

41 Club House report.

April 2022.

Well at the start of the resumption of live meetings, after the Covid lockdown, I was sad to report that the discipline of replying to the House officer about meeting attendance sank to an all-time low, as per The Life of Brian you were almost all “very naughty boys”.

This led to somewhat of a crisis meeting in November at La Cueva restaurant in Cheadle when I lost my rag, for which I apologised, but my outburst was well overdue, and borne more out of sheer frustration than anger and it certainly provoked a reaction.

David Ham minuted the outline plans those present suggested for curing this problem ongoing and hopefully if these ideas are followed this will resolve the issue.

The next meeting was scheduled was to be our Christmas meeting at the Golf Club but, due a misunderstanding the Club hadn't in fact been booked, so a new venue was therefore required and Turquoise in Cheadle offered to help and in the end they provided a splendid night, good service and good food.

And you were all very well behaved in making your bookings, which I much appreciated.

21 attendees were present including the National President who clearly thoroughly enjoyed himself even though in true C&G style we insulted him at every possible opportunity.

The change to pub meetings has really helped increase attendance numbers and the freedom of food choices and the atmosphere of the pubs has worked really well.

Tonight's Attendance of 27 is record for this year and great to see.

I thought maybe a rough league table of speed of responses might prove interesting, so without naming names, well not all of them, here we go.

One of the specialist groups of poor, but now improving respondees, are surprisingly those with involvement in IT and in fact they are also in the younger age demographic.

They rarely respond promptly and often reply by WhatsApp.

You know who you are!

It seems old farts can reply to an email that baffles our IT wizards.

So top of the league for prompt responses is our oldest member, his reply comes almost immediately after Capt Walker sends out the meeting notification email, and this despite often being abroad, in a brewery or on a train. He has mastered the skill of click reply to Peter and I am sure he would be pleased to offer help to those of you who still find this an IT challenge too far.

Mid table gets a bit messy with a variety of slightly delayed replies concerning those who have to either;

- (a) Fire up their kit, as leaving it on uses electricity and they can't afford to do that.
- (b) Ask their wives, mistresses or inflatable girlfriends how to use a computer or, heaven forbid, a mobile phone appropriate for this century.
- (c) Those who can't remember if they have replied or not.
- (d) Those who think they have replied.

(e) Those who await permission to attend from their bosses, wives or girlfriends, some of those options are the same.

Then we get into another specialist class those who send enigmatic replies, and not mentioning names are quite Ham fisted. Eg, "Can you put me down as an apology but I'll probably be there". When I ask "how I should advise the caterers to allow for this", I get no immediate response.

This group also includes those who book in but forget to advise on their food choices, thus creating further admin.

But holding up the league with a variety of all the above, but also including booking in for a meeting date a week before the actual meeting date, or arriving when not booked in, or not arriving when booked in, cancelling an hour before the meeting, or blaming a collapsed wall, and again not naming names, our incoming Chairman excels in all those categories.

He gets my award for creativity and a reinstated version of the "Late apology" trophy.

I thank you all for helping by replying much more quickly...well most of you... and I wish the incoming House officer all the best for the new year.