



Lend a Hand

By George

The Newsletter of Perth St Johns Rotary Club

FEBRUARY 2004 ISSUE

CLUB NEWS

Council Matters

The following is a summary of the Council meeting of 02/02/04, prepared by President David.

Presidents Items

Attendance: I am delighted to report that 9 out of the 10 members struggling to make the 60% level and who I wrote to last December have all managed, whether by use of previously unsubmitted make-ups and/or good attendances in January, reached the target. January's attendances were in fact a very high 85% for the club. It is great to see the meetings well attended, I'm sure they are more enjoyable too and I thank everyone for their efforts. ,

Ann Gloag's induction had received tremendous publicity throughout the local papers, especially the PA to whom we are indebted for such support. In the same issue the letter of thanks from WHO and UNICEF regarding Polio Eradication (which David Ramsay had prepared on behalf of all three clubs) had appeared in full.

Also pictures of all the teams in the Primary Schools Quiz, a bumper edition for sure!!

Awareness Week; rota is complete with a great deal of support from the other two clubs as well as a big response from St Johns. Full rota will appear on board soon.

Centennial project update letter which George Pollock chased on our behalf is on the noticeboard. All seems to be on track.

John Galbraith and **Hamish McLaren** are both progressing well after recent operations.

Secretary

The District Assembly date has been changed to the 16th May 2004 and the venue from Aberdeen to Dunfermline. This late date change presents great difficulties for Maureen as she will be away at that time. President and Maureen have recorded our unhappiness but it seems RI have left incoming DG John Minhinick no room for alteration. We will try to get a good representation as last year. Club has been planning round the original date of 2/5/04 that then became 9/5/04 and now changed again!!

Treasurer

Weekly (bottle) draw has so far raised £747 of the target of £1000 for the year. Members will remember that this was committed to the Centennial Clock Project for the next 3 years. We are well on schedule to raise the £3000 needed.

COMMUNITY

The **Old Folks Ceilidh** is all arranged thanks and board is circulating for assistance on the 23/2/04. Please add your names if available, it is always a super night for the guests.

Car drivers please also remember to TAKE THE OLD FOLKS HOME AGAIN around 9.00 PM. **Gordon McFatridge** will produce an instruction list for transport.

VOCATIONAL

Museum visit on 2nd Feb was a great success. See separate write up by **George Beaton** in this newsletter. Many thanks to Sue Payne for conducting the tour.

Primary Schools Quiz again so well organised by Rob Burke was another great success and the compliments are still being received from the teachers and parents. £ 355 spent with a little more needed for the Zone final. This will be as per budget of £400.

Young Choreographer 28/3/04 Alan Mathieson has got everything arranged and has come in under budget due to generous help with the lighting arrangements. Members and friends are encouraged to support the performers on the night.

INTERNATIONAL

£250 to **Iran earthquake** disaster is away.

Donation made also to **Save a Mum** project with District.

Alex Hay has got our **Plan International** support for a youngster in Kenya up and running and will report on progress soon.

International Meeting scheduled for 19/5/04 (evening) is at advanced planning stage.

FOUNDATION

First bottle filled with coppers has raised c£80; the second bottle is already 1/3rd full and will continue to Easter.

WAYS and MEANS

20/2/04 Sportsman's Dinner all in hand. 200 seats booked, we need around 14 member's help on the night **Elaine Cant** has board circulating. Excellent auction prizes have been generously donated by local contacts and we hope for another enjoyable and successful evening.

MERCY SHIPS

Neil will follow up the request for assistance in restocking the Anastasis when she docks in Dundee next September. We might be able to identify sources for essential supplies.

CLUB SERVICE

A&H__Excellent attendance's for January of 85%.

Programme is all in hand for Feb and March

Entertainment the hosting list has been around a few times and **John Fox** will finalise the groupings soon.

Otherwise a successful programme has been completed. Council asked Stuart to look at some event perhaps a bowling evening to round off the year. Many thanks to **Stuart** for the great success of the events so far.

Publicity awareness week site the Library to be confirmed by **Norrie and** President David has liaised with other 2 clubs to complete rota and arrange for all to have appropriate displays and info available.

Membership two new prospective members will have info meeting soon. Hope they will be enthused to join after this.

Reminder to all organisers to contact **Sandy Scrimgeour** Club Protection Officer and check re **risk assessments** for all projects to ensure we comply with our safety policy. Simple planning changes mean that no disclosures will be needed in nearly all cases.

AOCB Maureen and George are planning a celebration of the centenary of Rotary, the 65th anniversary of the fall of the 51st Highland Division at St. Valery and 60th anniversary of VE day with a mass reel on the North Inch in summer 2005. Black Watch is already in full support, a new reel is being commissioned, and you're all needed to dance, come rain or shine. More to follow.

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PLAN KENYA: Sponsorship

Jorim Osiki Amolo

You will recall that Alex Kanyi and his family have moved to a new settlement and have shown considerable improvement in their living standards. Our new sponsored child is Jorim Osiki and this is copy of a letter from his Community Volunteer Worker. A photo of Jorim and his drawing are on the notice board. *Alex Hay*

Dear Mr Hay,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I am Charles Nyawanda, a community volunteer worker in your sponsored child's community. I am writing on his behalf and of his family because the child is too young to write on his own while the family members are also unable.

Jorim Osiki and the family members were very happy when they learnt that you have taken Jorim as your sponsored child. They expressed their joy and thankfulness for what has happened. Jorim is learning at Chianda Primary School in standard two. He is doing well in class. He likes playing with his friends both at school and at home.

Their home is 50 kilometres from Kisumu. The weather this side is dry and hot. We expect some short rains to come in September.

May God bless you.

Charles Nyawanda.

Door Duty

February 25

David Cuthbert and Fergus Harris

March 3

Albert Donaldson and Alex Hay

March 10

TBA and Tom Howie

March 17

Louis Flood and John Lewington

March 24

John Fox and Bert McDonald

March 31

Enrico Frattaroli and John MacIntyre

Vote of Thanks

February 25 **Gordon McFatridge**

March 3 **Hamish McLaren**

March 17 **Ian McLellan**

March 24 **Norman McPherson**

March 31 **Ian Mutch**

Bottle Duty

February 25 **Euna Scott**

March 3 **Robert Scott**

March 10 **Sandy Scrimgeour**

March 17 **Sandy Taylor**

March 31 **Neil Townend**



It Aint Half Hot Mum!

My elder brother recently decided I should have custody of father's 1913 –1920 diaries, so for the first time I am able to go through them thoroughly. Here are a few extracts.

Brian Kitching

1913 (He arrived in Malaya for the first time, as a land surveyor for the Colonial Office on 27 June.)

6 August. Asquith, replying to a Parliamentary deputation, promises construction of a Channel Tunnel will receive respectful consideration.

22 August. A Malay sending a petition to Goodyear (head of the survey department at Seremban) ends 'and if you do this I shall ever pray for you, in the name of Jesus Christ, whom your Highness greatly resembles'.

1914

14 Jan. The place where I am working is not far from the Labu forest reserve, where Sakais dwell, & I daily hear the haunting note made by bamboos in the wind – they cut holes in the bamboo, & tie them to the tops of trees, the wind blowing through makes a weird concert of notes, sweet & clear & far-carrying.

28 Jan. Planter called Boomgardt has been taken by a crocodile.....he was in a sampan on the river, going towards Lumat, when they were attacked by a swarm of hornets (or wasps) whose nest had been disturbed by a hawk. There were several Malays & a Japanese woman in the sampan, & all were severely stung : Boomgardt shouted that he could not stand it any longer, & jumped into the river : his head came up & he was just making his first stroke to swim, when he shouted 'help, something has got me by the leg' : then he threw up his arms, gave one shriek, & disappeared. The water was immediately tinged with blood, but Boomgardt was never seen again.

14 Feb. Formal opening of Panama Canal is fixed for 1.1.1915.

4 March. Had a look round the village of Sepang Road. Rather surprising to find in a small place like this 2 Japanese brothels, with 4 inmates in each!

9 March. There is a strong movement in favour of numbering rugby players.

12 March. British Aviation Record, Lieut. Briggs at Eastchurch created an altitude record, rising to 15000 feet: He was severely frost bitten.

2 April. The result of the golf match to test the comparative merits of the new rubber-cored golf ball v the old gutta percha. Vardon & Duncan, playing with the rubber core, beat Braid & Taylor, playing with the gutty, 5 up. Braid & Taylor, playing with the rubber core, beat Vardon & Duncan, playing with the gutty, 4 up. Which conclusively proves the advantage of the rubber core.

11 May. The Sultan of Pahang died on Saturday. One of his quaint customs was to use a large galvanised iron bath as a State Chair.....He never used any other means of conveyance in the days before there were any roads in Pahang. It was filled with cushions on which he reclined in comfort, slung on poles & carried by coolies.

13 May. Bought a rather unreliable motor bike. The machine has pedals with which one can assist the engine if it is petering out.

15 May. Thirsty in the jungle & stream water being unsafe in this area: says Nasihat, one of my coolies, 'I can get you a drink, Tuan'. He goes to a long, almost creeper like stem which reaches the ground from the branch of a tall jungle tree, & with his parang severs it in 2 places, leaving in his hand a length

about 3 feet long & 2 inches in diameter, which he gives to me: I hold my open mouth under the lower end & a steady trickle of water comes out – a most refreshing drink.

23 May. Half way up the Lenggeng pass, the bike was chugging along, making heavy weather of it but just holding its own, when I suddenly saw we were practically on top of a large snake stretched right across the road! I dare not stop, could never have started the bike again up that slope – so my only alternative was to run over it & hope for the best, which I did: luckily the old bike carried on, & I never looked back to see what the snake did!

5 August. On my return (from fieldwork) I find that war has broken out between Britain & Germany.

21 Oct. At last something interesting at Temiang! One of my coolies ran towards us down the rentis shouting 'Rimau' - & sure enough, across the rentis, about 30 yards away, stalked majestically a large, full grown tiger, a magnificent sight, but he put an end to work for the day. Seeing a tiger at large like that gives you a sinking feeling, especially when you have no weapon of defence.

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Alternative captions to "life in the Old Hog Yet"

"Hope he never needs the spare"!!! (wheel)

David Ramsay

"Who is he trying to impress?"

"He's got all the gear and it looks swish but actually it's only a scooter!"

Brian Kitching.

After careful cogitation and deliberation the prize of one week in South Africa living with Roger goes to Brian Kitching.

The runner up prize of two weeks in South Africa with Roger goes to David Ramsay.

The editor's decision is final and no negotiations or bribes will be considered. (Unless it's free dog food, David)

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Some more stunning feats of articulation from TV presenters:

Alan Minter- "Sure, there have been deaths in boxing, but none of them serious."

New Zealand Rugby Commentator- Andrew Mehrtens loves it when Daryl Gibson comes inside of him."

Ted Walsh- Horse Racing Commentator- "This is really a lovely horse. I once rode her mother."

Winston Bennett- "I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body."

Murray Walker- F1 Racing Commentator- "The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it which is identical."

Terry Venables- "If history repeats itself, I should think we can expect the same thing again."

Ron Atkinson- "I would not say that David Ginola is the best left winger in the premiership, but there are none better."

Harry Carpenter at the Oxford-Cambridge boat race 1977- "Ah, isn't that nice. The wife of the Cambridge President is kissing the Cox of the Oxford crew."

Metro Radio- "Julian Dicks is everywhere. It's like they've got eleven Dicks on the field"

David Acfield- "Strangely, in slow motion replay, the ball seems to hang in the air for even longer."

Stuart Hall- Radio 5 live- "What will you do when you leave football Jack? Will you stay in football?"

David Coleman at the Montreal Olympics - "And there goes Juantorena down the back straight, opening his legs and showing his class."

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