

Rotarian



**Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club**

# ***Bulletin***

October 2006



**Happy 20th  
birthday to us!**



# Gordon's gossip

## Settling in



Most of the fear associated with taking high office has now dissipated and the club is still ticking over nicely despite my inexperience. By the time I have finished my year, I will be getting it about right.

The bicycle scheme is well under way (despite my guest not turning up) due to the magnificent efforts of David Dewhurst who has thrown himself wholeheartedly into the fray. Many grateful thanks to David for stepping in at short notice.

One of the earliest meetings I attended as a newcomer was an evening of self-criticism whereby people were encouraged to write down ideas for our club to pursue and to say what they thought of the venue, the food and anything else that was bothering them. This reached the ears of District and we were held up as an example for other clubs to follow so I would like to suggest a similar evening in the not too distant future. This sort of 'navel gazing' has benefits in that those who feel that things could run more smoothly, are invited to voice their opinions. Of course, there are those who will say 'you should do something about .....etc' but I would far rather people said 'I will help to improve .....etc'. That way, we build on our already considerable internal support network.

I took part in the path clearance that was organised by David Rose recently and five of us managed to hack our way through the jungles of Bramhall without once encountering anything nasty or poisonous. We ended up very neatly at a suitable hostelry where we slaked our raging thirsts. Thanks to David for organising this and obtaining the strimmer.

The Charter Night was, I think, a huge success and many thanks are due to Herb and his team for producing a wonderfully entertaining evening. I have the photos to prove it which will be available at a nominally extortionate charge to stop them falling into the hands of the police.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

Gordon



# Secretary's soapbox

## **Booklets**

*I have copies of the RIBI and RI directories (lists of clubs with details of where they meet, who is the President etc).*

*I also have the RIBI and club constitutions and the "Insurance and the Rotary Club" booklets.*

## **New/current Stuff (goes in the white book)**

*Club Programme*

*Council meeting decisions*

*Cheadle charter*

*Heartstart training sessions (up to 19th Dec 2006)*

*Entertainment at District conference (6th – 8th Oct 2006)*

## **Council Meeting decisions**

- *GJ to buy ream of club "blank" stationery for club at Scarborough*
- *Club will support Bramhall High School musician scheme (likely cost £25, help from Henry and John Knowles?)*
- *GH to email club on Mondays reminding about the week's programme (e.g. speaker)*
- *GH to resume traditional role of blind run co-ordinator*
- *Wording for reply to Stephen Day's request agreed*
- *Fun Run money to be allocated as per ML proposal*
- *As 30th Aug is a 5th Wed, there will be a "meeting" in The Orange Tree*
- *Year end to be 30th June in line with Rotary year. Charity account to stay on a cash basis but club accounting to move to accrual basis*
- *We will not adopt Graham Vine's creative idea (younger member to arrive after meal) – too divisive.*
- *We will adopt the new image style for club stationery*

## **Attendance**

*Just a reminder that the club policy is to be totally relaxed when members cannot attend, but to ask that members do attend when they can!*

Attendance of our members at our meetings for the first 10 weeks of this Rotary year: 4 on leave of absence.

5.7 12.7 19.7 26.7 2.8 9.8 16.8 23.8 6.9 13.9

total attending	19	24	26	21	26	23	28	13	23	23
LOAs etc	6	5	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
members	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	39
net	33	34	34	35	35	35	35	34	35	35

58% 71% 76% 60% 74% 66% 80% 38% 66% 66%

Michael 14.9.06





## A View From The Deck

The last contributor, Mr Bob Batty, had twenty years to prepare his article, a "A View From The Trenches," or "Ramblings from below the salt." (He was lucky - in my day we couldn't afford salt!) As a new rating, still wet behind the ears, I foolishly agreed with our President (following a few glasses in the Orange Tree) that I should contribute an article in a similar vein for the next bulletin. I decided to reject the army, as I am too old to dig trenches (or latrines for that matter) so chose a naval option. Please no, "Hello Sailor" when we next meet!

I was press ganged into Rotary by an old Welsh seafarer who claimed to be a friend; some eighteen months later I'm now not sure what to call him! In true naval tradition, I was piped aboard by Captain Lacey and was warmly greeted by a motley crew of shipmates from all corners of the globe.

It soon became obvious that, the ship, H.M.S. Endeavour, became a lifeboat when a distress signal was seen.

A couple of motor heads ably man the engine room and somewhat noisily ensure everything is well oiled. (Although I have yet to receive my ration of rum!) I soon discovered that the ship has a full compliment of doctors, one might even say a coven.! A quick consultation would have the unfortunate 'member' overboard, before you could say knife. Malingering is obviously not in ones interest. Misbehavior and inappropriate dress are suitably punished but no one has been forced to Walk the Plank yet!

Spiritual guidance is available on request and has been strengthened by, a recently shanghaied 'new' minister. Do I detect unholy competition where Grace is concerned? In accordance with established Naval traditions the first lady rating was recently welcomed from a nearby vessel in the doldrums. Some of the older crew members were not too sure about the changes in status quo, but I feel the feminine touch will raise moral.!

Reluctantly the ships cook had to abandon ship after several years sterling service. There were murmurings amongst the crew who appeared to expect Michelin Star fare for the cost of a starter in some restaurants. The rumblings both internally and externally seem to have subsided, unlike many of the waistlines.

We have not yet crossed the Equator but did get involved in wearing a Father Christmas costume, which raised one to a similar temperature. The funds generated warrant an extra grog ration to the crew!

Whilst we have satellite navigation to steer us, we are secure that if it fails there is an 'old tar' on board who can produce his trusty sextant and navigate by the stars (at least that's what he tells us) Until, that is, our other able bodied sea men, the computer experts (spanners in hand), have fixed the problem.

The ship has had three Captains over the past three years (not a mutiny in sight) and the last two are now, once again, crew members, content in a job well done.

All Ship Shape and Bristol Fashion I think it is time to drop anchor now and await further voyages of The Endeavour. All in all I have enjoyed the journey so far, and so Goodnight

Neil Loveland.

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"Some six-inch nails please.  
I'm on a diet..."

# Meeting Reports



## Committee Night, 2<sup>nd</sup> August

Sid Davies regaled us with tales of getting either: bashed into a jam doughnut while cruising on watch; or his watch bashed into a jam doughnut while crusing, members refrained from pressing him for greater clarification or as to the exact nature of this cruising activity.

Community Service: It was confirmed that Charter Night would be run by Social and would consist of a "Cruise Evening" at Bramhall Golf Club. The definition of "Cruise" was again left unspecified to the consternation of some.

Blind Run : This was reported as currently suspended, may be re instated if people can be found to run Walthew House. Henry Barker gave an update that this was now likely to restart from 12th Sept.

David Rose: Nothing to report

Social, David Rabone: Suggested that a Games night be held at Rainow on the 5th Wednesday; following discussion this was changed to 4th Wednesday 23rd, 5th would be informal Orange Tree.

David Rose won the delectable weekly oenophiles delight and gave it to Sid Davies for his birthday.

Most members were fined for various misdemeanours and Sid Davies and Jim Thomas for having notable, though different, birthdays.

Next meeting on the 9th August would be a Job Talk from John Knowles.

Graham Vine

## **My Jobs – John Knowles**

23 members were present on 9<sup>th</sup> August at what was to be one of the best job talks we have ever had. Doreen, a new waitress, looked after us as our regulars were all on holiday. The new Bulletin and RIBI magazine were distributed.

John was not satisfied with just “my job” and wanted to tell us about “my jobs”. This he proceeded to do in an entertaining and anecdotal style. Brought up in the Wirral, and educated in Cumbria his first job was as a TV and radio salesman in Liverpool. With this foundation he went on to study physics at Manchester and then to Oxford to qualify as a teacher. This he did with spectacular success, teaching at Mill Hill, Oxford, Berkshire and Watford. At the same time his musical involvement included singing, conducting and playing the organ, Sailing was another key interest. He did an MSc in theoretical nuclear physics and became Chief Examiner for Physics exam papers. After an early introduction to and use of computers he went to Blackburn to be Deputy Head, and on to Birmingham as Head of a sort of 7-school co-op! This was quite a political job and John met many important politicians. During his period John’s calling got too strong and he went “back to school” to study to become ordained. Thus he was simultaneously a headmaster during the day and a pupil in the evenings! He move to Scotland where he ran a 2,000 pupil independent school until 18 months ago when he came to Woodford to be the Bishop of Chester’s head of Readers, and also the Vicar of Woodford.

John’s talk was greeted with huge spontaneous applause, which was repeated after the vote of thanks given by Tim.

Dennis made a plea for unwanted old mobile phones in support of the Royal School for The Deaf.

John Sykes won the raffle to loud moans, and Bob Stevenson fined lots of us for entirely unfair and biased trumped up charges.

A great night!

Michael Lacey

## **Bikes for Africa**

What could have been an embarrassing time on 16<sup>th</sup> August (speaker Yogi Sharma never came to speak on Bikes for Africa!), turned out to be one of those splendid evenings – full of Rotary promise! We started with the new system of booking our meals on paying, to facilitate Carl's preparation of meals. All 28 present cottoned-on quickly, which shows that not all our brain cells are dormant.

David Dewhurst had been researching sending cycles to Africa on behalf of the club's International Committee and had been down to a small company in Colchester to see what's what. His presentation was supported by some slides that ably demonstrated the tremendous need for, and versatility of, cycles in several poor countries. Cycles were adapted into carriers of heavy loads, to rural multi-passenger vehicles, to school transports – and bikes for all ages were useful. Unwanted bikes were cleaned up and sent by the container load to several countries. The bikes were sold for about £8 each, which covered the costs of getting them there, and this was also a disincentive to their new owners just selling them straightaway at a profit. Some bikes were refurbished and sold in the UK to generate funds to run the lean company in Colchester. So far about 20,000 bikes had been sent and put to good use overseas.

This scheme seemed to be an ideal Rotary venture and David was rightly applauded on his initiative in researching it. David promised to look into details further, prior to the club adopting it as a major activity. Lots of ideas for implementing it were raised and it seems to have the enthusiastic support of the club already!

The business part of the evening was brief. Treasurer Burch (now of Prestbury) appealed for subs, Yule-the-sales sold car stickers and badges, whilst social-Rabone organised the club trip to Rainow on 23<sup>rd</sup> August. Henry asked all to donate regularly to Rotary Foundation by a Gift Aided direct debit of £5 per month, and forms to effect this were distributed. The PRO had had success in publicising our efforts in the local press and President Gordon suggested that we had another 'navel-looking' evening sometime to review how we did things.

Tim Sheppard won the wine and Ron M. prised 50p's off nearly everyone. A good evening!

Dennis Allport

## **Games evening**

I am sure we were all hoping for a beautiful summer's evening when we thought about the games evening at the Robin Hood pub in Rainow. But summer seemed long gone as we met up in the Meadway car park in torrential rain. We travelled to the Robin Hood by various cars and routes without incident. Although David Rabone did try hard to leave John Meeus behind in the car park (some confusion apparently about the meaning of the phrase "I'll drive myself" - maybe it needs a comma).

The pub must have been very glad of our trade as there were few other customers. They provided an excellent and substantial meal. I should have listened to those who said that we wouldn't need three courses of that size. Mind you the rhubarb crumble and custard was great!

The sporting star of the evening was Mike Palmer, who revealed a misspent youth amongst darts players. This included acting as commentator or score-keeper at various tournaments as well as competing himself. He taught Neil Loveland, Tim Shepherd, John Meeus and Graham Vine how to play darts "cricket" and was able to avoid any accusations of ball tampering.

At the pool table Chris Monkhouse was hoping he might have inherited his grandfather's talent. He was Yorkshire billiards champion. However, I guess the table was a little too small or there were too many balls. In any case, Chris and Ron Malabon narrowly lost two out of three to a Sykes/McKeith combination.

The cerebral (?) part of the club was represented by an intense dominos game involving messrs Dewhurst, Rabone, Barker and President Jackson. At various stages during the game it sounded as if they had been joined by the cast of The Goons, Monty Python and "Ello, Ello" as the Davids used every trick in the book to put their opponents off. This strategy proved to be very effective and they won narrowly.

All in all, a very enjoyable night at a good venue, superbly hosted by "mine host" David Rabone. It was so good that the Sergeant at Arms was given the night off!

David McKeith

## **Committee Night 6<sup>th</sup> September**

In line with the current trend for some Rotary business to be conducted by the members of the Bramhall & Woodford Poetry Society, I thought that I would start with this –

Oh, give me a pity, I'm on a committee  
Which means that from morning to night  
We attend and amend and contend and defend  
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur  
And re-iterate all of our thoughts  
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda  
And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose  
And the points of procedure are fun!  
But though various notions are brought up as motion  
There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve  
Since it's out of the question for us.  
What a shattering pity to end our committee  
Where else could we make such a fuss?

Dennis read out a distressingly long list of absentees. Distressing because of illness, or even more upsetting, holidays. Luckily, we were then joined by Bob, Malcolm and Sid who all scraped in under the wire, swelling our numbers. Lucky this, I hate to eat alone!

Jim provided wine to celebrate a recent 'Triple Whammy' - Bus Pass, Wedding Anniversary and birth of first grandson, 'Sam'.

President Gordon suggested, as I was taking my soup, that I may like to do the Bulletin, a pen was found and a scrap of paper, folded into four – only problem is that when I opened it out, I had no idea of the order that the points happened, so lets start with 'AOB' ! No, seriously, I will do my best, a week after the event, to piece it all together.

Proceedings started with a 'Rant' from Herb pointing out in his own calm quite way, that the members had asked for different and innovative social events and that the committee was going to deliver just that, with the Charter Night aka B&W Rotary Mediterranean Cruise, departing from Bramhall Park Golf Club on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>. (Sailing down the Ladybrook presumably..... CRM). Herb asked that all members attending brought lots of guests to bring numbers up to the 70 mark.

### **House**

Geoff reassured us that we now had a reliable point of contact with regard to bar issues and that these were being addressed.

### **Community Service**

David asked for volunteers for a path clearing session and there was some discussion regarding on which days this would be carried out and with what equipment (*reminds me of a limerick – ask me about that one sometime – it's a good one!! – Chris*)

### **International**

Henry gave an update on 'Bikes for Africa' and a scheme to involve the Scouts. Programme to follow.

### **Ways & Means**

Ron is away, so deputy Jim explained that we had had a positive response from the owners of the Bramhall Shopping Centre would welcome us and our Grotto in there. John Lewis and Sainsbury did not want us. There was some discussion on the need for a Street Collection Licence. There will be much work required to bring a grotto to fruition this year. Chris, Neil and Malcolm agreed to reconnoitre the Shopping Centre on Saturday morning.

Graham entertained us with an auction of Rotary-wear and associated items which had been in secure storage but which he now felt should be released onto the big wide world. Tony was asked to keep a record of the bids, but was still in holiday mode. T shirts were snapped up for £1.50, ties a pound – remarkable for they were in the much sought after polyester, not the silk rubbish. A nail biting bidding war broke out between Bob and Tony for a bow tie, but Tony triumphed when the hammer fell at £2. Cuff links in what was described as 'an attractive gold effect finish' found an owner after a very different form of auction – lowest unique bid wins, with bids being written on our wine raffle tickets. Budding chefs caused a bidding frenzy when a Rotary

Apron (yes, you read it correctly!) and was finally knocked down to Malcolm. Someone mentioned, when it was found that there were some incredibly small T shirts left, that perhaps David D. who is going to Africa, could take these with him for the kid there. In typical B&W manner, a voice was heard to say 'how much do you think he will get them to pay .....

That's it,  
Chris M.

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**Farewell Hayley -  
and good luck at  
Uni!**



**Ship's Captains  
have all the fun!**

## Job rota

<b>Date</b>	<b>Speaker host</b>	<b>Bulletin</b>	<b>S at A</b>
September 27	J Sykes	D Rose	D Poizer
October 4	Committees	C Monkhouse	T Sheppard
October 11	J Knowles	G Yule	N Loveland
October 18	M Hurst	J Thomas	G Hunt
October 25	B Stevenson		
November 1	Committees	H Barker	S Davies
November 8	D Allport	J Mould	D Burstow
November 15	R Malabon	J Thewlis	H Hill
November 22	M Palmer	D McKeith	B Batty
November 29	No meeting:5th Wednesday		
December 6	Committees	H Boyes	A Newsome
December 13	Christmas party		
December 20	No meeting		
December 27	No meeting		
2007			
January 3	Committees	J Meeus	J Sykes
January 10	D Rabone	D Rose	J Sheard
January 17	J Knowles	D Poizer	C Monkhouse
January 24	T Sheppard	V Chattington	T Burch
January 31	G Yule	N Loveland	J Thomas
February 7	G Hunt	M Hurst	G Vine
February 14	B Stevenson	M Lacey	D Dev
February 21	H Barker	D Allport	S Davies
February 28	D Burstow	R Malabon	J Thewlis
March 7	H Hill	M Palmer	D McKeith
March 14	B Batty	H Boyes	D Dewhurst

**If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!**

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On the 15th September in the year of our Lord 2006, 5 intrepid explorers braved the wastes of Bramhall & Woodford to hack a way through the impenetrable jungle and carve a massive highway for those souls brave enough to follow us. Geoff Hunt, David Poizer, Vida Chattington, David Rose and myself all displayed stoic resolve in our determination not to let the rampant vegetation get the better of us. David Rose came complete with hired strimmer, water bottles and a pack of sustenance fit for a week and Vida turned up in her Super Mario Brothers pyjamas. The path ends at the Thieve's Neck and we sought suitable comfort there after our grueling trek.

Gordon Jackson

## BLIND RUN

**Mrs Joan Goodall**, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton  
Tel: 456 2076 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

**Bernard Sharp and Edith Fidler no longer wish to go to Walthew House on Tuesday evenings.** Ring the four above 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 John Thewlist 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.

September 26	J Knowles	M Lacey
October 3	N Loveland	R Malabon
October 10	D McKeith	J Meeus
October 17	C Monkhouse	J Mould
October 24	A Newsome	D Poizer
October 31	D Rabone	D Rose
November 7	J Sheard	T Sheppard
November 14	B Stevenson	J Sykes
November 21	J Thomas	G Vine
November 28	G Yule	D Burstow
December 5	V Chattington	H Boyes
December 12	H Barker	B Batty
December 19	D Allport	D Dewhurst
January 2	T Burch	S Davies
January 9	D Dev	G Hunt
January 16	M Hurst	J Knowles
January 23	M Lacey	N Loveland



***SERVICE Above Self***

## **Diary**

September 27*	Capt. Sujjo Ghosh Airline pilot
October 4	Committees and DG visit
October 6-8	District Conference, Scarborough
October 9	Council Meeting
October 11*	Lord S Davies of Penmaenmawr
October 18	Chris Monkhouse 'My Job'
October 25*	Club Services
November 1	Committees
November 6	Council meeting
November 8*	Mould/Newsome
November 15	Palmer/Poizer
November 22*	Club Services
November 29	No meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
December 6	Committees and SGM to elect club officers
December 11	Council Meeting
December 13*	Christmas Party
December 20	No meeting
December 27	No meeting
<b>2007</b>	
January 31	No meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
March 3	President's Evening. County Hotel, Bramhall
April 13-15	RIBI Conference, Bournemouth
May 23*	AGM
May 30	No meeting – 5 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday
June 27*	Handover and Club Assembly

\* indicates that we have the Function Room