

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

August 2005



John Thewlis - President 2005/6

Presidential prattle

When I was a junior cadet at Sandhurst, I used to watch the seniors on their passing out parades marching up the steps of Old Building to the tune of 'Auld Lang Sine' and think how great it must feel and how proud they must be. Alas, when my time came I was concentrating so hard on slow marching up the steps without losing balance or looking down that, suddenly, it was all over and I was left with the curious feeling of "Is that it? Is that all there is?"

As it turns out, it was admirable training for taking over as President, especially as, for the first meeting I presided over, only eleven other members managed to turn up: there was no speaker's host, bulletin writer or sergeant-at-arms and the speaker only arrived at the very last minute. Happily, however, things have looked up and the attendance at the last two meetings has been pretty respectable – although note that I use the term 'respectable' purely with respect to the numbers attending and not to their behaviour! It was also my happy duty to induct Jim Thomas to the Club and, on behalf of all members, wish him a hearty welcome.

On the business side, things are slowly working up as the new Committee settles in. We are hoping to build on last year's successes with the Grotto and Fun Run, as well as adding a further major fund raising event, as yet to be decided.

Meanwhile, I would like to thank everyone for the help and support they have given me so far and think that we can look forward to the coming Rotary year with confidence.

John

Council capers

At this time of year a lot of planning takes place - a lot of activity and naturally not a lot to show for it yet. Your new Council has met regularly as you would expect, and here are just some of the topics discussed at the July Council meeting.

Money £1035 in the General Account, £1355 in the Charity Account. It was agreed that if members wished, the annual subscription could be split into 2 payments (July and August).

Club Services Verbal advance meal apologies given at our meetings have often led to problems in the past, with accusations of 'being given' and 'not received'. In future, an apology book will be available at meetings. The only meal apologies accepted from now on will be those written in this book or those emailed to the apology address or those phoned to the apologies number. Plenty of choice!

A Community Service Certificate will be presented to the Fun Run sponsor.

A ladies recruitment evening is to be planned.

A visit by the DG will be confirmed.

Social Event planning is under way.

International and Foundation Topics included Hope & Homes for Africa, the fund raising concert at St Michael's on 11 September, a suggestion by the DG for a different type of District International evening, possibly arranged by our club, a tea project, Emergency and Aqua boxes.

Ways and Means The planning involves the Christmas Grotto, a sponsored hike and a second Fun Run.

Community Service Current topics were youth exchange, H & S officer's requirements, the need for a hydrotherapy pool at the David Lewis Centre footpath maintenance and a possible Excitement of Science in Manchester.

PRO All items should continue to be sent to Stephen Day.

Meeting Reports

Brain test on May 18

From time to time in any Rotary year, for one reason or another, a planned speaker is unable to come and mild chaos ensues in the Club Services Committee. May 18 was such a day. This particular chaos was calmed by President Michael and an Internet quiz. Teams of 2/3 and 60 questions later, a triumphant team won the non-existent prize – the honour was all in the winning. Good questions, some relying on unlikely Rotary skills such as nursery rhymes, pop songs and past football fixtures. No wonder my team didn't win!

It was good to see Jim Thomas once again. Jim had been to see us before, and this time (as Graham Vine's guest)

came alone as Graham couldn't come! We hope to see Jim again despite his lack of knowledge on the subjects listed above! Jim's expertise lies in organic chemistry, so that's an excellent start -- I am the only organic chemist at the moment in our club! It was good also to see a bleary-eyed Bob Stevenson, only recently returned from holidaying in China. No doubt he will look better after a few night's sleep and some decent food.

Committee reports were mercifully brief. Geoff Hunt cruelly fined everyone (no reasons given) and this after having to listen to one of his jokes. Where has justice gone to?

Dennis Allport

ARTEFACT: Pretentious statistic.
BIDET: Two days before D-Day.
BIGAMIST: Larger-than-usual fog.
CABARET: Wide range of available taxis.
FIASCO: Bad wall painting.
JIGSAW: Chafing that affects the cast of Riverdance.
MYTH: Female moth.
QUADRANT: Four people shouting.
TELEPATHY: When you can't be bothered to change TV channels.
ZEBRA: The largest size of support garment.

Fun Run revisited on 25 May

The balmy evening prompted a suggestion that we held the meeting on the patio, but this was overruled. Two prospective members attended – Jim Thomas and Joan Youngjohn – the latter attracting prospective Lotharios like bees to a jam pot.

After the usual tasty meal, Shorty Shepherd pushed the Morecambe Bay Walk in aid of Sightsavers, whilst Tony Burch suggested it might be a sponsored drowning.

The aim of the meeting was a de-brief on the Fun Run and our forceful President rapidly went through a well-prepared check list (reminded me of pre-flight checks on a V2 bomber!). A full report would take pages and pages, but the basic facts were that the total raised was in the region of £5,200 with most participants being in the 7 to 12 age group and the main supporters came from Pownall Green School, Queensgate School and Bramhall

High School. Many valid suggestions were made to improve things in the future. In the discussions no mention was made of the fabulous display of “Flags of all Nations” which adorned the fence at Lumb Lane, nor the sterling work of the Chief Carpark Attendant. Grave omissions.

The bulletin reporter remonstrated with members for talking in whispers and accepted a suggestion that he station himself centrally facing the President and equidistant from the port and starboard sections of the hall. This worked well and had the benefit of providing him with a great view of a stream of planes on the glide slope for runway 24 just as they passed the outer marker.

Our lady guest won the raffle, our next Vice President read out a non-negotiable list of committee members for next year and then fined everyone in sight. Bodes badly for when he takes the reins.

Sid Davies

A rich woman calls her butler to her bedroom. "Jenkins" she says in a low voice, "Take off my dress".
Jenkins takes off her dress.
"And my stockings". Jenkins takes them off too.
"And my underwear". Jenkins removes her underwear.
"Now, Jenkins" says the woman, "If I catch you wearing my clothes again, you're fired".

True or false on 15th June

Aka Prime Minister's Question Time.

5 teams of 4, except mine had an extra, were sorted and each had a designate captain. Bob Batty was Regulator -Offwhat (Late water engineer). Richard Taylor – dysfunctional archivist.

Bob had the foresight last October to ask each member to submit 3 “home truths” except at least one had to be untrue. Eventually this vacant slot was given over to about half the attendant members. They varied from one-liners to short novels. An example of the latter must bring shame on Rotarians, he resorted to cross border smuggling in his youth! I found Steven Day's rendition of his past Yorkshire cricketing career plausible, but then he is a politician. Talking of applause, President M announced Steven's re-election to stand or sit for Cheadle while he sneaked out to the future “non-smoking chamber”.

Sam spoke of his sticky moments in various car parks, Graham Y about improbable golfing achievements, David Rabone his religious connections and Jackie's teaching C. Carlucci to cook - the classic curate's egg.

Sid D was difficult to believe, and still is, but he said 2/3 were true. Ron gave graphic descriptions of his international tours and amazing coincidences of repeat chance meetings. John Mould another self acclaimed golfer appeared on a mug shot of an undeclared tabloid with HRH the Queen. President, succinct as usual, won a prize for an essay on ?DOGS (domestic not racers), I am surprised he wasn't a county rugby player but he has potential! I tried to read my own escapades in Brussels, it was fascinating to meet the immaculate Captain Townsend and me in my tatties.

Eventually Richard deciphered the enigma codes and the results were relayed to MI 5/6. Sid was the best liar, David Poizer's lot were the best deceivers, a case for the Serious Fraud Squad. The Lord knows who actually won, but in the absence of no prize, it didn't matter. The evening climaxed with David Rabone in swashbuckling mode as S of Arms. TTFN

David Rose.

PS - Exultant President Michael announced that the Fun Run raised £6,000 exactly. Thanks to all involved in that successful day.

Carry On Doctor –22 June

It was a very select group who gathered to hear Harry Hill give his traditional job talk, although the start did not bode well since Harry was 10 minutes late. Half the company seemed more interested in seeing if the hot air balloon which drifted across the sky during the meal would avoid being hit by an aircraft as it traversed the flight path into Ringway and John Mould, who was demob happy on his penultimate evening of money collector, refused to read any apologies, other than his own as he was marked down as not attending !!

Harry started by stating he didn't know why he was speaking, as at least half the audience were patients, but then claimed that his surgery was not just full of winging Rotarians, there were some really ill people there as well.

Harry then told a series of classical medical tales, all of which he swore had actually happened to him during his career. They included the man with piles who was given suppositories. 2 weeks later, he complained that for all the good they had done, he might as well have shoved them up his ... Another piles story involved a lady who complained the suppositories had been very painful and made matters worse – she had carefully separated each foil wrapped capsule, but failed to remove

the foil. Harry seems to have a fixation about anal matters as another story involved old ladies, constipation and enemas !

Interestingly, prior to becoming a doctor, Harry had a previous career which ranged from grass cutter, store picker and dumper truck driver to grave digger, a highly prized job as it involved an extra 6d per hour! Apparently grave digging is a precision task and the undertaker is supposed to provide the coffin dimensions so that the correct size hole is dug. On one occasion, a squaddie was being buried, but no coffin details were available. An educated guess was made about the dimensions of a typical soldier, but unfortunately, the coffin was German. Apparently German coffins are not tapered like English coffins, but are rectangular. Result, the coffin didn't fit and a frantic enlargement of the grave was required with the mourners standing round watching.

As usual during questions, Sid asked one of his long rambling moans, this time about smelly obese people and Jonathan gave a concise vote of thanks – Harry had excelled himself.

Bob Stevenson was S at A, but was not up to his usual form – at least he didn't tell any jokes.

Tim Sheppard

Handover Night – 29 June

President Michael had just arrived back from Chicago; his Rotary rose was in full bloom; and here's the badge of office John, now where's my glass of red wine? Yes it was handover night.

I think President Michael was still at 36,000 feet above the Atlantic, with the Rotary International Centennial Assembly fresh in his mind. And yes he had a few photos to pass round of the grand occasion. Also a picture of a gorgeous Rotary rose in full bloom – I'm jealous, as mine is living but not flowering. Assistant Governor Margaret Hutchinson was also jealous, as her Rotary rose was not showing signs of life at all. Secretary David pulled in the reins and advised Pres M the correct words required for the handover, these were duly delivered.

And so started a new Rotary year with a new Captain at the helm, or whatever the equivalent saying is for an Army man.

President John outlined his philosophy for the year in saying that

we would not set firm targets, we would aim for voluntary targets. I think I understand that. Money Man Malcolm said that Ways and Means were setting a target (sorry voluntary target) for the year of £25,000, using three main activities, Christmas Grotto, Fun Run plus 'not a sponsored hike'. International Henry and Community Service David were keen to spend the voluntary target of whatever size. Social Harry had a wide range of activities to keep everyone off the streets. Sales Graham was looking for a substantial increase in turnover on Club sweaters.

AG Margaret was feverishly trying to fill in the necessary forms for the DG during all of the presentations, and then had the task of reviewing and commenting on our planned activities.

S at A extracted his pound of flesh for assorted and dubious wrong doings. A light-hearted start to the new Rotary Year, but that's what we all enjoy about our club; we occasionally take ourselves seriously.

John Sykes

I always eat peas with honey.
I've done it all my life.
They do taste kind of funny,
But it keeps them on my knife.

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, 20 July

After several lean weeks it was good to have a larger turnout of 18 members and 3 visitors, one of whom Jim Thomas, who was subsequently inducted by President John.

Having eaten well, resumption of proceedings was delayed whilst our resident GP, with assistance from other members, held a surgery for a delightful young lady. Having decided she would live, the meeting proceeded with the induction. John introduced a guest from Endon Rotary Club, who I found was a close neighbour of my sister-in-law.

John then introduced Adam Powell, a young Engineer from British Waterways Board, who gave a most interesting talk on the history and re-furbishment of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. The aqueduct is 200 years old this year. It was very much "state of the art" when designed and built by Thomas Telford to carry the Llangollen canal over the River Dee. It is a grade 1 listed structure with a cast iron trough supported on 19 masonry piers 38 metres above the river.

All work had to replicate the original, apart from the wooden towpath, even to obtaining hand made bolts for joining sections. The main problems were the logistics of access and safe working at such height. In 1805 the aqueduct had cost £45,000. Refurbishment cost £1.5m. and it is now used by 12,000 boats a year.

Adam admitted it was the first talk he had given. Judging by the applause he need have no worries in future!

There was little business. Treasurer Tony said he would like to report receipt of all subs but he couldn't! Social suggested a walk in the Langdale Valley on August Bank Holiday Sunday - names to Graham Vine.

The Honorary Consul extorted fines from all and sundry including the Vice-President for wearing something resembling a lavatory chain round his neck, and the raffle prize was given to Adam for his efforts.

Bob Batty

On taking a wife

(Thomas Moore 1779-1852)

'Come, come,' said Tom's father, 'at your time of life,
There's no longer excuse for thus playing the rake.
It's time you should think boy, of taking a wife.'
'Why, so it is father. Whose wife shall I take?'

Legs Lacey

Chicago - the Gangster City – was brought to life by Mickey ‘Legs’ Lacey on 27th July, through an entertaining description of his experiences at the Rotary International Convention. Far from being the rather depressing city of my imagination, it turns out that it is an attractive and vibrant metropolis of imposing buildings and novel fountains. All this and a beach too! Michael’s talk also served to remind members of the scale and the international dimensions of the organisation to which we belong, something we are apt to forget at times and of which we probably do not take full advantage.

Apart from the highlight of Michael’s talk, the meeting was uneventful, apart from the fact that, due to presidential over-eagerness, we ended up with two Sergeants-at-Arms. Between them, David Dewhurst and Neil Loveland managed to find fault with most people and were such a successful double-act that they have been volunteered to do the next week.

John Thewlis



Not everyone who writes a bulletin report gets his picture alongside.

Committees on 3 August

Your reporter only learned of his role at 10.28 pm when he enquired about the bulletin reporter for this meeting – so inevitably the memories are fuzzy and the facts distorted. Blame it on Harry Hill who didn't find a replacement before he went on holiday! Committees are very much in thinking mode at the moment so little of substance has yet emerged.

However, there was an interesting set of straw polls on what sort of Charter evening was desired. The majority view was that a party would be better than a formal dinner. So, one has been booked at the Ladybridge for Friday 23 September. This replaces the normal meeting on Wednesday 28 September. Who is to run this party remains a mystery with the buck being repeatedly passed between Club Services and Social. I'm sure in my mind that Social would do it best.

It was good to see Mike Palmer again after a long gap. He had meetings in Manchester and managed to fit us in! He looked fit and well, and had obviously been dining well at the taxpayer's expense since we last saw him!

I couldn't quite decide what I was to do about the 'Not a Sponsored Run' event from Ways and Means. I think that I was to collect unwanted bric-a-brac for a car boot sale sometime fairly soon – or am I mistaken?

There seemed to be a great deal of indifference to our commitment to keeping local footpaths cleared. It was suggested that we should wait until Autumn when growth had died down. Tough on those nettling themselves meantime. And these footpaths are some of the very few places in Bramhall and Woodford where we actually announce our presence in the neighbourhood!

Our two S @ A's, Neil Loveland and David Dewhurst, worked in tandem as if they had been practising for weeks. On this occasion fines were £1 (some donated £5) and the proceeds were to go to the Niger appeal for funds to aid the famine victims there. Being unjustly picked on didn't feel quite so bad this time round. Our President thought Mike Palmer could come again soon, after he picked out John's raffle ticket for the prize.

Rotide

Recommended Tradespeople

(4 August 2005)

This list is provided for the use of members of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford. Naturally, neither the Club nor any member can be responsible for any problems that may arise. Please send any further recommendations to Dennis Allport.

Decorators:

David S Houghton, 27 Belford Rd., Stretford, M32 0DL. (0161 865 5865) [David Dewhurst]

J Ratcliffe & Sons, 465 Buxton Rd, Heavily, Stockport (0161 483 3227) [Malcolm Hurst & Sam Kennedy]

Electricians:

C & H Electrics, 1st Floor, 198 Wilmslow Rd., Heald Green, SK8 3BH (0161 437 5718) [Bob Batty]

Andrew Thompson, (0161 485 2735) [Kelvin Death]

Dave McGuinness, (07977 326 942) [Kelvin Death]

Mike Shanley, (0780 1329 173 and 0161 449 9794) [Dennis Allport]

Plumbing:

Ken Davies, (07831 183 018) [Dennis Allport]

Building:

Mark Davenport, 12 Ladythorn Crescent, Bramhall. (0161 439 4051)

Also does **Joinery**. [Harry Hill]

Joinery:

Mark Smethurst, 3 Garthland Rd., Hazel Grove, SK7 4PD (0161 483 9690) [Bob Batty]

Andy Dixon, 07715 926741 [David Dewhurst]

Flooring:

Stockport Flooring Co., Stanley Green Trading Estate, Cheadle Hulme [Malcolm Hurst]

Tree Surgeon:

Rod Barnes, Tree Services Poynton, 141 London Rd., Poynton, SK12 1 LG (01625 878 116) [Dennis Allport]

Carpet Cleaner:

Rainbow Carpets, Mark Egerton (01663 765445) [John Mould]

Refrigerator and cooker repairs:

Mike Clegg, (07773 090876 and 0161 449 7050) [Dennis Allport]

Diary

*August 3	Committees
*August 10	Money for some - perhaps; Graham Vine
*August 17	Birds in Cheshire; Malcolm Calvert
*August 24	Neil Loveland - my job
August 31	5th Wednesday - no meeting
September 7	Committees
September 11	Concert at St Michaels
*September 14	A Jackson and Kennedy sketch
September 21	Joint meeting with New Mills
*September 23	Friday social to celebrate our Charter
September 28	No meeting - social on 23rd replaces
October 5	Committees
*October 12	Malabon/McKeith
October 19	McLeod/Meeus
*October 26	Club Services
November 2	Committees
*November 9	Mould/Newsome
November 16	Poizer/Rabone
*November 23	Club Services
November 30	5th Wednesday - no meeting

Please note that the programme above is subject to change. Please keep Geoff Hunt informed of intended speakers or visits.

*** indicates that we will have the function room.**

Opportunity

When Mrs Gorm (Aunt Eloise)
Was stung to death by savage bees,
Her husband (Prebendary Gorm)
Put on his veil, and took the swarm.
He's publishing a book next May
On 'How to Make Bee-keeping Pay'.

Harry Graham 1874-1936

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
August 10	J Holme	G Hunt	S Kennedy
August 17	G Jackson	M Lacey	N Loveland
August 24	D McKeith	J Meeus	J Mould
August 31	5th Wed	5th Wed	5th Wed
September 7	Committees	D Poizer	D Rabone
September 14	A Newsome	J Sheard	D Rose
September 21	T Sheppard	B Stevenson	R Taylor
September 28	Replaced by Sep 23 'Charter' social evening		
October 5	Committees	G Yule	S Day
October 12	N Loveland	J Thomas	M Hurst
October 19	G Vine	G Hunt	B Stevenson
October 26	M Lacey	D Dev	M McLeod
November 2	Committees	G Jackson	H Barker
November 9	D Allport	S Davies	J Mould
November 16	R Malabon	K Death	H Hill
November 23	D McKeith	B Batty	H Boyes
November 30	T Burch	D Dewhurst	A Newsome
December 7	Committees	D Rabone	J Meeus
December 14	Party?	D Rose	J Sykes

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

From the middle of the Rota above, I have devised a fiendish new system of jumbling names. This avoids the regularity which sometimes occurred before and should avoid some clashes with the Blind Rota. Anyone spot my system?

Has someone had
enough already?



BLIND RUN

Bernard Sharp, 6 Woodbury Rd., Birdhall Lane, Cheadle Hulme

Tel: 428 6506 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

Wyn and Harold Lawson, 170 Ben Davies Court, Romiley

Tel: 406 9213 Pick up at 7.00 pm

Mrs Dorothy Birch, 53 Mill Lane, Woodley

Tel: 355 3252 Pick up 7.10 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. To reach the Lawsons from Stockport go under the railway bridge by Romily railway station. The first on the left is Guywood Lane. Go up and take the second left. There is a passage leading to Ben Davies Court; they live in the downstairs flat.

August holiday: if different there will be club announcements.

September 6	G Yule	D McKeith
September 13	D Allport	B Batty
September 20	H Boyes	T Burch
September 26	S Davies	D Dewhurst
October 4	D Dev	H Hill
October 11	G Hunt	M Hurst
October 18	G Jackson	S Kennedy
October 25	M Lacey	N Loveland
November 1	R Malabon	D Mckeith
November 8	J Meeus	J Mould
November 15	A Newsome	D Poizer
November 22	D Rabone	D Rose
November 29	J Sheard	B Stevenson
December 6	J Sykes	R Taylor
December 13	J Thomas	G Vine
December 20	G Yule	D Allport



SERVICE Above Self

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