41Chub

Magazine of The Association of Ex-Tablers' Clubs 'May the hinges of friendship never rust'

No. 150 SPRING 2005





Lichfield 41 Club celebrated their 50th Charter on 12th January

From left to right: President Les Edwards, Past President Gordon Macnab, Editor Andrew Stanton, Lichfield Chairman Mike Andrew, Organising Secretary Ian Dempster, Sheriff of Lichfield John Rackham, Past President Malcolm Banks, Deputy Mayor of Lichfield Mrs Norma Bacon, MC Barrie Hopkins and Chairman of Lichfield District Council Tony Hill MBE.

Contents

- 2. Editorial and Councillor Information
- 3. The President's Page
- 4. Vice-President and Conference Officer
- 5. Secretary's News, R T B I President Immediate Past President
- 6. International Officer's Report
- 7. Regions 1, 2 and Londonderry 41
- 8. Regions 3, 5 and Cwmbran 41
- 9. Past Presidents capers
- 10. Regions 6, 7 and 15

- 11. Region 8, Alsager 41 and Runcorn & District 41
- 12. Region 9, Wimbledon 41 and Wimbledon Womblers –XRT
- 13. Regions 11, 12 and National Sales
- 14. Region 13 and Henleaze 41
- 15. Regions 16, 19 and Monifieth 41
- 16. Letters to the Membership Officer
- 17. Obituaries
- 18 and 19. Small Ads
- 20. Reminiscences of a RNLI volunteer

of Lichfield John Rackham, appeal to 41 Clubs all or

President Les Edwards' appeal to 41 Clubs all over the Association for donations towards the Tsunami Disaster Fund has raised a sum in excess of

STOP PRESS

£9000 at 15.01.05

with many Clubs sending in cheques of £100 and more. Please ensure your Club donates.

From time to time, articles are published that may include references to one or more professional or commercial organizations. Neither the Editor nor the Association in general accepts any responsibility for the content of such Articles and recommends that readers always seek advice or obtain alternative quotations for any goods or services that may be referred to.

For further information, please visit our web site: www.41club.org

Editorial



There are several events this coming year which which deserve your attention.

First is the Annual General Meeting to be held on Saturday 9th April 2005 at the Bournemouth Conference Centre. This is where the 'BIG ISSUE' (open membership) will be debated and where your Club's vote or proxy vote is

most important. So why not try and come along, if not for the three day party, come to the AGM and the final night party with 'The Searchers'? 33% of our membership lives within 2 hours of Bournemouth.

Next is the Diamond Jubilee Year, starting with the Celebratory Service and Luncheon where Round Tables' torch the 'Friendship Flame' will be handed to our new President Mike Fitchett and he will arrange for it to visit every Region of 41 Club during his year.

Contributions are still needed for the Diamond Jubilee Book. Our Honorary Archivist will be pleased to receive them, particularly from older members. Contact archivist@41club.org

Lastly I have to tell you that I have decided that I will not be standing for Editor this year. I have achieved my goals by getting the magazine posted direct to you and reducing the budget. I have done the job for four years and could not do it for more than six. So come on someone, I didn't know anything about publishing and maybe some think I still don't! If you think you might be interested, GIVE IT A GO, it is rewarding and you get to meet new friends everywhere.

Thank you for all your contributions, without them it would have all looked rather empty.

Andrew Stanton Editor

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The President's Page

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

As we begin the short run up to the Bournemouth AGM may I take this opportunity to thank once again all those Clubs who have provided hospitality and made me so welcome during the course of my visits over the past eight months. It is a huge privilege to hold the office of National President and I hope I have justified the confidence you have placed in me.

As I am sure you are aware the 'big issue' to be debated at Bournemouth is membership, more specifically the National Council proposal, to allow individual Clubs discretion to offer membership to non ex Tablers. Of course I am only too aware of the sensitivity of this and have provided a separate statement in this issue on the subject.

The Bournemouth team have been working long and hard planning a superb Conference on YOUR behalf and I am particularly looking forward to The Searchers who top the entertainment bill. Have you registered yet? Good news – it's not too late. A great weekend of fun, friendship and fellowship is in prospect. Seaside Conferences are always special and I am sure that Bournemouth will be no exception.



May I also recommend a visit to our website. Our Webmaster David Hewitt deserves enormous credit for all his hard work. The web is, of course, available for use by us all – if you have a special Anniversary function or event coming up why not publicise it – just contact David I am sure he will be pleased to help.

The website also provides information upon the forthcoming publication '60 Years of 41 Club'. May I make a final appeal for contributions, I know that our author, Alan Wilkinson, will be pleased to receive stories, photos, and anecdotes as to your special memories of 41 Club over the years.

One final reminder and date for your diary **DIAMOND JUBILEE LUNCH** Saturday 21st. May at the ICC in Birmingham. We have been incredibly fortunate to secure the services of Sir John Stevens, the imminently retiring Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police as our principal guest speaker. An exceptional and truly memorable occasion is assured – I hope for your support.

To close with some good news, I am hearing from Table that their membership numbers have now stabilised (at circa 10,000 members). RTBI President Adrian is determined to build on this, but of course it is down to us to do our bit. Please do your very best to support Table wherever possible. I know that offers to help with fundraising activities, joining Table at social events will be welcomed. Let's work together and play our part in building up Table once again, which of course will be of indirect benefit to us in 41 Club and our future long-term prosperity.

Gail joins me in wishing everyone a very happy, prosperous and successful new 41 Club year and our thanks again for the memories, which will always endure.

Les Edwards

01462 421124 president@41club.org

MEMBERSHIP - THE 'BIG ISSUE'

After almost four years discussion, debate and consultation with Clubs your Council and Executive decided at the October Council Meeting to propose a rule change, for consideration at the Bournemouth AGM. If passed the proposal would empower individual Clubs, at their complete discretion, to offer membership of 41 Club to suitable candidates who have not previously been members of Round Table. Clearly such a fundamental change to our whole ethos will demand the most careful consideration and I very much hope to welcome a record number of 41ers to the Bournemouth AGM to join in and to contribute to what I hope will be a full, fair and open minded debate. I would like to take this opportunity to re-assure members that the Council and Executive have given this issue the most careful consideration before deciding to recommend the proposition for approval.

The decision was greatly influenced by the substantial number of Clubs (some 350 in total) who sadly do not enjoy the benefit of a feeder Table. Furthermore although Table numbers have now stabilised unfortunately there is evidence that the five-year age extension to Table has substantially eroded the hitherto natural progression between Round Table and 41 Club.

I would wish to emphasise that it is not the aim of Council that 41 Club should become a service Club in opposition to perhaps Rotary or Lions, however a significant number of respondents to our surveys have expressed the opinion that Clubs with dwindling membership should, perhaps employing entrance criteria similar to Table, at least have the opportunity to widen membership, should this be the majority view of current Club members.

I would particularly stress that I very much respect the views of those who hold opposite opinions, however I have every confidence that should this rule change be agreed an accommodation in the traditional spirit of friendship and fellowship which has always existed within 41 Club will be achieved between those Clubs and members on both sides of the debate.

Les Edwards

01462 421124 president@41club.org



L to R Membership & Extension Officer, Ian Mackenzie, Honorary Archivist, David Addison, President Les, Secretary, Martin Green and Treasurer Arnold Allen on parade on Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph.

Vice-President Mike has his say

He was conspicuous by his absence last issue;

I missed out his report!

It was good to get back on the road again after the summer and to meet up with members who are looking forward to next year almost as much as I am. The Vice President's annual invitation to Newton Abbot 41 Club arrived and I was particularly pleased to attend their 30th Charter celebrations; my thanks go to their Chairman Nigel Small, Secretary Mike Morrisroe and our National Sales Officer Keith Howard and his wife Mary for their kind hospitality. I am particularly looking forward to returning next year to their annual BBQ. The 60th Celebrations got underway on October 15th when I visited Ely for their 60th Year Celebratory

Dinner and was greeted by their Chairman John Thorogood,

his father Dennis and son Jack who celebrated his eighteenth birthday with us; although I believe his real party was the following night. It was also my privilege to be able to present not just one but two special awards to two members of Ely for their exemplary service to the club. Both Dave Pasek and Keith Dolby were extremely pleased as you can see, and it really did put the finish to a really super evening. On to Glossop for their Charter Dinner

at the end of October, I am not sure which Charter it was; but we all had a good night and it was good to see both the Table Chairman and the Area Chairman in attendance.

My thanks go to Chairman Graham James and Stuart Macklin who organised the

evening with precision. Also thanks go to Rod Oakford and his wife who entertained us in Florida a couple of weeks later. In November I was back on my old home turf with Witney 41 Club at the invitation of Chairman Steve Bentall. It was good to see a number of old friends particularly Isis Area 41 Chairman Andrew Cooper, Mark Baker and Jeremy Russ also from Isis and I can report that Witney is in good spirit and none of them look a day older than they are! On to Thame Utd Football Club the night after with my old friend





Spencer Clubb who drove me the scenic way; possibly to ensure that I don't ask him to drive next year? Where we met up with Thame 41 Chairman Peter Cole who has battled courageously against cancer and chaired a super evening with one of his old Music Quiz evenings; best wishes to you Peter and your colleagues in Thame. The week finished off at Balliol College Oxford for another Region 8 Dinner which was a thoroughly entertaining evening with National President Les keeping us amused despite leaving his prepared speech at home; I look forward to next year and I am sure Region 8 National Councillor John Livingston and his colleagues will surprise us yet again. My thanks go to those who purchased Diamond Jubilee badges from be and were kind with their donations.

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

Diamond Jubilee Years Starts in Bournemouth next April and I hope to meet as many of you as I can to join with me in starting what I am sure will be a memorable year for us all. At their Conference in Glasgow next May, I am due to be presented by RTBI a 'Friendship Torch' to mark the fellowship and friendship we all enjoy after Round Table; this will be blessed at the service in Birmingham Cathedral on May 21st ahead of our Celebratory Lunch. A very special day for us all to enjoy and an enormous opportunity for us all to meet up with old friends and make some new ones too; so I would urge you to book now and maybe make up a table or two from your club as we look back over the last sixty years. At the lunch, I will be sending the 'Friendship Torch on its way around all nineteen of our regions and I have asked all of our National Councillors to join with their local Areas of RTBI and organise at least one event together to mark our Diamond Jubilee Year and raise some money for my chosen charity next year; 'Round Table Children's Wish' or RTCW as it is known today. This time we will be asking for help from Round Table! The Torch will complete its journey in Bristol at the 2006 AGM and then be returned to Marchesi House to be kept with the rest of 41 Club's regalia. The Vice President of RTBI Gary Smith and I will be doing all we can to promote our two Associations next year and encourage 'working together' to ensure we all have a future to look forward to; make sure you do not miss this huge opportunity to make your contribution to both RTBI and 41 Club.

For those of you thinking of standing for office next year; may I urge you to do so, I can promise you that you will not regret the decision and you will be welcome to join the 'other club' at National and have input into how your Association is being run. And finally, a special message to all the current Vice Chairmen; please make sure you book your ticket for the Lunch now as it would be

great shame for you and your club not to be represented at this very special event.

Best wishes to you all for 2005 from Diane and I and we look forward to meeting as many of you as we can over the months ahead.

Mike Fitchett vice-president@41club.org 01600719008

Conference Officer's Report

Plans are now at an advanced stage for the 41 Club Conference which is to be held in Bournemouth on 7th -10th April 2005. There will be a 3 day party with a three hour meeting. Richard and his team have worked extremely hard over the last few months to make sure Bournemouth will be a conference to remember. The hotels are first class, the venues are excellent and the fellowship outstanding.

How do I get in on the act?

Just pick up a form from me on 01332 872485, Richard Mathews 01258 821214 or go online www.41club.org This year the theme of the final night party is 'END OF THE PIER' and the music will be supplied by the Searchers. So come along, meet old and make new friends at this extravaganza.

My thanks must go to the Bournemouth and other conference committees who put in an enormous amount of work over very many months so we can enjoy this special weekend in the 41 club calendar, they need and deserve our support.

Tim Smith conference@41club.org 01332 872485



Secretary's News

At the time of writing I am in the middle of the build-up for the AGM. This is my first AGM as National Secretary and it looks to be one which hopefully will cause great interest. Firstly we will be debating the Membership Issue and voting on National Councils Recommendation. Also there are a couple of minor rule changes to resolve and, until the postman makes his final trip to my letterbox on the 31st of January, who knows what else will be on the agenda as a proposition.

The main change in Bournemouth is that this will be the first AGM where clubs can use the Proxy Voting System. If you are unable to send a voting delegate to the AGM – then you can appoint another delegate to vote on your behalf. Full details on the Proxy Voting System are in the handbook and on the website. Essentially a 'Proxy Voter' must be a member of a constituent club and cannot be the voter for his own or any other club. Also I must know the details of the Proxy Voter IN WRITING by three days before the

AGM. Prior to the AGM I will publish a list of Clubs who are registered for the Conference so if you need a Proxy Voter you can

contact the club to seek help.



Recycled Secretary??

Sadly at the AGM we will also say goodbye to quite a large number of familiar faces and friends on the National Council. Being on the National Council is great fun – and I would encourage you to stand for office if you can. Again that magic 31st January is the closing date for nominations. If you need a Nomination Form please contact me. As I do in every edition of this magazine, can I remind you to update your club records on the Club Administration System if any changes occur? If you need any help with this please either call me, or Sue Hart at Marchesi House, and we will be pleased to help. Finally can I wish you a very Happy New Year.

Martin Green 01235 529257 secretary@41club.org

RTBI President

As the mathematicians amongst you will have worked out from the figures for membership the average size of an individual Round Table is between 12 and 13 members. This means that many clubs will actually have less than 10 members. It is these small clubs that really benefit in having support from their local 41 clubs. Being able to organise joint events that have a reasonable turnout makes it easier for that Round Table to bring prospective members to the event and let them experience the fun and fellowship that exists within the organisation. We are working with 41 club in a number of areas to see how both organisations can benefit from closer links.

41 Club is at present debating the issue of so-called "open membership". I look forward to hearing this debate at your National Conference. My only experience of the impact of "open membership" has been with Ladies Circle. At my own Table (Huntingdon 410) we have introduced new members who have been husbands of new circlers. Open membership for Ladies Circle gave us an opportunity to benefit from their membership activities.

I have to close now, as I am off to support Huntingdon's carol float. Our 41 club give us a lot of support for this annual activity by providing both drivers for the float and also playing Father Christmas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank 41 Club for its past support of Round Table and to wish all of you a happy and prosperous new year.

Adrian Gibbons 01480 811519

adrian.gibbons@dial.pipex.com



Immediate Past President

I am very pleased to announce that Sir John Stevens the Commissioner of The Metropolitan Police has agreed to be our main speaker at the Diamond Jubilee Lunch on Saturday 21 May 2005 in Birmingham. Sir John has had a varied and distinguished 42 years career as a serving Police Officer and 41Club are delighted and privileged to have secured such a high profile speaker for this prestigious event. We have now around 250 bookings with a maximum limit of 500 so can I please urge you to send in your booking form if you have not already done so. More information and booking forms can be obtained from the www.41club.org/diamondjubileelunch
As chairman of the Forward Planning Committee I will be

As chairman of the Forward Planning Committee I will be proposing with the full backing of the National Council two rule changes for approval at the AGM. The first is to help maintain interest, prevent staleness and give 41Club members the opportunity to hold positions on the National Council. We propose that members of the Executive serve a maximum of five years – elected annually – and that National Councillors be elected for an initial three year term followed – if elected – by another two years. The other proposal is that to help improve the projection of the image of 41Club both internally and externally. The Editor will be responsible for communications and the production of the magazine, the content on the web through the Webmaster and the publication of the newsletter. The position will be renamed as Communications Officer. The role of the Sales Officer will be extended to include marketing and apart from regalia sales he will be responsible for public relations, sponsorship and affinity deals. The position will be renamed as Sales & Marketing Officer.

This is my last report as I will be leaving the National Council at the AGM in Bournemouth having served on it since 1996 which has been an enormous privilege and a great pleasure, particularly my year as your National President.

I would like to thank you all for your support, hospitality and friendship over the past nine years, especially my own club Stratford-upon-Avon who capped it all by making me an Honorary Life Member which is very much appreciated.

The good old fun and fellowship which I have participated in will live long in the memory and I wish you all a most enjoyable time in 41Club and I look forward to meeting up with many of you at future events.

Iain Kelso pastpresident@41club.org 01789 299698



International Officer's Report

I was very sorry to miss the Half Yearly Meeting (HYM) in Antwerp and the IoM National Council meeting; circumstances conspired otherwise to keep me away but thanks to my special correspondents we have all the news.

Region 20: The Algarve Cluster: Another very successful event in Alvor, Portugal, 15-17 October. Iberia was represented by Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol and newly formed Nerja, along with Majorca, Gibraltar and The Algarve. The 100 guests also included representatives from 11 GB&I clubs who all jetted off for a bit of hanging on and winter sun. Hospitality abounded and started off with a fine meal at a localish BBQ restaurant – just when you thought you'd had enough they brought out the main

course! Saturday's boat trip along the coast was clam where the formalities for the weekend were conducted – the AGM chaired by Mike Sloan. The meeting kicked off at 11:05 with, much to everybody's surprise – real minutes – but they didn't last long. Gibraltar were confirmed as the hosts for 14-16 Oct 2005 and plan to celebrate the

surprise – real minutes – but they didn't last long. Gibraltar were confirmed as the hosts for 14-16 Oct 2005 and plan to celebrate the battle of Trafalgar. Under any other business for grumpy old men – Tony Ogden had a couple of words about not giving presents which prompted Costa del Sol to present a 5 year old ham to the hosts. National President Les Edwards was asked if he had any comments but reported; "I do not have a burning desire to say anything" so in 7 seconds he almost eclipsed Iain Kelso's: "Ciao Mestre" speech for brevity. A vote of thanks was proposed to the Algarve by CdelS, Mike Sloan thanked the committee and it was all over by 11:25. A fine dinner and dancing in the evening and Sunday lunch rounded off events nicely - well done Algarve and good luck Gibraltar. Merano: I've told you about Merano before – it's where Helen Bellwood broke her ankle. I've reported on the chestnut weekend before, particularly notable as there is not a chestnut in sight - but it really is a good weekend. Cost is very reasonable and the surroundings are magnificent. It is an International event with good representation (120) from local countries & GB&I - 8 of us. If you want to know where the meat mountain is, you should have dined with us on Friday & Saturday. Look out for details of next year's event – well worth it.

Antwerp: Special report by European Correspondent Ken Boden

Good representation for GB&I comprised, Iain Kelso, John Livingston, Roy Chalfont John McCall and myself, as voting delegate, all accompanied by the lovelies Zan, Rosemary, Audrey, Hilary & June. National President of Tangent, Hilary was naturally more important than John – something that none of us who know him could dispute! Despite consistent interruptions of the Belgian National President's mobile, the welcome by the Burgomeister not only started on time but was appreciated as he was a 41er. The much heralded art exhibition and reception was "interesting" providing you had the standing stamina of Nelson and four hands to manage the buffet. The HYM itself started on time and was attended by 18 out of 20 Countries. Our own John Bellwood opened the meeting with some good old British humour. This was followed by International President Alain de la Bretesche who said how sad he was that Martin Young, who was incarcerated in hospital fretting that he might never get his taste for beer back, could not attend; a sentiment shared by all present.

There was little business of great import discussed although it was noted that many clubs have close connections with RT and at a National level 41 & RT were holding joint AGMs and publishing joint magazines. Belgium are chartering a new club in Waterloo on 18 June 2005, the date of the battle. GB&I confirmed that as holders of the trophy we would be there again. Switzerland have changed their board to reflect a younger image, their President is 44! France are looking to open clubs in the Middle East and the Med, while Zambia are looking to the Congo and other neighbouring countries. Iain Kelso said that GB&I are looking at conference costs and were considering the Baghdad Hilton. The Courier is produced on CD and there will be two editions per year. The meeting arrangements and structure were excellent, largely due to the efforts, humour and influence of John Bellwood – well done John, and of course I mustn't forget Helen.

WOCO -Special Report by Far East Correspondent - Alan Culver.

Is spit of extreme difficulties, RT Nepal hosted a most successful WoCo 2004. Firstly the blockade of all roads into Kathmandu by Maoist rebels caused many delegates to cancel; then the murder of twelve Nepali men in Iraq on Sept 1st, followed by riots in Kathmandu itself caused Qatar Airways to cancel all flights prevented many from coming to Nepal. In the event the expected 650 was reduced to 240, 170 being from overseas. Furthermore the conference hotel was closed by Maoist threats and everything was moved at the last minute to the Hyatt Hotel - apart from that it was great time! Despite plans to do so the GB&I was not officially represented by RT or 41 Club but in addition to Rosemary & I, Steve & Teresa Parsons, 41Club Maidstone and Imm Past RT IRO, Andy Waite 41 Wakefield and Mike German, RT Gloucester 146 made sure England was not forgotten. Many thanks and congratulations to all Nepal Tablers and their partners for a splendid and varied week. WoCo 2005 will be in Costa Rica, August 14-31. Details are available, contact IRO Martin Young or myself.

Courier Magazine: Is now available on the Web Site www.41club.org There are reports from the International AGM in Arras, the Edinburgh Conference and Sir Jayantilal Keshavji (Andy) Chande decorated and honoured by the UK and the President of Tanzania. I also have copies of the 41 International Directory, 2004-2004 if you would like one – please contact me.

Charter of Nerja 41 Club - Roger Burrell

On 28th October a new club was formed in the Iberian Peninsular. With the aid of the National President, Les Edwards and assisted by the support of clubs in Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, Wales, N.Ireland, Denmark & Sweden, the evening saw the Charter of 41ClubNerja. Because of the tremendous support from the Iberian Cluster members the venue had to be rearranged to accommodate over 60. The Charter took place in the Toboso Hotel in the centre of Nerja. Members and their partners were welcomed by Chairman elect Troels Peterson who then invited the ladies to remain in the restaurant whilst the 41 Club members carried out the Charter ceremony in the lower ballroom. The Charter of 14 Members in the new Club saw representations and gifts from the Algarve, Costa Blanca, Costa del Sol, Gibraltar and Majorca.

The evening continued when we rejoined the ladies to enjoy a superb buffet meal, Spanish style. Music and dancing to a live band ensured that the true spirit of 41 Club continued until a late hour.

Nerja members would like to express their thanks and appreciation to the National President and all the guests who made such an effort to support this new fledgling club. roger.burrell@btopenworld.com (see photo of Charter presentation on page 8)

Martin Young international@41club.org 01702 527851

Region 1 Scotland West



I would like to thank the clubs in Region 1 which I have recently visited for their invitations, hospitality and the friendship extended by Airdrie 41 Club, Wishaw - Coltness (Cronies) 41 Club and Troon 41 Club. All clubs are in good heart and enjoy their meetings and fellowship. Airdrie's 41 Club Charity Dinner Dance was a great evening organised by the 11 members and raised funds for the President's charity and also the local Enable charity Well done Airdrie Club Troon 41 Club – I am delighted to announce that Troon have agreed to undertake the organisation of the Scottish Regions 41 Club Quiz Night. Thank you to the members of Troon Club. The Quiz Night for the Scottish Regions is 23rd March 2005. President Les will attend the function. Troon 41 Club has offered to provide home hosting, where possible, to those travelling long distances. As the Troon members are working very hard for the Quiz Night they look for your support and hope for 80 41 Club members from the regions to join them. An invitation is also extended to clubs south of the border who wish to make a trip to this delightful part of Ayrshire; home of the Scottish Bard, Robert Burns, in the town of Ayr and nearby famous Golf Courses. For further details please contact Bill Inglis on 01292 315858 or myself.

I seek a club willing to host the Scottish Cluster 2005 so don't be shy in coming forward. I will be only too pleased to assist the Club who takes on the mantle of

Thank you to all other clubs who have invited me to visit them in 2005 and I will be in touch in the New Year to make arrangements.

Lastly please remember the National Conference and AGM in Bournemouth 7th-10th April - 3 days of fun and friendship - together with the Diamond Jubilee Luncheon on 21st May 2005 in Birmingham. Book your places now to avoid disappointment. Details are provided on the 41 Club website at www.41Club.org or contact myself.

The photograph is of Airdrie 41 Club Chairman, Robert Hunter, presenting the cheque for the President's Willow Foundation.



David Wharton

region1@41club.org 01505 690578

Region 2 Ireland

We were very pleased that President Les and Gail came to our island to attend the Regional Rally in Howth in October 04. I know they enjoyed their stay and would have liked to stay a little longer but Presidential duties called. It was also a pleasure to welcome our National Treasurer Arnold together with Beth. Once more Region 13 Councillor Hugh



Evans and Lena were busy participants on the same occasion Our week-end was further enhanced by the attendance of Former National President's Jim McCollum, Geoff King and Malcolm Banks together with their good ladies. I must say the setting in Howth was very picturesque, and it proved to be an excellent venue for all participants. Once more the weekend proved to be a most enjoyable affair. Congratulations to Malcolm and the North Dublin members for setting up the whole event.

Now that Christmas has passed and we are into the New Year let us look forward to forthcoming happenings for the year. As you are aware I have reached the final year of my position as National Councillor and we are now looking for a successor to take over at the AGM in Bournemouth. All clubs have been circularised and completed nominations should be returned well in advance of the Region 2 AGM, which will be held in March. I have enjoyed being your representative on National Council for the past six years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Region 2 clubs and club members for the hospitality and fellowship extended to me over the period.

I have not finished just yet. I have a very important date for your diaries. It is the weekend 21st. to 23rd. October 2005. The occasion of course once more is the Regional Rally. This year Omagh 41 club will host the Rally. The venue is Jackson's Hotel in Ballybofey, Co. Donegal and a full programme has been organised. Further details are available from John Greening at 028 8224 3644 or failing this please do not hesitate to make contact with me. So let's all make a concerted effort attend and enjoy a weekend of guaranteed fellowship.

Nicky Phelan region2@41club.org 00 353 41 9827553



Londonderry 41 Club

Coming to the end of our calendar year, there are two items worth reporting. The first was our traditional Chairman's Address Dinner, held in December, a time of good food, good fellowship and an excellent talk. Chairman Nigel Doherty gave a most interesting and very professional computer presentation on the sinking and salvage of the Mary Rose, King Henry V111's great warship. Built in Portsmouth 1509-10, the Tudor flagship was heavily armoured, had lidded gun ports in the hull and high castles for soldiers fore and aft. These facts in the end were her undoing. On the evening of 19th July 1545, the flagship led the fleet out of Portsmouth harbour to engage a French invasion fleet. Under full sail and with gun ports open, she turned fast to meet the enemy broadside. Because the ship was over loaded and top heavy she healed over badly. Water flooded through the open gun ports and she sank rapidly. Only 36 men survived out of the 700 on board. The ship and all her contents lay on the seabed, much of it preserved by a cover

of sand for over 400 years. The wreck was located in 1971 and the remains lifted from the seabed in a very complex and ingenious operation on 11th

A long period of preservation treatment followed and she and her contents can be viewed by the public in Ship Hall, Portsmouth Museum. The second item? Our Premium Bond came up!

Sam Mitchell Londonderry 41 Club, Region 2.

Editors note; Thanks Sam for an interesting report. I have always had an interest in the Mary Rose as my cousin Dr Ann Stirland who is a Human Skeletal Biologist worked on the remains from the ship and concluded that there quite a few women on board, who should not have been there, as the ship sailed in a rush to attack the enemy and they did not have time to disembark.

Region 3 South Wales



Felicitations and Fellowship from your friendly Region 3 Councillor. As I write this piece I am busily preparing myself for the onslaught ahead that is the Christmas season of 41 Club functions, parties and plenty to drink!

The last report I wrote told you of several ancient (well 20 years old) Charter documents that had recently been unearthed

in an equally ancient 41er's house (sorry Jim, but you are getting on a bit). I am getting rid of them bit by bit and have now only two left. The first one belongs to Aberystwyth 41 Club which I delivered to them on the 14th December, when I visited them for their Christmas meeting. The other belongs to Haverfordwest 41 Club and if you like, I can present it to you in the New Year.

Other Christmas meetings that I enjoyed are Swansea 41 Club on the 16th and Mumbles 41 Club on the 17th. I am particularly looking forward to visiting Mumbles as we are due to discuss arrangements for the forthcoming Euro Regions 3 meeting that will be hosted by Mumbles 41 Club on behalf of Region 3. The weekend will take place in October 2005 and we hope that as many other 41 Clubs in Region 3 can get involved. To this end the Mumbles meeting will, I hope, produce some concrete plans and ideas to sell the weekend to all you out there in Region 3.

In the more distant future, 17th, January to be precise, I will be attending a meeting at Abergavenny where both **Abergavenny** and **Newport 41** Clubs will be holding a joint meeting and hopefully both **Cwmbran** and **Tredegar** will be present. This should be a great night not only because of the mix of 41ers there but also because Mike Fitchett, our Vice President, will be in attendance – this will be just 3 months before the National AGM when he most probably will become top man and far too busy to spend a lot of quality time with us mere mortals in Region 3. I hope a load of you can come along and join in with what will undoubtedly be a superb evening of fun and fellowship.

Finally, if you are out there, Narberth and Whitland, what is happening about your Charter? Have I missed it? Please contact me with any details and I look forward to being with you soon.

See you all in the New Year,

Roger Evans region3@41club.org 01792 540963



Cwmbran 41 Club

The final meeting before the Summer break was held on 29th June and we heard a moving account from Marjory Pryce-Jones of the Multi-International Aid Centre and it's work for the lost children of Russia. The breakdown of the former Soviet system has left many children orphaned or abandoned without adequate provision for care – this in a usually harsh climate and without adequate resources. Ms Pryce-Jones showed many slides illustrating these unfortunate young people, their health and subsistence problems and the deterioration of the arrangements for care which formerly prevailed.

With the help of M.I.A. and the resources they provide, Russian government institutions and people, with British volunteers, strive to improve conditions. Despite the difficulties, including shortage of funds and facilities, many improvements have been made and the futures of young people enhanced. The charity concentrates it's work mainly in orphanages in Kolicher, Kolomna, Korobcheevotthe Kolomna Baby Unit but is extending efforts elsewhere. Enquiries can be made to Ms Pryce-Jones at Multi International Aid, Birchgrove House, P O Box 182, Newport. NP20 6YL; it is a registered charity.

Cwmbran's new Chairman is David Jenkins; Martin Holmes continues as Secretary (07971-814742) whilst John Duimovich returns for a further stint as Treasurer. Meetings usually take place on the last Tuesday of the month at The Parkway Hotel, Cwmbran

Ron Tackel

Magazine Correspondent Cwmbran 41 Club Region 3

Region 5 North West

The Red Rose Dinner, was ably put together by Peter Fountain and members of Preston Old Parts (what a pity they changed their name), was a great success, giving me the opportunity of presenting President Les with



the cheque for £507.00 collected at the Isle of Man Council weekend held in October. Thanks guys, especially to Heron & Brearley brewery for the sponsored beer raffle.

Following several enthusiastic bids, next year's Red Rose Dinner 2005 will be held at Accrington, while the ever enthusiastic Silloth club was bidding hard for RRD 2006 to be held up at the top of Cumbria again, possibly in Carlisle (sounds a long way, but it's an excellent location, near to the M6). But perhaps we have to take this with a pinch of salt for their spokesman, the effervescent John Graham, is a 3 times World's Biggest Liar Champion. Time will tell.

Time is not what I have left for my 2 terms of office will expire in April, and I must revert to the back benches. I am trying hard to publicise this and must find a replacement soon for it will not be possible for me to continue after April. Please could anyone remotely interested have a word with me about this fun position, yes there's some admin involved, but it really can be rewarding and worthwhile.

Apart from a visit to Blackpool Progress in January (thanks to David Heaney), I have no more invites to clubs, so will concentrate my attentions back on to the Isle of Man where we have continued to help the 3 Round Tables keep their numbers up. And there's some exciting news of a new 41 Club about to emerge, possibly to be called Yn Cholloo Mann (The Calf of Man) 41 Club. A special supply of Manx Hunting Tartan has been located by Phil Hassall and Montague Burton's tape measures are red hot as we go about commissioning special jackets to rival those worn by the White Knights (and the lone Red Knight Peter Emmett), so watch out! (What shall we wear with the Manx Tartan? How about kipper ties?) Terms of membership may be, er, selective.

A Happy New Year, especially to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Steve Leonard
region5@41club.org 01624 852124



The Presentation of the Carter to Nerja 41 Club



Past President's Capers

Past Presidents in Switzerland

In September Past Presidents Andy Wallace (1986-87), David Woodworth (1993-94) and Gordon Macnab (2000-01) and their ladies travelled to Arbon on the shores of Lake Constance in Switzerland to join fellow Past Presidents from Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland for the biennial get together of yesterday's men.

The weekend was organised in excellent fashion by Swiss Past Presidents Hanspeter Baeschlin and Urs Scheuermann but unfortunately the cloud cover remained low and it rained steadily most of the time preventing those attending being able to take full advantage of the wonderful mountain scenery portrayed on the many postcards available in the local shops. One of the highlights was a cable car trip to the summit of Santis, some 2500 metres above sea level, where the party were greeted with blizzard conditions and six inches of snow!

In true 41 fashion the weather did not dampen a first class few days of fun and fellowship enjoyed amongst international friends with ample schnapps, wine and beer to wash down some excellent Swiss cuisine. The next gathering of yesterday's men is to be held in northern Germany in October 2006 when Old Tablers Deutschland Past President Herbert Kaiser will be in charge of all the arrangements and a search for better weather.

"Past Presidents take a Cold Shower"



Left to right: - Elaine Macnab, Joyce Woodworth, Gordon, Andy, Jean Wallace and David.

Gordon Macnab Past President 2000-01 01543 414416 gordonandelane@tiscali.co.uk.

Past Presidents at the Iberian Cluster 2004



Here we are again!

Malcolm Banks

With his experience in organizing events such as Round Table and 41 Club Rallys, Malcolm was asked to help with the organisation of the Heart and Lung Transplant Olympics which were held in Ireland this year.

Malcolm was actually elected as Vice Chairman of the Organising Committee but unfortunately the Chairman passed away and Malcolm had to take over full responsibility.

The event was a great success, with a total of 500 participants representing 18 countries.



Past 41 Club President, Malcolm Banks together with the Irish President, Mary McAleese.

Michael Brown

North Dublin 41 Club, Region 2.



Past President Alan Reynolds receives 'Life honorary membership of the Romanian 41 Club Association'

The citation reads;

'In recognition of your contribution to the development of the 41 Club in Romania since its initiation and along the time'.

The presentation of a diploma and Jewel was made by President Dan Souca at the Gala Dinner in Campulung Muscel on 25th September 2004.

The 2005 AGM takes place in the beautiful city of Suceava near to the border with the Ukraine on 22nd/25th September. Anybody interested in attending can obtain details From Alan Reynolds or from Georghe Petrecu on gep@suceava.astral.vo.

Alan Reynolds 00 351 289 368057 ioshatmatos@hotmail.com



Alan Reynolds, President of the Association in its 50th year receiving his jewel of the Romanian Association 10 years later.

Region 6 North Midlands



Retford held their Charter Evening at The Bay Tree where the Speaker was Ron Beare who kept the members enthralled with slides of "Retford – Then and Now" – even for a visitor it was interesting seeing

the changes in local views and buildings over the past 40 years. Retford boast a number of keen golfers and play several matches against other 41 Clubs but are always glad to have a challenge from others. If you're interested, contact Gordon Muir on gordonmuir@supanet.com

The most amazing things are found in the most unlikely places. Ashbourne held their October meeting away from Bentley Brook at the Dog and Partridge in Thorpe. After a pleasant meal and meeting, we trooped across the road to a garage housing not only a collection of classic British cars, but also a fully restored Compton Organ, rescued from a Derby cinema before demolition. It was explained that the Compton is the British equivalent of the Wurltzer, that not only was this example renovated but it had also been extended by the addition of several extra features, and the cost to the proud owner easily ran into six figures. To view the keyboard console, fully lit, rising from the depths of a garage in the Peak District, was truly astounding – all we needed was Reginald Dixon....

More culture at Belper, where after a lively meeting and meal, members heard from Dr Joe Veale on the history of the Camera. Joe brought along a small selection from his extensive collection of Leica cameras and it was apparent from the searching questions at the end of his presentation that many of the members are themselves no novices where photography is concerned.



Dr Joe Veale (Speaker) Barry Rix (Chairman)

My own Club, Long Eaton, was delighted to welcome President Les and Gail to its Christmas Dinner where entertainment was provided by Elton John and Roy Orbison, much to the amazement of members who wondered how the organiser had managed such a star-studded occasion for a miserly £25.

I have many visits to other Clubs in the Region booked for January and February, but am always eager for more invitations. I'm keen to get members debating the Membership Proposal which will be put forward at the Bournemouth Conference – I have to say that from my visits so far, I have yet to find a Club in favour – even from those who no longer have a feeder Table.

Finally, a message for all Derbyshire Clubs. Derbyshire Cluster will be held on Friday 18th March at Pride Park with Stan Taylor as guest speaker. For those who have not heard Stan, I cannot recommend him too highly – he is a superb raconteur and you cannot fail to be entertained by his stories – especially the submarine ones! The Derby Club are the organisers, and your Club Contact will hve received the booking form. Why not get up a party and join them – it would be tremendous if every Derbyshire Club was represented on the night.

David Smith region6@41club.org 0115 973 5624

Region 7 West Midlands

The past three months have been full of fellowship with visits throughout the Region. Halesowen have supported me on these occasions and many thanks to them and Chris Todd.

The Region 7 Golf Day in late September was cancelled due to lack of support; my thanks go to Jerry Tandy of Shirley Late Nights for all his efforts in organizing the



event. However he has kindly offered to organize the 2005 Golf Day which I trust will be well supported by the clubs in our Region. Details will be forwarded in due course.

I attended the Market Drayton RT 50th Charter Night in November which provided me with an opportunity to meet many Ex Tablers from the borders of Region 7. Smethwick 41 is holding their annual Cluster Night on 7th March which will be attended by National President Les Edwards. I will also be attending and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible. Contact Geoff Burcher on Mobile 07764196200 to book in.

May I thank Tettenhall, Lichfield, Newcastle Mainwairing and Stourport for the kind invitations to attend their meetings in January, keep these invites coming, the more the merrier.

Also just a reminder to you all, please support the Diamond Jubilee Luncheon at the ICC Birmingham on 21st May 2005 the guest speaker is Sir John Stevens the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Finally, may I wish for all clubs members and their families prosperous New Year.

Peter Ower 0121 421 7121 region7@41club.org



Region 15 Manchester & Merseyside

Since my last report together with Immediate President Iain Kelso I attended Liverpool 41 Club Luncheon meeting at Athenaeum Club in Liverpool. We were made extremely welcome and Iain brought the members up to date with current association business including membership debate and proposed rule changes.



This was followed by a visit to York for the White Rose Dinner at York racecourse and another excellent evening of fellowship and entertainment. I was invited to attend a meeting of the Macclesfield 41 Club in November bringing them up to date with the membership debate and Council's proposals for change to be voted on at the Bournemouth AGM in April 2005. It was good to see a number of Macclesfield Round Table members present and such a good attendance at the meeting. I was made extremely welcome and their generous hospitality was really appreciated.

Please try and get more involved with your local Round Table. Go to some of their meetings and invite them to yours. We must encourage and make them feel welcome in 41 Club especially when they are feeling old and past it as they leave Table.

My last request to the Chairmen of all Clubs in the Region is to give me your support and bring a few members to the **3rd Regional Dinner** to be held in the Members Suite, Lancashire County Cricket Club, Old Trafford, Manchester on Friday 4th March 2005. Guest speaker is Tony Jo, formerly of The Grumbleweeds. Dress Black Tie. 7.30pm reception for 8.00pm Dinner. It will be another great evening of fun and fellowship – make sure you do not miss it.

John Clegg region15@41club.org 01744 28198

Alsager 41 Club

Alsager 41 Club instigated a meeting on 30th December, involving 41 Club, Round Table, Rotary and the Lions in Alsager, to discuss the possibility of a joint one day door to door collection in the town (population 14000) for the Tsunami Disaster Fund. Although there was considerable scepticism from the other clubs as to it being possible in one day, the collection went ahead on 2nd January. There were 40/45 members from the four clubs and the collection started at 10am and finished at 6.30pm. The result was a Grand Total of £15665.50. After the count this was presented on the same evening 50/50 to 'Save the Children' and 'The British Red Cross', representatives of which took the cash away with them assuring us it would be speedily distributed to the disaster areas. February Round Table and Rotary will jointly put on a Christmas Party for over 600 senior citizens. This year will be the 32nd consecutive year that it has taken place. We also run the Carnival Ball every year, which precedes the village Carnival. So you can see, we here at Alsager are pretty

Brian Hulson



EUROSAIL CUP 2004 MALTA

Runcorn & District 41 club together with Runcorn Round Table again took part in what is generally becoming regarded (by those who have taken part) as the premier international event in the European Table calendar, the sailing regatta which takes place over one week period, usually September, is based loosely, as you would have guessed around competitive yacht racing, I say loosely as the sailing itself is secondary to the shore based and sometimes water based social activities, the event has been hosted by various European tables since 1990 and held in countries which include France, Germany, Italy, Denmark, Majorca and most recently Malta; the week culminates in a final night party and prize giving. This year our hosts (for the second time) were Round Table Malta No 1 and saw 12 yachts with average crew sizes of eight people competing for line honours around the beautiful islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino and as you would expect the weather at this time of year was warm yet mixed which made for some excellent sailing conditions. The evenings, inc trips to places of interest, were a mix of local and traditional hospitality, great food and wine (all inc in the cost) with the unique atmosphere only Table can make.



We are pleased to report that the event which saw two crews (kindly sponsored by Colt Iternational) entered from Runcorn (Table & 41 Club) and skippered by Barry Heath (41) and Gordon Rogerson (Table) was in fact won by 41 Club. A fantastic end to week of unbelievable international Tabling and fellowship.

The event which next year is being

hosted jointly in Scotland by Runcorn Table & 41 Club is open to Tablers, Ex Tablers their families and friends and is taking place from 17th to 24th September 2005 and starts and finishes at Largs Marina on the Firth of Clyde and will take in overnight stops on the island of Bute, Tarbert and Troon to name a few, and will include sailing through the stunning Kyles of Bute. We have provisionally booked a fleet of identical Sunfast 37 yachts which can accommodate up to eight crew in four cabins, more information on the event and booking forms can be found by visiting www.eurosail2005.co.uk or contact barry.heath@picow.co.uk

Barry Heath

Region 8 South Midlands

I have had the opportunity of visiting a number of clubs in the past few months and have enjoyed them all. My diary is free for visits in January and if you would like me to attend one of your meetings please let me know. The highlight of the year for Region 8 is the



Annual Dinner and this year the dinner at Balliol College was another success. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Peter Finch the Dinner Chairman and his colleagues in Beaconsfield for all of the effort that went into organising the event. It's a pity that so many clubs do not attend, to enjoy what is a great evening. If you did not come this year try to make a point of attending next year.

Future Regional Events

Euro 8 meeting.

The dates for 2005 have now been confirmed as Friday 29th April to Sunday 1st May and the location is Kaiserslautern in Germany. In addition to Ex-Tablers from Germany and France we will also meet some from Burgdorf, a town near Bern in Switzerland.

If the 2005 meeting is as good as the 2004 one (and

Gerhard Graf is working hard to ensure it is) everyone who attends will have a great time. Kaiserslautern is near the Rhine and the wine growing area of Germany and is in an

area of outstanding beauty.
The draft programme is: Friday. Met at Hahn airport and taken to our hotel and an evening meal. Saturday. A tour of the town, reception by the mayor followed by lunch in an "old house" has been arranged. Afternoon free, followed by a gala dinner and dancing in the evening. As this evening is celebrated in Germany as "The night of the witches" we have been promised some surprises. Sunday. Return to the airport. The cost for this superb weekend including transport from and to Hahn airport, two nights accommodation and all meals with wine is only 285 euros for two people or 205 euros for a single. You could of course go for longer and see more of this wine growing area. Five couples have so far put their names down and if you would like to join us or require further information please let me know. It will be a great weekend!

Region 8 Golf

This event is being organised by Stratford on Avon 41 club and will be held on Friday June 3rd at Brailes Golf Club, Lower Brailes, Banbury. The cost including Green Fee, food and gratuities is £40 per person and the first tee off will be

Your club contact will have full details but Martin Williams will be pleased to answer any queries you may have. His number is 01789 261716

Other events

If anyone would like to assist in organising a region quiz or a north or south region quiz would they please let me know?

Next year we are going to revert back to a committee to organise the Region Dinner and if you would like to join the committee please give me a call.

National News

Please see information elsewhere in the magazine about the Bournemouth Conference and the Diamond Jubilee Lunch in Birmingham. Both events will be worth going to, and please remember to discuss and vote on the proposed membership change.

John Livingston

region8@41club.org

01789 204565

41 Regional Reports



Region 9 Essex & Hertfordshire

I trust that you all enjoyed a very festive Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year.

I cannot believe that my three year term as National Councillor ends at the AGM. Time has

flown by and it has been a great experience, so much so that I would like to stand again. I know that I have not yet managed to visit every club but maybe next time!! I would still appreciate your invites. A visit will cost you nothing, unless you buy me a beer, and the evening does not have to be a "special" event. Before I am inundated with calls please note that I will away in February/March (14th Feb/22nd march) on the 41 Club tour of New Zealand.

By the time you read this article I hope that many of you will have attended, and enjoyed, another Region 9 Dinner, more on that in my next report. Other dates to note are: Maldon are organising a Founder's Night Dinner on the 18th February and I am awaiting details of the North Herts Cluster which will be hosted by Stevenage 41 Club.

Think about the AGM in Bournemouth, the venue is close to Region 9 and you could easily attend the AGM on the Saturday even if you cannot take in the whole weekend The membership motion should result in some lively debate!! In any event come along and support National President Les, International Officer Martin, and National Treasurer Arnold. They are from YOUR region.

Are you coming to the Diamond Jubilee Lunch and have you booked in? Birmingham is the place on Saturday 21st May 2005. Over 500 members are expected to attend to celebrate 60 years of 41 Club. The third Region 9 Golf Day will be organised by Colneside Retreads at "Channels" on the 12th July 2005. Details will be sent to all clubs of a day not to be missed.

I have been out and about both within the Region and beyond. In September I attended the dinner following on from the "Ted Harrington" Golf Day organised by **Southend 41** Club. The day was supported by 38 members from 8 clubs with the winner being Ron Rowson of **Rayleigh 41**. September 22nd found me at the 44th Charter Dinner of Witham Round Table. This was a very enjoyable evening and it was good to see the close relationship between R/T and the newly formed **Witham 41** Club.

The Norfolk Broads sailing weekend, expertly organised by Bruce Allison of Billericay 41 Club was a great success. 25 sailors, or would be sailors, on 7 yachts enjoyed fine weather, good winds (except below decks!) and two races. Cuffley 41 Club crewed two boats and in spite of not winning, and both going aground, said that they had had a good time and would be back next year!! It was also pleasing to have a crew from Billericay R/T take part, irrespective of the fact that they won BOTH races and are now the proud holders of the "coveted" Billericay Sailing Cup!! Why not make up a "club crew" and join us next year?

In October I attended the AGM of 41 Club Belgium coupled with the HYM of 41 International in Antwerp. The weekend was good and the HYM was one of the best international meetings that I have attended. As you will recall our own Past- President, John Bellwood, is now the international Secretary/Treasurer and I feel his influence gives structure and humour to the proceedings. If you have never been to an international event you should give it a try. Belgium are chartering a new 41 club at Waterloo in 2005. The date is 18th June, the date of the famous battle. Since we won last time we should be there in force again!!

Also in October I attended the annual "Hinge" meeting run by Wickford. 67 41ers from 9 clubs took part with Hutton & Shenfield taking the trophy, Rayleigh were second and last year's winners, Southend, were third. In November National President Les and Membership Officer Ian visited the joint meeting of Rayleigh and Wickford. Paul Cammis and I were also there. Lastly, June and I joined Southend and Harlow 41 Clubs, together with the ladies, at their respective Christmas meetings. It goes without saying that all the events were lively evenings. There is no doubt that inviting other clubs to visit and making visits, plus involving the ladies and Tangent, does add to the overall fellowship that was Table and is 41 Club.

There has been no feed back to my request for comments in my last article therefore I take it that you are all happy members.

It seems that some clubs still have capitation fees O/S. If you belong to one of them please get it sorted ASAP. If your membership numbers have changed please amend the figure or let Sue Hart know at Marchesi House since some clubs have paid for less members than are shown on the National database.

The Magazine is now being sent to individual members yet Sue still gets calls complaining that one person is receiving all the copies. This is because individual names and addresses have not been given to National by certain clubs. If you let Sue know she will try and sort it out for you.

That is it for now, keep in touch.

Ken Boden region9@41club.org 01268 710588

Region 10 London



Wimbledon 41

For the 17th year running since their Charter in 1987, Wimbledon 41 Club held their annual Christmas Ladies meeting on 14th December 2004. Chaired by Founder President Hugh Moser, a total of 27 Members and guests enjoyed traditional Christmas fare at their usual venue of the Wayfairer Hotel in South Wimbledon.



41'ers have a ball at Wimbledon

President Hugh was delighted to welcome the Honorary Lady Members, and to note that the Club continued to prosper, and the final toast To Continued Friendship was made with a most appropriate glass of port. Wimbledon would like to take this opportunity to wish all 41'ers a peaceful and prosperous New Year in 2005, the Diamond Anniversary of the Association.

Anon of Wimbledon



Wimbledon Womblers -XRT

With Brian Cooper's approval we request this is included in the Region 10 report.

Our club members were saddened to learn of the death of Brian's wife, Hilary. Brian was a founder member of our club. They were married in 1956 and had two sons.

A lady of many talents of which her embroidery skills lead to helping the setting up of Kingston Embroiderers Guild. In 1981 she was invited to join the Guild of St Faith at Westminster Abbey responsible for the conservation of the Abbey vestments. She undertook the restoration of the Royal Funeral pall which draped the coffin of the Queen Mother at her laying in state.

As a singular honor, Hilary's coffin lay overnight in the Chapel of St Faith, Westminster Abbey draped in the same pall before her funeral service at Putney Crematorium on 25th August last.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Brian and all the

It was only after the funeral that we became aware of the honour bestowed upon her.

Hugh Moser President

Region 11 South East



CONFESSIONS OF A **GOLFING VIRGIN**

On a quiet, sunny morning in early October I awoke and realized that this would be the day I lost my virgin status as far as golf was concerned.

Traveling to the West Malling Golf Club with my good friends Trevor and Nigel doubts began to surface. What on earth had possessed me to suggest a golf competition, a game I knew nothing about; I'd never even been on a golf course.

Arriving at the course I began to wonder about the etiquette required, I needn't have worried, the staff and my friends put me at ease, showed me the ropes and then sat me at a reception table to await the combatants.

Soon after eleven the golfers started to arrive, breakfast was served and registration completed. Now for the start, I had been given the "honour" of seeing all the teams tee off. The weather took against us and it began to rain even though the forecast was for fine weather, where was global warming when

I quickly learnt some technical golfing terms as players strode up to the tee and began terrorizing trees, bunkers, footpaths and even a poor molehill just ten feet from the first tee. What a marvelous but frustrating game it all seemed.

I was driven in a buggy to a hut between the ninth and tenth holes, with various refreshments on board, to await the first golfers. By this time the sun was shining and all seemed well with the world. With the golfers arriving I asked how they were doing, more technical terms were uttered so I left well alone.

All seemed well until I was given the opportunity to hit a golf ball. How hard can it be? I soon found out. Suffice to say, not the game for me.

Being driven back to the clubhouse I waved to some of the later golfers who waved back (more of this a little later). It was then on to the eighteenth hole to watch the match reach its conclusion. Some of the golfers seemed to be aiming their balls at me but I was assured that I was in error and that they were really trying to reach the green. All I can say is that they seemed to be taking the scenic route.

After a long walk in the open air, some of the golfers walked further than others having got lost, we sat down for the meal and the trophy presentations. It was then that I found out that the golfer who waved at me on the tenth fairway had experienced difficulties on the earlier holes but had found his form on the tenth only to have some idiot drive over his ball and bury it six inches below the fairway. Oops!!

A wonderful day of fun and fellowship, we all enjoyed it. I was asked if I would arrange another one next year. The only answer to that was YES. I'm no longer a golfing virgin but will stick to the admin side of things, I don't know if I could master all the technical phrases you have to know.

For the record the winners of the inaugural Region 11 Golf Competition were Sevenoaks 41 Club. Congratulations to all who took part

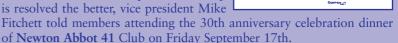
Peter Warr

region11@41club.org 01227 360528

Region 12 West of England

Newton Abbot's 30th Anniversary

The sooner the issue of open membership is resolved the better, vice president Mike



The choices – an open door to men who had never been Tablers, a mix of ex-Tablers and non-Tablers or the option to stay exclusively for ex-Tablers - all had their advantages. Clubs, who had been thoroughly consulted throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, would have the choice at the Bournemouth conference. He hoped for the biggest voting response possible before 41 set off into the future free from ill-feeling or rancor.

Guests at the dinner, held at the Cockhaven Manor Hotel, Bishopsteignton, also included Keith Howard, the National Sales Officer and a member of Newton Abbot 41, and representatives from the Totnes and Dawlish/Teignmouth clubs.

Thanking Mike Fitchett, the founder chairman of Newton Abbot 41, Dick Smith, recalled they had only a handful of members when starting in 1974 but had quickly expanded to the 50 plus point, and were now 39. "There is still a need for 41", he said, adding: "Just as there was 30 years ago, ex-Tablers love a monthly meeting and dinner to chat over all the happy times of yesteryear".

The Club, said Dick, had started as Teignbridge Ex Tablers Club in 1974, becoming Newton Abbot in 1981, when a former Newton Abbot Club, no longer affiliated to the national organisation, ceased to exist.

Clive Angel Newton Abbot 41 PRO

National Sales Officer **NEW DIAMOND JUBILEE GOODIES**

You will all by now be well aware that next year is the Association's Diamond Jubilee. To mark the occasion there will be a whole new range of sales products. The first items are coming on stream early in the New Year.

The Diamond Jubilee Badges have been available from your National Councillors, National Sales Officer and

Marchesi House since the summer and are selling like hot cakes. (By the way - each sale benefits the President's charity). Your National Councillor now has a sample of the Diamond Jubilee Cufflinks and they are also available from the same sources as the badges.

Soon to come in the New Year will be ties, bow ties and coffee mugs all bearing the distinctive jubilee logo. (Check the Club website for availability). How about some distinctive commemorative

glassware for your club?

A wide range of quality products can be decorated with the Jubilee logo and your club details. Email me with your requirements and I will do my best get you

Maybe you have a good idea for a new product. Let me know - if members will buy it, I'll supply it!

Keith Howard

sales@41club.org 01626 853817





Region 13 North & Mid Wales



Llandrindrod Wells 41 Club

Llandrindod Wells Golf Club will reach its Centenary Year in 2005 and as part of its celebrations there will be a number of invitational events throughout the year. The

Club has just been awarded the accolade of 'Welsh Golf Club of the Year 2004' by the Welsh Golfing Union.

As Captain for the month of July I would like to extend an invitation to 41 Club Members from my Region 13, but also from our neighbouring Regions 3, 7 and 18. To join together for a Golfing Day, followed by a Presentation and Celebration Dinner in the Golf Club.

Details of the day are shown below:-

41 Club Region 13 Annual Golf Day to be held at

Llandrindod Wells Golf Club on Friday 22nd July 2005 Refreshments on arrival, followed by an 18 Hole Four Ball Better Ball Stableford Competition, to include Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin. Concluding with a Prize-Giving and Celebration Dinner in the evening. Cost of Golf, Refreshments and Dinner to be in the region of £25 per person.

Entry Forms and further information:

Steve Cadwallader-Jones. 18 Woodlands, Cefnllys Lane, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5DE

e mail: cadwalladerjones@btinternet.com

Tel: 07768-728811

(If requiring entry forms via post please enclose S.A.E).

Steve Cadwallader-Jones

41 Club Chairman - Llandrindod Wells





Round Table Children's Wish

'granting Wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses'

....there is no doubt that this adventure has had a profound effect on me....... I would suggest that everyone tries something like this.... It makes you put your priorities in order.....

Steve Parsons RTBI Nat IRO 2003/4

Trek the Great Wall of China

29 April - 8 May 2005

Inca Trail Trek to Machu Picchu

22 Sept - 1 Oct 2005

Trek Mount Kilimanjaro

7 Oct - 16 Oct 2005

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12 Nov - 24 Nov 2005

Join a Challenge and help us

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email julie@rtcw.org

www.rtcw.org

Region 18 Mid-West

Henleaze 41 Club

RETURN TO DUBLIN - WoCo 1984



Many past Tablers will recall that WoCo, the World Council of Young Men's Service Clubs was held in Dublin in 1984. Four Tablers from Area 12 (North Wessex) namely, John Allen and David Garrett (Henleaze RT), David Bryant (Downend RT) and Steve Hall

(Gordano Valley RT) attended that WoCo and experienced four days of international fellowship with like-minded young men. This left an indelible mark, albeit coupled with a rather hazy memory of a great time drinking enormous quantities of the black stuff.

We resolved to return, and so we did last September for four days, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the original trip.

WoCo was superbly organised by RTBI and local Tablers held key roles in making it happen. A key man, in charge of Accommodation was to become a future President of 41 Club, none other than Malcolm Banks. And it was to Malcolm we turned in 2004 to offer us advice on where to hold our Reunion Dinner (The Rubicon Restaurant in Merrion Row – excellent, thanks Malcolm), and he and Dorothy joined us for our farewell lunch the day we left.

As in 1984, we again tried to drink Dublin dry, but age takes its toll and so instead of drinking all day we paid some visits to the countryside around Dublin as well as reacquainted ourselves with the city and its fabulous (and smoke-free) musical nightlife.

We saved up for five years so we could do the trip in some style and so it was. An excellent reunion, four like-minded.....men who had such a superb time 20 years ago and have remained good friends since then, reliving the experience of being together and enjoying ourselves.

We stayed for the WoCo conference at Black Rock College student accommodation (the cheapest available) and enjoyed an environment of unlocked doors (leading to dress suit trousers going missing) and apparently unisex showers, where the wives of some Scandinavian Tablers remained quite unmoved when we turned up to shower at the same time with them.

At the end of the trip, we revisited Black Rock College, where, much to the amusement and amazement of some of the current students, we re-enacted our tour photo of 20 years ago. See if you can spot the differences......!





1984

2004

From the left; John Allen, David Garrett, Steve Hall, David Bryant

David Garrett Henleaze 41 Club

41 Regional Reports



Region 16 East Anglia

I am pleased to report that I have been busy visiting clubs in Region 16 over the past few months. Thetford 41 Club held a Ladies Night with an invitation for President Les, Membership Officer

Ian and me to attend the event with our partners; all enjoyed an excellent evening. The President and his wife Gail also kindly travelled to Haverhill to join us for their Christmas dinner meeting. With other visits made to Bury St. Edmunds, Stowmarket and Bishops Stortford, you can appreciate why I need to go on a diet – nothing to the amount of alcohol consumed you understand, just the delicious food always on offer.







Great Yarmouth 41 golf competition

Having had a good end to 2004, I am looking forward to 2005 with enthusiasm. I am, together with a large National contingent, attending Norwich Wensum for their Forecasters Night, and with visits to Ipswich, Felixstowe and Cromer planned it looks like the diet might have to wait. If I there are any clubs in the Region that I haven't managed to visit yet then please send me your invitations.

Finally, with many clubs planning to attend the Diamond Jubilee Dinner, can I take this opportunity to ask if you can keep in touch with me regarding numbers so that I can co-ordinate meeting arrangements. Likewise if anyone out there in Region 16 is planning on attend the National Conference this year please let me know as I have a great bunch attending from Haverhill who would love you to join them. A Happy & Prosperous New Year to you all.

Kevin Ager

region16@41club.org 01440 786785



Region 19 Scotland East

This will be my last magazine report as your National Councillor. What an enjoyable time I have had over the last 3 years. Whilst I have not managed to visit anywhere near every club due mainly to the constraints of my job, I have met



many of you at the National Conferences, Forums, Clusters, Charters and the Burns Supper. I have always been received with grace and good humour for which I thank you

During my short period in post I have sought to get some of you out of your own localities and meet other 41'ers, not an easy task, as it is apparent that most members are quite content to just meet every month within their own club, so be it. However I am sure that those who have attended events have derived benefit from the new friends they have made, I know I have.

The only event I have any firm details of is to be organised by my own Club **Aberdeen & District**. It will be taking place on Saturday 26 February 2005 at the Palm Court Hotel in Aberdeen. It will be a celebration of the 41st Charter anniversary of the founding of the club. President Les Edwards and his wife Gail will be attending and invitations have been sent out to all Scottish Clubs, so I look forward meeting with you and your partners, for a great night.

The Scottish Cluster has been postponed until later in 2005. I hope some of you will be attending the National Conference in Bournemouth in April and the Diamond Jubilee celebration Lunch in Birmingham in May, contact me for details.

Finally as always let me know if your club would like a visit from me or one of our 3 Assistant National Councillors.

David Illingworth

01224 319704 region19@41club.org

Scottish 41 Club Golf Championship 2004

The above Championship took place on Thursday 2nd September 2004 over the Medal Course at Monifieth with 80 golfers representing 16 41 Clubs from throughout Scotland participating. The day was a great success with the eventual winners being Carnoustie 41 Club after a close run competition with Forfar and Turriff 41 clubs.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and those taking part we have raised some money for local charities.

In addition our "Beat the Pro" at the 5th hole raised £400 for The Maggie Centre, which is situated in the grounds of Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. Further details of the Maggie Centre and its role in caring for cancer can be found on their website www.maggiescentres.org

In the absence of our National President Les, Region 19 Councillor David Wharton and Region 1 Councillor David Illingworth who assisted in the prize giving officially represented the association. (the photograph left is of David Illingworth presenting the trophy to Carnoustie)

Next year the event will be organised by Carnoustie 41 Club at Carnoustie and no doubt they would be grateful if those who wish to participate would contact them with their "golf convener" as soon as possible

Angus Johnston Monifieth 41 Club Chairman 2004 Golf Championship Committee

Letters to the Membership Officer

Dear Ian,

Following our A.G.M. we have decided to allow persons who have been supporters of the functions that we have organised over several years to be asked to join our club firstly as Honorary members and then as full members with the proviso that they will never more than 30% of our total members. The reasons for this are:-

We have no feeder Table. Our youngest member is over 55 and our oldest is 76.

We have not had a transfer from our previous Table for over 12 years.

Ex Tablers from our old table have tried to set up a rival club (The Farts)

Following this revue our membership is as follows:- 12 Ex Tablers. 2 non Tablers whose wives are Tangent members. 1 non Tabler and 1 Honorary member.

We hope that the position we are in will be appreciated by clubs that are able to function in the existing rules as otherwise we will no longer be see ourselves as OLD TABLERS

Cyril Wilson

Dawlish & Teignmouth 41 Club. Joined Table 1964



Dear Ian

My view is that 41 Club is for ex round Tablers and that is why I continue to be a member because we have all had shared experiences - If we throw it open it destroys the purpose of the club. I understand that many clubs may be closing but so be it!

To bring in non table members smacks of desperation; I would rather see Round Table and 41 Club, as we know them, fade gently away than change the raison d'etre of both clubs

We in Taunton 41 Club are against inviting non Round Tablers to become members and will continue to work with Taunton Round Table and other local 41 Clubs to promote the future of both on the existing basis.

Hopefully the promoters of the suggestion will not bang on endlessly every year on the dripping tap principle!!

Regards from deepest Somerset.

Rikki Batts Taunton 41 Club



Dear Ian

Toddington 41 Club briefly discussed the membership issue at our recent meeting. In the original consultation we were (and still are) of the opinion that we should only accept ex-Tablers as members, and support the facility for Clubs to make up their own minds. Your proposal for the membership rule therefore suits us very well, and as far as we can see suits others with different opinions also. Well done!

It's unlikely that we shall be represented at the AGM, but will be happy to cast a proxy vote in favour - doubtless you will circulate the procedure in due course.

Doug Dix

Chairman & Secretary Toddington 41 Club

Dear Iar

Whickham & District 41 Club held its November meeting on 1st November 2004. During the meeting the club had a long debate on the National Council's proposal as set out in your email dated 28th October 2004. I am pleased to inform you that, by an overwhelming majority (28 for and 1 against), the club supported the proposal. Unfortunately our club will not be

Unfortunately our club will not be represented at the 2005 A.G.M. In view of this and because the club is so keen to support the proposal, I have been asked if it is possible for Whickham & District 41 Club to appoint a proxy for this purpose.

Bill Kidd

Club Contact & Treasurer, Whickham & Dist 41



Dear Ian

York 41 Club (non affiliated). It is an illustration of what happens. The club now has about 60 members half of which are ex Tablers. The input from table has dried up completely and in any case few ex Tablers would want to meet weekly at lunch time as we do. Ebor 41 and York City 41 both meet monthly in the evenings. I am also a member of them. The club has supplied a need for men who were unable to join table. We have brigadiers, squadron leaders, sea captains, ex overseas directors of large national companies etc.

I do hope the AGM passes the motion

Tom Park York 41 Club



Dear Ian

Why the proposal to admit non Ex-Tablers should be rejected.

The results of the replies to the consultative document, which was issued to all clubs show that a majority do not want a change to the rules on membership. Of the clubs who replied-53% were against the suggestion that each club should be given the choice at club level to accept open membership.

64% rejected open membership as the way forward. Why is this proposal being debated at the AGM?

72% rejected an unlimited number of honorary members, restriction on numbers, 69% would accept honorary members with a restriction on numbers. Why has this route not been explored?

86% said that clubs with membership problems should merge. Nowhere in the views of members who replied was there a majority in favour of open membership at either club or national level.

Let me give some clear reasons why clubs should reject open membership.

There is not a majority of members in favour.

Those associations who have made major rule changes have not been successful as a result---RTBI changing its age rule springs to mind.

We have a unique base for our future members. We have 700/1000 potential new members each year, something no other club has. If we allow open membership we have nothing to really distinguish us from Lions, Rotary, Masons or any other organisation which can claim to have ex-Tablers in their midst. We in 41 Club were once the logical club for ex-Tablers to join and we should continue to retain that position. Introduce open membership and we will probably have a short term increase in membership.

The membership committee has looked at over 30 schemes to assist clubs to increase their membership. These should be the basis of our attempts to assist clubs with membership difficulties together with encouraging clubs with no feeder table to re charter their table.

What happens if a duly elected non ex-Tabler wishes to join another club, which has decided not to appoint non ex-Tablers? I assume it can refuse to accept this 41 Club member and in effect create two categories of member. Do we as a movement really want this?

The wording of the proposal means that individual clubs can appoint women as members if they wish.

I am proud to have been a Tabler. I enjoy the company of ex Tablers in 41 Club and, if despite our best endeavors membership declines –so what? 41 Club will continue as long as RTBI continues. Until such time as RTBI folds or abolishes its age rule we should not entertain open membership.

For these reasons I ask that all clubs debate the proposal and come to the AGM in Bournemouth and vote to reject the proposal.

John Livingston

Stratford upon Avon Ex-Tablers Club



DANNY MADIGAN

Petts Wood 41 Club announce the death of Danny Madigan, a former Chairman of Petts Wood RT. Danny who was just 51, had been ill for some considerable time died after a recent spell in hospital. He was an accomplished pianist and will best be remembered by his friends for his wit and humour. Danny was divorced and leaves an 11-year-old daughter.

Geoff Parmakis. Petts Wood 41 Club Region 11

DENIS BLUNDEN

Denis died peacefully on 29th October 2004. Following his distinguished service in the Royal Navy during WWII, he became a partner in a law firm and achieved his ambition to complete 50 years in law practice.

He was a playing member of Horsell C.C., a lifelong supporter of Arsenal F.C. and an active member of Woking Rotary club. A keen member of Woking 41 Club for many years was chairman in 1965-66. Our sympathy goes to his son John, daughter Susan, and three grandchildren.

Ron Blake Woking 41 Club, Region 10.

CHRIS KOKTA

Gordano Valley, with great sadness, announces the death of Chris on 31st October 2004. Chris was chairman of the club during 1994-95 and chairman of the conference committee for the Great Weston Conference held in Weston-super-Mare in 1998. Our thoughts and sympathy goes to Lyn Kokta and their daughter Rachel.

David Johnson Gordano Valley 41 Club, Region 18.

PETER BRADY

With great sadness Holmes Chapel & District 41 Club report the death of Peter at the end of May, after a long fight against cancer. Peter, aged 46, was one of most physically active members being a keen windsurfer and mountain biker right up to when his illness became too much at the end of 2003. He also took full part in Table & 41 Club, holding many offices, and was 41 Club secretary until he died. Our thoughts are with his wife Ann and children Andrew, Catherine & Matthew. His many friends will miss him.

John Whiteside Holmes Chapel & District 41 Club Region 15

ERIC MUDDLE 1923-2004

It is with great sadness Potters Bar 41 Club report the death of Eric, founder member of Potters Bar & Brookmans Park RT & founder chairman of our 41 Club. Eric was well known for his work in local government and embraced civic duties with great enthusiasm serving as Mayor of Hertsmere in 1994. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife Joan and his family.

Ted Colley Potters Bar 41 Club Region 9

DESMOND SLAY

With deep regret Aberystwyth 41 Club informs you of the sudden death of Des Slay who was our Founder Chairman in 1973. Des, an Emeritus Professor at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth & Knight of the Order of the Falcon (Iceland), was a truly outstanding Tabler & 41 Club member, showing loyalty & dedication second to none. He was instrumental in forming our 41 Club he remained active and was Treasurer until the last AGM. His family and many friends will sadly miss him.

John Bradshaw Aberystwyth 41Club, Region 3.

DAVID HAIGH

Too often as we look forward to enjoying the fruits of our labours & spending more time with our wives and families when those hopes are cut short. David had taken the chair of Barnsley in April and having disposed of his business to spend more time with his wife, was called too early at 61. David will be sorely missed by members of Barnsley but more so by his wife, Sue, daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Peter Whitehead Hon Sec Barnsley 41 Club, Region 14

PETER TREDREA

It is with regret the Tettenhall 41 Club announces the death of Peter a few days before his 80th birthday.

He was a Founder, past Chairman and past President of Tettenhall & District Round Table and an active member of 41 Club.

He was a well respected Solicitor and was Chairman of the Area Health Authority.

He was one of the lads who will be sorely missed

Our sympathies are with his wife Rose, children and grandchildren.

John Richards Tettenhall 41 Club, Region 7

WARWICK PUGH

We have lost their great friend Warwick. A big man with a big heart who lived life to the full. Past table chairman, dreadful golfer, amazing cyclist. Always fun to be around. Now we must "drive on" without him.

It was an honour and a pleasure to have known you, Warwick, and our condolences to Sue and Jenny and fellow 41er brother Tim.

Derrick Alden Burnham-on-sea & Highbridge 41 Club, Region 17

LIAM MOODY

We are very sad to record the passing of Liam, who died following a brave battle with cancer.

Liam was an extremely well known and popular Round Tabler, being both a past Chairman of North Dublin RT and a past Chairman of Area 29.

He was a successful in his chosen career in Banking and a keen golfer. He was great 'craic', and his cheerful personality is missed by all his fellow members.

Michael Brown North Dublin 41 Club, Region 2.

IAN RICE

Lyme 41 Club are sad to report the death of twice Chairman Ian Rice aged 55 after a long and courageous fight against cancer.

Ian's sharp wit, mischievous sense of humour and fun and the big smile that rarely left his face, even in times of adversity, will live on in all our memories and will be sadly missed. Our love and sympathy to his wife Carol.

Alan Whitehead Lyme 41 Club, Region 15.

ALF JARVIS

Ulverston 41 Club lost one of its stalwart members and the town an irreplaceable community character on December 15th 2004. Alf was well known as Town Crier both locally and abroad and was the undefeated senior world town crier. He was an ex Mayor and District Scout Commissioner. He was a Past Chairman of Round Table and Past President of Ulverston 41 helping to start Dalton Round Table. A devoted family man, he leaves his wife Mary, 4 children and 6 grandchildren. Many people, especially our Club and visitors to Ulverston, will sadly miss him.

Paul Barton Ulverston 41 Club, Region 5

41 Club Small Ads

We would welcome your comments/feedback on any of the accommodation advertised on these pages.

Stars are awarded when positive feed back is received.

FRANCE - PORT GRIMAUD

www.jakmatterson.co.uk

Waterside ground floor apartment sleeps 2/4. One bedroom, lounge with settee bed, kitchen area, bathroom, separate WC, terrace & loggia. Visit this 'Venice' of France situated on the Gulf of St.Tropez

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r.todman@btopenworld.com

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Lovely B & B, restored farmhouse 4km from town. En-suite rooms, central heating. 20m pool. Wonderful views, walk, paint, sightsee, swim, and relax Tel Peter 0034 600006305

CAPETOWN - DOLPHIN BEACH

Luxury two double bedroom secure apartment. Beachfront in nature Reserve, sensational view Table Mountain, Robben Island & sea. 15 mins drive city & waterfront. Pool, garage, bar, restaurant. From £275 per week. Tel 01534 878940

NERJA – ANDALUCIA

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Tel Peter 0034 600006305

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www.peprogressions.com/windex Luxury Villa sleeps 4/6. Pool, golf nearby. For details visit our website or: Tel 01932 220219

SPAIN – COSTA DEL SOL

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rocasdelmar@margaretbrowne.co.uk Tel/ Fax: 01543 473111

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www.woodlands-lodge.co.uk

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18c restored stone house with magnificent views in chateau grounds. 2 twin bedrooms both en-suite. Gardens & heated 10 meter pool. From £490 p.w.

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janeandandrewneal@hotmail.com

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Andrew Neal (41er)

Tel 01253 896341 6-9pm

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www.geocites.com/tuscanyhouse

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Luxury villa in Bradenton sleeps 10. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, own heated pool, lakeside location. Golf courses nearby and beautiful beaches within 25 minutes. Only 50 mins from Tampa John & Jacky Hathaway (41er) Tel 01277 633380

SPAIN - LA MANGA CLUB

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SON PARC - MENORCA

www.casa-solariega.com david@daviddarts.co.uk

Beautiful family house in quiet location. Sleeps 6. 3 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, pool, lawned garden. Fully equipped and serviced. Excellent beach 2 miles, golf course 1 mile. 41er owned. Tel: 01202 876195

AUSTRIA

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Two mix & match apartments, sleeps 2-12. Sauna, spa, baths, even a waterfall.

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NERJA - COSTA DEL SOL

2 Bed villa with garden, satellite TV & CH, El Capistrano village. Outdoor & indoor pools, 1.5km from beach and town. 41er's property. £185 - £325 pw. Longer lets possible.

01204 882545 for photos/availability.

ORLANDO

Refurbished, fully equipped, 5 beds, 3-bath villa with private heated pool and shared use of large pool, tennis court, etc. Sleeps 10, just 5 minutes from Disney. For further details please phone 0771 263 1999

FRANCE

Languedoc come and see/cross Millau Tarn Bridge. Village House, 2x twin beds, salon, kitchen/diner. Fully modernised. Many 41er's over 25 yrs. 25 miles Med. Rivers, Gorges, Forests, Lakes & Mountains. Just perfect! Pamela & Gordon Rutherford wgordon@rutherford82.freeserve.co.uk 0141 956 2879

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Reminiscences of a RNLI volunteer

In April this year I retired from the post as National Conference Officer and thought that I would be able to spend quiet idyllic times relaxing at the house we had bought overlooking Cardigan Bay on the west coast of Wales. How wrong that proved to be. I had the previous year volunteered to join the local Lifeboat crew initially as one of their tractor drivers responsible for launching and recovering our Mersey Class All Weather Lifeboat stationed in New Quay West Wales.

When they discovered that I had in fact just celebrated my 60th birthday they quickly squashed all thoughts of training me in this simple but responsible task, they were however prepared to take me on as a shore crew member assisting in the launch and recovery on the beach. This involves ensuring the tractor and the boat carriage is fit and ready to transport the Lifeboat into the water to a suitable depth that enable the boat to be catapulted off the carriage and out to sea, in the shortest possible time.

When the Lifeboat has completed its task, whatever that may involve, the shore crew then has the task of recovering the boat back onto the carriage, washing the whole rig down with soap and clean water and then returning all this into the boathouse ready for the next call-out.



Mersey Class all weather lifeboat similar to ours named 'Frank and Lena Clifford of Stourbridge'.

In order to complete this, the lifeboat coxswain drives the boat up onto the beach and the tractor puts a line aboard and then hauls the boat up out of the water, at this point yours truly with the help of a couple of others, haul solid rubber skids, each weighing about 500 kilos, and place them correctly under the keel of the boat.

When the boat is well out of the water at the top of the beach we position the carriage at the stern and haul the boat back onto the carriage. This requires the boat and carriage in complete alignment since there is only a couple of inches between the channel of the carriage and the width of the boat keel. The boat has to be attached at various stages to chains and shackles ensuring that it remains secured onto the boat carriage.

All the rubber skids then have to be collected and all the equipment washed and returned back into the boathouse.

With a replacement value of all this tackle and Lifeboat in the order of £2,000,000, you can imagine the need for care and precision.

Is it all worth it you may well ask, well we have about four 'shouts' each month, either with the All Weather Boat or the Inshore Boat during the summer season. You never know what the next call out may involve or at what time of day or night it might occur. Many of you may well remember that Round Table in their Golden Jubilee year donated funds to purchase a Waveney class boat. It was

handed over to the RNLI at Great Yarmouth on the 5th of May 1977 by the National President Roderick Burt. On the following 18th September it was formally named Louis Marchesi of Round Table, at Newhaven, by Joan Bangor-Jones.

This boat was finally de-commissioned in May 1997, having spent 6,114 hours at sea. The boat, many would call it our boat, was called out on 527 occasions saved 264 lives and salvaged property to the

value of £5,702,000.



'D' Class inshore lifeboat similar to ours named 'Amylea'.

To replace a boat of that class currently costs something like £ 1,500,000. So next time you see a collection for the RNLI think about how much can be done with the equipment purchased by such collections but think also of the many thousands of volunteers like me who avail themselves 24 hours a day 7 days a week in order to offer assistance and rescue to those that need it in our coastal waters.

Alan Tomkins Not quite past it!

If undelivered please return to: Marchesi House, 4 Embassy Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham. B15 1TP

