bedroom was so small that people gathered to watch Simon getting changed whilst Alison stood on the wardrobe!!

PORTRAIT OF A ROTARIAN

To obtain this portrait your Editor had to mount a rickety ladder and remain poised whilst the subject paraded round a garage roof with a paint brush and tin in his hand. He said he was looking for a leak but since it was the first fine day we have had in 6 months, prudence decreed a halt to that line of questioning. Instead, perched on the aforementioned rickety ladder (we risk life and limb for our stories) we elicited the following:-

Subject: Mac Macleod

Born: Edinburgh amid much hoots monning and a thunderstorm. The excitement was such that a nearby herd of haggis ran amok and had to be destroyed.

Educated: With some difficulty at George Watsons Boys College, and later part time at a College in Liverpool.

Married: Back in the mists of time and in Liverpool to Hilda.

Children: 2 daughters, one married and living in South Africa and t'other is in marketing in Kettering.

Business Career: Joined Army on leaving school and served in the Intelligence Corps on Liverpool Docks. On leaving the Army joined the Vesty Company in 1948 again in Liverpool. Appointed Manager at Manchester. Then Operations Director Union Cold Storage in London for 8 years. Transferred to Middle East projects until he left the company in 1983. In partnership with Hilda started Hilma Driving School in 1959 and Hilma Travel in 1963. Currently runs the Travel Agency.

Hobbies: Cooking neaps, tatties and haggis whilst uttering low howls particularly when the moon is full. Looking at the inside of sewer pipes with the aid of portable television cameras.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Your editor had occasion to enjoy a quiet pint or two in a hostelry in the Strand London and was interested in various remarks he could not help overhearing. The clientele were mainly city types having a snort before the long trek home so the pin stripe trousers, bowlers and brollies were much in evidence and that was just the ladies. Most of the remarks came from females - well they do tend to have penetrating voices don't you think - anyway here are a few and can you imagine the situation that caused them:

He had a voice that could only have come from the bottom half of a bottle of Spanish gin.

When he touched it, I felt all goose pimply.

He drove like a cowboy - one hand on the steering and the other on my seat.

I felt awful, particularly as his trousers weren't pressed.

I just kept my legs crossed and hoped.

CONGRATULATIONS to Doug Murphy on his retirement. Doug will be in Australia for the next four weeks. We look forward to his return - should be worth a bit in the bulletin and a chat to the club.

NEXT ISSUE - will be next month. Copy please by 22nd November 1987.