

No. 151 Summer 2005

# 41 Club

*Magazine of The Association of Ex-Tablers' Clubs*

*'May the hinges of friendship never rust'*

## The Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Issue



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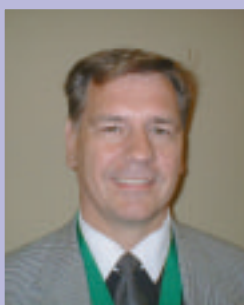
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From time to time, Articles are published that may include references to one or more professional or commercial organizations. Neither the Editor nor the Association in general accepts any responsibility for the content of such Articles and recommends 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](http://www.41club.org)

## Editorial



Welcome to my first editorial of the year. Can I firstly congratulate all those who have been elected to positions on National Executive and Council, and so the work begins. With regards all those retiring from positions, make the most of your free time, and don't be

strangers your experience and views are important.

The Future - as you are all aware we need to move with the times if our association is to continue and with this special year ahead we have the perfect opportunity to work closely with Round Table and look hard at our membership. With this in mind we intend making the magazine a product our members want to read.

What we need - controversial topics, news and views, topics of interest, regional reports with spice and action, club reports what are you the membership doing, more pictures, articles of interest, I want to see them. If you feel you have something to say or to report let the magazine committee have the details and we will endeavour to insert into an edition or send as a newsletter.

We hope to involve all 4 clubs from the associations in the magazine, with an opportunity during the year to have a column, as their member's views are important, if we are to continue working together.

Make your voice heard, talk to me, the magazine dead line dates are below and news letters will be as demanded by your response.

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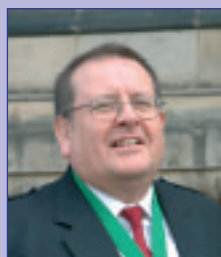
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## National President

As I write this report, we are only 8 weeks into our 55week year and it feels like a year already! With the memories of Bournemouth Conference still very much in evidence wherever I go; I would like to take this opportunity and thank all of my supporters for the fantastic interruption they provided at the AGM, the memory of which will stay with me and others for a long, long time.

Since **Bournemouth** I have attended a number of club meetings including the AGM of my own club **Isis** and **Hereford's AGM** where I met up again with **Dick Stanley** the Registration Officer from Bournemouth who transferred into Hereford that night. My trip to the International AGM in Durban, just one week after our AGM was a tremendous experience and I am sure **Ken Boden** will give you a full report under his section; for my part, I can assure you that it will not be my last visit to International.



My thanks go to the **Tangent National Executive** for inviting me to attend the **Welsh Regional Tangent Lunch** at **LLandgoed Hall** early in May where I was privileged to be in the company of some 85 ladies enjoying the festivities and the surroundings that the venue provided.

On to the **RTBI Conference in Glasgow** the following weekend; where very little has changed from my memories of how conference used to be and in effect, it is my view, there is very little difference now between both the **41 Conference** and **RTBI**. I know both organisations are looking at the possibility of a '**Joint Venue**' Conference for 2008 and I hope those involved will succeed as there are so many advantages to be gained for all four organisations in the Round Table Family.

Sadly, on Thursday 12th May, I received the news that our **Vice President, Martin Young** had passed away and I attended his funeral representing the Association which I can only say was more a celebration of his life and something that Martin would have been extremely proud of, in particular the part his two sons played in the service. In the few weeks Martin had held office since the AGM, he had worked tirelessly for the Association and in particular the final arrangements for the **Diamond Jubilee Lunch**, we will always remember him.

I attended the **RTBI Past President's Dinner** on the Friday night before the Diamond Jubilee Lunch and can tell you that they are all in fine form and as you would expect them to be. It was good to see all of those I remembered from my time in Table not too far down the home straight yet! (they will know what I mean)

Then onto the **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** themselves on **Saturday 21st May**; a day I am sure, those of us that were there will always remember from the very special service in the Cathedral presided over by our National Councillor for **Region 4 Malcolm Lockey**. The lunch itself was an event held in great style and tradition with the arrival of '**The Friendship Torch**' to start proceedings off. **Max Boyce** had us all on our feet and proved that we could have not done better for our guest speaker. Thanks must go to the organising committee and to **Ian Mackenzie** and **Martin Green** who stage managed the day itself. The Lunch was just the start and there are another 19 'Torch Events' being staged around the country; the Torch is on its way to you, so don't miss it! The emphasis with all of these events is to join with Round Table, Ladies Circle and Tangent to bring all four organisations closer together to ensure that we can work together for the future of all of our organisations.

I attended my own club's Past Chairman's Dinner for one **Andrew Cooper** in **Balliol College** where we were entertained by Past National Councillor for Region 8 and Past Honorary Solicitor of the Association, **Rodney Huggins**.

And finally, this week anyway, I attended the **Region 8 Golf Day at Brailles Golf Club** in Warwickshire where I played with the two Davids from Bletchley, mostly in the rain, with about 40 others who enjoyed the day. I look forward to next year's event in Northamptonshire.

**Diamond Jubilee Year** has started and will conclude in **Bristol next April**; please don't miss out and make sure you have a year to remember too.

*Mike Fitchett*

National President 2005/06

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*For full Presidential Diary details visit: [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org)*





### Round Table is Back

Being **National President of RTBI** for me really is a dream come true. During my time as Vice President I made a commitment to visit at least one Table in every Area of RTBI, at an ordinary meeting, before I became President. I am proud to say I fulfilled that commitment and feel in a very unique position moving into such a key role within Round Table. My visits have given me a 'grass roots' perspective on tabling in Britain and Ireland and I can tell you we are in good shape. There is a positive mood about the future and Tables know what they are doing and are very good at converting guests/prospectives into members.



I have tasked Table with getting **2,500 new members**. Quite a stretching target if you think we have averaged about 800 for the last few years, but to put it in perspective I am asking each **Table to try to get 3 or 4 new members**. They think it can be done and so do I, so for the first time in our history we are embarking on a Membership Drive lead by the President of RTBI.

Many initiatives have been set in place to assist Tables and I am personally planning to visit over 150 ordinary Table meetings to encourage Tablers and offer help and ideas about how they can play their part.

### 41 Club have a part to play too....

Together with your President, **Mike Fitchett**, I want to challenge each **41 Club to provide two new members to Round Table**. I want you to think outside the normal boundaries that you adopt and not just focus on your sons or son in laws. What about the guy who repairs the photocopier at your office, what about the reps who call on you periodically, what about the guys who work for you? It doesn't matter which Table they join or whereabouts in the UK they are, we want to get them in. If we don't have a Table there let us know, maybe we can re-charter a closed Table. There are already plans to re-charter **Blandford & District 750, Monmouth 717** and **Sutton Coldfield 183** and we can handle plenty more – with your help we can achieve great things. If you are in a 41 Club without a feeder Table and you want to help re-charter your old Table, let me know and I will get the Area Exec. involved.

This will be the year Round Table starts to grow again after 17 years of steadily falling numbers – you can help make it happen.

One of the most encouraging experiences I had as Vice President was back in January 2005 when I attended the **Charter of a New Table – Shifnal 1275**. We don't charter Tables very often so it's always encouraging when it happens. But what was exciting about **Shifnal 1275** was that they chartered with **22 members** of which 18 of them were new Tablers and I had the privilege of inducting 16 of them on the night. In the 16 years I have been in Table we have not chartered a new Table with so many new members, normally it's the merger of a few Tables who want a fresh start. For those of you who don't know, **Shifnal** is a sleepy little village between **Telford and Wolverhampton**! If they can do that, I'm sure every Table in RTBI can get 3 or 4 members!

*Gary 'Maverick' Smith*

RTBI National President



### 41 Club at your Fingertips

Have YOU visited the website recently? No, then there are a few new items that may be of interest. We have added a **Past President gallery**, with a least one picture of every past president of the Association.

There is a new '**Club Forum**'. It's a talking shop, an area where YOU can have YOUR say about anything you want to talk about and invite the comments and support of others.

Did you attend the **Conference in Bournemouth**? If you did you will know what a superb occasion it was; if you didn't then get a taste of it from the photographs from each day on the Conference page.

The loss of Martin was a shock for us all, many members from all over the world have left moving tributes to him in the Book of Condolence we have opened in the Club Forum; take a moment to read them and maybe add a few of your own words, remembering Martin and supporting Gill.

We try to keep the website up-to-date and relevant to all the membership; drop by some time and see what's on offer at [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org)

*David Hewitt*

Honorary Webmaster.

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## Vice-President Ian MacKenzie

It seems very strange writing this article for the magazine. The events of the last few months and even days have certainly given all of us a reminder how precious life can be.

As I said at the National Council meeting in Abergavenny I am very conscious of the fact that being elected by **The National Council** as your **National Vice President** is indeed an honour and a privilege. I also wish to acknowledge that in Martins passing he has given to me a great opportunity and I do not intend to let him or the association down.

We all have great memories off Martin and in all that I do I can assure you that Martin will be in my thoughts. As I said "how precious life can be". I write this letter less than 24 hours after the terrible incidents in London on Thursday 7th July, I am certain that all our thoughts are with the families of those affected by those events. As so many people have said life still goes on and with this in mind I ask for your help.



I have started to make plans for the year ahead of me and already I am starting to receive diary dates. If your club has a meeting, charter or any other event that you would like me to attend please let me know. My contact details are on this letter.

Yes even sporting events which I know do take place. As they say "you are as young as you feel".

41 Club thrives on fun and fellowship and I hope that you will let me share this with you. As I said in my Vice Presidents statement I am a person who believes in getting out and about and with your help this is what will happen.

A very big thank you to the many 41 Clubs that either telephoned me or sent to me letters or e-mails of congratulations. They all were greatly appreciated. Enjoy your **41 Club Diamond Jubilee year** and I look forward to seeing many of you at our **Friendship Torch Events** across the country this year.

Yours in Friendship.

*Ian MacKenzie*

National Vice-President

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**For full National Vice-President Diary 2005 – 2006 & National President Diary 2006 – 2007 visit [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org)**

The Yorkshire Region Association of Ex-Tablers' Clubs

### *Hosts Barnsley 41 Club 44th White Rose Dinner*

Friday October 7th 2005 7.30pm

The Burntwood Court Hotel,  
Common Road, Brierley, Barnsley, S72 9ET

Guest Speaker:

ANDREW PARKER (ENT CONSULTANT)  
KEVIN MORAN (THE ORIGINAL SCouser)

BRASS BAND  
OLD SILKSTONE  
(YORKSHIRE CHAMPIONS 2003)

Plus other entertainment

Traditional Yorkshire Fayre only £29.00

Details from: David Frances at  
[davidjohnfrances@btconnect.com](mailto:davidjohnfrances@btconnect.com)

Or

Pete Whitehead at [Enquiries@toast-master.org](mailto:Enquiries@toast-master.org)

Region16 Diamond Jubilee

### *Torch Dinner Dance*

17TH SEPTEMBER 2005

AT THE NORWICH HILTON HOTEL

DANCING TO 'ABBA NOW'

7:00 FOR 7:30 TILL LATE

TICKET PRICE £35.00

Why not join us for the most prestigious  
Black Tie event of the year.

Meet All the Presidents  
41 Club, RTBI, Tangent, & Ladies Circle  
There is a full weekend of events  
planned, golf, river cruises,  
RTBI Museum Tour and more.

Discounted rooms are available directly  
from the Hilton Hotel.

Further details from:

David Roach Region 16 National Councilor

Tel: 07889510003

Email [region16@41club.org](mailto:region16@41club.org)

### Immediate Past President



My thanks must firstly go to **Richard Mathews** and all the **Bournemouth Conference** team for their hard work, which resulted in a truly superb Conference and AGM weekend. Despite initial concerns as to attendance numbers improved at the 11th hour and serious financial disaster was averted by welcoming attendees from **local Clubs** at the **Presidential Banquet and Ball**.

The **AGM** proved to be a lively affair with good debate and discussion on firstly the membership issue, the proposal failing to achieve a two thirds majority in favour albeit observers suggest that a slight majority in favour was noted on the day.

The proposed subscription increase (effective from January 06) also proved highly controversial. A compromise figure of £7-50 was agreed; this being coupled with a clear message to the Council that spending must be carefully controlled.

As a final Conference footnote may I again record my thanks to Clubs who generously supported by **Presidential Charity**, **The Willow Foundation**, (£7,250-00 was presented to **Bob Wilson** during the course of the AGM) and finally the **Tsunami Appeal** total exceeded £20,000-00, half of which was donated to the **Round Table Fund**. We can all be proud of our response to this terrible tragedy.

Looking ahead in my final year as a member of the Executive I chair the Forward Planning Committee and a meeting has already been convened with subjects under consideration including a Review of our National Structure and possible adjustment to our Conference guide lines and general cost saving measures. Future matters will include possible re-alignment of our existing Regions and perhaps increasing the size of the National Council. Comments and suggestions on these or any other topics are always welcome.

*Les Edwards*

Immediate Past President

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Email [pastpresident@41club.org](mailto:pastpresident@41club.org)

### Secretary

I start my spot with my normal plea!, as you have mostly all Elected new Officers can I please ask you to update the **Club Administration System (CAS)** with the details.



These are the details that will be published in the Directory and I need to ensure that the data we publish is as accurate as possible. At the time of writing nearly 300 Clubs have not updated the CAS system since January 1st, and I am sure there have been many changes we may not have had.

I would also ask you to be totally honest in publishing the correct membership numbers for your club. Budgets for the forthcoming year are based on these numbers and effectively if you under declare you could be forcing a capitation increase –and we wouldn't want that!

As you know you can update the system yourself via the internet, but if you have any doubts on doing it yourself – **Sue Hart at Marchesi House** will happily update it for you. Just give her a call!

At the time of writing we have just celebrated the astonishing **Diamond Jubilee Lunch**. I was proud to have been associated with such an amazing day, and honoured to carry the Torch of Friendship both at the Cathedral and at the ICC. I hope I carried with the style and dignity that **Martin Young** would have done had he been there to do it.

Sadly, at the end of the Diamond Jubilee Lunch, someone decided as a prank to 'capture as a souvenir' the Associations flag from the front of the balcony. I know we have a history of 'nicking regalia' but this is an important part of our regalia and I am sure will be required at many Torch Events throughout the year. Please return it to me or to **Marchesi House**, anonymously if you wish, or if you do know who has it – perhaps you could ask them to do the honourable thing!

*Martin Green*

National Secretary

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### Bournemouth AGM 2005 Resolution Results

- The 'Open Membership' Resolution was lost. There was a majority but not the necessary two thirds majority for it to be carried.
- The name of the Editor has been changed to National Communications Officer
- The name of the Sales Officer has been changed to the National Sales and Marketing Officer.
- A National Councillor can only stay in post for three years and a further two years – not two periods of three years
- A member of the National Executive can only hold their role for five years maximum – not six years
- The Capitation for 2006 was set eventually at £7.50 per member.

## International Officer



It is a great honour for me to take on the role of **International Officer** for the Association, it is a job that I Have always wanted. I am however greatly saddened at the sudden passing of my predecessor and very good friend Martin Young. He was an International Officer without equal and a marvelous ambassador for our movement. I have no doubt that he would also have been one of the Association's greatest Presidents and would have gone on to be International President. His will be a hard act to follow but my committee and I will be doing our best to maintain his high standards and ideals. We owe it to him.

I remember my first International "event"; it was an International luncheon at the RTBI National Conference in Torbay in 1975 ! Meeting so many overseas visitors at that time, and subsequently, really pitched me into "International". It is a great way to make lasting friendships and see the world. I was born in the Middle East and spent much of my childhood there so I do feel somewhat at home in the job.

My committee members are two new **National Councillors**, **Vaughan Harris, Region10** and **Andy Waite, Region 14**. Both of them are very committed to the international scene and they have many overseas contacts in RT and 41 Club. It looks good for the future.

At our **AGM in Bournemouth** we had 20 international visitors from five countries including the International President, **Alain de la Bretesche** from France. The German contingent was the largest group and Martin Young presented them with the **Tom Hodge/Victor Miskitch trophy**. The **Jim Parks trophy** went to **David Illingworth** who was considered to have contributed most too international in the past year.

My first duty was to attend the **41 International AGM in Durban, South Africa**. Well someone had to go! It was an excellent conference no doubt helped by the fact that one of the sponsors was South African Breweries. We had Zulu dancers and even a group of local miners dancing in boiler suits and wellington boots, in that heat! Over 200 people from 17 countries joined in the fun.

The AGM itself again benefited from the expert organisation of our own **John Bellwood** the 41 International Secretary and Treasurer. John read his usual letter from the Queen wearing a flowered hat whilst **Waldo Thorle** the **National President of 41 Club South Africa** made an amusing welcome address. Under John's guidance the meeting flowed smoothly that is until the delegates from the various countries were invited to report on their associations and exchange banners. This took far too long and by the time it was over the free beer had been drunk by the observers. !! One exception was Mike Fitchett who kept it **SHORT** (size does not matter) and presented copies of our new book "**Continued Friendship**" to various top brass.

**John Hudaon** from South Africa took over the international presidency from **Alain de la Bretesch** of France and **Uwe Kersten** of Germany became **Vice-president**. We, that is GBI, had indicated previously that we would like to host the International V/P in 2007/08 however we withdrew this offer until a candidate has been elected at the **Bristol AGM**. This means that we may host the post in 2008/9, if we win the vote in Dortmund next year. All of this will of course require Council approval.

There is a great deal happening on the international scene and a calendar of events is on the web-site and in the magazine. Please feel free to contact any of the International Committee for more details. By the time you read this I will have been to the **German AGM** in Karlsruhe. This will be a unique occasion since an Englishman; **Bob Parton** will become their **National President**. Andy and Vaughan are off to WOCO in August in Costa Rica and there are many other opportunities to go "international" in the months and years ahead. Give it a try, you will find that there is "continued friendship" in 41 everywhere you go. Think about coming to **Cyprus in October** for the **International half-yearly** meeting or how about the Iberian Cluster in Gibraltar also in October? In 2007 there is a meeting in Zambia at the Victoria Falls. Etc Etc.

We are looking to promote 41 in Poland and Alderney whilst a new club has started in **Spain on the Costa Blanca**. Please let us know if your club has a contact with an overseas club or if you would like a contact, we may be able to help.

Lastly, I would be very pleased to visit clubs to talk "International" or on anything else for that matter, just give me a call.

*Ken Boden*

International Officer

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## International Calendar

\* Those events marked with an asterisk are due to have Presidential representation

### MAY 05

21	Italy	AGM	Mantova	*
21	Great Britain	Diamond Jubilee Luncheon	Birmingham	*
28	Norway	AGM	Voss	*

### JUNE 05

4	Germany	AGM	Karlsruhe	*
4	New Zealand	AGM	Motueka	*
18	Belgium	Battle Anniversary Rally	Waterloo	
18	Austria	AGM	Steyr	*
18	France	AGM	Nantes	*
19	New Zealand	First Tour starts (ends 31 July)	Scandinavia/Baltic	

### JULY 05

2	Cyprus	AGM	Nicosia	*
	Zambia	AGM	Livingstone	*
31	New Zealand	First Tour ends	Scandinavia/Baltic	

### AUGUST 05

5	New Zealand	Second Tour starts (ends 6 October)	Scandinavia/Baltic	
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### SEPTEMBER 05

17	South Africa	AGM	Kroonstad	*
24	India	AGM	Calcutta	*
24	Romania	AGM	Suceava	*

### OCTOBER 05

6	New Zealand	Second Tour ends	Scandinavia/Baltic	
8	International	HYM	Limassol, Cyprus	*
8	Belgium	AGM	Brussels	
29	Switzerland	AGM	St. Gallen	*

### 2 0 0 6

### MARCH 06

11	Finland	AGM	Saarijärvi	*
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### APRIL 06

22	Indian Ocean	AGM	Mauritius	
27	Great Britain	International Lunch	Bristol	*
29	Great Britain	AGM	Bristol	*

### MAY 06

20	International	AGM	Dortmund, Germany	*
20	Germany	AGM	Dortmund	

### OCTOBER 06

7	Belgium	AGM	Ostend	
[14 PROV.]	International	HYM	Southend-on-Sea, Great Britain	

### 2 0 0 7

### APRIL 07

14	Great Britain	AGM	Newcastle	
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### MAY 07

12	Germany	AGM	Esslingen, southern Germany	
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## National Treasurer



Having completed my first year as treasurer I am pleased to say that I have enjoyed the experience, even if my first annual general meeting was not quite as smooth as it might have been!

I thank those club treasurers who have already paid the 2005 capitation that was due on 1 January 2005 and yet again have to exhort those who have not yet sent in their club's cheque to do so as soon as possible; just short of two-thirds of the amount due for the year has now been paid.

Earlier this year President Les launched his **Tsunami appeal**; this resulted in a bumper response from over one quarter of the Clubs as a result of which £20,136 has been paid to charity either directly to the Disaster Emergency Committee or through RTBI.

The National Council is conscious of the need to provide value for money, one way this can possibly be achieved is by obtaining sponsorship. In order to obtain sponsorship it is essential that a demographic mosaic profile is prepared, however this does not come without an initial cost: Council has agreed that this exercise should be commissioned notwithstanding that the cost, unbudgeted, is likely to be in the region of £1,200.

### Arnold Allen

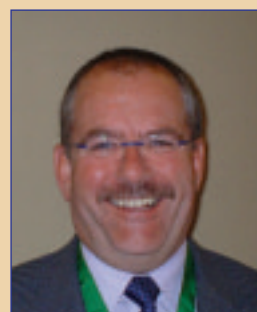
National Treasurer

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## Membership and Extension Officer

Firstly, a big thank you to **Ian Mackenzie** who has worked his socks off over the last two years and made **Membership** the high profile issue it deserves to be. He certainly will be a hard act to follow and is still very much a shining star in the Association.



By now we all know that the great membership debate is over. It was a fantastic success by any measure in producing awareness, debate, disagreement, anger etc. etc. - in other words we all woke up to the fact that Membership is our "Big Issue". The motion was defeated at the **Bournemouth AGM** and so the current membership rules remain. Some of you will be delighted, some not so and others won't really care either way. However, that is now all in the past and we must put it behind us and get on with a new year and new ideas.

These new ideas are not so new really in that we are still challenged by membership and the threat that it poses to our future existence. OK "open" membership is a dead issue, but I will want to focus our attention on Round Table and their own, possibly more acute, problems in this area. I look forward to working closely with the new **Round Table Executive** and hope that we all can help to stop their decline in membership. Round Table President Gary certainly has the ideas, energy and charisma (I'm not sure about the powder blue jackets though!!!) to make a difference, and 'vve must support him 100%. If Round Table numbers improve, so will our future.

To me it appears both as easy and also as difficult as that We are all chugged with doing our bit and a close and active relationship with Round Table is a good place to start.

The **Diamond Jubilee Lunch** was a fantastic success. What a truly memorable event and in terms of membership it was brilliant to affiliate the **Heart of England 41 Club** into the Association during it. They showed the way with a very strong turn out to mirror their equally strong commitment. Other new clubs are in the pipeline and that can only be good news for all of us

### Roger Evans

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41 CLUB PAST PRESIDENTS DINNER 2005  
Photograph by 'Marina Gallery Photographers', Llandrindod Wells

The 21st Reunion of the National Past Presidents of the Association of Ex Tablers Clubs or 41 Clubs was held at the Hotel Metropole, Llandrindod Wells. This is the first time in the history of the Association, which celebrates its Diamond Jubilee this year, that the Past Presidents Reunion has ever come to Wales for their bi-annual gathering. The weekend was hosted by Ernie and Pheone Husson who are seen with those present before the formal dinner on Saturday evening. Many of them travelled from all parts of the United Kingdom and one even from the Algarve in Portugal.





## BOURNEMOUTH CONFERENCE PICTURES CONT..



What a brilliant time we all had in Bournemouth, **Richard Matthews** and his team provided us with a friendly well run Conference, in a delightful location. I have left the main report on Bournemouth to my predecessor, **Tim Smith**, as Tim was your Conference Officer for this event. Whilst mentioning **Tim Smith**, I would like to thank him for his hard work for our Association over years. I would also like to mention my good friend **Nicky Phelan**, a worthy opponent, and someone I hope we see on Council again in the future.

Since taking office I have attended a **Bristol Conference** committee meeting. I can assure you all, that although Bristol may be the last in the current format of Conferences, you will have a great time in this fascinating city. A splendid venue has been chosen and booked for all of the events within easy walking distance of the comfortable Conference Hotels. **Peter Watts** and his team will provide an excellent value for money Conference. It will include an **International Lunch**, traditional West Country entertainment with a very full programme of events and trips to please all tastes, not to mention a fabulous pre Conference **West Country Tour** organised and led by professionals who are also Bristol 41ers. **The Bristol Conference** is filling up fast with numbers limited to 600. The Booking Form and brochure are contained within this issue of your magazine. I strongly suggest you book as soon as possible and join many others who have already signed up to **"Let Off Steam" at Bristol in 2006**.



What of the future, as far as our Conferences are concerned? You elected me on my promise to change the way we currently organise our Annual Conference. My brief is to provide our membership with a more cost effective format for Conference, making it more accessible to Clubs and individuals. This needs to be achieved without losing the enjoyment of a weekend of fun and fellowship. An **"easy task"** I hear you cry, many of you have given me your ideas already on how we might change things and this has been very helpful. However, I believe we may need to have several attempts, starting with **Newcastle in 2007** until we get this new format right, but get it right we will!

I visited **Newcastle** last Monday for the first time and found a very enthusiastic team under the guidance of your **Region 4 National Councillor, Malcolm Lockey**. I'm very pleased to say Newcastle already had some excellent ideas on how we can change things for 2007. The venues and hotels for Newcastle Conference have not yet been confirmed, although we must do this soon, so we can still make some of the changes we want to for this Conference. Now the frustrating bit for me and the Newcastle Committee, in that we need to get these new ideas approved by your Council. The next Council Meeting is in early June, so there will be little delay, but that is just after the closing date for this issue of the Magazine. Unfortunately you will all have to wait, with bated breath, until the next edition when we can share our new ideas with you. Your Conference Committee is very positive with what we can achieve in **Newcastle** and I'm sure you will be as excited as we are, with the outcome.

**Terry Cooper.**  
Conference Officer.

### *Diamond Jubilee Service – A Day To Remember*

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations got underway on Saturday 21 May with a most uplifting service of thanksgiving in **Birmingham Cathedral** conducted by our very own **Rev. Malcolm Lockey** who spoke eloquently on the theme of continued friendship. Over 300 members made the rafters ring with their enthusiastic singing and all who attended were full of praise for such a positive reminder of our purpose and ethos.

President Mike later welcomed 520 members representing 143 clubs to the **Diamond Jubilee Luncheon** in the **Birmingham International Convention Centre** which was a splendid occasion. The meal was well served and very tasty, the **Phoenix West Midlands Brass Band** had people standing on their seats singing lustily and the Torch of Friendship which had been earlier blessed at the service was loudly paraded and formally presented to 41Club by **R.T.B. I. President Gary Smith**.

A great atmosphere was further enhanced by the Welsh legend **Max Boyce** who entertained us most amusingly in his own inimitable style and had us all participating in his act. Presidents Gary and Mike who had the unenviable task of following Max hit the right notes of sincerity by promoting the links between the two Associations and outlining plans for the future. The presentation of their Charter to the new **Heart of England 41Club** was a fitting way to conclude the proceedings.

Our sincere thanks to our most generous sponsors **Tarn Print**, **Nethergate Brewery** and **Bill Hollis** and to everyone who in so many different ways helped make this a most enjoyable day which will live long in the memory.

*Iain Kelso*



### *The Torch of Friendship Blessing*

Our help is in the name of the Lord: Who made heaven and earth. Bless + O Lord this Torch of Friendship. May it burn as a symbol of enduring friendships forged by those who served as members of the Round Table movement and who now continue to enjoy those friendships in 41 Club around the world. Wherever it's light might shine, may it help in the furtherance of peace, friendship and goodwill among men. May your blessing be on all who are charged with the responsibility of carrying this torch. Keep them from all harm in their going out and their coming in and may they know the gifts of hospitality and fellowship in their journeys as envoys of the confraternity they represent. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



## *“60 Years on”..... The Diamond Jubilee Lunch*

*I thought he said ‘come to the book launch’, not a boozy lunch....*



The last time I stood on a table and pretended to be an aeroplane I had to write out one hundred times: “I am a poor substitute for a Messerschmidt, and a very bad Fokker.” My housemaster, bless him, had quite a sense of humour.

The last thing I expected was to wind up, forty years on, giving a repeat performance – of the aerobatics, not the lines – accompanied by 500 other chaps, some of them old enough to have been prefects to my thirteen-year-old schoolboy.

As I said to **Max Boyce** – and there’s a line I didn’t expect to be writing – “I’ve never seen anything like it.” And then I asked him, as a fellow stranger in the remarkable parallel world of a **41 Club beano**, “Have you?”

Max had been grimacing for some time - but that had nothing to do with the waving arms, wobbling tables, creaking knees, nor a chorus that would have prompted the most phlegmatic of Welshmen to wince. It was the interminable encores that were doing his head in. “Yes, yes,” he replied. “Fan-tastic.” He flexed his jaw muscles one more time, and looked at his watch. “But I’ve got a f\*\*\*ing plane to catch.”

That made his performance, when he finally got the green light, all the more remarkable. He was intensely focussed, wildly theatrical, utterly captivating – and the way he delivered his final punch line, acknowledged the laughter, scooped up his briefcase and made a beeline for the airport, was simply masterful.

My own exit was, I hope, equally slick but a little less high-profile. I’d promised to nip down to **Moseley** and watch **ex-Warwickshire cricketer Wasim Khan**, the subject of my next book, batting in a club game. All through the “singing” the clock had been ticking for me too, but with all those rheumy eyes casting around wistfully for one last glimpse of **The Nurse** – well, I don’t think I was spotted as I followed the Welsh comic down the escalator and back, blinking, into the startlingly real world of Birmingham city centre.

I doubt that Max would have had much time to reflect on what he’d seen at his first **41 Club gig**. Being the very polished performer he is, he’d be too busy rehearsing for his next engagement. But I had plenty of ‘down time’. By the time I got to Moseley, Wasim had been caught behind for eight, the heavens had opened, and the cricketers’ wives (is there a TV series there, I wonder?) were trying to rescue drowning toddlers from small lakes that were forming across the hallowed turf.

## *The Diamond Jubilee Lunch cont....*

So, a rumination on my brief acquaintance with 41. Your archivist, having drained another bottle of red into my glass just before I left the ICC, had tapped me up for an article – “by Friday, if you don’t mind” - and of course, suitably softened up, I fell over. I mean, fell for it.

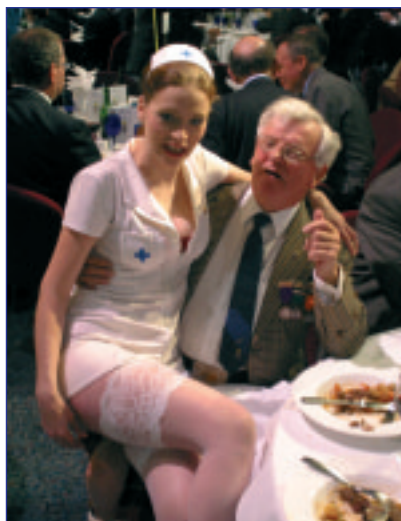
I knew nothing about 41 when I took on the job of writing your history. And I can now admit that I had the gravest doubts when the first replies to the questionnaire started rolling in. (I should add that the last reply arrived a week after the book was launched at Bournemouth). The first batch of answers followed the same pattern, and were in all probability written by the same bloke in a quiet corner of **Marchesi House**: nothing much happens at our monthly get-togethers; we eat, drink, fall asleep and wait for the wife to come and get us; and in any case you have to be there to understand it; but of course we can tell you all sorts of stories about What We Did In Our Round Table Days instead....

50,000 words on that lot? I nearly slung my hook before I got started.

Eventually - mercifully – a few stories started to arrive on the doormat. And then a few more. And eventually – thanks to those who took the trouble to pen their own club’s potted histories - I caught the flavour of your remarkable organisation. **Blokes having a laugh.** Yep, a sound idea. Can’t argue with that. Finally, having got some excellent material together, I was able to write a book which, I hope, reflects the spirit that I experienced as a guest at Birmingham. Writing the book became fun – and for that alone I thank you all for inviting me to do a most enjoyable job.

*Alan Wilkinson*

Author “Sixty Years Of Forty One”





## Continued Friendship - Sixty Years of Forty One

A 60th Anniversary is always something special and so there'll be celebrations up and down these isles over the next year. Our official birthday is **May 13th 2005**, which fell after the **2005 AGM**, thus the year will be culminating at the **Bristol 2006 Conference**.

But Council decided that it would be right for there to be a lasting memory of the years leading up to our **Diamond Jubilee** and so has commissioned a book, entitled "**Continued Friendship - Sixty Years of FortyOne**".

The book, written by freelance author Alan Wilkinson, takes us back to the formative days of the Association. Sure, it flowed from Round Table, but what exactly led us to form in the first place? Why did it happen just a few days after VE day? Who was involved in the formation? Which was the first 41 Club?

Alan's highly readable and entertaining style delves into the nature of 41 and of the many characters, events and landmarks that have featured over the years:

- where is the Old Gits Award presented?
- what is the origin of our motto "May the Hinges of Friendship Never Rust"?
- who designed our badge?
- when did the VAT man do us a favour?
- what trophies and regalia have we been presented – and lost?

It's surprising the regularity with which the same topics bounce around time and time again. For example:

- the magazine (scrap it -v- expand it);
- subs (freeze them -v- double them);
- international (stay in -v- who cares);
- non ex-Tablers in 41 (defeats our object -v- extend to our friends). And so on.

With facts and anecdotes from the depths of the archives and from members themselves, and extensively illustrated with photos from the magazine and elsewhere over the past 60 years, it tells not only how 41 was formed and has developed but gives an interesting insight into social changes.

A strictly limited hardback edition (approximate size 7" x 10" x 5/8"), this handsome book is on direct sale for the amazingly good value of **£10** at your Regional "**Torch of Friendship**" and other selected events, as well as from your **National Councillor**. It may also be obtained from **41 Sales** at our **HQ, Marchesi House** (telephone 0121 456 4402) in Birmingham or download an order form from [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org), for an all-in price including postage and packing of **£12.50 per book**.

*David Addison*

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