



Club of Swindon



Club Bulletin June/July 2023

The Editor's musings

I have to start with an apology...it is a full year since the last club bulletin came out...and I know that quite a few friends of the club as well as honorary members and those who can't attend as often as they'd like, have missed it. So I am giving in to the pressure and will try to produce a regular bulletin to keep you all in touch with what has happened in the club, what is going on and what is being planned. I confess that although retired, I do have a lot to keep me occupied, so the monthly version might well turn out to be a bi-monthly publication... but let's see how it works out! So here we go...

A few dates for your diary

July 14th: President's Evening at Wrag Barn
 July 23rd: Tea and Croquet at Belmont Crescent (see below)

August 9th: Swindon Down's Group: Picnic at Coate Water (sponsored by the club)

August 31st: Evening meeting at Fox and Hounds, Wroughton

September 15th : winetasting at Magnum's (see below)

Recent meetings....is this what you missed.....?

June 15th:

In a brief business meeting, prior to the Club Assembly, members heard with great delight that Richard Deacon had accepted the nomination to stand as President Nominee (JVP) for the coming rotary year. He was duly elected to that post by acclamation!

We heard with some sadness that long-standing member and past president of the club, Mike Bawden, had decided not to renew his membership of the club this year. Following the proposal from the club council, he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the club.

In the absence of the club Treasurer, the secretary read out the current balances in the various accounts held by the club:

Club Account: £6,700

Trust Account: £ 11,145

Trust Savings : £7,485

Charity Ball: £32,175

Ukraine: £ 430

The club subscription for 2023 /24 was confirmed as being £180 and accepted by a unanimous show of hands

Following the proposal from Club Council it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £500 to the Swindon Downs Group in support of their planned Day Out at Coate Water in August

Under the chairmanship of President Elect, Jeremy Holt, the Club Assembly heard the plans put forward by Club Administration, Community and

International Committees. These are available should any members wish to read them but it looks once again as if the club has a busy year ahead !

In her address, ADG Lynda Morse complimented the club on our varied programme and congratulated us on picking up the important theme of Working Together in Rotary; Our new DG Ann Bartholomew has taken the theme for her year of " Stronger Together" .

Membership continues to be a challenge for all clubs (it is frightening to hear that 3/4 of all members in RGB&I are over 75 years old!). Other points she stressed were the importance of using Social Media to publicise the club, applying for District Grants before the end of this June! and keeping her informed of events that can be put into the area Calendar

June 22nd

This was a Past Presidents' lunch and the club secretary__brought greetings (as well as apologies) from past president Rob Harman and past president Mike Bawden. There was no speaker booked for the day but judging from the buzz of conversation throughout the meal, folk were enjoying the camaraderie of the club. Past president Martin Groombridge suggested it would be appropriate to take a photo of the assembled past presidents.... see below.



Thirteen past presidents were in attendance and it was particularly good to have Ian Sharpe with us as a visitor for the day.

June 29th

This was the occasion of the annual Handover of the club to the incoming president. As you can see, president Rob was delighted to shed the burden of the heavy presidential chain and don the much lighter Past Presidents' Medal!



Incoming president Jeremy outlined some of his aims for the club for the year to come: maintaining the good spirit within the club, supporting the Harbour Project with regular fundraising events, and recruiting new members.

July 6th

At the start of the meeting , club secretary, Steve gave the news that Martin Groombridge had sadly opted

not to renew his membership to the club for the new Rotary year, news that was received with some dismay by members.

In what has become something of a tradition in the club Bill Fishlock proceeded to interview our new president and we discovered quite a few interesting facts about the man and his life among which:

He was born in Greenwich of parents who had both been serving in the Royal Navy; he has four generations of service background in his blood. He attended a state boarding school in Somerset and then succeeded in getting into Oxford (Exeter College) where he read Law (we won't dwell on the now famous folk that he got to know up in Oxford!) A period of several years as an articled clerk in various law firms in London saw him qualify as a solicitor in 1980. When the opportunity arose to open new office in Swindon came up, he grabbed it with alacrity and seemingly has not looked back.

Married to Antonia, with two daughters, his many interests, other than History and the history of computing, include many outdoor activities : he is a keen runner (marathons and park runs) and has learned survival skills whilst serving in the Territorials (Honorary Artillery Company) . Most of us were aware that he was a founder member of the Computer Museum based here in Swindon. Favourite food: chorizo . Favourite film: Das Boot and Favourite book: "Rogue Male".

July 13th

This was a monthly business meeting

Treasurer:

Balances stand as follows:

Club Account: £7269

Trust Account Savings: £7485

Trust Account Working: £4873

Charity Ball: £23,097

Ukraine funds: £430

A reminder that subs of £180 are now due and the treasurer was keen to ask that, if paying by bank transfer that it goes to the club account 20-84-58 90786373 and that there is a clear reference as to your identity

International:

There has been no meeting, but the committee will meet in August

Youth and Community:

The committee has planned events right through the year. A speaker is booked from the Hydrotherapy Pool (seeking funds to repair roof!) and there has been a request for assistance from Dressability for a project.

Administration:

Lunch dates organised for July and August.

Additional lunch meetings allocated (missing from handbook)

Sept 7th: (Camaraderie)

Nov 23rd: (Speaker)

Nov 30th: (Speaker)

April 11th: (Business)

Evening Meeting - 17th August at the Fox and Hounds (Wroughton)

Charity Ball:

First meeting of the committee for next year's ball to be on 3 August at Belmont Cres.

It was good to hear that, as a result of funds built up in the 100 club, this year Past President Rob Gillespie gave away £1400 to his Charity The Amber Trust. So if you are not a member of this draw club, think about it...or suggest it to friends and family!

And in the pipeline....

Our president's chosen charity this year is the Harbour Project and as a first fundraiser on Sunday afternoon 23rd July, he has offered to open his garden for an afternoon of tea and croquet.

Some of the hardworking staff from the Project will be there, so it will be another great chance to chat with them and discover more about what

they do, as well as have some fun on the croquet lawn! £10 for the tea . Here is a link to apply for your ticket:



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/game-of-croquet-tickets-677308837967?aff=oddtcreator>



Ever keen to raise funds for the same worthy charity, President Jeremy is organising a wine-tasting at Magnums in Wood St, on 15th September. Again, use the link to apply for tickets:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wine-tasting-evening-tickets-677314855967?aff=oddtcreator>