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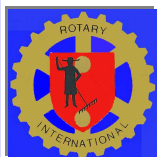


# The Rotary Club of Swindon Thamesdown

## '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 Bob Barrett  
2008/09

Issue 79 - Volume 3 and Number 49 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 23rd June 2009

### Host Rtn Barbara Goulding

Peter here is my News Report from Rotary meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

My apologies if my first News Report is not up to the usual standard as they say "practice makes perfect" so hopefully my Reports will improve.



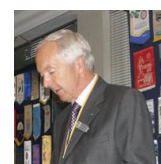
I must admit I thought that **Golds** would be back this week with his witty remarks and his camera to liven the report up. But neither he nor **Sec Richard** was there – so sorry no photos.

It was good to see **Mark Amis** again, if we were to see him tomorrow would we be able to recognise him? I will clarify this for you. Mark is going to The Glastonbury Festival and has a ticket with the picture of a gentleman with no beard or tash and no hair so Mark will set to with his razor tomorrow. Please can we see a photo of your new image Mark? We hope to see him at the Club soon.



Thanks to **P.P.'s Phil Skelton and Peter Newson** for helping to put the banners up and down for me.

The meal was a suitable choice for a warm balmy evening. Ham and Chicken salad (**SVP Richard** and I both thought it might be enhanced with some new potatoes) and Stella tells me the desert was strawberry shortcake as I wasn't sure if it was strawberry mousse cake or cheesecake – for some reason I couldn't work out the difference.



Some Rotarians (**Mark Amis and Treasurer P.P. Steve Davison**) got their money's worth and had double portions of desert and **PP Andrew Whiting** was setting us a good example by having a much healthier fruit salad.

## Business and Fellowship Evening

Apologies; **Richard Goddard, Doug Marshall, Fred Child, David Coe, Mike Slipper, Peter Goldsworthy and Alan Jefferies**

### Reports;

Secretary – No correspondence received

Treasurer – **The Treasurer PP Steve Davison** gave us his report regarding the Club's finances. (Evidently we are still DOOOOOMED!

Community Services – **President Bob** outlined forthcoming events which were mentioned in last week's bulletin

Membership – No report

Foundation and International – No Report

It was mentioned that **The Club Banner** has gone missing - last seen about 2 years ago in the "Walkley" Pub Area. It was proposed to replace the banner and should the missing one be found we would be fortunate to actually possess two.

**Rtn Paul Palfrey** might bring a friend along to a meeting soon and there are enquiries from another prospective member who is a member of Thatcham Rotary and wants to transfer to a club here. He will try all the Clubs in the Swindon Area and then choose the best one – so of course it will be this one.

### A.O B

**PP Phil** asked some questions about Fund Raising – it got a bit complicated here

Almoner **PP Pete Collis** announced that both **PP Leslie Parsons and Valerie Nix** were on the mend and recovering well. Peter Treasurer then said that he too had seen Leslie and he was looking well.



**Chris Ockwell** made a quick exit as he had husband's duties to get on with. **Sue** unfortunately had a fall after the splendid Presidents BBQ and broke her arm. May I add that it was not due to too much alcohol? Just in case some people (especially Peter Treasure) might think this was the case. So Chris whose birthday it was today was going home to look after her. What an example he sets.

Best Wishes Sue for a quick recovery – hope you like tennis as it would be a good reason to stay in and watch it.

### Sergeant At Arms Rtn Peter Treasure

Well he was particularly cruel to our President Bob for having had a number of double brandies last Saturday at his Presidents BBQ. A huge fine was paid.

**President Bob** said he really enjoyed the evening last Saturday as we all did. And **Mr. Treasure**, I repeat, "I was not drunk on one glass of rose wine, I was just my usual friendly self"!



Newest Rotarian (well one of two) **Andy Joyce** did a splendid job with the raffle once



he realised he had to be The Raffle Monkey and another new-ish **Rotarian Paul Palfrey** won the raffle and donated all the winnings to Club Funds, **With a special wish that some of it was used to buy the editor of the Moonraker a drink!**  
—(Ok I added that, Golds!)



All pictures are from the Moonraker Archives as there was no photographer present Thank you Barbara for keeping we absent members informed—I added both **Alan Jefferies and my name** to the apologies as I had phoned into Andrews Office before the allotted cut out time but we were not credited in your report so I assume that someone forgot us—but we aint paying for the meal!!!! Golds!

As I have been Americanised for the past couple of weeks I enclose the following American --- VERY INTERESTING STUFF ~

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'

Many years ago in Scotland , a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only... Ladies Forbidden'.  
..  
and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV was Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S. Treasury.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The State with the highest percentage of people who walk to work:

Alaska

The percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%  
(now get this...)

The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%

The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven: was \$ 16,400

The average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour:  
61,000

Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair..

The first novel ever written on a typewriter: Tom Sawyer

The San Francisco Cable Cars are the only Mobile National Monuments.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David  
Hearts - Charlemagne  
Clubs - Alexander, the Great  
Diamonds - Julius Caesar

$111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987, 654,321$

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes (actually I don't believe this is fact. Golds!)

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until 5 years later.

Question: Half of all Americans live within 50 miles of what?

Answer: Their birthplace

Question:

Most boat owners name their boats. What is the most popular boat name requested? Answer: Obsession

Question: If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter 'A'? Answer: One thousand

Question: What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common?

Answer: All were invented by women.

Question: What is the only food that doesn't spoil? Answer: Honey

Question: Which day are there more collect calls made than any other day of the year? Answer: Father's Day

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes.

When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase... 'Goodnight , sleep tight'

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honey-moon.

In English pubs, ale is ordered by pints or quarts...So in old England , when customers got unruly, the bartender would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down.' It's where we get the phrase 'mind your P's and Q's'

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. 'Wet your whistle' is the phrase inspired by this practice.

At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!

Don't ignore this just because it looks weird ~ Believe it or not, you can read it.

I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclyt uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoatnt tihng is taht the first and last ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it wouthit a porbelm. This is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh?

### **so who needs a spell check and apostrophes Gill!!! (Golds!)**

YOU KNOW YOU ARE LIVING IN 2009 when...

1. You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.
  4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
  5. Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
  6. You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries.
7. Every commercial on television has a web site at the bottom of the screen.
8. Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic and you turn around to go and get it.
10. You get up in the morning and go on line before getting your coffee
  11. You start tilting your head sideways to smile. : )
  12. You're reading this and nodding and laughing.
13. Even worse, you know exactly to whom you are going to forward this message.
  14. You are too busy to notice there was no #9 on this list.
  15. You actually scrolled back up to check that there wasn't a #9 on this list.

~~~~~  
AND FINALLY ~~~~~

NOW U R LAUGHING at yourself.

Go on, go ahead and try to lick your elbow!



**Next weeks Club Host** is; I duuno

he is also **P.P. Peter Collis's** little helper with the **L.E.C.**

(— look forward to his view of the meeting in the Moonraker next week!!!

*That's all Folks*

*Golds!*