



# LINKS

Magazine of  
The Association  
of Ex-Tablers' Clubs



## NEW FEEDER TABLE PROJECT....

*Ian Mackenzie explains*

## THE DECLINE IN SERVICE CLUBS

*By Rodney Huggins*



## REGAIN A SENSE OF PURPOSE...

*Malcolm Lockey points the way*

**"Our Communications Strategy is about to change....  
I hope that the changes will lead to a better informed, more involved  
membership with a greater sense of purpose.".....**

*Richard Matthews - National Communications Officer*



**What costs £150 for a three night party? - See page 13**

# Our Communications Strategy is about to change .....

It is the National Communications Team's hope that the changes we are introducing will lead to a better informed, more involved membership with a greater sense of purpose.

In response to our members' criticism about the National Magazine content, production and circulation costs, we are introducing several significant changes.

## THE FIRST CHANGE.....

Welcome to LINKS. The Association's face lifted magazine. Why LINKS? Because it symbolises the number of links associated with The Round Table family. Links between individuals, Clubs, Organisations, both in GB&I and Internationally. Links in the chain through our Tabling lives.

LINKS will in future focus on publishing issues of National interest and will move away from the historical style of publishing the 30 National Council members' reports, which hold limited interest for the majority of club members.

Instead, our liberated pages will reflect the stronger leadership the Association needs to end its decline. The National Council is charged with managing and directing the wellbeing of the Association. The magazine will become a voice by which we hope to encourage all clubs to address key issues. In this copy we focus on the declining membership in both Round Table and 41 Club and offer some practical solutions for clubs to action.

The revised content will attempt to improve members' awareness of the issues facing the Association. Our editorial will both challenge the popular views and encourage debate and will hopefully motivate those members who still care about the wellbeing of their clubs into taking positive action to halt the decline and bring about change.

## THE SECOND CHANGE .....

Welcome to LOCAL LINKS. In June, we introduced a new Newsletter for each Region called LOCAL LINKS. Designed to cover local issues and club news.

Copies have been posted on your Region's page on the Association website and instructions were given to each Club Contact on how to download copies and circulate them to members. We sent out hard copies to 189 clubs who prefer not to use email.

If you have not received a copy let your Councillor know. Better still if you wish to contribute to future issues let your Councillor know. The next issue will be published in September 2006.

## THE THIRD CHANGE.....

Several Regions hold regular "Forums". In Ireland Region 2 have an "Exec" À la Round Table Area. The National Communications Team hope that all Regions will establish their own Forum in the months to come. A spin off maybe the recruitment of Area Representatives to support the National Councillor to bring about a closer alliance of local clubs within Round Table Areas.

## THE FOURTH CHANGE....

Not so much a change, but more emphasis on the use of email and the website. Many members are concerned about control of the Association expenses.

Over £50,000 is spent each year on communications to members and clubs. Electronic media will help us significantly reduce our costs.

## THE FIFTH CHANGE.....

Presently we enjoy sales income from Small Ads. The Association has paid for a mosaic profile of our membership and will be seeking to offer the opportunity for sponsors to publish details of a number of benefits they can offer our members. Hopefully we will add income to the Association.

We would of course like your views on these changes. We would like even more if local members volunteer articles and material for publishing in their LOCAL LINKS and if deemed of National interest, in LINKS.

*Richard Matthews*

National Communications Officer  
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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT



April 29th 2006 is a day I will remember for a very long time. It is a great honour and privilege to be the 61st National President of this fantastic Association. The last 4 months have highlighted to me that we do have a great Association and at home and abroad so much is happening and this should give us optimism for the future.

The year started with a visit to Ely on 3rd May for a Joint Dinner with Tangent and it was with great pleasure that I also had the company of Tangent National President Janis Attwell for the night! It was good to see a Tangent and 41 Club working so well together.

Over to Spain for the Chartering of a new 41 Club Calpe. This was the first time that I have attended a Region 20 International event and I would encourage everybody to get involved. Calpe as a 41 Club has 25 members and is going to be a strong club. They were great hosts and treated all four of us (Ken, June, Gloria and myself) like royalty and could not do enough for us. The 2 main events organised on the Friday and Saturday nights were well attended and the Charter Dinner was a great success. It is possible that we will hear soon of another new club in Spain and they will be very welcome.

At Thetford 41 Club I was the main speaker (well somebody had to do it). A thriving club with many new members. It was a pleasure to induct a new member. My thanks Thetford for the very kind donation to my chosen charity for the year.

Next the Round Table National Conference in Killarney. Without doubt the Irish Tablers put on a great conference and The Welcome Night, The National Presidents Ball and the Final Night Party were well organised and yes Tablers do know how to party. I perhaps should also say so do 41 Club members as it was noticeable how many 41ers were present and perhaps a lesson for us when we discuss Conference at our next National Council Meeting in June.

At the Round Table AGM it was a great pleasure to speak about our plans for the future and at the same time I asked them not to forget us, as we know "there is life after Table".

Back from Killarney on Sunday, and on Monday to Bexley 41 Club and the club motion to disaffiliate from our association. I have already reported on this and I was very pleased to report that the membership voted 100% to remain affiliated. Disaffiliation of clubs is a real issue and only by visiting our clubs can we help to avoid this problem in the future.

Potters Bar 41st Charter and once again it was good to see a 41 Club enjoying themselves. The guest Speaker Joe Goodman a member of the Grand Order of Water Rats was very funny as he managed to tell plenty of old jokes but in his own unique style. Well it saved me telling them. Then on the Thursday travelling with Ken, June and Gloria to Dortmund for the International AGM, and once again what a great weekend of fun and fellowship.

Ken our International Officer I know will report on the business side of things and he has a few things to report and we have some decisions to make at Council. For my part I can only repeat again what a great time and I would urge you to get involved with International.

Without doubt the highlights were the Friday and Saturday night functions at the Borussia Dortmund Football Ground, which is one of the World Cup venues. Yes it was Ken and myself practising our ball skills, well that was until we were removed! (New pitch for the World Cup, Whoops! See picture on web site) From now on Ken has to be known as Nobby!

Back home on Monday night after a somewhat windy journey back on the ferry and a few days to relax after a very busy month.

A visit to Isis and the Chairman's Night in a fantastic venue and once again a great night. My thanks for the donation to my chosen charity.

## FEEDER TABLE PROJECT

We have launched the Feeder Table Project and the joint letters have been sent to the 19 clubs concerned. At our National Council Meeting the Round Table National Membership and Development Officer Brad Parkes discussed this matter and other Round Table membership issues with us. I have already received some feedback and it is very positive, and in truth can a club afford to say NO?

It is great to see the work Richard Matthews is doing with the Regional newsletter – LOCAL LINKS. My thanks to him and also David Hewitt and Martin Green who have worked hard to get this launched on our web site. I urge you to visit your region's page and take a look at what we are doing. Keeping our clubs informed at local level is very important and this will help us to keep you up to date more regularly. Also your club can contribute, just contact your National Councillor.

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# NATIONAL PRESIDENT cont.

My next report will I hope give you more news on what we are doing at National Council. At our meeting in June we had a full agenda and some very exciting plans and projects to help all of us in every club keep this Association moving forward.

Once again our thanks must go to Martin for the hard work he did at our AGM. Without his dedication and many hours of work unseen by many our AGM would not flow and having seen a few others on my travels we do have an AGM which I believe is the envy of many countries within our association.

My thanks again to all who worked so hard to make Bristol the great National Conference it was. I have written to Peter Watts and thanked him and all of his committee for the really hard work they gave to make certain it was a conference to remember.

On my travels and wherever you see or hear me you will hear me saying 4I Club is all about having some FUN, great FELLOWSHIP and what we are best at FRIENDSHIP.  
Enjoy your 4I Club.

*Ian Mackenzie*



*"El Presidentes" Richard du Bois, Round Table -  
Janis Attwell, Tangent - Ian Mackenzie, 4I Club and  
Mandy Vines, Ladies Circle now appearing across the  
country to packed audiences*

# NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF ROUND TABLE WELCOMES THE FEEDER CLUB INITIATIVE.

I am delighted at the initiative launched by Ian Mackenzie to seek the co-operation of selected 4I Clubs to resurrect their Closed Tables and pledge to them my fullest support. This is a project that can have a real impact on Round Table and will assist us in our goal of reversing the trends of recent years and starting to grow Round Table again. Over the past year we have seen an increase in the number of New Members being inducted which is pleasing. This is, we feel, a direct result of some of the membership initiatives which have been introduced, the greater public awareness of Round Table through the increased exposure we have in all the media and a real "buzz" in Tables to attract the younger man.

Our efforts in developing Tablers to think Membership at all times are starting to pay off. This year we have seen the resurrection of two Tables that closed some years ago and there are more that are actively meeting with a view to reforming. Where we have difficulties of course is where the Tables have closed and this is where we feel a concerted effort with 4I Clubs, backed up by the central membership resources and the local Area Chairman and his team will be fruitful.

We want to work with you to regenerate those Tables that have closed. We feel as ex-Tablers, still loyal to your 4I Club, your affinity for Round Table and the contacts that you may have will be invaluable in identifying potential members. There is in life no better recommendation than the phrase "Well I was one!" and we feel certain that you would wish to work together to make this work for our mutual benefit.

Our local members will be supportive as much as you would wish both in ideas and in getting a potential Table through the process of affiliation and eventual Charter. But they need you to help generate those first connections.

Please give this your support and I, like Ian, hope to meet with you soon.

Yours in Table

*Richard du Bois  
National President*



# NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



I must start by thanking the two unsuccessful vice presidential candidates at the AGM, Peter Warr and Peter Owen, for a good hearted and amicable contest, and the eight members of Newton Abbot 41 Club who came to Bristol to support me. Thirteen days later and straight in at the deep end; my first official engagement 250 miles from home at Dronfield 41 Club's 30th Charter Dinner.

'Nothing too onerous, just ten minutes or so about 41 Club.' That's what I was told. It was not until a week beforehand when I am emailed a copy of the menu that I find that I am one of two speakers responding to the toast to the Association and guests. The other speaker is Lord Roy Hattersley. There is also a professional comedian. It was a superb night, extremely well organised by Club President, Ken Cooke, and his team. They have certainly set the standard for the next two years.

I made a pre-election promise of trying to bring back into the main stream of 41 Club those members who do not have Internet access. I am not 100% sure yet how to do that. I have some ideas, and I will need to consult with Communications Officer, Richard Matthews and Club Administrator, Sue Hart about how I progress them. There are several non-internet users in my two clubs and I intend to use them as 'guinea pigs' for some of my ideas. I will report on progress, if any, during the year.

I do not want to clutter these pages with my views for the future and my vision, because this is Ian's year and I intend to help, support, advise and deputise for him as required and continue my lifelong habit – two eyes, two ears, one mouth; use them in that proportion. I hope everyone in 41 Club will back Ian – he had a lousy start to his three-year stint at the top and after all his hard work over the past few years he deserves a great Presidential Year.

*Keith Howard*



**Dronfield 41 30th Charter  
Club President Ken Cooke (centre) and  
Guest Speakers Lord Hattersley (3rd from left) &  
The National Vice President Keith Howard  
with Club Members**

# BRISTOL SAY "THANK YOU"

The flow of thank you letters and cards has now stopped and we have had time to take stock. If she will forgive me for quoting her, the words I shall really treasure were from Past Tangent President Sue Thomas. On behalf of Howard and herself she wrote "It was like a family party which went on for three days". On reading that I really knew that we had achieved what we set out to.

On behalf of the conference committee and all at Bristol I would like to express our sincere thanks to all of you who turned up and made the weekend so special for everyone. It was not just your support, it was the manner of it! Throughout the weekend you made our "jobs" a pleasure and it was our privilege to lay on for you a weekend which you all so obviously enjoyed.

If I have a regret it is simply that more of those who attended the AGM did not attend any of the evening events. With the atmosphere generated and experienced at those, could anyone who was present have then possibly turned up on Saturday morning and exuded an attitude which could even remotely have been interpreted as "grumpy"? Unless generated by an excess of bonhomie of course!

Thank you all and good luck to Malcolm and the team at Newcastle. See you all there!

*Peter Watts*

*Chairman Conference Committee  
Bristol 2006*



**SO DO WE ! Ed.**

# WIMBLEDON ROUND TABLE



"From 9-11 June it was the turn of Wimbledon Round Table to host the annual social gathering of no. 62 Tables from 8 countries. Home dinner parties on the Friday enabled people to mix in smaller groups. On the Saturday we were lucky enough to have lunch at the prestigious Terrace Pavilion at the House of Commons. A lively Gala Dinner ended the middle day. Wimbledon 41 Club traditionally organised and hosted the brunch on the final day.

Newcomers to these weekends are always impressed by the genuine friendship amongst people they have never met before. The gathering was a great success with enjoyment overflowing."



## ST FRANCIS HOSPITAL NYENGA UGANDA

St Francis hospital is a 100 bed Private-Not-For-Profit hospital, owned and managed by the Lugazi Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, situated 30km from Kampala, 14km from Jinja and near the north shore of Lake Victoria. Although there is farming and fishing in the area, the main cash crops being vanilla and coffee, the majority of people are unable to sustain these as they live on such small pieces of land and, therefore, live a hand to mouth existence.

The Leprosy centre was founded in 1932, then elevated to hospital status in 1990 and, although it still treats leprosy and additionally HIV/AIDS patients, the main disease encountered most frequently now is Malaria. This one hospital covers an official catchment area with a population of 133076, but those seeking medical help do not observe such administrative boundaries and 30% of patients come from outside, thereby extrapolating the percentage to cover a population of 173000.

RTBI first became aware of the hospital in 1962 when a Tabler from Moffatt Round Table was working in Uganda. He persuaded his own Table to give financial support to the Leprosy Centre, as it was at that time, then his presentation to the 1968 National Conference gained the interest of Hyde Round Table when they began by sponsoring a child leprosy patient who was totally dependent on the centre.

Destitute children, in particular, seek help from churches and hospitals, these being their only sources of support. Free State education ends at about 11-12 years of age, therefore if they are unable to pay, the children are no longer tutored. The Centre advised Hyde RT that the most effective contribution would be to pay for the education of a child patient: £50.00 per annum. The grave political situation took its toll in the country but the local Rotary Club continued to maintain basic services, despite their President being shot dead whilst repairing the water pump.

Through the years Hyde Round Table's contributions continued, until 1989 when membership had decreased to such an extent that it proved impossible to sustain the full range of community service and support hitherto achieved.

In 1998 the club re-established the connection with the centre, now a general hospital, encountering a greatly increased workload. Recent statistics state that 4512 patients were admitted in 2003-04, over half (52%) with malaria. The education of destitute children remained the major problem therefore Hyde 41 Club agreed to sponsor 3 children at £100 per child and individual members, together with Dukinfield and Stalybridge Rotary Club have also made donations, some of which have benefited a new school, built from scratch by the Susuna family, relying on such voluntary donations.

The three children are now approaching adulthood, their formal education coming to an end, and the direction of further financial help will need to be considered. There are no dental, orthopaedic or physiotherapy services in the whole of the district served by the hospital, yet the most pressing need was for an ambulance. The old Landrover was requiring urgent replacement and some months ago Hyde 41 Club was informed that a second-hand ambulance may be available at the cost of £5000, but whilst this lead was actively pursued, the vehicle proved impossible to acquire.

The Annual Report records the hospital's sources of income as the Ugandan Government, some 12 charitable bodies, and fees paid by patients and donations. Despite the low fees many patients find them unaffordable and avoid collection by simply absconding following treatment. The underlying theme of the Report is of a hospital that is providing the services it can afford, and records that such provision must necessarily be incomplete. This compares with the approach in the developed world, where it is taken for granted that a complete range of health services should be provided, and the explanation that any shortfall must lie in the failure of those in charge to recognise the problem or to make the appropriate allocation of funds.

The wider problem of Third World debt continues to be addressed. If and when the debts of Uganda, together with other similar countries, are remitted; and governments' lack of concern for their people prioritised then there may be a marked improvement in the provision of healthcare. It is to be hoped that history does not repeat itself and, in the future, the money will be spent where it should be.

**More information about St Francis in Nyenga from:**

*Howard Shaw - Hyde 41 Club*

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# THE DECLINE OF SERVICE CLUBS



**Rodney Huggins**  
**Past Association Hon Solicitor**  
**and Past National President of RTBI**

At our Association's Annual Conference I was sitting at the same Dinner table as your new Editor Richard and discussed with him the perennial membership decline problem confronting Round Table and consequently ex-tablers' clubs. I mentioned that I had recently read an excellent book of the findings and thoughts of Robert D Putnam, a Professor of Public Policy at Harvard. It is entitled "Bowling Alone" and was published in 2000 by Simon & Schuster. Drawing on vast new data that reveals Americans' changing behaviour (and for that matter British as well) Putnam shows how we have become increasingly disconnected from one another and how social structures - whether they be PTA, church, fellowship and community service clubs and even political parties- have disintegrated

In the 19th century, chapter-based associations such as the Masons, Odd fellows and Elks clubs flourished. Two important factors were the population growth and the continuing rise in educational levels. By the turn of the century, there became a need for community involvement rather than clubs formed for fellowship amongst like-minded people. This arose because of much more civic awareness. Over the first twenty-five years of the 20th century Rotary and Lions began to get a foothold and Round Table was formed out of Rotary roots in 1927. Apex in Australia and Kinsmen Clubs in Canada had similar beginnings. This was all part of the burst of community involvement.

From his extensive research, Putnam comments at page 55 on the phenomenon as follows:

"By the late 1960s and early 1970s membership growth began to fall further behind population growth. At first, club secretaries long accustomed to announcing new membership records with monotonous annual regularity did not notice that their organizations were failing to keep pace with population growth. As the decline deepened, however, absolute membership began to slip and then to plummet. By the century's close the massive post war boom in membership rates in these organizations had been eliminated".

The post war boom after 1945 appears in virtually all the recognised and established clubs but for most of them the good times had ended by the mid-sixties. Round Table membership peaked in the mid nineteen seventies when I was National President and then slowly declined from some 33,000 to the 9,000 of today, accelerating in the nineteen nineties. Rotary has managed to maintain its membership at some 1.2 million worldwide but this is due mainly to tremendous membership growth in the Far East. In the USA and British Isles, membership is slowly declining at 3 to 4 % per year. Here in RTBI the membership is now 58,000.

In his research, Putnam identifies several areas which he believes have caused this decline in participation in local community groups. He comments that adolescents spend more time alone than with family or friends. Compared with teenagers studied in the 1950s young people in the 1990s reported fewer, weaker, and more fluid friendships. Therefore, they did not want to commit themselves to regular involvement in community-based groups.

*.....without any doubt the last ten years have seen a substantial increase in volunteering and community service by young people....*

Against this bleak picture of social isolation and civic disengagement among recent generations must be set one countervailing fact: without any doubt the last ten years have seen a substantial increase in volunteering and community service by young people in both America and here in the British Isles. This, of course is the recruiting ground for Round Table. Why this welcome and encouraging increase in volunteering has occurred is not yet clear. In part it may simply reflect stronger public encouragement for community service. If this youthful volunteering is driven only by official pressure - (and there is evidence that the current national government has set up various initiatives in this direction) - then one cannot be optimistic that the increase will prove durable.

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On the other hand, a more optimistic interpretation would be that the thirty-year trend towards generational disengagement is at last bottoming out. Round Table has reported an increase in membership of some 10% over the last twelve months. Is this another sign that things are improving?

*.. We are at a crossroads. If we do not take some action, our membership will continue to decrease to our detriment..*

Therefore, there is strong evidence that the reason why we have seen such a decline in interest in Round Table and Rotary amongst the younger generation is because of their changing attitudes towards their lives and pursuits and, in turn, our clubs. Interestingly, in Rotary, there is a strong tendency for people who have recently retired joining. It is rare for people under forty wanting to be involved and that also applies to Round Table. In our Association we have turned down the concept of men who have not been in Round Table joining. If we want to keep up our declining numbers then we must re-consider the proposal. If there is to be an up-turn in Round Table membership then it will take some time before this becomes of benefit to our Association. We are at a crossroads. If we do not take some action, our membership will continue to decrease to our detriment.

Reference is made by Putnam in his book to "social capital". He took this reference from one L J Hanifan who was a state supervisor of rural schools. Writing in 1916 to urge the importance of community involvement for successful schools, he invoked the idea of "social capital" and described it as:

"...those tangible substances that count for most in the daily lives of people namely goodwill, fellowship, sympathy and social intercourse among the individuals and/or families who make up a social unit... The individual is helpless socially, if left to himself... If he comes into contact with his neighbour, and they with other neighbours, there will be an accumulation of social capital, which may immediately satisfy his social needs and which may bear a social potentiality sufficient to the substantial improvement of living conditions in the whole community..."

At the conclusion of his book Putnam poses several questions which he asks to be answered in a decade. They are worthy of repetition because they are the same conundrums that we should be asking. A summary is as follows:

**Let us find ways to ensure that our citizens will spend less leisure time sitting passively in front of glowing screens and more time in active connection with their fellow citizens.**

**Let us foster new forms of entertainment and electronic communication that reinforce community engagement rather than forestalling it.**

**Let us find ways to ensure that the level of community engagement amongst our young people in all parts of our society will match that of their grandparents when they were that same age, and that at the same time bridging social capital will be substantially greater than it was in their grandparents' era.**

**Let us find ways to ensure that by 2015 Britain's workplace will be substantially more family-friendly and community-congenial, so that our workers will be enabled to replenish our stocks of social capital both within and outside the workplace.**

**Let us spur a new, pluralistic, socially responsible "great awakening", so that by 2015 we will be more deeply engaged than we are today in one or another spiritual community of meaning, while at the same time becoming more tolerant to one another.**

*....It may be that we should be more involved in helping Round Table.....*

I know that these are high moralistic challenges but we must all take steps to ensure that the world of doing good coupled with enjoyment which we have all experienced survives and expands once again.

Perhaps Round Table will have to look at its way of running each unit to see how it can be more attractive to young people. It may be that we should be more involved in helping Round Table.

There is no panacea. We live in difficult times for promoting social capital awareness, involvement and activity but I know that we have to participate more to survive. Putnam's Bowling Alone has identified a central crisis at the heart of our society and suggests what we can do.

What do you think we can do or is it inevitable that we shall cease to exist?

*Rodney Huggins*



# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.....

Does it? Does belonging to a local 41 club matter to you or your friends or family? Does having a 41 club in the city, town or village where you live – matter? Does it matter that your club is affiliated to a worldwide network of like-minded men who have been members of that great organisation Round Table?

Too often the answer seems to be that it doesn't matter at all – to anybody! Our communities haven't a clue who we are or where we came from or what we stand for. What is even more worrying is that our own, personal membership of this great Association of ours that has just celebrated a great milestone in its history, doesn't seem to matter to us anymore. We don't wear our badge with pride as we were once extolled to do as members of Round Table. As we go out and about our daily business we haven't a clue who might be a member because for some reason we no longer wish to proclaim the fact that we belong to the Association by wearing our lapel badge or by displaying a roundel in our cars. Is this symptomatic of the 'disease' which seems to be affecting our society today – the 'disease' that is outlined by Rodney Huggins in his article 'The Decline of Service Clubs' which appears elsewhere in this magazine? Have we been infected by the malaise which seems to have infected every level of our society – or have we simply grown old and tired and lost the sense of vision and purpose which inspired and motivated us when we were in Round Table?

When I joined Table in the mid 1970's I felt privileged to be invited to be a member. Throughout my time in Table I felt motivated by the ideas and energy which my fellow members brought to meetings. I learned to stand on my feet and argue my corner and in turn to motivate others and these skills or qualities carried over into my professional life. When Round Table put its mind to it, I firmly believed that we could change the world. As a movement we certainly changed lives and helped countless numbers of people through our organisational skills and fund-raising activities and I was proud to be a part of it.

And I was proud to become a member of 41 club when, along with a group of friends who left Table at more or less the same time, we set up a new club because we'd found it difficult to 'break in' to a large and well established club that already existed.

But then what happened? I certainly cherished and continue to cherish the friendships that were formed way back in Table days but what do we do? Why do we meet? How long can we hold together when we more or less repeat the same programme of activities year after year? There comes a point when we will say – enough is enough – I can't be bothered anymore – let's pack it in.

I know that to be true because in my first few weeks as National Membership Officer I have received letters from all over the country painting just that picture – and we have got to do something about it otherwise our organisation - like so many others - will just trickle away into the sand and be no more!



But there is a ray of hope! I have also received 4 applications from keen ex Tablers who feel that there should still be active fellowship as part of the Round Table family in the areas where they live and they are asking advice on how to start or resurrect a 41 club.

Apart from pointing them in the direction of our web-site where they can find all the advice they need, along with the Affiliation application form, I'm also pointing them to the 'purposes of 41 club' – the Aims and Objects of our Association if you like – which can be found in our Club Handbook and Directory.

Never seen them? Take a look. They could change the focus of your club and give it a whole new sense of purpose and direction – which is exactly what we need if we are to go forward and attract new members and – dare I say it – contribute something to our society.

I would agree with much of what Rodney Huggins says in his article. I think we all would: we've felt that something was going wrong in our society for too long but we may not have been able to articulate it quite so well. I firmly believe that it is only through organisations such as Round Table and 41 Club, Rotary and Lions that we will be able to address the 'I'm alright Jack – what's in it for me?' malaise which is endemic in our country today. But to do so we need to regain a sense of purpose and that's a debate that is beginning to happen at National level and it should also be happening at individual club and regional level.

We bring a huge amount of knowledge, professional skill and expertise to our Association and it seems a pity that it's not harnessed in some way – especially when it's informed by what we know we can achieve when we put our minds to it – as we did in our Round Table days. To adopt and adapt a phrase that stirred up our nation in the early 1900's – our country needs us – even though we may feel ourselves over the hill and rapidly going down the other side. Membership can matter if ... we regain a sense of purpose in our Association!

*Malcolm Lockey*  
*National Membership and Extension Officer*

# YOU HAVE HEARD THE WORDS. NOW LET'S SEE SOME ACTION....

As a member of two 41 Clubs (one with nearly 100 members and the other having grown from 36 members to 50 in three years) the idea that falling membership is a problem is perhaps not seen as an issue. However it would be a mistake to be complacent. Both clubs are very vibrant and enjoy in different ways a full programme of events and fellowship. Importantly volunteers come forward each year to fill the roles. But as one new member reminded us we are all getting older and while we may feel healthy at present, in a few years things may be less vibrant.

Fortunately we have active Round Tables connected to the clubs but it is by no means certain that Tablers will want to join us. We make sure that contact is maintained with these Tables and 6 ex -Tablers have joined the smaller club this year. So what are our options for the next couple of years.

We have had open membership ruled out for the present at least. The majority of new members in both clubs now come from the ranks of ex Tablers who have moved into the area. It is interesting to consider how many eligible Ex Tablers there are in GB&I. Is it possible that between twenty and thirty thousand potential members exist? The top figure is larger than our current membership which suggests if we found them all we could double the membership of clubs. Further this market is bigger than anything Round Table will produce in the short term.

For many years National Presidents and National Membership Officers have exhorted clubs to take action on membership. From my experience of several 41 clubs the subject is never on the agenda. It is never discussed. No one to my knowledge has ever been charged with the responsibility of marketing their club and it is simply left to word of mouth or the odd keen member that brings people to meetings, The personality of the club also has a huge bearing on whether new members will feel welcome. As a National Councillor I have not always been met with a smile of welcome!

So how can we get a sense of purpose and motivation to attract new blood, new ideas and volunteers to stop us having to do the chair for the umpteenth time.

First of all "Membership" has to be on the meeting agenda. This is where leadership is required from our Club Chairmen. For an organisation which proudly boasted Adopt Adapt Improve 41 club members have to accept that in their stewardship the movement of which we are so proud looks to be in terminal decline. But it is not too late.

**It is not rocket science and like most things in Clubs, just one enthusiast can move mountains.**

## *Some suggestions....*

Discuss at a club meeting and agree to set up a working party to be led by a keen volunteer charged with sourcing membership for your club.

Approve a small budget (£200?) to cover advertisements in local papers to make people aware of 41 Club's existence.

Talk to local press, radio, tourist departments and find out who keeps the local directory of clubs and associations in your town.

Hold interviews with reporters and get on radio, publish details of your club.

Talk to other service clubs Rotary, Probus, Lions etc.

Post advertisements in doctor's surgeries, libraries, tourist offices, estate agents and on supermarket notice boards for example.

If a member moves contact the local club to let them know he is coming.

Contact lapsed members and get commitment to attend meetings.

Hold a membership night.

Open a club website.

Talk to all Tablers over 40 if you have a Table.

Contact all ex Tablers who have not joined your club and if they don't want to join suggest they start their own club and you will help.

Discuss with your Table to discourage repeated honorary years being offered to retired Tablers particularly if they are deferring joining 41 Club.

There is strength in numbers, so talk to other clubs and recruit them to a local team to benefit all clubs.

Attend Round Table Area meetings and tell them what you are doing.

If a club nearby is closing get them to join your club.

Take the initiative and start a local club's forum and use the affinity that developed in Table to increase momentum.

**New members bring more than just numbers, they can bring new enthusiasm and new ideas provided they are made welcome.**

**The first step will be the hardest but the rewards will be amazing.**

**Make it Happen!**

## *The Editor*

**P.S.**

**News on the progress of the Feeder Table project is to be published in our next magazine.**

# SERVICE RECOGNITIONS

*John Spence*



After becoming only the third recipient of the prestigious Marchesi Medal for service to Round Table at the AGM in Killarney, John Spence MBE has been further honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the award of an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services as Deputy Chair, Business in the Community – for services to Charity.

# IS THIS A NATIONAL RECORD?

*In recognition of  
Don Skidmore  
Dedham 41 Club*

There must be a little history in my story so I go back to 1960. As an elder brethren of Harwich Round Table I was politely shown the door. Two of us retired that year but no 41 Club existed. A similar situation for a number of local Tables, including Clacton-on-Sea, Maldon and Brentwood. Being impatient we banded together members from these clubs and formed our Club in Dedham 41, a picturesque village in Constable countryside.

The early days are a little hazy but we never had a chairman, each taking our turn at monthly meetings. However we did have a permanency, the Club Secretary, Don Skidmore. He has been the Secretary for 44 years. Is this a record?

Doing the chairman's job was a push-over; you simply followed Don's agenda through topics like "Poet's Corner", "Where have you been?" (Holiday Reports) or "An old Chestnut".

50% of the members are now over 80 and they have recently debated forming an 81 Club but it failed to get a majority and was thrown out. If you want to meet these gentlemen why not visit the Marlborough Head Hotel at 1.00pm and pass a couple of hours with Don and the "boys". Members of Dedham thank you Don for your dedicated service and hope your good health has returned.

## CAPTION COMPETITION



Can you provide a suitable caption to this picture of Mike Fitchett taken on his visit to Ireland?

The best entries should be acceptable for publication and will receive their prize from the National Communications Officer in the bar at Newcastle's Party Tyne next April.

email [comms@41club.org](mailto:comms@41club.org)

# NATIONAL COUNCILLORS



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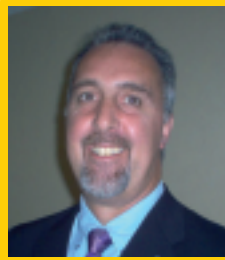
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# THREENIGHTPARTY



*You are invited to our*

## Three Night Party

*12th -15th April 2007*

**£150** buys you tickets to three great events, including transport from the accommodation of your choice.

Full details are contained in the attached brochure which includes booking forms for the package and Tangent Luncheon. You can download copies from the website - [www.4lclub.org](http://www.4lclub.org)

4l Club annual parties including the Annual General Meeting are the Associations best enjoyment secret. Newcastle is a great centre and offers super venues and places of interest and a great variety of accommodation to suit all purses. You could enjoy a full week stay in the Land of the Prince Bishops.



**The best way to enjoy this major fellowship event is to form a group from your club or other local clubs and make a fun filled weekend in "Noocassell"**

Make a date with the "Angel of The North", Malcolm Lockey and his "Flock" who are just waiting to welcome you.

# PRESIDENT'S DIARY

## SEPTEMBER 2006.

Friday 1st September – Sunday 3rd September – R.T.B.I. National Sporting Weekend – Warwick – The Godiva Games.

Sunday 3rd – Region 2 meeting.

Friday 8th – Sunday 10th September – Region 3 – Eurometing – Samur – France.

Wednesday 13th September – Hoylake & West Kirby 41 Club – TBA.

Saturday 16th September – National Association Ladies Circle – 70th Anniversary Luncheon Celebrations – Royal Armouries Hall, Leeds.

Tuesday 19th September – Region 11 – Golf Day – West Malling Golf Club.

Wednesday 20th September – Scottish Golf Championships – Ayr & District 41 Club – Prestwick St Nicholas.

Friday 22nd September – Region 10 Golf Day and Region 10 Dinner – Wallington & Carlshalton 41 Club.

Monday 25th September – Region 14 Forum – TBA.

Friday 29th September – Region 5 - Isle of Man – TBA.

Region 18 - Quiz – TBA

## OCTOBER 2006.

Sunday 1st October - Region 11 Forum.

Wednesday 4th October – Region 15 - Hawk 41 Club – TBA

Thursday 5th October – Monday 9th October – Iberian Cluster – Costa Del Sol.

Thursday 12th October – Ely Past Chairman's Night.

Friday 13th October – Sunday 15th October – National Council Weekend – Southend – On – Sea.

Friday 13th October – Sunday 15th October – International Half Yearly Meeting – Southend – On – Sea. – Dinner House of Commons.

Tuesday 17th October – Welwyn 41 Club - Silver Charter Night – Beales (Hatfield Lodge).

Friday 20th October – Region 14 - White Rose Dinner – Headingley Stadium – Leeds – Hosted by Horsforth 41 Club.

Saturday 21st – Monday 24th October – Irish Rally – Banbridge & District 41 Club – The Slieve Donard Hotel – Co Down.

Wednesday 25th October - Wickford 41 Club – 41 st Charter Anniversary - Hinge Trophy Event.

Thursday 26th October – Monday 30th October – Algarve Charter Weekend – TBA.

## NOVEMBER 2006.

Thursday 2nd November – Region 7 - Shirley Late Knights – Friends Night – TBA.

Friday 3rd November – Region 5 – Red Rose Dinner – Darwen Golf Club.

Friday 10th November – Region 8 – Cluster Dinner – Balliol College – Oxford.

Saturday 11th November – Tangent Regional Lunch – Royal College of Physicians – London.

Monday 13th November - Region 17 Bridgwater.

Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Day – London.

Wednesday 15th November – Region 3 – Forum.

Thursday 16th November – Region 15 – Lyme 41 Club – 30th Charter.

Saturday 18th November – Region 9 – Bishop's Stortford 40th Charter & Tangent's 35th Charter – Bury Lodge Hotel.

Wednesday 22nd November – Region 9 – Rayleigh & District 41 Club & Wickford 41 Club – Joint Meeting- Venue TBA.

Friday 24th November – Region 12 – Exeter 41 Club – 50th Charter – Exeter Golf & Country Club.

Wednesday 29th November – Region 6 - Forum – Ilkeston.

## DECEMBER 2006.

Saturday 2nd December – Region 4 – Forum – TBA.

Wednesday 6th December – Haverhill & District 41 Club.

Thursday 7th December – Long Eaton 41 Club – Christmas Dinner – Donnington Manor Hotel.

Monday 18th December – Region 16 – Constable 41 Club – Joint Xmas Dinner – Felixstowe – Ipswich 240 – Greyfriars Round Table – Fynn Valley Golf Club.

## JANUARY 2007.

Monday 8th January – Region 9 Cluster Dinner – Southend – On – Sea – TBA

Wednesday 31st January – Region 11 – Crowborough 41 Club – TBA.

Norwich, Wensum & Yare Forecast Meeting – TBA

## FEBRUARY 2007.

Friday 2nd February – Sunday 4th – National Council Weekend

Thursday 8th February – Region 13 – Forum – TBA.

Friday 9th February – Region 15 Forum.

Saturday 10th February – Region 9 – Great Dunmow Charter Dinner – TBA.

Thursday 15th February – Region 3 – Forum – TBA.

Friday 16th February – Liverpool 41 Club – 70th Charter – Region 15 Cluster Dinner - TBA.

Seven Shires Dinner – TBA

Region 1 & 19 Joint Regional Forum – TBA.

## MARCH 2007.

Thursday 1st March – Region 13 Cluster Meeting – Deeside 41 Club.

Friday 2nd March – Region 17 – Dorset Knobs – TBA.

Saturday 3rd March – R.T.B.I. – National President's Ball – London.

Monday 5th March – Region 7 – Cluster Meeting Venue TBA.

Thursday 8th - Region 13 Mid-Wales Cluster Newton FC.

Friday 9th March – Region 4 Cluster Meeting.

Friday 16th March – Sunday 18th March – Region 1 & 19 Scottish Cluster Weekend – Peterhead 41 Club.

Friday 23rd March - Region 6 Cluster Meeting – Ilkeston Club.

Saturday 24th March – Round Table Britain & Ireland – 80th Anniversary Charter – National Motorcycle Museum – Solihull.

Tuesday 27th March – Region 3 – Newport (Gwent) – Cluster Night – TBA.

## APRIL 2007.

Sunday 1st April – Wednesday 11th April – TBA.

Wednesday – 4th April – Haverhill & District 41 Club – A.G.M.

Thursday 12th April – National Conference – Newcastle.

Friday 14th April – National Conference – Newcastle – National Council Meeting.

Friday 14th April – National Conference – Newcastle – National President's Ball.

Saturday 15th April – National Conference – Newcastle – A.G.M.

# SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

*A USA business magazine recently ran a "Dilbert Quotes" contest....*

"As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday, and employees will receive their cards in two weeks."

*(This was the winning quote from Fred Dales, Microsoft Corp. in Redmond WA)*

"What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter."

*(Lykes Lines Shipping)*

"E-mail is not to be used to pass on information or data. It should be used only for company business."

*(Accounting manager, Electric Boat Company)*

"This project is so important we can't let things that are more important interfere with it."

*(Advertising/Marketing manager, United Parcel Service)*

"Doing it right is no excuse for not meeting the schedule."

*(Plant Manager, Delco Corporation)*

"No one will believe you solved this problem in one day! We've been working on it for months. Now go act busy for a few weeks and I'll let you know when it's time to tell them."

*(R&D supervisor, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing/3M Corp.)*

Quote from the Boss:

"Teamwork is a lot of people doing what I say."

*(Marketing executive, Citrix Corporation)*

My sister passed away and her funeral was scheduled for Monday. When I told my Boss, he said she died on purpose so that I would have to miss work on the busiest day of the year. He then asked if we could change her burial to Friday. He said, "That would be better for me."

*(Shipping executive, FTD Florists)*

"We know that communication is a problem, but the company is not going to discuss it with the employees."

*(Switching supervisor, AT&T Long Lines Division)*

## TRUE ?

A young man named Gordon bought a donkey from an old farmer for £100.00. The farmer agreed to deliver the donkey the next day.

When the farmer drove up the next day, he said, "Sorry son, but I have some bad news... the donkey is on my truck, but he's dead."

Gordon replied, "Well then, just give me my money back."

The farmer said, "I can't do that. I went and spent it already."

Gordon said, "OK then, just unload the donkey anyway".

The farmer asked, "What are ya gonna do with him?"

Gordon said, "I'm going to raffle him off."

To which the farmer exclaimed, "You can't raffle off a dead donkey!"

But Gordon, with a big smile on his face, said "Sure I can. Watch me. I just won't tell anybody that he's dead."

A month later the farmer met up with Gordon and asked, "What happened with that dead donkey?"

Gordon said, "I raffled him off. I sold 500 tickets at two pounds a piece and made a huge profit"

Totally amazed, the farmer asked, "Didn't anyone complain that you had stolen their money because you lied about the donkey being dead?"

And Gordon replied, "The only guy who found out about the donkey being dead was the raffle winner, when he came to claim his prize.

So I gave him his £2 back plus £200 extra, which is double the going value of a donkey, so he thought I was a great guy."

Gordon grew up and eventually became the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and no matter how many times he lied or how much money he stole from British voters, as long as he gave them back some of the stolen money, most of them thought he was a great guy.

# INTERNATIONAL REPORT



Who likes to visit foreign shores ?  
Who enjoys meeting people from different cultures and backgrounds ?  
Who enjoys sampling the local cuisine ?  
Who enjoys tasting the local beers and cocktails ?  
Who likes to be shown the sights by people who know the region ?  
If the answer to any of the above questions is "I DO" then 4I International is for you!!

In the company of likeminded persons YOU can enjoy 4I Club outside GB&I and continue the fun and fellowship that so shaped your life that was "Round Table".

Throughout the year there is a full calendar of events taking place around the world. These include the AGM and Half Yearly Meeting of 4I International, the AGMs of the various Associations, Number Club meetings, ski and sailing weekends and Regional get togethers plus Charter Presentations and Anniversary Dinners. In addition to all this activity many individual clubs and indeed individual members have regular visits to and from other clubs where contacts and friendships have been forged over many years.

Many of the meetings take place in interesting and exotic locations. Recently I attended the AGM of 4I Club Denmark which was held in "Hamlets" castle in Elsinore. Two weeks ago National President Ian and I were in Dortmund for the 4I International AGM. The official functions were held in the football stadium where some of the World Cup games were played and which is the home of Borussia Dortmund F.C. We were allowed to stand on the terraces and the tannoy system played a recording of a very large football crowd. It was deafening but magnificent. Ian and I actually stood on the pitch which turned out to be "verboten" and we were given red cards!!

The Dortmund AGM consisted of a morning workshop when proposed rule changes and fee increases were discussed. These will be on the agenda for the Southend HYM and was discussed at the Cambridge Council meeting in June. Any changes will then be voted on at next years 4I International AGM in Graz but not before we have a vote at the Newcastle AGM.

**NEWSFLASH**  
**4I Club Gdansk charter**  
**weekend 6th - 8th**  
**October 2006**

The AGM proper was held in the afternoon. It was all fairly non-contentious but the good news was that GB&I was approved to host the International Vice-Presidency in 2008/9 and our own John Bellwood will therefore be International President in 2009/10.

Uwe Kersten from Germany took over from South Africa's John Hudson as International President.

Looking ahead there are HYMs, with pre-tours, to Zambia and Mauritius and a tour to Australia with Apex 40 is being considered. There is a Euro 3 meeting on the 8th/9th/10th September 2006 in Saumur, France, the Iberian Cluster, 6/8th October in Puerto Banus Spain and the HYM of 4I International at Sunny Southend-on-Sea the following weekend 13/15th October. We have just chartered a new club in Calpe, Spain and I am hopeful that there may be other clubs soon in Tenerife and Poland.

We are the largest Association in 4I International and many of the others tend to take the lead from us. Their events are often modelled on our functions but are always that bit different and include the flavour of the country. There are a number of stalwarts who attend many of the meetings but it would be great to see more from the UK. Do not worry about being unable to speak a foreign language. The official language of 4I International is English and in any case most of the persons you are likely to meet usually speak fairly good English. If you can say a few words in the local language it will be very well received.

If you have a contact / twin-club please let me know. It is always useful to know who is going where. In the same vein, if you already travel or receive visits why not go further and attend other functions abroad? I am sure that once you experience the fantastic fellowship that is "International" you will want to do more.

Many members ask me for information about 4I overseas. They may be going abroad on holiday, for business or even emigrating. I am always pleased to try and assist but I failed with requests for China, Vietnam and Beirut!! An International calendar is published on our web-site and in the Directory. I can usually supply information concerning most of the events listed with maybe a few others as well. If you would like me to visit your club I would be very pleased to do so, it will cost you nothing to invite me along unless you wish to buy me a drink!

I know members ask "what do we get from 4I International" and "why do we belong"? The answer is a great deal but you must participate to enjoy the benefits. Please do not "knock" it until you have tried it. Get involved, you will not regret it.

*Ken Boden*  
*(International Officer GB&I)*

01268 710588 / e-mail: [international@4iclub.org](mailto:international@4iclub.org)



# SOUTHGATE 41 CLUB IN FRANCE.

Southgate Round Table III established a twinning arrangement with Chateau Thierry Table Ronde III, over 40 years ago. For many years visits have taken place between the two clubs and these meetings have extended to be Euro meetings with the various European III clubs getting together. About 19 years ago Southgate 41 Club members wanted to maintain the links formed in earlier days and suggested that Chateau Thierry form an equivalent club. A group from Southgate 41 Club attended their charter and has, spasmodically, maintained the links with that club.

## CALPE & DISTRICT 41 CLUB – CHARTER PRESENTATION – 6TH MAY 2006

The Calpe and District 41 Club, created just a year ago, received the official Charter from the GB and Ireland National Association in a well attended ceremony at the Sol Ifach Hotel in Calpe on Saturday 6th May.

Unfortunately Ian Ritchie, the founder, was unable to be present, having just returned from a spell in hospital. However his wife Carol attended and he was remembered on several occasions during the event.

Chairman, Andrew Johnson, received the Charter from National President, Ian Mackenzie, at a gala event attended by some 80 guests from other clubs, and representatives of various wings of the Association. Visitors included members of 41 Clubs in Javea, Estepona and Nerja, as well as a dozen clubs in the UK.

Andrew expressed his great satisfaction with progress of the club, which now numbers some 26 members, making it the second largest in Iberia and one of the most healthy clubs in the Association.

Membership of 41 Club is open to Past Round Tablers of all nationalities, or age 40 plus current Tablers.

The club meets on the third Thursday of the month. Visitors and prospective members should contact Andrew on 96 587 50 70, or by email at [johnson@figleaf.org](mailto:johnson@figleaf.org)



Charter May 2006

In June, 9 members of Southgate 41 Club accepted an invitation to visit France where we were joined by a similar number of our friends from Springe - the German equivalent III club

Visiting Chateau Thierry is not a 'hardship trip' as this attractive town is at one end of the Champagne Valley. We met up at a local golf club where some of us were greeted by our hosts. A few had opted to stay in a hotel so stayed at the golf club for a buffet and some liquid refreshment. Most of us went to our billets and then on to dinner parties at various homes.

The evening bash was superb with champagne as a welcome followed by a tremendous meal with champagne and wine flowing very readily. It is amazing how a little alcohol loosens tongues in a language last used at school over 40 years ago. Between us we managed to help each other over the language barrier and we were taken back to our hosts' homes in the early hours.

Saturday during the day was taken up with visits to a local castle and an old, disused, hospital now a museum. Back to our hosts' homes to change and onto a party in a local Champagne house good weather meant we could start with Champagne and nibbles outside before going in for an excellent meal which featured a different Champagne for each course. A few speeches were said by the respective European Chairmen. Our Chairman Paul Stammers handed over a History of 41 Club book signed by all at Southgate 41 Club together with an engraved silver salver to commemorate the occasion and a yard of ale glass that caused endless amusement with the French guests.

Music, dancing and plenty of chat completed a great night out – we were ferried back a little after 2.00am. Breakfast the next morning was followed shortly after by a cold buffet at the local Golf Club where email addresses and phone numbers were exchanged and very long and heartfelt goodbyes were said.

We have been invited to join Springe III Club in celebrating their 20th anniversary next year. We are convinced that this will be another successful event to further Southgate 41 Club's ties in Europe. The meeting up again with people we have become friends with so many years ago, and making new friends, has made this exchange scenario a very happy occasion and reinforced our Club's objectives and aims.



# THE PRESIDENT'S CHARITY



Epilepsy is one of those health conditions that happens to 'other people'. Few of us believe that it will impact on us or our family. For many of us, that means that we can safely leave it off the list of things that concern us. Epilepsy is further distanced from our lives by the stigma that, even today, can prevent people being open about having the condition.

Hearing the words "you have epilepsy" is never easy. People certainly never forget that visit to the doctor! At the very least it means people face years, if not a lifetime, on medication. It means automatically losing your driving licence for at least a year. If medication fails to control the seizures, life can be interrupted at any time - at work, in your sleep, while you are out shopping or in the pub. For children, it can sometimes result in being bullied but often means missed lessons and struggling to keep up with classmates. Family and friends have to learn what to do when faced with a seizure. Employers and teachers have to be prepared to adjust tasks.

From the immediate anxiety and shock of diagnosis, people often move on to a lengthy struggle to find the best treatment. The medication can have numerous side effects. A chronic lack of specialists means many people never see a doctor that is trained in epilepsy treatment. Around 1,000 people die in the UK every year as a direct result of their epilepsy; around 500 of these deaths could potentially be prevented with better understanding and greater investment medical care.

For some people with epilepsy it is normal life that happens to 'other people'. Frequent seizures can mean anything up to hundreds a week. People can be severely disabled by the condition. Anxious to avoid seizures in public, people can become isolated and lonely. Fear of passing the condition on - something that is in fact very rare - has stopped people marrying and having families.

Epilepsy Action is run by and for people living with epilepsy - people with the condition, their friends and families and their health professionals. Last year, over 550,000 people used our services - no mean feat for a charity with just 61 staff! They used our free Helpline, used our free information material, received care from our Sapphire Nurses, were visited by our Accredited volunteers or met new friends through our national branch network.

The 41 Club President, Ian MacKenzie has chosen Epilepsy Action as the charity for the term of his presidency and we look forward to a successful partnership. With your help we can support those 550,000 people and more; we can continue to push epilepsy up the agenda for politicians and healthcare providers, and we can continue to lobby for the changes necessary to save those 500 people that die every year.

You can get involved in our work in many ways. Our fundraising team has a long list of fun events and challenges - from doodling to the Burgundy Cycle Challenge and many more. If you would like more information on epilepsy please call our Epilepsy Helpline on freephone 0808 800 5050 or visit [www.epilepsy.org.uk](http://www.epilepsy.org.uk) Contact David Fisher on 0113 210 8800 for more fundraising information or visit [www.epilepsy.org.uk/involved](http://www.epilepsy.org.uk/involved).

***'I hope you will support this very worthy charity'.***

*Ian Mackenzie*



# PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS' MEETING

The 22nd Past Presidents' Meeting, ably organised by Jim McCollum for the first time in Ireland, was held at The Clondeboy Lodge Hotel, Bangor, Co. Down from 12th-14th May 2006. Fourteen "Past-Its" attended representing years from 1979-80 through to our Immediate Past President, and it was a delight to welcome Dorothy Banks on this occasion. There were seven apologies, due to age or ill health.

Irish hospitality started early with a sample of Bushmills Whiskey kindly donated by the famous distillery. Following a convivial evening on Friday, we were given a brief introduction to the Irish countryside on Saturday (kindly donated by The Irish Bank) taking in Belfast City and Strangford Lough, where lunch was taken at Portaferry.

After a brief business meeting we met again for a formal dinner, participants being delighted to learn that, in contrast to the parsimonious attitude of "National", Region 2 (Ireland) had very kindly contributed to the wine. Guest Speaker, Ivan Davidson of Newtownards 41 Club, gave a rendition of Irish humour – a pleasant diversion.



# LONDONDERRY 41 CLUB JUNE 2006

"Let us drive you up the Walls". This was the invitation (or challenge) issued by Londonderry Round Table to 170 guests from all over Europe who attended the 87 Euro Convention 2006 in the City recently. The Walls in question are the historic 17th century city walls of Derry/Londonderry (the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland), and they featured in a hilarious treasure hunt, part of a packed weekend programme. Indeed, the treasure hunt became progressively more hilarious, as the clues were to be found in each of the 15 bars that are sited around the Walls.

The Irish-themed convention included a Guinness and Oyster reception, countrydancing in a remote rural barn, the treasure hunt referred to above, visits to the famous Bushmills Whiskey Distillery and Giant's Causeway, team competitions on a Blue Flag beach, a fancy dress disco, and a Black and White Masquerade Gala Ball in the Historic Guildhall with its 17th century ghosts in attendance. Londonderry 41 Club members participated in many of these activities and contributed to the entertainment, including a performance by Irish dancers.

We anticipate a continued close association with our junior colleagues in Round Table during the ensuing year, and look forward to an eventful year under the leadership of our new Chairman Robbie Fleming.

*Sam Mitchell*



Thetford 41 Club hosts Ian Mackenzie on his first visit as our President.

Left To Right: David Roach, National Councillor Region 16, Ian Mackenzie, John Wright, Chairman Thetford 41 Club with Vice Chairman Mike Lewis. Photo: Studio Five

# NATIONAL PRESIDENT N.A.T.C.

Hello Guys!

As National President for 2006/7, I am delighted to bring greetings from Tangent. Bristol already seems light years away, and like your President Ian, my feet don't seem to have touched the ground. I have the feeling we will both blink and suddenly we will be in Newcastle for Conference next April!

Places to go, and people to see, the greatest thing about doing the "big job" is experiencing so much fun and friendship. Without a doubt 41 Club must be included in this statement. As Presidents together last year, Mike Fitchett and Judy Holdaway did a great job of strengthening the links between our two organizations. It is both Ians and my intention to continue this. I hope all of you who came to our joint Presidential Charity Ball in Cambridge, this June, had a great time. It really was a very special evening which raised a lot of money both for Epilepsy Action, and my charity, Macmillan Cancer Support. I must also say how delightful it is to meet so many of you on my "Tangent Travels". Perhaps at joint events, other times in D.J.'s serenading ladies at their Charter nights, chauffeurs, chefs, or many playing the convivial host. Even one in his P.J.'s with breakfast on a tray! I hasten to add he was closely followed by his four year old grandson, who did jump on the bed to share a croissant – obviously a Round Tabler in the making!

So what's happening in Tangent? Well as you probably know we had quite a marathon of an A.G.M. with several challenging issues, but we are now moving forward. The big news was that individual membership was passed, and we are in the process of inducting our first IT (Individual Tangent) girls. In no way is this intended to detract from the club concept which is at the heart of our organization, but more as a way of keeping members on board, if for instance their club folds, or they relocate to an area without a Tangent to join – possibly abroad. These are early days and we are keeping it simple to see how it develops. There are so many possibilities, perhaps an "E Tangent" on the web. The main thing is that we have set the wheels in motion and are quite proud to be the first of our four clubs to move in this direction. I am sure yourselves, as well as Table, and Circle, will watch with interest.

My theme this year is Contact Contact Contact! If certain politicians can use the triple mantra then so can I! contact their Circles and get in touch with Ex Circlers, they are out there somewhere. contact other clubs, and that includes you lads. And finally to contact us, their Executive, we are there for them.

Please enjoy the rest of the 41 Club year, support your own Club, your National Executive and Council. They really do work very hard trying to maintain, and move your association forward. I also encourage you to just go that "extra mile" and support your Round Table, Circle and last but not least Tangent! We are all part of the Round Table family, and I really do believe that together we can build a brighter future for all four organizations.

On a personal note, I do consider myself to be your No. 1 supporter. If my late husband Brian, hadn't joined Round Table, I wouldn't have been invited to join Circle, and then Tangent, and therefore wouldn't be having this wonderful year as National President. It was as much one of his legacies, as all our insurance policies. This was the policy of friendship and fun. So thank you 41 Club, and I look forward to dancing with some of you at Conference in Newcastle next April.

Yours In Continued Friendship.

*Janis Attwell*  
*National President N.A.T.C.*





# THE ASSOCIATION NEEDS AN AGM – BUT DOES IT NEED A CONFERENCE?

I ask the question because only 0.5% of our membership came to Bristol for our 2006 event. That figure included your National Council, the Associations guests and our overseas visitors. Ever since Jersey, five years ago, the numbers attending Conference have fallen.

I know Conference is expensive but so is everything else these days, just look at the price of petrol! Conference is still really good fun and everyone who went to Bristol had a great time and said it was one of the best Conferences ever.

So why have you, the majority of our members, stopped going to our National Conference?

As your Conference Officer I would like to know. Does the Association still need a Conference or do you only want an AGM, on one day a year in a central location that is easy for you to attend? Do you no longer want to take your partners for a few days away and have a party with your friends? Is there anybody out there that is prepared to give me an answer?

I will organise whatever you want if you the members will only tell me what that is. I still enjoy conference, I had a great time in Bristol and I'm looking forward to Newcastle next year already.

Which reminds me to tell you Newcastle Conference is different, because we are trying something new! Yes that's right a new idea, just like your Table days you will be able to book your own accommodation. You can all go to conference in Newcastle as a club! A Conference pass for three nights will only cost you £150, yes only £300 a couple! Newcastle is a party city and has accommodation available in all price ranges. There will be a Conference Transport System and a Conference Club, open all day for food and drink. It will be a real adventure, something different to try and enjoy. But will that tempt you, I ask myself, to go to our National Conference and AGM and if not what will?

Well for 2008 we have a clean sheet because no club has come forward to offer to organise our National Conference for that year.

Who can blame them with rising costs and falling numbers, it's a thankless task. So I will return to my opening question. Does the Association still need or want a National Conference? If you have an answer, an opinion or ideas of what you would like to see the Association do in future years then please let me know.

You can contact me by letter, email or telephone, my contact details are freely available. So please give me a fighting chance to shape the future and tell me what I can do for you!

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Terry Cooper.*  
*National*  
*Conference Officer.*

email [conference@41club.org](mailto:conference@41club.org)



## *Bristol Conference:*



# COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER LOCAL LINKS

The new LOCAL LINKS newsletters were sent to club contacts in early June. These are designed to improve local communications with and through National Councillors.

Subsequent issues will hopefully contain more information and material generated from local clubs.

The next Issue is scheduled to be published in September 2006. Deadline for copy is end of August. Items should be sent to your National Councillor.

There are some technical difficulties sending emails to so many clubs because of the array of software and operating systems on member's computers. If you do not receive a copy of LOCAL LINKS then first ask your club contact if he has received it and if he has emailed it to you. If he has not received a copy, check if his contact email details are correct in the club administration system data for your club. If you are still having difficulty receiving copies contact your National Councillor.



# FUTURE ISSUES OF LINKS

The Communications Team wants to produce a magazine that has national membership appeal and we believe that the editorial should try to include a wider spectrum than reports from officers and clubs.

As our readers are members of a special affinity group we should cover topics that are part of our way of life. The profile of our members shows interests in travel, wine, personal finance, healthy living, sport, reading, theatre, motoring, second homes and living abroad. It is hoped that we can publish articles and obtain sponsorship that will be of interest to members.

We would be interested to hear from members who are prepared to write articles or who feel that they can offer membership benefits through LINKS.

Most of all, we want to improve the level of humour contained in our pages. There are plenty of comics in our membership and we would like material of a high standard to share and to enjoy.

Finally many 4I Clubs have, for whatever reason, become isolated. Our Communications strategy is to try and reach out to those clubs by reviving the area affinity enjoyed in Round Table.

We look forward to hearing from you.

*Richard Matthews*  
*National Communications Officer*

## SMALL ADS ORDER FORM

Ideal for 4Iers with property to let or goods or services for sale or offer. Small-ads run for six months or one year in all our publications that carry them (magazines, newsletters, directories and the website). The cost is £99.00 plus VAT (£116.33) for 6 months or £175.00 plus VAT (£205.63) for a year. There is a 10% discount for members appearing on the CAS system (£104.69 & £185.06 respectively). To place an advert, fill in the form and send it to: Forty-One Club Small-ads, The Post Box, Dimsdale Street, HERTFORD, SG14 1PH with a cheque made payable to The Association of Ex-Tablers Clubs (repeat ads must quote the 5 or 6 digit reference number printed with them). or by e-mail to [smallads@4club.org](mailto:smallads@4club.org). One word per box. All adverts must be prepaid; those e-mailed will receive an invoice for prepayment.

					PLEASE TICK HERE IF INVOICE REQUIRED <input type="checkbox"/>

I enclose a cheque for £ ..... number ..... If a repeat ad, enter just the ad number in the first box.

Name: ..... Address: .....

PLEASE NOTE, CURRENTLY, AT NO EXTRA COST: All advertisements will appear on the 'Small Ads' page of the 4I Club website [www.4club.org](http://www.4club.org), any web page links or e-mail address's in the advertisement will be activated as links from that page.

NOTE: If you would like a free photograph to appear on you web site advertisement then e-mail the digital picture of your choice to [webmaster@4club.org](mailto:webmaster@4club.org) together with a copy of your advertisement text.

**RHEUMATISM/ARTHRITIS RELIEF, DELSAR** – A blend of pure essential oils, including Lavender, Ginger & Juniper, an ancient recipe giving effective pain relief with anti-inflammatory properties. 10ml bottles £4.79 + £1.50p&p. Other treatment blends available. Quondam Golden Retreat, Angless House, The Stow, HARLOW, CM20 3AQ 01279 426565  
**www.goldenretreat.co.uk 51027**

**INK & TONER CARTRIDGES, ORIGINALS & COMPATIBLES** – Printers & Fax Machines, Digital Cameras, Office & Photo Paper, Light Bulbs & Fittings. Lowest prices. Plus Unique Professional Purchasing Services. Visit [www.cayne.net](http://www.cayne.net) email **Sales@caayne.net** or 01992 554488 to harness Cayne Resources for you. **51028**

**THE MAGIC OF GLASS** – For that unique hand-engraved gift, glasses celebrating a special event, gifts to promote your business. Contact Peter Warr Glass Engraving 01227 360528 or 07736 060302 or email **peter.warr@btinternet.com** Special prices for 41 Club. **51032**

**ESTEPONA, COSTA DEL SOL, DOMINION BEACH** – Luxury penthouse apartment 1Km from Estepona. Extensive gardens, 2Pools, 2nd line from beach. 2DBedr 1TBedr all en suite, spacious lounge/dining room, patio, roof terrace. 0121 329 2932 **www.dominionbeach.eu.com 51003**

**WESTERN ALGARVE** – 2 Bedr fully aircon apartment with stunning unspoilt sea views over Meia Praia Beach, Lagos town 2k, 50mins from Faro Airport, 2 pools, 10mins walk from beach, bars & restaurants, short drive several golf courses, £750 high season, £420-490 mid, £300 low Lesley Day [lcd@kpcl.com](mailto:lcd@kpcl.com) **www.algarveandmore.com 51004**

**SPAIN** – Villa on private estate, Denia 10mins, coast 5mins walk. Private park with pool, 3Bedr, 2 banos, all mod cons. Available all year, log fire. For rates Ted Wilkinson 01992 307662 **edward.wilkinson2@ntlworld.com 51006**

**AUSTRIA** – Mountain chalet – Ski - Hike - Spa Baths - Golf - Great holidays all year round. 2 apartments sleep 2 or up to 8/10 **www.contrastescapes.com** or 01202 824347 **51009**

**CAPETOWN, DOLPHIN BEACH** – Luxury 2DBedr secure apartment. Beachfront in nature reserve, sensational view of Table Mountain, Robben Island & sea. 15mins drive city & waterfront. Pool, garage, bar, restaurant. From £275pw. 01534 878940 **51010**

**NORTH CYPRUS, KYRENIA** – New Villa quiet location sea & mountain views 3DBedr 3Bath 3Terraces 10m \_ 5m pool, BBQ, Poolside Bar, Garden, Orchard, Sat TV, Beach 10mins. 01233 645483 email **mw.finch@zen.co.uk 60202**

**YOUR HOME IN SPAIN** – Large selection of Spanish Homes at affordable prices Costa Almeria, Blanca, Calida. One to one sales service and inspection trips, competitive mortgages. Brian Rowlands Bsc FRICS 07775 578230 **bbspanishhomes@aol.com 60200**

**FRANCE, PORT GRIMAND** – Waterside ground floor apartment sleeps 2/4. 1Bedr, lounge with settee bed, kitchen area, bathroom, separate WC, terrace & loggia. Visit this 'Venice' of France situated on the Gulf of St. Tropez **www.jakmattersson.co.uk 07860267549 51017**

**TENERIFE, LOS GIGANTES** – 2Bedr luxury apartment, quiet location, stunning views, golf & pool nearby, short walk to village with shops and restaurants. Andrew Neal 01253 896341 6-9pm **janeandandrewneal@hotmail.com 51008**

**SW FRANCE** – 50Km NE of TOULOUSE, Delightful country accommodation in stunning 18th Century conversion. Perfect peace. Large Pool. Ideal for a couple or family groups of up to 10. Available all year. For details 0033 5633 03113 or visit website **www.francepriviets.com 60204**

**TUSCANY** – nr LUCCA, [www.geocities.com/tuscanyhouse](http://www.geocities.com/tuscanyhouse) Farmhouse (sleeps 9) in terraced olive groves: Simple but comfortable: Village 5mins, shady woods, waterfalls adjacent. Swimming, sea, mountains, Florence, Pisa within easy reach. Separate small house sleeps 2. Weekly rates £580 (£440) & £300 (£240). Tony Ridge 01904 798190. **60203**

**MAR MENOR GOLF – COSTA CALIDA, SPAIN.** New 3DBdrm 3Bath. Private pool overlooking 9th Tee Jack Nicklaus designed course. Restaurants beaches nearby. 01233 645483 email **mw.finch@zen.co.uk** for photos and further details. **60208**

**LANZAROTE – CANARY ISLES.** Detached Villa. 4Bedr 3Bathr. Heated private pool. Stunning views 10mins coast, car included. Only pay for rooms used from £450 -10% out of school hols + 10% for 2 weeks. 01751 473101 **60210**

**FLORIDA, STUNNING NEW VILLA.** 6Bedr. Private pool and hot tub. Games Room with pool table. 15mins from Disney. Beautifully furnished and interior design. Philip 01689 826527 or visit **www.lonepalmretreat.com 60211**

**ALGARVE – CARVOEIRO,** Luxury Villa, sleeps 4/6. Pool. Golf nearby. For details visit our website **www.windmill-leisure.com** Discount for 41ers 01932 220219, Mobile 07956 109395 **60215.**

**FLORIDA, GULF COAST** – Tara Golf & Country Club, Sarasota/Bradenton. Luxury aircon 2Bedr 2Bath 1st Floor condominium sleeps 2-6. Golf, pool, near beaches, 45mins Tampa airport. From £350pw **www.golf-holiday-florida.com 0131 446 0890 or 445 4517 51020**

**CYPRUS – CORAL BAY,** Luxury 4Bedr 3Bathr air-conditioned villa with pool. Sleeps 8. Quiet location. Private landscaped garden with covered pergola for dining alfresco. Brick built BBQ. Sea views. 15 mins from Paphos. Tel: Julie 01245 363615 or email **jules.yates@zoom.co.uk 60205**

# SMALL ADS cont.

**ALGARVE – CARVOEIRO.** Spacious villa sleeping 8/10. 5 Double bedrooms plus 3 bathrooms. Extensive gardens with large pool. Daily family maid. Near to all amenities 01702 202629 [r.todman@btopenworld.com](mailto:r.todman@btopenworld.com) **60206**

**FLORIDA – GULF COAST,** Hudson. Luxury 3Bedr, 4 bath-room villa with large pool & Florida room. 30mins from Busch Gardens, 45mins from Tampa Airport & Gulf beaches. £600 to £700 pw. [vacationrentals.com](http://vacationrentals.com) –Florida – Hudson – "a little piece of paradise" Harry Dickson, 9 Farington St, DUNDEE DD2 1PJ **60207**

**ALGARVE – LUZ,** 3Bedr 2Bathr Villa in quiet established development. Own pool. Sea view. Maid service. Restaurants, village, beach and tennis 5mins drive. 4 Golf courses 10/20mins drive. 01268 752308. **60214**

**ORLANDO,** Luxury fully equipped 5Bedr 3Bathr villa with own heated pool, sleeps 10. Just 15mins from Disney. For more details contact James 07729 002488 or visit [www.floridavillasni.com](http://www.floridavillasni.com) **60500**

**CALA FINESTRAT ALICANTE,** 2Bedr apartment to let, large shared adult and children's pools, excellent views, close to amenities, beach 500yds. Bus and taxi adjacent to apartment. 003 4966 855294 or mobile 07799 115916 or email [gary\\_jeffcoat@hotmail.com](mailto:gary_jeffcoat@hotmail.com) **60501**

**MADEIRA – ROYAL SAVOY VACATION CLUB,** Voted best resort in Europe and 2nd best in the World! Luxury penthouse apartment with large balcony. Sleeps 2/4, 2Bathr. Daily maid service. Fully equipped, 3 pools and easy steps into the sea from large sun terraces. Restaurants, gym, sauna, library. Available 2 weeks over Easter 2nd - 16th April & early November, 2007. Normally £1500 pw, offered at £950. 07797 710275 or email [julius.olsen@jerseymail.co.uk](mailto:julius.olsen@jerseymail.co.uk) **60502**

**THE MAGIC OF GLASS** – For that unique hand-engraved gift, glasses celebrating a special event, gifts to promote your business. Contact Peter Warr Glass Engraving 01227 360528 or 07736 060302 or email [peter.warr@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.warr@btinternet.com) Special prices for 41 Club. **51032**

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**ITALY – PUGLIA,** Trulli villa set in extensive gardens, 3Bdrm, 2Bathrm, Swimming Pool, High quality fittings, ideal for families. Prices from £400pw. For details and pictures telephone 01592 840311 or [fonicciello@btinternet.com](mailto:fonicciello@btinternet.com) **60801**

**SPAIN – COSTA DEL SOL, MIJAS COSTA** Privately owned 2Bedr, superb sea view & pool, well equipped kitchen, linen & towels provided, Sat TV & Aircon, 20mins from Marbella & Malaga airport. From £240pw Mrs M Browne 01543 473111 [rocadelmar@margaretbrowne.co.uk](mailto:rocadelmar@margaretbrowne.co.uk) **51012**

Small-ads run for six months or one year in all our publications that carry them (magazines, newsletters, directories and the website). The cost is £99.00 plus VAT (£116.33) for 6 months or £175.00 plus VAT (£205.63) for a year. There is a 10% discount for members appearing on the CAS system (£104.69 & £185.06 respectively). To place an advert, fill in the form and send it to: **Forty-One Club Small-ads, The Post Box, Dimsdale Street, HERTFORD, SG14 1PH** with a cheque made payable to The Association of Ex-Tablers Clubs (repeat ads must quote the 5 or 6 digit reference number printed with them). Ads can be emailed to [Smallads@41club.org](mailto:Smallads@41club.org)

## OBITUARIES

The Council of the Association regrets to hear of the passing of the following 41ers. Appreciations from their fellow club members can be viewed on our website, [41club.org](http://41club.org) email to [obits@41club.org](mailto:obits@41club.org) or post to Marchesi House.

**BOOTYMAN, Trevor** - Grimsby 41 Club.

**BROWN, Mike** - Brierley Hill 41 Club.

**CODY, Dennis** - Maesteg 41 Club.

**DEMPSEY, Bill** - Crewkerne 41 Club.

**HARDING, Godfrey** - Honiton 41 Club.

**JACKSON, Kenneth** - Oakengates 41 Club.

**LAMSTER, Peter** - Darwin 41 Club.

**MCARTHUR, Brian** - Furness 41 Club.

**PHILPOT, Bernard** - Clevedon 41 Club.

**QUIGLEY, Frank** - Rainford 41 Club.

**TOMKINS, Harry** - Moseley 41 Club.

**WILD, David** - Todmorden 41 Club.

**YOUNG, Colin** - Staines 41 Club.

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

