

By George

newsletter

APRIL 2010



Black Watch Honorary Membership

The following is the text from the proposal speech made by Maureen on the evening of the Black Watch Honorary membership. I thought it said so much about how well deserved the award was and I felt the text was well worth repeating, especially for those who missed it. The Ed.

Their Battle Honours catalogue their courage from the fields of Fontenoy to the backstreets of Basra. Their military medals include a wealth of Victoria



Crosses for their outstanding acts of bravery and their glorious deeds in peace time and in war have earned them the Freedom of towns and cities across the world. But now The Black Watch, 3rd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland, meet us in the trenches of The Royal George in Perth as I ask you to endorse a new civilian honour to add to their impressive list of tributes – Honorary Membership of the Rotary Club of Perth St Johns. Honorary Membership is the highest distinction a Rotary club can confer and is exercised only in “exceptional cases”. It is an honour not given lightly - but one which recognises unusual service and contribution to society.

There can be little doubt that the fighting soldier of The Black Watch embodies Rotary's own motto of 'Service Above Self' in a distinguished history spanning four centuries. Their courage and commitment has en

deared them to generation after generation across the world – but nowhere more so than here in their regimental heartland of Perth.

Perth St Johns Rotary Club is delighted and honoured to add their own tribute to those centuries of service and in recognition of the continuing respect, admiration and gratitude of the people of Perthshire. Although Honorary Membership of Rotary, is aimed at individuals, by granting it to a representative, this accolade will embrace the many thousands of front line fighting soldiers who wear the Red Hackle – in the past, the present and the future.

Thereby they become part of our international organisation that is over 100 years old and has more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs throughout over 200 countries worldwide. It has been my privilege to travel and work as a journalist with The Black Watch in all corners of the world on a regular basis over the past 26 years.

I have seen at close quarters all those qualities which make them so special – be it on the battlefield, in training, on parade or within the loving embrace of their own families.

Their abilities and expertise – are astonishing. Their courage and commitment – unquestionable. Their professionalism – unerring. Their sense of fun – infectious. And Their sense of right – humbling. Needless to say their hospitality is – shall we say – intoxicating! And their field curry is a culinary delight!

The last person to be granted Honorary Membership of Perth St Johns Rotary Club was Stagecoach co-founder Ann Gloag in recognition of her outstanding business and humanitarian achievements and ongoing projects.

Renowned figures who have enjoyed similar status in Rotary Clubs across the world include many Royals and heads of state such as George VI, Prince Philip, Sir Winston Churchill, Margaret Thatcher, US Presidents John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon – as well as celebrities including Walt Disney and Bob Hope and outstanding achievers such as Sir Edmund Hilary, Thomas Edison and Neil Armstrong.

But to my mind there can be few more deserving of the honour than The Black Watch. There are obvious similarities between the two organisations: Rotary is a group of people, bonded in fellowship, who – through their combined character and expertise – achieve remarkable things the world over. The Black Watch is a band of brothers who – through their combined expertise and strength of character – achieve remarkable things the world over.

Fellow Rotarians – I ask you to support the call for Honorary Membership for The Black Watch through their representative Colonel Brigadier Mike Riddell-Webster and invite President Ian to welcome them warmly to the highest ranks of the Rotary Club of Perth St Johns.

Weekly Duty Rota: 28 April to 26 May 2010 - 12.30 pm unless otherwise stated

Members are asked to arrange a sub when they are unable to do their Weekly Duty. This includes members on Leave Of Absence.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Door Duty 1:</u>	<u>Door Duty 2:</u>	<u>Bottle Duty:</u>	<u>Speakers Host & VOT:</u>
April 28	Stuart Cameron	Enricco Frattaroli	Neil Townend	Club AGM
May 5	Alison Crook	John Fyfe	James Urquhart	Sally McCartney
May 12	David Cuthbert	John Galbraith	Roger Ward	Jim Moyes
May 19	Albert Donaldson	David Grant	John Watson	Fellowship Presentation
May 26	Louis Flood	Graham Harding	Maureen Young	Ian Mutch

Summary of the Meeting of Council Held on 12th April 2010

Matters Arising:

The time of the Council meeting will remain at 6pm. Stuart will choose a time for next year after consulting the new council.

Stuart reported on the cost of new signs. Standard signs from RIBI are cheapest, at £55 + VAT each. Custom signs cost from £100 to £200 each. It was agreed that 2 or 3 custom signs should be obtained, with Stuart and Rob making the selection.

President's Items:

Letters of thanks for the Sportsman's Dinner have been received from the presidents of the other Rotary clubs.

The council recorded its gratitude to Maureen for organising a very successful Black Watch Honorary Membership evening

Following the Primary School Quiz, Evelyn Brockbank of Viewlands School wrote to express concerns about the answers accepted to some of the questions. Ian has written to acknowledge her letter.

An invitation to a Home Start lunch on 20 June has been received. Quintin Jardine is the speaker.

Council noted with sadness the death of Gerhard Engel of the Aschaffenburg-Schobusch club. Ian to write to their president.

Secretary's Items (Rob Burke on behalf of David Grant):

A young person has written to ask for financial assistance to attend the National Girls' Choir of Scotland. It was decided that this falls outwith the the activities we can support, and the secretary should write to decline the request.

The 1010 District Assembly is to be held in Aberdeen on Saturday 8 May. David is required to make a return to the District Secretary by 24 April, and would like a list of those attending when he returns from holiday on 17 April. Remember Stuart will attend and will circulate a board asking for others.

A 7 day letter has been circulated in regard to an application to join the club. The club's AGM is to be held at the end of the month; formal notice and agenda have been issued. David asks to be notified of any changes when he returns, so he may have amended copies available at the meeting.

John Minhinick has been recommended by an RIBI selection panel for the office of President of RIBI 2012/13; after consulting other officers of the Club David voted for him on the Club's behalf; the timetable to return the ballot paper did not allow this to go to the full Council.

Perth and Kinross Sports Council have requested financial support for a "Mini-Olympics". It was agreed that we should donate £250. Heather will contact them and discuss publicity.

Treasurer's report (Rob Burke):

The balances on the Club accounts are as follows: Charity: £10,137.95 / Club: £3,354.29 (includes £1,751.81 in the hospitality reserve)

Charity account: Paid donations of £2000 to Help for Heroes, £200 to Racing Welfare, and £700 to DISIP. Also paid Primary School Expenses, bringing the total for the event to £393.68, and £40.40 for Young Carers Day Out. Most Sportsman's Dinner income has been received, but a payment of £80 for tickets is outstanding.

Club account: Paid £120 on the Black Watch gift, and £170 for meals at the induction evening (both from the hospitality reserve).

RIBI and District subscriptions will be unchanged next year. The estimated balance on the club account at the end of the year (excluding hospitality) will be about £1350. It was agreed that no change in members subscriptions should be proposed at the AGM.

We are drawing on the hospitality reserve more than we used to. It will be about £1900 at the end of the year. This is sufficient for next year, but we may need to take action in the longer term.

It was agreed that no change should be made to the suggested Foundation donation of £18 per member.

Spending of £50 to £100 was authorised for a gift to take to Aschaffenburg.

Service Projects (Heather Stewart):

Committee meetings will be held on 21 April. Round tables and a buffet lunch will be arranged, preferably with soup instead of meringues.

It was agreed that cheques should be presented to CheckIn and Perthshire Womens Aid at the AGM. Heather will make arrangements.

Arrangements by Louis Flood and Susan Scott are in hand for the Senior Citizens Ceilidh on 27 April. There has been a good response from the club for support.

Club Administration:

John Watson (Attendance & House): Average attendance for the quarter is 62%. This includes members on leave of absence, as required by the rules. Quarterly attendance per member will be posted on the noticeboard.

Membership (Neil Townend): Two new members have been inducted, a 7 day letter has been issued for one prospective member, and an information meeting arranged for another.

AOCB: During discussion on the hospitality reserve, it was suggested that a bi-annual exchange might be better. The idea will be discussed with the club at the AGM.

Date of next meeting: Monday 10 May 2010 at 6pm



Photograph showing the signboard acknowledging the funding from the Rotary Clubs of Perth.. Thanks to Neil Townend.



- * Report and picture on the Young Carers visit to Radio Tay and Dundee Mega bowl.
- * Michael & Eileen's attendance at the RIBI Conference.
- * Report on our Gavel match with Kinnoull Club.. which we won 21-9!!
- * Report on the Club AGM



April 27	Senior Citizens Ceilidh, Salutation Hotel
April 28 @ 1830	Club AGM
May 5	Lunchtime Speaker
May 8	District Assembly
May 10	Club Council
May 12	Lunchtime Speaker
May 14 - 17	Aschaffenburg Rotary Visit
May 19	Fellowship Presentation