



Bruin



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BRECON ROTARY UPDATE, INFORMATION, NEWS

February 2011

President BOB WOOD
Vice President DEREK ADAMS



Rachel Beech of Wales Air Ambulance talked to the Club on January 10th, and this was accompanied by an excellent powerpoint presentation. She said that there were three helicopters in the fleet, one based in Caernarvon, one in Swansea, and one in Welshpool. It took 20 minutes to reach anywhere in Wales by one aircraft or another. For every pound contributed by donors, 85 or 90 per cent was spent on front line costs. There are 50 staff and 100 volunteers in the service, with 13 shops and 2 cafes for fundraising. The helicopters, pilots, crew and hangars are all leased, but for every pilot there needs to be two paramedics, and these are employed by Air Ambulance. Over the 10 years of its life so far, Air Ambulance have carried out 13,000 missions. There are no Government Contributions towards the £5m per annum cost of the Service, so voluntary contributions are essential. At Council, it was recommended that £1000 be donated by the Club.

The price of a litre of petrol/diesel
June 30th 2008 Petrol 118.9p; Diesel 133.9pence
Jan 31st 2011; Petrol 127.9p Diesel 132.9pence

Forthcoming Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TELL THE GEORGE HOTEL IF YOU ARE NOT COMING TO A MEETING (01874-623422) **Jan 31st breakfast at 8am**
February 7th-Dinner at 7.30pm followed by business meeting.
February 14th-Dinner at 7.30pm with Charlie Nutting speaking about Army Benevolent Fund.
February 18th- Mayor's Charity Ball at Theatr
February 21st- Dinner at 7.30pm
February 24th- Council meeting at Bob Wood's
February 28th- St David's Day Eve. Dinner with wives at Pilgrims at 7 for 7.30pm
March 7th- Dinner at 7.30pm followed by business meeting

Points from Council 20th Jan

1. The Young Photographer competition attracted no-one this winter, and it was suggested that the Club should hold the competition in the summer, the winner to await the Rotary Y.P Final in 2012.
2. The District Governor is to visit the Club on 1st August, and a full turn-out is required so as not to have a repeat of last year's poor attendance when the DG came then.
3. A table of ten is to be reserved for the Mayor's Ball, tickets cost £35.each.

It was good to see Past President Anthony at the George on Monday evening, back from a spell in hospital where he had had a huge kidney stone removed. He had borne the pain of it during his Presidency stoically. Oh, how to be that brave!

BRECON MOLO COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Molo is in Kenya and has a population of 50,000. For some years there has been a link between Molo and Brecon. On 24th January we had Joyce Pringle, a retired physiotherapist and Anthony Jones, CEO of International Teams to speak to us about that link. Molo had once been a place where white settlers were offered cheap land, and they had established more than the rudiments of the Western society. All that had gone now, but a white woman who had been there all her life visited UK and asked for help to alleviate the poor conditions there. Various groups of Brecon people (including our soon to be Rotarain Mike Stratford) had visited Molo over the last few years, and at this very time, a party from Molo is visiting Brecon High School. Although the people there have very few facilities (e.g the hospital, a small building, caters for the whole population), Anthony stressed that the inhabitants are generally very cheerful, and that the climate is ideal. He had himself spent six years living there with his wife and four children. There was plenty Rotary could do to help strengthen the link, but the thrust of the appeal on this occasion was to help finance a motorcycle ambulance (see below) This was to enable mothers who were about to give birth, a safe ride to hospital. The maternal mortality rate was high on account of poor transport links. The cost of such a vehicle is £5000 (presumably including spare parts), and so far only £3600 had been raised. We were shown slides of a visit to Molo, and recognised some of the people. Hywel Davies in his vote of thanks on our behalf said that the presentation had been most revealing, and undoubtedly the Club would contribute in some way.



AN eRANGER AMBULANCE

Rotarian of the month 30 Barry Tomlinson



Barry came to Wales in 1986 to start up his architectural practice in Llanfihangel Talyllyn along with a bed and breakfast enterprise which pragmatically was to keep him going whilst he established himself professionally. He obviously succeeded because in 2006 he decided to become a rotarian! He joined mainly because he believes that charity begins at home, and the Rotary Movement has the right idea of spreading charity around at home and abroad and on worthy projects too. Barry has two children by his first marriage, and two step children by his second, and says they are all doing well with families of their own. His proudest moments have often been sporting ones (e.g playing for the county at bowls, being President of Mid Wales Bowling Association and playing for Sussex at bridge) He also is delighted when the faces of his clients reveal how pleased they are with his architectural efforts. Meeting the Prince of Wales in 2003 as a result of such efforts is also a treasured memory. Barry thinks Brecon would be improved if the Planning Department of the National Park Authority were to be abolished. He gets annoyed that having put policies in place, the planners embroider them with their own foibles and you cannot do anything about it. As far as the future of Brecon Rotary is concerned, he says that just like other organisations membership is dropping, and it is difficult to reverse this trend. Barry's favourite music is anything by Queen, but particularly *We are the champions*. As you might expect from a sports lover, he lists cricket (Glamorgan CCC and England), football (Fulham FC) and bowls (Brecon BC) as favourites. If he had the cash, he says he would be a Barmy Army recruit! His best holiday was driving around California for a whole month. Barry says that he does not really like the World as it is today. He would not be keen on starting life all over again, but then agrees that the young have not experienced the past, and are as optimistic as they can be!