



# Bruin

**The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter**

**November 2003**

**President – Gareth Griffiths  
Vice President – Terry Dewan**

## Yukon Adventure

Martin Like was the entertaining guest speaker at our meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October. Martin, a partner in the firm of Clee Tompkinson & Francis (which is an estate agency, apparently), is a former long distance runner who found running marathons too boring so he took up even more extreme sports as a hobby! He gave members a fascinating illustrated account of the Yukon Arctic Ultra race in which he had competed earlier this year to raise funds for Cancer Research. Starting from Whitehorse in Canada's Yukon Territory the competitors followed the course of the

Yukon River for 300 miles through some of the most inhospitable terrain on Earth. Martin braved extreme fatigue, equipment failure and temperatures of 40 below to complete the race. He followed old dog sled trails across frozen lakes and through forests towing a sled laden with essential supplies of food, water and clothing. He had to cope with long hours of solitude, snatched periods of sleep in a bivouac at the side of the trail in sub zero temperatures and the risk of encounters with dangerous wild animals. His moods during the race varied from the depths of

depression to extreme elation but spurred on by sheer willpower he completed the challenge in just over seven gruelling days - one of only four competitors to do so. Martin's account left most of us feeling exhausted. He told us that he lost 14lbs in weight during the seven days of the race - most members thought his solution to the problem of weight gain was a bit extreme however and felt the Atkins diet was an easier option!

## Spectacular!

Anthony Edwards would like us all to collect up our old, unwanted spectacles and pass them on to him for redistribution to third world countries. These are much sought after in many poorer countries of the world so please bear this request in mind before consigning that old

pair of glasses to the rubbish bin.

## **STOP PRESS!**

The 3500 leaflets distributed by Handel and his team to advertise the 2003 **Caledonian Market** clearly had the desired

effect as preliminary indications are this year's effort has raised over £4000 for Rotary charities - the best result ever! Well done Handel and everyone else for their hard work once again for this annual flagship event for our Club.



## All the World's a Stage

Club Council has decided to assist 16 years old Megan Walker with part of the cost of attending the National Youth Theatre of Wales summer residential course at Aberystwyth next year. Megan has been selected from 180 applicants to attend the course. She is a promising talent who has recently appeared in a production at Cardiff's Sherman Theatre

directed by Greg Cullen. The Club's Youth Activities Committee felt that Megan deserved our support and Council has endorsed the committee's recommendation. Megan will be coming along to our lunchtime meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January to talk about her experiences with the National Youth Theatre.

## Help Needed



The Brecon Hospital League of Friends are looking for volunteers to help run the hospital shop. If anyone is interested, or knows of anyone who might be able to help, please let Handel know.

## The Young Zulu Warriors

Our President has been approached by John Tungai on behalf of the Young Zulu Warriors who entertained us with an exciting programme of Zulu dancing and singing at Theatr Brycheiniog last year about the possibility of a return visit next year. Club Council have invited him to come along to one of our meetings in the new year to

## Water Aid



RI's ongoing Water Aid appeal assists with the provision of equipment for ensuring essential supplies of clean drinking water in developing countries. The Club's International Committee are recommending we do our bit for this good cause by donating £400 to enable a Nira Handpump to be sent to Tanzania.

address us about his suggestion that a group of 22 Zulus should come to Brecon to perform for us perhaps in conjunction with a local school.



## What's Brewin'?

Don't forget that the Rotary Club Ball will take place at the George on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November and the usual meeting that week, on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup>, will be replaced by a ten pin bowling evening to which Crickhowell and Abergavenny Clubs will be invited.



Members' support will also be appreciated for the pre-Christmas Carol Concert at the Cathedral on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. It is proposed that the proceeds from the latter event be donated to the Cathedral Choir Endowment Appeal whose Secretary is Brecon Rotary ex-member Rodney Ashwood. The purpose of the Appeal is to provide an endowment to enable

traditional church music to continue in Brecon and to encourage young people to take up a musical instrument or undertake voice training. Club Council are recommending that the Club should guarantee a total sum of £1000 from Club funds for this worthy cause.

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