

Rotarian

Rotary Club
of Bramhall and Woodford



BULLETIN

October 2003



Presidential pearls

Welcome all to the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness.

The full programme to which I referred to in my last set of Pearls is developing extremely well on all fronts with the various committees now presenting their programmes and events.

Socially, at the Bar BQ, we saw the old year out and the New Year in including the collapsing ecclesiastical members of the club through or off their chairs. I am sure it was the frailty of the latter and nothing to do with the girth of the former.

Tim Sheppard was again responsible for organising the Morecombe walk and raised £(a lot!) pounds for the charity funds. What *are* we going to do when the proposed bridge is built? Come to think of it The Club is quite good at building bridges!!!. Now that would be a challenge. While on Tim's projects how is the marmalade eating progressing we should now be seeing the profits of this venture?

Future events include the Club Charter, John Sykes's event, The

Retrobeats and Tony B's visit to the Art Gallery. Let us all do our best to give them good support. The general consensus of opinion of the last three meetings, with numbers in attending in the twenties, has been very satisfying. Excellent speakers and conviviality of the members. Any more jokes like that Sid and you could be up before council.

One of the most important meetings this month was the night of the Club's Audit. This was the evening when you the members could have your say on what action could be taken on how the attendance and the format of the meetings could be improved. If you could not attend for a very good reason then you still have the opportunity to air your views, but do it in public. By writing or stating your ideas to me or a member of Council. Remember your editor has now opened the Bulletin to a new feature 'Letters to the Editor'. Use it

One **final** point if any Committee Chairman is proposing a joint meeting with our partners please get in touch with Mary Meeus to make sure it does not clash. Many thanks.

President John

Council capers

August

An A3 sheet is to be posted on the wall at meetings with details of main club events.

The club hopes to be involved in the hosting of the incoming GSE team in Spring 2004.

We had £1200 in the Current Account and £1000 in the Charity Account.

Planning continues for Ways and Means and Community Service projects.

See Diary for events so far scheduled.

September

We are still looking for a GSE team member.

We have £1316 in the General Account, with £600 to pay for capitation fees still, and £967 in the Charity Account.

There are 7 possible new members! The networking form is being followed up in club and District.

See the Diary for social events.

The Farmer's Market is doubtful.

Rotating in the District

The new Rotary journeyings have commenced. A very useful seminar at St Michael's in Bramhall. The concentration was to offer help to all those smaller clubs, those with a membership of less than 20. There are quite a few! The suggestions were to hold brainstorming sessions and Club audits, when all club members could offer their thoughts, ideas, and complaints. Tony Burch gave a good presentation about referral to other clubs. The proforma he prepared is now being offered to all clubs in the District. Well done Tony.

Herb, our District Membership and Attendance Officer, has rocked the

placid boat of 1050, and properly so. He has called for real attendance figures, useful figures, not the make believe clubs have been used to providing.

Again the committee are recommending something new (Herb's idea). Clubs near each other should try to meet together to make a stronger effect on the locality. A strong club and a weak club doing practical activities together. This has been well received, and we shall be encouraging this idea over the next few months. If you want to know more, let me (David R) know.

Meeting Reports

Logic be damned!

Only 14 sat down to the meal on 13th August and, dare I say it, they were the cream of the club! During the meal the President sent round some rather amusing photographs taken during his sojourn in Nigeria.

The meal was excellent as usual, Sid (Alistair Cooke) Davies said he had written to the Telegraph and had 5 letters published this year. I know for certain that he didn't have his letter, "Lloyd George knew my father" published. Sid will recount this if the club asks him nicely.

The President then introduced our old friend Sam. Sam had already taken the time to set up his computer-enhanced slide show. His subject was "Mind Games Based on Logic". He then proceeded to ask (through the computer) 12 mind boggling questions. The only one that I can remember at this moment concerned a divide sign, followed by a plus sign, followed by a rectangle (portrait style) all this equalled 20? Or did it, for you had to move either the 2 or the 0 to the left for it to make sense. This

was O.K. if you learned to count in dominos. Most people including your reporter just looked blank. We did have a winner however – brain box Bob Batty's team with a creditable 10 points. Our team scored 6.

The vote of thanks was proposed by the pyramids' architect - David Dewhurst – well, he does seem that old sometimes.

There was very little to report from our committee chairmen, most of them weren't there. Ron announced that £500.00 had been donated to The East Cheshire Hospice in Memory of our dear friend Don Brisbane who died on the 13th of June. Graham Yule said he was looking for payment for all the regalia that he had ordered for the members. He should be so lucky!

Michael Lacey won the raffle. He was the first with the answer to 12×16 . (Ans: 192, what happened to all those little pieces of green paper with numbers on?). S.A.A. Robert Louis Stevenson, just fined everyone. .

Cassandra

Lending a hand

Seven good men and true, spurred on by rumours of excessive vegetation on 'our' footpaths, set forth on 16th August to clear same for the local population. All, save one, came well prepared with shears and pruners. One thought that a rake would be sufficient equipment – and to tell the truth it was useful for him to lean on whilst watching the rest and providing unneeded protection from non-existent passers by. The six soon despatched the nettles and brambles that had accumulated over recent months, and free, un-nettled passage was resumed for all who required it. The owner of the rake did actually serve a useful function in addition to his cheerful banter. He was the only

one in shorts, and so provided a ready check on whether we had left any nettles uncut in the path of those using these particular by-ways. We hadn't. I'll leave you to work out who-was-who. PS: Alan Newsome took the photo to allow John Sykes to see what he looked like on his own camera!



Eye Line

It was a reasonably full house on 20th August which heard Sally Massey talk about the work of Walthew House and of the independent charity (Eye Line) that runs it. We were pleased to welcome retired surgeon David Rose as a visitor who had found us through our website, and who wanted to know more about us. We also welcomed a Rotarian from Mauritius (his name escapes me!) who was in the UK retraining as a pathologist.

Sally Massey is well known to our members as the driver of the pony and

trap that brings Father Christmas to Barton Grange. Sally is very active as a part time worker for Eye Line. In this capacity she is volunteer project manager and fund-raiser. Sally gave a most interesting account of Walthew House and the work that goes on there for the visually impaired. The Management Committee, which has 50% visually impaired on it, provides a wide range of services. These include access to a variety of ingenious home aids (speaking watch, speaking discs to put on top of cans etc. to indicate the contents, writing aids, large print diaries and books and much more). Home support is

available and offers a friendly person to engage in conversation; a braille service, craft and dancing classes are among other services provided to local people. Our appreciation of the limitations of various types of visual impairment was provided by a collection of goggles with modified lenses to simulate the effects seen by those affected. Sally sought funding for their work and more volunteers to help. All in all, this was a stimulating and thought provoking talk. John Sykes expressed our thanks to Sally.

Reports were few and brief. A Retrobeats evening is planned for 24th October by Ways and Means. Tony Burch has persuaded District to adopt a networking system for clubs to share possible contacts for potential Rotarians, and 'our' footpaths have been cleared again (see photo elsewhere in this issue). John Thewlis was in fining mode and Bob Batty donated his raffle prize to Sally Massey as a tombola prize at Eye Line's forthcoming fund raising dinner.

Life Education Caravan 27 August 2003

"You've got a lively club here" remarked Life Education presenter and Stockport Rotarian, Peter Atkinson, to me at the end of a question session that was more akin to the Hutton Enquiry than to our usual club polite questioning of speakers.

But isn't that the joy of Rotary Club? As David Dewhurst once said to me of Round Table when I was Chairman, "its about being 'irreverent' and having fun". At least, I heard him say 'irreverent', maybe it was 'irrelevant'?

Our meeting was sufficiently 'irreverent' for Herb to launch into a series of penetrating questions challenging whether the good people

of Rotary in different districts had right hands that had no idea what their left hands were doing.

Peter Atkinson gamely fielded questions and allegations backed up by the combative Christine Berry who was clear that any Rotary cock-up was 'down to the others'.

At the risk of being a little rich in my commentary (having just returned from 2 years leave of absence), I have to say what a joy it is to meet weekly with so many members of the club. Regularity of attendance seems to have become 'de-rigueur'. Is this in any way related to the change of venue, the change of menu, or even, (surely not) the availability of 'eye candy' serving our tables?

Such is the excitement and anticipation of table service that some members temporarily lose their grasp of mental arithmetic: "Crickey, look at her, I'm old enough to be her father, no hang on a minute, her grandfather. I must be 25, no, 50 years older than that one".

Some, more Machievialian, members seem determined to cause havoc with the unusual 'no notepad' ordering technique that our young waitresses employ. We all know who the star performer is here. All club members have noticed that the amount of personal attention that he gets is at least 3 times the amount of the next man.

Some members are so wrapped up by the visual effects of table service that they seem stunned into a level of meekness that belies their many years of experience in demanding good service. I mean, no-one even complains when one of the young 'visions' carries the soup with her thumb in it! What would have been said if that had been Veronica or Manuel at Millington Hall?

It's all great for club fellowship and has raised the energy levels palpably. A masterstroke of leadership rooted in the perspecacity that we needed something to happen to the club to make us all 'sit up and take notice'!

We even seem to be getting take up for non Rotary events such as the 'Eyeline' Charity dinner dance that was presented to us the previous week. At this rate we'll get a terrific attendance at the Rotary Charter Dinner....

Not in any sense bemused by all of this, a great, relevant, and brief vote of thanks was given by the usually loquacious Bob Stevenson, which was in sharp contrast to his earlier announcement of apologies which followed the style which we are more accustomed to from him.

Herb, on a combatative roll, delivered his sergeant at arms penalties in a way that was both irreverent and irrelevant to the evening, as all good fining sessions are.

The smoothest move of all was by Mac, as winner of the independently audited raffle, donating the two bottles of house wine, expensively purchased by Bob in a valiant effort to reduce operating margins, to the Life Caravan presenters to be raffled at their next fund raising event. A worthy cause for the future well-being of our children's and grandchildren's generations. We all wish them well.

Malcolm Hurst

Committee Night 3 September

We dined for the first time at the Ladybridge Club in our alternative venue, suitably screened off at the back of the bar. It seemed to work quite well when we had got used to the ingeniously arranged small circular tables; the close proximity to the bar was a bonus. A respectable number attended considering it was Committee Night and it was good to see two prospective members, John Holmes and David Rose, hopefully enjoying themselves sharing in the fellowship. The President opened the evening by exhorting us to sit 'in committees'. Unfortunately we were all settled by then which led to some table-swapping later. After a very pleasant meal, the committees convened. In the case of your correspondent and Sid Davies, the leaderless remnants of the International and Foundation Committee, our business was confined mainly to Sid reminiscing about his international travel. Eventually, the various officials and committees chairman reported as follows:

Secretary/Treasurer David Rabone had little to report except that he was in possession of the club cheque book in the absence of the Treasurer. Is this a dangerous concentration of influence in one pair of hands?

Ways and Means John Sykes exhorted us all to sign up for the

nostalgic 60s dancing to the excellent Retrobeats on 24 October at Cheadle. From our experience of the similar event last year a good night will be had by all.

Club Services As usual, Tony Burch had plenty to share with us:-

a) In two weeks time the meeting will be "Club Audit" evening when as many members as possible will have the opportunity to discuss, make suggestions etc on the way that the club operates.

b) Speakers have been arranged until 5 November. Members were urged to assist in suggesting new speakers, particularly good ones!

c) 29 October being a fifth Wednesday, our partners are invited to join us on a visit to Stockport Art Gallery, followed by a meal.

d) Tony said that the networking system that Bramhall & Woodford had designed was being adopted by the District and asked for club members to show an example by using the networking form for any Rotarians that they were aware of.

As far as Bramhall & Woodford was concerned, there were currently five prospective members, two of them seriously considering membership and three to be further encouraged.

Our esteemed Bulletin Compiler/Editor, Dennis Allport, chased outstanding meeting reports and asked for other contributions such as letters to the editor, jokes, articles etc.

President John intervened to remind us that in the past the Club Bulletin had won frequent prizes at District

and National level for its excellence and there was no reason why this shouldn't happen again with suitable Club assistance.

Community Services There was nothing to report but Bob Batty asked if the subject of club support for the Life Education Caravan Scheme was to be discussed. The President replied that the subject was to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

International & Foundation There was nothing to report.

Social In the absence of Paul, Sam reported that Charter Night numbers were very low at 33 and members needed to invite more guests, hopefully to increase the numbers by another 20.

Other items on the social calendar were announced –see Diary.

Public Relations Henry reported that he had received a 'thank you' letter from Sally Massey for the Club sponsorship of her carriage drive on behalf of Eyeline.

Sales Our super efficient sales manager, Graham Yule, distributed various items of previously ordered Rotary paraphernalia. He then somewhat bizarrely appealed for additional speakers to entertain the Manchester Breakfast Club at 7.30 am. A challenge indeed.

John Thewlis appeared to be an unpopular winner of the raffle and Sergeant-at-Arms, Bob Batty, fined the usual suspects in addition to guest, David Rose, who had unwisely clapped himself when introduced.

David Poizer

What were we doing ?

15 years ago

August had been a busy month. Lisa Burroughs (the first Miss Bramhall Festival) had presented a cheque to the NSPCC from the Festival profits. After photographs she was escorted from the room by I.P.P John who said he would be back in October!. Apparently he returned in 10 minutes grinning from ear to ear. (Ed. So what's new ?).

Henry had entertained the club with "Tales from the Vienna Woods" or his

experiences as National Serviceman in Austria, whilst Bob explained how we could set up a car rota to transport blind (sorry, visibly impaired) people to their dance evening at Walthew House.

We also found time to trounce Poynton in the 3rd.Test match, mainly due to John "Flintoff" Mould.

18 events were listed in the "for your diary" section of the Bulletin whilst less familiar names mentioned included Rodney Inglesfield, Ron Martin, Malcolm Harris and John Weston.

10 years ago

President John congratulated the team who had won the District Golf - but no names were given.

We had converted the Charity Account into a Charitable Trust to comply with the law and had been playing in an area cricket competition, encouraging Bill Betjeman Middlehurst to write a poem. (Who won is not recorded but it

probably was not clear on the night anyway).)

Charter Night was held at the Millington where that well known speaker, the MP for Cheadle, replied on behalf of the guests. Dennis regaled us with a full report about Padstow Rotary whist Morag and Cathy offered recipes for scrumptious sweets.

Bob Batty

A hospital decided to ask for the doctor's thoughts on the construction of a new wing:

The allergists voted to scratch it
The dermatologists preferred no rash moves
The neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve
The obstetricians stated they were labouring under a misconception.
The ophthalmologists considered the idea short sighted.
The pathologists yelled "over my dead body!"

The radiologists could see right through it.

The paediatricians said, "Grow up".

The urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water.

The plastic surgeons said, " This puts a whole new face on the matter."

The psychiatrists thought it was madness.

And the surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.



Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford

RETROBEATS

Friday 24th October 2003

Cheadle Golf Club 7.30 for 8.00 pm

The Retrobeats were very popular last year, so we have invited them back!

Dance to the Retrobeats music - 60's - 70's style.

Hot food included.
Tickets £16 per person

A fund raising event

Rotary wives

Rotary Wives 'AGM'

In July several ladies spent a lovely warm summer evening sitting in the garden, chatting and drinking Pina Coladas before enjoying a delightful meal of fresh salmon and wonderful

salads (a la Marilyn) followed by strawberries and cream. In spite of –or because of - this we managed to arrange the rota for next year's meetings! Anyone who hasn't received a copy, please ask Mary Meeus for one.

Letters to the editor



Sir

I thought that most of our funds for charities usually came from fund raising efforts aimed at the public. Am I alone in seeing a trend towards trying to get more from our own members? It's all right for those still working - pity the pensioners!

Yours

Questor

Hi Ed

I'm all for the sensible trend towards open necked shirts on hot evenings. Who is going to be the first to copy our waitresses and show a bare midriff? (*Ed: certainly not me!*) Should we have an award for the most fashion conscious dresser in the club?

Cheers!

'With it'

Thanks to these two anonymous correspondents. Letters are always welcome. All but the most scurrilous will be published! (Ed)

Eradicating polio

30,000 Rotary Clubs all over the world are helping-and the job's not quite done. Polio still exists in seven countries: Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Somalia. But the incredible fact is that Rotary International, the butt of stand-up comedians forever, has since the mid-1980s all but wiped out the disease. When Bill Gates, whose Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given billions to advance world health, is asked what medical projects he respects, he often starts with Rotary and "the remarkable job it has done with polio."

Years ago every Rotary Club was an island that carried out service projects on its own. It would have been "close to heresy," says Bill Sergeant of Knoxville, Term., now Rotary's poliomeister, for anyone to suggest any other form of operating. But in the late 1970s a visionary Rotary president, Australian Clem Renouf, persuaded the organization's hierarchy that the clubs were wasting their talents by not uniting to attack a major problem. Polio was chosen, and ultimately, in 1986, Rotary announced a drive to raise the unimaginable amount of \$120 million to eradicate the disease. With that start-and with the \$247 million that was actually raised PolioPlus was off the ground.

Rotary has now put more than \$500 million into PolioPlus and has gathered billions more from such partners as the World Health Organization, Unicef, the Centers for Disease Control, and the Gates Foundation itself. Vaccines are the first cost, of course. Every child under the age of 5-there are 607 million in the world-needs to receive at least six doses, at a per-dose cost of around 10 cents. Beyond that expense is the logistical challenge of delivering the vaccines. The difficulty of getting desperately poor mothers and children to an immunization center six or more times can't be underestimated. Rotary takes on much of that work: In war-ravaged Sudan, for example, it has chartered planes to airlift vaccines and staff to the inaccessible southern part of the country.

The seven countries where polio still exists each must pass several tests before they can be declared free of the disease, including having no cases for three years. (In case you're wondering, the U.S. has been polio-free since 1993.) Rotarians would love to see some of the seven graduate by 2005, the organization's 100th birthday. Meanwhile, Renouf is now Sir Clem, knighted for his humanitarian work in connection with Rotary.

(from the journal Forbes)

Job Rota

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker host</i>	<i>Bulletin</i>	<i>S at A</i>
September 17	S Day	K Death	D Dewhurst
September 24	G Hunt	S Kennedy	R Malabon
October 1	M McLeod	J Mould	A Newsome
October 8	D Poizer	D Rabone	P Ridgway
October 15	T Sheppard	S Smith	N Smethurst
October 22	B Stevenson	J Sykes	R Taylor
October 29	J Thewlis	M Wolverson	G Yule
November 5	H Barker	B Batty	H Boyes
November 12	T Burch	D Allport	S Davies
November 19	S Day	K Death	D Dewhurst
November 26	M Hurst	G Hunt	S Kennedy
December 3	R Malabon	M Lacey	M Mcleod
December 10	J Mould	A Newsome	D Poizer
December 17		Christmas Dinner	
2004			
January 7	D Rabone	P Ridgway	T Sheppard
January 14	S Smith	N Smethurst	B Stevenson
January 21	J Sykes	J Thewlis	R Taylor

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

Club Diary

September 24	Charter Night
October 1	Committee night
October 8	Anne Marie Wood – Madam Curie
October 15	Steve O'Rourke: Modern Policing
October 22	Fred Broadhurst: Origins of British Scenery
October 29	John Scully – Stockport Art Gallery, with our partners
October 31 to November 2	Rotary Conference: Scarborough
November 5	Committee Night
November 21	Beaujolais Evening
December 17	Christmas Dinner, Bramhall Park Golf Club
December 21	End of collection party!
2004	
January 24	Burns Night
February 27	President's Night: Adlington Hall

BLIND RUN

Mrs Joan Kuroski, 13 Hulme Hall Cres., Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 485 6729 Pick up 7.00 pm
Mrs Phyllis Bell, Flat 19B, York Close, Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 428 8008 Pick up 7.15 pm
Bernard Sharp, 6 Woodbury Rd., Birdhall Lane, Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 428 6506 Pick up 7.20 pm

Mrs Dorothy Birch, 53 Mill Lane, Woodley
Tel: 355 3252 Pick up 7.00 pm
Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton
Tel: 456 2076 Pick up 7.15 pm
Mrs Edith Fidler, 18 Old Hall Drive, Offerton
Tel: 483 2286 Pick up 7.15 pm

Make sure that you know where to find them. Ring up Sunday or Monday to check that your passengers still need a lift. If you can't get through, go round anyway at the appointed time. Let Geoff Hunt know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run. During holiday periods, Walthew House may be closed. Cancellations will be announced at club meetings.

September 23	D Poizer	D Rabone
September 30	P Ridgway	T Sheppard
October 7	S Smith	N Smethurst
October 14	B Stevenson	J Sykes
October 21	J Thewlis	M Wolverson
October 28	G Yule	M Hurst
November 4	B Batty	H Boyes
November 11	T Burch	S Davies
November 18	S Day	K Death
November 25	D Allport	D Dewhurst
December 2	G Hunt	M Lacey
December 9	R Malabon	J Meeus
December 16	J Mould	A Newsome
2004		
January 6	D Poizer	D Rabone
January 13	P Ridgway	T Sheppard
January 20	S Smith	N Smethurst
January 27	B Stevenson	J Sykes



'LEND A HAND'

Involvement and communication

Meal Apologies

Don't forget that all meal apologies must be made either

by phoning 07005 964 624

or

emailing to

Apologies@bramhall-woodford-rotary.org.uk

before midday on Tuesday

**We meet at the the Ladybridge Park Resident's Club,
Edenbridge Road, Cheadle Hulme.**

Please send all copy for the bulletin to Dennis Allport, preferably
as a Word attachment to an e-mail

dennis-allport@supanet.com