

RINGWOOD & DISTRICT EX TABLERS CLUB

MINUTES OF MEETING

Held on 17 September at 7.30 pm St Leonards Hotel

1 Purposes and Objects

These were read by David Phelps, Mike Fraser and Richard Blackiston (the Ringwood Round Table Steering Committee).

2 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mike Callaghan, Richard Dyson, Chris Kean, John Morgan and Chris Treleavan.

3 Guests

Jim Stride, guest of Richard Blackiston.

4 Speaker

Tom Amery, managing director of The Watercress Company gave a talk with slides on watercress growing in general and The Watercress Company in particular. He was very knowledgeable and enthusiastic and stressed the health benefits of watercress. This is grown by the company at sites in Hampshire, Dorset, Florida and Spain and there are very rapid transport links from the foreign sites. To avoid contamination from streams only spring water is used to irrigate. Wasabi and other salad items are also grown. We received sample watercress bunches which the company is considering producing instead of the plastic packaged blocks in which the product is normally sold in supermarkets. Will Parke gave the vote of thanks.

5 Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August were taken as read.

6 Matters Arising

None.

7 Correspondence

None.

8 Chairman's Comments

On 24 September Gordon will be making the presentation of the £750 received from Fanfare For Spring to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Roger Bettle volunteered to attend. One or two Council members will also go.

9 Vice Chairman

Richard had issued the Ladies Night invitations and thanked those who had already responded.

10 **Treasurer.**

The net balance is approximately £1,800. Council decided to provide £100 for drinks for the Ringwood Round Table inaugural meeting. Gerald Carter will be dealing with meal monies at the October and November meetings as Andrew will be away.

11 **Sports & Social**

Colin Read announced that he and David Curle were organising New Year's Eve. The Ann Rose and Ebenezer halls have been booked. Details will be in the October magazine but it is important that each table nominates a spokesman as each table will be doing something different.

Jeff Wickens has everything under control for the Carnival float. Meet at Parkside at 5.30 pm on Saturday. Roger Bettle offered refreshments when passing his place (in both directions).

Keith and Sue Anderson have ridden the route for the bike ride on Thursday four times. Sand on the promenade is being cleared. If many turn up we will be split into smaller groups. Keith also mentioned Film Nights on 7 and 8 October and asked if anyone else wanted to attend. The film is the latest in the Mission Impossible series.

Gordon mentioned the talk by Professor Alice Roberts on 9 October. It would be sensible to car share and he would particularly like John Kennedy, who organised our attendance, to be picked up.

12 **Membership & Welfare**

David let us know that Hugh Edwards had had a bad stroke and was in Bournemouth Hospital. He cannot speak, but can move his arms. Lorna thinks he will be up to receiving visitors after the weekend, but please check with her first. David will be sending a get well card on our behalf.

13 **Editor**

Bob told us the copy date is 1 October. Gordon is happy with the magazine which is very informative.

14 **Speakers' Secretary**

The speaker in October is Robin Cook and he will be talking about Harrods. The November meeting has been moved to Wednesday 20 and the speaker will be Tim Price. His subject is the Royal International Air Tattoo which he has been involved with since it started in 1972. He will not make a charge, but would like a donation for his charity which is for flying scholarships for the disabled. He is related to Jenny Stockdale. The joint meeting in January will be an Antiques Roadshow

15 **Meals Secretary**

John had nothing to report on meals. On magazine distribution he mentioned that he received an error message from BT that the last magazine was too big for recipients. However, as far as he was aware, everyone received the magazine, so hopefully this was a one-off glitch.

16 **Press & Publicity**

John was not present as he was rehearsing for a play. Gordon told us that John had submitted an article and photo on the inaugural Ringwood Round Table meeting to four local publications. The photo is of Philip Hoyle and Ben Salsbury

17 **Lay Member/Health & Safety**

Paul had nothing to report.

18 **Immediate Past Chairman**

Keith had nothing further to report.

19 **Ringwood & District Round Table**

David Phelps is still on a high as the inaugural meeting on 10 September at the London Tavern had been a great success. He will do a newsletter about this in the next few days and Bob will include a précis in the main magazine next month. The Round Table National President and Membership Officer attended. There were also four Tablers from New Milton and six from Ryde. Over 30 were there altogether. Richard Carter ran the first part of the evening and then Philip Hoyle was elected as interim chairman and took over. David and John Salsbury had often talked about reforming Ringwood & District Round Table so David was particularly pleased when Ben Salsbury was appointed Vice Chairman. Twelve members joined and Ian Stockdale produced a directory for them on the night. Jim Stride was made an honorary member. The Visitors Book which we donated was lifted by Ryde Tablers. David thanked the Steering Committee for all their work and Ian Stockdale for producing the directory.

Jim Stride said there had been a great atmosphere and the next meeting was at a brewery. Nationally Round Table membership is increasing and he thinks Ringwood District Round Table has a good future. Ringwood Ex Tablers Club is mentioned in glowing terms in a Round Table question and answer session on Facebook as an example of how a Table can be reformed.

When distributing pamphlets in Ringwood Richard Blackiston had asked estate agents if they gave out pamphlets with details of local clubs. None did apart from Martins and they are prepared to do one advertising Table and Ex Table.

Mike Fraser commented that Round Table was totally different from when we were members. It is now much more informal and they often meet only once a month. However, because of social media they probably have more contact with each other than we did. One of the new members turned up on an electric skateboard! Having Tablers from New Milton and Ryde present was very helpful in generating the right atmosphere.

Richard Carter felt it had been a privilege to be at the meeting. It had been a brilliant night and he congratulated the organisers.

Gordon got David, Mike, Richard Blackiston and Jim to stand so that we could applaud their efforts.

20 **Website**

Gordon has produced a revised version. He will send the link to Council members shortly and if all are agreeable will send the link to Club members in the next few weeks.

21 **Any Other Business**

Will Parke needs wood for Bonfire Night. Ian Stockdale has a couple of pallets and Steve Wyatt has a supply of logs which can be used.

Gordon will check with John Morgan about a team for the Regional Quiz on 16 October. He also mentioned Christchurch Boules evening on 2 October. Will Parke, Dick Sheerin, Andrew Green and Gordon volunteered to form a team.

The raffle was won by Peter Lomax. Other prizes donated by Tom Amery were also distributed.

Peter Lomax had been appointed Master At Arms for the evening. Various fines were levied including Gordon for actually reading the Round Table grace, Jim Stride for his loud jacket and Dick Sheering for wearing a Rotary badge. Peter himself was fined for winning the raffle with a ticket bought for him by Arthur Robins as Peter did not have any change!

22 **Date of Next Council Meeting** - 14 October at David Hirst's at 7.30 pm.

23 **Date of Next Club Meeting** - 15 October at St Leonards Hotel at 7.30 pm.

24 **The Meeting Closed at** 11.10 pm.