



# Mildmay Matters

June 2009

No. 282



## Races Day - 17 May



**The Edmund Carr Great Baddow Races** were once again organised by Mildmay and proved to be very popular not only with the many locals of all ages who took part in the 2 Mile Fun Run but also with competitors coming from a very wide area for the 10 mile Road Race. The great efforts put in by David Thompson, Richard Pilbrow and their many helpers from the Club and elsewhere were rewarded by the Gold rating awarded to the 10 Mile by the British Association of Road Races (BARR). Of course Gold is the highest category given by BARR and this in turn attracts the more serious road racers.

As far the runners were concerned the persistent and at times heavy rain during the races were just what they had prayed for but it resulted in many a wet marshal and helper. Thankfully the rain relented for the presentations and the clearing up.

The presentation party included DG Ken Buck and Dorothy and the Mayor and Mayoress of Chelmsford - it was unfortunate that so few competitors and spectators stayed for the presentations, perhaps we need to consider whether there is another way of arranging this part of the event.

The basic figures are - 850 runners (768 finishers) in 10 Mile and 850 runners in the 2 Mile - which is comparable to 2008 and therefore very good given the weather. There are still invoices coming in but there will be between £10,000 and £12,000 for distribution to the charities. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July there will be the handover of cheques to the chosen charities so please put this in your diaries.



3 Mildmay men and the Enforcer!



Vice President Elect Jackie Rose with daughters in the Fun Run



# STRAWBERRY TEA



**Committee Chairman Nanette and her International Team** organised a Strawberry Tea Party in Nanette's Writtle Garden on the 13<sup>th</sup> June to raise funds for Send a Cow and Play Pumps – two long-running and very worthwhile Rotary supported charities.

Special thanks go to Jacquie Rose for providing the strawberries as well as sandwiches and brownies, and to Keith Webb for his generous provision of champagne. The event raised the excellent sum of £356.

It was a very successful, enjoyable and English way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

How do you attack a strawberry? Well, it's clearly a well-developed skill as these photos demonstrate -



**Duet..... Demure..... MMmmmmmm! Amani must have had plenty!**

**The President's Lunch was held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June – full report in July**

## Something to smile on?

How do you catch a unique rabbit? Unique up on it!

How do you catch a tame rabbit? The tame way!

How do you get holy water? You boil the hell out of it!

What do fish say when they hit a concrete wall? Dam!

What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long? Polaroids!

What do you call a boomerang that fails to return? A stick!

What do you call Santa's helpers? Subordinate clauses!

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frost bite!

What is the difference between roast beef and pea soup? Anyone can roast beef!

Why do gorillas have big nostrils? Because they have big fingers!

Why did Pilgrims' pants always fall down? Because they wore their belt buckles on their hats!

# CLUB ASSEMBLY



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 1830 hrs**

President Elect Richard Oscroft chaired a successful Club Assembly held at MASC. The DG's Representative was Area 5 Assistant Governor Elect Harry Payne.

Richard began by reading out a message from President Pat Gaudin who could not be at Club Assembly as she was required to attend the AGM of her professional body, the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

Richard then followed with his plans for the 2009/10 Rotary Year – these, along with the proposals introduced by the respective Committee Chairmen, are included below as a record for members.

## **President's Presentation**

The challenge for this outgoing year was **"to make dreams real"**. I believe that under the excellent guidance of President Pat, who regrets that she is away on business tonight, much has been achieved. Pat is a lady on vision. Whilst it has been said that a vision without a task is but a dream, Pat, through her enthusiasm and commitment has ensured that tasks have been set and brought to fruition - we have only to think of our own Club review and the Chelmsford Clubs' Purple Pinkie Campaign. Now we are about to move on to **"The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands"**. At District Assembly we were given statistics (which have been circulated by our Secretary, Tony) which suggest that if trends in falling membership continue there could well be no Rotary by 2025! At District Council an additional membership levy of £2-75 per head was agreed for a New Member Recruitment Campaign over and above our Membership subscriptions to RIBI.

So far as Mildmay is concerned, I genuinely believe that we are somewhat ahead of the game: having done our research amongst members we have drawn up our Recruitment Action Plan, which focuses predominantly on every member of the Club taking positive action to identify potential new members. Surely a personal approach to a friend or acquaintance is more likely to achieve a successful outcome than blanket promotions - though they, of course, have a place. So I intend to preserve and build on what has gone before - both Pat and John have previously expressed the importance of Continuity, Care, Communication and Community. To those I would add an **'F' word - Fellowship**: indeed Fellowship is the very nucleus, the core of our being, from which all else emanates.

Think about it: - the features of good fellowship are when a Club is a warm, welcoming and friendly place, when Rotarians look forward to meetings and activities, when service projects are well planned and run, when Rotarians, individually and as a team, are making a difference and enjoying doing so. That is when a Club succeeds. That is when a Club thrives - that is why Mildmay is thriving, Rotary is strengthened and more people join as they wish to be part of it - **they want to join in the FUN.**

On a recent visit RIBI President Select Burman commented to me 10 minutes after our lunch meeting had finished "Look at all these members still here chatting - they must be enjoying good fellowship. This Club has an excellent atmosphere about it"

I shall not be afraid to encourage new ideas or question old practices: I shall seek to make change where I see a need, particularly if it is felt to enhance recruitment opportunities. However, any changes that are made will be monitored and evaluated: if the desired effect is not apparent further change may ensue. For example, my views on our decision to drop the Loyal Toast at most meetings are well known and I do not believe it will aid recruitment, but I am prepared to be proved wrong. Whilst it is important for us to continue to increase membership, it is equally important that we do not just look for numbers, but for men and women of quality. Every good Rotarian who is a true asset to the Club will make a positive contribution each year. Someone who will make the Club attractive. Someone who will encourage others to join. Retention is also important: I am keen to ensure that our "buddying" arrangements for new members are effective. Overall the District's challenge is to have more members on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 than we have on 1<sup>st</sup> July. With the plans we have in place, I personally shall be disappointed if that is all we achieve. Remember, if we want Mildmay to continue to be successful, each of us should be inviting someone to join - **"if it is to be, it is up to me!"**

Moving on: the incoming President of Rotary International, John Kenny, a Scot and former President of RIBI has said that if Rotary is to stay relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it must work to improve access to clean water,

combat hunger and expand literacy "We also strive for continuity of service, so that we may go from strength to strength. In 2009-10, Rotarians everywhere will be asked to continue to learn from experiences and to build upon successes. To continue to work for the health and well being of not only children, but their families and people everywhere". There are no new preferred projects, however for continuity, emphases help coordinate the many individual efforts, encouraging us in Clubs to direct our work in the areas where the Rotary organization has seen the greatest need.

**Access to clean water** is the first emphasis because it is the necessity of every man, woman, and child. Water projects also need to encompass sanitation because without adequate sanitation, good work is easily undone.

**Health and hunger** has been described as the tent within which much of Rotary's service dwells. Rotary working in the area of health and hunger also works towards peace - how can there be peace in the world when so many try to sleep at night without having eaten today?

**Literacy** rounds out the emphases - the key to freedom, and even in the developed world, it can be the difference between employment and unemployment. In the words of Nelson Mandela "No country can succeed if its future leaders are not educated"

Bringing such initiatives together for very special young people, my personal request is that as a Club we support a concert by Caprice, the Essex Wind Orchestra, in Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October in aid of Hope and Homes for Children.

*Richard Oscroft, President Elect*

## **Membership & Club Service Committee**

### Fellowship

I am very happy to continue one of the principal objectives of Richard and the Club namely Fellowship. Last year the Club was lucky enough to have the inimitable and evergreen Mike Savill in charge of Sport and Entertainment (didn't he do well?). Again he is in charge for the coming year and will be supported by Jackie and me. Already a visit to the College of Arms is organised and a trip to Dedham is being planned. Of course Club members will play their part in the various sporting competitions - but I should observe (before others do) that my golf needs to improve dramatically

### Recruitment

During Pat's year as President the Club was able to recruit 5 new members. The District Policy for the coming year is net plus 1. We shall certainly aim to achieve this. In that respect the Club has recently adopted a Recruitment Policy and this we shall put into practice shortly. Simply it will involve 3 Club members (drawn up on a rota basis) meeting monthly for 10 minutes or so after the Business Meeting with 3 members of this Committee. This will help to focus members minds on recruitment and help to identify potential recruits. We hope that this approach (coupled with increased publicity undertaken by the Public Relations and Communications Committee) will ensure this target is met. We will review the Recruitment policy halfway through the year.

As a lunchtime Club we are conscious, following the Club Survey, that a prompt 2.15 finish is essential otherwise potential candidates, who are visiting as guests, and new members who work, will quickly be discouraged. We will be monitoring finishing times!!

### Attendance

We will strive to maintain an excellent club programme and endeavour to organise events and activities which will cater for a wide range of tastes. We shall aim to attract a high level support from club members.

### Welfare

We will continue to support those members of the Club whose health and welfare is not as it should be in the most appropriate way. Whether through the provision of transport, visits, or support to family, we shall do our best to ensure that members who need help or some assistance continue to feel part of the Club.

### Programme

All Committee chairpersons will be aware of their month for speakers: this enables all members to have input to the provision of speakers and should ensure that we continue to enjoy a good and varied programme.

### Rotaract

We will maintain our good links with Rotaract and I shall seek to encourage some of their members to visit our

Club with a view to them becoming members in the course of time.

### Club Protection

In accordance with RIBI best practice guidance, in 2007 Club Council reaffirmed its commitment to its existing Protection Policy, adopted a Health & Safety Policy, endorsed a formal note giving guidance to Committee Chairmen on implementing both, and decided that all three documents should be reviewed annually. Alistair Simpson is reviewing this Policy and will be submitting it to Club Council.

*John Tilsley, Chairman*

### **Communications and Public Relations**

I know we should be looking forward to the coming Rotary year, but, as at Assembly last year, I start with thanks to those who have helped in any way with publicity and communications during the last year – and that means all of you. You are all walking, talking, living adverts for Rotary, so for what you have done, Thank You.

During the coming year we will be building on the foundations that the PR & Comms Committees of Rotary in Chelmsford have, in various ways, laid during the year just gone. I intend, with the rest of the PR & Comms Committee, that we all strive to make Mildmay a better known club both within Rotary, and 'the world outside', and one that anybody, whether an existing Rotarian who is visiting the area, or a member of the public who wants to know more about Rotary and what we do, is able to easily contact, get the information they need, and feel encouraged and welcomed enough to actually come and visit – and maybe stay.

Here you can all help. Talk about Rotary to your friends and colleagues. Tell them about what it is, and what we do. Don't let them continue to think what they might have heard, or might have read, years ago. This is now. Things are different. We should advertise Rotary and the work we do in our local community.

Mildmay Matters will continue to do its part as the Club bulletin, again your help is needed with those pictures, event reports and anecdotes; 1240 News will continue to be sent information, as will Rotary News. Locally the Chelmsford clubs have been endeavouring to improve links with the local press and that will continue and hopefully improve – we have already had some positive approaches back from one local paper (un-named but free) with regard to the Baddow Races for next year, so it may well be that we can do more general Rotary 'stuff' with them as well.

Being media aware should be a goal for everybody and is essential if we wish to continue to grow Mildmay as a living, working, effective part of Rotary, so we must use the information and opportunities that already exist, as well as embracing emerging technology. We will investigate the use of the electronic means of contact much favoured by young people these days, and see how Mildmay might look on Facebook, or go off and have a Twitter, and in addition to that our existing web site will continue as a basic, but improving, means of spreading news and information.

Public Relations and Communications is not just a small Mildmay Committee, it is all of us working together to promote ourselves – I know we're British and don't advertise what we do very well – but let's do the very best we can.

*Andrew Britter, Chairman*

### **International/World Service Committee**

The outgoing International Committee have met to discuss the activities of the group next year, after a successful year when we will have raised over £1000 for Play Pumps and Send a Cow.

We were excited by the new possibility of supporting Amanii in a project to encourage local business to recycle their computers for schools in Tanzania known to his father. Amanii would clean and refurbish the computers which would then need to be shipped. This would also give us the opportunity to link with local rotary clubs in Tanzania. In a country with huge HIV & AIDS rates, UNICEF figures show that over 3 million 13 year olds are not in education, and the quality of the education available for those attending schools can be poor. In such a poor country, enabling children to enter the digital age will help lift them out of poverty. The International Committee is now making further enquiries about legal requirements to check the viability of what could be an exciting project, and a final decision will be taken by the new committee early in the New Year

Water Aid works to improve the lives of people in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries where one in 8 of the world's population does not have access to the clean water that is essential for healthy lives, and over 2 million people die of water-related diseases every year. If the Tanzanian project proves not to be a possibility, the committee proposes that the club supports Water Aid in 2009-2010.

Fund raising events will include a Call My Bluff evening, by popular request following a successful evening 2

years ago which proved great fun for all. The new committee will finalise its year of fundraising events, and we hope that the November club programme might include a talk from a charity supporting children who have been subject to human trafficking.

*Nanette Wright, Chairman*

### **Rotary Foundation Committee**

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is the charity into which all contributions from around the world are received. In turn these funds are distributed to help achieve Rotary's mission. Whilst at Club level our donations are modest, we believe that all funds are important and all money vital to achieving Foundation's goals.

In February 2009 the Club took part in the "Purple Pinkie" week and we intend to fully participate in future activities, particularly during District initiatives in 2010. With Pat Gaudin as the co-ordinator we would wish to lead.

At least one fund raising event will be held, with the intention to hold additional events outside the Club so that the general public contributes. This would be separate from any "Purple Pinkie" activities.

In respect of Club programme, we are responsible for the months of July and January and we will insure that varied speakers of interest are provided.

Whilst there is no Group Study Exchange taking place this year, we will plan to hold interviews, early in the New Year, to select suitable candidates for the 2010 team.

*John Wolfenden, Chairman*

### **Community & Vocational Service Committee**

Firstly we wish to continue regular support for two local groups that help people with disabilities, the Gateway Club organised by Chelmsford Mencap, and the Chelmsford Branch of the Parkinson's disease Society. These organisations rely heavily on volunteers to carry members to and from their meetings and members of Mildmay have been long term supporters, conveying disabled people in their own cars. We have in the past also provided help for the Chelmsford Branch of Arthritis Care by providing one or more minibus drivers for those members who have to use wheelchairs and are unable to travel by car. The circumstances have changed in recent weeks and currently no members regularly attending their meetings require to be transported in wheelchairs, and sufficient resources exist within the Branch to provide car transport. We have said that if the circumstances change we will once again assist, but it seems that our Club involvement with Arthritis Care will be limited to help at their annual Area Event which is hosted by the Chelmsford Branch and involves many disabled visitors from the Essex and Hertfordshire area. Other continuing projects are support for Danbury Scouts at their Firework Display, the Caravan holidays at Spring Half-term for two local needy families, and collection of contributions from Club members in lieu of Christmas Cards, to benefit a local charity.

We would like the Club to become more involved with skills development in young people, particularly those who may have missed opportunities by failing in normal school formal education whether by reason of illness, disability, or simply lack of motivation. We have yet to investigate the agencies by which we can achieve this but initial thoughts are that we will approach NACRO, YMCA and the local special schools. We have in the past used members' experience to provide realistic mock interview facilities for youngsters about to leave school or college, and will also explore new prospects for this type of activity with local schools.

We wish also to investigate possibilities for supporting young carers. This we envisage will be more a matter of fundraising rather than hands on involvement of Club members, and there may well be significant cost involved if we go down the route of providing recreational respite facilities.

Our other thoughts for service in the community include gardening and decorating for charities or special needs groups.

*Richard Pilbrow, Chairman*

### **Great Baddow Races Sub-committee**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July, the organising Committee of this years Races will hold the Presentation Evening for the distribution of the cheques to the chosen charities (Farleigh; Guide Dogs; Hospital Radio; St Johns Neo-Natal Unit; The League of Friends of Hargrave House; YMCA) with the balance going to the Mildmay Charity Trust Fund.

Following the protocol laid down nearly six years ago, for 2011 and onwards, the event will continue to be held for the foreseeable future. Any decision to cease holding the Races will only be made after committee review and Club approval.

One of the tasks for the new Committee will be consideration of which Charities will benefit from the proceeds arising from the next Races, which will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010 (this date means that there will not be a clash with the Young Farmers event). The Club will be consulted, as usual, in October or November and names of suggested charities will be brought to the Club for approval shortly afterwards.

Also to be considered by the new committee are matters arising from the recently held 'debriefing' session at which several points for improvement were raised. A full appraisal of this year's event will be made to ensure that we continue to improve and retain our Gold status from BARR. Increased overhead costs are already predicted so that we will need to work hard to maintain our level of contributions to the selected charities.

*Andrew Britter and John Bucknell, Joint-Chairman*

### **Youth Opportunities Committee**

Last year's disappointment was that the Technology Tournament didn't take place due to schools pulling out at the last minute. We intend to try again this year and to that end I have already written to Plume School in Maldon, asking if they would be willing to host the 2010 event.

### **Technology Tournament**

We will, on behalf of District 1240, organize a Technology Tournament, despite last year's cancellation.

### **Young Musicians' Award**

The competition was a huge success and was, again, extremely well supported by Mildmay members, partners and friends, amongst others. Mike Ardley has again agreed to act as Mildmay's representative, in conjunction with the other 3 Chelmsford Clubs.

### **Rotary Youth Leadership Award**

Once again this event was given financial support of £100 by the club. I hope this can be repeated next year.

### **Other Events**

There are many other Youth Activities in which Rotary is involved and, as a Club, we hope to support as many of these as possible.

I hope we will be able to propose young people to participate in events as I have established contact with Anne Massey of Southend SAVS (Southend Association of Voluntary Services) including the national youth volunteering programme 'involved'. There is potentially a large population of youth looking for events. We can supply those events...SAVS can supply the people!

*Gordon Neilson, Chairman*

AGE Harry Payne, in his summing up, gave a very full commentary on the Club's plans in particular drawing attention to the need to have good speakers as a way of keeping the interests of members and showing Rotary's concern for a wide range of local and international matters. Harry also stressed the importance of PR and media contacts as a means of demonstrating Rotary's involvement with the community. He ended by wishing Richard and the Club a successful year.

### **President Elect Richard then concluded the evening –**

Whether Rotary will thrive or falter, whether our service will mean much to many or little to few, whether Rotary is known with respect or seen as a relic of days gone by - all this, is up to you - **The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands**. I like to think that at Mildmay the future is in good hands, because through our plans we shall focus on key activities to ensure that we are increasingly successful and continue to achieve much in the community - truly making a difference locally, nationally and internationally. For ourselves as we shall have fun, enjoy good fellowship and a sense of fulfilment as we put Service above Self.

I am honoured to be your President next year: I shall do my best to live up to your expectations - you have given me generous support in the past, especially in the build up to the World Scout Jamboree, so I know that together we can achieve much. Let's have some fun!!

# PROGRAMME

DATE	SUBJECT/SPEAKER	DUTY
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	President Pat Gaudin - Looking back over the Year	Tony Barker
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Presidential Handover	Andrew Britter
14 <sup>th</sup>	Business Meeting	Object of Rotary Grace Nanette Wright John Bucknell
21 <sup>st</sup>	Steve Munns - District Foundation Chairman	Tony Bugden
28 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Fee - Job Talk	Adam Copsey
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Business Meeting	Object of Rotary David Almond

## DIARY DATES

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	District Handover
26 <sup>th</sup>	Charity Races – Presentation of Awards and Grants – Great Baddow Community Centre - 7.30pm
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rotary in Chelmsford Annual Golf Day
25 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup>	District Conference in the Cotswolds
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	District Conference Session and DCM

**Happy Ending ?.....these are from Klerksdorp Rotary Club S.A. via Pat Gaudin**

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Can an atheist get insurance against acts of God?

If man evolved from monkeys and apes, why do we still have monkeys and apes?

I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman: "Where's the self-help section?"  
She said if she told me, it would defeat the purpose.

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

If a deaf person signs swear words, does his mother wash his hands with soap?

*COPY DATE FOR JULY EDITION .....Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July*