

Bulletin

JANUARY 2007

Late News.

It is with sadness that we report the passing on 30/01/2007 of George Harding,
a member of long standing (inducted 13.07.1992)
after a long illness.
Our Condolences go to Ruth and family.

PROGRAMMES AHEAD

Monday 26th February 2007

10h30 for 11h00

Venue:-Mill Park Bowling Club
Westview Drive

Speaker:-Probian Roy Harrison

Subject:-Leather and Shoes

PLEASE WEAR NAME TABS

Monday 26th March 2007

10h30 for 11h00

Venue:- Mill Park Bowling Club
Westview Drive

Speaker:-}To be advised

Subject:-} “ “ “

FUNCTIONS

40 Members (5 apologies and thus 5 no-shows) plus 2 guests attended the first meeting of our second year at MPBC. It was pleasing to have President Basil in harness once more after his recent set backs and in welcoming us he thanked VP Ian for standing in over the past few months and for the many messages of support which he had received.

His first duty was to induct Colin Cuff, introduced to us by fellow pharmacist Past President Bertie after which Trevor Wells introduced our speaker, Salvation Army Colonel Brian Tuck supported by wife Teresa, also a Colonel, on the subject 'Sri Lanka' where they had served the Army for some time. The hall had been well blacked out in preparation for the excellent slide presentation supporting the talk (overcoming a handicap experienced in previous presentations, albeit at a small cost in reduced ventilation on what was the nth day of our heatwave!) Thanks to Bertie Kommel for arranging a projector and to Cecil Moorcroft for the 'blackout'.

Sri Lanka, meaning 'Venerable Land' formerly Ceylon and known variously as the 'Teardrop of India' (on account of its shape and position below India), the Pearl of the Indian Ocean and by the Arabs as 'Serendip' as it is an island which presents happy and unexpected discoveries in its terrain and buildings. It measures some 280x180miles and from 1505 was ruled by the Portuguese (who have left their legacy in the predominant surnames), then the Dutch and the British followed by independence in 1948 - English persists as the language of government although it is only spoken by about 10% of the population. Climatically it is of course tropical but Adam's Peak in the centre of the island is the site of the tea estates round Kandy for which it is famous - and still presided over by British Tea Wallahs.

Sadly it is a country riven by strife with a 20 year civil war raging between the Tamils, originally from India who are Muslim and the indigenous Sinhalese in the government, who are Buddhists. As we hear on the news there is much killing by assassination, suicide bombing and ambushes with no part of the island being really safe although the Tamils are mainly concentrated in the north in the Jaffna Peninsula and along the east coast. Religious intolerance on both sides is high and against all religions other than their own. Missionary work is very difficult and evangelism attracts a 12 year jail sentence. Our speakers' work was mainly in homes for orphans and abused children. Girls are particularly vulnerable as gender discrimination is rampant and there is a strong emphasis on caste which coupled with the religious intolerance contributes to the discord in the population of 18,4 million. In spite of this we were told that the people are gentle if highly competitive. Tourism is a major source of income with the numerous elephants, which are the loadcarriers, people carriers and bulldozers being a strong attraction.

John Stadler thanked the Tucks for an interesting, informative and well illustrated presentation.

OUTINGS/FELLOWSHIP

53 members and guests, including waiting listees Colin Cuff and Adam Bage, celebrated surviving the festive season at a buffet lunch at the PE Golf Club which was varied and plenteous and prepared us well for the rigours of the year to come.

Next Outing:- On February 20th, another "Double H" Fun Run. Meet at Summerstrand Village Car Park at 10h30. Bring Clipboard, pencil and rubber and double up provided you get on. About 60km. If you get lost turn up at Barnacles for lunch - 3 dishes on offer namely:- A) Fish & Chips @ R35, B) Baked Potato with Feta Cheese and Spinach @ R35 and C) Mince Filled Pancake @ R30. Drinks for own account and tips at personal discretion (suggest each table decides). If you have not yet booked your lunch please contact Alastair on 041 583 2670. **Please bring correct change.**

Future Outings:- Friday March 23rd Johnnic Printing Press at Hunters Retreat. Friday may not be a good day for some but the presses hum on that day with the Sunday Times inserts.

Tuesday April 24th Weather Station at the Airport.

Full details on both the above later.

CLUB NEWS/MEMBERS NEWS

Rod Barker has a thriving Industry making wooden toys for his myriad grandchildren. One particular project requires perspex about 3 or 4mm thick. Only small pieces are required so if any member has any bits of perspex, no matter how small please give Rod a ring on 041 581 3383.

The membership waiting list is still open and applications for membership would be welcomed. Contact Ken Riches on 041 373 4158.

Our resident educationist, Bill Staude, is the author of a hard hitting article in the Herald on 26/01/07 highlighting the menagerie which is the Dept of Education in the province with its ostriches and rhinos who have their heads in the sand and are thick skinned enough to be impervious to criticism. Do you worry about the Dept responsible for preparing your grandchildren for the big wide world?

An example of what can be done if the will is there is the success story of Zonderwater POW Camp in WWII. Up to 1943 over 60 000 Italian prisoners passed through the camp off whom some 9000 were illiterate and all were able to read and write their mother tongue before the camp closed. In addition some 5000 learned a trade and 15 schools were established teaching a variety of subjects. For these achievements the Camp Commandant, Col. Hendrik Prinsloo, and three of his officers were honoured post war by the Italian government and also by the Pope.

WELFARE

Henry Whittaker suffered a fall in December which broke a couple of ribs causing much discomfort. As a true survivor it was pleasing to see him at the Survivors Lunch.

Win Monaghan continues to make a slow recovery but suffered a setback with a broken arm.

Apologies if we have missed anyone but get well soon if you are ailing

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

PROBIANS

JOHN GOLDSMATH	11
JOHN VICTOR	14
GRAHAME PERRY	17
MICK HOLMES	18

PROBIAN WIVES

WIN MONAGHAN	03	
ETHEL LEWIS		14

OUTSIDE EVENTS

The charade of so-called sport acted out by overpaid primadonnas can now be abandoned in favour of the arts.

Algoa FM is hosting a 21st Birthday Concert in Victoria Park with ECPO conducted by Richard Cock at 17h00 on 24/2/07 and repeated at 15h00 on 25/2/07.

TAILPIECE

Another law to add to Newton's Laws of Motion - Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of cheques.

Clive Malkin

BULLETIN EDITOR