



The bulletin of



The Rotary Club of Swindon Thamesdown

'The Moonraker'

District 1100 England

'Keeping Members in Touch!'



Editor; Past President
Peter Goldsworthy P.H.F.
*Swindon Thamesdown Editor of the year 2007
District 1100 Editor of the Year 2008/9 (Yeah!)*



*President Richard Fry
2009/10*

Issue 103 - Volume 5 and Number 23 of this Rotary Year

By email to all members of **Swindon Thamesdown Rotary Club, Foothill Highlands Rotary Club, Tappahannock Rotary Club** and selected **Australian Rotary Club Members** by Snail-mail to Hon, Members of Swindon Thamesdown and **now available on our website at;**

<http://www.rotaryclubofswindonthamesdown.org.uk/>

The comments expressed in this newsletter, if not credited to someone else, are the thoughts & opinions of the Editor and therefore may not be the opinions of all the members of the Rotary Club of Swindon Thamesdown.

Meeting 4th February 2010

Editor Golds is still away, probably on a beach or paddling in the sea with his trousers rolled up and a knotted handkerchief on his head, so it is again my dubious pleasure to bring you this edition..... pleasant reading: **Hon Sec Richard Goddard**

Host for the evening Paul Parfrey reports:

What better way to follow on from Guest Speaker of the 26th January who's subject was weight loss, as this week the focus was on getting fit and encouraging those over weight Rotarians to take part in the 3rd Swindon Mad March Hare, a family event to either Walk, Run or Jog over a 5km or 10km route around Lydiard Country Park and surrounding area, being held on Sunday 7th March 2010.

Guest Speaker this week was Margaret Nicholson, Chairperson of the Mad March Hare (MMH) Organising Team, but better known to her friends – well me in particular as “M”!!!! Luckily the Lamb and Mint Sauce accompanied by Mash Potato, Broccoli and Carrots

(Gold's missed out on the carrots again!!) followed by a very sweet sponge and custard were all favourites of M's, so we were off to a flying start on how to impress our guests.



M and I have know each other for about 3 years, we met through the relationship of the Swindon Twinpeaks Walking group which my much better half, Lynn is a popular figurehead of, and my role with Breakthrough Breast Cancer in

Wiltshire. Lynn is also a member of the MMH Organising Team, so you could say it's very incestuous!!!

Moving swiftly onto the MMH presentation and well delivered talk to the club.....



Who takes part in the Mad March Hare?
All ages, all abilities!

The MMH was launched in 2008, when the first walk was organised in memory of the late Irene Hare who was a strong supporter of Breakthrough Breast Cancer and sadly died from Breast Cancer herself.

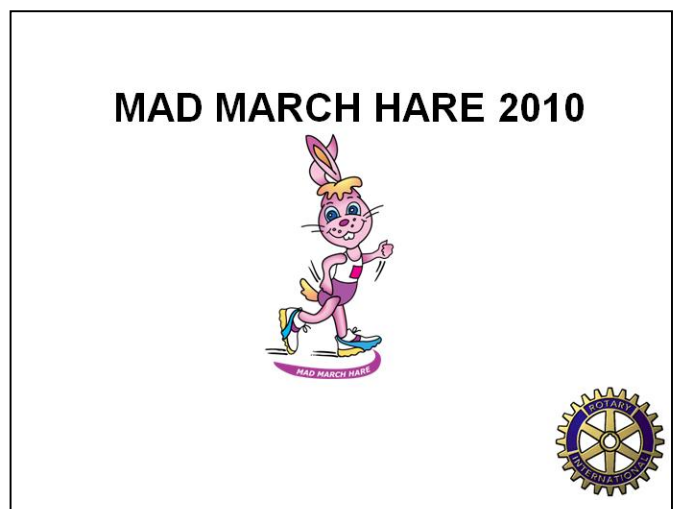
The event brought in 250 entrants in 2008 and raised through sponsorship and a grant from the National Lottery an amazing £10,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer, despite the event having to be postponed by 2 weeks due to extensive flooding of the Lydiard Park from overnight torrential rainfall.

Building on the success, and praying for Sunshine, a second event was organised in 2009 which is when Margaret took on the role as Chairperson of the Organising Team as this time the entrants was opened up to 500, which was a sell out and the profits raised in excess of £11,000 for Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

2010 is the greatest challenge yet as the event on 7th March, is open to 800 applicants and owing to feedback from 2008 and 2009, merchandise is on sale this year as a trial.

A selection of the merchandise was on display, Caps and T-Shirts with the MMH owned logo and pin badges with the MMH Hare which will become a regular sign in and around Swindon. Mr President was so impressed with the caps which have the MMH logo printed on the front, that he bought a black one for himself and a white one for Mrs Fry, to take on their pending vacation!!!

On sale at £3.50 each, Mr President donated an additional £3 with some pressure from **elect** President Fisher, SVP Barrett and JVP Parfrey, "hand over a tenner" was the chant around the room after most of the fellow Rotarians had vacated to the bar and current President Fry was faced with the flickering eyelashes of "M".....he just couldn't say no!!



Key sponsors of the MMH are Legal & General; Les Slin; The Big Adventure Store; Fitness First; Acorn Press and the Midshires Cooperative. Grants from the National Lottery and Swindon Borough Council have enabled the purchase of equipment to support the event and to establish the website www.madmarchhare.org

The MMH is supported through;

Services and Resources – gifts in kind/donations from Greendown School, Grange Park, Swindon (the Hub for the start and finish of the event); challenge Swindon; Muevate Dance School for the ever important warm-up before the start and the David Lloyd Fitness centre.

Media – Free outlook community publications, The Link Magazine, The Handy Mag, and Its All About, have all given tremendous support through printing articles and application forms over the past months and previous years. BBC Wiltshire and Community Radio 105.5FM are promoting the MMH and will be providing coverage on the day of the 2010 event in March.

Volunteers – the event benefits from the support of in the region of 80 volunteers on the day. The organising team work all year round meeting regularly developing and organising the coming and next year's event.

The Organising Team is made up of the Chairperson, Treasurer/Media coordinator, Merchandiser, Event Manager, Administrator and Secretary, all of whom have full time employment and give their time free of charge.

Margaret in particular, splits her working weeks between Bristol and London as the head of development and training for the CLIC Sergant children cancer charity as well as being in training for the Epra March in May which is over 3 days and covers 100km, and also the Great North Run in September!!!!



The Swindon Mad March Hare is a fantastic community event with a worthy cause and legend behind it. So why not fill in the application form and give it a go this year. I would like to thank Margaret for delivering such an informative presentation and in particular my fellow Rotarians for coughing up some addition pennies for the MMH Pin Badges that were strategically places around the table at break before Margaret's presentation. The money from these kind donations and the raffle money (which I won and donated no.266) came to just over £26, that's without the tenner we got out of Mr President for the caps.....

Well Done M, you did me proud as my Guest Speaker and thanks to my fellow Rotarian's for making Margaret feel welcome and appreciated.....Paul

[Email received from former member Chris Durie in Australia.](#)

Good evening Richard and all Rotarians

This bit is from Mary but Chris will add his bit when he comes in from mowing our 2 acres! Yes, it's peak summer here and we can watch the grass grow, especially after all the long awaited rain we've had recently. Despite the rain, it remains hot and humid. Sorry folks, after your snow we have heard all about. Anyway, this is just to thank you for continuing to include us in the Moonraker. We read it with great interest, of your news items, guest speakers from around the world and of course your photos of Rotarians, and like us their changing shape!! Anyway, we hope everyone is well and fit, especially after your last speaker on the diets! We would like to send our best regards to one and all. Here's Chris.

Hi Folks, I was just telling Mary today how much of a buzz it is to get the Moonraker each week. It is like a lot of old and dear friends coming to visit with the added bonus that they don't get stuck in to the wine stocks!

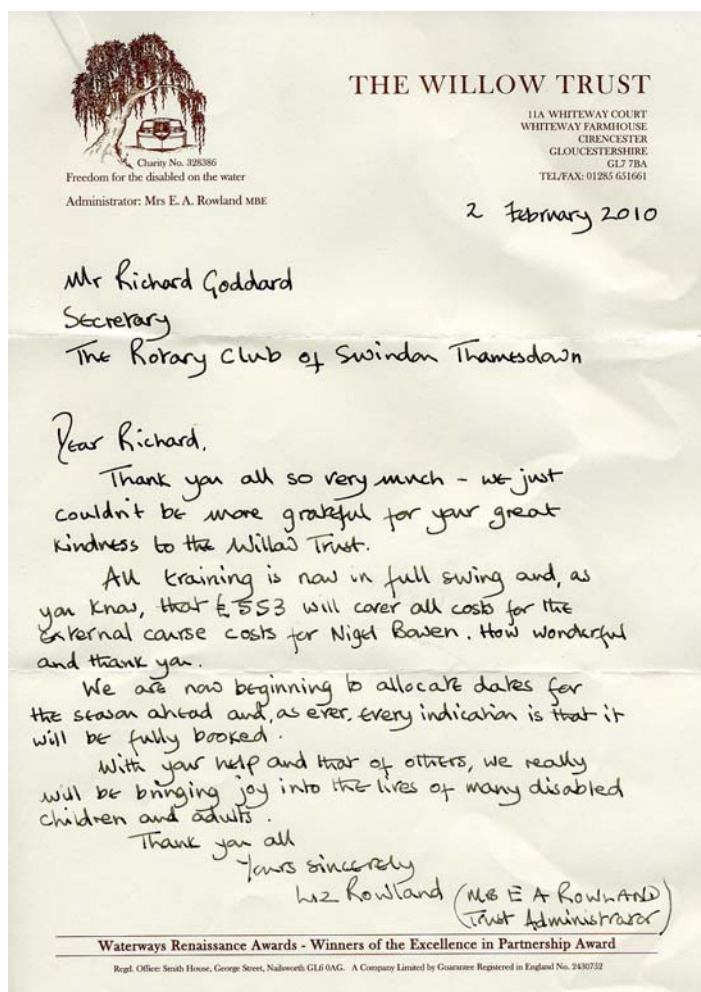
It is great to see all the old faces and also some new ones. Though we have been there a few times since we left and it might be as hard as we find it to believe, but next June we will have been here for 6, yes 6 years! I must say that looking at the photos each week most of you are well preserved after all that time. Please keep the Moonraker coming. You are a very special and unique bunch and it is indeed a privilege to know you all and to keep in touch. We do plan to visit again, but we will wait until we know the date of the proposed wedding of Mary's eldest son Hedley to Sarah. When that happens I will definitely make a point of coming along to at least one meeting if you can cope with the accent.

All for now. Keep up the good work and fellowship of Rotary. It is a very worthwhile thing to do.

Kind regards. Chris D

Announcements:

Tuesday 16th February – we are not meeting at the Holiday Inn as this is a CURRY NIGHT in aid of STEP, at the Bombay Lounge 7.30pm, please let Rtn Bob Barrett know how many seats you require as soon as possible and remember this is open to friends and family so the more the merrier



Members will recall that the Club donated a sum of money to the Willow Trust, a charity that offers a day out on the Gloucester Sharpness canal to disabled children and adults in their two boats.

I have received a thank you letter from the Trust, shown opposite. It is rewarding to know that again Rotary has assisted in helping others in a small way - which will make a big difference to the children and adults who will all benefit from the efforts of the Willow Trust.



Recent photograph of PP Rtn John Flanagan keeping in touch with the football on his mobile phone! (captions please on a £10 note to the Secretary)

Remember.....



Hon Sec Richard Goddard