



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, August 30th	Evening Meeting with Ladies, Man Ho
Tuesday, September 13th	Club Council
Sept 30 - Oct 2	Tripartite Weekend in Cologne
Sunday, October 30th	Trail Race
April 7-9	District Conference, Cardiff

Please help me to keep this diary up to date by letting me have details of all forthcoming events as soon as possible. Ed.

### Special Notes:

**Please keep October 30th free in your diaries. We will need every possible member to help with the Trail Race on that day.**

Fellowship Events in the Planning Process - Proposed Schedule:

October	- 10 Pin Bowling Night
November	- TV Studio visit, by coach
December	- Xmas Party Night
January	- Year of the Dog, Chinese New Year Celebration at Man Ho
March	- Mystery Evening at Chicken Shed
April/ May	- Fellowship Weekend in the Loire
June	- A Day at the Races - Derby Day or Ascot

## RI CONVENTION

**COPENHAGEN / ORESUND / MALMO, 11-14 JUNE, 2006**

For the first time, the RI Convention will be held in the Nordic region, and shared between two countries. Information, including Registration and accommodation reservation forms, has been received, and is available from the Secretary.

## MENUS TO COME

Regrettably, the next batch of menus has not yet been received, BUT: Members are reminded that they can request Vegetarian or Salad through David Johnston, Tel. No (01582) 611567, and that these normally need to be pre-ordered to avoid disappointment.

## PRESIDENT'S POINTS

First things first. Congratulations to Mary Henderson on her accession to the Presidency of Luton North Inner Wheel. We've always got on well in the past, Mary and I look forward to sharing a number of events with you in the future.

It has been suggested that I tell you a bit about my background, as there have been many new members since I gave a "My Job" talk! I was born in Haslemere, Surrey, where I attended the local Junior School and, later, Godalming County Grammar School, where I did moderately well. On leaving school I was an engineering pupil to the Borough Engineer of Aldershot. I then did my National Service in the Royal Engineers. On leaving the army I attended Kings College, London to take a degree in Civil Engineering and I joined the Institution of Civil Engineers as a student member. (Two years ago I received a Certificate from the Institution confirming that I had been a full member for fifty years). Following Kings College I worked for a number of consulting engineers until I came to Luton in 1958 to work for Luton Council on the structural design of the Central Library in Bridge Street. I started my own firm of consulting engineers in the early sixties and I had an enjoyable and successful time until ill health forced me to retire in 1987. I joined Luton North Rotary Club in 1969 as a Founder Member, and since that day Rotary has always been an important part of my life.

It was a big and exciting occasion recently when Luton Someries and ourselves welcomed the President of RIBI, Mike Webb, and his wife Alison to a joint breakfast meeting of our two clubs. A number of other clubs in the District also attended including Luton, Luton Chiltern, Barton, Ampthill and District and others. He gave us a charming and inspirational speech full of hope for the new Rotary Century, as well as inducting our newest member, Richard Daniells, into Rotary. This was followed a week or two later by a visit from our District Governor, Meirion Morris, another auspicious occasion.



Between these high profile visits we were also privileged to welcome the Mayor of Luton, Haji Abid Hussein, to the Club. He is, of course, a moslem, and I think he said that he was the youngest person ever to have been elected Mayor. A delightful young man who seemed to like us as much as we liked him.

I explained to him that I was very interested in the Central Mosque in Westbourne Road, not least because I had been responsible for its structural design. I said that the Club would welcome an invitation to visit the mosque and he said that he would try to arrange one. We have not received that invitation as yet - maybe the Fellowship Committee could pull a few strings.

I have written to the new President of Wolfsburg Rotary Club, Michael Rex, and also to the new President of Metz Rive Gauche Rotary Club, Dominique Thomas, congratulating them on their accessions and expressing the hope that we would meet up in Cologne this coming Autumn.

President David

### **VERY IMPORTANT - Nominations for Vice President 2006/7 from President Elect Richard Giles**

An examination of the latest Luton North directory shows that no less than 17 (excluding myself) out of our current membership of 40 have never been President of our Club. That is an astonishingly high proportion considering that as yet we have no candidate for President 2007 - 2008, and there would seem to be many possibilities without having to resort to a Past Presidents serving a second term. Is this a sign within the Club of service apathy? Leave it to someone else? Perhaps the problem will go away?. Well, unfortunately the problem will **NOT** go away, as a volunteer is needed **BEFORE NOVEMBER**. Past President Roger was right to draw attention to the fact that we cannot have a club without a President, and if there is no nomination forthcoming, perhaps the Club should take it as an indication that there is little point in continuing with the Club as it stands?

Admittedly, out of the 17 who have never been President, about half have been in the Club for less than four years, and perhaps it is unreasonable to expect them to stand without having had some experience of being an officer of the club or of serving on committees. (But new clubs are almost always formed without experienced Rotarians as officers, and without the back-up knowledge that ours can offer).

**So, what is the answer?** In the shorter term it is logical that an experienced Rotarian stands, preferably a member who has not yet been President and who has, up to now, declined the office but, failing that, a Past President willing to serve again. The rationale behind this is simple - newer Rotarians need the experience and mentoring of the longer standing Rotarians while they take a more active role in the running of the club and, in turn, the longer standing Rotarians need the newer members to safeguard the future of the Club. **Make no mistake, time is running out and the next few months will be crucial to the continuance of the Club. So please consider the situation and put your name forward for Vice President 2006/7 as soon as possible.**



**DELL FARM 2005**

Once again we are indebted to Irene for helping us out as House Mother. What a task she had in keeping control of the boys we had this year - 17 in all and most with little respect for discipline. There were a number of 'firsts' this year - largest number of children, bed wetting, Snowboarding, a ducking in the lake at Wicksteed Park and one expulsion! All in all, quite eventful.

We were helped on the Monday and Tuesday by having two minibuses (thanks to Mike Austins) so transport arrangements were easier than on Wednesday and Thursday. On Monday, we had the usual programme of swimming and bowling but finished off the day with a visit by the ATC who wore them out on the football field with games and exercises. On Tuesday we went to Norton Road School for 'Pirates Day', a combination of strategic games, computer work and observation, and it soon became apparent that one child in particular was consistently being difficult and dysfunctional. We resisted the temptation of making him 'walk the plank' but after moodiness on Wednesday and fighting on Thursday, there was no option but to expel him from the group. Tuesday also saw us also visiting Xscape in Milton Keynes for the first time. Getting their kit on adjacent to the entrance served to heighten their anticipation of going snowboarding on the slope but one or two hard nuts insisted that they didn't need gloves - but how wrong they were when they came off the slope!



After a thorough warm up, though, they were grinning ear to ear. On Tuesday evening, ATC came again and tried in vain to loose them on the common, having painted their faces for a simulated night exercise.

There were many phone calls Tuesday evening debating alternatives for Wednesday as the weather forecast was for rain at Wicksteed Park. Someries decided they would take the boys there anyway and although cold, the weather turned out to be not too bad in the end. It was in the afternoon that one of the boys slipped while getting off a boat. The operator was not holding the boat tightly enough and the lad slipped and ended up in the lake. Wicksteed Park staff took him off for a warm shower and a change of clothes – apparently they are used to this happening and have a contingency plan! The evening BBQ was eaten indoors and Cathy Fox cajoled the lads into having a show and doing turns. I am reliably informed that this turned out to be hilarious and quite lively and rounded off what had been an enjoyable day for everyone. Thursday saw the lads at KlubKart Racing again this year. Always a popular event to round off the week but this year one or two of the boys had to have a lot of help from the trainers who were patient and very helpful. The group had by this time lost the lad expelled and his friend who elected to go home with him and Irene said that the group seemed more relaxed when they had gone. After lunch back at Dell Farm the children were taken home.

Thanks again to WRVS without whose help we would have starved, to all those who participated, Mike Henman, Mike Austins and Chris Buckingham on the committee and of course, to Irene Deamer who has decided that this year has been her last as House Mother. Thank you Irene – but we all hope that you will come back next year to visit if Barry's health permits.

### **DELL FARM - LETTER OF THANKS**

*To the members of the Rotary Club.*

*I would just like to thank you for the Dell farm trip  
in which my son Nathan Kenneford participated.*

*Nathan had an absolutely wonderful time  
in which he made new friends.*

*I would like to thank you again  
for giving this opportunity to Nathan.*

*Thankyou  
Melanie Reeve (mother)*

### **THE LUTON CLUBS GOLF DAY, JUNE 20th A Report from Geoffrey Farr**

As many members of Luton North are aware, it becomes increasingly difficult to get a team of 3 members to play in golf competitions and it was real relief that John Ashton has joined the club as he brings not only a golfing background but a very low handicap as well.

For the Luton Rotary Golf Day we met at South Beds GC at 1.30 and had the tee until 2.30. There were eight golfers from Luton Chiltern, four from Luton Someries, 5 from Luton, and John, Richard Combes and Geoffrey Farr from Luton North, playing for two trophies, the individual Cheesebrough Trophy, and the team Henman Bowl. Teams were well mixed - both men and women and members of different clubs - so a really good fellowship day was had by everybody. The course was in magnificent condition and the competition was sandwiched between the Gentlemen Captain's Weekend, which had just finished, and the Lady Captain's Day, which was on the following morning. Luton North members all played well, and the results are as follows, with best three from each club counting to the final total:

1st	Luton North - 111 points (John 41, Geoffrey 36 and Richard 34)
2nd	Luton Someries - 106 points
3rd	Luton Chiltern - 98 points
4th	Luton - 85 points

John Ashton therefore also won the individual Cheesebrough Trophy by a crushing 5 points, the first time for many years by a Luton North member, with Geoffrey second equal on 36 with Henry Richardson. Since the Luton Clubs competition John and Geoffrey have played for the District 1260 team against District 1090, where they not only won their match, but the District won by 5 and a half to 2 and a half, their first win since 1998. The next District Competition is on Wednesday September 14th at Aspley Guise. If anyone would like to play, please see Geoffrey as soon as possible. Finally, Luton North need new members, but when they volunteer could we ask them if they play golf? as two of our golfers are now unable to play in competitions any more.

### **Mercy Ships Sponsored Walk**

Those who were at the meeting with DG Meirion Morris will remember that he mentioned the "Mercy Ships Challenge" sponsored walk + one step beyond, being made by the partners of all 2005-6 DGs. You will be pleased to note that club members contributed the sum of £25 that day, in addition to sums already pledged directly to Jasmine herself, and we have received a very nice letter of thanks. Jasmine is just recovering from a back problem, and it is with some bravery that she intends to fulfil her own 'challenge' - 10km plus one step. Although incoming funding will be passed to the charity a final, formal, presentation will be made at the Belfast RIBI Conference.

## FROM COMMUNITY / VOCATIONAL

### Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

RYLA is an International Rotary Programme providing a scheme to develop the leadership skills of young people with potential. In District 1260, we provide an intensive and effective training experience for potential leaders over one weekend, usually at the beginning of June of each year. There are 32 places available each year for suitable candidates aged between 18 and 30 on our District course held at RAF Henlow but over the last few years our Club has been unable to provide a nomination. ADG Brian at our Assembly said that if we could not find a candidate, the District could provide one for us. But how much better it would be if we could nominate our own! So, this is a call for all those who know of a suitable candidate to let me know so that we can get an application in by 1st April. Let me know if you want a leaflet to provide further details but it is important to note that we should not divulge these details to prospective candidates – it spoils the element of surprise! The motto for each course is “Be prepared for the unexpected”

### Luton Schools Hat Competition 2005

The number of schools that participated was rather fewer than expected and Barnfield College had to be given a special category, with only certificates as prizes, as they entered after the prize money had been allocated! However, the standard was very high, with some marvellous creations sent in by Stopsley High School, having majored on the use of papier-mâché, and we did make some progress on furthering our links with schools. Two pieces in the Luton News, both with photographs, publicised our Club's efforts in conjunction with Walter Wright, but we have unfortunately been unable, so far, to get copies of the photos of the hats themselves to put in the Bulletin.

At "The Hat Factory", the mayor made a presentation of the awards on 25th June immediately prior to the Gala Hat Dinner which a number of our members attended.

A good time was had by all, as can be seen from this photo of John Ashton and Michele, but I'll wager that John never thought that I would get hold of it!

Richard Giles



## MILITARY SERVICE EXPERIENCES

### A Starter from David French

*I was still only sixteen when the war ended, but National service did not stop until much later. On 9 March 1950 I was called up into the Royal Engineers, a corps I was proud of. I joined No. 3 Training Regiment RE at Cove, near Aldershot. Being March, I thought we would be in the Spring but it was freezing and snowing. The second day we had to attend a lecture given by the C/O. "Forget your father and your mother" he said, "from now on your life is the army", and so on and so on. Finally "Any Questions?". "Yes, Sir. When do we get some leave?"*

*Our basic training was largely in the hands of junior NCOs. Most of them were little short of sadists and they made our lives as near hell as they could. On leaving Cove I was posted to the School of Military Engineering at Chatham. There I was interviewed by a senior instructor, who quizzed me on my knowledge of building construction. "Well", he said "you have not impressed me very much but I'll put you on the Clerk of Works Course". I came out top, and the prize for passing the course was to receive two stripes! No longer would I be kicked around from pillar to post.*

*We all received overseas postings; mine was to Kenya. I was sent to a tented encampment called Mackinnon Road, not very far from Mombasa. The CO told me that he had no work for Clerks of Works, so he put me in charge of engineering stores. Part of these related to a small underground explosives store kept under lock and key. I had to take over from a sergeant who was due to go home on the next boat. He thrust a list of stores under my nose for my signature of acceptance, but I insisted on a thorough inspection and check before doing so. When we did the inspection, we found that a number of detonators were missing, which sent him wild with anxiety. "I shall be court-martialled and will miss the boat" he said. So we carried on searching and eventually found them in a corner, taken there by the rats for their paper wrappings to build a nest.*

*My stay at Mackinnon Road was not a particularly happy one. The first night all my money was stolen, also my 21st Birthday presents in the form of fountain pen, etc. The first Friday (pay day) I was duty NCO in the NAAFI and I had to close it down at 10 p.m. Just imagine a young NCO, just out from England with "his knees not yet brown", trying to tell hardened half-drunk fellows what to do - without any backup! During that night a brick was thrown into my tent.*

*As I was not too happy in Mackinnon Road, I applied for a posting to Nairobi and, rather to my surprise, it was granted. In Nairobi, I soon found friends among the local Europeans. There were not many weekends when I was not invited to someone's house. One of my friends was the Secretary for East Africa of the British and Foreign Bible Society - he was, in fact, a Methodist Minister. A memorable Easter 1951 was spent with him in the Great Rift valley, when we visited various missionary groups. The Rift Valley is the home of the Masai tribe, although the largest tribe in Kenya, and the least popular with the soldiers, was the Kikuyu. My work in Nairobi was the maintenance of a RASC camp under the garrison engineer. I had 40 or 50 workers from all races under me and I got on well with most of them. Eventually I was granted early release from the army to go to university. Much as I loved Kenya, I was not sorry to be going home to see my new fiancée, Pat!*

## **AN ACT OF ROTARY KINDNESS AND SUPPORT**

Kindness can be expressed in many ways. I was extremely grateful to the Cromer and Sheringham Rotary Club for the way they showed kindness to Jean and me when I was recently in need of help.

Whilst on holiday at East Runton I had the misfortune to fall over in the village on a Saturday morning and, as was later shown, fracture my right arm.

Realising that the pain in my arm suggested more than bruising, I visited the Cromer Hospital. I was fortunate that a Radiographer was in attendance (not always the case on a Saturday) and the X-ray taken showed a fracture.

I was informed that it was necessary for me to be seen by a consultant at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital at 9.50 a.m. on the Monday. This gave me a dilemma! I was unable to drive, and public transport would have meant catching a bus at 7.30 a.m on Monday, not knowing where to catch another bus in Norwich in order to reach the hospital.

On Sunday it occurred to Jean that, perhaps, a member of the local Rotary Club might be able to help. After a few telephone calls, including one to Leslie to obtain a contact number, we were assured that a member of the club would provide transport. What a relief!

Marie (Immediate Past President of the club) and husband Geoff transported us to Norwich and waited to return us to East Runton. For that act of kindness and support we are really grateful. I was still in considerable pain, and the consultant confirmed I had a compacted fracture of my forearm, which would take 6 to 8 weeks to heal.

Rotary in Action - thank you!

Ron Wright

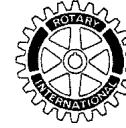
### **LAST CALL - DISTRICT CONFERENCE, APRIL 7 - 9, 2006**

In order to secure hotel accommodation in Cardiff for the Luton North delegates, Richard Giles is battling against the odds to get firm numbers.

Anyone who wishes to go, and has not yet confirmed this with Richard, should do so immediately.

Anyone in two minds, or with questions, has until the end of September.

Full information is available from Richard Giles.



**SERVICE Above Self**

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