

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

August 2008



Tony Burch
President 2008 - 2009

Tony talking.



Make Dreams Real

This is the slogan and intent for our umbrella organisation of Rotary International for 08/09. It has been adopted by our new District Governor with both enthusiasm and commitment and I believe it is one to which this club can subscribe. The theme has been developed by RI President DK Lee and in reality is targeted to “Make Dreams Real for Children”, but will undoubtedly be applied to a wide spectrum of good deeds undertaken by Rotary world wide. In this context we have already made considerable progress in achieving this for one group from our “Bikes for Africa” project in helping to “Make Dreams Real” for over 400 people in Namibia. I have high confidence that we can carry this motivation and desire to help others forward in a very positive manner this year and “Make Dreams Real” for other groups and maybe even make some of our own dreams real.

I must not go further without complimenting Geoff on what a great year it has been for our club which has been one not only of considerable achievement but one of real enjoyment, full of fun with a wide and varied range of activities. I would like to give my sincere congratulations to Geoff and also thank him for the good humoured and gentle but determined manner in which he has lead the club. Geoff, I hope you and the other three recent Presidents enjoyed the comic characters presented at your year end Bar-B-Q.

I look forward to the coming year with both confidence and high expectations of the good we can achieve together. Rotary and its ideals, demonstrate more than amply the maxim “It is better to give than to receive” and manifests itself by a high level of personal fulfilment and enjoyment. We are a club strong in numbers and capability and I firmly believe backed by chairmen and committees comprised of complimentary talents. I would like to see succession in committee chairmen coming through with great benefit in continuity of policy and effort and helps mitigate the “warm up” and “cool down” periods.

We should build on our past achievements in the fund raising arena. I very much favour a “big event” where a concerted effort by the whole club could achieve disproportionate inflow of funds to meet what is clearly a growing need. The

“Duck Race” which was a support event to the “Fun Run” can, I am confident, be elevated to a major fund raiser in its own right and could raise not just thousands but in the teens of thousands or more! David D and his committee are exploring this vigorously.

The application of funds in worthy causes will not be a problem. One ongoing and significant obligation, fluently demonstrated by our DG on his recent visit is “Polio Plus”. There is a commitment undertaken by RI to match the “Gates Foundation” donation of \$100,000 million. This equates to each member in Rotary worldwide being responsible for \$1,000 per year for 3 years. Our club with 35 members therefore has the task of raising and giving circa \$10,500 (over £5K). The firm hope is that this last push and \$200 million will finally eradicate polio from the four countries in which it remains. A related subject and indeed a worthy cause in it’s own right is one of “clean water for all”. Surely this is such a basic human need and is one that we as a club should consider as a major project. There are many established paths to support this, but maybe if we pursue this, we will embark on an independent course. I throw this into the “International” and “CS” arenas for thought and consideration.

We have had our “soul searching” evening of “Plan A or Plan B” on the 9th July and although vigorous debate took place the general subject of membership dominated the discussion. The many facets of the club and its activities were not really explored and I do believe it is a shame that we did not give any real time to our Club Services and Social elements. Although touched upon the issues in International, Ways and Means and Community Service were not fully addressed. Maybe we set ourselves too much to cover or perhaps this is “the message” - everything depends on new members. I do not think it does, as we are endowed with good capable members of complimentary skills, talents and application. Of course membership is the cornerstone of all organisations like Rotary and we are all very well aware of the increasing average age of our club and slight decline in numbers. Tsar Geoff deserves all the help and support we can give in recruiting active members. We are off to a “flying start” this Rotary year with induction of Joe Fallowfield into the club on 16 July. Joe, we all wish you a warm and sincere welcome to the club and we caught a glimpse of and appreciate your obvious good sense of humour. Perhaps we have somebody to continue the spirit of our much missed Kelvin.

Finally, I intend to have, and also hope that you all enjoy, a very happy, exciting and successful new year in this great club of ours. Please forgive me the inevitable “Boris” moments. Let us all work hard and play hard together to “Make Dreams Real” for others and ourselves.

Tony

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.

Recent Council Meeting decisions

From Council Meeting 7-7-08

- We will donate £100 to each of the two charities supported by the 3 lads doing the Mongolia rally
- Council supports the idea of a well thought out, fairly low risk, one night youth drama festival
- In future we will revert to the system whereby the person bringing the speaker introduces him or her (briefly) but does not give the vote of thanks.

From Council Meeting 16-6-08

- Charter night will be on 29.8.2008, Xmas party on 18.12.2008, President's evening on 28.3.2009 and barbecue on 5.7.2009
- When we have a speaker we will only deal with urgent or important business and will try to keep it brief. Anything that can sensibly be held over should be.
- Council will, by example, encourage a practise of ending our evenings with an uplifting or humorous account of something that happened since the last meeting – only one or two per week (and all should try to make their point worthwhile!)
- New bank mandates agreed. Authorised signatories: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer Any two signatures

The role of Secretary

You may be interested in what the Secretary does:

- Receive club mail and distribute it (why I walk about a lot at the start of the meeting!)
- Keep attendance records and send to district (no, I don't know why either!)
- Maintain our web site
- Maintain our records on the RI database
- Maintain the council, humour and whole club mailing lists
- Produce the White Book
- Complete loads of forms (new members, leavers, new officers etc)
- Formal notices (AGM, EGM, New member)
- Answer questions from members on "all matters Rotary"
- Agenda and minute monthly council meetings
- Usual first point of contact for other clubs and the public
- General dogsbody for the President

Or you may not be interested!

Michael 24.7.08

Meeting Reports



TLAs and more

The club meeting on 28th May was the first with the new food management team in place. There had been considerable concern about this seismic shift in club ambience for several weeks, however, following the introduction of the new gastronomic maestro, Lorraine, to the club, all concerns evaporated as we settled down to a feast including chicken in a white wine sauce and beef with gravy. Of course, the usual suspects disgraced themselves by repeated visits to the trough and, no doubt, will soon be visiting their tailors to accommodate ever-increasing waistlines.

Following a preliminary debrief of the “fun run,” an oxymoron if I ever heard one, who really thinks that a run can be fun, and the stunningly successful, accompanying duck race, notwithstanding that no member was prepared to fall in to satisfy the baying crowds, and after a rather tasteless discussion of French flatulence, the urbane David Searson presented his excellent job talk.

David has worked for most of his career as a management consultant advising companies large and small how to run themselves more efficiently. He introduced the concept of the TLA (three letter acronym) in particular the idea of JIT (just in time) although Tony seemed more used to JTL (just too late). One wonders what David really thinks about how the club is managed. Perhaps it's a case of SOS (sink or swim) with NBC (no ---- clue) about SFA (that one's up to you). Anyway we had clearly better get our act together in future or else we will be running in EDCs. (Please note that following the committee reorganisations this June, David will be on Ways and Means – shrewd move by DD if you ask me.)

The evening ended with Neil flexing his muscles as the SAA and Bruce went home with his wine cellar enhanced by the CRP from the raffle.

TTFN (whoops, four letters)

EJT

Education, Education, Education

There were three guests in attendance on 11 June – Stephen Robinson (David Rabone's brother-in-law), Caroline Egan (Manager Bramall Hall) and our speaker John Peckham (Headteacher Bramhall High School).

As usual Vida was swift of foot and first in the queue for the meal and there was a brief guest appearance from Dev.

John had given a talk to the club about twelve years ago when he was new to Bramhall High School and tonight he wanted to talk about education then and now. Children, society and expectations have changed. There are many factors effecting achievement:- gender, birth date, learning styles, aptitude, emotional quotient, intelligence, social class, poverty, ethnicity and family care. In 1944 only 2% went to university by 1972 this had increased to 8%. By 2000 there were still nationally 6% of pupils who left with no qualifications. At BHS only 1% left with no qualifications, 75% had 5 GCSE or more and 40% went on to university. Government statistics enable teachers to calculate what the expectation of achievement should be. To help poor achievers they have set up a team of teacher, social worker, school

nurse, youth worker and health visitor to try to cover all the factors which effect achievement. The curriculum will have to change to deal with new technologies, languages and green policies. He concluded his talk with a thought provoking video of an 11 year old looking into an unknown future. The vote of thanks was given by John Meeus.

President Geoff said there seemed to be an end of term feeling. The secretary was in Norway, the treasurer in London and several committee chairmen had nothing to report. Graham Yule on his last evening as sales officer tried to sell some badges, Henry said district were still pushing for members to give \$100 per year to foundation to enable RI to match the \$100 million given by the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation by 2010. Vida reminded everyone of the BBQ on 26th June. Gordon said his eBay sales had raised £90 for an old TV and he was considering a tabletop or car boot sale to get rid of other items. Chris is trying to organise a Clay shoot for 30th July and a track day for 25th August. Henry as sergeant at arms left us all 50p poorer at the end of the evening.

Ron Malabon

Visit to Beechwood Cancer Care Centre, Stockport on 18th June

10 members undertook an extremely interesting and informative one hour tour, led by Lorraine Fairclough,

Beechwood is a day centre opened in 1990 to help anyone whose life has been affected by the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Within their welcoming surroundings they offer a range of free support, including 1 to 1

talk time, complementary therapies and group sessions to help patients, family members and carers cope with all the problems they may have to face.

They are funded by the NHS, Fundraising & donations, and cover a wide geographic area as there are only three such centres in the UK.

Some members then went on to the Governor's Arms for a meal.

Graham Yule

Club Assembly and Handover – 25 June 2008

This is an auspicious day in the Club calendar, and was duly distinguished by the absence of most of the incoming Council. Luckily, however, the outgoing president, Geoff, was there to hand over the burdens of office to Tony, who had also managed to make it, along with David Burstow, who was to assume the role of Mr Vice. Both incoming and outgoing Secretaries, in the form of Michael Lacey, were absent but we have been assured that the handover went very smoothly and that Michael has settled into his role well.

Happily, the handover was accomplished with suitable decorum, unlike, as many members probably remember, the "There's yer badge... I'm off!" style of some recent handovers. Geoff showed the right

balance between joy and sadness whilst Tony balanced pride and trepidation with equal aplomb. Geoff received a warm and very well deserved ovation for a job well done whilst Tony exhorted us to greater things with a speech reminiscent of Larry Olivier's *Henry V* speech outside the walls of Calais. He then called on committee chairmen to make their reports.

Here, I had worried that my report would seem very woolly and vague, but the first couple of reports eased my fears. True they were better than mine, yet not filled with detailed plans and objectives of what was to be achieved. Then came Gordon, with Community Service. A truly admirable forecast, with hard facts and definite aims, which did, I'm afraid, put mine and others' feeble efforts to shame, and shone like a beacon over a sea of (just a bit better than) mediocrity. The wise old Rotary heads exchanged knowing glances –

keep it vague and no-one can hold you accountable!!!

All-in-all, it was a good humoured meeting, leavened even further by Harry, as Sergeant at Arms, swelling the Club's coffers with some well-directed wit and a lot of imagination (I never

said *that* !!!!). It was sad to see Geoff stand down after such a good year (even if he did make sure he was out of the country in case the Fun Run was an embarrassment) but, in Tony, the Club will be in good hands.

John Thewlis

Committee Meeting: 2nd July

27 Members and one guest turned up, including IPP Geoff who broke with tradition in attending the new President's first meeting.

The food was well up scratch again (particularly the profiteroles, I believe), with coffee being served in the room to speed things along.

Before we broke in to committees, Bob Stevenson invite 3 20-something chaps to present their plea for a donation. They are participating in the 10,000 mile Mongol Rally from London to Ulan Bator (look it up on Google Earth), they are funding themselves from their own resources and with corporate sponsorship, but are looking for donations to the Rally's specified charities: CAMDA & Mercy Corps who both enable local rural communities (no, not Prestbury) to meet their economic and social needs. For more info visit www.willwemakeit.com/road2nowhere. (Michael, hopefully this will be a hyperlink in the eBulletin). There was warm support from the floor, and it was agreed that Council

will discuss a donation at their next meeting.

The usual set of reports followed:

Secretary

- There was no Secretary's report.

Sales

- Vida flogged some Car Stickers, and gave one to the Mongol Rally team, which will guarantee immunity from Kazak bandits. The XL sweatshirt remained unsold.

Ways & Means

- Jim (standing on for David D.) outlined plans for Christmas, a musical event and a Bramhall Park based event which would build on last year's (Adult run, children's run, duck race + more)

Club Services

- The VP advised that left over BBQ wine (full bottles only) would be used as raffle prizes

- David R. advised members that the footpath to the Thieves' Neck had been cleared and would be done again in September.
- Vida & Gordon will meet with Mr Peckham at Bramhall High School to see what WE can do for them.
- Chris is investigating potential school involvement in the Manchester Science Festival
- There is a potential £500 donation to the Mongol Rally charities (see above – or below depending on the editor)
- Henry advised us that B&W were at the lower end of monies raised in District. \$100 per person per annum is the target – last year District achieved \$107 (the exchange rate must help).
- The GSE team will visit northern Greece in May/June 2009

Social

- John M reported on a successful President's BBQ, with £74 worth of wine being donated for the weekly raffle.
- A theatre night (to a 'proper' theatre), weekend away, and Wednesday night events are all under investigation.

International

- John T aspires to support mine clearance and Rotary Boxes.

Foundation

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has donated \$1b, which RI have committed to match (\$60pa/member for 4 years).

PRO

- John M had nothing to report

There was no AOB and Bob B was [S@A](#).

Graham Yule

GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD:

- 1) Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.
- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician.
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

Plan A or Plan B – or indeed Plan C, D and so on – 9th July 2008

The feature event of the evening was a discussion of how members want the club to develop. This followed a softening up of the twenty two members and one guest who were present by an excellent meal which included a main course comprising beef with Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and all the veg. or chicken in a delicate sauce, followed by lemon meringue pie and other similar light deserts. Coffee was taken early and play resumed with Michael Lacey leading the debate with a challenging presentation of the club's options as he sees them.

The debate was to include discussions on several aspects of the club's activities, membership, fund raising, fellowship, international and local activities etc., and was to feed into a "think tank" (I've always wondered where this expression came from. Why not a "think box" or "think bottle"?) comprising Tony Burch, Michael Lacey, Geof Hunt, David Rabone, and John Meeus, but, perhaps inevitably, the discussion focussed on membership, although the discussion preceded the release into general circulation of Geof Hunt's report on membership based on the questionnaire he had circulated at the end of his presidency.

Michael's plan A was to do nothing, in which case the membership would gradually age and dwindle as we depart this mortal coil. Apparently the average age of the members is 64, Paul McCartney would have a field day;

losing our hair indeed. The second, superficially more attractive option, is for us to continue as we are doing, but making efforts to recruit a few new members as we have done in the past. The snag here is that the new members are likely to get older as the years pass by since friends and acquaintances of members are themselves getting older. Under this regime, the club would survive longer than under Plan A, but will inexorably decline with time due to the increasing age and reducing energy of its members. Plan C was for us to go out and make a positive effort to recruit younger members, say in their forties, with perhaps quite a few of these being females. A target of increasing the size of the club to about fifty members with at least 20% of these being female was suggested. However, it was realised that this could lead to a change in the nature and character of the club and its activities, which might not be to every members' liking.

The discussion which followed Michael's presentation was lengthy and good natured, as would of course be expected. It is fair to say that most of the contributors were, at least implicitly, in favour of evolution of the club and with the recruitment of new, younger, members, although it is possible that members who were concerned about this aspect were reticent to make their views known. However, most members had been introduced to the club *via* a personal contact and, although several ways of advertising the club with the objective of seeking new members were suggested, the general view was that

most new members were still likely to be introduced to the club by existing members and, of course, therein lies the snag. How do members of the club find forty somethings to recruit? The option of recruiting younger members of our families was suggested but was not thought to provide the full solution.

Following this meeting, the “think tank” will meet and will be putting forward proposals for further consideration by the membership. Actually my mind boggles at the thought of a “tank” meeting, never having credited tanks with much intelligence. Will this lead to a step change or a quantum leap? (For the non-physicists amongst us, a quantum is the smallest possible packet of energy so a quantum leap is the smallest change

you can make.) Anyway, the “think tank” will welcome thoughts and suggestions on any aspects of how the club should be developed. Seriously, this clearly is a very important issue for the club. As Michael said in his presentation, if we make changes now, we just might ensure the club’s survival in the medium term, but we will have to make very positive changes very soon if this is to be the case.

The discussion part of the meeting lasted until quite late and so there was little time for reports, hurray. Nevertheless, John Meeus fined most participants quite mercilessly and Chris Monkhouse went home with a smile and a free bottle of plonk.

Jim Thomas.

David Burstow's Job Talk

President Tony opened the meeting on 23 July by welcoming Derek De Belder and 7 colleagues from Gatley Rotary Club who always start their year with a visit to another Club. Dennis Allport was welcomed back from West of the Tamar. His visit had not been as good as usual due to Wenda's accident to her shoulder. We wish her a speedy recovery.

After a sumptuous buffet in which nearly all members and guests (except Chris Monkhouse) seemed to enjoy a second helping, Secretary Michael said

he had a puncture and was waiting for the AA. Therefore he was not turning his mobile phone off but did not expect to be fined - some hope !

David Rabone then briefly introduced our Vice-President who spoke about his career in that most maligned agency, the Health & Safety Executive. David started work as an electrical trainee with the EMEB at Lincoln taking a thick sandwich degree course at Bristol. He learnt to climb 70 ft high pylons and make joints on live cables. Safety precautions were rudimentary. In 1976 he joined the HSE in London and specialised in electrical safety systems in hazardous work places such as gas and chemical works where radio frequencies

etc. can cause fires. (Clue for Michael's phone to ring!). He became an acknowledged expert in this field chairing B S Committees and being grilled by barristers at enquiries - an experience he finds very stressful even if the barrister buys him a drink on the way home afterwards! David moved to the Manchester office and was involved in safety plan reviews and incidents at the major chemical works in this area. He retired three years ago but still works for HSE as a consultant.

David then touched on some of the myths about the HSE, many of which are inspired by the insurance industry. HSE has not banned the use of step ladders, they do put up some Christmas decorations and have not stopped boys playing conkers! (Interestingly, today's paper had two articles. In one there is a blight affecting Horse Chestnut trees so conkers are declining. In the other

Police Doghandlers are to assess whether a suspect is likely to be frightened or have an asthmatic attack caused by dog fur, before they release 60 lbs of Alsatian at him!).

Graham Yule tried to ask a question about a lady on one of the slides before David Rabone gave the vote of thanks. Graham was then again on his feet with dire threats for members who have still not paid their subs.

David Burstow said there had been a change in the programme. A visit was being arranged to the Anson engine museum at Poynton on August 20th. John Sykes reported that the "Road to nowhere Three" had reached Romania without mishap before 29 Rotarians wended their ways home -also hopefully without mishap.

Bob Batty

Community News 1

Now that I've been in charge of 'Community' for a few weeks, I thought I'd spread some of the things that are happening via the bulletin rather than reading them out at meetings where they can be missed or sending out an e-mail that may get lost.

I have made contact with Bramhall High School with a view to working with them on their Kativo School

project and the potential for a Youth Drama Festival. I have been promised a meeting in September between myself, Vida, the headmaster, their pastoral teacher and their head of charities. Let's hope we form some strong bonds there.

The Neuro-Muscular Centre sent their newsletter, which includes details of the following:

12th-15th September – Scally Rally, Road to Rimini. A team of staff will be racing

across Europe in an old banger and invite sponsorship.

18th September – Ladies Fashion Show (tickets £25) with wine and canapés.

5th October - Great North Run. I imagine that a lot of charities will be supported here.

5th October – Liverpool 10K.

19th November – Christmas Fair (£5) at Hatherton Hall

28th November – Sprit of Christmas at Chester Cathedral with Matthew Kelly. Tickets £10 to £50 including champagne reception with the performers.

The recent massive rises in fuel prices have also hit the NMC hard and they need help to keep their fleet of minibuses on the road so they have set up a diesel pump on their website which they are asking for donations to fill. Go to www.nmcentre.com if you think you can help.

The quarterly newsletter of Disability Stockport came my way and contains a great deal of information about the facilities offered to people in Stockport with disabilities. I am going to ask for this to be put into the white book should you need to refer to any information. There is a very interesting article about Dorothy Birch too.

I went to a District meeting on Youth in Alderley Edge on the 29th July where

I hoped to find out more about Youth Speaks, Young Chef, Young Designer and other aspects of our work for the coming year. I wanted to introduce the idea of a Youth Drama Festival for Bramhall and see if it had been done before. John Sykes is on this committee and does a lot of unsung work behind the scenes particularly with Young Designer.

There was a great deal of discussion about the Young Chef competition, which is becoming more popular each year. Last year there were 42 entrants with a possibility of the prize this year being that the two winners will work with Nunsmere Hall Hotel to produce a charity lunch for 50 people. This kind of work experience is invaluable.

The idea of a Youth Drama Festival was well received with suggestions that Buxton and Biddulph may have done something like this in the past so I will contact them to see if there is anything to be learned.

Bob Batty and I are going to hire a stall at a table-top sale at Hazel Grove High School on the 19th October 08. This is for all those things not valuable enough for eBay but that you would nevertheless be willing to donate to help the charity coffers. It is difficult to say what sells and what does not but

having visited one of these, soft toys, glassware, crockery, pictures, video tapes and the like were much in evidence at the end as being unsold. We already have a DVD recorder and two very high quality tape decks as well as some smaller items. Bob has volunteered to let us use his carport to collect the stuff on the day of the sale. Please hang on to your items until then but let me know what there is so I can get some idea of what we will be taking.

The money we donated to the Karrakudi Ladies Sewing Club in India last year has resulted in 13 students being taught from which 12 attended an examination. Eight of these achieved first class and the rest, second class. They currently have 15 students joining by December who will be trying for a higher grade examination. Our money has been out to good use and I have asked for a copy of their accounts.

Gordon Jackson



He seems to know where
he's going!



A well deserved rest for a
Past President!

An iconic journey

Last year, I made it very clear to all my family, that whatever happened, nothing short of death was stopping me going the Goodwood Festival of Speed – mecca for the ‘petrolhead’. 11th, 12th and 13th of July 2008 are when I am going, come what may, to Goodwood, gottit ?. Hell, I even joined the Goodwood Road Racing Club to ensure access to the ‘full package’!

Well that was the plan, until Tony ‘the E Type’ Burch ‘phoned me and asked if I would like to co-drive down to Classic Le Mans, in his 1968 red, chrome wired E Type convertible. “When is it”, I asked, “11th -13th July” Tony responded. This gave me a serious problem. Very careful thought had to be given to it. Do I go to Goodwood, or fulfil a lifetime (well almost) dream of driving hundreds of miles in an E Type convertible? Such was the gravity of the decision confronting me, that Tony may perhaps have detected the three millisecond pause, before I said “Oh yes, please!”

Well that was in November last year, and along with the opportunity to drive one of motoring history’s MOST iconic vehicles (remember lusting after one of these in the ‘60’s, chaps and what it would have done for ones love life .. ?) was a chance to stay with a Marquis & Marquise in their chateau. July was then, for a different reason, still eagerly awaited.

Tony came round in the ‘E’ to do a luggage check a few weeks ago and I discovered that the E Type boot must have been in the mind of those barbers years ago, when they asked “a little something for the weekend, sir ?”.

The morning arrived, well almost arrived, when the alarm went off at 0415 ready for a crack of dawn start, to a single day drive of 550 miles to Le Mans. The ‘phone went, it was Tony to say the Jag had a flat battery due to currently, having a current leak somewhere. Mary was volunteered to drive me round to Prestbury, with jump leads, in the trusty Mondeo. The ‘E’ was pushed out of the garage, dropped the top and lined up in the early dawn light next to the Ford and jump leads made ready. “Are you positive this is the positive battery post Tony”?, “yes, positively” he replied and the clamp was offered up to the battery “bang, flash, fireworks” as November 5th came early to Prestbury ! After reversing the leads, the car started sweetly and I jumped in and secured myself with the non-inertia

reel belts ready for the Prez's first stint at the wheel. Need to be well strapped in for that. Tony decided to have a quick comfort stop before departing and just as he went in, the heavens opened and I sat there absorbing it all. Mary was warm and dry in the Mondy, laughing like a drain whilst I was quickly becoming one! Tony appeared, top went up, and we were off. Mary later confided that she really did wonder if we were fit to be let out alone.

Well down the M6, it stopped raining and the top was dropped again at a service station, never to go up again for the whole trip, except at night. It is remarkable the sheer goodwill that accompanies the car wherever it goes, people forget their British reserve and come over and talk to you, without even being introduced, for heaven's sake! Total strangers give 'thumbs up' as you overtake them – oh yes, overtaking was very much the order of things – "it's happiest around 90, so just leave it there". And so it was, all the way, waves, gestures of encouragement and lots of new found friends.

Arrived at the Eurotunnel terminal in Folkestone with eight minutes to spare, well one does so hate hanging around waiting for trains. Half an hour or so later, TomTom instructed "remember, drive on the right" a cursory flash of the British passport, - so nice that they realise that 'Her Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State' instruction contained therein, that 'he requests and requires' Johnny Foreigner to allow us to pass without 'Let or Hindrance', and we hit the road.

A most uneventful and exceedingly pleasant trip punctuated by frequent fuel stops, "lovely old girl you know, but (hushed tones) does likes a drink"!! TomTom guided us right to the door of the Marquis de Mascureau's simply beautiful chateau. We were in very surprisingly 'good nick' - the 40 year old 'E' was a wonderful companion, fully able to cut it with current traffic, how absolutely stunning it must have been for those lucky owners over 40 years ago compared to what was about then! A quick freshen up and off, appropriately I thought, to an Abbey (that's a Monks House – gettit?) for a many course dinner that lasted all evening and then back off to the Chateau, well that was the plan. Just I was leaving a little village en-route, the Jag coughed and died. A quick stab at the starter button (nice these retro touches are coming back) was to no avail, we had no volts. A kind Frenchman, seeing our predicament, helped Tony push me into a downhill position and I bump started it, the ammeter showing a very slight charge, unless one turned the lights on! So we sat there awhile getting a little

charge until the Kenlow engine fan started up and the ammeter plummeted into negative! We had to go, Tony leaning out of the window “no, the road goes to the right – now it goes left – STOP” – I think you get the idea! We made it back.

The next day saw the purchase of a new fully charged battery and this was fitted by the roadside a short time later, only to find that the battery positive and negative posts were transposed compared to the original and the leads weren't long enough Some cable tie snipping persuaded it to fit and the battery was jammed into place and held with Duck Tape (we decided a knighthood was in order for its inventor...)

Classic Le Mans was almost incidental to the fun of the journey, the good company and the other peripheral parts of the trip. It was a tremendous spectacle of so many classic cars that had been driven there by spectators. We were treated to six races, each with cars from a different era and they were repeated through the night. Many of the cars had actually raced there, some winning, many, many decades earlier.

Sadly the weekend was over all too soon and on the Monday morning we hit the road again, ready for the 550 mile journey home. Hadn't been going long when Tony asked “Chris, you have got everything, haven't you – passport and things” – “yes” I responded, “have you?” Tony's hand shoots to his pocket, an anguished cry “no, the passport's gone”! About turn and back to the chateau where a thorough search of the luggage and car failed to find it. A last check of the room did produce the missing item and off we went again. Panic over. Steady 90mph again and we arrived a whole hour early for the P & O ferry and so drove straight on the earlier one. A glass of champagne awaited our arrival in the Business Class Lounge then into Langhans Brassiere (well, that's how my spell checker wants to spell it) for a delicious meal, leaving little time for coffee before the call ‘drivers to your vehicles’ (remember - just like they used to do at Le Mans !). Just 270 miles more, before parting company from Tony and his glorious E Type Jaguar which included, on leaving the motorway at Holmes Chapel, tips on best ‘drifting’ techniques for an E Type! But from Tony, you wouldn't really expect anything else, would you!

Chris Monkhouse

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
August 6	Committees	J Knowles	V Chattington
August 13	G Yule	N Loveland	J Thomas
August 20	M Hurst	G Hunt	D Dev
August 27	B Stevenson	M Lacey	H Barker
September 3	Committees	D Allport	G Jackson
September 10	S Davies	D Burstow	J Thewlis
September 17	R Malabon	M Palmer	H Hill
September 24	B Batty	A Newsome	D Dewhurst
October 1	Committees	J Meeus	D Rabone
October 8	D Rose	R Taylor	J Sykes
October 15	B Bissell	D Poizer	J Knowles
October 22	T Sheppard	V Chattington	G Yule
October 29	No meeting - 5th Wednesday		
November 5	Committees	M Hurst	J Thomas
November 12	N Loveland	B Stevenson	G Hunt
November 19	D Dev	D Allport	M Lacey
November 26	H Barker	G Jackson	D Searson
December 3	Committees	R Malabon	S Davies
December 10	J Thewlis	D Burstow	M Palmer
December 18	Christmas Party		
December 25	No meeting!		
2009			
January 7	Committees	B Batty	A Newsome
January 14	H Hill	J Fallowfield	J Meeus
January 21	D Dewhurst	D Rabone	J Sykes
January 28	R Taylor	D Rose	B Bissell
February 4	Committees	D Poizer	J Knowles
February 11	T Sheppard	G Yule	V Chattington
February 18	J Thomas	N Loveland	M Hurst

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

BLIND RUN

Mr and Mrs Salt, (possibly also their blind daughter) 40 Glossop Rd, Marple Bridge
Tel: 449 8679 **Pick up at 6.45 so that they are there just after 7.00.**

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

Ring the 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 Bob Batty know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run.

The Salts use a back entrance from Cote Green Road. Follow A626 to Marple Bridge. Remain on A626 towards Glossop swinging right up the hill by the Windsor Arms at the Compstall Road junction. Cote Green Road is about 100 yards up on the left. About 50 yards up on the right there are two gates/doors built into a high wall. The second gate is marked 40 and Windy Howe and leads into their back garden with door facing you. To turn round carry on for another 100 yards to junction.

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.

Please be at Walthew House by 9.25 for return trips. If possible drivers should have their mobiles and other driver's number in case of any delays.

August 5	D Allport	J Thomas
August 12	G Yule	J Sykes
August 19	B Batty	B Bissell
August 26	D Burstow	V Chattington
September 2	S Davies	D Dewhurst
September 9	G Hunt	M Hurst
September 16	G Jackson	J Knowles
September 23	M Lacey	N Loveland
September 23	R Malabon	J Meeus
September 30	C Monkhouse	A Newsome
October 7	D Poizer	D Rabone
October 14	D Rose	T Sheppard
October 21	B Stevenson	J Sykes
October 28	J Thomas	G Yule
November 4	D Allport	B Batty
November 11	B Bissell	D Burstow
November 18	V Chattington	S Davies
November 25	D Dewhurst	J Fallowfield
December 2	G Hunt	M Hurst
December 9	G Jackson	J Knowles
December 16	M Lacey	N Loveland
2009		
January 6	R Malabon	J Meeus
January 13	C Monkhouse	A Newsome
January 20	D Poizer	D Rabone

Diary

August 6*	Committees
August 13*	Maura McKibbin: 'Helping families in breakdown situations'
August 20*	Visit to Anson Engine Museum
August 27*	Mike Yates: 'Polio eradication'
September 3	Committees
September 10*	Baron Isherwood: 'Regional development'
September 17	Recruitment discussion led by PDG Michael Barker
September 24*	Club Services
October 1	Committees
October 10	Charter Night at Bramhall Park Golf Club
October 15	Batty/Bissell
October 22*	Club Services
October 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday
November 5	Committees
November 12*	Burstow/Chattington
November 19	Davies/Dev
November 26*	Club Services
December 3	Committees
December 10*	Dewhurst/Hill
December 18	Christmas Party
December 24	No meeting
December 31	No meeting

2009

January 7	Committees
January 14*	Jackson/Knowles
January 24	Lacey/Loveland
January 28*	Club Services
February 4	Committees
February 11*	Malabon/McLeod
February 18	Meeus/Monkhouse
February 25*	Club Services
March 4	Committees
March 11*	Newsome/Palmer
March 18	Poizer/Rabone
March 28	President's Evening

* indicates that we have the large function room