

ROTARY CLUB OF BRAMHALL & WOODFORD

BULLETIN

NO. 6 : SEPTEMBER 1987

EDITORIAL

It is going to be a busy, busy, month. First and foremost it is the first anniversary of our Charter when we celebrate that fatal day in 1986 when the nucleus or hard core of our club became official. Since then we have welcomed a number of new faces (and said goodbye to a couple of old ones) and we look forward to having further new members by the time we celebrate our anniversary next year.

Also looming large in our thoughts is Polio Plus and the work which is entailed in organising the house to house collection, quite apart from motivating school children and attending the Ooh La La Evening.

Well your editor wishes you all the best of British luck.

Because he will miss it all.

He will be exposing his torso on a South European beach thinking pleasant thoughts, drinking pleasant drinks and revelling in the hot, hot sun

See you in October!

Henry.

FURTHER WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Fellow Rotarians and other very welcome readers.

Two words from your President would be a 100% improvement on last month for which I regret I cannot even offer any exotic excuses as I did for the absence of presidential copy in the June Bulletin.

Alas the Summer is nearly over (did it every begin some of us may ask) and the earlier hour of the setting sun heralds the forthcoming season of wind, rain and fog (Ah! the return of Summer) and our thoughts can turn once again as we pack away the barbeque for another year, to forthcoming events to be held within doors. Which brings me to District Conference. For those of you who were fortunate enough to obtain the restricted number of tickets and accommodation at the exclusive "Bramhall & Woodford Hotel", specially reserved on recommendations by the local manager of a banking establishment in Llandudno (favouritism forbids me to mention the name), are probably not aware of the highly entertaining, sophisticated, Dallas-style convention, fast-lane-type weekend that is before us. In order not to pre-empt the surprise - I will enlarge no further.

However, rumour has it that there is accommodation for just two more - at a premium of course - applications to Geoff - or at black market rates via Sir Alan Knight (we have the best Hotels) Enterprises.

Wednesday, 28th October is a special evening. It is the final 'Handover Ceremony' by District to The Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford. It is the night when the umbilical cord is severed and, we hope, the last of the early Gordian knots we have encountered will be untied without due force, and we are left on our own. It is a reasonably formal evening attended by the District Governor and other official members of District and marks a particularly important step in the formation of the club. It would, therefore, be much appreciated if we could aim for 100% attendance on that. Furthermore in view of the importance of the evening maybe we shall see our full regalia including Guidons, Gonfalons, Ensigns, etc, not to mention a banner or two.

President John

LAST MONTH IN BRAMHALL

Being a record of our activities over the past few weeks. Once again Bulletin reporters give their impressions of our meetings during the last month.

Any resemblance between these and what actually took place are purely co-incidental and utterly unintentional:

August 5th

Reported by Dave "Scoop" Dewhurst V.P. ABF + bar:

Meeting presided over in efficient but friendly way by President for life John.

Guest and Visitors and Apologies for Absence read in a most distinguished way by Ron Malabon but far too quickly for the author to note after Roy Banks, Henry, Bob Batty -----.

Visits to Other Clubs: President John had descended to earth and visited Poynton and Heald Green.

The guest speaker was George Hanson of Glenarth, who showed a video of the work carried out by the Home. Vote of thanks made on behalf of the club in his usual friendly way by Jonathan Sheard.

Peter Murch of Rotary Club of Gatley showed his true light by promoting the Dinner Dance at the Deanwater in October and asking for the R.C. of B&W to organise the raffle (clash with District Conference).

Alan Jones, proposed by Mike Bailey, was formally inducted into Rotary by Presidente Juan, in a moving ceremony (but not moving enough to persuade him to buy a round of drinks. What ever happened to tradition?).

For the social committee, Mike (Owzat) Drew informed everyone that they would be at the six-a-side cricket on the following Sunday at Offerton, the venue having been organised by Sampath Kumar (great day - good turnout - loved the food).

On the basis that you cannot have too much of a good thing, Mike had also arranged for the annual cricket match against the Welds Wonders for the Thursday after at Poynton C.C.

Simon Smith became confused by the change of venue and club night. Mike explained in simple, concise terms and confused himself and everyone else. Herr president clarified the situation on apologies for that meeting and then appeared to be intending to arrive at the Deanwater to play 12th man the next Wednesday.

Noel informed us that no date was available for the Charity Evening at CHADS.

Dennis Allport and Bob Batty have had provisional go-aheads from all their contacts in connection with the Bramhall Festival.

Geoff Brown issued the routes for the Polio Plus collection, asking for any variations to be annotated. Sid (QE II) Davies was confused by "annotated". The Vice President went home without having said anything all evening.

August 13th

Being a tribute to ye olde gyms of Crickette. Divers souls and bodees gathered on ye greensward in ye village of Poynton to play ye gyme in ye manner of ye great and ye respected Doctor Grace. Indeed manye of ye assembly did move and play ye game as though personally acquainted wit yem great gentleman. Ye gentlemen of Bramhale and sundry persons from Woodford did bat first, and made much headway against ye vicious and ungentlemanly manner of ye bowling from ye Poynton louts who, your correspondent can swear, fielded as many as fifteen bodies for most of ye time in ye field. Ye conyings of ye fielders did eventually wear down ye gallant batters who suffered in what is known in ye gyme as a collapse and were all out before their allotted overs were bowled for ye score of 73.

Ye day had been inclement until late in ye afternoon and ye evening shades were drawing nigh when our heros took their turn at bowling and a dampness was arising from ye field which struck into ye very bones of our gallant fielders who noneyeless were remarked upon bye ye spectators for ye graceful manner and agility of their movements when bowling and fielding.

Particularly admired was ye performance of the Rev. Dr. N.C. Smethurst who appeared to favour ye prone position when fielding but noneyeless stopped ye ball with feet or head with grat dexterity. When bowling this gentleman had a hop slip and jump action which proved to be highly ineffective. Also admired was ye action behind ye wyckette of Mr. Johnathan Sheard who could be heard exhorting his fellowes to "throw it hard" whilst himself moving swifly away from ye line of ye fire.

A further distraction in ye gathering gloom was ye activity of divers wenches who commenced to praktise ye gyme of hockey up and down ye field and who bobbed and jiggled mightily in their efforts. No doubt this was also a scheme and plot hatched bye ye dastardly Poynton devils to add further burden on our bye now beaten heros.

As the gyme was ending your correspondent was gracefully andheroically chasing a balle to ye boundry when he was afflicted by a sudden and unseemly ague in the knee since when he has hobbled most horribly about his affairs. This has led to his resolve that were we ever again to be called upon to face ye bulleys from Poynton he shall Umpire and we will win.

When ye gyne was over a libation was purchased by My Lord Meeuse of Wimpey which heeled some hurt (all except for ye captain Mr. M. Drew - a Woodford person - who hid his face in ye gentlemans ablutions), and a supper was served by ye most comely wenches of Poynton (rumoured to be ye wives of ye louts but this cannot be imagined) who even provided Afters.

August 19th - Dennis Allport spke about Mice and Men

In particular he spoke about the ways in which industry particularly the chemical industry, set about testing potentially toxic, hazardous and risky substances. He concentrated on the ability of manufactured substances to cause cancer. He then frightened the assembled company into starvation by giving a treatise on the natural substances which taken in excess can cause cancer - when things like mushrooms, parsley, coffee and water can cause cancer taken in excess. He listed the likely causes of cancer deaths

- 35% due to diet
- 30% due to smoking
- 10% through infection
- 7% sexual behaviour
- 4% occupation
- 3% alcohol
- 3% geographical factors
- 2% pollution
- 1% medicines
- less than 1% industrial products

Figures were also produced to show that, whilst most cancers are declining, lung cancer is increasing, particularly in women. The figures are historical mainly because of the long induction period of the disease. Lung cancers are caused mainly by smoking.

Professor Ames in the States has done work on food and diet and has shown that 99.9% of cancer forming substances in California are either natural or traditional.

Turning to testing, Dennis cited several ways:

1. Ames test involved bacteria on substances - mutations generally indicate cancer. This is not greatly reliable.
2. Culture cells in animals. Better but more difficult.
3. Dose live animals which are then killed and cells are looked at. This is much better but more expensive.
4. Life time feeding tests on animals. Doses are given in different levels up to maximum tolerated dose. This leads for forced feeding of animals 5 times a day 50 weeks a year.

Vapours, gas, aerosol, dust are tested as above but in atmosphere.

All this is very expensive and Dennis went on to make the point that industry is forced to make expensive and time consuming tests to prove that their products are as safe as possible whilst on the other hand the "natural" hazards connected with diet, smoking and workplace problems.

SPOTLIGHT ON A ROTARIAN

This month the spotlight falls on the genial, pleasant, charming figure of Community Service Chairman Noel Charles Smethurst (thanks for the drinks, etc - Editor).

Born: Some time ago in Salford not far from the Maggot factory.

Educated: Local primary school
Central School, Salford
Also member of Manchester Cathedral Choir
He has a vivid memory of this period when he was taken to the crypt of a bombed Cathedral. The bombing had disturbed the lead coffins containing the remains of Bishops who had been called to Headquarters. These old bones were plainly visible to the young N.C. Smethurst, and explains his bald head.

Better Half: Frances

Children: Several

Dogs: Ditto

Business

Experience: He started his business life with the old Martins Bank. Deciding he needed a more leisurely life he joined a subsidiary of W.H. Smith selling specialised printing machinery. He then went to:

Waddingtons

Pettys of Leeds as Area Sales Manager

A subsidiary of Roneo Vickers as National Sales Manager
BPCC as General Manager & Director during which time he sold the largest ever contract for printing £3m worth of it.

He formed his own company in 1982.

Other Activities:

He has been a member of Scouts, Round Table and golfer.

He is now a member of 41 Club, the Church Inn Beer Appreciation Society and other drinking dens in the Cheadle Hulme area

OVERSEAS REPORT

Once again we have despatched a reporter to distant parts in the shape of Bob Batty (where the real Bob Batty went is a closely guarded secret). Here is his report:

Visit to Santa Monica Rotary Club - Friday, August 14th, 1987

at the Riviera Country Club, 12 for 12.30 - and, of course, "can come as a guest" said Rotarian Mrs Esther Johnston, the secretary. "come early and have a look around the Club.

The Riviera Country Club is situated in Pacific Palisades housing area just outside Santa Monica, popular with Angelenos. They afford the ocean views and cooling breezes.

A Rotary badge was sufficient evidence for the security guard and after meeting Mrs Johnston we had a stroll round the impressive club-house with championship golf course (Woosnam won here in 86) and tennis courts.

We registered with the House Chairman, and met various members, all of whom apologised for the weather which was dull and moist - considered to be some sort of record for mid-August! We also met Archie who was flying to England that evening (by British Airways not TWA to be stressed) to take a cruise from Southampton to Norway.

Lunch was a buffet (excellent value at \$10 (£6)) and we sat where we chose at tables of 10.

Santa Monica Rotary has about 170 members, 17 of whom are reputed to be millionaires. Membership includes 3 clergymen of different denominations to look after their spiritual needs - and a prospective new member is the local mortician.

The President opened the meeting by formally introducing the top table of 5 past-presidents and the two speakers. He was followed by the Vocation Chairman who read the Rotary Aims and said a Grace. Members then pledged allegiance to the Flag, sang "God Bless America" and "Smile - Sing a Song".

The President then welcomed guests and visitors and we exchanged bannerettes. The only other Rotarian visitor was from Palm Springs (who appeared mystified when his classification was given as Inventor).

There was no formal business nor even announcements, the next to take the microphone being the "Master at Arms". He levied fines of up to \$150 (£100) for such "misdemeanours" as being seen with four young ladies, having a photo in the paper, mis-spelling Bob, buying a new house and becoming a daddy (the level of fines even worried the visitor from Palm Springs but as the Secretary later explained, members individually pledge to pay fines to a certain total amount for the year and this avoids any embarrassment).

The programme was 2 "Craft Talks" by new members.

The first was by an Accountant who described his life from boyhood on a Californian chicken farm, through a period as Manager of a fast-food diner to his present position as a partner in a small firm of accountants specialising in small business accounts and tax returns. Although interesting and amusing his rather blatant advertising near the end did not seem to be well received.

The second speaker was the Secretary herself, Rotarian Mrs Esther Johnston. She described her early life and how, as she could not afford to take up a college scholarship, the college found her a secretarial job. She met her husband (himself a Rotarian and past-president) when he was attempting a professional singing career. He was more successful at business and they moved to California about 30 years ago.

Mrs. Johnston first came to meetings to play the piano, but eleven years ago the club appointed her as full-time executive secretary.

When California recently decreed that women must be admitted to Rotary, the Club immediately elected her as their first lady members. Mrs. Johnston quite clearly appreciates this as an "honor" and not in any way a victory for "Woman's Lib". She then described some of the amusing reactions she gets, including those when she attended the Rotary International Conference at Birmingham as a delegate.

Mrs. Johnston is a very able and humourous speaker and well deserved the standing ovation she received. She was also fined \$25 for not sending herself a copy of a Rotary Magazine with her own photograph in it!

The President then ended the meeting with a topical joke about Nancy Regan's skirt and the members rapidly dispersed - but not before I secured a photograph to support Alan Knight's campaign.

(Note: Mrs. Johnston exained why the Club do not actually meet in Santa Monica - they cannot find a venue! The hotel where they used to meet has been taken over by the Japanese - who then wanted to charge them for parking!)

MORE DISTRICT NEWS

The next District Meeting is at Brooklands County Primary School, Woodbourne Road, Sale, on Tuesday 22nd September at 7.00 pm. Anyone interested in attending contact Geoff Brown.

FACTS & FIGURES

According to the August issue of Rotary magazine the RIBI Journal there are 22901 Rotary Clubs in the world with a membership of 1,034,387 in 447 Districts and 161 countries and geographical regions. Dennis Allport has some way to go to get round that lot! In RIBI there are 1629 Rotary Clubs with 64,188 members.

POLIO PLUS

DO NOT FORGET:

1. The visit to Bramhall High School on 15th September at 8.15 am.
Visits are also planned on the subsequent two mornings to "sign up" the youngsters.
2. The Ooh La La night on September 19th at St. Michael's Church Hall at 7.30 pm
3. House to House Collection from September 28th.
4. The money count on 13th October.

FOR THE GLOBE TROTTERS

The 1988 Convention of Rotary International will be held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on 22nd-25th May 1988.

Who's going to organise the coach trip?

NEXT ISSUE

That's all for now - sorry there is no report on the 6-a-side at Offerton. Our reporter of this event has developed tennis elbow or housemaid's knee or something and we have no report - yet.

Copy for next month should be in the editor's hands by 3rd October please.