

Roddy – Presidential year 1991 - 92

Monthly entries:

July/August. At our comparatively new lunch venue (the St Lawrence Cricket Ground), the summer passed al fresco with several events using one or other of the marquees pegged around the boundary. Our special guest, D.G. Tony Hendry, organised his programme around the Cricket Week with, of course, “Service before self” uppermost in his mind. No “Duckworth – Lewis” nonsense in '92 – just sunshine shaded under warm canvas.

The Eastbourne Conference was “special” to our club – where we received together with Maidstone RC, a Special Achievement Award for the raising of £48,000 (odd) in aid of the Kent Air Ambulance which was officially opened two days later. The publicity spoke volumes – **M20 YOURS FOR A DAY** for all-comers on foot, bicycles or on horseback. No accidents on the day except for a “gentle” head-on collision between two motorists. They were understandably distracted by the scene below them and subsequently this must have been an insurance claim in the “unique” category. The Air Ambulance helicopter – on display on the motorway, was on the scene within seconds. The M20 was officially opened two days later.

In **November**, I had the great pleasure – although somewhat overawed, of inducting the new Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey as an honorary member into the club. As I write this in January 2010, I note that he has been the most ACTIVE Hon Member we have had since the club was established 80+ years ago and was together with us at our Christmas celebrations last month. Now Lord and Lady Clifton clearly appreciate the “controlled informality of this annual event.

The early months of 1992 were predominantly concerned with a series of extraordinary meetings planning the Pentangular gathering of Rotarians from our contact clubs in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany to be held this year in Canterbury. The organising Committee were enthusiastic to be seen to entertain out guests well at minimum expense (to us all) and we developed a weekend which nicely embraced this principle. So in May we entertained 140 Rotarians from across the water over a Friday to Sunday weekend and under

unremitting sunshine, had a very successful meeting of minds and Rotarian wallets. A valuable contribution to our club's chosen charity for the year was a *Raison d'être* for a memorable gathering.



After the American style Brunch on Sunday at Broome Park, we said goodbye to our guests and agreed to meet up at Utrecht in a year's time.

A month later, I said goodbye as President, handed over my badge of office and commenced my next job – Chairman of Community Service. There's no peace

Roddy Tyndale-Biscoe

Compiled in 2010