

Rotarian

Rotary Club
of Bramhall and Woodford



BULLETIN

August 2004



'CELEBRATE ROTARY'

Presidential prattle

Another Rotary year begins (our eighteenth) and already we have had two meetings – an extraordinarily lively committee evening and then the District Governor’s visit combined with assessments of some of us by the Institute of Advanced Motorists. There has also been a council meeting and so it feels like a hectic start. But there is a long way to go before I become a past (or past it) President, and I have high hopes for the year being a good one

We have an ambitious set of programmes in the making from several committees and there will be ample opportunity to serve our local and international communities either directly or by donations from our fund raising.

There are lots of ways to serve. We all take part in the blind run. Those who wish will be able to set up standing orders for our Foundation charity. Many will rattle tins, will be Santa or a helper, will “drag ‘em in” on stroke awareness day, will help keep our footpaths clear, will collect spectacles, will attend and sell tickets for our fund raising events and so on.

Please keep up your Wednesday attendances where possible, and

support the planned activities. The more of us that there are at a meeting or event, the more gets done and the more fun we have!

I know we will lose some members during the year but believe that we can nonetheless expand our club. This will not be done by Bob Stevenson alone, nor even by the whole club services committee. We all need to keep the meetings lively, informative, useful and fun. So when, with pride, we bring along our friends and contacts they will want to join us.

If you haven’t yet done so please put the dates for Charter and President’s evening in your diary now.

If there is anything you want to see done better at the club let me know, and do not be afraid to raise your ideas at the “brainstorming” session in August.

This is Rotary’s centennial year. Let’s do our bit to make it one to remember.

Have a great year!

President Michael

Council capers

June

Money: General Account £1157, and the Charity Account 2200 (£1300 already allocated).

Community Service: 16 students from Bramhall HS going to the Excitement of Science in London. Bench donated by Barton Grange to be located in Bramhall Shopping Centre.

Club Services: Paired members arranging meetings should have their meeting details 5/6 weeks in advance.

In future, non-apologies for meals will be fined at £5, any balance would be met from the General Account (ie, subs).

Ways & Means: The Dakotas evening raised £1350, of which £1000 was for the Rainbow Family Trust.

Other: Council meetings will continue to be at Lerryn House, courtesy Tim Sheppard. The Club has been thanked for the excellent organisation of the GSE Farewell Dinner.

July

Money: General Account £1296. Charity Account £2176.

Dates: District Council on 29th September. Christmas Party on 15th December at Bramhall Park Golf

Club. Charter Evening at the Ladybridge Club on 22nd September.

Other: The Club's Rotary Centennial Project will be the purchase of an induction loop for the Bramhall Health Centre.

Nothing is so simple that it can't get screwed up.

Life is like a sewer, what you get out of it depends on what you put into it.

Meeting Reports

**Rotary: “Democracy in action”,
19 May 2004**

“Ah....Democracy...now there’s a very fine thing to observe” said the Greek philosopher *Demos* as he reflected on the sunset over the Aegean from his 3rd century BC summer home...a privilege gifted by the senate for coming up with such a blinding idea...

Back to the Future with 21st century Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club with its assembled senate led, initially in absentia of Pres John otherwise engaged at a bucolic Belgian business bash that Bacchus would boast about, by David (“I’m taking no prisoners.... questions”) Rabone in a show of management style that enabled democracy and inclusiveness to compare favourably (for those of a philosophical disposition).

Reports were delivered earnestly.....success was everywhere...our Rotary Club was in “good shape”, to the point where a *dividend* was considered, albeit briefly, following the report by Sales Officer Graham.

Fever pitch came with Treasurer Ron’s declaration that the *finer system* had produced more cash (with less laughs?) than the *social programme*. Somehow, riding the crest of a wave, subs for the upcoming year were agreed at £85 after an initial proposal at £82, voting 14-8 in favour, followed by a kafuffle over Charitable Donations.

Ancient Sage, Dennis, was proven omniscient as officers’ posts were filled by elected representatives exactly how he had predicted in the pages of this very journal. *How does he do it?*

Concluding with a cacophony of joyous urgent other business, including revelation that veteran Bob was taking up archiving and wanted old junk relevant to Rotary; Sales Graham offering to build his empire; and Sergeant at Arms Ron (surely more senior than ‘Sergeant’?) starting as he means to go on with heavy and spurious fines to beat the 2003/4 financial performance, the meeting closed.

M Hurst

A rose by any other name...

A select group of us sat down on May 24th to the usual delicious meal at the Ladybridge Club under the less than enthusiastically received leadership of Secretary David Rabone. Our number included Sue Cookes, a guest of Harry Hill.

Tim Sheppard reported that he had just received word that this year's Morecambe Bay walk on behalf of Sight Savers was to take place on Sunday, 13 June, i.e. at short notice and asked for participants/sponsors to sign up as soon as possible.

David congratulated John Sykes on the success of the Dakotas' concert, although this did not extend to the support group which, by all accounts, was somewhat deafening. In response, John told us that over £1000 'profit' had been realised, including the raffle. A very good evening.

David then introduced our speaker, David Rose, who was to give a 'job talk'. David Rose then gave us a comprehensive account of his career, culminating in his post as Ear, Nose and Throat Consultant at Stepping Hill Hospital. He certainly seems to have had a versatile and wide-ranging career having initially trained as an eye surgeon followed by a year in DIY general practice in

Salford and periods in Sheffield, Stockport and Zurich, before returning to Stepping Hill Hospital.

Before commencing a description of the work of an ENT department, David asked rashly what was the public's perception of a consultant. "Rich" was the rapid reply from our member for Ulster, Herb Boyes! Amidst interruptions, mainly from Harry Hill, who was obviously employed as his 'straight man', David explained that the scope/effectiveness of ENT work had grown greatly during his career due to advances in technology such as fibre optics, miniaturisation and computerisation. Electronic devices could now be implanted inside the ear and the replacement of analogue by digital hearing aids had produced great improvements. Improved antibiotics and anaesthetics had also been a great help.

David referred to the many foreign objects that people managed to stick down their throats, including peanuts, various bones and coins, concluding with the alarming image of a garage mechanic who stuck his head out of a hole in the floor and nearly lost it to a passing car! We were shown slides of various bodily orifices, some quite alarming and one or two definitely reminiscent of recent photographs from the American-run prison in Baghdad! During this sequence David got his

own back by asking Harry Hill to name the body parts depicted. Silence was the loud reply!

David concluded his most interesting talk with a video showing an initiative he had set up as part of his special interest in the hearing problems of children. This was an automated hearing test enabling very young babies to be screened for hearing problems using technique not affecting them in any way but giving very early warning of problems. When asked if there were any questions, Sid asked why there had been no reference to the very common condition of marital deafness!

Mac gave the vote of thanks for a very interesting and information talk to cries of "Ear – Ear" from you've guessed it, Sid!

Secretary David reported on various Rotary happenings and asked for next year's programmes from the incoming committee chairmen.

Tim Sheppard presented a bottle of champagne as a personal present to the Rotarian, David Dewhurst, who had collected the most money for Foundation in the marmalade jar collection.

As there was nothing to report from the rest of the committees, AOB allowed the irrepressible Sid to get a Welsh, agricultural joke off his chest. The raffle was won by our guest Sue Cookes and Sergeant-at-Arms, Alan Newsome, managed to fine most of us, a lot of this for sartorial shortcomings.

David Poizer

A young Jewish man excitedly tells his mother he's fallen in love and that he is going to get married. He says, "Just for fun, Ma, I'm going to bring over three women and you try and guess which one I'm going to marry."

The mother agrees. The next day, he brings three beautiful women into the house and sits them down on the couch and they chat for a while. He then says, "Okay, Ma, guess which one I'm going to marry."

She immediately replies, "The one on the right."

"That's amazing, Ma. You're right. How did you know?"

The Jewish mother replies, "I don't like her."

Committees on 2 June

We arrived for our first Committee night in good spirits. Probably because most members present did not realise it was a Committee! In my enthusiasm to ensure I gave my apologies for the next meeting, (being away in London) I mistakenly approached David Rabone who enthusiastically pointed me in John Mould's direction. Was I the only one finding old habits die hard? In approaching John Mould I managed to arrive just as he was to rise and give apologies on behalf of others! Having caused sufficient chaos I retired to report on events. John Mould delivered apologies with great style, for one so new to the job, proclaiming his effort was "not bad for a first time". A spontaneous round of enthusiastic applause ensued. (I really must remember that trick!) Having just returned from holiday in Northern Cyprus the President kindly let me report on my visit to Kyrenia Rotary Club. (And before you ask- NO- Azil Nadir is not a member!) I was pleased to report that Kyrenia had just received its International Charter, despite being active for 26 years. Everything comes to those who wait! At this point an unexplained glass of wine appeared at my left elbow. How nice I thought. Then a waitress appeared with cutlery etc, followed by much huffing and puffing as Bob Stevenson tried to arrive without being noticed. Bob does like a challenge. The programme for the

year was duly handed out. What a cracking read. John Sykes commented that it was best read like a political manifesto, "judge it on the results rather than the promises" was his approach. What on earth did he mean? The President then reported that we were honoured to be served by a very special young lady tonight. Indeed we were. Nickki Pugh, just 15 years of age, was serving our meals. This amazing girl is the current Stockport Sports Personality of the Year. Despite a spinal abnormality she is yet again a member of the Gt. Britain Trampoline Team, and had recently taken part in the European Trampolining Championships. She came a wonderful 11th! She received a generous and much deserved round of enthusiastic applause. Justifiably so. Returning to our meal, I could not help noticing that Bob Batty seemed to secure more cream on his strawberries than everyone else! Even the Presidential portion paled into insignificance by comparison. Some comedian commented "having a lot of cream on your strawberries could be something Harry Hill ought to know about". I'm afraid this one went clean over my head. (The joke I mean, not the cream). Bob Stevenson, having now settled in, seemed to have appointed himself air conditioning engineer for the evening. Up and down like a Yo Yo. The new machine received his constant attention. Bob then rose to tell of his plans for next week. We are all to have a crack at advanced motoring! (Bob will be

walking in front with the red flag). Then on to the main business. Committees were genuinely buzzing with ideas. Then our past President, John Meeus, thankfully recovered from his recent little scare, was presented with his traditional ex-Presidential Cartoon. In expressing his thanks to John warmly for his year in office, the President echoed all our thanks. The applause proving the point. Mark Wolverson was an amusing, brief and effective S at A. With 50p at the ready I was amazed he did not fine me. Mind you, I've always thought it best to keep in with the clergy! Bob Stevenson promised to get me next time. (When he reads this he probably will!)

Stephen Day

Wednesday 9th June

The night was hot and sultry. He sat there brooding. Steam curled skywards from every pore on his sweat soaked grey matted head. The evening stretched tediously in front of him. Life was hard. If he had been to one committee meeting he must have been to a thousand. No amount of alcohol could shake the nagging fear that something exciting might one day happen.

It never did. He could only dream. Thoughts of willowy blondes swaying languorously in front of him flashed fleetingly across his furrowed brow. What caused him to think like that? Was it really page 18 of the latest edition of the Rotary magazine or was it something deeper and more sinister. These meetings gave him plenty of time for introspection. He wasn't perverted – at least not that anybody could prove in a court of

law. Not unless they took his computer to pieces and he had taken precautions hadn't he? He snapped out of his idle reveries with a jolt. Not only was it committee night it was new committee night. He was in charge. He had to lead. Next year depended on him.

The sweat dripped more freely now as he awoke to the awesome responsibility. He started to panic as his usual feeling of invincibility deserted him. Abandoned by his running mate, would the troops respond? Would they produce a programme for next year? Would it be good? Did he care! Only his conscience knew the answer to that – he certainly didn't.

Christ the heat was stifling. Maybe if he undid his collar! Thoughts of the blonde came rushing back.....

R.Chandler

**The blues and the greys
Gettysburg by General Day
16th June.**

It was a hot evening and most members appeared in relaxed attire. Sec. David chaired the meeting at short notice due to Pres. John's pressing desire to visit the nurses at Stepping Hill Hospital, and a jolly gathering it was too – with jokes of doubtful quality and indecent photos of various members on the Morecambe Bay walk (£250 for Sightsavers International).

The main event was an outstanding talk on the battle of Gettysburg by our own Stephen Day. Stephen certainly knows how to paint a picture of the horror of this battle in Pennsylvania which was the turning point of the American Civil War and which, in Stephen's opinion, created the background to modern America. With the aid of a battleground chart, Stephen gave us the history leading up to the battle itself – as well as details of the protagonists involved – and the clash of two cultures between the 11 confederate states and the 13 states of the union. He set out the divided loyalties, not only between families, but also at the higher levels. For example, General Robert E Lee, although a union man, had a higher loyalty to the state of Virginia and thus became leader of the confederate army. He told us that the confederacy initially did extraordinarily well,

despite heavy losses on both sides, but it was Gettysburg where the tactical genius of the commanders turned the tide of the war in the union's favour.

Stephen is the master story-teller and he added the “ General Day” dimension by outlining the political impact on modern America and by relating how the southern “rednecks” still react to their democrat philosophy to this day. Apparently, even the British Government nearly entered the war on the side of the confederacy because the southern ports were blockaded by the northern states leading to great deprivation in the Lancashire cotton towns. A fascinating anecdote.

All in all, an excellent talk given by an accomplished speaker who obviously was thoroughly at ease with his subject.

There was little else to report as we approach the handover at the end of the month. Kelvin as Sgt. At Arms managed to extract the usual fines from most of us and David Poizer walked off with the wine. Chris Boyes, District Governor, was wandering about in Bramhall at a loose end and so joined us in an unofficial capacity at short notice. No doubt he too enjoyed such a congenial evening learning about the blues and the greys.

Geoff. Hunt.

Homo-sycophancy on 23 June

This was an absolutely brilliant night, when members were tested intellectually, musically and artistically in a format devised and implemented by those most distinguished Rotarians, Richard Taylor and John Thewlis. Even the tortuous explanation of monkeys, typewriters and Shakespeare was greeted with howls of what the author of these notes felt was good humoured laughter.

Undoubtedly, one of the highlights of the evening was when Alan Newsome managed to convert the game of 'Pictionary' into his very own game of 'Synonymary', providing a novel twist by writing

words instead of drawing pictures. Alas, some members were unable to appreciate the huge intellectual leap between glyphs and phonemes but the odd mutterings about cheating were quickly dispelled by the overall jollity of the occasion. A further highlight was when Malcolm Hurst demonstrated a disturbing ability to distinguish song titles from some virtuoso pieces of guitar artistry.

All-in-all, a never-to-be-forgotten evening which should leave all members with a firm resolution... never let one of the organisers write the Bulletin notes.

John Thewlis

Advanced Motorists 14th July by.....a back seat driver

This was a meeting with a difference - no bar purchases at 7.30 but instead 8 Rotarians assembled with a similar number of members of the Stockport branch of the Institute of Advance Motorists to have their driving skills assessed. A few other members went along as "back seat drivers".

After a pleasant drive out to Prestbury and back (in which our cruising Jaguar was overtaken by a speeding Ford Escort) all returned safely to Ladybridge where drivers and

assessors appeared still to be on speaking terms.

Following a self-service but substantial meal, non-driving President Michael asked the IAM chairman to review the driving skills. Most of his comments were what you would expect, i.e. driving too fast up to roundabouts, driving too close, crossing hands when steering and unnecessary gear changing when slowing down. This latter point shows up the age of the drivers because most of us learnt to use the engine as a brake in the days when car brakes were not as efficient today.

All-in-all a very interesting and useful event and full credit to Bob Stevenson and John Sykes for their initiative for organising it. BUT WHERE WERE YOU? Everybody drives and probably everybody can improve but only 15 (40%) of members were present. Ron Malabon gave a vote of thanks to the speaker and the assessors

The second speaker was Keith Paver, the new District Governor. His theme was what Rotary had done for him during his 17 years membership,

particularly the friends he had made at Anaheim. He reminded us of the ethical standards of Rotary as we celebrate the centennial year.

Ron looked pleased as he received some cheques but reminded other members that subs (£85) were now due. Tony Burch used his entrepreneurial skills to extract 50ps and the Vice-President went home carrying the bottle of wine.

Three men in a boat

A tale of adventure - or misadventure depending on your point of view - unfolded on 21st July. Graham Vine had 'crewed/cooked' on the transfer of a 40 foot power boat from Majorca to Greece in the company of the owner, and Graham Wood, our speaker. Graham W. was the expert, who actually knew how to navigate, and was generally relied on for most things. There was a constant interplay throughout the 7 day, 1356 nautical mile trip, of 'how can we get to the next refueling stop', 'what is the economic speed to go at fuel-wise', 'where the hell are we?', 'whose turn is it to steer the boat now that the autopilot has broken', and 'dare we leave this particular marina in **that** sea?'. The boat was a gas guzzler and could do 43 knots, and the constant

search for diesel supplies dominated their days. They actually did run out of fuel once, within a short distance of their destination, and a kindly local fishing boat saved the day by letting them have some fuel.

An interesting and lively presentation, accompanied by slides taken on the journey. Great fun (I think) for the participants, particularly in hindsight!

Rotary matters were brief. We will install a bench in Bramhall Precinct very soon, we have donated £200 to a young lady going on a Raleigh International trip, and the fixing of the plaque on our bridge in Bramhall Park has been delayed - by the hardness of the wood!

Dennis Allport

What were we doing ?

15 years ago - July 1989

Douglas Murphy had been installed as President and thanked his colourful predecessor for all his efforts. The second Bramhall Festival had been a big success and much had been learnt for future years.

Much space in the Bulletin was devoted to the ramblings of "Disgusted of Tonbridge Wells" including a photo of him eating a chicken leg (I think that is what it was but you never knew with Alan).

Speakers included a Public Relations lady trying to brighten up the image of Salford, the secretary of the Police Federation who had received a letter from the Chief Constable congratulating him on being HIV negative and a fund -raiser for Christies.

We finished second to Urmston in the district golf competition -played during the final round of the Open -oh

what dedication! Finally Jonathan brought a banner to the Club from Penang, a club he and Mary visited whilst on honeymoon - dedication again.!!

10 years ago - July 1994

President Kelvin returned from America complete with a friendship candle given to him by Felicia, president of the Hyannis Club. (According to the reporter he waxed lyrical about both)

Geoff (who had his original knees in those days) had led a walk over Kinder. David Taylor (remember him?) had spoken about Alcoholics Anonymous (there is still a branch in Bramhall if anyone needs it) whilst Richard Gillings had compared life in a Birkenhead parish with Bramhall.

Poor Ralph was in hospital following his accident and John Weston had recently resigned due to pressure of work

Bob Batty

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Modesty is a vastly overrated virtue.

Old age is always 15 years older than I am.

If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?

Nothing is foolproof. Fools are just too damn ingenious.

Diary

July 28	John McGrory: Learn Direct
August 4	Committee night
August 9	Council, 8pm, Lerryn
August 11	TBA
August 18	Colonel Faucet reappears!
August 25	Open Forum on the Club's activities
September 1	Committee night
September 6	Council, 8pm, Lerryn
September 8	Visit to alpaca farm. (G Yule). Ladies invited
September 15	Boyes/Burch
September 22	Charter Night
September 29	District Council - we host!
October 6	Committee night
October 8 - 10	District Conference, Southport
October 11	Council, 8pm, Lerryn
October 13	TBA
October 20	Death/Dewhurst
October 27	Annabel Edwards, David Lewis Centre
November 3	Committee night
November 8	Council, 8pm, Lerryn
November 10	Hill/Hogben
November 17	Holme/Hurst
November 24	Club Services
December 1	Committee night
December 8	Kennedy/Malabon
December 15	Christmas dinner

2005

March 11	President's Night
April 14-17	National Conference in Manchester
July 3	End of year barbecue

Please note that the programme above is subject to change. Please keep Dennis Allport and David Poizer informed of intended speakers or visits.

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
July 28	S Davies	D Dewhurst	K Death
August 4	H Hill	N Hogben	J Holme
August 11	G Hunt	M Hurst	S Kennedy
August 18	R Malabon	J Meeus	M McLeod
August 25	J Mould	A Newsome	D Poizer
September 1	Committees	D Rabone	D Rose
September 8	J Sheard	T Sheppard	S Smith
September 15	N Smethurst	B Stevenson	J Sykes
September 22	Charter Night	J Thewlis	
September 29	District Council	G Yule	
October 6	Committees	D Allport	M Wolverson
October 13	H Barker	H Boyes	B Batty
October 20	T Burch	S Davies	S Day
October 27	K Death	D Dewhurst	G Jackson
November 3	Committees	H Hill	J Holme
November 10	M Hurst	G Hunt	S Kennedy
November 17	M McLeod	R Malabon	J Meeus
November 24	A Newsome	J Mould	D Poizer
December 1	Committees	Rose	Rabone

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

The Rotary Club of Bramhall & Woodford



Please reply to:

This is our new letter design! If you wish to use the design for Rotary correspondence, please ask President Michael to send you an electronic copy. It is not intended to have copies printed commercially.

BLIND RUN

Mrs Joan Kuroski, 13 Hulme Hall Cres., Cheadle Hulme
Tel: 485 6729 Pick up 7.00 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.

Note that Phyllis Bell no longer goes to Walthew House on Tuesday evenings.

July 27	no run	
August 3,10,17	no run	
August 24	D Rose	J Sheard
August 31	S Day	K Death
September 7	T Sheppard	S Smith
September 14	N Smethurst	B Stevenson
September 21	J Sykes	J Thewlis
September 28	M Wolverson	G Yule
October 5	D Allport	H Barker
October 12	B Batty	H Boyes
October 19	T Burch	S Davies
October 26	D Dewhurst	H Hill
November 2	J Holme	G Hunt
November 9	M Hurst	S Kennedy
November 16	G Jackson	M Lacey
November 23	R Malabon	J Meeus
November 30	J Mould	A Newsome
December 7	D Poizer	D Rabone



Celebrate in Rotary

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 an attachment to an e-mail **in Rich Text Format (not Word)** - more resistant to virus attack.

dennis-allport@supanet.com