



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President John Bennett

OCTOBER 2011

ROTARY AT BANBURY CANAL DAY



Rotarian Andrew McHugh gives his professional military instruction on the use of the firing mechanism.

A fantastic day at the Banbury Canal Festival with unusually hot October weather bringing out thousands of people to view the many attractions. With the array of canal boats on view and a large number of stalls with crafts and sales, also the various charities from Banbury were well represented. Our own Banbury Rotary Club stand consisted of two attractions a "Pick a Nail" raffle and a target firing game which attracted many young people trying to hit the targets. Our participation in the event raised funds for Polio eradication and also raised the profile of Banbury Rotary with the many thousands of visitors who attended this great event..

Fellowship and House :-

I think the majority of you agree with me that the new caterers, Pink Peppercorn, have stepped up to the mark in producing excellent meals for us although I am sure that after so many years Jo and her crew are missed by many. I would like to remind everyone that if you cannot attend a Friday lunchtime meeting please tell me by 5pm the previous Wednesday as I then calculate the numbers for the caterers to give them a sporting chance of doing the shopping to give us a good meal. If you don't apologise you will receive a Brown Envelope containing a bill for the meal you didn't get but for which the club has had to pay. The club does pay for the speakers and invited guests and if you think there may be say 45 speakers in the year plus guests at functions such as Handovers you're looking at £500+. Hopefully you can see from this that if we also have to pay for members who don't turn up club funds will be affected.

Naturally, if I am away you will be advised who is taking apologies in my absence.

I would also like to remind members that if you are going to be absent for any length of time (4 weeks or more) it would be sensible for you to ask Council for Leave of Absence as by doing so such absences can be taken into account if considering a member's attendance, when they would not be if you simply apologised without having any offsets from other events and attendances at other clubs. It is not the 'norm' to be permanently absent and 'opt in' when appropriate.

Finally, let us enjoy the fun and friendships made at these weekly meetings in the year ahead.

Malcolm Dibb

Bigwood Trophy Golf

Tournament

The annual match for the Keith Bigwood Trophy, played for between the Lions, 41, Round Table and Banbury Rotary Clubs, took place on Thursday 8th September at Tadmarton Heath Golf Club. This was the 42nd playing of the event.



On a generally fine and warm day, only 3 teams competed as Lions were unable to raise a team. This did not stop the camaraderie and considerable effort put in by all players, trying to win for their Club. Yet again, we were well looked after by the staff and all at Tadmarton, and the food was excellent as always.

As well as the main team event, there was a prize for best individual score. Teams of 6 were put forward with the best 4 scores to count. 3rd individual was Jack Cook of 41 Club with 32 points, Malcolm Nutt 2nd 35pts and John Donaldson 1st with 35 pts after a count-back. In the main team event, Round Table were 3rd with 108 pts, 41 Club 2nd with 116 and Rotary the outright winners with 131 points. This was the 7th consecutive time Rotary has won, a record in the history of the tournament. This means we now yet again have to organise next year's event.

Next year's date is already booked for Thursday 6th September 2012. Well done to the Rotary team of Phil Cavill, John Donaldson, John Brodey, Paul Shea, Bernard Goodchild and Malcolm Nutt (organiser of the event).

The 4 B's Golf Tournament 2011

The 4 B's golf tournament took place at Feldon Valley Golf Club on Thursday 22 September, organised by our Malcolm Nutt. This competition is the annual match for the Rotary clubs of Banbury, Bicester, Brackley and Buckingham, first played for in 1975. Regrettably, Bicester could not provide a team and Brackley only had 3 players. Teams were to be 6 players and the best 4 scores to count. As Banbury had 6, we "loaned" Brian Croft to Brackley, and I can assure readers no money changed hands !!!!

We were blessed with another warm afternoon and despite a threatening sky, there were only a few drops of rain and mainly, our spirits were not dampened. As is usual, the individual event set the tone for the winning team. 3rd was Richard Conway Hyde from Buckingham with 30 points, 2nd Phil Cavill with 31 and the clear winner, "The Doctor", our very own Ian Rodrick with 36 points.

The team event was slightly one sided, due to the good golf played by the members of the winning team. 3rd was Brackley with 64pts. 2nd Buckingham on 92, but Banbury were dominant and the winners with 124 pts. The Banbury team was Phil Cavill, John Brodey, John Phillips, Ian Rodrick and Malcolm Nutt, with Brian Croft graciously playing for Brackley.

Next year is Buckingham's turn to do the organising and we await to hear from them later next year. At our lunchtime meeting on 23rd, Malcolm presented the "trophy" to our President John and many now know why a trophy is often referred to as a "pot" !!!!!



Community and Vocational:- Canal Day a stall with games to attract visitors.

Blood pressure day to be 1st October.

Foundation:- Family Christmas Festival of Music on Saturday 10th December St Mary's Church.

Brian Doe will be organising the collection in lieu of Christmas Cards.

Sports & Entertainment:- Applications will soon be required for District Conference, Bournemouth 15th-18th March 2012. The club is registered for the District Darts competition. A Theatre trip will be arranged at the Derngate Theatre Northampton during November.

International:- John Hansford will be arranging details for the Contact visit to Italy on 17th-20th. May 2012. Other events planned are a Race Night in February and the visit of the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra

Youth Opportunities. A number of events in the pipeline:- BYHP Interviews, Children Singing for Children, Young Chef, and RYLA. Our RYLA candidate Simon Penhallow spoke to club of his experiences. Ian Anthistle is liaising with the Cherwell Rotary Club with regard to the possibility of setting up Rotoract or an Interact Club or both.

SPEAKER REPORTS.

19th. August "The Change to Digital."

Tom Blinkhorn is the proprietor of the oldest Radio, TV and photographic shop in Banbury. Tom is in the forefront of the rapidly approaching day when the current analogue system of TV transmissions will be changed to a digital system.

The change has been deemed necessary because the available wavelength space will be freed making room for many more channels. In addition the quality of the picture with digital will be improved.

Tom did remind viewers that more programmes did not always mean better ones!

The introduction of digital transmission would involve some action for all TV viewers prior to the big change over day. First all existing TVs would require the addition of a digi box which would provide the correct signals for the new system. Once these alterations have been made each TV will need to be retuned.

Mr Blinkhorn assured us that the retuning was not difficult. In addition any elderly viewers over 75 years could apply for free help. Younger but less technical viewers could request help from technicians from the Blinkhorn shop for a fee. This included a visit for less than £50. Rotarian Brian Croft.

On 26th September Kromer Rogers gave us a presentation entitled 'A Skill for Life'. Kromer is the Deputy Chief Observer for Banbury Advanced Motorists, the local branch of the Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM).

Where did it all start? In 1956 road accidents were at a very high level and police with other interested parties got together. 'Roadcraft', the Police Driver's Manual handbook, was produced for the first time and although updated to keep up with the times is still in use today. This manual is the definitive guide used by the IAM which was formed in the mid 50s as a charity to promote road safety.

The IAM is the leading road safety charity dedicated to raising driving and riding standards and saving lives on our roads. There are now 215+ IAM VOLUNTEER groups in the UK providing world renowned Advanced Driving and Motorcycling courses and tests. Bicycle Training has also been introduced. To date there have been 400,000+ tests and currently there are about 100,000 members.

A Skill for Life is the programme designed by the IAM to help people improve their driving skills, and for your money you get 12 months membership of the IAM and the local group, 3 quarterly IAM magazines, the IAM manual, 'Advanced Driving – the Essential Guide', a current Highway Code, as many lessons as it takes to get to test standard (8 – 10 lessons on average), the Test Fee, a copy of the monthly local group magazine and the opportunity to attend social events.

How much would you expect or be prepared to pay for this package? Actually, only £139, plus fuel for your drives.

In Banbury we have a monthly meeting at Halfords on the 1st Sunday of each month where we offer free initial Assessment and Demonstration drives in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere with our observers. There is no limit on the number of drives undertaken as observers are available at most times. There is a wide range of observers' ages and we do have a lady as well. Tuition is on a one to one basis and our success rate locally is almost 100% in recent years.

Member benefits include an award winning magazine, 'IAM Surety' insurance with preferential benefits / discounts available from the age of 19, discounted cost of AA Membership, Garmin SatNav discounts, travel / other special discounts (e.g. hotels, parking etc.) and IAM skills days at UK tracks (e.g. Mallory Park).

The principles of Advanced Driving include reading the road ahead and anticipating hazards. Look as far ahead as possible and ask 'what could affect me?' Use constantly moving vision scans, drive with vision on 'Full Beam', think 'What If?' and expect the unexpected bearing in mind that what you see can be what you expect to see.

The manoeuvres required in the advanced driving test are reversing around a corner, reverse parallel parking and turning the vehicle around in the road. The safety and economy advantages of reverse parking are that you can see further when driving out and if the engine is cold you don't cause unnecessary engine wear by reversing and manoeuvring as you simply drive off.

The Advanced Test is conducted by an IAM examiner who is either a current or retired Class 1 Police Driver, it takes place in the Associates own road legal vehicle at a mutually convenient time and location. It lasts about 90 minutes on as wide a variety of roads as possible and is followed by a full debrief and notification of the result.

Rotarian Malcolm Dibb is an Observer with Banbury Advanced Motorists and has all the relevant forms if anyone wants to take up the driving options available through the IAM so talk to him if you want to improve your driving standards – alternatively just turn up at Halfords on the first Sunday of the month at 10am.

September 9th 2011 Simon Penhallow

Rotary Young Leadership Award, Rotary Club of Banbury winner 2011

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) programme is an intensive training experience for young people aged between 14 and 30. The purpose is to explore and develop their leadership skills through problem solving and group leading. Build on their strengths and expand their experiences with a programme of challenges, fun and adventure.

Talented young people attend a 7 day camp, organised by Rotary club members, at Rhos-y-Gwaliau, near Lake Bala, in the Snowdonia National Park, North Wales.

The RYLA programme gives young people and young adults the chance to improve leadership and communication skills, learn about businesses and institutions, explore career paths, share ideas and experiences, learn how to coordinate youth activities and community service projects in the community, and discuss creative approaches for resolving family, social, and professional conflicts.

Simon is a young man who has recently successfully passed his 'A' levels examinations and will be attending Manchester Metropolitan University this month to study International Business.

The headmistress of Blessed George Napier School, Banbury put his name forward for the Award as a potential, deserving and worthy applicant. Simon impressed the Rotary interview panel of Rotarians Morris, Webb and Goodchild and was recommended as the Rotary Club of Banbury nominee for the 2011 Award. He is an enthusiastic, personable, confident young man with boundless energy and strong personal values.

Simon used a well prepared PowerPoint presentation that included a large number of photographs of those attending in July this year, engaged in projects such as abseiling, hiking on challenging terrains, climbing, boat building and canoeing. The group was broken down into four small teams who competed in the various exercises throughout the week. Simon was a member of the PIGS team the eventual winners once all point scores were totalled.

A breathless, entertaining presentation was provided by Simon detailing all the activities that were arranged and which he and his fellow attendees quite clearly enjoyed tremendously. He also commented very positively on the personal development and learning opportunities that were experienced. In this respect he expressed his gratitude to Club members for providing him with such an enjoyable, challenging and excellent development opportunity.

A very encouraging response to the good work of the Youth Opportunities Committee and The Rotary Club of Banbury!

Bernard Goodchild

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