

By George

newsletter **MAY 2009**

Is the President Demob Happy.....?

President Neil's Blog!

Demob Happy? Well, not quite! After a very busy period preparing for our German visitors and then the event itself there is, perhaps, a temptation to wind down towards the Rotary year-end. (see picture on next page)

But we still have to help the young visitors from Belarus in our usual way and I hope Mark and his team will have plenty of volunteers for this very worthwhile service. Running, time wise, into the next year but part of this year's programme is the day out for Young carers. Once Graham conquers the intricacies of armed services officialdom then he will need your support for the outing in July.

Most of all though it is time in the Rotary calendar to look forward and I hope every member will feel able to give all the support necessary to help incoming President Ian lead the club through 2009/10 with a full and active programme.

President Neil

RIBI Conference 2009

Mike Jamieson and I, with our ladies, attended this year's conference which was held in Edinburgh in April. The proposed venue of the Usher Hall became unavailable due to over-running reconstruction works so the event had to be moved to the Corn Exchange situated in the western suburbs. Whilst obviously no fault of RIBI there were difficulties, not least in catering, as a result of this enforced change.

Another change compared to former conferences was the compression of the programme into a day and a half with obvious reductions in costs to organisers and attendees. Saturday morning consisted of a plenary session in which young people played a major part through Interact and Rotaract. This was most encouraging. Other presentations covered awards to clubs and appeals for charitable causes etc.

The afternoon session formed the AGM after a presentation on the proposed Membership Campaign for which next year's RIBI subs include a levy. There was some difference of opinion on the value of this. But it was pointed out that traditional recruiting methods could continue alongside the new initiative, but that the existing methods were failing

to maintain the numbers of Rotarians in the UK. I did have a fear that the drive might be focussing too much on numbers for their own sake but time will tell. The accounts, and subscription proposals, as presented in the last issue of the RIBI magazine. The issue of falling membership raised its head at regular intervals through the afternoon which, it has to be said, droned slowly to a close with seemingly interminably long debates on fine points of the rules of Rotary.

After a District 1010 Dinner at Murrayfield (no, not pies and Bovril as you might have enjoyed at this venue in the past) we attended a concert back at the Corn Exchange. Sunday morning saw us at another plenary session with more awards to clubs and individual members who had "gone the extra mile" in their Rotary service and concluding with a lively and humorous address by Michael Portillo who, after giving us some views on leaders from Margaret Thatcher to Gordon Brown, spoke in support of the DEBRA charity for young people with a debilitating skin condition. The conference ended at 1300 and we were on our way home.

Whilst applauding the efforts to reduce expenditure on these events I have to say that the timetable coupled with problems created by the changed venue did not give much time for informal fellowship with other Rotarians which has for me been a very important part of these events.

President Neil

Aschaffenburg Visit - A Great Success

I would like to thank all members who took part in any way in the weekend visit from our twin club in Germany. Well over 60% were present or involved in some (or indeed all) of the numerous events arranged for our guests. Whilst appreciating that this project might not be for everybody in the club I feel that some members might still have some reservations about getting involved. Do have a chat with members who have been involved and find out what it's all about. I feel sure there will be a return trip to Aschaffenburg in 2010 (we certainly have a firm invitation from the club) so I hope we can muster a goodly number of members and partners to make such a trip a great success.

President Neil

(SEE PICTURE ON PAGE 2)

Weekly Duty Rota: 20 May to 24 June 2009 - 12.30 pm unless otherwise stated

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Door Duty:</u>	<u>Door Duty:</u>	<u>Bottle Duty:</u>	<u>Speakers Host & VOT:</u>
20 May	Albert Donaldson	Bert Macdonald	James Moyes	TBC
27 May	Graham Fleming	John Macintyre	Ian Mutch	TBC
03 June	Louis Flood	Gail MacKay	David Ramsay	Brian Kitching
10 June	John Fox	Ian Marr	TBC	BUSINESS MEETING
17 June	Enrico Frattaroli	Sally McCartney	Rogerv Ward	Paul Kyle
24 June	Bill Smith	Roger Ward	Susan Scott	Bert Macdonald

-> PLEASE LET BRIAN KITCHING KNOW ASAP IF YOU CAN DO ANY OF THE TBC's <-

Summary of the Meeting of Council held on 4th May 2009

Matters arising:

The Secretary reported he obtained the necessary passwords and visited the Club's entry in the RI website. All past presidents and secretaries are listed; those no longer members of the Club have been deleted. The member information is largely a mirror image of the Club's own directory. From 1st June the Secretary proposes to fully update the website; members will be given the opportunity to opt out of listing any personal information. Council approved this proposal.

President's Items:

The visit of Aschaffenburg Rotarians (a party of 15) went very well; the approximate total cost to the Club will be in the region of £1,000 to £1,100. President Neil was warmly thanked by Council for all he did to achieve this successful outcome. Graham Fleming agreed to co-ordinate a survey of the event while this was fresh in peoples' minds.

President Neil (& PP Michael Jamieson) attended the RIBI conference in Edinburgh and gave a brief report of the event.

Secretary's items:

2 retirement letters were received from Senior members of the Club; Alex Hay and Ian Agnew. Council noted these with sadness.

A team of 5 will attend the District Assembly on 10 May.

The Craigendargity Bowling tournament for visually handicapped bowlers will be hosted by the Club on 20 August.

RIBI conference decisions as reported by the District Secretary; the 09/10 subscription will be £44.75; in addition a 'one off' levy of £2.75 will be added to the subscription to fund a recruitment campaign; Club Presidents are to be required to advise the District Treasurer that the Club's annual accounts had been prepared and properly examined; the circulation term for the membership letter is to be reduced from 10 to 7 days.

The Club has written to support the District's application to become a pilot district for the Foundation Future Vision project.

Treasurer's report:

The balances on the Club accounts are as follows: Charity acc: £12,192.79 / Club acc: £1,252.16 / Hospitality acc: £1,817.04

Charity account paid: £500 deposit for next year's charity dinner.

Club account paid: Annual contribution to Foundation of £774; President's Neil's conference expenses £228.32.

7 hosting dinners have been held and paid; 6 have yet to be held.

Hospitality account: £792 paid out in respect of Aschaffenburg visit costs; a bill of approx £150 is awaited re the Sunday buffet lunch.

Service Projects (Paul Kyle and Graham Fleming) :

Louis Flood is to lead efforts to provide support to the young people from Chernobyl; party 6 boys & 6 girls due on 17 June.

Young carers day out: Graham is 'negotiating' with RAF Leuchars; we may need to provide an alternative event for the afternoon.

Club Administration (Ian Marr and Brian Kitching):

Average attendance after 16 meetings – 69%. 4 members are below 50%. No action required.

Ian is working on the 2 remaining vacant speakers slots for May.

Membership (Stuart Cameron):

Jim Urquhart has been inducted. The membership team is working hard on 2 other potential members.

AOCB:

Committee chairmen were reminded of the need to ensure a good handover of files and other information to the new team for 2009/10.

President Neil gave the customary invitation for the new Council to attend the June meeting.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8 June 2009 at 7.30pm

JVP Paul jumps into the unknown....!



I completed my 'jump' on Thursday 14th May and found the whole experience really exhilarating. Quite a rush it has to be said - hurtling to the earth at 120 mph. Check out my cheeks in photo - thats what you get for going at that speed not safely inside a vehicle!!! As you can see the weather was excellent on Thursday morning - would have been a different story on the Friday!! Off to Toronto now (promise to stay inside the plane today) however I should be at the club next Wed provided there are no delays on my return flight.

Thanks to everyone who has raised sponsorship to date for the Polio Plus campaign and to those that are still 'in the process'

JVP Paul

ASCHAFFENBURG VISIT PICTURE



*... And finally, received from Roger!
ALWAYS REMEMBER THIS*

*You don't stop laughing because you grow old.
You grow old because you stop laughing!!*

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary:

08 June @ 1930	Current & Incoming Council Meeting
10 June	BUSINESS MEETING
21-24 June	RIBI Convention, Birmingham
01 July @ 1830	Club Assembly for 2009 / 2010
08 July	Young Carers Day Out - RAF Leuchars
20 August	Craigendargity Bowling Comp (Host Club)
26 August	District Governor Visit to Club Lunch

Please send news items and contributions to Ian Mutch or ByGeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 14 June 2009

Visit www.perthsjrotary.org.uk for full duty and diary details