

Tim Brett President 1998 - 1999

Having looked up my files I feel that the attached documents sum up everything that I would like to share about my year.

particular, I think that my opening address, final report and the exit speech at handover sum up In how the year went for me – and hopefully also for the club!

Enclosed are copies of

1. My president's address,
2. My exit speech.
3. My final report and A copy of the 'No Bell' Presidential Citation, produced by Adaire Roche and various members.

Opening Presidential Address

In 1943, Canterbury was still recovering from the previous year's devastating air raids. The tide of war had turned and Britain could, at last feel confident that the allies could eventually win – though "when", was anyone's guess.

I know what you are thinking – whatever is our new President on about! Maybe he is not all there (losing his marbles)

FOLLOWING MY FATHER

Well it was in 1943 that my Father was made President of this very Club and I cannot tell you what it means to me to be asked all these years later to follow him as your President for the coming year.

THANK YOU FOR BESTOWING THIS HONOUR

Thank you fellow Rotarians for bestowing this honour on me. It is a great privilege to serve the Club in this way. I can assure you that now I am working "part-time", the affairs of this Club will have my full attention.

FATHER'S PRESIDENCY

I thought you might be interested to hear about what went on during my Father's presidency. The Club Council spent a great deal of time discussing and implementing war related matters. In the minutes of the Council meetings, it was suggested that Members, where possible, should bring a Polish soldier to Rotary lunch. It was also decided that 200 cigarettes per month be sent to each prisoner of war with whom Rotarians had been corresponding in Germany. This cost 33

shillings. This was later extended to those in Italy making a total cost of 60/6 (£3-0-6d).

INNER WHEEL AND WARWICK ELVY

It would appear that, as now, there was an excellent relationship with Inner Wheel, for a donation of £10 was made to assist them with a fund for the purchase of rescue kits. One final point about a name that will be familiar to you all, that of Warwick Elvy who had asked to be supplied with reports of the Luncheon addresses for his newspaper.

MY MEMBERSHIP

As many of you know, I have been a Member of this Club for quite some time. In fact, it was Alan Denne who proposed me for membership and I was accepted into the Club in 1961. I think I was the youngest Rotarian in R.I.B.I. (just 23 years old).

Around that time, you could buy a house for £2,600 and a three piece suite at Courts, the furnishers, would have cost (set you back) 21 guineas. The then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Selwyn Lloyd, told the House of Commons that a university would be built at Canterbury. The construction of the Canterbury Ring Road was started, and the Mayor told his Citizens that it would be our greatest road improvement for 200 years. Ricemans was opened and the new Longmarket shopping centre was completed. Since then, of course, parts have been rebuilt and reopened again. It all seems a long time ago.

How very different things were in the swinging 60's. Some changes have been good; some bad. Everyone, of course, will have their own views. For example, there were no mobile phones, no internet web sites or E Mail, no satellite TV, no credit cards - the list could go on and on.

HANDOVER SPEECH

Fellow Rotarians: I congratulate you all for putting up with me for about 50 lunches and on the many other occasions, during the past year.

SOMEHOW YOU ALL SEEM TO HAVE SURVIVED QUITE WELL.

Thank you for allowing me to be President of this excellent Club; it has been a great honour.

“Achieve Fellowship and Enjoyment through Participation and Service” was the motto I mentioned in my President's address. I sincerely hope

that everyone has found something of interest in the year's varied programme and has indeed had **FELLOWSHIP** and **ENJOYMENT** but, above all, **I HOPE EVERYONE HAS HAD SOME FUN!**

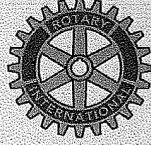
A well known past president said to me after Christmas "Tim, it's downhill all the way from here", but all I can say is that the last few weeks have been hectic and I am sure most of you have found the same; we have had a lot going on". Thank you all for your support and friendship.

I am not going to name individuals because so many of you have put in an extraordinary number of hours on behalf of the Club, but I would just like to thank all those Rotarians who took office during my year. You have maintained the high standards that this Club has always had and expects.

The time has now come for me to hand over to Adair.

But before I do that I would just like to thank you for the **HUGE CONTRIBUTION** you have made to this past year. You have been a super Vice President.

On behalf of all the Club Members, I wish you good luck and all the very best. I am sure we are in for an excellent year under your leadership.



To: *Tim Brett*

Lincoln to the Past President of the Law Society to Judge Giles Rooke and for these and many other features of an outstanding year we are most appreciative.

It also recognises his great contribution to District meetings by attending all to which he was invited - and indeed one to which he was not. It recognises his amazing linguistic skills - demonstrated mercifully seldom. It celebrates an attendance record almost beyond belief - especially in view of his previous performance - and it records for posterity an ability in timekeeping which has been truly unexpected - and probably unrepeatable by him in his future membership. It also recognises his navigational skills as demonstrated by his taking the Utrecht Raiding Party into Dover Customs Hall on the way out of Dover, much to the surprise of the officials on duty.

Tim Brett also marked his year of Presidency by feasting the RIBI Chairman in a manner hopefully unlikely to be repeated: but most impressively of all he managed to conduct Rotary Business without that essential part of Rotary Regalia, The Rotary Bell. For this feat of skill and dexterity we proudly present him with this 'No-Bell' citation. However, since the bell has now been returned, even if crestfallen, the prize money has been withheld.

Presented by the Club with much affection at the Handover meeting in July 1999.