

ROTARY CLUB OF BRAMHALL AND WOODFORD

BULLETIN

No. 12

MARCH, 1988

Editorial

With this our 12th issue a year has been completed in the life of your Bulletin and your Editor, although at times it has felt more like three, particularly when copy is short or the Presidential message is late. At others it seems only a week or two ago that, with a certain amount of apprehension, I essayed upon the first copy. I hope that you have enjoyed the first 12 and I only hope that we can continue to elevate and amuse in the years to come.

In the next couple of months you will be asked to propose and elect a new council for the forthcoming year. There will be changes in council membership this year including a vacancy for a Bulletin Editor, PRO and programme arranger. If you feel that you can do the job please arrange for your name to be on the ballot paper. Meanwhile, if you have yet to contribute to Bulletin dip your toe in the ink and get writing for the first copy of Volume 2.

The Presidential address (a moving experience)

When Henry phoned on Saturday and said to Mary in his best laconic manner "Tell him it should have been in yesterday" - I realised that even after two reminders from Editor the sands of time had run out, the press was about to roll.

It was therefore with all haste and a rush of literary inability that I put pen to paper and dash off some moving thoughts!! What a contrived way of giving a new address, whether presidential or residential - however it is true. For those of you who commute along the Bramhall Cheadle Hulme turnpike each morning and evening on your daily toils will have noticed that the presidential residence is in the process of passing from one to another - in other words 'SOLD', I hope, and it remain for the Scribes and Pharisees to complete lengthy litigation. Nonetheless the new residency will be as and from 15th March, 76 Moss Lane, Bramhall, telephone number 439 9864 for that short period before it reverts to Ack Lane - East this time - when all this power, responsibility - the heavy mantel of Presidency passes to David - your first in Vice - later this year - (He is going a bit OTT this month - Ed).

May I also take this opportunity of addressing all our members through this excellent medium on the subject of the forthcoming AGM and the need for nomination for the various offices becoming vacant. Geoff will have nomination forms at the next meeting - so please do not wait to be asked if you want to hold office then go into the hustings and make yourself heard.

In closing this month may I say how much we enjoyed Presidents night and thank all those who supported the event in body and also those in spirit (through their subscription!!) - I am also pleased to convey the thanks and appreciation of our official guests who have conveyed to me their enjoyment of the evening. Let us hope, and I am sure it will be, the first of many excellent social functions in the forthcoming Spring/Summer seasons for which The Bramhall & Woodford Club is of course well renowned by those who attend and make them successful and worthwhile events.

President John

LAST MONTH IN BRAMHALL

Our meeting of the 3rd of February is reported by a small furry creature:

The Rotary meeting of 3rd February 1988 was billed as the Lauch of the FESTIVAL 88 in Bramhall & Woodford. It was my lucky night since I was asked to look after our NSPCC guest and also to take notes to put together this report on the meeting. The last request came from Henry on the 24th February 1988 - I can't remember him asking me on the 3rd - I've fallen for another Barker con.

So if this report is a bit vague then you know why ...

The meeting was chaired by El Presidente John wearing Ken Chadwick's glasses - I think.

John's handling of the meeting has to be likened to a 'Light House in the Desert' - Flashy and brilliant at times but bloody useless.

At the meeting we had representatives from Table, NSPCC and the Messenger Newspaper Group in order to lay the foundations for the Festival.

Things didn't go entirely to plan - we can only hope that this isn't an omen for the event.

Roger Devlin of the Messenger came without a photographer - He was expecting a committee meeting. Bruce Bissel stepped in at the last minute by going home and getting his Soopah Doopah Camera which does everything.

Alec Johnston of the NSPCC gave us a talk on the work of the NSPCC in Stockport. It was a thought provoking half hour with many questions from the floor which showed that the Club was aware of the many Social problems faced by others in our Society.

Everyone involved in the Festival and the Millington Hall cat congregated in the back room for a picture session with Bruce. Bruce demonstrated why ICI Plc don't employ him as a professional photographer - don't give up your day job Bruce. We can only hope and pray that the pictures will be usable by the Messenger.

What went on for the rest of the evening I hear you say? Well, I've asked myself that question and my mind is a blank.

So I'll leave it there

A. Nony-Mouse

On the 10th of February we removed ourselves to the Davenport Park Hotel and the 63rd Charter Anniversary of the Stockport Club. It is interesting to note that in Vice President David's journey to and from this event he shared the back seat of a car with a young lady called Trudi who on several occasions licked his ear, which showed more courage than most of us possess. President John led our party and as befits his station was seated at top table. The B. & W. contingent constituted the majority of the guests and although other Clubs were represented we did not have the opportunity of discovering who and how many as no roll call was made. We were again impressed with the quality and quantity of the meal and at the service both at the bar and during the meal. Speeches were kept 'in house' and included an International Toast to the Rotary Club of Maspalomas, Gran Canaria for some reason which escaped your correspondent. It is this toast to which District Governor Jack replied in what is now his customary moving manner - this time it was a speech of history since he recalled his impoverished childhood in Stockport and the dislike he developed of the Rotary emblem which in those days adorned the smartest cafe in town, and Jack recalled his emotions as he stood outside looking in, often feeling cold and hungry and ragged, at the gentlemen lunching in, to his eyes, this palatial restaurant. It was much later that he found out that it was these same gentlemen who provided the soup kitchen which at times alleviated his hunger and also arranged other creature comforts which softened the hard life of many in the depressed days of his childhood. He then committed what he termed the two cardinal sins of the after dinner speaker - he turned his back on his audience and pinched another's speaker's toast as he raised his glass to the very emblem he hated as a child.

All other speakers were Rotarians and whilst some worthy speeches it was as ever D.G. Jack's which one remembered in the cold light of the morning after.

William Cowburn did duty on 17th February, and here, providing our typist of the month can read it (your Editor can't), it is:

President John read:-

- 1) A very appreciative and amusing letter from District Governor Jack in thanks for his invitation to a most enjoyable Presidents evening; apparently in the last 14 days he has received on behalf of Polio Plus in excess of £10,000.
- 2) Letter from Rotary Club of Trafford advising their Sportsman evening on 8th April, 1988 at £12.50 to include the presence of Trevor Bailey with M.C. being Neil Midgely. In his absence M. Drew had his name put down to attend.

3) Letter from Rotary Club of Altrincham re their Music Hall evening on 13th March, 1988 at 7.30 p.m. at Wythenshawe.

He drew our attention to the drop in membership when lunchtime clubs converted to evening meetings.

Secretary, Ron Malabon - Stood, apologised (for those absent) and sat down.

Treasurer, Vocational and Social - had nothing to report

PRO Henry was different since he had met a gorgeous young lady from the Messenger who is just waiting to get hold of his copy (re Bramhall Festival and Polio Plus and Travel Evenings). Henry felt this is all he would report.

Community Service - Noel mentioned:

1) St. Georges Day 23rd April, 1988 - Turbo chair money already raised so it was suggested that part of the proceeds be donated to the Adam Dew Trust which is to pay for the annual maintenance of the chair.

2) Bramhall Festival - we are up to date with arrangements - lady wrestlers envisaged.

Floats are being considered for Nat. West Bank, Healds and Miss Bramhall, or to sum up: Mud, Money, Milk and Miss D'Ameanour.

3) Suggested that British Rail be approached re permission to use their bridge to support a large banner.

4) Meeting with Round Table - they are to have all franchises with exception of ice cream.

Does Noel have more knowledge of the future weather problem than the computer at Bracknell?

Shortly before Bob Batty's talk, Alan Knight was observed to be on all fours under the dining table having been previously sitting next to Bulletin Editor, Henry, who explained that 'his thingy had just dropped off'.

Guest speaker was Bob Batty who talked of his times with the North West Water Authority and stepped in at short notice to do so.

Bob conducted us with good humour through the daunting waterways and waterworks of N.W.W.A. which are owned by you and me (and Bob) and stretch from North Shropshire border to North of Carlisle they being one of ten such statutory Authorities whose responsibilities govern almost everything we may contemplate doing, viz :-

Public water supply, sewage treatment and waste disposal, industrial effluent disposal, low drainage floor warning, coastal flooding, conservation etc. We are most grateful to Bob for reminding us just how much work goes on in keeping us healthy and free from water borne disease.

Committee Night on the 24th February was marked by an even lower attendance than usual but marked the return to the fold of Doug (I've been punched counterbored and drilled) Murphy and Geoff Brown whose nasal polyps has been rescued and resides in a jar by his bed. It is fed thrice daily with Threackstons Old Peculiar (and those who have drunk this brew will know why it is so named).

President John brought us greetings from Poynton, which he can find without much directing, and Nantwich which he thought was just on the other side of Alderley Edge but fortunately D.G. Jack Hewitt knew the way. On the subject of Poynton they are to debate a motion on whether or not they should advocate to the movement meeting at fortnightly rather than weekly intervals. This is to take place on 3rd March and John asked for volunteers to go with him to this meeting to observe the outcome. International Committee volunteered as one man - they have no great interest in the debate but a vested interest in flogging tickets for a certain event.

House and Membership committee are currently looking at venues for charter and Christmas meetings. Permission has been received to fix the plaque to the outside of the restaurant and Ron asked that District be informed that Millington Hall was now our official address.

Revised membership lists were issued.

Treasurer did not report since reputedly he was in Portugal. It was hoped that the funds were not with him.

Vocational Service have been forced to revise their ideas on location for the video since the Poly want a lot of money for the use of their facilities. It is now to be made at a suitable office or offices using better equipment than last time, the whole epic to be under the direction of Dennis Houston Smith, in the longest production time since 'Gone with the wind'.

A general invitation to visit the Youth Speaks final at Buxton on 11th March was issued - cost is £1.00.

The committee is also investigating the provision of a pensions luncheon club in Bramhall.

Social. Arising amid cheers Mike Drew announced that the date of the Safari supper would be 21st May. Mike went into some detail but said details would be given later. Hosting would be arranged about one month in advance. Henry Barker apologised for non attendance (recorded here to avoid confusion later).

A challenge from Poynton for indoor cricket is to be taken up on a date to be specified.

Community Service. Chairman Noel announced the receipt of two large bags of balloons received from Shell for use at the Festival. Six or so confirmed entries for floats had been received so far. Contact with local Scouts and Guides regarding bands plus others is in progress. The procession start point apparently conflicts with that of the Woodford Rose Queen but Noel says not to worry he will sort it out - he'll probably offer to kiss her. This generally leads to the entire female population for miles around fleeing in panic, whilst strong men go white. The weak ones give in!

A format for the Gentlemans Evening has been sorted out and we will be looking to sell 200 tickets for around £7.00. Stephen Day MP is to open the fete and help judge the floats. Noel also reported on the Abbeyfield Trust's desire to build a house in Bramhall. Our support was pledged but there was some doubt about the cost being met. Abbeyfield have houses in High Lane and Gatley and a further meeting is to be held in March after interested parties have visited High Lane on 13th March.

PRO, Programme etc. Your Editor expressed disappointment that the promised press release had yet to appear in the Messenger. D.G. Jack is to address us on 20th April on the subject of poetry.

Secretary. Fresh from his recent expensive rest gave details of correspondence received most of which is detailed elsewhere in this Bulletin. It was noted that he new nose seemed to impart a slight whistle to his speech which reminded your correspondent of that old saw:

The oozelum is a graceful bird
as it hops from bough to bough.
It makes its nest in the rhubarb tree
and whistles like a cow.

Nomination forms for the AGM will be published shortly.

International. Doug observed that only 11 members have so far taken tickets for the Travel Evening. Other Clubs will be visited.

The meeting closed after Sergeant at Arms John Weston had fined most twice and many thrice to the tune of £17.00.

THE HAZEL GROVE CHARTER

A number of members attended. Germaine Greer was there.

Here is its report:

4th February at Alma Lodge Hotel

Headed by El Presidente Juan a fine intrepid band of well scrubbed, clean shaven, pomaded members attended.

All enjoyed a superb meal of simple fare, tastily prepared and served, washed down by the finest wines the various kitties couldn't afford.

An extremely well organised programme followed, commemorating this 29th charter, and the speech by District Governor Jack was as ever moving in it's sincerity and depth of commitment to Rotary.

The highlight of the evening was the handing over of a handsome cheque exceeding £4,000 to District Governor Jack, being the proceeds of the joint house to house collection by both Hazel Grove and Bramhall and Woodford Clubs. At this point President John also contributed a few million words which were loudly applauded by the B. & W. contingent.

The reply on behalf of the guests was delivered by John Smith (who judging by hotel registers seems to be a much travelled man) a friend and associate of President Peter of Hazel Grove.

A most enjoyable and convivial evening.

THE PRESIDENT OF RIBI

It is with great regret that we received the news of the death of Rotarian J. Elfed Davies, President of R.I.B.I. President Elfed died peacefully at his home in Porthcawl on Monday 22nd February after a long illness. The Club stood in silent tribute at our meeting on the 24th.

As a consequence of this sad event, Vice President Roy Whitby of Ilford assumes the duties of President this year and will also continue to be President for the year commencing 1st July. Similarly Vice President elect Len J. Smith of Twickenham now assumes the mantle of Vice President and will continue to undertake these duties next year.

DOWN AMONG THE BEDPANS

An extraordinary meeting of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford took place within the cossetted atmosphere of Alexandra Hospital on Friday 5th February, 1988. Three members attended and there were thirty one apologies for absence. Those present were, Geoff Brown (nose job), Doug Murphy (plumbing) and Alan Knight who acted as a bookie's runner, taking messages from room to room like a modern day Mercury. Rotary wives were also represented.

Among various motions passed was one requiring Ron Malabon to take up residence for a week (on some simple medical pretext) and, using his newly acquired Egon Ronay skills determine whether the Alexandra could be considered a suitable venue for club nights. Judging from charges so far received the cost to each member should not exceed £60 per meeting.

The 'Nose Job', clad in fetching colour co-ordinated blue pyjamas with dressing gown (Oxfam Shops £59.99), made a pre-breakfast visit next day to 'Plumbing' who was dressed only in seven matching drip tubes, bags and drains (I.C.I. Plastics 4d per foot). A return visit was not allowed as it might frighten the nurses.

The 'Nose', now looking even more handsome and debonair is preparing to wow the sari clad Bradford ladies. The operation has also stopped him snoring which should make for quieter meetings.

Reports on the progress of the 'plumbing' job can be obtained by application to any member of Rotary wives.

A.D. Murphy

PRESIDENTS NIGHT

This auspicious (or should it be suspicious) occasion is reported by Mike Barker who was actually there:

Presidents Evening, Saturday 13th February

Stannylands Hotel

7.30 for 8.00 or was it 7.00 for 7.30 or 7.00 for 9.00

Confusion over start times resulted in half of us being late and the other half legless before the meal started. The evening was yet another triumph for Mike Drew and his loyal bank of followers who put together the whole occasion without going near the Stannylands.

Life President John (how many more Presidents Evenings will he have) proposed the toast to our guests who included D.G.

Jack Hewitt & his wife. Standing erect in a sentry box his sincerity was put to the test by a lie detector which rather tended to confirm what we have all thought for some time. Rotarian John Bissell from Poynton Club responded with a witty and entertaining speech. Much revelry followed the meal although this was brought to a rather abrupt; early conclusion to enable the D.J. to catch his last bus.

David Dewhurst and friends worked hard to make the evening a success and a good time was had by all.

NEXT MONTH IN BRAMHALL

- 2nd March Another change of programme. Regretfully. Kevin Taylor our speaker on Operation Raleigh has contracted glandular fever. Doug Murphy will therefore give his postponed talk on Oz.
- 9th March Barbara Frost will be with us but her chat will be entitled "One thing leads to another".
- 16th March Still TBA
- 23rd March Committee Night
- 30th March Our fifth Wednesday Away Day.
- See the following paragraph

GRAND SNOOKER COMPETITION

Our meeting on 30th March will be devoted to finding whose youth was most mis-spent. The venue will be the Hazel Grove Snooker Club opposite Carpet World on the Hazel Grove - Macclesfield Road. The time will be 7.30 p.m. Light meals are available. The cost including entrance and table fees will be about £5.00.

This is a normal meeting and counts for attendance. It should be a reasonably good evening.

FURTHER AFIELD

We have received notification of events from other Clubs as follows:

- Friday 11th March Rotary Club of Handforth and Heald Green.
A Bavarian Evening at Cheadle Hulme Club. Mellor Road. Tickets £3.00 each. 8.00 p.m. start. Proceeds to Polio Plus.
- Saturday 13th March: Rotary Club of Altrincham. New Heart - New Start Appeal. Victorian Music Hall at Altrincham Garrick Theatre. Start 7.30p.m Tickets £5.00
- Tuesday 15th March: District Council Meeting. Romily Forum at 7.00 p.m. Hosted by Stockport Lamplighters
- Thursday 17th March: Rotary Club of New Mills Marple & District 42 Charter Night at the Rams Head 7.15 for 7.45 p.m. Tickets £8.50. Dress: Formal.
- March onwards Rotary Club of Princess Risboro. Knock out golf. Local basis initially starting in March with Grand final at The Belfry in the Autumn. Cost £7.50.
- Friday 8th April: Rotary Club of Trafford. Sportsmans Evening Speakers Trevor Bailey and Steve Kindon. Cost: £12.50. Tyldesley Suite, Lancs County Cricket Club.
- Sunday 15th May: Rotary Club of New Mills Marple & District Sponsored walk for Polio Plus in Lyme Park. Meet Rams Head Disley. 9.30 - 11.00 a.m. Entrance fee £1.00. Bar-B-Q on completion £1.00 - £2.50.

Anyone wishing to participate in these events please contact Geoff Brown.

International Committee

Doug Murphy asks you to lend your ear and more:

Theatre Evening

The Theatre Evening which was held on 21st January realised a profit of £236.

A donation of £40 has been made to the Building Fund of the Players Dramatic Society to thank them for allowing us to participate.

It is anticipated that the success and popularity of last year's Travel Evening will be repeated in March when a further event, this time covering two venues, North America and the Greek Islands is to be staged by the International Committee

Make a note in your diaries:-

Date: Tuesday 22nd March, 1988

Venue: Deanwater Hotel, Woodford

Reception
with wine 7.30 p.m.

Food Hot Supper

All tickets collected on the night will be drawn in a raffle for a seventeen day accommodation-holiday and other prizes.

The Evening will also see the launch of our major raffle; this will be drawn at the Bramhall Festival with a first prize of £500 holiday (tickets 5 for £1).

Most people who attended last year's function enjoyed the night and appear keen to come again so get out there and sell the tickets!

The Welsh Harp on a stormy night - see attached sheet

Other features

Our intended spotlight victim did not appear at our last meeting so details will be published as soon as the Editor nobbles him. The Ladies Page is also missing and so are the ladies. Not a word have we heard and usually you can't shut them up. Our apologies to Pam Malabon for getting a misprint into her message. The Ladies will of course meet on 14th March, a Monday, at Sue Handly's home. Please let Pam or Sue know if you are attending by 7th March.

Our Thanks

Go to Karen Harris, Malcolms daughter, who typed and photocopied our bumper 11th issue. Thank you for so ably carrying out this onerous chore Karen.

The D.G's Thanks

Copies of two letters received from D.G. Jack are appended to this issue.

The Welsh Harp On A Stormy Night

Y Teulu Cymraeg Davies

Pwyso'r botwmau radio yn y modur yn ofer un bore mi glywais lais cymraeg yn amwys o gyfarwydd. Llais un o'n aelodau selog ni yr oedd un cael ei holi yn ei famiaith ar Radio Cymru mewn rhaglen diddorol rhiwbeth fel "Disciau ar Ynys Anialwch".

Fel arfer dim ond un enwogrwydd fydd yncael ei holi ond yr wythnos hwyn oedd y rhaglen mewn dwy rhan ac yn cynwys y teulu Davies.

Y cyntaf clwyson y branwd hynna Dr. Lewis Davies sydd yn byw un Durham ac sydd yn darlithwr yn entomology yn y prif-ysgol.

Nesaf awsom draw i Bramhall lle clywon Sid yn cadwy holwr yn gwrando gyda syndod pan dweud ei hanes, yn dechreu yn Ysgol John Bright yn Llandudno ac wedyn ymlaen i'r HMS Conway ac pellach ymlaen at y Morwyrraith Diwyddianol tuag at diwedd y rhyfel diweddar.

Oedd yn diddorol clywed ei hanes yn dechreu gweithio fel gweithwr cyffredinol yn yard goed yn Widnes yn cael ei ddilyn gan hyrwyddiach cyflym fel traveiliwr ac yn pellach fel rhoelwr traveillwr ar lannau Merswy ac yn Sir Amwythig.

Nesaf clywon ei hanes fel cynyrchwr yn y masnach "G.O.E.H." yn Manceinion tan ei ymddiswyddo rhiw ddyflwydd yn ôl.

Y'r oeddwn yn medru dychmygy yr holwr yn eistedd yn edrych at y meic hefoi geg yn llawn agored pen aeth Sid ymlaen i slarad am ei hamdden yn rychwantu o hed-fan awyrlennau, i golf, ymcymysgied gyda trippiau hwylio, a'r llong bleser rhiw Swissddyn, fel mate i cadbenaidd ei fab.

I orffen doeth a ni i fynny awser gyda ei diddordeb diweddar yn cadw llygad ar troseddwr leuac yn gwneud gwaith cymdeithasol.

Doeth yr ail rhaglen yn y cyfres am y teulu rhiw wythnos ymlaen o'r cartref yn Penmaenmawr pan cawsom wrando ar y trydydd brawd, Phillip, yn awr wedi ei ymddiswyddo ar ôl gweithio fel tirfesyrydd gyda awdyrdodau lleol yn gogledd Cymru, yn siarad am ei diddordeb fel llywdd y Cymdeithas Hanes Lleol, yn dilyn yn ol traed ei dad a fyw i'r henoed o cant ag un.

(Dim cyfrifoldeb am purdeb neu cynnwys acedemaidd y'r adroddiad!!!).

The next Bulletin

The first of our Second year. Copy by Friday 25th March please.

DISTRICT 105

ROTARY
international
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND



'Woodstock'
54 Valley Road
Bramhall
Cheshire
SK7 2NL

February 5th 1988

Rotarian John Meeus.
President of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford.

Dear John,

I write to express my appreciation and thanks for the magnificent cheque for the Polio Plus Campaign, which was presented to me last night, the result of a tremendous effort by the Members of 'Hazel Grove' and yourselves.

During this year, as I travel around visiting the Clubs of our District, my heart is warmed, not only by the vast amount of money that is being raised, but also by the spirit of friendship, goodwill, and co-operation that has grown between Rotarians individually, and their respective Clubs.

In working for the good of others we are undoubtedly reaping a benefit to our District as a whole, and I count myself very fortunate, and I am more than a little proud, that this should be happening in 'my year'.

Thank you all once again for making my task such an easy and enjoyable one.

Yours in Rotary.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack" followed by a flourish.

Jack Hewitt.

Governor of Rotary District 105.

DISTRICT 105

ROTARY
international
IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND



54 Valley Road
Bramhall
Cheshire
SK7 2NL
Tel. 061 439 3185

February 14th 1988

Rotarian John Meeus.
President of the Rotary Club of Bramhall and Woodford.

Dear John

I write to express my thanks to you, and to all the members of your Club, for allowing Madge and myself to be with you last night to help you celebrate your President's Evening.

It was a splendid occasion when everyone was friendly, the meal was excellent, and there was enjoyment from start to finish. That your Members went to so much trouble to build the 'sentry box', and 'take the Micky' out of you shows the regard and affection in which you personally are held.

It was an evening that Mary and yourself will long remember, an occasion when you had your friends all around you, and Madge and I count ourselves fortunate to be numbered amongst them.

Thank you all once again for your friendship and hospitality.

Yours in Rotary

Jack

Jack Hewitt.

Governor of Rotary District 105