

May/June 2010



BULLETIN
of the
Rotary Club
of
Eastbourne
(chartered 1922)

www.eastbournerotary.org.uk

President: Peter Nash
Secretary: George Collier
Treasurer: Colin Middleton

President's Log

May

What a month it has been – my feet hardly seem to have touched the ground. The blame for most of it must go to Ian Hunt to whom Club, and myself in particular, owe a great debt of gratitude. It is due to his organising ability and, seemingly boundless, energy that two of the major events of the year not only happened but appeared to go so smoothly. I know that Ian would be the first to acknowledge that it he was well supported but credit must be given to the leader of the team. I am referring, of course, to Tripartite and President's Night.

Tripartite was a splendid weekend in Ghent – our Belgian colleagues know how to entertain and their hospitality was certainly generous. It was much appreciated by our hosts that so many members and partners made the trip, reinforcing old friendships and forging new ones. The Floralties was spectacular and photographs simply do not do justice to it – a once every five year event, we were fortunate that our visit coincided. . Ghent is a beautiful mediaeval city and the only drawback to the weekend was that the very full and interesting schedule left little time for sightseeing.

A very big thank you to all members and guests who joined Sue and me for President's Night and made it an evening to remember for us. Again, everything seemed to go without a hitch – the weather was great and the only drawback was that my view of the golf course featured the bunker to the side of the eighteenth green, about which I have recurring nightmares. I swear there is a magnet in there that attracts my ball week after week! Ian – thank you very much for both events.

Still on the social scene, Sue and I were invited to join President Una Genty and the Inner Wheel for their President's Night on 13 May at the Lansdowne Hotel – another excellent evening, and an opportunity to say thank you to the Inner Wheel for all the help and support that they give to our Club throughout the year.



However, despite all the hectic social activity, it is has also been business as usual with two speakers this month. Firstly, our very own Ken Rawlings gave an interesting talk on the history of names, and it was fascinating to note that the coat of arms of the Nash family bears a number of greyhounds – who appear to be running much faster than mine! At the following business meeting we were able to present a cheque to Louise Collins from Chestnut Tree House – the children's hospice, being the proceeds of the Christmas donations in lieu of sending cards. A very worthy cause and much appreciated.

Just last week, during the trial meal at the Langham Hotel, Tracey McNulty addressed us on her first impressions of the Town and her role as the newly appointed Tourism Manager for Eastbourne. A talk that generated much interest and debate that could have gone on far longer into the afternoon.

June

This is my final entry as your President as, by the time that you read this – assuming that you do actually read it – President Ron will be in Office and, I hope, starting to enjoy the role.

It has been a most interesting, and slightly strange, final few weeks. With the intervention of the AGM, the late May Bank Holiday, and Club Assembly, there have only been two lunchtime meetings during that time – and I was away for one of them (albeit on Club business).

The lunch meeting I did attend, was very special with the awarding of Paul Harris Fellows to four very deserving individuals. Two of these, of course were non-Rotarians being recognised for the work that they have done on behalf of Club or the community at large. Stella Blond, of course, needs little introduction to members, having acted as Producer for our Christmas Carol Concert for over 30 years – it would be interesting to know just how much has been generated by the concerts over the years. Perhaps the Treasurer, in one of his spare moments, would calculate it – I know how much they enjoy playing with figures!.

Liz Walke made her name with the "Save the DGH" campaign – I know that there are many that believed in her cause, but how many would have been prepared to put their house up as collateral for a judicial review. Remarkable and brave. Well deserving of recognition.



President Peter with Liz Walke

Internally we recognised two of our own – Joe Smedley who has worked extremely hard as our international Chairman – why he was not recognised by his former Club is a major surprise – and Robert "Bob the Builder" Hamblyn who has not only distinguished himself as a member of Club but also over the last ten years as chairman of the Eastbourne Sea Cadets.

Congratulations to all four of them – worthy recipients of the award, and a thank you to Kevan Regan and his subcommittee for their nominations.

The reason that I was unable to be present at the subsequent Monday lunch meeting was that, along with Ian Hunt, David Coe, and Nicola Williams, I was representing Club at the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Tripartite partner club of Lille Nord. It was tough, but duty called!! It was a splendid occasion and we were made very welcome – they were genuinely please to see us and are looking forward to hosting next year's Tripartite weekend – May 13/15th 2011 – so please put this date in your diaries so that we may support President Ron on what I am sure will be an excellent week-end.

Hand-over now beckons. To have been your President is a major privilege, and thanks to the hard work of all the members of Council, committee and subcommittee chairmen, it has been a most enjoyable and rewarding year. However, the biggest thanks must go to ALL of the members of Club – for without your support and goodwill nothing would have been achieved. You make the Club what it is – very special, and I thank you for it.

Peter Nash

DIARY

2010		FUNCTION	COMMENTS	VOTE OF THANKS
July				
1	Thurs	District Handover		
5	Mon	Lunch		Ian Hunt
5	Mon	Council Meeting	Mayo Wynne Baxter -18.10	
12	Mon	Lunch	Business Meeting	
19	Mon	Lunch		Nigel Greaves
26	Mon	Lunch		Alan Langley

VOTES OF THANKS

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