

The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

February 2006

President – John Nancarrow
Vice President – Andrew Wakley

We're Back!

Bruin enjoyed a brief period of hibernation last month which explains why you didn't receive a January issue - go on, be honest, you hadn't even noticed! Anyway I'm pleased to say that he is now back, fully reinvigorated and raring to go, so if it's not too late to say it may I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. If you wish to e-mail me with any exciting news for future issues of the newsletter please note my new e-mail address which is reproduced at the foot of this edition.

Virtual Reality Wars

Fancy getting your hands on one of the Army's latest battlefield simulators? If so then 19th March is a date you should put in your diary. Following the very popular (with Rotarians) series of live firing exercises known as Operation Firestorm the Army at Sennybridge Camp are this time inviting us to try out their new simulator. The cost will be £17.50 per head which includes the cost of a meal. Battle commences at 10:30 and the exercise will last until 14:00 with the meal following.

Bottle Rota



- 6th February – Howard Hoare
- 13th February – John Hopkins
- 20th February – Peter Jenkins
- 27th February – Cliff Jones
- 6th March – Gerald Jones
- 13th March – John Mallon
- 20th March – Brian Matthews
- 27th March – Jim Mellor
- 3rd April – Walford Morgan
- 10th April – Nick Morrell

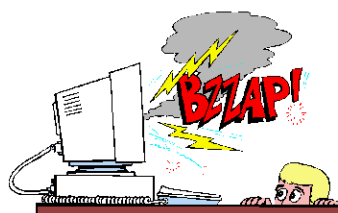
Adoption of a Health and Safety Policy

Following on from our pioneering adoption in 2004 of a club policy for dealing with children and vulnerable adults Keith Rofe has now advised us on the adoption of a Health and Safety Policy. Rotary rules now require clubs to carry out a risk assessment if members of the public attend events organised by a Rotary club. Clubs must take 'reasonable precautions' to ensure a safe environment for persons attending such events. Our policy statement was drawn up for

us by Keith and adopted by the club on 12th December. Keith has also been appointed our Health and Safety Officer with Eddie Coates as his deputy. Under the terms of the policy, which will be reviewed annually, overall



responsibility for health and safety issues rests with Club Council and there are rules on the carrying out of health and safety assessments with clearly set out lines of responsibility. Anyone is free to inspect the policy document which will be retained on file for reference.



For Queen and Country

Former club member Rodney Ashwood came along to our dinner meeting on 9th January to talk about his recently published book 'For Queen and Country' described by one critic as "a new and fascinating angle on the history of the Anglo Zulu War". Rodney, a former Royal Regiment of Wales Officer and ex curator of the Borderers' Museum in Brecon, told us that the idea for the book arose from the dissertation which he had prepared for his degree. This had taken as its principal source the 1879 handwritten diary of Wilfred Heaton which had been presented to the

Regimental Museum by his family. Heaton who was born in 1854 and died in 1921 was a young lieutenant in the South Wales Borderers at the time of the Zulu War and wrote a first hand account of the campaign which included the famous battle at Rorke's Drift. Rodney outlined the fascinating process of researching his book which is in the form of a detailed commentary on Lt. Heaton's diary entries for 1879, the year of Rorke's Drift. His research into Heaton's family history enabled him to track down the grandson of Lt. Heaton whom he visited and interviewed at his home in North Wales. Rodney

described the considerable frustrations involved in finding a publisher and preparing the work for publication after completing the book but commented that the sheer pleasure of receiving the first copies of his own work from the publisher had made it all worth while.

A Rotary Christmas

The Annual Christmas Concert at the Cathedral which was organised for us by Peter Jenkins raised £450 which we shall be donating, as in past years, to the Cathedral Music Appeal Fund.



Also a big 'thank you' to John Mallon & Terry Dewan who arranged the annual distribution of Christmas hampers for us with the help of Powys Social Services.

Morrison Orpheus Choir

Andrew Wakley has prepared a St David's Day Celebration (well it's on 25th February actually!) for us this year. It will take the form of a rare opportunity to hear the world famous Morrison Orpheus Choir who will be giving a performance in Brecon Cathedral. Andrew has secured an allocation of tickets but they are in limited supply as the demand is likely to be high. The concert will be preceded by a meal at Pilgrim's Restaurant and the overall cost will be £20 per head.

Youth Night



Keith Rofe and his committee put in a tremendous amount of work to ensure our Youth Night at Brecon High

School on Wednesday 19th January was a big success. Those of us who attended were most impressed by the standard of the young competitors in both the Young Chef and the Youth Speaks Competitions. Five teams from the two high schools and Christ College competed in the Youth Speaks Competition. The team prize was won by one of the Brecon High School teams who debated the motion 'popular music is culturally subversive' and the prizes for best

Chairperson, best Proposer and best Opposer were won respectively by Emily Davies, Jack Jones and Xana Murrell, all from Gwernyfed High School. The Young Chef Competition, which the Club was sponsoring for the first time for a number of years, attracted no less than nine competitors from the two high schools. The overall winner was Sarah Richards from Brecon High School and the junior prize went to 14 year old Michael Warren of Gwernyfed. The culinary theme was to prepare a Valentine's Day meal for two. The winners of the Young Chef Competition go on to compete in the Zone Final at Builth Wells on 16th March and the Zone Final of the Youth Speaks Competition will take place in Ebbw Vale on 16th February.

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