

## The Membership Debate

November is the month when we hope as many clubs as possible will debate membership and the future of 41 Club. National President Richard Matthews has written to all clubs explaining the reasoning behind it, the results of the recent membership survey and the first draft of the proposed rule changes. Nothing has yet been finalised and we are seeking the opinions of as many clubs as possible before the final resolution is prepared for the Scarborough AGM.

The draft rule changes are:

Draft new Rule 2.1

- "full members" means like minded men who have agreed to adopt the values of Round Table and the purposes of the Association as defined by these rules and who have reached the age of forty years.
- Reference to Associate membership to be deleted.

Draft new Rule 4.1

- Clubs shall only be affiliated where membership is confined to full members, for whom annual capitation fees shall be payable to the Association.

In addition the National Council has been considering some membership guidelines for Clubs which, whilst not part of the rules, may be appropriate:

- Clubs should determine their own policy on admission to membership.
- All clubs should have as a minimum 2 officers being a Chairman and a Club Contact/Secretary/Treasurer. The details of those officers are to be confirmed annually on the Association's Club Administration System.
- All clubs should adopt the Objects of the Association as defined in the Rules of the Association.
- Clubs should actively encourage membership from ex-Round Tablers.
- It remains a right of ex-Round Table members to apply to join any 41 Club
- A Club may determine to invite membership from non ex-Round Tablers. In doing so it should define its own policy at a general meeting, but it is recommended that no less than 50% of the membership shall at any time be ex-Round Table members.
- Clubs should adopt the same principles with new non ex-Round Table members as Round Table in that they should be invited as guests for a period of time, say 3 months, before becoming a prospective member and then formally inducted at an appropriate time thereafter.
- New clubs to be started with a minimum of 50% Round Tablers.

Please remember that it is the membership that has the final say, and the motion will be debated in full at Scarborough. We would encourage as many clubs as possible to attend the AGM, and if no member of your club can attend, then you can nominate a voting member from another club to act as your proxy. Each voting delegate can have one proxy vote for another club.

The future of our Club is in our hands. Let us spend the next six months deciding how we will be going forwards. If you have any questions regarding this issue then please contact your Regional Councillor or e-mail the National Membership & Extension Officer, Jim Smith.

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Editor: Ray Hill  
National Councillor Region 11

## Contributions to News@41Club.Org

Do you have views on current issues?  
Would you like to announce future events at your Club?  
Would you like to share event reports with fellow 41ers?  
Or just share an amusing story.

Please send all contributions to  
[news@41club.org](mailto:news@41club.org) or phone 01606 832807

Press date for the December issue is Sunday  
22<sup>nd</sup> November.

I look forwards to hearing your views of this  
newsletter and for the future of our club.

# Editorial

## Welcome to the first issue

“Well, dear Ex-Tabler, having removed the chocks from below, we now move down the slipway into the great unknown. Whether we get wet in the launching of this bulletin we cannot say. We shall endeavour to ride on an even keel but we know there will be rocks in our uncharted sea.”

Not my words gentlemen, but those of the editor of the first ever 41 Club Bulletin, produced in August 1949. The 41 Club magazine has therefore just celebrated 60 years of publication.

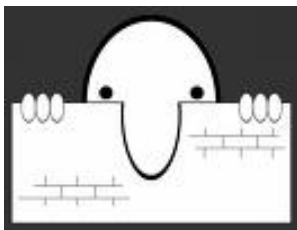
Some things never change. At the 1950 National Conference in Southport one club moved that the bulletin should be dropped, as it would lead to “regimentation and dictatorship from the National body”. This motion found little support and the general feeling was that it provided a useful means of communication. In later years the Bulletin was to be challenged at many AGMs on the grounds of its cost to the Association. It has survived and undergone many changes including several changes of name, format, number of pages and frequency. Long may it continue to be the source of information to our members.

But times are changing. We now live in a global society with instant access to most of the information we require simply by pressing a few keys on a keyboard. This newsletter is a response to all those clubs who feel that they need a more instant source of information about our Association. It has been agreed that we will run a six months trial of News@41Club.Org, with a newsletter published at the beginning of every month. This will take us up to the National Conference in Scarborough where it can be decided if an e-bulletin has been of any benefit to you, the membership, and if you would like it to continue.

As editor my aim is to produce a topical newsletter with timely information and above all a balanced view of the major issues concerning our clubs. Membership is most certainly the major topic for the next six months, and I hope to be able to publish reasoned arguments from both sides in future issues. But please remember that this is a newsletter and by definition is only a small document. We have a 41 Club forum on the internet and I would encourage as many members as possible to join and to use it as a means of full open debate. At the moment membership of the forum stands at 42 members; we need to see a lot more join in order to stimulate a broader discussion.

Distribution is my final topic. I write this editorial in the midst of a national postal strike with more promised to follow. E-mail and web publication are no-cost options to the Association and therefore to you the members. I appreciate that there are some clubs that either cannot or will not give an e-mail address for a contact. They are a major concern to me, but the costs in materials, postage and above all my time are excessive (especially as this will be a monthly publication). Therefore the newsletter will be published on the website and e-mailed to all club contacts for onward transmission to their clubs in any manner they deem suitable. It will not be mailed to clubs, so if you are aware of any local clubs that are not receiving the newsletter then I would urge you to pass on a copy to them, or even better encourage them to provide an e-mail address.

News @41Club.Org has now left the slipway; let us see how she fairs at sea!



Wot  
No  
Mag!

The new edition of Links magazine will be falling through your letterboxes some time during November (Subject to the actions of the postal workers). But you will only receive a magazine if your name and address are on the CAS database, as there will be no longer be any bulk mailings to club contacts. The cost of individually bundling the requested number of magazines and posting them to the few clubs that have not completed CAS is far too high and National Councillors have been working to get as many clubs onto the system as possible.

If you do not receive a copy of the magazine and would like one then please ask your club contact to add your details to the CAS database. For any club contact who would like help or advice on this then please contact your region's National Councillor who will be pleased to help.

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## 41 Club Is Seeking a Madman

41 Club urgently requires someone with Public Relations experience to act as the club's interface with the rest of the world. The duties will not be onerous and the pay will match that of the editor of this bulletin. So if you fancy yourself as a highflying PR professional on a vast salary with an unlimited expense account then please do not apply.

However if you feel that you are suitably qualified and are prepared to spend some time working for the benefit of your Association then please contact National Vice-President Malcolm Lockey on 01573 228709 or on 07710 467785. Alternatively you can contact him by e-mail at [vice-president@41club.org](mailto:vice-president@41club.org). Malcolm will be delighted to hear from you.

## Club News

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of October a new 41 Club was chartered in Region 19. Welcome to Radlett Area 41 Club.

In addition two Clubs were re-affiliated at the September National Council Meeting. A warm welcome back to Delamere Forest 41 Club in Region 11 and Watford 41 Club in Region 19.

### New National Councillor for Region 19

Congratulations to Robert Browning who has recently been elected to the post of National Councillor. Robert is a member of Hoddesdon 41 Club, and before you ask, no he is not that Robert Browning.



“A minute's success pays the failure of years.” (Robert Browning 1812-1889)



Only six months into the appeal and already, due to the generosity of our members, over £43,000 has been raised by 41 Club for our chosen charity. Help For Heroes really has proved to be a very popular cause, so let's make this a record year for the 41 Club / Tangent joint appeal.

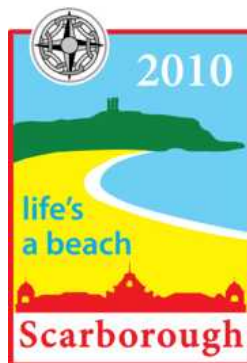
### National Conference 2010

#### Scarborough

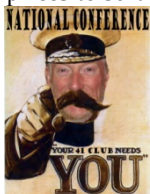
15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April

Bookings for the Scarborough Conference are progressing well.

This year's theme is “Life's A Beach” and on the final night we will all be bopping to the sounds of Beach Boys Inc. So dust off your surfboards, resurrect your flowery beach shirts, tan those knees and get on down to Scarborough. It will bring back memories of those great Round Table conferences you attended so many years ago.



You can choose just to attend the actual AGM or book into the variety of events being planned over the long weekend. There is a wide selection of hotel accommodation available, at prices to suit all pockets. So don't just sit there, take a look at



the Scarborough 2010 Conference website on <http://www.41clubconference.co.uk> and download your booking form today. You know it makes sense!

### Faringdon Charity Fireworks Display and Bonfire (31st October 2009)

A FANTASTIC night where 3,000 people enjoyed one of the most spectacular firework displays to take place in the 37 year history of this event. Faringdon & Lechlade Round Table started their first Firework display & Bonfire way back in 1972 and since then, it has become an annual event, whatever the weather!

It is now run by the Ex-Round Table (41 Club) as a Charity event and all the profits are distributed to local and national causes. Just 2 years ago, we donated a Peugeot Van to the local First Responders in Faringdon. This year's weather was superb, clear sky, no wind and very mild, which resulted in everyone who attended having a marvellous time.

Faringdon Scouts reported excellent sales of hotdogs, soup and drinks; glow in the dark sales were good and the fairground rides were busy all evening. We spent £3,000 on fireworks, advertised the event through the local press and on our website and the final result of the evening will not be known for a couple of weeks but the profit is looking very good and into the THOUSANDS!

Report by Richard Bell

Faringdon & Lechlade Ex-Round Table

### Region 21 Quiz

85+ members from 17 clubs assembled (best yet!) at the Gables Hotel. The event was in the capable charge of Bristol 41 Club with Peter Lingard as MC and Chairman, Chris Matthews as Quizmaster, Gordon Pakeman as Scorer and Steve Davis as Announcer. There were some tricky questions and the ongoing round of dastardly caricatures had everyone scratching their heads. The final positions were:

Winners : Weston Wonkers from Weston super Mare  
Wooden Spoons to: The Late Late Arrivals from Thornbury.

A really super night and thanks to Bristol for their hard work in making the event such a success.

## 41 Club Forum

Probably the best-kept secret in 41 Club is the web-based Forum. It is, however, the ideal platform for sharing your views on club activities, and making announcements to fellow members. Membership currently stands at under 50, but has still engendered some lively debate. Many of the National Executive are members and it gives you the opportunity to question them directly.

You can access the forum via the Club website [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org) or you can access it directly from <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/41club/>. Registration is simple and secure. So give it a try.



## Postbox

Send your letters to  
[news@41club.org](mailto:news@41club.org)

The letters in this first issue are a selection from the club forum. For future issues you are invited to submit your views on any topical subject. Please do not make them too long and definitely no personal attacks will be allowed.

Replies to these letters can be found on the club forum at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/41club/>

Hi Ray,

Many thanks - overall, excellent news compared with what appeared to be intended in the first announcement.

And good for you for taking it on!

But I would warn against one remark you made - "Full debate should be the domain of the club magazine and this forum".

My original newsletter concept was put forward precisely because this doesn't happen. Look at the mass of recent debate within this Forum on the membership issue which has never seen daylight outside of half-a-dozen people!

I think we all know that the circulation, let alone the readership, of Links is suspect. And it only appears a few times a year anyway, which can never allow for genuine 'question/answer' exchange. Forum, which does have the right format, will I suspect never even rise to include 1% of membership (more's the pity)!

Towards 20,000 members are therefore largely in the dark about any National affairs apart from the occasional 'official pronouncements', and are certainly totally outside of the lively, intelligent debate that can happen within Forum.

It could be the monthly newsletter's great achievement to reverse this.

But any untoward editing of the newsletter could immediately greatly reduce this potential effect. People like to know that if they contribute, it will be seen.

Ideally, the newsletter could be managed in the sense of therefore taking the Forum to the members (obviously, arranged and classified into a newsletter format for greater readability), but allowing all contributions to be seen, and by thousands rather than we 'Forum Few'! (That would also mean less editing work for you!)

There are no physical or financial restraints for the newsletter. All contributions from all opinions in recent months on Forum could easily be included, for instance, in the first issue. That is its great potential capability and effect.

And, primarily, all credit and power to you for taking it on! I do wish you the very best of success.

Regards,

I have been watching with some interest (and lots of sympathy) the various threads of Alan David's posts on Forum.

At this stage I just want to pick up on the issue of AGM attendance.

There are too few clubs represented each year (a mix of distance/age/apathy!) and therefore for AGM 2006 my club, Lichfield supported, I recall, by Cannock, presented a resolution designed to help the democratic process "In the event that a club cannot attend an AGM or SGM or appoint a delegate from another club a proxy may be entrusted to the National Secretary to arrive by post not less than 7 full days before the AGM. This must include specific instructions on voting intention and be signed by two council members from the affiliated club. The National Secretary will issue an official postal proxy voting paper with the notices referred to in rule 18.2"

I recall that we withdrew this at the meeting against the promise that the idea would be fully debated by National Council.

I would certainly support a re-visitation of the whole issue of voting especially to include online or email facilities.

Like so many issues the answer is never simple. Ideally every club would attend to hear the debate, but they don't!

So could AGM physical attendance be improved if the meetings started at a more "user friendly" hour. Last AGM kicked off in Southport at 9am. Far too early for most potential "day visitors"!

**Mac Cummings**, Lichfield 41 Club

The thoughts above do not necessarily represent the views of my club

The membership proposals for our November meeting discussions are now up on the website. I have emailed the Membership Officer for some clarifications, as below. Others here might wish to comment.

Hi Jim,

Many thanks for your November meeting discussion guidelines, just published on the website. To be fair to all, Woking 41 Club members fully intend to discuss all this (yet again!) in November, as requested.

Currently, however, our Club is unashamedly 100% (at the last count) against opening membership to non-ex-Tablers. We would therefore appreciate your additional guidance on the points below that we know will arise at our discussions:

/1/ Apparently we will still be able to "determine our own policy on admission to membership". In the event that we retained ex-Tabler-only membership, what is our position if:

a) A non-Tabler becomes a 41 Club member elsewhere, then wishes to transfer into us?

b) A non-Tabler locally hears of the new rule and applies to us for membership?

Would we, and all clubs like us, be placed in the invidious position of refusing them? To us, apart from all else, this seems to be introducing factions throughout 41 Club that are against all our Table concepts of fellowship.

/2/ "Clubs shall only be affiliated where membership is confined to full members, for whom annual capitation fees shall be payable to the Association." Two-thirds of our membership are 'Country Members' who do not pay capitation fees to National. They are all ex-Tablers who for various reasons - usually through having moved away - do not wish to be full Woking 41 Club members. Some come to one or two meetings a year, most we rarely see. Yet all are dedicated enough to wish to remain associated, pay a reduced membership fee to our club, receive our monthly newsletter etc.

There is no way we're going to abandon these genuine (e.g. ex-Tabler) members. Does that mean we should no longer be affiliated?

/3/ If the proposals ever became regulations, would clubs with strong feelings on retaining ex-Tabler only membership then be forced into accepting any Regional & National non-Tabler officers?

Apart from all our many other reasons for opposing opening membership, fully detailed earlier within this Forum, I also suggested some time ago here that these proposals could open a can of worms ...

Nevertheless I would appreciate your further guidance, since these are questions that will need to be answered at our November discussions.

Regards,

**Alan Spencer** Hon. Sec., Woking 41 Club

**Re: [41club] Re: Membership debate**

Vigo Village was an approved name change at the last NC meeting, were formerly North West Kent. From day one, there was a problem with our preferred name 'Welling & North West Kent (W&NK)' so VV is the best that we could come up with! We're new boys on the block and have been affiliated for only a year or so. With a membership of 11 so far, we're having a lovely time and look forward to joining everyone at Scarborough.

As a club, our preference is for 25% or 33% open membership, which we are quite happy to police ourselves. We do have the benefit of a very healthy feeder club, although they have two 41 Clubs to choose from. We feel that, any new rule will be similar to the old Table classification rule (no more than two from the same profession). It will be applied as and when clubs see fit!

Cheers

**Simon (Green)**