



The bear behind

## The Brecon Rotary Club Newsletter

November 2004

President – Terry Dewan  
Vice President – John Nancarrow

### Handel does it again!

Once again the Caledonian Market has exceeded all expectations thanks, largely, to the unstinting efforts of Handel and Sue Davies and other members of their family who worked their socks off to make this year's principal fund raiser for the Club another outstanding success. The results of everyone's efforts were delivered by Nick Morrell at our Caledonian Dinner at the George Hotel in the presence of those Rotarians and spouses and other loyal helpers who had helped on the day. The



magnificent total came to **£5,702.44** - another Club record.

The most successful section this year was, once again, furniture which made the excellent sum of £769.44 thanks to some very generous donations. Our newly acquired trailer was put to good use in collecting bulky items and the amount of goods laid out for sale on the morning of the sale had to be seen to be believed. As Nick said



when commenting on the results at the Caledonian Dinner it is difficult to know where we can go from here - perhaps we'll soon be needing a bigger venue than the Market Hall!

From modest beginnings in 1977 when some £704 was raised the Caledonian Market has grown bigger and better each year and, since Handel's appearance on the scene, our annual take has more than doubled. This year's increase of 36% compared with last year was the biggest increase on record. Nick somewhat shamefacedly admitted that by the end of the afternoon takings were coming in for counting so fast that some couldn't be identified with a particular stall so we now have a new category of 'unidentified takings' in our accounts - I think this is

what is known as creative accounting!

Gareth Griffiths, whose Community and Vocational Service Committee was responsible once again for running the Caledonian Market, was unable to be present at our annual dinner on the following Monday but President Terry read out a message from him thanking everyone for their tremendous efforts. Terry also read out e-mails in support from two members who were unable to attend this year - Bob Wood who is still keeping the peace in Macedonia and Peter Jenkins who is visiting his family in New Zealand.

### What's Brewin'

Christmas Ball - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the George Hotel (black tie).

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 1 pm - Annual Meeting (at the George Hotel) to elect club officers for 2005/6 and 2006/7.

## Quiz news

Our first quiz of the current season resulted in an away win for the Club against Abertillery Rotary Club. The final score of the contest held at the Rolling Mill pub in the centre of Abertillery was 33/26 despite some fairly challenging questions put to the teams by our quizmaster (or should it be quizmistress?) Mandy Yorke. Our team captain on this occasion was John Hopkins, assisted (somewhat) by Jim Mellor and Richard Doylend. Thanks to an amazing stroke of serendipity by Jim Mellor who managed to guess the profession of this year's RIBI President we even managed to

avoid the usual disaster of the infamous Rotary Round and from then on the team never looked back. A big thank you to the Rotarians and spouses who made their way down to 'the Valleys' to support the



team. We had a bye for the first round this year so our next contest will be against either Brynmawr or Ebbw Vale in the third round, and if we win again we'll be in the final - Rotary International - fast track to fame!

## John Parry (1934 – 2004)

As noted in the last issue of Bruin our former member John Parry died suddenly on 21st September. He was 70. A Memorial Service was held at Brecon Cathedral on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate his life and achievements. It was attended by his two children and family members and many representatives of the local community. The address, delivered by John's son Richard, recalled a very full life. John achieved distinction not only in his own profession as a country vet but also in many other fields. His interest in rural affairs and farming was lifelong but he was also a great lover of music and patron of the arts, a faithful churchgoer, a keen sportsman in his youth, and a member (and often the

chairman) of numerous public bodies and committees both local and national. He was one of the longest serving hunt secretaries in the country having occupied that rôle with the local hunt for forty years. He was awarded the CBE for services to agriculture in 1985. John made a huge impact on the life of our local community and will be greatly missed.

## Forthcoming Meetings

Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Dinner at the George.  
Mon. 29<sup>th</sup> November - 8 am Breakfast at the George.  
Mon. 6<sup>th</sup> December - Lunch at the George.  
Mon. 13<sup>th</sup> December - Dinner at the George.

## Membership

Richard Doylend, in his capacity as Chairman of the Club's Membership Committee, would be pleased to receive suggestions from existing members about any potential new members who might be approached. We have, sadly, lost two of our longstanding members this year and we need to replace them as well as boost our numbers a little with enthusiastic new members in order to ensure the long term viability of the Club. Just as a matter of interest the largest club in the District currently is Haverfordwest with a membership of 55 while Caerphilly is the smallest with 11 members - we currently have 37 subscribing members and three honoraries.

## Bottle Rota



22<sup>nd</sup> November - Mike Tompkinson  
29<sup>th</sup> November - Howard Vaughan  
6<sup>th</sup> December - Andrew Wakley  
13<sup>th</sup> December - Bob Wood  
20<sup>th</sup> December - Mervyn Woodward  
27<sup>th</sup> December - No Rotary  
3<sup>rd</sup> January - No Rotary  
10<sup>th</sup> January - Geoff Woollorton

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