

By George

newsletter **JUNE 2009**

End of One Year - Start of Another!



President Neil's Last Blog!

A Date For Your Diary

As we reach the end of another Rotary year we can look back at our leisure on events, but more important is to look forward to Ian's year as Club President. And this starts with the Club Assembly on July 1 at 1830hrs. This is a most important meeting and an opportunity for every member to have his or her input into the proposed programme. Proposals have been voted out in the past and whilst I hope Ian's proposals don't meet that fate you can't have a say if you're not there! Attendances have been a bit disappointing in recent years so I would ask you to make every effort to get to the Assembly this time to hear and debate what the club should be doing in 2009/10.

Again I would ask you to give every support to Ian, Paul and Heather. I am delighted that they are finding time to take on the senior roles in the club. Quite frankly the last thing the club needs is a repeat of this year when this "golden oldie" was called upon to fill the gap created by Gordon's transfer south. The club has a strong membership base with a considerable number of potential presidents in my opinion. I hope when called on they will be able to put Rotary service high on their individual priority list and accept a senior post in the club.

Many thanks to all of you who gave so much support to me over the last year.

President Neil

Incoming President Ian's Blog...

The first of many over the next 12 months

I recently went to the optician because I was struggling with reading small print. When I shared my predicament with the young lady testing my eyes she put her hand gently on my arm and said (in a very sympathetic tone) "When you reach a certain age Mr Marr ..."

Not one of my more encouraging contacts with a professional of late but it occurred to me that maybe the same is true of taking over as President of a Rotary "When you reach a certain age" it's a kind of inevitable consequence of being in the club for a certain period of time that it kind of becomes "your turn".

All that said I am looking forward to serving the club over the ensuing 12 months. I really do get a great deal out of being a member of the club, I appreciate the friendships we enjoy and the opportunity to serve the wider community in a variety of ways. St John's is a club where people are accepted as they are and participate in the activities of the club as their time and circumstances allow – which is the way it should be.

It's because I do get so much out of being in the club that I agreed to become the President for a 12 month period. When you benefit a lot from an organisation there is an obligation to give something back too and it's that opportunity to give something back that I look forward to in the next 12 months.

Senior Vice President Ian

THE CLUB'S LAPTOP AND PROJECTOR ARE KEPT BY ME IN MY OFFICE AT MCEWENS. IF YOU NEED TO USE IT CONTACT ME IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND IF I'M GOING TO BE AT THE CLUB LUNCH I WILL BRING IT ALONG. OTHERWISE I WILL LET YOU KNOW THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PICKING IT UP. IAN MUTCH, ED

Weekly Duty Rota: 01 July to 05 August - 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> |
|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| July 1 at 6.30pm | Michael Archibald | John Fyfe | Bill Smith | CLUB ASSEMBLY |
| July 8 | Michael Jamieson | Roger ward | Alexander Stewart | Gail MacKay |
| July 15 | George Beaton | John Galbraith | Heather Stewart | BUSINESS MEETING |
| July 22 | Mike Buckley-Jones | Graham Harding | Bruce Thomson | Sally McCartney |
| July 29 | Rob Burke | Bert Macdonald | Neil Townend | James Moyes |
| August 5 | Mark Cairns | Brian Kitching | John Watson | Susan Scott |

Summary of the Meeting of Council held on 8th June 2009

President's Items:

President Neil began by sincerely thanking all members of Council for their contributions and support.

JVP Paul's parachute jump so far has raised £1301 for 'End Polio Now'. President with PP Michael & partners to attend RI convention in Birmingham at the end of this month.

Secretary's Items:

David Ramsay has submitted his resignation; noted with great regret.

DGE e-letter received, advising formation of a focus group to look, inter alia, at the democratic process for appointing district officers.

District 1010 will not be a pilot district for Foundation's 'Future Vision' project. Request from Ewan Bannerman of the Perth Club to support the fund raising efforts of John Mollison who is rowing across the Atlantic to raise funds for BLESMA; the Secretary was asked to obtain more information.

John Watson (a member of the Rotary Club of Rothesay) has applied for membership; a 10 day letter has been issued.

Entry form for the 2009/10 Inter Club Gavel was passed to JVP Paul.

No member has objected to his/her details appearing in the RI database.

Treasurer's Report:

The balances on the Club accounts are as follows: Charity: £13,155.64 / Club: £1,176.51 / Hospitality: £1,709.04

Charity account paid: £250 donation to the West Mill Street Library and £50 for a sporran (a charity dinner auction item). The Treasurer was asked to make immediate payment to the nominated charities from this year's dinner. Council decided that next year's recipients would be paid at the March 10 business meeting.

We are required to identify our charitable status on all correspondence relating to charity activities; the correct form is 'Rotary Club of Perth St Johns Charitable Trust Fund, No: SC024989'. It is also a requirement that we make clear to all members that the recommended annual donation to Foundation, which for convenience is included in the subscription, is a voluntary contribution from which members may opt out. A reminder will be given to members at the Club Assembly and in 'By George'

Club account paid: Past President's regalia and final costs associated with the new projector.

Hospitality account: all Aschaffenburg visit costs have now been paid.

Service Projects (Paul Kyle):

The Club will be supporting the visit of the young people from Chernobyl; although they will not attend a Club lunch we will provide fruit, sweatshirts and help with transport.

Treasurer Rob and Maureen Young will accompany Graham Fleming and the young carers group on their forthcoming visit to RAF Leuchars.

Club Administration (Ian Marr):

Average attendance after 22 meetings – 70%. 5 members are below 50%; one is now covered by leave of absence.

Speakers: the programme is complete to the end of the Rotary year and work is ongoing on filling the slots for July.

It was decided the Club visit to Aschaffenburg should take place on 13/16 May 2010.

There were no reports from foundation, Membership and Ways and Means.

AOCB:

Alex Hay has the Club's charter; arrangements will be made to pass this to the Archivist. Alex also has a file on our sponsored young person in Kenya – this will be passed to the Project team.

Incoming President Ian chaired an informal meeting of the new Council;

Date of next meeting: Monday 6 July 2009 at 7.30pm

JVP Paul says....Geronimo.....

Being slightly claustrophobic the plane journey of 15 minutes to get into the correct position at 14,000 feet was the worst bit. Once they opened the door things got much better!!

Three 'jumpers' and six members of the Parachute Regiments 'Red Devils' display team (three tandem jumpers and three photographers) fairly filled the small plane – oh and a pilot (well someone had to stay in the plane!). I wasn't fussed on the cramped conditions but I think I was coping better than the young lady sitting opposite me. She confided that this was her first time **ever** in and aeroplane - and she was about to jump out of it. She



looked very green and very apprehensive, no sick bags were provided and I was glad I was leaving before her.

My turn came and 'we' sat in the doorway, feet dangling into space with

nothing between me and Auchterarder 14,000 feet below. I think I could see Maureen's house but it looked gey small. The cameraman was in position (hanging on to a sill on the side of the aircraft by his fingernails) and then it was up to me to rock to the point of no return then tip forward out of the plane and into fresh air.

I had been warned we would 'naturally'!! flip upside down on exit but would right ourselves – we did and we did - fortunately, as the view was better facing the earth and the parachute was the right way up that way!

0 - 120 MPH (terminal velocity) in 10 seconds felt very fast and had a weird effect on ones cheeks for the one minute it took to fall from 14,000ft to 3,500 ft. It was certainly one of the most exhilarating minutes of my life and seemed considerably longer than a minute.

With the ripcord pulled, my concerns turned to where the airfield had gone but fortunately my very good friend behind me seemed to be on that case and it took another few minutes to enjoy the view of Strathearn and tack into position for landing which given the skills of the Red Devil attached to me was very smooth.

All in all an interesting experience and it seems a worthwhile one for the Clubs Polio Plus target. At the time of By George publication, £???? Has been raised by the efforts of the clubs members which is great. I paid for the costs of the jump so all of the money raised by Club members is going to the Clubs Polio Plus target. Thanks everyone again for supporting this effort.

.....oh and the last thing I was thinking about on exiting the plane was shouting the names of Indians.

JVP Paul

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary:

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|------------------|--|
| 01 July | Club Assembly for 2009 / 2010 at 1830 |
| 06 July | Club Council Meeting at 1930 |
| 08 July | Young Carers Day Out - RAF Leuchars |
| 15 July | Club Business Meeting @ 1300 |
| 03 August | Club Council Meeting @ 1930 |
| 20 August | Craigendargity Bowling Comp (Host Club) |
| 26 August | District Governor Visit to Club Lunch |

Please send news items and contributions for the JULY Issue to Ian Mutch or bygeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 20 July 2009

Visit www.perthsjrotary.org.uk for full duty and diary details / Rotary Club of Perth St Johns Charitable Trust Fund, No: SC024989