



Patron:  
H.R.H. The Prince Philip  
Duke of Edinburgh  
K.G., K.T.

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Saturday, 11 May, 2002**

TO TABLE CHAIRMAN

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE SENT TO YOU ELECTRONICALLY TO BE SENT TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR TABLE. PLEASE ENSURE THE WIDEST DISTRIBUTION.

**Fun, Friends and Fund-raising**

## **Minutes of the of the Sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting held in The Arena, Plymouth Pavilions, Plymouth on Saturday, 11 May 2002**

PRESENT: Nick Lawton (President, in the Chair), Ken Donald (Vice-President), Vaughan Harris (Immediate Past President), Mark Smith (Honorary Secretary), Adrian Gibbons (Honorary Treasurer), Noel Tyler (Media and PR Officer), Chris Horsfall (International Officer), Jimmy Smith (Membership and Development Officer), Mark Bonham (Community Service Liaison Officer), Paul Jay (Conference Officer), Andy Kennedy (Marketing and Sponsorship Officer), Dave Ellis (Sales Officer) and Shaun Redman (Sports and Social Officer).

Number of Chartered Tables registered: 2528

### **I. Notice**

The notice convening the meeting was proposed by Newport (Salop) and District RT 523, seconded by Hove RT 244, and APPROVED.

### **II. Preliminaries, Communications etc.**

- a) Honorary Secretary Mark Smith read messages of greetings from H.M. The Queen, H.R.H. The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (Patron) and The President of Ireland together with messages of apologies received from Vic Collins (Honorary Life Member) and Peter Marchesi.
- b) The President introduced the individual members of the National Executive and then thanked and introduced members of his Presidential Liaison Committee. Ian Ross, PLC Chairman addressed the meeting and commended everyone to get involved in a PLC if at all possible.
- c) Aims and Objects of the Association were recited by Philip Peterson, Area 19 Chairman.
- d) The meeting stood in silence in memory of eight Tablers who had passed away during the last Table year.
- e) The President welcomed the Association's guests and visitors, including Past Presidents Norrie Hood (1997/98), together with guests Paul Cammiss (President, The Association of Ex-Tablers' Clubs), Mike Fitchett (Honorary Secretary, The Association of Ex-Tablers' Clubs) and Ken Morgan (Council Chairman, Multiple District 105, Lions Clubs International).
- f) International Officer Chris Horsfall introduced International Guests Jan–Willem van der Boom, IRO, RT Netherlands; Bruno Loockx, IRO RT Belgium and Juha Jaara IRO, RT Finland.
- g) The President then thanked his Sponsors including his two business partners and MacLeod Hotels in Portree.
- h) The President then sought approval from the meeting allowing the presence of past Tablers and, in accordance with previous AGM's, sought approval that only Active members (or those just retired at 31 March 2002) be allowed to address the meeting and this was APPROVED.
- i) The President then invited Paul Cammiss, President, The Association of Ex-Tablers Clubs to address the meeting.
- j) The President then invited Ken Morgan, Council Chairman, Multiple District 105, Lions Clubs International to address the meeting.

### **III. Minutes of the Sixty-Eighth Annual General Meeting**

Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5 May 2001 was proposed by Rushen RT 1072 and seconded by Selby & District RT 450 and APPROVED. There were no matters arising.

### **IV. Addresses by Vice-Presidential Candidates**

Candidates for the office of Vice-President, Peter Walker (The Deepings RT 1090), Julian Frost (Burnham-on-Sea & Highbridge RT 365) and Chris Horsfall (Todmorden RT 487) then addressed the meeting.

### **V. Tellers and Scrutineers**

Honorary Secretary Mark Smith advised the meeting that the number of Tellers and Scrutineers required at the AGM is at the discretion of the Honorary Secretary. He then read out a list of past members of the Association who had agreed to act as Tellers and Scrutineers. The five Tellers and three Scrutineers named were then appointed by the meeting.

### **VI. Number of Voting Delegates**

The number of voting delegates registered at 10.00am was 217 and at 12 noon, there were 258 voting delegates.

### **VII. Induction of Sir Steve Redgrave as an Honorary Member of the Association.**

The President confirmed that as part of the plan to promote the ideals and values of Round Table the Association has been striving to attract Honorary Members to the Association who can recognise those values and tenets. As a result of some terrific work by Marlow & District RT 575 and Andy Kennedy he was able to announce at the 75th Anniversary Lunch that Sir Steven Redgrave had agreed to accept Honorary Membership of the Association.

He then invited Sir Steve to come forward to be inducted as a member. To a wonderful reception Sir Steve joined the President who inducted him using an adaptation of the usual Induction speech and presented him with his badge.

After a further standing ovation Sir Steve addressed the Meeting and explained the development of his Charitable Trust, which aims to raise £5M over a five year period for children's charities. A key event is the forthcoming Walk along the River Thames. This has been supported by Tablers in the Marlow area and he hoped that many more would also be involved.

He outlined his involvement with Round Table and hoped he would be able to support the Association whenever he can.

### **VIII. Annual Report of the National Council for 2001/2002**

Noel Tyler, Media and PR Officer advised that some small errors had been made in the details of the candidate in the Conference edition of *Tabler* that was available to delegates when they entered the AGM.

Jimmy Smith, Membership and Development Officer, confirmed that membership as at 30 April 2002 was 11,445 with 320 Honorary Members which was down as all Honorary members as deleted from the Membership system at the 31 March. He displayed a number of graphs and explained the membership trends. He stated that

we do not have a problem with new members but get hit by the number of Resignations and Retirees.

He confirmed there were two further recipients of the Diamond Badge for introducing nine or more New Members and the President presented badges to Trevor Harris of Tower of London RT 20 and James Lewis of Ryde & District RT 16.

Mark Bonham, Community Service Liaison Officer gave an update. He thanked all the 61 participants in the London Marathon for their efforts for Round Table Children's Wish. The estimated total raised is £70,000. He then gave details of the RTCW Sahara Cycle Challenge being held in 2003.

-- With regard to Whizz-Kidz the "Walk the Great Wall of China" Trip takes place in June and £101,000 has been banked so far taking the total raised since last year to well over £250,000

-- The Anthony Nolan Trust the "UK Save a Life Big Bike Tour will set off on 1 June and seek to raise money and recruit potential donors. He asked Tables to support the tour.

-- The 75th Anniversary Appeal Balloon Launch took place in April and 4,500 balloons were released at East Grinstead. The winning ticket came from Tarragona in Spain. £27,000 had been banked for the Appeal fund so far.

-- The RTBI Lottery was progressing well and at the end of the first year £775 was available for distribution to The Chestnut Appeal, a charity selected by Simon Barnet of Shoreham and Southwick RT 565.

-- Places were still available on the London 10K Run in July and he will provide entry forms etc.

-- With regard to the WoCo USA Appeal Fund the fund has now been closed and a cheque for £2,357.62 will be forwarded in due course.

Andy Kennedy, Marketing and Sponsorship Officer gave an update to his report. He announced that the arrangements with Ramada Jarvis Hotels had been extended for another year. He had received excellent news that MG Rover were prepared to offer a Rover 75 for a further year for the use of the President.

The President then formally moved that the Annual Report be received and asked for any questions.

Acceptance of the Annual Report was proposed by Southend Priory RT 526 and seconded by Sandbach RT 201 and was **APPROVED**.

The National President on behalf of the National Council thanked all of the Headquarters staff for their hard work during the year and asked the General Secretary to take that message back to Marchesi House.

The President thanked the 2001/2002 National Council for their work and commitment during the year.

## **IX. Audited Accounts for the Year Ended 31 May 2001**

A motion that the Honorary Treasurer's Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2001 be received was moved by the Honorary Treasurer Adrian Gibbons and APPROVED.

The Honorary Treasurer then expanded on a number of points, notably the loss on the year of £85,225 which was reduced by a surplus on National Events which reduced the net loss to £48,640. He explained the reasons for this loss which were predominately a reduction in Capitation income, a reduction in sales profit and Investment Income. Expenses were overspent on some budget headings which were not fully balanced by underspend in other areas. The total overspend was therefore £38,408

He confirmed the details are set out in the Notice and Agenda and concluded by proposing that the Reports and Accounts be adopted and they were APPROVED.

## **X. Presentations**

a) Mark Bonham then introduced Kevin Toon, Chairman of Round Table Children's Wish who thanked the Association for the continuing support and gave an update on the Charity. He advised that due to some similarity in the name with another charity they would use the shortform "RTCW" in the future. He encouraged the fund raising efforts and stressed that if Tablers are aware of a child who may welcome a Wish then do get in touch with the office.

b) Mark Bonham, Community Service Liaison Officer, then introduced Caroline Gilg of the Charity Whizz-Kidz who made a short presentation and thanked the Tablers who had supported the Nepal Trek, the CSLO Committee and those who were about to embark on the China trip which is expected to raise in excess of £100,000.

c) Mark Bonham also introduced Catherine Weller who was a patient who had contracted Leukaemia and had benefited from the work of The Anthony Nolan Trust who told her moving story leading up to her successful Bone Marrow transplant. She requested Tablers to continue to support this worthy cause.

Later in the day, further presentations were made:

### **SPORTS AND SOCIAL**

National Quiz Competition	Area 51, Central Scotland
National Debating Trophy	Not awarded
John Lymbury Cup	Not awarded
11-a-side Football Competition	Area 8, Lancs and Manx
Spoof Trophy	Andrew Wilmer – Area 7, South East Pennine
Butlins Golf Challenge Trophy	Paul Wharton – Area 35, Heart of England

### **MAGAZINE AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**

John Goldsborough Award (Table Magazine)	Clevedon, Nailsea and District RT 381
Mike Thorn Area Magazine Mug	Area 20, Northumbria
Colin Tipler Newsheet Tankard	Shirley RT 494
Leslie Crew Table Bulletin Trophy	Rayleigh & District RT 689
'News and Views' Award (Area Tabloid - non glossy)	Area 23, Severn Vale

Scoop Trophy for Publicity	Bath and District RT 91
National Media and PR “On-line” Trophy	Ledbury & District RT 581
Faiers Cup for Table Videos	Peterborough & District RT 284

**SALES**

B.E. (Ted) Warren Challenge Trophy (best per capita sales)	Darren Coleman, Area 26
Tony Mace Trophy (highest total sales)	Darren Coleman, Area 26

**INTERNATIONAL**

Danish Axe Award	Blair Forrest, Banchory & District RT 1085
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**MEMBERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT**

Quarterly Membership Winner	Isle of Sheppey RT 776
Barrow Bell	Whitley Bay & District RT 1274
Acton Trophy	Isle of Sheppey RT 776

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Stuart Devlin Community Service Trophy	Solihull RT 209
RTBI International Community Service Award	Welling RT 503

**CONFERENCE**

Kevin Tuckey Attendance Trophy	Isle of Skye RT 1133
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**MARCHESI MEDAL**

The President advised that there was one further recipient of an Award to recognise the tremendous contribution of a Tabler to the Association, particularly with regard to various Membership initiatives and support for the London Areas. He announced it was his great pleasure to award a Marchesi Medal, the highest honour that can be bestowed on a Tabler, to Bernie Skivington of Dartford & District RT 143. After receiving the acclaim of the AGM Bernie addressed the meeting, gave his thanks and encouraged everyone to get involved.

**PLYMOUTH CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

The President welcomed the Plymouth Conference Chairman Jeremy Saunders who introduced the Conference Committee and the President then presented the Chairman of Newcastle Conference 2003, Len Aitchison, with the Conference Chairman’s Jewel and Shield.

**XI. Resolutions submitted by National Council and Areas**

Note: Agreed Resolutions are shown in **bold**.

The President advised that in view of representations that had been received the order the Resolutions would be taken would not be as the Agenda. Resolution (2) would be discussed first. The President sought the Meeting’s approval to take this Resolution first, which was **APPROVED**.

**(2) VAT REFUND RESERVE TRANSFER.**

Submitted by National Council

**“That the Association shall transfer £64,625 from the VAT Refund Reserve to the Income and Expenditure Reserve for the year ended 31 May 2002.”**

The Honorary Treasurer Adrian Gibbons formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the National Council and then outlined the rationale.

The Resolution was **CARRIED**.

### **(3) ANNUAL BUDGET**

Submitted by National Council

**“That the Constitution and Rules of the Association be altered as follows at Rule 13(d) ANNUAL BUDGET At its Annual General Meeting the Association shall approve a budget for the financial year commencing on the following 1st June and shall also determine the Capitation and Entrance Fees payable in the same period.**

The Honorary Treasurer Adrian Gibbons formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the National Council and then outlined the rationale.

T The Resolution was put to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

### **(1) 2002//2003 BUDGET.**

Submitted by National Council

**“That for the period 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 the Capitation Fee and Entrance Fee be £43.20 (inclusive of the Public Liability Fee)”. (Note: £30.00 for 2001/2002).**

Mark Smith, Honorary Secretary advised that Area 14 who had submitted Resolutions (7) and (8) in the Notice and Agenda, now wished to withdraw these Resolutions as the Amendment they have submitted to Resolution (3) covers the points they wished to raise. The President sought the meetings approval to withdraw the resolutions, which after confirming the wording of the Amendment was **AGREED**.

The Honorary Treasurer Adrian Gibbons formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the National Council and then spoke to the Resolution.

The President advised the meeting that a number of Amendments had been received for this Resolution. These had been composited to two Amendments with the permission of the proposers. These were confirmed by the Honorary Secretary:

#### **Amendment One**

**“That for the period 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 the Capitation Fee and Entrance Fee be £35.50 (inclusive of the Public Liability fee) to be achieved by reducing the Budget for Conference to £0, the budget for Website Development and Maintenance to £7,000, discontinue *Tabler* magazine and cease to provide funding for International representation and WoCo, RTI and EMA with immediate effect.”**

Proposed by City of Nottingham RT 59, seconded by Grantham & District RT 307

#### **Amendment Two**

“That for the period 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2003 the Capitation Fee and Entrance fee be £34.75 (inclusive of the Public Liability fee) to be achieved by adoption of a revised budget”

Proposed by Clevedon, Nailsea & District RT 381, seconded by Keynsham & District RT 392

The Amendments were formally moved and after contributions to the debate by a significant number of delegates and observers the Amendments were put to the meeting by the President.

Amendment One after being read again was put to the meeting and was **LOST**.

Amendment Two after being read again was put to the meeting and was **LOST**.

The original Resolution (1) was then put to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

**(4) UNITY MOTION**  
**Submitted by the National Council**

**(1) Affiliation of International Associations**

““Amend Rule 5 (a) by inserting after the word “Ireland” the following “together with affiliated International Associations”

Insert new subsection as follows:

**“PROCEDURE FOR AFFILIATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**Any National Round Table Association desiring to be affiliated to the Association (hereinafter in this rule called the “National Association”) shall comply with the following conditions:-**

- (i) The National Association must be a full member of Round Table International and**
- (ii) The National Association must grant the Association reciprocal status rights and affiliation to the National Association and**
- (iii) The National Association shall apply for affiliation to the Association in such form as shall from time to time be determined “**

**and renumber the following sections accordingly””**

**(2) Changes to Constitution**

**Rule 20: Alteration of rules**

**“(c) Insert new section and re-number accordingly**

**“Any Resolution which if carried would involve an alteration, amendment or addition to the Constitution and Rules of the Association No’s 1,2, and 6(a) or the Standard Rules for Constituent Tables No’s 3(a)(i) and 8, may only be placed before a General Meeting of the Association if such proposed change has been previously approved by a preceding Annual General Meeting of Round Table International, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5.3.7 of the Constitution of Round Table International as adopted in August 2001.”**

The International Officer, Chris Horsfall formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the National Council and then requested Arawn Johnson (NC Area 25) to speak to the Resolution.

The Resolution was put to the meeting and **CARRIED**.

#### **(5) DUAL GENDER**

Submitted by Area 26

“That Standing Rules for Constituent Tables be amended to permit constituent Tables of RTBI to consider candidates for membership based on their suitability and irrespective of their gender; and that this be achieved by substituting the word “Person” in place of the word “Man” in Clauses 3(a) (i) and (ii); and, by making such other changes as are required elsewhere in accordance with this.”

Donal Mullane, Beckenham RT 104 formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the Area and then spoke to the Resolution.

After contributions from many delegates the Resolution was put to the meeting and **LOST**.

#### **(6) PERSONALISED NUMBER PLATES**

Submitted by Area 22

“That a sum of money be used from the VAT Refund Reserve monies to buy all Areas a personal Registration Number Plate – RTB 1 followed by the Area number – i.e. Area 22 will have RTB 122, Area 35 will have RTB 135 etc.”

Gavin Parkes, Frodsham & District RT 940, formally moved the Resolution on behalf of the Area and then spoke to the Resolution.

After discussion the Resolution was about to be put to the meeting but was withdrawn by the Area which was **AGREED** by the meeting.

## **XII.**

### **Appreciation's**

The President expressed appreciation of his fellow Officers and members of the National Executive. On behalf of the Association he made presentations to Vaughan Harris, Mark Smith, Noel Tyler, Mark Bonham, Andy Kennedy and Jimmy Smith, the six members of the National Executive who were retiring from the Executive, who all suitably responded.

On completing his term of office the President said:

“ I would like to say a few words about the members of Isle of Skye RT and the Tablers of Area 13. They have been everywhere this year and enjoyed themselves wherever they have gone, and for that I will be forever in your debt and their debt. The hospitality we have all received has been without bounds and the fun and fellowship we have experienced has been superb. I have compiled a few statistics for you. I managed to visit all 53 Areas, something I was determined to do. I've spent 153 nights off the Isle of Skye; I've travelled just under 80,000 miles excluding my trips abroad to Denmark, the USA and France. I've attended all bar one of my own Table meetings this year and have attended three of the four Area meetings. These figures don't really tell the story. I can look back on a year when it has been nigh on impossible to complete the tasks I set myself and the National Executive and the National Council at the start of the year. But you have to aim high in any organisation.

2002 was a very special year for RTBI with the 75th Anniversary of the Association. We launched it nationally with a Celebratory Lunch at the ICC on 23 March. Each and every Table and Area can have their own local celebrations; use the tools in our own hands to build our future. As part of the Celebrations I launched the 75th Anniversary Appeal at last year's AGM; as you've heard the Appeal has been well supported and at the JLM in June I hope to be able to present cheques to the thirteen benefiting charities which will total in the region of £30,000.

The National Executive meeting on Skye when they all discovered just how easy it was to get there. I represented the Association at the Armistice Day Parade in London with another twelve Tablers. Once again I dragged them North, the National Executive, Council et al for the National Council meeting and Presidential Ball in Nairn. I attended 41 Club Conference in Jersey and on the Sunday I was at the London Marathon – spectating obviously! One of the highlights of the year would have to be the JLM in June in The Council House in Birmingham when everyone when away enthused. Another spectacular night was walking into The Yorkshire Air Museum at the NSW. I have had so many varied nights out it's hard to describe. My aims for the year were to promote and support Table Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, this has been an ongoing theme over the years as we come to recognise that the Association is a collection of 800 or so individual organisations under a common banner and the role of the Table Chairmen and Vice Chairmen will become ever more important. Facilitating Area mergers was another aim, Areas 27, 28 and 42 made a brave start down this road this year with the formation of Area 54 – this is likely to be the first of many in the years to come. Reviewing the fixed costs of the Association was another. Progress has been made but not as much as I'd hoped due to lack of time on my own part. However, Ken has agreed to allow me to take this forward this year so there will be changes for the Executive and Council to consider.

There has been progress on a range of issue this year and they are summarised in my report. The National Executive team have taken their hobby to the extreme over the last year and I would like to thank them on your behalf and for their company and support on a personal level. My theme for the year in terms of the management of the Association through the National Council and National Executive was achievable goals and although we did not make it on all fronts we certainly had a valiant attempt.

Gentlemen, we all belong to a very special organisation; we all know that but it's not precious and whilst we are the current custodians we only have a limited time in Table and we need to be ready to hand it over to our successors in a better condition than when we took it on. To be National President of this Association is a tremendous honour, but to be a member of this organisation is a greater privilege.

One man, Louis Marchesi, set the foundations of this movement in place, one man effects it's future and that man is each and every one of you – each and every member of this Association. Each member has been responsible for carrying this movement forward through the last 75 years, each and every Tabler has had an influence on the Association and each and every one of us can effect the future of the Association the next week, the next month and the next year by taking their Table forward. Increase the profile of your local Table; be proud to wear the Round Table badge , encourage the current Membership to decide the way forward for this Association. We need to decide what style of movement we want to see, from the newest member to the National Executive we need to try and deliver this for the members of the future. Our history and our Founder are entitled to that commitment from the Association of today. Each member has the ability to influence the Association and we all should be proud to be members of the best young man's Association in the world. Make sure your Table is the best it can be and look to the future – not just to your own future but the future of the Association for those who follow you. Let's strive to take this Association forward together!

Gentlemen, it has been an honour and a privilege to be the national President of the National Association of Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland and I hope to spend the next six years that I have in Table furthering the cause of Round table both locally and nationally. I thank you all for the opportunity and wish you all well in the future. And now I want to pass on the Chain of Office to my good friend your President for 2002 – 2003, from City of Edinburgh RT, Mr Ken Donald.”

Nick then passed on the Chain of Office to the incoming President Ken Donald, who then presented Nick Lawton with the outgoing Past President's jewel and thanked him on behalf of the Association for all his hard work since he's been on the National Executive.

After an interruption by his Area and Presidential Liaison Committee, which included a full-scale invasion of the “Ken the Builder” crew with yellow safety helmets, the President commenced with his opening address.

“Today I hold the most important position I've ever held in Round Table. And it's one I've held for 12 years - I am proud to be a member of City of Edinburgh Round Table 193. For membership of our home Tables is **the** most important part of this great movement. I am both honoured and humble to be National President of RTBI but that honour is only possible because **you** are all members of **your** local Tables

We celebrate 75 years of achievements of Round Table. I want to draw on my experience with City of Edinburgh and on examples from tables across RTBI to see how we face our future.

You have of course all bought my National President's badge by now - though there are a few left if you have missed out! On that badge are the two things that dominate the view as you look north from Edinburgh - the Forth Bridge and the Firth of Forth. And rest of speech will feature lots of F words. First of these is to Focus on Fundamentals. I didn't join RTBI or even Area 39. I joined City of Edinburgh RT - the pleasures of Area, National and International Tabling came later. To get most out of local Tabling; to make it attractive to old hands and new members we have to get the fundamentals right. We have to have an interesting and entertaining programme; we need to let people know what's happening when and plan ahead accordingly; we need to conduct business professionally but only when we have business we actually need to conduct.

Table chairmen have vital role to play as **the** face of RT – much more often than not they are the first contact potential members and other organisations have with Table. They are the rock and foundation of strong local clubs. We need to support them in their roles and also their successors. Once more the programme of VC Forums will be stepped up in the coming year to make sure future Chairmen share best experience of the past and bring together new ideas. For we need to face our future - with pride in our past achievements - but with realism and purpose because we cannot rest on our laurels. We face a simple choice - forward or fail. The World has changed - greater pressure on free time and wider opportunities for how to spend free time. This means Round Table must focus on fundamentals to make sure we offer increasingly greater value for the investment of time and enthusiasm we are looking for. We must provide Value Added Tabling. Today's debate has highlighted that.

What we try to do from this Top Table is to provide a richly varied panoply of opportunities to you all, from the chance to take part in the London Marathon or cycle in the Sahara to attending the best social events volunteers such as you and I can organise both here and abroad. We also source deals and membership benefits, and give help for your membership recruitment. An awful lot more besides, if you read the

Officer's outgoing reports in the Order paper. Membership & programme are so closely linked – we must get programme right to make existing members want to come along every time. The enthusiasm that comes from a strong Table with a strong programme is so very infectious - people see Tablers having fun and think “I want some of that”. They also see Tablers making a difference - raising funds and spending them in their communities. And that spills out into new members coming along, trying Tabling for themselves and staying to join in. It is a virtuous circle of improvement. Never underestimate the huge personal development that simply being a member of Round Table can give you; be it by events or man management, the range of opportunities and the skills you acquire along the way

The Forth Bridge features on my badge - a fantastic piece of engineering - built to last. But it also famously needs painting all the time! And these are the types of bridges we need to build to keep RT strong, exciting and fun. We need to build our bridges with firm foundations and keep them strong with regular contact. Building bridges brings benefits for programme, for membership, for fundraising. I am proud that RTBI and Ladies Circle are working closer together – I encourage individual tables to keep building bridges with local circles - sharing social activities and fundraising.

When looking at the programme we need to look for bridges Tables could build - with organisations such as Young Farmers, Scouts and Universities as well as with local businesses and your local Council, local enterprise agency, local health services. All of these are large organisations with lots of young men who would love to join Table if only we didn't hide our light under a bushel. Build bridges and let your enthusiasm attract new members. I'm delighted to tell you that my own Council, Edinburgh has supported Round Table by donating the use of its historic City Chambers for our National Council meeting in March. Simply by asking them – and telling them about RTBI. There is also scope for lots of lateral thinking about building bridges. Prescott RT in Area 8 entered its local 5-a-side football league and got chatting with opponents in the bar afterwards - as a result a dozen 18-year-old guys joined table and one of them has now just become Vice-Chairman of his Table at 19.

Several Tables have endorsed the principles behind Volunteers in Action!. They have met with and organised events. In Cardigan and Teify Valley they had a Christmas Fair and are working together to organise Jubilee celebrations. In Salisbury the events they have worked together to put on have given each club new members. We should all use this opportunity to develop our clubs when there is arguably a higher level of community spirit around now than ever over the last ten years.

Whilst RTBI is struggling with numbers and needs to rejuvenate itself to attract new members, Tabling is growing and expanding around the world with numbers up and Tables opening in new countries - Turkey is chartering its first Table in September. Before then RT Moscow No. 1 receives its charter in July.

We need to keep building bridges with other national Associations, learn what lies behind their success – enthusiasm! and then see if we can adopt, adapt & improve it for ourselves. After all, we started Round Table and are generally held in high regards when we travel abroad as a result. We have had 75 great years and we must celebrate that - the Anniversary lunch was certainly one of highlights of my year as Vice President. Our own Tables celebrate their anniversaries through regular charter dinners - we must celebrate our history and look forward to face our future. We have so very much to be proud of; a unique heritage and some awesome achievements

I firmly believe that strong local clubs are the best future for RTBI. We need to build the bridges that will keep us strong and I call on you all to focus on the fundamentals of tabling to F\*\*\* off Failure.

Each and every one of you can make a difference; I challenge you to make that effort and go from here to improve your own clubs so that we may face our future with confidence and optimism. Make the most of your time in Table. Go forth and multiply if you will. But above all, enjoy yourselves along the way. Thank you for listening.”

## **XII. Election of Officers**

The following officers were declared to be elected for the year 2002/03

- a) Vice President: Chris Horsfall (Todmorden RT 487)
- b) Honorary Secretary: Mark Newby (Danum RT 1237)
- c) Honorary Treasurer: Adrian Gibbons (Huntingdon and District RT 410)
- d) Media and PR Officer: Fraser Skells (Holbeach & District RT 1082)
- e) International Officer: Arawn Johnson (Reading RT 6)
- f) Membership and Development Officer: Andrew Hornby (Brackley & District RT 1037)
- g) Community Service Liaison Officer: Mark Gray (Beeston and District RT 573)
- h) Conference Officer: Paul Jay (Walsall RT 71)
- i) Marketing and Sponsorship Officer: Mark Tipping (Poynton & District RT 1064)
- j) Sales Officer: Dave Ellis (Penrith RT 401)
- k) Sports and Social Officer: Shaun Redman (Batley RT 230)

In receiving the Vice-President's Jewel from the President, Chris Horsfall thanked everyone for their support particularly the members of Todmorden RT 487 and Area 9 and promised a continued commitment to this Association.

## **XIII. Appointment of Auditors**

Messrs. Clement Keys were re-appointed auditors for the forthcoming year.

## **XIV. Other Business**

- a) It was AGREED that the ballot papers be destroyed.
- b) Richard Miles presented badges to the President on behalf of ARTAG and invited RTBI members to join them at their AGM.
- c) Past President Vaughan Harris awarded the Past President's Pot to Donal Mullane from Beckenham RT 104.
- d) The President thanked the delegates and observers for their attendance and for their contributions and thanked the Tablers and 41 Club members from Area 19 and 12 for their hard work in arranging the AGM and also thanked the Tellers and Scrutineers for their efforts.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.30 pm.





**DISTRIBUTION (by E-mail where appropriate):**

National Executive

National Council

Area Chairmen

Area Vice-Chairmen

Area Secretaries

Table Chairmen (for the attention of the Table members)

Chairmen of National Events – (Conference, Sporting Weekend, Family Weekend)

**These AGM Minutes can also be downloaded from the Website for electronic distribution to all Members. – [www.roundtable.org.uk](http://www.roundtable.org.uk)**