



## FUN(D) RAISING

Ask the average person in the street what they know about Round Table and they will tell you that it raises money for good causes. To many people that is what Round Table is, but we all know differently. We all remember with great affection the fellowship, the social events, the fundraising programme, area meetings, ladies nights, the copious volumes of ale consumed, the bacon butties on the way home from visiting other Tables and Areas. We all had a great deal of fun in Table and we all raised lots of money for those in need. So why is it that for many of us when we joined 41 Club the fundraising ended?

Much of this has to do with the history of the Association. The founder members were determined not to be seen to be competing with their former Tables. Consequently out went the club numbering system, there were to be no areas (and when they were finally adopted they were called regions) and above all there would be no fund raising activities, as this would detract from the efforts of Table. At that time this was probably a very reasonable attitude, but over the last 65 years times have changed, and changed dramatically.

Many towns and cities no longer have Round Tables and many Tables are now too small to organise the major fundraising events they used to. How many times have you seen events that used to be organised by Round Table being taken over by Rotary or The Lions? Many bonfires and Christmas sleighs now carry the Rotary roundel where there used to be a Table roundel proudly displayed.

We have all heard stories of ex-Tablers choosing to join Rotary rather than 41 Club because they saw Rotary as more active. Remember that less than 20% of the diminishing numbers leaving Table now choose to join 41 Club! I am not urging you to all rush out and become avid fundraisers. I fully understand that many members have no desire to do this, and that is their privilege, but what I would say is please consider if fundraising could help your club survive! At 59 years of age I feel as young as the Tablers I meet (I certainly have more hair than many of them) and I would like to have the fun associated with fundraising. Perhaps if more clubs had active fundraising as part of their programme then more ex-Tablers would choose to join. Perhaps those members that are still young at heart would get more fun out of their membership. Perhaps it is worth considering.

**Editor**



*Wishing You A Very Peaceful And Merry  
 Christmas And A Prosperous And Healthy  
 2010*

*From National President Richard,  
 The National Executive and Council*

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Editor: Ray Hill  
 National Councillor Region 11

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWS@41CLUB.ORG



Want to make your voice heard throughout 41 Club?

Put in your penny's worth on the major topics of the day!

Has your club done something you really want to shout about!

Or have you an event you would like to publicise.

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

The press date for the January issue is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

It is your contributions that will make this newsletter a success. So go ahead and send in that article straight away.

# EDITORIAL

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

## INTO THE STORMY SEAS

Well gentlemen, the newsletter has survived the launch and I thank all of you that have sent in messages of support. Any new adventure is always a risk and this was no exception. I promised that we would provide you with both a source of timely information and a platform for debate on the matters of concern to you. This month's mailbag contains a wide selection of your comments and I am sure that we will see many more in the coming months. Now we embark on our first voyage into the stormy seas.

Last month I said that "Some things never change" and I have been doing some research into the question of 41 Club membership. In March 2010 our National Association is 65 years old and the argument over membership will also celebrate its 65th birthday. History shows us that four clubs attended the first AGM to form the Association. Liverpool 41 Club had been in existence since 1936 and they were joined by the London Old Tablers Society, St Annes and Wakefield. A few other clubs showed interest in joining, but ultimately York did not join as they elected to allow membership for non ex-Tablers. Their rules allowed for 'associate members', provided that they did not exceed 10% of the membership. The "ten percent rule" was to raise its head at many more AGM's. Some clubs, it would appear, had applied this to their own membership, and at a Council meeting in 1958 it was made clear that some clubs had a much higher proportion of non ex-Table members. Bradford in fact was so keen to recruit who they wanted that they opted not to join the Association, which was their right.

At the 1996 Conference a motion was passed based upon the recommendations of the Golden Jubilee Committee. This added the 'Associate Member' to the rules, in order to legitimise those members who were not ex-Tablers but had joined 41 Club. (This is also the rule that allowed members of defunct Round Tables to join.) There were to be no more non ex-Round Table members admitted, but a survey only 2 years later revealed at least 14 clubs that had inducted non ex-Tablers into their numbers in order to remain viable. In 2009 many more clubs have 'invited' members in their ranks, some are honorary members, some are just not declared whilst others are simply added as members.

So in conclusion I can say that 'open membership' has been a problem for 41 Club for as long as the Association has existed. There have always been non ex-Tablers in our ranks, even if we were not always aware of it. We will never know just how many there were in the past, but we are aware that there are a lot in 2009.

I would like to state my own personal view here. I am fortunate enough to be a member of a large and thriving 41 Club, which still has a small feeder Round Table. I feel that 41 Club membership should be only for ex-Round Tablers, BUT I am flexible enough to recognise that many other clubs will disappear in the not to distant future, unless they are allowed to recruit new members, and I personally am not prepared to stand in their way or destroy their fellowship. The average age of our members is increasing annually and is not attractive to many of those leaving Round Table. If there is no other supply of new members then 41 Club will die.

If a motion for 'selective membership' is passed at Scarborough then some clubs are threatening to disaffiliate, if it fails then others have declared that they will disaffiliate. A real Catch 22 situation, but either way it is our Association that suffers! If the motion does fail then it will only re-emerge again at a later date when more clubs are struggling to survive. This has been a problem for 65 years.

Finally I promise that there will be no more seafaring introductions to the editorial, and may I take this opportunity of personally wishing all members of 41 Club, Round Table, Tangent, Ladies Circle and your families a very merry Christmas and an exceptional new year.

## WHY **YAHOO!** GROUPS ?

Whilst we are extolling you all to join the 41 Club web forum several people have asked "Why is it a Yahoo Group? This seems a very strange way of doing it". Well the answer is simple!

When the forum was first created it was an in-house system written and controlled by the webmaster. However it was subject to bombardment from hackers who cannot leave anything alone, seeing a private forum as fair game. By switching to a Yahoo based forum we now have all the security of one of the major players in the forum marketplace and, by only allowing eligible members to join, it will be free from any spam.

If you do not have a Yahoo account you will need to create one as part of registration, and then send a comment to the forum moderators explaining who you are so that they can authorize your application. You can opt whether to receive e-mail messages from the forum, to receive a daily digest or no e-mails at all in the Message Delivery options. Sounds complicated but it is not.

So that is why we use Yahoo. It is for your safety.

## WE WILL REMEMBER THEM



TV picture of President Richard, Vice President Malcolm and the National Presidents of the three other Associations representing the Round Table Family at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

In addition Immediate Past President Drew placed a wreath in the 41 Club Garden at The National Memorial Arboretum, and many clubs took part in their local services.

## CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to Don Skitmore , secretary of Dedham 41 Club, who recently received a Service Award for his dedication to the club. The full story appears on the right.



### 41 CLUB'S MASTERMIND?



Make a note to be watching BBC2 at 8pm Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> when Brian Southgate (Wantage 41 Club and Region 20 National Councillor) will be competing in the first round of Mastermind. Brian's chosen subject is

"The life and career of Sir Alex Ferguson".

Members of Stafford and Eccleshall 41 Clubs enjoying the Bob Blakemore Cycle Ride. For full details see the article on page 4.



## DEDHAM 41 CLUB

On a wet and windy day in November, myself and Jim Smith – National Membership & Extension Officer - made a visit to Dedham 41 Club. Dedham – a small town just outside Colchester in Essex, is home to a most remarkable Club.

There has never been a Dedham Round Table. The 41 Club has been formed out of Ex-Tablers from around the Region. They have 15 members – nothing unique there I hear you say! But that is when the uniqueness starts.

Of the 15 members – 12 of them are over eighty! They meet every month at the Marlborough Head Hotel for a lunchtime meeting. Despite walking sticks, crutches and difficulties in driving – their attendance is amazing. There was only one apology on the day we attended.

The main purpose of our attendance was to present a Service Award to their Secretary, Don Skitmore, who has been Club Secretary for 49 years. No, that is not a misprint – I said 49 years!

Most of the members have seen active service in the war, with Don having been a Prisoner of War. On the meeting day we attended it was close to Armistice Day, so they all wore their military ties and badges, and as part of their regular poetry reading listened to a rendition of 'In Flanders Fields'.

The Club has no formal Chairman, they take turns as Chairman – and there is always a proper agenda. They also have their own Grace – adopted from Round Table Grace:

*May we who did adopt Thy creed  
During Table days to serve Thy need  
Continue a good life to lead  
Lord thanks for gifts on which we feed  
Amen.*

This was truly the most amazing visit both Jim and I have made. Their hospitality and fellowship was magnificent, and the way they conducted their meeting was superb. Dedham is 41 Club at its very best and they stand for everything good that exists in this wonderful Club we have. I felt very humble to be part of their day.

**Martin Green**  
National Sales & Marketing Officer.

## 41 CLUB FORUM

There were 17 new members of the forum within 48 hours of the release of the first newsletter; a 40 % increase in membership; fantastic. New members and new lively debate can only be good for our club, but we need many more to join before it can be considered truly representative of the general feeling of the Association. So what are you waiting for? Join now and become part of the voice of 41 Club. If you want to be heard simply use one of the links below.

Access to the forum is via the Club website at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/41club/>  
Registration is simple and secure. So give it a try.



Winners of the Region 23 quiz night, Winchester Burnt Cakes, with National President Richard.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS!

While in Morocco for the Charter of Rabat 41 Club, I was asked by a French club IRO about the possibility of holding a meeting for all Club IROs in all the Regions No 8. This got me thinking...

My questions are:

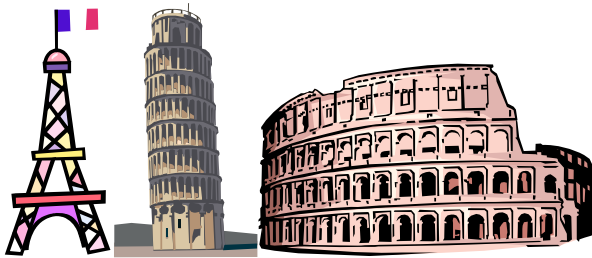
Does your Club have an International Relations Officer?

Are you active internationally, e.g. with twinning arrangements?

(If so, a brief summary would be helpful to make sure you are on our twinning database)

Are you considering twinning with an overseas Club? If my committee and I can help we will be delighted.

Andy Waite  
National IRO



## '41 CLUB PLATINUM PRIVILEGES' ARE COMING!

Club has entered into a programme of affinity schemes for our members. From February members will be able to get discounts and special offers at many High Street names. The first set of offers will be appearing in our February edition of Links magazine.

Martin Green – National Sales & Marketing Officer says 'we have joined forces with a company called Marketing Solutions based in Newton Abbot. MS provide similar schemes for many leading clubs and companies around the country. They are one of the country's leaders in this field. At long last we will provide our members with some tangible benefits for being a member of 41 Club.'

41 Club has used Experien's Mosaic profiling to ensure the benefits it offers reflect our style and type of members. The survey indicates we have a membership of the highest socio-economic groups in the country. The scheme will be called '41Club Platinum Privileges'.



# £52,229



## WINTER 2009 LINKS MAGAZINE

The latest Links magazine was mailed out during November. Bulk mailings to nominated club contacts have now stopped, in favour of direct mailing to your home, without the delay of it going through a third party.

Your Secretary or Club Contact should have ensured that your details are on the Club Administration System (CAS). If you are not on CAS (or you think you are not on CAS) then you can use [this link](#) to send your personal details to Sue Barnicoat, the 41 Club Administrator, who will check your details and, if they are missing or incorrect, will update them for you.

Or you can send an email to Sue at [admin@41club.org](mailto:admin@41club.org) with your club name, your own name, address, home/work phone number and email address and from then on you will be assured of YOUR magazine arriving promptly on YOUR doormat!

If you register too late for a hard copy this time, you can download an electronic copy of the magazine [here](#)

## BOB BLAKEMORE BIKE RIDE

Members of Stafford & Eccleshall 41 Clubs joined together with Stafford RT 176 on Saturday 12th September 2009 for the second year running to remember and celebrate the life of their dearly missed friend Bob (Blobby) Blakemore who was an active member of both clubs. Bob was Stafford Round Table Chairman in 1993-94 and Chairman of RT Area 22 in 1995-6. He died of cancer in 2007 at the age of 50.

Steve Ashton (Stafford 41) & Steve McGraw (Eccleshall 41) coordinated their respective club members and at 09:00 hrs on the morning of the 12th September a pillion of cyclists set off on their 50 mile circuit from The Mill at Worston. In true Blakemore style (fellow athletes !!!) the route was well broken up by no less than 11 havens in the form of hostelrys (pubs to everyone else).

The route took everyone on a 30 mile circuit in the morning ending back at The Mill for lunch, where the riders met up with families and friends for a social gathering. The 20 mile afternoon route incorporated a short run down the old railway track in Stafford which has been altered into a cycle track making it safe for the young children and less enthusiastic riders to join in on the day.

The weather was very kind and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day's celebration, embracing all that Bob stood for (Fun, Fellowship, Family, Social & Charity).

An excellent sum of £ 2,500 sponsorship was raised and equal cheques are to be donated to Katherine House Hospice in Stafford and Macmillan Cancer Support, two charities which supported Bob in his last months.

All involved concurred that this was such a special and enjoyable way to get our two clubs together and it is intended that the event will continue for many years to come.

Paul Ritson  
Stafford 41 Club



## POSTBOX

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

All members are invited to submit views on any topical subject. Please do not make them too long and definitely no personal attacks will be allowed.

Further debate on these topics can be found on the club forum at  
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/41club/>

### THE NEWSLETTER

Well done, congratulations on the First Issue which is now "saved" as a collectors item!!

A Club Newsletter, at last and just what is needed. Up to date, brief snippet's of information straight through to members who are interested in such matters. "Links" days are numbered surely? Be honest how many issues are not even read, most are only scan read and then confined to the bin. When would we have seen details of Faringdon & Lechdale's Fireworks display that took place on the 31st October if they relied on Links? Probably February 2010 not within 9 days as was the case with the Newsletter. Cost to 41 Club of distributing the ClubNewsletter? Cost of printing the ClubNewsletter? It's a no brainer!

Well done, looking forward to the next issue. I'm off to visit the 41 Club Forum, why not join me as another new subscriber?

**Nick Davies**

Llantrisant 41 Club

Congratulations on picking up the gauntlet and producing the first ever 41 club e-newsletter. I don't expect there to be too many fairs out at sea but hope nonetheless that she fares OK. Best wishes

**Michael Holden**

Chairman, Woking 41 Club

PS: Can I win the gold star for getting the first entry into a new Pedant's Corner...or should that be Pedants' Corner?

...continued page 94.

**It's a fair cop guv, (Editor)**

**From:** Chris Mitchel

A great step forward

Nicely presented with a real feel for "today".

Hopefully we will now see some interest.

I will be linking it to the Lichfield web-site with an editorial explaining its purpose. I will of course do this by hyperlink to the Adobe Document itself but it would be nice to see the link in the National Association web-site. **It isn't there yet!**

Each Lichfield member will also receive a specific link via our monthly email and our few non email people a hard copy

I realise how much work is involved and it is appreciated. Hopefully during coming months your in-box will be swamped with articles around the membership and similar issues making filling pages a little easier.....and forum will be red hot....! If only!! But no-one will be able to say you didn't try.

Congratulations

Regards **Mac Cummings**

I think there is a typo in the proposed list of new rules, last line...

"New clubs to be started with a minimum of 50% Round Tablers". Should read "New clubs to be started with a minimum of 50% **of Ex** Round Tablers.

Regards

**Bob Sturgess**

### THE MEMBERSHIP DEBATE

Two issues;

First on the question of membership and the suggested limit of a min. membership of 50% ex Tablers. How will allowing non members to join and then limiting the numbers prevent our demise when Table is declining at the rate it is?

Many of our local tables have closed and even when they were active ex Tablers did not join their respective 41 Clubs on retirement due often to the perceived age gap.

Shepperton has virtually no feeder Tables in our immediate area and therefore assuming 41 voted through the membership changes (which have voted not to do!!!) and we followed the proposed guidelines we could boost our membership to a maximum of double current numbers instantaneously assuming we could find enough like minded new non tablers (which is pie in the sky!!). We would, from then on, return to a diminishing number as our true ex tabler members died off or left the area. (In fact we would have to retire non Tablers at the same rate as Ex Tablers as they left). Given that many of us 41ers don't have any long term left perhaps you could explain how opening membership to non Tablers would solve the declining number issue in the medium to long term!!

I also share Woking 41 clubs concerns outlined in your news letter.

Now you are circulating magazines only to those who register on the CAS data base the numbers for print will reduce and consequently either the cost will rise (postage certainly will) or the mag becomes uneconomic to print.

I am therefore glad to perceive the beginning of the demise of the magazine and the introduction of the emailed News letter. The News letter will get read by more members than the magazine simply because most members have access to the internet and not leave the copy on their chair at the end of the meeting!. Only laggards are resisting the change and they are in the minority by far. You have only to take a straw poll of friends and acquaintances to know that most folk have access to the internet.

As Hon Sec I have distributed the News letter immediately on receipt via email to 90% of our members whose average age is mid 70's. Our club has been in existence for over 30 years and our members have kept up to speed with modern communications. I feel sure that we are by no means unique.

**Brian Ward**

Shepperton 41 Club

Whilst we all bemoan the failure of 41 Clubs to induct new members, one first has to remember the contributory factor of the age rule that initially corroded our natural feed.

We all sat back and let it happen.

I therefore applaud the foresight of Woking who look at the transfer issue of affiliated members, and the ultimate problem of their appointments, whilst being against the issue itself.

To maintain *our* numbers we have amalgamated with two other diminishing local clubs so we all pay our capitation, but the affiliated members issue is still on the agenda. I think that we should pay some sort of capitation fee for them too....., if we agree to their entry.

Have those clubs who have already taken in non ex tables members forced the issue? .....But hang on Woking, why don't you offer a capitation payment for your country Members, Surely they derive some benefit from association. Further more they will have the benefit of e-mail copies of things that Members subscribe to. Are we going to have a password issued to members so that only they are able to read the Mag? I think it would be fair, Don't you!

It is a bit like not paying Capitation for all of your members, Surely we are above the government in our Ideals and Standards.

As like minded men we should surely agree shortly on these issues.

**Brian Alleeson**

Bromley 41 Club (Treasurer)

Well, well, well, as I sit here in the kitchen of my flat in downtown Tripoli Libya, on my one day off (Friday) I open up an e mail from young Dickenson of Seaford and Newhaven 41 Club and that contains the electronic version of the LINK. Laugh, I nearly spilt my Gin and Tonic (wishful thinking there), debates on membership, Clubs renaming themselves with W&NK initials – thank god for a lack of sanity. Keep the debate going for years boys. It is what makes us old ex-Tablers tick. Perhaps an entry pre qualification for all non Tablers to 41 Club would be to maintain a 10 minute debate with full cognition of the substantive statement and amendments as per Table rule 14 para 6 sub section 4 (as written by one Nick Ward Seaford and Newhaven RT 837 in 1973). If you can do that with your trousers down and a gherkin up your arse you're a good man by my standards. Best wishes to all,

**Andy Payne.**

Past Chair S and N 837, past Area 2 Chair and these days just past it !!!

We have also not had a chance to debate the issue and I must say your view is very closely aligned to my own.

Having only recently joined my 41 club, the only common ground I share with some members is that we were both Tablers, if we remove that link where is the shared bond?

I do endorse the suggestion that partners of members of Circler and Tangent should be eligible for membership, we are after all part of the Round Table family and should welcome partners of other members with open arms.

Well that's my two penn'orth for the time being, these are my views and not necessarily those of my club.

**Martin 'Bud' Johnson**

Billericay 41 Club

## FUNDRAISING

Woking 41 Club has a relatively thriving feeder RT with its own active fundraising and community service programme.

However, major events such as a very large fireworks event (8,000 attending) definitely has to rely on 41 Club (and Rotary) volunteers to maintain their legal level of stewarding, as does their Christmas float street collecting.

This and other aid to RT is our major commitment to fundraising, alongside our own occasional raffles etc. - such as for 'Help For Heroes'.

At the recent November 'membership' discussions it was confirmed that this would remain our fundraising commitment with no additional 'home grown' activity.

We feel that 41 Club is 41 Club, primarily for an on-going enjoyment of past Table membership, and we do have a very active social programme. And which is why we remain against any opening of membership to non-ex-Tablers. Those wishing to be more active than this can always join Rotary etc. instead of or alongside 41 Club, which indeed many of our members do.

Regards, **Alan Spencer**

Good point to debate Ray.

Alan, Woking is a great club and I know from feedback it supports its Round Table well. There are many clubs out there though that aren't in the same fortunate position. I think you have hit a very interesting point with regard to Rotary. We know that many ex-members of Table join Rotary and whilst some of them join 41 club as well a significant number of them don't. Are you really saying that we should just sit back and let them go? Are you really saying that's what we should be saying to those Tablers leaving Table who don't have quite such an active 41 club as Woking to join.

I'm sure for the Association that's not the answer. I don't believe we should be sitting here thinking we should challenge Rotary as there is room for both organisations in the Communities we serve. The activities surrounding Help for Heroes and last years charity the Air Ambulance have proved that many clubs do want to go out and do something. I think we should be encouraging them to do it and providing wherewithal and guidance if necessary.

Good debate let's keep it going and encourage others to join in.

**Jim Smith**, National Membership & Extension Officer

This debate continues on the club web forum, which can be accessed at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/41club/>

## EDITORS NOTES

As the copy deadline for this issue is before the end of the month allocated to the debate on the membership question, I have held over until next month all correspondence regarding individual club results, when every club will have had the opportunity express their view.

Can I also appeal to all who submit letters to these pages to keep them brief. I want to print as many views as possible and I do not want to have to edit them down, so please make them short and make them relevant.