

ROTAGEN

The Bulletin of the Rotary Club
of Letchworth Garden City

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April 2009

WINNERS

On Thursday 2nd April our quiz team of John Elliott, Peter Harkness, Dennis Wells, Bob Mills, Alan Goodwin and Roger Thomson, ably supported by Margaret Harkness and non-playing captain Roger Buckley, set out for Royston Golf Club, more in hope than expectation, to contest the West Region heat of the 1080 District Quiz.



Eight teams had entered. We played our "joker" on Round 1 and scored 18 points out of 20 to take the lead. We were never overtaken and despite a late run by Soham and Ely we finished on 83 points, just one ahead of Soham, with Ely third.

The win qualifies us, with Soham, for the final which will be held at Swaffham on Wednesday 20th May. Due to other commitments our team will have to bring in some substitutes, but we have worthy players waiting in the wings. As the date of the final clashes with our Business Meeting perhaps we should "scatter" to Swaffham and have our meeting there!

DRIVING LICENCE WARNING

The new style photo card driving licences are only valid for 10 years, but the design and location of relevant information makes this less than clear. Check your licence expiry date and don't be caught out.

Official DVLA figures reveal that while 16,136 expired this summer, so far only 11,566 drivers have renewed, leaving 4,570 outstanding. With another 300,000 photo card licences due to expire over the coming year, experts fear the number of invalid licences will soar, putting thousands more drivers in

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2009

Brief Details:

Do people outside the organisation know you are a Rotarian? Do you wear your badge with pride and whenever you are out and about? Do you talk about Rotary?

You might think that these are unnecessary questions but Rotarians appear to be quite adept at hiding their light under a bushel, so to speak, which is possibly why some people have the perception quite wrongly that Rotary is some form of secret society – that it is elitist – something shrouded in mystery. It is a perception that needs dispelling.

We live in a world where means of communication change with astonishing rapidity – new concepts come and are almost immediately replaced with something quicker and supposedly better. Who would have dreamt a few years ago of the things that you can now do with the humble telephone? You could almost forget that its prime purpose is to make telephone calls!

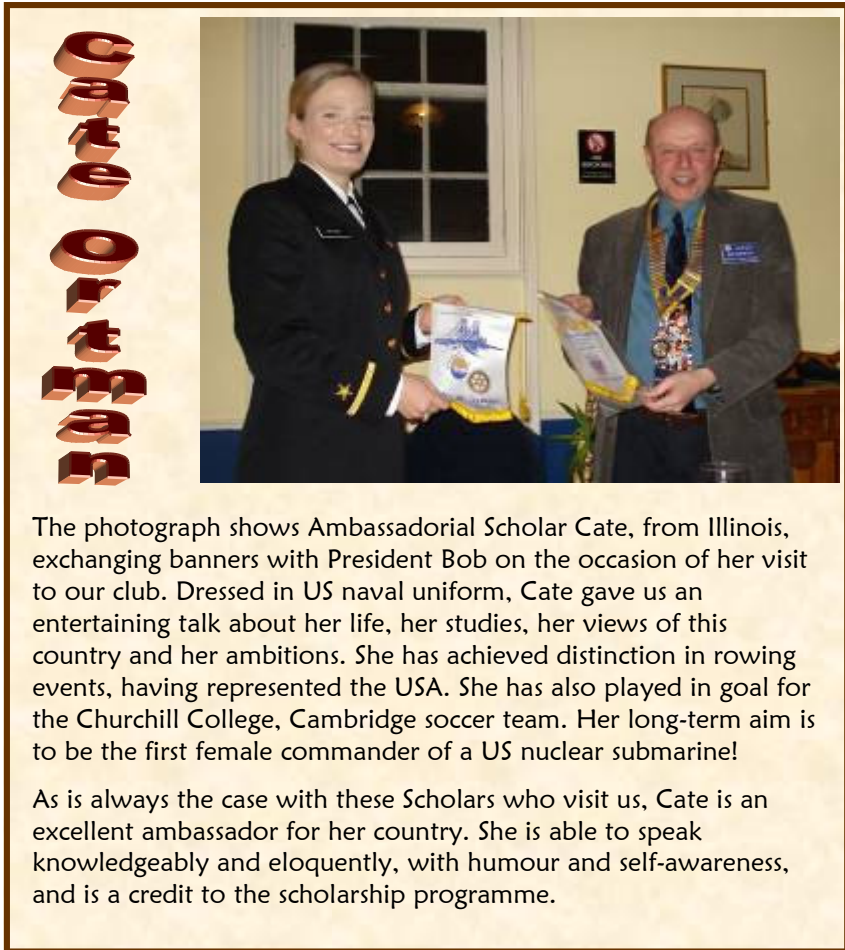
Regardless of these innovations there is still very much a place for the written word and as a method of communication it is still well to the forefront as a way of getting our message across both within our organisation and as an outreach to the world at large – a way to inform others what Rotary is and what Rotary does.

In this District we have 1080 News – our way of letting our members know what is happening in the district, what other Clubs are doing and an ideas forum. We also have the newer concept of Rotary East – a broader view of the various activities with which Rotarians within the District are involved both in the local communities and wherever we can give service to those in need throughout the world - designed as a way to reach out to the people I mentioned above – to inform them, excite their interest not only in what we do but hopefully to make them want to be a part of it.

While I am talking about magazines, thank you to all of the Clubs that have sent me copies of their Club publications – don't forget that there is a Bulletin trophy to be awarded for the best one – if I don't see them they can't be taken into consideration.

For those that are going to the RIBI Conference in Edinburgh later in April, I look forward to seeing you there.

Don't forget also that it is not too late to book up for the RI Convention in June – a unique opportunity to experience the whole internationality of Rotary without travelling halfway across the world – see the RIBI or RI websites for details. They are still looking for volunteers if you can give up some of your time to make it happen.



The photograph shows Ambassadorial Scholar Cate, from Illinois, exchanging banners with President Bob on the occasion of her visit to our club. Dressed in US naval uniform, Cate gave us an entertaining talk about her life, her studies, her views of this country and her ambitions. She has achieved distinction in rowing events, having represented the USA. She has also played in goal for the Churchill College, Cambridge soccer team. Her long-term aim is to be the first female commander of a US nuclear submarine!

As is always the case with these Scholars who visit us, Cate is an excellent ambassador for her country. She is able to speak knowledgeably and eloquently, with humour and self-awareness, and is a credit to the scholarship programme.

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breach of the law and at risk of a fine.

At the heart of the confusion is the small print on the tiny credit-card-size photo licence, which is used in conjunction with the paper version. Just below the driver name on the front of the photo card licence is a series of dates and details - each one numbered. Number 4b features a date in tiny writing, but no explicit explanation as to what it means. The date's significance is only explained if the driver turns over the card and reads the key on the back, which states that 4b, means 'licence valid to'.

Even more confusingly, an adjacent table on the rear of the card sets out how long the driver is registered to hold a licence - that is until his or her 70th

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POLIO VOLUNTEERS RETURN FROM IMMUNISATION DAY IN INDIA

A 34-strong party of Rotary Volunteers from the UK have described their experiences of immunising children in one of poorest states of India against polio as life changing.

The party have just returned from the latest National Immunisation Day which targeted 157 million children under five in Lucknow, found in the Northern State of Uttar Pradesh.

Led by Rotary District Governor John Philip, the team is the largest ever group from the UK to take part in an immunisation day and was responsible for helping to set up special immunisation booths, transport the vaccine and immunise the children.

The trip came just days after it was announced that Rotary International, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the British and German governments committed more than £450 million (US\$630 million) in new funds to fight polio.

John Philip, Rotary leader for Yorkshire where 29 of the volunteers came from, said: "It was truly remarkable. We walked the slums of Lucknow, stood at traffic junctions, staffed temporary 'booths' in street corners, knocked at doors, and assisted the staff in Lucknow to immunise countless children. The children came on foot, on rickshaws, on bikes and motorbikes and there were Muslim women in burqa and Indians in sarees, queuing together, with their babies for the two drops of polio vaccine to protect them from polio.

'We were there to boost the campaign and help local Rotarians, health workers and volunteers in their relentless campaign against this scourge.

‘Today polio may be considered as not our problem. But, we live in a global village. What is India’s problem today, could become our problem tomorrow. We must pledge our support to the dedication and commitment of the people involved in eradicating polio. Polio is only a plane ride away from the UK.’

Fellow team member Janet Quinlan from Lancashire said: “We got to see firsthand what Rotary is raising money to achieve. It was truly humbling and life changing for me. Smiling children seemed delighted to see us and came out to meet us wherever we went and wanted to shake our hands and get us to sign things. I felt like a VIP!”

In 1985, Rotary pledged to eradicate Polio from the World. Since then reported cases of Polio have dropped by 99.8%. There were less than 1,600 world-wide last year and the number of endemic countries has fallen from 125 countries to just four – India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Since Rotary’s campaign started, more than two billion children have been vaccinated and five million children who would otherwise have been polio victims are today alive and walking.

For more information about Rotary’s polio eradication initiative and to find out how you can help, visit www.ribi.org/foundation/polio.

How’s this for a slap in the face?

A Charlotte, N.C., man, having purchased a box of very rare, very expensive cigars insured them against fire, among other things. Within a month of having smoked his entire stockpile of cigars and without having made even his first premium payment on the policy, the man filed a claim against the insurance company. In his claim, the man stated the cigars were "lost in a series of small fires." The insurance company refused to pay, citing the obvious reason: that the man had consumed the cigars in the normal fashion. The man sued ... and won! In delivering the ruling, the judge agreed that the claim was frivolous. He stated, nevertheless, that the man held a policy from the company in which it had warranted that the cigars were insurable and also guaranteed that it would insure against fire, without defining what is considered to be "unacceptable fire," and was obligated to pay the claim. Rather than endure a lengthy and costly appeal process, the insurance company accepted the ruling and paid the man \$15,000 for the rare cigars he had lost in the "fires." After the man cashed the check, the insurance company had him arrested on 24 counts of arson. With his insurance claim and testimony from the previous case being used against him, the man was convicted of intentionally burning his insured property and sentenced to 24 months in jail and a \$24,000.00 fine.

(From the 1999 Criminal Darwin Awards)

ROTARY CLUB OF SAWSTON DISTRICT



GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Chaired by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's Sue Dougan

Wednesday 22 April 2009

at Scotsdale's Garden Centre, Great Shelford

OPEN FROM 6pm UNTIL 10pm

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TRIANGULAR QUIZ

Wednesday 29th April 2009

Broadway Hotel - 6.15 for 6.45 pm

We have changed the format this year in order to encourage more active participation by all. The format will be as follows:

- The quiz will comprise 10 rounds of 10 questions in each round;
- Each of the three clubs will nominate a team of three members. This will be the club's "official team" and it is their score that will count towards the trophies;
- All other club members and guests will be on mixed tables and will also take part in the quiz, but their scores will not count in the overall competition;
- The question master will ask the questions in each round verbally, but answers will be written, to enable all those present to take part. Following each round, the written answers will be collected from the three "official teams". These will be marked and a running total kept. At the same time, the answers will be read out and other teams will be able to mark their own answers and see if they can beat the "official teams"!
- At the end of the 10 rounds, the official team with the highest score will win the trophy for their club, (irrespective of whether other non-official teams have beaten them or not);
- **AT THE END OF THE QUIZ, THE OFFICIAL TEAM WITH THE LEAST POINTS WILL AGREE TO ORGANISE THE QUIZ FOR NEXT YEAR.**



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birthday. A total of 25 million new-style licences have been issued but - motoring experts say - drivers were never sufficiently warned they would expire after 10 years.

Motorists who fail to renew their licences in time are allowed to continue driving. But the DVLA says they could be charged with 'failing to surrender their licence', an offence carrying a £1,000 fine.

WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

	Duty Rotarian	Speaker Finder	Speaker
April (Magazine month)			
8 Apr	Sam Thakur	Bob Mills	Darren Isted <i>“Damned Media”</i>
15 Apr	Roger Thomson	John Hillson	T.B.A.
22 Apr	Dennis Wells	Mike Birrell	Raymond Leach MBE <i>“Aerial surveying of high pressure pipelines”</i>
29 Apr	Terry Brazier	TRIANGULAR QUIZ <i>(see separate announcement)</i>	
May			
6 May	David Brightwell	Hugh Osborne	T.B.A.
13 May	John Elliott	David Green	T.B.A.
20 May	Mike Davies	BUSINESS MEETING	
27 May	Nigel Downes	John Elliott	T.B.A.

PRESIDENT’S EVENING

Please note that this will now take place
on TUESDAY 30th JUNE at 7.00 for 7.30 pm.
Wednesday 24th June will be a regular Club meeting.
There will be no meeting on Wednesday 1st July.
Further details to follow.

Better than kids?

Dogs and cats are better than children because they:

- eat less
- usually come when called
- don’t drink, smoke or use drugs
- don’t ask for money all the time
- and don’t have to have the newest trendy clothes.

