



# The Bulletin



## News from THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEWES

July 2009

Editor : Mark Barrett

### JACKSON'S JOTTINGS



### NEW ROTARY YEAR

Yes – it's that time of year again ! It seems a lifetime since some of us wafted on a hot Mediterranean air to Alexandria and its seductive delights (or so I assume – unfortunately work commitments prevented me from joining the tour – maybe next time ?). George has retired after a very successful and effective year and he can now put the cutlery away for a while and relax in one of his many armchairs.

Welcome to our new President, Alan, who brings fire and enthusiasm, not always appreciated enough in our club. He ushers in a change of Editor of the Bulletin – the latest in a 'succession' of lawyers it seems – usually a collective name for lawyers is not something I can publish in a family newspaper like this.

Ed.

Alan has asked to say a few words:

A busy month at work, and a busy month for Rotary, and I'm about ready for my family holiday. Linda, Chloe and Phoebe are packing as I write and we leave for Cornwall this afternoon the 23<sup>rd</sup> July.

I soon found out that the hardest part of my Presidency is likely to be at the beginning, with the Council to assemble, Fellowship Weekend 2010 to sort out, Summer Party to arrange, Golf Day to help with, and countless other queries and issues to deal with, though I hasten to add, not without help.

However working in great teams has always been a pleasure, either for business or for social purposes, and I now have a super team around me. With pretty much everything in place I'm ready to enjoy the year and ensure that the Club does too.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you all again either at the Golf Day or on the 13<sup>th</sup> August.

## Speakers

### ISAMBARD KINGDOM BRUNEL

Perhaps the most famous engineer in history and voted the second greatest Englishman of all time after Winston Churchill, I K Brunel is revered amongst engineers the world over. No less a person than the District Governor Elect visited the Club on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> to give a brief history of his life. Someone who worked 20 hours a day and refused to let anyone visiting his office sit down – there was no chair for precisely this reason and in any event they did not need one as they were not there long enough ! Your editor needs to change his working habits – he is much too soft.

Brunel's many achievements are well known and several were mentioned by the speaker, Duncan Anderson, including the Clifton Suspension Bridge which was completed after Isambard's death, the SS Great Britain, the Maidenhead Bridge and many others.

Perhaps it is less well known that Isambard led from the front. When work started on Clifton Suspension Bridge he went across in the basket which had been strung across the gorge on a 1,000 foot wrought iron rod. This was to be used to transfer materials from one side to the other before the main suspension wires were fitted.

On the first day it was used, the rod kinked and Isambard insisted that he should be the one to free it. Slung under the wire in the small basket he wanted only his own life to be at risk as it was his design and he wanted no other to die if the wire or the basket failed. Part the way across the basket became stuck and its ropes had become entangled in the masts of a passing ship below. He swung up onto the rod, making his way hand over hand along the rod to free it, hundreds of feet above the river below. How many engineers are

prepared test their own designs in that way now ?

His father, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, is regarded by some engineers as a great a practitioner as his more famous son and his designs were vital to the military success of this country against Napoleon. His famous tunnel at Rotherhythe engaged him and Isambard for many years and ultimately became part of the London Underground. Marc, of course, came from Normandy and one of his descendants is none other than your Editor.

Jim Hatfield, he of the great machines of that age, the traction engine (and very slow and dirty it is to sit behind in a traffic queue), gave the vote of thanks – most appropriate for one whose tastes in engineering reside in the same century as Isambard and whose knowledge of the mechanical marvels of that age is unsurpassed !

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## THE PRINCESS OF WALES' ROYAL REGIMENT

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On Thursday 16 July the Regiment, amalgamated from, amongst others over the years, the Queens and the Royal Sussex, returned to their HQ town of Lewes. A parade and inspection outside the Town Hall was followed by a march down the High Street, into Cliffe and back up again.



The normal meeting time was delayed until 1.20pm to allow time for members to witness the occasion and fight their way up the High Street to the White Hart. Never has your Editor seen so many well wishers at such an event, having been present at earlier parades some years ago when the Queen's Regiment

exercised their right to march through the town with bayonets fixed.

Public support was overwhelming and it is to be hoped that the soldiers collected a good sum for the Army benevolent fund. The streets were thick with people and there was much cheering and clapping as that parade passed by. Many flags, thoughtfully provided by street vendors who appeared out of nowhere, were in evidence and there was a strong groundswell of support for the troops and the job they were doing.

The balcony of the White Hart has, of course, a well known sign indicating that no one should use it because it may not be safe. It is also well known that everyone ignores this sign. Coming up the High Street and being confronted with a significant number of well covered Rotarians standing on it instils a sense of resigned sympathy for Cliff and his attempts to avoid an insurance claim.

Aside from this distraction the event was an instinctive and emotional one, generating one of the largest crowds ever seen in recent times, aside from Bonfire Night, and which reconnects people with a profession which has for too long been unseen and unmarked in the local community.

## **CLUB ATTENDANCE RECORD**

### **ATTENDANCE FIGURES (IN PERCENTAGES)**

#### **JANUARY-JUNE**

		<u>2009</u> <u>6 mths</u>	<u>08/09</u> <u>year</u>			<u>2009</u> <u>6 mths</u>	<u>08/09</u> <u>year</u>
Mark	BARRETT	64	68	Bryan	McCARTHY	84	76
Robert	BARRETT	48	54	Cyril	MANN	88	82
Ned	BINKS	84	86	Nigel	MASON	52	60
Tim	BIRCH	76	82	Graham	MIDMER	64	64
Ken	BRIDGER	92	92	Peter	OLDFIELD	76	88
Marcus	BROWN	80	86	Tony	POWELL	72	78
John	BURFOOT	76	80	Richard	POWELL	92	90
Roy	BUTLER	76	74	Peter	PRATT	80	78
David	CLARKE	76	72	Ashley	PRICE	92	88
Michael	CRAGGS	56	56	John	RAWLINS	80	84
John	CRAWFORD	64	64	Derek	RIMMER	80	80
Julian	DAWSON	76	70	Paul	ROWLAND	76	72
George	ELHINN	88	96	Martin	SAVILL	not included	
Tim	FOGDEN	72	76	Tom	SHOLL	76	82
Gordon	FOWLIE	84	78	Rudi	SIMMONDS	76	78
Peter	GARTRELL	88	88	Arthur	SNELL	80	82
Donald	GOODING	84	86	Peter	SPENCE	76	72
Reg	GOODMAN	72	70	Michael	SWORD-DANIELS	68	68
Jim	HATFIELD	56	70	Graham	THOMPSON	56	62
Patrick	HOWARD	80	90	David	THRUSH	excused attendance	
Alan	JACKSON	64	64	Colin	TOMPSETT	76	84
Mike	KEEPING	40	44	Roger	WEBB	excused attendance	
Graham	KIRKER	64	65	Bob	WILKINS	44	62
John	LAWRENSON	68	74	John	WILSON	84	86
Ian	LOUGHBOROUGH	72	74	Tony	WOOLNOUGH	76	66

**Figures based on attending lunch/evening meetings, visits to other Clubs and approved leave of absence as, and only if, notified to the Attendance Officer**

Above are set out the individual attendance figures kindly provided by John Wilson for the period of 6 months from January to June 2009 compared with the 6 month period from January 08 to June 08. These figures are published in accordance with Clause 4(d)(iv) of the Standard RIBI Club By-laws.

## **Committee Membership for 2009/10**

**is set out below**

<b>Membership Services</b>	<b>Community Service</b>	<b>Foundation</b>	<b>Membership</b>
J Dawson	G Kirker	R Powell	A Powell
P Birkbeck	J Burfoot	M Barrett	T Fogden
I Loughborough	R Butler	R Barrett	J Hatfield
C Mann	M Craggs	T Birch	P Howard
N Mason	G Fowlie	J Dawson	R Webb
P Newman	R Goodman	T Fogden	
A Price	B McCarthy	M Keeping	
J Rawlins	P Pratt	P Newman	
D Rimmer	A Snell	D Rimmer	
P Rowland	J Wilson	C Tompsett	
T Sholl	A Woolnough		
A Woolnough			

<b>International</b>	<b>Youth Activities</b>	<b>Skittles</b>
M Brown	N Binks	D Clarke
P Birkbeck	K Bridger	J Burfoot
D Gooding	D Clarke	J Crawford
P Howard	J Crawford	J Lawrenson
C Mann	J Lawrenson	B McCarthy
P Oldfield	I Loughborough	G Midmer
P Spence	G Midmer	P Oldfield
M Sword-Daniels	P Spence	P Pratt
G Thompson	D Thrush	J Rawlins
	R Wilkins	P Rowland
		R Wilkins
		J Wilson
		A Woolnough

## **NEWS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES**

At the beginning of the new Rotary Year, there is news from the new Committees about their forthcoming programmes and objectives:

### **COUNCIL**

The first Council meeting of the year was held on 15th July in The Sheriff's Room at The White Hart Hotel. Not only did the venue provide more legroom than hitherto at The Southdown Club but also President Alan provided sandwiches – a welcome innovation.

It was quite a lengthy meeting, even without Treasurer Peter present, with everyone fired up with start-of-term enthusiasm. Committee reports will no doubt feature elsewhere in this Bulletin, so I will confine myself to other matters.

It is hoped that the proposed use of a lapel microphone by speakers addressing the Club will be finalised after the August Council meeting. PP Peter Oldfield has kindly offered to take on the guardianship of the Club's asset register, including itemised valuations for insurance purposes. Attendance figures supplied by the Acting Attendance Officer, PP John Wilson, are shown separately. It was reported that, at the District Council meeting on 8th July, a Notice of Motion to adopt new District Standing Orders was carried (although, at the time of writing, a valiant rearguard action is being fought by one of our members – no prizes for guessing who!). A second Notice of Motion, to return Interact to the Youth Opportunities programme instead of Membership Services, was narrowly lost. And finally President Alan announced that a Summer Party will be held at Shelleys Hotel on Sunday 16th August.

### **Foundation Committee**

The Foundation Committee met on Tuesday 07 July at Julian Dawson's Auction rooms. There being no news on Ambassadorial Scholars or Group Study Exchange the committee confined itself to discussing the

raising of revenue for the Polio Plus and Foundation Charities.

It was agreed to ask the club to continue with two frugal lunches, the revenue for this going to Polio Plus.

The committee plans to continue to sell Christmas cards (Colin Tompsett) the sweepstakes (Tim Birch) and heads and tails (Patrick Newman). The revenue from heads and tails will be greater this year due to the cost increasing from 50p to £1.00.

We also plan to continue with Songs From The Shows in conjunction with the Lewes Operatic and Richard Powell has spoken to the Society. We are currently waiting for them to come back to us. He has also booked Ringmer village hall on Friday 12 March for the Quiz night.

We are currently looking at other possible projects hopefully for the autumn. The committee will consider all this further when we next meet on Wed. 02 Sept at Julian's show rooms.

### **Membership Development Committee**

Concern was expressed by the Committee that, although current membership is numerically healthy, with so many members having retired from active employment, the Club's future is in doubt.

People who are leaders of business, the professions, local government and other organisations are needed and, to this end, a letter from the Committee is to be sent to all members encouraging them to seek out and invite potential Rotarians to become members, with a view to the Club having a greater number of active, as well as retired people, from the business community.

This action was approved by Club Council.

### **Youth Activities Committee**

#### Martha Possegger

The young squash player we have sponsored, is booked to speak to the Club on Thursday 3 September. Ian Braid, the regional chairman of Sportsaid also hopes to be with us.

### The Schools' Concert

This will be on Thursday 19 November in the Town Hall.

### Youth Speaks

This will take place on Monday 7 December at the South Downs College.

### Rotary Day 23 February 2010 & the Thanks for Life project

Our school contacts have expressed general interest in being involved in the polio fundraising proposed in the Thanks for Life project but they need to know exactly what we are asking them to do. We have therefore suggested to the President that:

- a) we should have a small Club working group (from Youth/International/Foundation) to explore what our Club might do to support the Thanks for Life project;
- b) we should also liaise with the other two Lewes Clubs, to avoid competing events & see if co-operation is possible;
- c) when the general plan is known, the Youth Committee will call a meeting of its school contacts to consider in detail how polio fundraising should be attempted in the Lewes schools/colleges.

## **Community Services**

The new committee have met for the first time and despite some confusion about the date we had a good meeting.

The Christmas Tree of Goodwill collection will take place from 8 December to Wednesday 23 December. The food voucher distribution was thought to be a very worthwhile cause allowing poorer families in the Lewes area to enjoy a Christmas which might otherwise be impossible for them.

We will look at our own version of giving handicapped children a day out locally possibly, with Nigel's agreement to Raystede.

We have a deluge of possible community visits including Harveys, RNLI, the Coastguard, Brighton's sewers (form a queue!) a Power Station, the local Incinerator and South Downs College

We are looking forward to another very active year.

## **Skittles Committee**

The skittles tournament is now over for another year and the committee and all those helping deserve a few months R & R.

Despite concern during the lead-up period that teams were not registering in the numbers hoped for and expected after the improved publicity, there was a final rush so that we ended up with 143 teams. This was less than last year's figure but still well above the average for recent years. The weather was exceptional so we got through the week without any rain interruptions. The burgers and beer tend were kept busy.

After initially thinking we would stick to the old format of 16 lanes, there was surprising demand for tickets for Tuesday, so that it was decided to put out our full range of 18 skittle lanes. That allowed us to invite more teams back for Saturday Finals night. The extra lanes were a success. Despite squeezing the gaps so that we got the extra lanes into just over the old lane space, the arena was nicely crowded with 244 competitors. All the leading teams invited were unusually enthusiastic about coming back and Finals night had a great atmosphere. Cyril was quite hoarse on the P.A, but perhaps that was his karaoke Des O'Connor impression from earlier in the week.

The range of new winners prizes was well received. One £50 prize was donated to a charity by the winners. Peculiarly, the Harvey's polypin beer voucher was handed back by the wining pub team, so any takers?

It is too early to publish the financial results, but with known takings and if other donations are of a similar order as last year, the gross income should be in the order of £7,000. Expenses will be down because we do not have the electrical set up costs anymore. That figure does not include income made by other organisations at the event.

It is also too early to review what we ought to do next year to continue recent improvements. The committee will be meeting shortly.

Thanks to all the club members who have volunteered for site building and for duties

during the week. The only point I would make now is that we need our fitter members to get involved in the setting up so others can retire. What are Sunday mornings for if not a bit of humping around?

### International Committee

Here is our initial stab at approved events for the coming year:

- Autumn: University of Sussex student evening.
- Autumn Walk: Pat Howard to organise a route with pub lunch at the end.
- February Bridge Evening
- International Dinner: Date to be agreed (probably in January), at Abergavenny House.
- Wine and Cheese parties to be held in the Autumn and Spring.

Our big project will be to start the process of obtaining a matching grant for a water based project in Uganda following the visit of their Assistant District Governor Lenny Kebirungi. We propose to work with the other Lewes clubs and then apply for matched funding from the district. As I understand it we have to ask the Uganda club to pick a project and they have to contribute 20% of the required funding. We then find 80% but both amounts are matched. I have written to Lenny and received an enthusiastic response. This was taken to Council and we have approval to move to the next stage which will be asking Uganda for a specific proposal. The window of opportunity for obtaining funding is between July and September and so we will be doing the ground work for next year.

In terms of our International visits Herenthals is on track and we will try one last time to re-establish relations with St. Valery. Failing that we will try to partner with another club in France.

Our nominated charity for 2009/10 will be Wateraid.

### CLUB ATTENDANCE RECORD - GENERAL

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
January	75%	73.5%
February	74	68
March	73	83.5
April	72	78
May	71	69
June	70	71
<b>Average</b>	<b>72.5%</b>	<b>73.8%</b>

John has commented that members have only notified him of the following visits to other Clubs:

Lewes Castle, Ambleside and the Rotary Convention.

## PROGRAMME AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday	6 Aug	Regular Meeting <i>Speaker: Bill Paine – Polio Plus</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Ned Binks Mike Keeping John Lawrenson
Wednesday	12 Aug	<b>Council Meeting</b>		
Thursday	13 Aug	Regular Meeting <i>Karen Calnan, ES Fire &amp; Rescue</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Peter Boyse Ian Loughborough Nigel Mason
Thursday	20 Aug	Business Meeting	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	John Burfoot Brian McCarthy Patrick Newman
Thursday	27 Aug	Regular Meeting <i>Visit of DG David Hodge</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Roy Butler Richard Powell Peter Pratt
Thursday	3 Sept	Regular Meeting <i>Martha Possegger – Squash/Sports Aid</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Tim Fogden John Rawlins Paul Rowland
Thursday	10 Sept	Regular Meeting <i>Speaker - to be arranged</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Gordon Fowlie Michael Sword-Daniels Colin Tomsett
Wednesday	16 Sept	<b>Council Meeting</b>		
Thursday	17 Sept	Regular Meeting <i>Speaker - to be arranged</i>	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Donald Gooding Roger Webb Bob Wilkins
Thursday	24 Sept	Business Meeting	<i>Duty PP</i> <i>Duty Rotarians</i>	Reg Goodman Ashley Price Tony Woolnough

And don't forget.....

If you are unable to attend a Thursday Meeting, please make a note in the Blue Attendance Book or advise the Secretary (Peter Gartrell). If you need to be absent at very short notice, please phone The White Hart direct (01273 476694). Duty Rotarians should please be at The White Hart by 12.30pm but if you are unable to undertake your duty, please arrange a substitute and advise the Secretary.