

Rotarian



Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club

Bulletin

June 2011



We've been going quackers!
See inside for a full report.

I'm not really into Editorials, but I thought that as this was my last issue of the Bulletin as Editor, I would 'sign off' for once in print.

As everyone knows, I have been Editor for the past ten years, which is quite a long time to be in one Rotary job! I took over when Doug Murphy became too ill to continue. Doug, of course, produced brilliant Bulletins, all by pasting and sticking typed articles, followed by photocopying, and all in his own home! Deservedly, Doug won the RIBI award for the best Bulletins - quite an achievement!

I know that Doug, like me, believed that the Bulletin is an important part of the life of our Club. It is a reference source for rotas and contact details, it keeps absent members and partners in touch with what is going on, and over the years it is an interesting archive of what our Club has been doing.

I have greatly enjoyed compiling the Bulletin, and have used the experience to teach myself desktop publishing in the process. Bulletin editors often have to resort to a bit of nagging to get copy and I know that Gordon Jackson, who is taking over as editor, will rely on your support as I have done.

It is time for new ideas, perhaps a different format - who knows?. I, for one, am looking forward to reading the next issue!

Dennis

Yule's tidings

In these jottings, I have tried to highlight future events in the Rotary Year, however as the year draws to a close, there is little to write on this theme. I can honestly say that the year has gone really quickly – accelerating towards the end of June. Throughout the year I have been delighted at the level of support given by the VP Bob and the rest of the Club Council, ADG Geoff, and DG Margaret.

There are a number of activities in which we are involved over the summer.

- Admiring our organisation of the Bramhall Park event, Imagine FM's MD has invited us to assist in one of their events in August.

- There is the event at Stockport Rugby Club

- We are advising The Christie Hospital on the organisation of their September duck race.

Sue and I look forward to welcoming you all at the Club's Summer Barbeque, after which I am looking forward to serving on John's Social Committee.

Graham

Secretary's soapbox

What is a Rotary Secretary ? Is it the sort of job one sees being advertised in The Guardian ? Does it attract a final-salary pension scheme ?

Having been secretary for nearly a year now, I still do not know which of the following statements is truer:

1. the secretary's role is no where near so onerous as people make out
2. I have only been doing a small proportion of what should be done.

If it is the former, then good, since next year I will be adding the role of vice-president to the things to be done in addition to some work, some boating and some beer.

It is probably bits of both. The vice-president's role was not something I ideally wanted to take on at this time, but was persuaded. Nevertheless it was of course ultimately my decision and I will try to do both roles as best I can. Unfortunately for me, Graham (the *****) set a very high standard of double-manning the Treasurer & VP roles

Ironically for the function I am passing on, I feel I have done a none-too-shabby job - our web site.

I think the web site now looks much more user-friendly, it has a good basic structure, clear links and some reasonable animations etc. However there are still several major improvements which could be made. The current big-thing web wise is making websites "smart phone" friendly and this needs doing for bwrotary.org.uk as more and more members access the site via their phones. Another is to create a secure members-only, pass-worded section. This would enable significant user benefits as things such as contact details could be put online. Thirdly a better photo library is needed, ideally with user uploads (again via the secure area of course). So no pressure there then !!!

Finally for this year, I would like to wish Good Luck to Gordon for when he takes over the bulletin-editor role, and good luck to all the new council members.

Brian.

Duck Race Report

We decided to do something a bit bigger this year and as usual we held the event at Bramall Hall. The day started off overcast and a little grey and the weather forecast over the preceding few days had been rather foreboding. The stalwart early morning volunteers set about erecting gazebos, putting up tables and setting chairs ready for the days events. As it happened, not a drop of rain hit the ground at any time during the day, the sun came out to smile upon us and it turned into a fabulous and fantastic day.

We raised funds for The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and, through the efforts of Rotarians and the opportunities offered by Morrison's, Waitrose, Handforth Dean, Woodford Park Garden Centre, Bramall Hall and Park and The Bramhall Centre, we were able to start four races with a thousand ducks in each race. We also had three 'speciality' races where giant ducks had been decorated by patients of the Hospital, celebrity patrons and local shops and traders. (More about these later).

In the courtyard of the Hall there was a fire engine with its hoses laid out and water being played on to the flower borders of the garden. There were also a variety of vehicles from Greater Manchester Police which were being 'guarded' by a couple of officers in vintage police uniforms. A lot of interest was shown, particularly by children, in the kit from the TAU (Tactical Aid Unit) vehicle. We were also very pleased to have 10 supercars amongst the trees which revved their engines from time to time – one even spat fire from it's exhaust, which intrigued many onlookers

Round the corner, on the Croquet Lawn, we had a quieter Performing Arts 1 area where there was line dancing, a ladies Morris Dancing group and students from Bramhall School of Dancing showing traditional folk dances from around the world. Everyone was encouraged to join in and dance with them.

There was a four hour live broadcast on the local radio station ImagineFM during which they did some live interviews, one with a race winner (Nigel Cuthbert) and another with our President Graham Yule. ”. (These sound bites are available for a small donation) ImagineFM Chief Executive Paul Taylor said that it was been the best event they had ever been to and that the day had been “great.”. A vote of thanks is due to the radio station for their help in providing a fantastic PA system.

In the Craft Village there were more than a dozen craft and interest stalls selling goods ranging from the honey from bees – Stockport Beekeepers Assoc. had brought along a real hive with bees! - to stained glass, with a workshop run by Julie of Illuminarte, jewellery, soft toys and a delicatessen.. We had some on-site catering of crepes (oooo posh eh?) and probably one of the smartest burgers stalls in the country provided by Special Edge Catering. I heard many people say “That is definitely NOT a burger van!”

The manager of the Lower Meadow Site had a hectic time organising the setting up for the Craft Village as well as the Games Village and Performing Arts 2. and the Tote marquee. During the afternoon entertainment was provided by the full orchestra from the Bramhall High School who gave us two excellent 40 minute concerts and the Brinnington Samba Band in complete contrast.

The Games Village was run by the Club with such exciting things as a Treasure Hunt and bouncy castle, tin can and coconut shies plus many more and there was a bookstall staffed by Rotary wives.

We had sold enough ‘ducks’ to be able to run four races. We then interspersed these with three ‘speciality’ giant duck races. We decided that it would be good for the patients of the Hospital to be involved so arranged with their Charity Team to have 10 ducks decorated by children patients and they contested The Humphrey Handicap. (Humphrey being the Hospital’s mascot). The Hospital also has some celebrity patrons and they managed to get 7 decorated by stars from radio, football and television. These along with other suitably sponsored ducks were going beak to beak for The Sponsor’s Stakes which was started by Jason Done, of Waterloo Road fame. Strangely, it was Jason’s duck which ran away, winning a cup for him in the process. The last race was a hotly contested affair because we had involved many of the local business and traders and they did battle in The Duck Derby. There was a lot of public interest in the speciality race concept and there was also a lot of interest shown in the Tote betting system used on the day. Particularly by Rotarians where there was quite a lot of head scratching going on as money changed hands! It was great to have the final one thousand duck race, The Waddle and Quack Chase started by our District Governor Margaret Hutchinson.

Over 4000 people came along. They certainly spent their money and we managed to generate over £11,300 and raised the profile of the Bramhall and Woodford Rotary Club in the process. Thanks to everyone helped on the day, those who gave their time freely and those that bought ducks.

Ian

The Duck Race - A Happy Story!



We don't often get to know who buys a winning ticket in the B&W Annual Duck Race but I know someone who bought the duck that came second in one of the races last May. Kathy is divorced, mother of two boys, and lives in Adswold and has to have two jobs to make ends meet. Her life is not easy, she has long term illness in her family that keeps her busy, and her mother is battling cancer, but she's always cheerful and optimistic. She had hoped to go to the B&W Family Fun Day in the park but on the last minute was unable to so instead she bought 5 duck tickets never anticipating that she would be a winner.

Imagine her surprise and delight a few days later when she received a great letter from Michael Lacey with a cheque for £50. She just couldn't believe her luck and phoned me straight away to tell me her exciting news. She really was very thrilled indeed and sends her sincere thanks to the whole club. To round things off – one of her teenage sons is a long term outpatient at the Manchester Children's Hospital!

A nice end to a great day.

Olive



"...and this one takes you on routes avoiding motorways, roundabouts, road humps and busy streets"

Meeting Reports



Wednesday March 16th

This is my first attempt at the Rotary bulletin so care please! David Rose kindly provided me with a crash course in learning everyone's name. All enjoyed the drinks before the dinner despite the racket of the electric guitars and amplifiers, in fact Rev Knowles was leading the grace at two minutes to eight ... is this a record?

The serviettes were new and brightly coloured which lead to the echoed comment, 'who is coming?' Bruce introduced the guest visitor, Jill Critchley and she was welcomed back to the club. There were few apologies but it was also noted that those who were absent just happened to be Chelsea supporters! The President announced that Diane Schofield had resigned from the club, the District ten-pin bowling had to be postponed and he requested that members start to consider Council posts for the coming year. Brian kindly put himself forward for the role of Vice-President. All agreed to donate their fines to Comic Relief. Vida requested volunteers to do a slot for Stroke Awareness day on April 9th and Bob asked for members to put their name on the rota for the Duck Race ticket sales. All members were

reminded that they needed to cover two slots each. The meal was of the usual high standard and was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, many requesting second helpings; so much for those of us who had made long forgotten New Year resolutions!

The highlight of the evening was the excellent job talk given by David Walker. Sid repeatedly asked him to speak up... even though he was sitting quite close to the front. David gave a resume of his life and his many achievements, one of must be his conquering of a bad stammer which affected him up until 20 years ago. David did not like school but successfully completed an apprenticeship and became an engineer. After serving his time he emerged as a fully qualified horizontal and vertical borer. It was interesting to note that he first became involved with Rotary when, as a young lad he was sponsored by the Rotary Club to participate in an exchange trip to Denmark; the highlight of which seemed to be a visit to Carlsberg Brewery! David moved jobs several times and after time spent as an assistant contracts manager for a roofing company (he hated heights!) he and his wife took an opportunity to set up their own business. Although very

scary at the time, with the support of another fitter and David's brother they created a very successful window company which effectively met a niche market. When the business was sold last year there were 25 staff, a fleet of vans and three and a half million pounds turnover. Great interest was shown with several questions. However, Sid said that he had not heard a word but had gathered snippets! Much discussion ensued about the dangers of smoke inhalation during a fire and the wisdom, or otherwise, of opening a window in such a situation. Tim proposed a vote of thanks to David for his fascinating talk which certainly aroused the interest of all present.

Other business included how we could help Japan and the Presidents second appeal for members to consider putting themselves forward for Council posts,

reiterating that much support would be offered to all new incumbents. In order to promote this and stimulate interest officers and committee leaders agreed to make a short presentation about their role and responsibilities within Rotary. It was interesting to learn of the varied work of the officers and committees throughout the year. Dennis explained that he wanted to give up his role as editor of the bulletin as he had done it for 10 years and asked if anyone else was interested in taking on the job. Tim won the bottle of wine but donated it to David as our guest speaker. Over £30 was raised for Comic Relief by donating S@A fines, which Tony skilfully inflicted on us all at £1 each. The final toast was taken at 10:30pm.

Sue Preece

**March 23rd - Serendipity and science
– surely not!**

This evening the club had a very good turn out for an excellent presentation by Jean Layton on Accidental Scientific Discoveries. To start the evening off, we were served excellent fayre by Lorraine and her colleagues featuring this time a beef stir-fry, breaded fish and a steak pie followed by chocolate and cheese cakes. No wonder Rotary waist lines are expanding.

The major topic for debate during the meal was the announcement by the

Club Secretary, the one and only Brian (Dougal), that he is updating our Club Constitution in line with current RI guidelines. The approved version will be available for members to inspect before the end of the Rotary Year. It seems to your correspondent that we have Hobson's choice on this one, although I may be wrong. Other interventions were made by Vida canvassing support for Easter Day's Bouncy castle at Bramhall Hall and by John Thewlis in connection with the Duck Race, THE BIG ONE, scheduled for Sunday May 8th. Ways and Means have really

worked hard and pulled out all the stops to make this event as successful as possible. We should be proud of them. Now it is the turn of members of the club to help to sell tickets and, if at all possible, to help on the day. Let's see if we can make the target of 3000 tickets to be sold before the day and 2000 tickets on the day itself. What a contribution to the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital this would be.

After the coffee break Jean Layton gave us a very well researched and prepared talk on serendipity in science. We learnt how the German physicist Röntgen first observed the phenomenon that led him to take an X-ray of his hand, how Fleming discovered penicillin and how Albert Hofmann sampled LSD and then cycled home, "Bicycle day," under its influence. As he recorded "little by little I could begin to enjoy the unprecedented colors and plays of shapes that persisted behind my closed eyes. Kaleidoscopic, fantastic images surged in on me, alternating, variegated, opening and then closing themselves in circles and spirals, exploding in colored fountains, rearranging and hybridizing themselves in constant flux." We also learnt how in 1856 W. H. Perkin discovered mauveine, the first synthetic

dyestuff that led to the creation of the UK's dyestuffs industry when he was trying to make the anti-malaria drug quinine. (Perkin's son, W. H. Perkin junior who became the UK's dominant professor of organic chemistry at the time was based at Manchester University from 1892 - 1912 before he left to go to Oxford.) Finally, of course, we learnt how the American drugs giant Pfizer, when trying to develop a new treatment for angina, found that although their new drug, sildenafil citrate, failed in the clinic, it did have other uses – it is now sold as Viagra and is worth more than a few bob – not that any members of the club would be interested in its use. (As an aside Viagra was discovered at the Pfizer laboratories in Sandwich, Kent, along with other drugs, not the least fuconazole, which is a front-line treatment for fungal infections. Pfizer are now in the process of closing these laboratories down to save money.)

Finally, John Thewlis, the S at A. fined everyone who had unfairly fined him in the past, all the usual suspects and the "goody-goodies" i.e. everyone else.

Jim Thomas

AGM and Committees on 6th April

Despite quite a few absences for no doubt excellent reasons, we all had a busy evening, electing Council members and others for the forthcoming Rotary year, and preparing

ourselves for the May 8th Duck Race. Our hopefully soon-to-join visitor Gill Critchley was our only guest, despite a double-take on seeing a bearded Henry. He'd make a good pirate if he was more mobile! Ron Malabon was reportedly soon to leave hospital for what sounded

like a lengthy period of home treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery!

The AGM

This year we did not need ballot slips, thereby repeating a B & W tradition of long standing! So here are the lucky leaders for 2011/2012. Congratulations to all.

President: Bob Stevenson
Vice President: Brian Dougal
Secretary: Brian Dougal
Treasurer: Michael Lacey
Club Services: Bruce Bissell
Communications: Ian Dobson
Community Services: Vida Chattington
International: David Rose
Social: John Meeus
Ways and Means: Trevor Saville
Foundation: Sue Preece
Bulletin: Gordon Jackson
Webmaster: Michael Lacey
District representatives: Henry Barker, John Sykes
Health and safety: David Burstow (elected in his absence and in ignorance of his nomination! Serves him right for not being there.)
Child Protection: David Rose
Almoner: Sid Davies

Disposal of the rest of us (and some of the above as well) to committees is under way – we will be told in due course!

Other bits and pieces

The Duck race

Tony Burch had constructed a splendid stall for selling Duck Race tickets. This was dismantled into car friendly bits using only a screwdriver. We found out how to take it apart – putting it together again may be a different matter! Ian Dobson and Tony had prepared an excellent short slide show outlining the extensive scope of this year's event. There are to be 49 attractions, including a craft village, dancing groups, side shows and much, much more. Congratulations to all involved. All that is now needed is beautiful weather, and loads of helpers to cope with all the preparations and with the manning of stalls. The publicity has been extensive and a large attendance is expected. Barclay's once again would match our profit and provide a super boost to the final sum raised.

All members are asked to sell at least 10 tickets personally – now that shouldn't be too hard. Rotas for selling at public venues were well advanced.

District conference

Brian Dougal asked for preferences for various options for District Conference. These differed in cost (£150 to £500) and in length of event. Opinions were provided for Brian to relay back to District.

Community service

Vida Chattington reviewed the organisation for Stroke Awareness day on 9th April, and asked for stewards for the Hursthead school sponsored walk

on April 28th. Path clearance was to be deferred pro tem.

AOB

David Rabone won the raffle and gallantly gave the wine to Gill Critchley who drew his winning ticket! Sue

Preece did a splendid job as S @ A and had no trouble whatsoever in finding spurious reasons for fining almost everyone.

Dennis Allport

The Red Cross: Karen Jones

Our Vice Pres. Bob Stevenson in the absence of President Graham was in the Chair on 13th April and got things underway with a brief but meaningful grace from Rev.Rabone. As has now become the custom miscellaneous items were covered prior to and during the course of the meal. We were sobered by the announcement from David Burstow of the passing of Hazel Grove Rotarian Jack Hewitt. A number of our members new Jack as he was a founder member of Poynton R.C. and in recent years was in the Hazel Grove club. His funeral was announced as being on 14 April. Other meaningful reports followed with John Thewlis berating 3 non-attendees at the first weekend of duck ticket sales. Brian laboured through the re-election of 2 of our 3 Honorary Members, at which point your reporter requested the correct spelling of "tosh"! Anyhow all ended well with Mark Hunter remaining and Mac declared as a "Lifetime Hon. Member".

David Walker decided to continue confusing us after Brian's precedent with a slightly disjointed series of apologies. Geoff applauded the club for

stalwart efforts at "Stroke Awareness Day". Vida and the team were thanked and it is believed that potentially serious conditions were uncovered in some members of the public.

After the coffee break Bruce The Younger introduced our speaker Karen Jones of "The British Red Cross" by emphasising the huge worldwide scale of "The International Red Cross", comparing it with the minnow status of "Rotary International", all of which was borne out by the most fluent and comprehensive presentation by Karen. Continuing the theme of scale it was revealed that there are 97 million volunteers worldwide in the Red Cross represented in 186 countries and thus takes the accolade of being the world's largest organisation. The motto is to "Help people across the world wherever and whoever they are". Neutrality is the byword of the organisation and I guess it came as no surprise to learn that the founder was a Swiss gentleman by the name of Henry Dunant, thus sponsoring Geneva as their worldwide headquarters and the famous Geneva Convention. It dates back to 1859 and we had an impressive sweeping overview of the activities of the organisation from then right up to

date with the current crisis in Japan. There were many details given by Karen of specific initiatives taken by The Red Cross, but I will provide only a glimpse from my comprehensive note taking as follows:-

1914 Joint ambulance service formed.
World War 2 – 20 million food parcels delivered
Main helpers to blood transfusion service up to 1997

300,00 people get safe water every day
Involved in such diverse areas as Vietnam, Live Aid, Lockerbie, Haiti earthquake, New Zealand, Japan, Ivory Coast, the list goes on.

The 7 fundamental principles were detailed as; Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality. We were also treated to a fine array of fund raising methods and achievements with kindred feelings being demonstrated as our Rotary course runs very much in parallel with theirs, albeit of a different scale. Interestingly The Red Cross claims to be the third most recognised “Brands” in the world behind

McDonalds and Coca Cola! The image is represented by three red on white symbols: the familiar Red Cross (inverse of Swiss flag) the Red Crescent (Muslim Countries) and the Red Crystal (Israel). It is claimed that help will always be available anywhere in the world within 2 hours due to the broad spread and strength in depth of this most impressive organisation.

The floor was alive with questions, of which most were sensible. Bruce gave a fluent vote of thanks to Karen for an immensely impressive presentation, adding that “there is hope for humanity” if you can get 97 million all working for good. These thanks were echoed throughout the club by the heartfelt applause. The meeting ended with Brian (Billy – no mates) extracting 50 pence from all and sundry for both real and imagined misdemeanours. Bob having ably chaired another very good meeting reminded those of their duties for the next meeting and of course for Duck sales!

Tony

Wednesday 27 April. Rotary & The Environment

Your reporter arrived late on this night although not too late to be able to enjoy another Lorraine’s delightful for the second consecutive day this week. The first being the AGM, at which yours truly was elected Chairman for the year, of Bramhall 41 Club as used to be known before it seceded from the

National organisation, which rendered the members with something of an identification problem, until it was decided to call it Bramhall 41 Club.

However enough of reports on other institutions and on with our own. Following Dinner we repaired to the Main Bar for coffee to the merry accompaniment of the Ladybridge Singers. The louder we spoke the

louder they played until we returned to the relative quiescence of the Dining Room. President Graham commenced with the very pleasant task of inducting a new member, Gill Critchley, in a manner which was befitting the relative seriousness of the occasion. Geoff gave an excellent introduction for Gill referring to their 'engagement' and several discussions on the responsibilities of being a member. Gill replied in such a manner as to indicate that she will prove to a very worthwhile addition to the Club. Her sense of humour being adequately demonstrated by a commentary on packing up the Bouncy Castle likening it to the placing of a condom on an elephant (not by previous experience I am sure) and a breakdown on the A34 in the late hours necessitating the removal of several ducks from the boot of her car, which were placed on the roadside to advertise the Duck Race event. Gill you are very welcome and we look forward to hearing other anecdotes.

Our speaker was Brian Kimber, 'Rotary and the Environment District Officer' who, with the inevitable screen aid which repeated what he was saying, brought to our attention to the problems facing the World population caused by pollution. He accentuated that the continuing pollution situation has caused climate change directly related to man made disasters, use of fossil and mineral fuels pumping vast quantities of CO₂ into the atmosphere not to mention cacogenic solutions into water courses. He continued to state

that this has had an undeniable effect on our quality of life at this time and for the inheritance of our children, grand children and generations to come. The problem being exacerbated by the ever-increasing world population especially in the developing countries. The answer to this problem is to progress the use of natural resources for energy generation, recycling of waste productions, and as example, samples of which were passed round, and the reduction of landfill. Switzerland was given as an excellent of the latter in that it was stated to have no landfill now. However this was contradicted by one of our members, who lives there part time by stating that in his village everything went into a big hole in the ground and was not sure what happened to it after that.

There was little that we did not know already and the main questions were regarding how this was relevant to Rotary. Various projects were quoted including litter clearance, ground clearance of overgrowth allotments and advice to schools, scout groups and other youth organisations on the subject of world pollution.

Our Council will of course discuss this matter and probably appoint an Environment Officer or not as the case maybe.

Vida (Ed: or was it Alan?) rounded off the evening as Sgt @ Arms in her own inimitable style and final toast was taken at ten twenty. Brian

Committee Night on 4th May.

After Rev. Rabone had given an appropriate Grace appealing for fair weather on Sunday, 25 members enjoyed the usual tasty and filling repast. 3 more arrived later.

After the President had moved seats to avoid sitting in isolation, the Ways & Means Committee gave an excellent presentation on arrangements for Sundays Duck Race. John Thewlis hoped the football match at Old Trafford would not persuade too many dads to stay away. Caroline then explained parking arrangements and it was stressed that members share cars wherever possible. Car park attendants would be needed from 11.00. Tony Burch said a gratifying 29 members had volunteered to be in the Park all day. He circulated a list of duties (see his E-mail). Some disquiet was expressed at the length of the shifts (4 hours) on less popular jobs as in days of yore we used to swap around after two hours.

19 large ducks had been sponsored by several "Corrie" stars and footballer

Just a Minute! on 20th April

With President Graham in Singapore we were once again treated to the charms of VP Bob running the meeting. Around 24 were present with Gill Critchley still a guest (but not for long now - induction next week). There were many apologies with exotic places and illness being repeated themes.

Phil Neville, whilst Ian Dobson outlined the programme of dancers etc on the Archery lawn. Stall holders had not only been given precise locations but also arrival times to avoid congestion. Other duck sells are over 3000 due in no small measure to the efforts of Bob & Sue Preece. President Graham thanked the Committee for all the hard work and echoed the prayer for fine weather. Graham also said he would be attending a Manchester Breakfast Rotaract recruitment event on Saturday afternoon and invited anyone to join him.

Vida asked for volunteers for path clearance on Friday 20th May and Brian Dougal said the meeting on 18th May would be trip on the Macclesfield canal - see his E-mail. Trevor Saville won the raffle and various miscreants were fined for their sins.

It was a late finish but a worthwhile meeting ahead of Sunday's big event.

Bob Batty

Unusually there was no apology from Dev - he was there and was introduced to the newer members! Bob Stevenson explained that his running for Beacon in the Great Manchester Run on May 15th was now reduced to a "virtual or shadow" run but nonetheless insisted that we each sponsor Bruce Bissell (and Bob shadowing) for loads of dosh.

I gave a quick update on Ron's slowly improving situation and John Thewlis a more detailed update on the Duck race. Most things are OK but ticket sales are a bit disappointing - especially the hospital's tally at the Trafford centre (<£100 in two days?). Accordingly each Rotarian has their quota upped to £20 of ticket sales and there will be extra sales sessions at Bramall hall on 30/4 and 1/5.

After the usual excellent meal we returned from coffee to find the room transformed into something like a court room with a tribunal of Tony, Trevor and Bob Batty acting as the officials. Actually it turned out to be a replica of Nicholas Parsons (Tony) and the lovely Samantha (Bob) and Trevor (himself). With expert use of an iPhone as a stopwatch, Tony chaired several rounds of "Just a Minute" with lots of interruptions and cunning timing to get the extra point when the whistle went (actually the bell).

Topics were many and varied and included "Why I prefer cork to screw", "SAS", "my best idea ever", "Emails - blessing or curse?", "Should there be a revolution", "how I cope with flies in the summer", "The alternative vote" (Brian had apoplexy), "My favourite author", "How I will escape the Royal Wedding", "Why I love this country", "Nuclear power or wind", "The all in

one method is better than the traditional method", "Speed cameras" (Tony had apoplexy), "Twitter and Facebook", "University Fees" (Jim had apoplexy) and so on.

When we were all exhausted it was deemed over and Samantha counted the scores whilst the raffle was held. The raffle ticket drawn produced at least two winners (somehow multiple copies of the winning ticket were around) and so there was a redraw. This was contested and as a result I have no idea who won the impressive bottle of pink liquid.

Meanwhile the score were in and in joint second place with 14 points were Jim and Brian and amazingly with 15 points I was declared the winner and got a proper bottle of NZ sauvignon blanc. Throughout the whole event not a word was heard from Gordon which earned him the booby prize of a bottle of orange stuff.

Bob Stevenson gave a brief vote of thanks to the tribunal team and Caroline did a humorous SatA job - including fining everybody who had mentioned the "D" word.

A jolly good evening

Michael

**May 11 Post April heatwave to 1957
freezing Antarctica**

A reasonable number of members came, the remainder were resting from an exhausting but successful Duck Race Day, or perhaps there was a crucial football game that night!

D. Rabone made grace for unfortunate children in hospital and around the world.

Senior Bruce invited members to form a table of ten for Stockport Rugby Club Dinner as we did last year. Ian Dobson advertised the Bramhall High School Summer Ball to fund renovations, a sign of the times, and support their new lady Head. Michael L brought his visiting friend from Massachusetts as a guest, wow, my guest speaker only hailed from Bramhall. As usual, Lorraine provided a superb selection of food.

Gill, our latest recruit, delivered her Maiden welcome and apologies speech with great aplomb. Some members were scattered around the world, Tony B sent in a typing error, viz, he was “towing in an E Type Jag”, which Gill smartly corrected to “touring”.

President Graham and John Thewlis and his committee thanked the club for all the effort put into last Sunday’s fantastic event.

Sam Kennedy, a former member, has joined an All Men’s club in the wilds of Scotland ? Creiff or may be good grief!

He has obviously devolved to his native country.

Treasurer Michael gave an estimated report of the total Duck Race accounts and itemised some individual collections. During this report, it came to light that Harry (in charge of the treasure hunt) hadn’t returned his float! Yes, can one credit it, especially when the Secretary of Health plans to hand most of the NHS budget to GPs! The overall income, including Barclays, was about £11,200 and expenses about £3K. Thanks to Pam and Michael for counting all the cash, what a job.

Brian, Secretary, presented his nice and thin White Book with the new committees. He continued to give details of the trip in his canal boat on May18th. A hoist for Henry is arranged and security guards in case of Somali pirates on Macclesfield Canal. Sandwiches and drinks would be available according to numbers, austerity measures in action!

He showed a short video of the Duck race, thanks Brian.

Pres G is getting forgetful lately in his duties and had to be reminded to propose the Loyal Toast.

Our speaker was a local retired maths teacher with a venturing spirit, David Harrison. The title **The Big White South long ago** was about his 2 year research in Antarctica after gaining a physics degree. The 1957 Royal Society International Geophysical Expedition

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Michael L brought his visiting friend from Massachusetts as a guest, wow, my guest speaker only hailed from Bramhall.

As usual, Lorraine provided a superb selection of food.

Gill, our latest recruit, delivered her Maiden welcome and apologies speech with great aplomb. Some were scattered around the world, Tony B sent in a typing error, viz, he was “towing in an E Type Jag”, which Gill smartly corrected to “touring”.

President Graham and John Thewlis and his committee thanked the club for all the effort put into last Sunday’s fantastic event.

Sam Kennedy, a former member, has joined an All Men’s club in the wilds of

Scotland ? Creiff or may be good grief! He has obviously devolved to his native country.

Treasurer Michael gave an estimated report of the total Duck Race accounts and itemised some individual collections. During this report, it came to light that Harry

(in charge of the treasure hunt) hadn’t returned his float! Yes, can one credit it, especially when the Secretary of Health plans to hand most of the NHS budget to GPs!

The overall income, including Barclays, was about £11,200 and expenses about £3K.

Thanks to Pam and Michael for counting all the cash, what a job.

Brian, Secretary, presented his nice and thin White Book with the new committees. He continued to give details of the trip in his canal boat on May18th. A hoist for Henry is arranged and security guards in case of Somali pirates on Macclesfield Canal. Sandwiches and drinks would be available according to numbers, austerity measures in action! He showed a short video of the Duck race, thanks Brian.

Pres G is getting forgetful lately in his duties and had to be reminded to propose the Loyal Toast.

Our speaker was a local retired maths teacher with a venturing spirit, David Harrison.

The title **The Big White South long ago** was about his 2 year research in Antarctica after gaining a physics degree.

The 1957 Royal Society International

researching radio echoes of the Aurora Australis in conjunction with the Jodrell Bank team. David commented with added anecdotes on the route and conditions south of the Falklands and how Captain Jacobson steered his ship safely through icebergs from the top of the crow's nest. The quality of the photos, taken with a £20 (in 1957) Voightlander camera, was outstanding. They included the unloading of equipment, provisions and oil drums during long daylight hours. They built a separate Echo hut to avoid electrical interference and the erection of a large rotating aerial using tractors and American light Otter planes. David often wandered off to take pictures of penguin and seal colonies including wonderful sunsets. He brought original

clothing and mukluk canvas boots in good condition to handle.

John Sykes gave a vote of thanks. Unfortunately some members had problems with hearing for several reasons and this raised the question of our club providing a loop system, as hearing loss is a fact of Rotarian life!

David Poizer, S of A, won a VIRTUAL Bottle of wine - this must be a first! Ian was immediately fined for forgetting it, Henry looking like a cross between Burl Ives and Ricky Tomlinson, David Rabone for stealing profiteroles and those members absent on the big day. The meeting finished a few minutes late.

David Rose.



Stroke Awareness Day

Once again, in conjunction with the Stroke Association, we held our annual Stroke Awareness Day in Bramhall village on April 9th . The sun shone on us and we were out in force!

Organised by our Community Service committee, and well supported by club members, we managed to persuade some ninety five members of the public to visit CentrePoint to have their blood pressure checked. As a result six people were referred to their own doctor and there was one urgent referral.

This exercise by club members achieved two objectives:

- To provide a valuable club service to our community, and
- To raise the club's local profile

**ADDITIONALLY, OF COURSE, WE MIGHT JUST
HAVE HELPED SAVE LIVES!!!**

Thanks are due to Chris Monkhouse, John Sykes, David Rose and Bob Batty for setting up the booths at CentrePoint, to Harry Hill who provided the nurses who did the real work (our special thanks to them) and not least to Vida for organising the whole event.

... and we shouldn't forget the hirsute Henry Barker (reception) and the dozen or so Rotarians who manned the village environs to tout for trade... who were obviously a fairly persuasive lot!

Geoff. Hunt.

BLIND RUN

Note that the **Blind Run** is now on **Monday afternoons**, with a pick up in time to arrive at **Walthew House** by **1.30 pm** and returning to pick up the passengers at **3.30pm**

Mrs Joan Goodall, 3 Poise Brook Drive, Offerton
Tel: 456 2076 Pick up 1.15 pm

Cathy Denison, 47 Chester Croft Rd., off Spath Lane East, Grove Lane, Bramhall
Tel: 439 7559 Pick up 1.15pm

Ring the above up Saturday or Sunday 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 or John Sykes know if you get stuck. Please swap with someone if you can't do your appointed run. If possible drivers should have their mobiles and other driver's number in case of any delays.

June 6	R Malabon	D Rose
June 13	D Poizer	J Sykes
June 20	B Stevenson	B Batty
June 27	D Allport	V Chattington
July 4	D Burstow	G Hunt
July 11	B Farrow	G Jackson
July 18	N Loveland	R Malabon
July 25	D Allport	B Preece
September 5	J Meeus	D Poizer
September 12	D Rose	J Sykes
September 19	B Stevenson	B Farrow
September 26	B Batty	G Jackson
October 3	G Hunt	R Malabon
October 10	N Loveland	B Preece
October 17	J Meeus	D Poizer
October 24	B Stevenson	D Rose
October 31	B Batty	J Sykes
November 7	D Allport	V Chattington
November 14	G Hunt	B Farrow
November 21	G Jackson	N Loveland

**We now only have 14 drivers. Any more volunteers?
Please contact John Sykes.**

Job rota

Date	Speaker host	Bulletin	S at A
June 8	J Thomas	M Lacey	B Stevenson
June 15	N Loveland	G Jackson	S Preece
June 22	Handover mtg.	D Allport	B Preece
June 29	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
July 6	Committees	B Batty	H Barker
July 13	S Davies	R Malabon	D Burstow
July 20	T Burch	B Bissell	V Chattington
July 27	I Dobson	B Dougal	G Fallowfield
August 3	Committees	C Egan	B Farrow
August 10	H Hill	J Fallowfield	J Knowles
August 17	G Jackson	G Hunt	M Lacey
August 24	R Malabon	N Loveland	J Meeus
August 31	No meeting: 5th Wednesday		
September 7	Committees	C Monkhouse	D Rose
September 14	A Newsome	D Poizer	D Rabone
September 21	No meeting: Charter Night September 23rd		
September 28	T Saville	J Sykes	D Rose
October 5	D Poizer	J Knowles	T Burch
October 12	T Sheppard	G Critchley	D Walker
October 19	V Chattington	G Yule	I Dobson
October 26	J Thomas	N Loveland	G Hunt
November 2	M Lacey	D Allport	B Preece
November 9	S Preece	H Barker	G Jackson
November 16	R Malabon	S Davies	D Burstow

If you cannot attend, please find a replacement!

Diary

June 8th Captain Grant Brown - Cheshire Regiment (Farrow)
June 15th Sam Harris -International Society(Hunt)
June 22nd Hand-over meeting
June 29th no meeting - 5th Wednesday

July 3rd Barbeque
July 6th Committees
July 13th Knowles-visit to Israel
July 20th Monkhouse- Arizona past and present
July 27th Lacey/Loveland

August 3rd Committees
August 10th Barry Grigg HSBC - Kilimanjaro(Bissell)
August 17th Bob and Sue Preece
August 21st Rugby event with British Legion
August 24th Rabone/Rose
August 31st No meeting- 5th Wednesday

September 7th Committees
September 14th Saville/Sykes
September 23rd Charter night
September 28th Sykes/Thewlis

Unallocated events:

- 1) Job talks (G. Fallowfield)(T. Saville)(Bob, Sue Preece)(G. Critchley)
- 2) Social Quiz (Meeus)

22/05



A very warm B & W
welcome to
Gill Critchley.

