

The Youngster

The Bulletin of the Y's Men's Club of Kingswood, UK
"To acknowledge the duty that accompanies every right"



February 2024

The President's Lunch

Thirty five Club Members, family and eight of our friends from the Hanham Club attended the lunch at The Radisson Blu Hotel in central Bristol. A three course meal was enjoyed by most of us although there were one or two glitches which, I believe, were sorted out successfully. Notwithstanding those few shortcomings, it was a pleasant social occasion and nice change to be meeting at a different venue to usual, in a first floor restaurant with wide views across the city centre. Our thanks to President Jerry and also to Sandy for making the arrangements.

February Coffee Morning

Wow! What a good result this month – takings of £70.50! Must have been a combination of the dry weather, the Salvation Army Band playing just down the street and the cakes from Angela, Eileen B. and Roger Cr. Next one, 2nd March.

It's not too late!

Race night at the end of next week and there is still time to sell tickets to punters and maybe there are a few horses going spare – ask Wally.

We will be needing prizes for the raffle so if you still have some unwanted Christmas Gifts or are clearing out your drink's cupboard, I'm sure they won't be wasted if you bring them along next week.

Dates for your Diary

15 th Feb.	Time of Fast Supper – A diversion from our usual ToF Suppers
24 th Feb.	Race Night at The Tynings School, 1930hrs.
19 th Mar.	Day trip by coach to The Royal Albert Hall for a Military Band Concert
21 st Mar.	Dinner Night: Speaker – Richard Bentham, Blood Bikes
13 th April	Jazz Night with Stuart Potter and The Strollers at The Tynings School

January Dinner Night

Once more we had a last-minute change of plan when advised that tonight's speaker from Meningitis UK was unable to come along due to a family bereavement. This resulted in Wally laying on another video presentation which had been prepared by Graham Walker with items selected by our former President Pete Sheppard entitled 'An Operatic Lunch with Pete Sheppard'. Any thoughts of a stolid, classical evening were soon dispelled when the first item came up – visuals started with a visit to a primary school dining room with the children about to start their lunch; the looks on their faces were something to behold when the 'Chef' broke into song with a rendition of 'La Donna e Mobile' from Verdi's 'Rigoletto'. Looks of bewilderment, astonishment, humour and appreciation increased as a young woman joined in with a short excerpt from 'La Traviata' – certainly a very entertaining way of introducing young children to Opera.

Despite the title of the presentation and the content of the first number, the pieces featured in the programme varied quite substantially with offerings from West Side Story, a magical moment from The Grimethorpe Colliery Band with part of the overture to 'William Tell' by Rossini: all players apparently virtuosi in their precision and dexterity. A comic piece was included with Dame Edna Everidge gate-crashing the Royal Box at a command performance and apologising to the King & Queen stating 'she' had made a mistake in barging in as 'she' had a better seat elsewhere in the theatre. A clip of a very enthusiastic (manic?) orchestra conductor was also shown (Tchaikovsky 1812) and brought a few smiles.

There were a couple more opera pieces with The Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana, by Mascagni then a Flash Mob version of the 'Brindisi' from Verdi's 'La Traviata' performed in what looked like a shopping mall.



The presentation was rounded off with Monserrat Caballe and Freddie Mercury's performance of 'Barcelona' – an impressive end to an unexpected evening.

Roger Cr.

Useful tip

Turn a regular Sofa into a Sofa bed simply by forgetting your wife's birthday.

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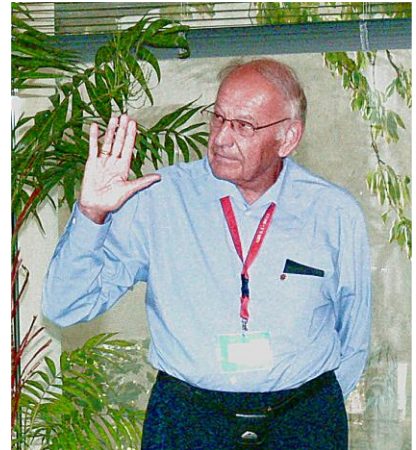
I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing.

If I had any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place!



Ernst Riesen

Dear Riesen family, dear Y's Men and YMCA Members - We know how the disappearance of a loved one and a travel companion is always a difficult moment to live through and how cruel life then seems. We wish Ernst's family and those close to him the courage to overcome this ordeal and the strength to continue moving forward. Ernst would have wanted it that way it seems! The memory of such a friend never fades. Once again, let those who read these lines know that the large and supportive family of Y's Men International and, in this case, his friends of the Kingswood Y's men's Club are wholeheartedly with the entire Riesen family and its former fellows of the former Geneva Club. The Kingswood Y's Men's Club would like to address their friend Ernst one last time:



To you Ernst, and to your family and loved ones: This Wednesday, January 31, 2024, was that of your departure for other horizons, towards an elsewhere that no one knows. May you find peace and the joy of finding those who were dear to you and who you missed! Your involvement within both the YMCA movement and the Y's Men's Club of Geneva demonstrated the level of your enthusiasm (meaning God with us) and the value of your actions. You were one of our members of whom we are very proud, and who attest to a beautiful life journey despite the pitfalls that it can sometimes sow on our path. Your friends from Great Britain and France as well as those many from Y's Men International will forever remember what you were. Your personality and your uprightness have always earned our admiration. Know "old brother" that the Y's Men movement is particularly happy to have counted you in its ranks. From now on, you have left our role of members to enter that rôle of Remembrance. The browsed Album of Memories will remind us of such good times of sharing and strong friendships, particularly during our District & Regional Assemblies and many others. Dear Ernst and dear friend, be forever grateful!

We fully share the pain of all your loved ones. The President of the Kingswood Y's Men's Club and all our members extend their most sincere condolences to the entire Riesen family in these sad circumstances.

For the Kingswood Y's Men's Club.

François Müntzer

More Sad News

It gives me no pleasure to report this very sad loss in the world of entertainment. News has reached me that the man who wrote the song "Oh the Okey Cokey" has died. What is even worse was the trouble they had getting him in the casket – they'd put his left leg in and well, you know the rest!

Borrowed from 'Off Shore Breezes' - Prince Edward Island, Canada

This policeman came up to me with a pencil and a piece of very thin paper. He said, 'I want you to trace someone for me.....'

Meet a Member - James Ball

James joined us in November 2022, having been introduced by Bob Gray who first made his acquaintance at Bristol 1904 Arts, previously known as the Savages. He is a Bristolian, born and bred in South Bristol. He started his education at Cheddar Grove Primary School and went on to attend St. Mary Redcliffe School where he obtained grades which enabled him to gain an apprenticeship with Scull Engineering as a draughtsman. In 1963 he moved to the British Aircraft Corporation as an undergraduate apprentice. At the age of 23, having gained a BSc in Aeronautical Engineering, he went to East Africa as a volunteer with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas). He spent over two years there, teaching mathematics and engineering at Moshi Secondary Technical School, and mathematics evening classes for the University of East Africa.



During holidays he travelled in the region visiting the surrounding countries in East and Central Africa. He was based in the town of Moshi near the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, exploring the forest and lower slopes



James in 1968 on Mount Kilimanjaro

on a Honda trail motorcycle. In 1968 he climbed to the summit - Uhuru Peak. Returning to the UK in 1970 James resumed his career as an Experimental Officer at Bath University where he gained an MSc. In 1974 he re-joined the Aerospace industry at BAe Dynamics, working in the Mechanical Technology Research Group. In 1991 he moved to Airbus UK, working in research and research management. Much of this was concerned with the development of structural composites technology. On retirement in 2004, he was the Academic Partnerships Manager for Airbus UK. In this role, he liaised with the academic sector in the UK and Government funding agencies. He also represented Airbus on the CBI Inter-

Company Academic Relations Group (ICARG). James married Mary in 1974 and has a son (architecture and civil engineering) and a daughter (occupational therapist). His son has presented him with three grandchildren. Mary died in 2020. He is a Justice of the Peace (Supplemental List), being appointed to the Northavon Bench in 1978 and retiring from active court duties in 2010. He has many interests, including swimming, roller skating, photography and is a member of U3A (University of the Third Age) groups. Bob invited him to join a few of our members at lunches at the Horseshoe in Downend and eventually asked him to join us at Club dinners. James found us welcoming and friendly and though he lives in Thornbury, quite a way from Downend, he enjoys our company and the fundraising we do.

55 years on.....February 1969 - The Party's over but.....

Every New Year Party we have in this Club seems to be an improvement on the last but the girls have really set themselves a task to better this year's effort. Apart from Bob Gray's contribution in running the games, the wives ran the whole thing. This included magnificent food, a fruit cup with a kick like a Shire Horse and a Cabaret which had just about everything, including a slinky Commere (Mo Hunt - where have you been hiding your talents all these years?). A dance by a bunch of mini-skirted squaws, which would have made Hiawatha's eyes pop out, was complemented by a song and dance act by a team of athletes like the Olympics never saw. Then there was a 'baby' the size of which would have made any pram-maker's blood run cold. Heather Linforth, of course, was the mastermind responsible for much of the show and we have to thank Christine, a member of that talented Ryan Price set for teaching the squaws how to dance. A wonderful party, girls- we're all proud of you!