



44 Club News

The magazine of the SMBP 44 Association

No. 1 JULY 1978

44 Club News

Published by, and for the members of, THE SMBP 44 ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 148 BELLINGHAM HOUSE STRAND, LONDON WC2R 0JX

WE ARE IN BUSINESS

A Club from the Chairman

On 28th April 1978 I was invited to speak to Shell-Mex House. With the latter you see the annual "get together" for SMBP members held on the premises of Shell-Mex House, 22, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. It is a day of fun and games for the members of the Club. It is a day of fun and games for the members of the Club. It is a day of fun and games for the members of the Club.

IN THE BEGINNING

Since we have been established with our offices on the top floor of Shell-Mex House in the Strand, London, we have been blessed with a very successful start. We have been blessed with a very successful start. We have been blessed with a very successful start.

THE FLOOD

The first major natural disaster to hit the Club was the flooding of the premises during the winter of 1978. The first major natural disaster to hit the Club was the flooding of the premises during the winter of 1978.

LETTERS SALOON

Although operations continue to be carried out, it is a pity that the Club has not yet been able to hold its regular meetings. Although operations continue to be carried out, it is a pity that the Club has not yet been able to hold its regular meetings.

No. 30 DECEMBER 1990

44 Club News

HONORARY EDITOR: STANLEY WISE
Published for the members of the SMBP 44 ASSOCIATION by the Editor, 44 Club News, 22, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF

NOW WE ARE 50 - NOT OUT!

WE'VE TURNED 50 this 44 Club News passes its 15th birthday. Looking through the previous 49 numbers, you can see how, under the editorial guidance of Stanley Wise, it has grown from a tiny start to a publication which has helped to bring the members of the Association together for so many years.

THE ORIGINAL was published in November 1977 and, at the time, was a small, hand-printed, 16-page magazine. It was a time when the Club was still in its infancy and the members were still finding their feet.

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100th Issue Autumn 2003

44 Club News

HONORARY EDITOR: WISE WARDEN
Published for the members of the SMBP 44 ASSOCIATION by the Editor, 44 Club News, 22, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF

A CENTURY - and still going strong

This is the Centenary edition of the Club News. The first edition came out in July 1978, shortly after the formation of the 44 Club, proudly announcing "We are in Business". As Peter Cook points out in an inside article, the founding fathers of the Association believed that the Club would automatically have a life of somewhat over 55 years. With the Club News coming out quarterly, they would probably have been amazed that it was destined to reach one hundred editions and still be going strong a quarter of a century later!

Club News has been published for over 25 years. It has been a pleasure to edit it for so long. It has been a pleasure to edit it for so long. It has been a pleasure to edit it for so long.

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150 Not Out!

This is the 150th edition of the 44 Club News – a run (almost unbroken!) that goes back to the very first edition in July 1978. We look back over the 38 years that the magazine has been published every quarter and revisit some of the people and their stories over these times. In doing so, of course, we also look back on the 44 years of Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd

Useful Contacts

The 44 Club – For anyone who worked for Shell-Mex and BP

The SMBP 44 Association

Colin Hill Secretary
14th Floor
40 Bank Street
London E14 5NR
Tel: 020 7934 5132
Email: 44-club@shell.com

44 Club News

Honorary Editor
Paddy Briggs
40 Broom Park
Teddington
TW11 9RS
Tel: 020 8977 1712
Email: pb@brandaware.co.uk

The Shell Pensioners Association (SPA)

– For Shell Pensioners

SPA Secretary
14th Floor
40 Bank Street
London E14 5NR
Tel: 020 7934 5129
Email: helen.page@shell.com

The BP Society

- For BP Pensioners

Administration Secretary
The BP Society
Chertsey Road
Sunbury-on-Thames
Middlesex
TW16 7LN
Tel: 01932 762029
Email: BPSociety@uk.bp.com

Let us know your Email

Please advise the Club Office (Email as under Colin Hill above) of your Email address.

You can also do this by visiting the Club website:
<http://www.44club.org.uk/>



WELCOME **Guest Editorial by** **Richard Springett,** **Chairman of the 'Shell Pensioners Association'**

It was an honour to be invited to contribute to the 44 Club News as Guest Editor – that is until I had to confront the challenge of what the content of the contribution should be. My thoughts turned to something dear to my heart - the subject of apprenticeships and its broadly related cousin, mentorship. This is based, in part, on my own personal experience all those years ago in Shell-Mex and B.P.

With no career guidance available at the thoroughly good secondary school that I attended I was not prompted to think too much about life after school. So I just went with the flow of learning and examinations. Then in 1968 I attended interviews with SMBP in Shell-Mex House. I remember being questioned on what part of the Company I might like to join – Administration, Marketing, Finance or Operations. To an impressionable teenager, Operations sounded fun even though I had little understanding of what it meant. And so I became part of that year's intake into a structured two year trainee scheme spending time at Terminals, in a Regional office and with a stint in Operations Network Planning in Head Office. This was an enlightened apprenticeship scheme during which I met and worked with a large number of staff at all levels. What marked it out for me was the unstinting mentorship that I received from every person I spent time with - despite the fact that I was taking up their time whilst learning from them and usually producing very little myself! But the patience of those who helped me provided an experience that was to be with me for the rest of my career.

Since my retirement from Shell seven years ago I have been involved with a national Charity called 'Young Enterprise' which delivers one-day (and longer) programmes in schools with the objective of raising awareness about the world of Business amongst young people. I am a volunteer member of our local Area Board and an occasional presenter on some of the one-day sessions. It is always a privilege to spend a day in a classroom and see for myself the energy that the students have and it is that energy that mostly drives the programme along. When it comes to the insights that the students have about the potential for their working lives I have a rule of thumb. A class will divide into three parts. Some 30% will have clear ideas of what they want to do and what they need to do at school to help them achieve that. Another 20% believe that they have a good chance of finding both fame and fortune in areas such as football, music and the performing arts. But half the class will have little idea about what they want to do in the world of work! Our programmes set out to try to help young minds understand the links between what they do and achieve at school and their prospects for whatever career they may seek. We explain that under-achievement at school can restrict options!

The world of work has changed considerably since my early days. Members of work teams can be very distanced from one another and 'virtual'. Part-time and flexible working will often rotate team members. Communication is mostly by Email, texts and via video conferences. I often wonder if concepts like 'space' or 'time' really exist for them at all! This all makes management, especially 'mentorship', much more difficult in modern day business. Nevertheless I sincerely hope that the young people that I meet in schools today will be able to find something like the generous guidance and support that I was fortunate enough to receive during those distant days in Shell-Mex and B.P. It really made the difference for me.

Richard Springett



Don't forget the AGM and Reunion!

The 2016 44 Club AGM and reunion of members will be held in Shell Centre on 21st April assembling at 17:00. Please put the date in your diaries. You will be made very welcome. It's not too late to send Colin your application forms.

The Silver Line

Included with this edition of the magazine is a flyer giving details of 'The Silver Line' - a helpline for older people. The Silver Line provides an excellent service which members may find of value or, indeed, may wish to assist as a volunteer.



Email and Website

Thank you to all the members who have advised us of their Email address and also to those visiting the website at <http://www.44club.org.uk/>. The website has some new features including a video of Bournemouth branch's Christmas event and another from the Archives of Dunball Terminal! Please keep those Email addresses coming to Colin: 44-club@shell.com

Anniversaries

The tradition of including members' Wedding Anniversaries in the Club News goes back to its very first edition. **However we can only do this if members let us know about them!** (No record of marriage dates is held on the member database or anywhere else.) Do please let us know if you would like your big Anniversaries to be included (anything from Silver onwards). And if you send a photograph (now or then, or both) we'll try and include these as well.

Fancy a trip to Austria?

The Shell Travel Club advises us that they have a few vacancies on a trip to 'Austria and its Nostalgic Trains, Lakes and Castles of the Tyrol' for twin rooms in a 4* Hotel based among spectacular mountains and lakes of the Tyrol. 8 days/7 nights 19th -26th May 2016 £859 p.p. Further details from Anthony Jonas ☎ 01252 727346 or ✉ and@ukjonas.net

Your Editor and Mrs. B will be on the trip, but please don't let that put you off!



Club address

You will see from the 'Useful Contacts' info on Page 2 that the Club's address has changed. It is now as shown in the box. Although we have been in Bank Street for some time it is only now that our postal address reflects this. Mail sent to Shell Centre will continue to reach us.

The Shell-Mex & BP 44 Association
14th Floor
40 Bank Street
London
E14 5NR

The '44 Club News' - 38 years and 150 editions later!

The story of the SMBP 44 Association begins with a communication to '... pensioners (and dependants) of Shell-Mex and B.P., Shell and BP Scotland, Power, Dominion, National Benzole, Bottogas and Lubricants Producers' (the 'SMBP Group') in November 1977'. The communication said that it '... may be the first of many newsletters, with more interesting and varied news than is in here: for this is frankly a recruiting circular... for an organisation formed to look after the welfare of SMBP pensioners.' That organisation was, of course, the SMBP 44 Association.

The spring from which the '44 Club' broke was the 'Grandfathers Club' whose idea it was (see Club News 149 and the interview with Clifford Grinsted). The target group for recruiting members were 9,500 ex-SMBP employees and dependants who were already retired and whose pensions were paid by the 'Shell-Mex and B.P. Pensions and Provident Fund'. In other words those SMBP employees who had retired at, or before Brand Separation and who had not therefore had their pension rights transferred to either Shell or B.P. And for whom the parent companies Pensioner associations (SPA and BP Society) would not be appropriate. In this Newsletter the following statement is made which may be the prompt for a smile or two:

"There is one acute difficulty in setting up an association simply for SMBP pensioners. And that is anno domini – we are all getting older! Unlike the BP Society and the Shell Pensioners Association, The SMBP 44 Association will not have a yearly influx of newly-retired staff to keep up the numbers and replenish the band of enthusiastic voluntary helpers so essential to keep such ventures going... we consulted the trustee company, and they tell us that actuarially it will take twenty-two years to reduce the number of people in the SMBP fund to half what it is now. We therefore concluded that our Association could enjoy a useful existence for ten to fifteen years at least... to make doubly sure we decided on one further step. We do not intend to restrict membership to SMBP pensioners. Anybody who at any time was a regular employee of any of the companies in the SMBP Group will be eligible to join on retirement...we feel that there may be many among the 14,000 former SMBP Group employees now working for Shell or BP... whose friends will principally be among SMBP Pensioners... they will be welcome"

Well thirty-eight years on we are still going strong. And it is interesting to note that from the start, and contrary to what many think, it was intended that the requirement to be an SMBP pensioner was relaxed providing the individual was an ex-employee of SMBP and retired.

The first edition of the '44 Club News' was published in July 1978 and this proudly reported that the SMBP 44 Association had been '... formally inaugurated'. An office for the Club had been found in Cecil Chambers and by April 1978

an 'astonishing total' of 3,365 applications for membership had been received (each paid a £1 joining fee). In addition over 1,000 had offered words and letters for the new 'Club News'! A 44 Club logo had been designed and it remains today exactly as it was then. Crucially it was clear that the intention was to publish a regular newspaper for members. Referring to possible 'social activities' for Club members the newsletter was cautious '... if there are any they will have to pay their own way and will need to

be organised on a local basis'!

This first edition was a professionally produced newsletter albeit in black and white and only 8 pages. Compared with where we are today there are some features which remain – News about the Club of course, Wedding Anniversaries, and a few nostalgic reflections on the past. One from Jack Sullivan who had started work at the Shell-Mex depot in Stratford E.15 as a 'lorry boy' in November 1925. This was in a 'Gossip Column' called 'Hither and Thither' under the pseudonym

The Honorary Editors

July 1978:	John Higdon
September 1984:	Harry Hossent
June 1989:	Doreen Hale
September 1990:	Stanley Webb
March 1992:	Barrie Dugdale
March 2001:	Mike McMonagle
Summer 2010:	Paddy Briggs

'Norman House' (it was really Editor John Higdon!). There were also Obituaries section an inevitable ever-present for the next 149 issues.

By *December 1980* (Edition 10) the newsletter had evolved into a very solid and well-structured and well-written (and well-received) quarterly periodical for the now 4,202 members of the 44 Club. That issue reported that the Club's first Secretary Geoffrey Baines had had to stand down because of ill-health. He became the Club's first 'Vice President'. The new 'Organiser/Secretary' was D.C. Ross. Birthday Cards make their first appearance in this edition with the report that the Club '... has been marking the birthdays of some of our older members by sending off a Club birthday card' – a tradition that, of course, continues today. Social activities had been getting underway (self-funded no doubt!) with reports of branches in the West Midlands, Wales, Manchester, Humberside, Northumbria, Inverness, Glasgow, Cambridge, Chelmsford, Bristol, Bournemouth, Tunbridge Wells, Brighton and Kingston-upon-Thames.

Four years later the Newsletter reached its quarter century – Edition 25 came out in *September 1984*. Harry Hossent was now the Editor succeeding John Higdon though 'Norman House', the latter's alter



ego, was still contributing his Charivaria. The branch activities have now expanded to such an



First Distributor Trade reunion October 1990

Back row: Colin Rose, Rex Hatcher, Ted Osgood, *Maelor Jones*, Alan Flowers, David Soame, *David Richens*, *Dick Tinson*, *Eddie Morton*.

Front Row: Derek Higgins, Dick Owen, *Maurice Husbands*, Mike Treasure, *Mike Howard* (*Names in italics also attended the 25th anniversary get-together in 2015*)

extent that there is a separate 'Social Calendar' with the upcoming plans of no less than 25 branches shown. The front page story is about a Club tour to the Normandy beaches (the group in the photograph comprised D Day veterans). Jimmy Robertson's retirement as 'Head of Industrial Lubricants' in SUKO gets a mention and 'Norman House' recalls him rather disrespectfully (!) as a 'sprog Industrial salesman under Arthur Swain in Manchester'!

In *June 1988* the fortieth edition of the Newsletter was published – ten years after the first and the Editor looked back ten years saying that '... like really good Scotch were still going strong... the 44 Association is alive and well and it doesn't intend to let that famous and well-loved company identity be forgotten!' By now Mike Moss was the Club Secretary and at the AGM he organised the Club Chairman, Tom King, announced that membership now stood at 5,700! He also praised the Club's 'Regional Coordinators and Branch Officials' a reflection of just how buoyant the self-generating branch activities had become. The Club's President was Sir

John Greenborough who looks as if he enjoyed his role!

In early 1989 Harry Hossent died suddenly to be succeeded by Doreen Hale (the Club's only female Editor to date!) and Mike Moss stood down as Club Secretary to be replaced by Ken Froy. Ken received support in Shell-Mex House from volunteers Len Evans, Greta Chandler, Diana Bulley, Renee Raphael, Maura Flynn and Archie Price. In March 1990 the forty-seventh edition recorded the first 'Distributor Trade' reunion in Tewksbury the previous October. Over the years since these events have usually found a place in the magazine – and some of the original participants are still involved!



John Greenborough



New Masthead

No. 50
DECEMBER 1990

HONORARY EDITOR: STANLEY WEBB
Published by & for the Members of
THE SHEEP AS ASSOCIATION 90 BOEY FARM, SHELLEY HILL HOUSE
STRAND, LONDON WC2R 0BB TEL: 075 287 0772

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A PART OF OUR HISTORY

The fiftieth edition of the Club News appeared the following year in December 1990, now edited by Stanley Webb. It celebrated not just fifty editions of the newsletter but 13 years of the SMBP 44 Association. The Editor described the publication as being a ‘.. living thread of good fellowship which helped to foster and promote the astonishing family spirit the Association inherited from its ex-Shell-Mex and B.P. founders’. This Fiftieth issue launched a new Masthead for the front page – one, slightly modified, we still use today.

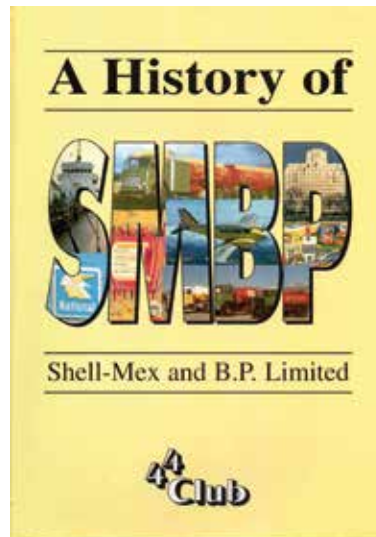
In December 1991 the Christmas edition of the Club News should have appeared but instead members received a mailing of just the Social Calendar and the Obituaries accompanied by a mournful message from Tom King saying that the edition had been unable to be issued for ‘budgetary reasons’! (This is why on Page one of this Edition 150 the Editor refers to an ‘almost unbroken’ run!) Quite what the story is here is perhaps best left in the mists of time – suffice to say that since then the ‘44 Club News’ run has not been interrupted again!

The very next edition after this setback, number 54 in March 1992 and one of the first to have expanded to twelve pages, was the first to be edited by Barrie Dugdale who was soon to stamp his unique style on the newsletter which was to become much more of a magazine under his stewardship. In June 1993 Brian Bowden succeeded Tom King as the Association’s Chairman – it was in this year that membership of the Association is believed to have peaked at 5,690. Brian described the Club as ‘... a marvellous collection of old friends and colleagues. They enjoyed each other’s company at work and now enjoy seeing each other in retirement. I see it as a group without political ambition simply getting together because they enjoy each other’s company and not as a pensioners’ association or as a pressure group’. BJB as insightful as ever methinks!



John Higdon

In March 1995 (edition 66) an enterprise began which those like your editor looking back on distant times now find invaluable. John Higdon wrote the first of his contributions to a ‘History of SMBP’. There was nobody better to undertake this task – he had joined Shell-Mex Ltd as a mailing boy in 1929 and left SMBP as S&T Division Manager in 1968 – to become a barrister! He was later a founder of the SMBP 44 Association and of course the first Editor of this magazine. He wrote the first four chapters of the SMBP history in 1995 before his death in September that year. The history was



completed by David Burchell, Tony Page and Brian Straton-Ferrier and published in 1999. We are in their debt.

The 70th edition of the newsletter appeared in March 1996. Thirteen branches from Devon and Cornwall

to Inverness reported their events which included visits to theatre and Art Galleries as well as many lunches and dinners. There was also a precursor of our current ‘Life after Oil’ feature called ‘The things people do...’ – this one featured Peter Joyce of Inverness who had taken up glass engraving. Edition number 85 in December 1999 reported the move of the 44 Club office to Shell Centre as Shell commenced its (almost total) departure from SMBP’s head office of 44 years.



Peter Joyce

Twenty editions later in March 2001 Edition number 90 of the newsletter featured the retirement of Ken Froy after twelve years as Club Secretary and announced that his successor would be Charles Madge. This was also the first edition edited by Mike McMonagle with Barrie Dugdale having put aside his eye shade after no fewer than 35 editions and nine years. Sixteen-page editions were to become the norm under Mike’s editorship from edition number 100 in Autumn 2003 onwards. The century was celebrated with good wishes from Shell UK whose then Chairman Clive Mather wished us well for “...the next 100 editions and beyond”. We’ll do our best Clive I promise!



The design and production of the magazine was at that time contracted out to former Shell employees Lisa Clunie and Barry Russell, a decision taken for both cost and operational reasons. The same arrangement continues today. Under Mike's editorship the newsletter finally morphed into a legitimate magazine – in particular with the introduction of colour. It also created a house style that was consistently applied. Colour came in edition number 119 (*Summer 2008*). This development was helped by new printing technology and also by the fact that with decline in membership (and therefore print run) it became affordable. The first colour edition featured the Red Arrows flying over the Club office in Shell Centre!

The introduction of colour also gave extra impetus to the 'News from the Branches' feature with photographs of members enjoying events becoming a prominent feature of subsequent editions – as here from Edition 125 in Winter 2009 with a

group from North Midlands enjoying bowls.

Mike McMonagle's final edition as Editor was in *Spring 2010* in which he contributed a nostalgic and characteristically well-researched piece on Brand Separation called 'Grounds for Divorce' – an article which revealed things about the 'split' which many of us were unaware of. Top journalism!

Your current editor's first product was number 127 in *Summer 2010* when I introduced a visual style that continues today. This was a twenty-page edition and for the last six years the pagination has been either sixteen or (usually) twenty. Magazines are like friends – we get worried when they behave abnormally so I have applied a style and a content which is predictable – it should be easy to navigate and familiar. Not too many surprises! I have also built on tradition by featuring people who had interesting careers in SMBP and Shell or BP but have also had an interesting 'Life after Oil' – there has been no shortage of candidates from Charles Harrison to Alex Sard to Les Thacker and Geoff Sullivan and many others. They don't make them like these anymore! The crossword was another innovation and whilst not all of the clues have an SMBP connection



North Midlands Branch 2009

many of them do. Readers seem to like this and the entry numbers have steadily grown.

So how many more editions of the magazine have we got in us? Quite a few I think as the Club is pretty buoyant as we reach 150. There is also now a website so we are online as well as interactive! The magazine is owned by our members and without their contributions it would disappear. I hope that our founders back in 1977/78 would feel that over the years we have all kept the SMBP flag flying – and I hope that you will agree that we ain't spent yet!

PSB



The SMBP Flag



First Colour Edition

Wedding Anniversaries

Blue Sapphire (65th)

Jimmie and Moire Robertson
15/21 Grase Maire Boulevard
Peregian Springs
Queensland 4573, Australia
8th February 2016

Diamond

Derrick and Margaret Wray
35 Highfield Road
Horbury, Wakefield WF4 5NA
27th August 2015

Percy & Joan Beard

37 Butts Lane
Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 0NE
12th December 2015

Ray & Mary Lister

17 Westholme Close
Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4BE
3rd March 2016

Golden

Barry and Jean Lees

Ingleden Farm, Horns Road
Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4QU
2nd April 2016

Ken & Gloria Gray

99B Grantham Road,
Waddington Lincoln LN5 9NT
11th April 2016

Graham and Marion Cowdery

7 St John's Close,
Rownhams,
Southampton SO16 8JW
12th February 2016



John Lindley reminisces about the Barton Lubricants and Grease Plant



I left school in July 1954 at the age of 16 with 5 'O' Levels but no career plan – this was conditioned partly by the fact that I would soon be called up for National Service. But in October I came across an advert in the local paper 'The Pendlebury and Swinton Journal':

Young Man wanted to train for administrative and/or executive position – must have 5 'O' levels. Contact:

I rang the telephone number quoted and found out that it was a Shell-Mex and B.P. installation - a Lubricants plant which had been opened a few years earlier in Barton, not so far away. I knew little about them but they sent me an application form which I completed and following an interview I was offered a job! My starting salary was £3 10 shillings a

Week One: General dogsbody
 Week Two: Mailing room
 Week Three: Lamson Tube duties (the tubes went to various parts of the plant and carried oil and grease samples and papers).

gourmet menu and classy wine list as well.]



The 'dogsbody' week was the most hazardous for a callow youth as it involved fetching and carrying to various parts of the plant including those occupied by substantial ladies of Amazonian proportions (except that they had a full set of 'bumpers'). I was fair game but what at first were indignities became pleasures!

In those days Harry Humberstone was the Manager (circled in red in the grainy photo above). He lived in Prestatyn and was picked up every morning by a chauffeur-driven car at Warrington Railway Station or if there were railway problems he would be taken home and picked up there by car! His office was very elegant with a coal fire.

week, the working hours were 0830-1630 (Monday to Friday) and 0830-1230 on Saturdays. SMBP recruited two other 'young men' alongside me and the three of us were placed on a three week cycle:

Barton was unique in many ways. It had its own Social Club a few hundred yards away with football and cricket pitches, Crown Green bowls and a Club House with bars, a snooker table and table tennis. There was also a pig farm where the animals were fed by canteen leftovers [Ed: I recall a dining room with a

At the time I was there (I'm ringed in yellow in the photo when I was about 17) there were about 600 employees all of whom (apart from the Boss!) relied on works buses to get to and from work. Once a year there was a Dinner/Dance at Belle Vue Zoo. The management and their guests would dine in a separate room from the rest of us and dance in a roped off area that we couldn't enter! One of the other managers was Frank Green (ringed in green) who was later to be the Barton Manager.

These were the days of 'Workers' Playtime' on the wireless which came twice to our canteen when I was there. After a while I moved to the General Office which had long rows of desks with eight clerks to a row. There was NO Smoking, NO Talking, NO Biro's (pencils only). To get a replacement pencil you had to take the old one to your Section Head who would either give you a new one

or a sort of metal sleeve to get a bit more out of your pencil stub.

My 'Call up' came in November 1956 at which point aged 18 I joined the SMBP Pension Fund [Ed: good call!] and on demob I returned to Barton where I found nothing much had changed but things did get better when mechanisation came in with a Hollerith machine fed by punched cards. This reduced some of the

clerical drudgery. The girls in charge of the machines, working in a sound proof room, were nice too! I received a promotion and moved in with them (Honestly!!).

In 1965 I transferred to Shell-Mex House and started the rest of my career but I remember with affection (and a bit of shock) my Barton days!
John Lindley

News from the Branches

('Contact' refers to the person to get in touch with in a Branch for further information about events etc. In some cases events may be organised by a different Branch member and where this is the case these contact details are also given). Branches welcome attendance of 44 Club members and friends from anywhere in the UK (or elsewhere!) so don't feel restricted.)

Inverness

Contact: Keith Pickering
☎ 01349 368134
✉ mwfpickering@gmail.com

Coming up:
Coffee morning and meeting. Maple Court Hotel on last Thursday of every month

Aberdeen

Contact: Ken Melville
☎ 01224 319 169
✉ kgf.melville@btinternet.com

Glasgow

Contact: Elaine Ellen
☎ 0770 3578614
✉ elaine.ellen@btinternet.com
www.smbp44glasgow.weebly.com

Twenty-two members gathered at Sarti's Italian Restaurant in Glasgow on 10th December for Christmas Lunch. This was the first time that we have used this venue and it couldn't have been better! The staff were friendly and efficient and the festive decorations exactly what it says



Glasgow Branch

on the tin. The choice of menu was superb and everyone present had a great time - eating, drinking, chatting and putting the world to rights (not necessarily in that order)! You can see the photographic evidence on our website.

The first meeting of 2016, held on 21st January was, once again, very well attended. So much so that we had to send for extra coffee! Our



speaker was Mr Watt of 'Past and Present'. Mr Watt has given a talk every year for the last 27 years, always on

a different theme. That must surely be a record. This year his theme was Antiques of the Past – no longer in use. We were treated to a fascinating talk, ably demonstrated with real items including buttons, buckles, snuff boxes, lorgnettes, portable ink bottles and pens, tiny little boxes used to keep a stamp in and even an opium pipe (lest anyone be concerned it was just the pipe – no opium!). Mr Watt always extends an invitation to visit his shop if you are in the area – the address is Past and Present, 3 Lainshaw Street, Stewarton KA3 5BY.

On 25 February we enjoyed listening to Christine Miller. She continued the story of her family history research. It was extremely interesting to hear how the investigation progresses and Christine gave us some links to use if we want to do some family history investigations of our own. These are on our website should any readers be interested.

We continue to try and spread the word about the Glasgow Branch and please do get in touch if you would like to come along to our meetings.

continued on page 10

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

As always we extend a very warm welcome to newcomers. Just contact Elaine. The final meeting in the current calendar is in March. Our AGM will be followed by a quiz.

Belfast

Contact: Mr. Norman Mavitty
7 Barn Hill, Donaghadee BT21 0QA.
☎ 028 9188 3445
✉ nmavitty@hotmail.com



Belfast Branch

A super Christmas lunch was had at Donaghadee golf club on Friday 4th December. It was a lovely sunny day and we could see Scotland only twenty miles away. The menu not only gave us the traditional turkey and ham but a choice of eight main courses. Billy Ball and John Young the Shell PLR are in the photograph - they both had a big vote of thanks from the rest of the happy 44 Club diners. It's great to report that our numbers for this annual event are not decreasing - our turnout was 23 people.

Londonderry

Contact: Mr. A.T. Hoy
125 Mill Road, Portstewart BT47 2QJ
☎ 028 7134 8337
✉ hoyschool@gmail.com

Northumbria

Contact: Keith Taylor
☎ 0191 4137 185
✉ keithtaylor275@btinternet.com

On December 9th 28 members of the Northumbria branch met at the Sea Hotel, South shields for our Christmas lunch. It is hard to believe that another year has passed since we were last there. Everyone enjoyed the excellent service and food.



Northumbria Branch

Coming up:

13th April: Noon for 12.30pm. Light Bar Lunch. The Chichester Arms, South Shields.

11th May, 8th June, 13th July, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October: As above.

West Riding

Contact: Terry Morley
☎ 01132 663 586

We had our Christmas lunch at The Queens, Harrogate Road, Leeds in November. Approx 30 people attended - members, wives and friends. As you can see a good time was had by all.



West Riding Branch

Coming up:

14th April: Noon for 12.30pm. Light Lunch. The Queens Arms (A61) , 201 Harrogate Road, Leeds. LS7 3PT.

4th August: Noon for 12.30pm. Light Lunch. As above.

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491

Our Christmas lunch this year was held on the 3rd of December at the Tree Bridge Hotel, Great Ayton. 32 members attended on a grey wet day, some travelling a long way to attend, from Coventry, Skipton and Ponteland to mention a few places. Great food, great company, but not so great weather.



Teesside Branch

Coming up:

21st April: Noon for 12.30pm. Lunch. The Crathorne Arms, Crathorne, Near Yarm TS15 0BA (Just off A19 near Yarm turn off south of Middlesbrough).

18th August: Noon for 12:30 Lunch. The Bay Horse, 88 High Street, Great Broughton, Stokesley, North Yorks.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

Contact: Jim & Audrey Broughton
☎ 01522 805 319
✉ Audrey.broug2@ntlworld.com

On 8th December 40 members held their Christmas lunch at the Consort Hotel at Thurcroft. The meal was excellent and enjoyed by all. We had a raffle and also sold copies of the postcard of Lincoln's 25 barons, raising £167 for charity.



Coming up:

12th April: Noon. Light Lunch. The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Rotherham, S66 9JA.

23rd August: Noon. Light Lunch. As above.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 437 2072 / 02261006720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Twenty-nine members and guests gathered at the Cresta Court in Altrincham on 17th December for our Tinsel and Turkey lunch in our own suite with exclusive bar. Attendance was somewhat down but apologies were received from eight members and guests due to illness or prior engagements so hopefully numbers will pick up next time. The lunch is good value for money and was served in prompt and friendly fashion. Jim Moss again entertained us with his usual speech followed by the ever popular raffle.

Coming up:

12th April: 12:30 pm. Carvery Lunch. Hare and Hounds, Timperley, Altringham. WA15 7LY.

10th May: Carvery Lunch. As above.

9th June: Carvery Lunch. As above.

12th July, 9th August, 13th September and 13th October: Pub Lunches. Contact Pat Withers for details.

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall

☎ 01829 270 095

✉ normanwaterfall@talktalk.net

Mid December saw twenty-seven members and friends enjoy the run up to Christmas with an excellent lunch at the Forest Hills Hotel in Frodsham. The local Manager of 'Premier Christmas' gave us two Christmas figures which we put up for a blind auction. The proceeds of this and other generous donations were £141 which we gave to the 'Teenage Cancer Trust'. We chose this Charity because the Chairman's Grandson has been suffering from a brain tumour and the charity has provided support which makes the treatment



North West - Western Branch

more bearable. We are very grateful for the donations.

Coming up:

20th April: 12:30pm. Lunch Plassey Restaurant, Wrexham.

29th June: 12:30 for 1:00pm. Lunch at Forest Hills Hotel, Overton Hill, Frodsham. WA6 6HH.

14th April, 12th May, 9th June, 14th July, 11th August, 8th September, 13th October: Noon-2:30pm .

Monthly informal get-together. Whitby Social and Sports Club. Just turn up.

12th October: 12:30 for 1:00pm . Lunch. Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere (☎ 015394 48553).

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett

☎ 01384 833 132

✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

Our Christmas Lunch this year was once again held at Wharton Park Golf & Country Club, Bewdley, a lovely venue, on Wednesday 17th December 2015 with 38 members and guests attending. Our meal was excellent as usual as was the atmosphere. Although we were in a different room than the one we have used on previous occasions it was very cosy. Following on from lunch we had our usual Christmas Raffle with most of the prizes being purchased out of club funds which are raised by members & guests at raffles held during the year. Many thanks go to them for their support.

Coming up:

For details of the monthly meetings (every 3rd Wednesday) of North Midlands Branch at Northampton Working Men's Club, 56a-56b Sheep



North Midlands Branch

Street, Northampton (New Venue!) please Contact John Wooding
☎ 01604 643292.

August: (Date to be confirmed) Carvery Lunch at Island Pool, Cookley followed by Bowls.

October: (Date and details to be confirmed) Lunch and Skittles at The Squirrel, Kidderminster Road, Alveley, Bridgnorth WV15 6LW.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

✉ malcolmbury@btinternet.com

Another very successful Christmas lunch was held at Berkhamsted Golf Club in December. Just over 80 attended which included 44 Club Chairman Rick Westley and his wife Vicky. The food was voted as even better than previous years so a provisional booking has been made for 2016.

A welcoming speech by Branch Chairman Ken Longhurst was followed by a few kind words from Rick. Then a successful raffle, organised by Brian Lovell, will help the funds towards future branch events. The AGM was the usual short affair with all the existing committee being re-elected.

A branch committee meeting was held in January and details of the agreed 2016 programme have now been circulated to all members. As most of our members are now on the e-mail system, there is a considerable saving on postal costs. A circular was posted to all the others.

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Coming up:

17th May: Noon onwards. Pub Lunch. The White Horse, London Road, Bourne End, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2RH. Contact Christine Cowie (☎ 01442 873375 or 📧 cm.cowie@btinternet.com) for further information.

7th July: Noon onwards. Lunch at the Two Brewers, The Common, Chipperfield, near Kings Langley WD4 9BS. Contact Mike Howard. (☎ 01442 873375 or 📧 mandmhoward@hotmail.com) for further information.

1st September: Visit to Frithsden Vineyard, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3DD. Vineyard Tour, Tasting and Lunch. Contact Ken Longhurst (☎ 01296 660711 or 📧 k.c.longhurst@talk21.com) for further information.

12th October: Pub Lunch at the Bridgwater Arms, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted HP4 1PD. Contact Malcolm Bury (as above).

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon
☎ 01485 540346
📧 tomcannon36@gmail.com

Coming up:
7th July: 12:00 for 12:45pm. Lunch at the Sandringham Club.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston
☎ 01473 210 860
📧 rosemary.grayston@sky.com
Or **Contact:** David Cattermole
☎ 01473 610 534
📧 davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

The Christmas lunch was held at



Ipswich Branch

the Rushmere Golf Club and 34, a lower number than usual attended. Everyone enjoyed the meal and many went home with lots of prizes. The day was so enjoyable that the branch immediately booked the same venue for next December.

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell
☎ 01206 86747
📧 peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

Our last lunch of the year was tinged with sadness as our Secretary Trefor Everett was very ill and sadly passed away at the end of December. Trefor was dedicated to the branch and will be deeply missed.



Chelmsford Branch

The Xmas lunch was held at the Chichester Hotel and we had 93 members and guests attend, the highest for many years. It was a very enjoyable meal which was followed by a raffle with the PLR taking home many of the prizes. Thanks to all those who donated prizes. Peter Gobell along with Peter Holcombe and Tony Scott-Russell have already arranged the 6 venues for 2016.

Coming up:
5th September: Noon for 12:45pm. Lunch at Beauvoir Arms, Downham, Nr Billericay

19th October: 11:30 for 12:45pm. Lunch at Orsett Hall.

Plymouth & West Wales

Contact: John Harvey
☎ 01291 641279
📧 jharvey@phonecoop.coop

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin
☎ 0117 9684 638/ 07748787392
📧 rogergamlin@aol.com

At our Christmas 'get-together' 26 members were present for the lunch including Tim and Angie Green from Henley on Thames! (Angie had been a secretary in Bristol). The raffle organised by Bert and Maureen Basely raised £75. Roger proposed a toast to absent friends.

Coming up:

July: Visit to Yeo Valley Organic Garden and Café. Details to follow.

September: Pub Lunch. Details to follow.

East Kent

Contact: Bernard Smith
☎ 01227 262 775
📧 tessdale2004@hotmail.com

Coming up:

7th July: Lunch at the Wagon and Horses, Faversham Road, Charing TN27 0NR (Joint Lunch with Tunbridge Wells Branch).

Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Charles Richards
☎ 01892 528 231
📧 cajrichards@yahoo.co.uk

Coming up:

May/June: Pub Lunch The Birch Hotel, Hayward's Heath. Watch this space! (Joint Lunch with East Kent Branch).

7th July: Lunch at the Wagon and Horses, Faversham Road, Charing TN27 0NR (Joint Lunch with East Kent Branch).

September: Lunch at the Crown Inn, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells TN3.

14th October: 11:30 Autumn Lunch at the Hydro Hotel, South Cliff, Eastbourne (0123 720 643) (Joint lunch with Brighton Branch).

Brighton

Contact: Tony Barnes
 ☎ 01883 622 037
 📧 Tony381@btinternet.com

Coming up:

14th October: 11:30am Autumn Lunch at the Hydor Hotel, South Cliff, Eastbourne (0123 720 643) (Joint lunch with Tunbridge Wells Branch)

Guildford, Kingston & London West

Contact: John Burton
 ☎ 020 8977 3732
 📧 john_a_burton@talk21.com

Coming up:

Possible Pub lunches in May and/or July. Details will be circulated.

23d August: From 11:30/Noon (sharp). Lunch. Thames Court Riverside Pub on towpath upstream of Shepperton Lock.

October: 11:45am for 13:00. Reunion and Carvery Lunch at Lensbury. Details will be circulated.

Harrow

Contact: Greta Chandler,
 27 Elm Ave, Ruislip, HA4 8PE
 ☎ 020 8866 8452
 📧 gretalon@gmail.com

Coming up:

14th June: Lunch at Miller and Carter (The Plough) 154 Bury Lane, Ruislip, HA4 7TH. Bus stops before the Lido. Please advise Greta before 10th June if you plan to attend.

18th August: Lunch as for 14th June.

Bournemouth, Southampton and District

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker
 ☎ 01425 837285
 📧 stelony@talktalk.net

On 11 December 2015, the first event of the 'new' Bournemouth and Southampton District 44 Club was held in the magnificent Oceana Suite at the Cumberland Hotel, Bournemouth. A total of 44 members and guests enjoyed fine Christmas fare, followed by our afternoon entertainment by the 'Southern Barbershop Chorus' - a first half of melodious close harmony singing followed by, to use their words 'Christmas Silliness'. We were all up from our seats and involved in various Christmas songs including the 12 days of Christmas, to name but one of them. It was deemed to be a resounding success by all who attended.

Coming up:

3rd May: Pub lunch at The Pilgrims Inn, Hythe Road, Marchwood, Southampton SO40 4WU



Bournemouth, Southampton and District Branch



SMBP 44 CLUB 'MINI BREAK' ISLE OF WIGHT

Monday 20th February 2017 - Open to all 44 Club Members & Guests



4 Nights (Half Board) - ADULTS ONLY
 Comedy Time featuring two great comedy acts, live music and more
 From only £180 per person
 Car Ferry crossing £22.50 per car
 Upgrade to a 'Signature Room' for £220pp

A 4 nights/5 day mini break is being organised by the 44 Club's Bournemouth and Southampton Branch. It is open all 44 Club members and their guests. The break is at the Bembridge Coast Hotel, Bembridge, Isle of Wight which is a Warner Leisure Hotel and comes highly recommended. The hotel has a swimming pool and a Gym and quizzes, card games, archery, bowls and rifle shooting are available. Set on the North-East of the island facing the Solent with fantastic views it is a great base for exploring the Isle of Wight's attractions which include Osborne House and Cowes. The hotel has consistently good reviews on Trip Advisor:

"The rooms were spacious with en-suite bathrooms and big showers and were cleaned every day. Tea and coffee and biscuits were provided in the rooms. Food was delicious with a wide choice from the menu or self-service buffet. Staff were very happy and helpful." (February 2016)

To book your break please call the hotel directly ☎ 01983 873 931 quoting code: "FORTYFOUR"

We are grateful to Tony Reeve-Parker the Secretary of Bournemouth Branch who is organising this special event on behalf of the Club. Further information from Tony: ☎ 01425 837285 or 📧 stelony@talktalk.net

Our Debt to 'The Node'

'The Node' was disposed of by Shell in 1990 having been part of the SMBP/ Shell family for 38 years. Since then it was never quite successful commercially in various incarnations and it is currently the site for the 'conversion and creation of 18 exclusive homes at Node Park' (See: <http://www.nodepark.co.uk/> if you're interested!). At the time of the Sale in 1990 the Editor of the '44 Club News' Stanley Webb looked back at its early days. It's an interesting story which in edited form we republish here:



Stanley Webb (1990)

"With the completion of a major reorganisation by Shell-Mex and B.P. in July 1950 and with the removal of wartime restrictions at last it was decided in 1951 that to achieve utmost benefit from the new climate of opportunity, a formal system of education and training was needed, and a detached location at which this could be implemented. Responsibility for turning the plan into reality lay with Tom King, the General Manager concerned, Leicester Scaife (Establishment Service Manager) and Bill Harrison (Staff Manager). Mike Hawes was appointed Training Manager and, with his field experience and academic bent, proved an admirable choice. While Mike began to develop plans, Tom King and Leicester Scaife studied a number of possible sites - including the Civil Defence College at Sunningdale - and finally learned that the Astley Courneys (well-known hoteliers at the time) were trying to dispose of a place they had leased at Codicote (Herts) known as 'The Node' it having failed to make a

success as a hotel. All concerned in Shell-Mex and B.P. quickly became convinced that the place (in spite rather than because of the bathroom exotica!) was the ideal location.

It took some time to get approval from the parent companies to the two aims of the project: (a) whether SMBP should proceed with plans for formal training, and (b) whether The Node should be acquired for the purpose. But once this approval was given the new training centre gathered pace and was formally opened in 1952 by the then Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Transport, Harold (now Viscount) Watkinson. MD Cecil Vignoles's immaculate welcome preceded an equally immaculate declaration from Harold Watkinson but on a wet day the large green umbrellas which Mark Mothio had miraculously acquired came into their own. The first event after the opening was a two-day gathering of Divisional Managers that top management had been convinced was necessary to discuss personnel policy and procedures and the first Senior Executives Course followed in May 1952. And so The Node was launched, destined to become as much a part of Shell-Mex and BP as Fulham Repair Centre, Barton Grease Plant or the Aberdeen Terminal. There was something indefinable



about The Node which created an atmosphere remarkably conducive to sober reflection and concentration on the matter in hand. This applied even to the wooden structure erected as a major venue for course work. I still remember the hot afternoon when George Glass came to talk to us about international aspects of the oil industry. In his unforgettable Scots accent he said "I shall not draw the blinds long as I can see the whites of your eyes I shall know that ye are still awake!" The tranquil haven at the top of the stairs in the main building, widely called the 'Green Room', invariably found favour with convenors when only modest numbers were involved - particularly when any of them were struggling with one of those extra-curricular papers which senior managers were so often asked to produce. Harold Barry and Tom King - who invariably collaborated on such things - made a practice of spending a week-end in the Green Room to finish the job. On one occasion it was the current course's week-end off and there were three or four students left who lived too far away to go home. Harold and Tom naturally had an early evening beer with these loners, but they were then persuaded by the manageress to dine in the small Resident Manger's room where she displayed her artistry by serving a seven course meal of Edwardian splendour.

Let us know your memories of 'The Node'!

Your Letters

Tony Teal

May I pay a small tribute to Tony Teal who died suddenly in December on the eve of his 90th birthday? Tony will be remembered by many as one of the computing pioneers of Shell-Mex and B.P. and, after Brand Separation, he enjoyed a successful career with Shell, both at home and overseas.

Following retirement Tony, with his wife Anne, conducted several assignments with 'Voluntary Service Overseas' (VSO) and it was during one of these that my late wife June and I spent an idyllic three weeks with them on the Cayman Islands. One of many happy memories of a good friend.

*Frank Irving
Netherbrook
Chorley Hall Lane
Alderley Edge
Cheshire SK9 7UL*

Clifford Grinsted (1)

I want to express my deep appreciation of the article about me in the recent Club news which so comprehensively reminisced over my life and especially my time in Shell-Mex and B.P. and its subsidiaries. It stirred happy memories of good friends and times never to be forgotten. I would like to mark this in a special way so, as I approach my 94th birthday, I enclose a donation to the Benevolent Association of £94 in memory of the many I knew as friends and colleagues who are no longer with us.

*Clifford H Grinsted
5d South Cliff Tower
Bolsover Road
Eastbourne BN20 7JN*

Clifford Grinsted (2)

It was a delight to read the profile of Clifford Grinsted in the recent Club News – as a member of the Grandfathers' Club myself I have such happy personal memories of him. Not least when he visited us in



Australia. Clifford was one of the many fellow Grandfathers who made their way to the retiral home which had been built for my wife Maire and me in the hills behind Noosa on Queensland's 'Sunshine Coast' some 140 kilometres north of Brisbane. We welcomed Tony Driver, Graham Smailes, Dennis Keeping, John Bamberg, David Soame and others to our sunny part of the world. Clifford and his wife Patricia came in 1988 when there was World Expo 88 in Brisbane, which they visited. We had a wonderful afternoon with them the highlight of which was Clifford firing up Maire's electronic organ which he soon got jumping about with a range of highlights from his musical repertoire! A happy day.

*Jimmie Robertson
15/21 Grasemere Boulevard
Peregian Springs
Queensland 4573
Australia*

Jeane Farrant (née Nugent)

My mother Jeane Farrant, who died on 16th October 2015, was the widow of Dennis Farrant who worked in Shell Lubricants in Shell-Mex and B.P. and who retired in 1975. Jeane was working in Number One Kingsway as a teleprinter operator when she met my father in 1949.

I would like to thank the '44 Club' for enabling my mother to have felt that she was still part of that world – especially through the medium of your interesting and informative magazine. It is a great tribute to the paternalistic nature of SMBP and its successors that it had the ability to make everyone connected with its employees feel that they too were

part of the family. I often spot in the magazine familiar names and faces of friends and colleagues of both my parents. Thank you.

*Julia Hooper
Willow Cottage
Snows Paddock
Windlesham
Surrey GU20 6LH*

John Penn

My husband Stan and I were deeply shocked by the sudden death of John Penn who was a Shift manager at Thame Terminal where I worked during the 1970s and early 1980s.

John was a very kind and caring man and Stan and I spent many happy hours with him and his wife Mary and we considered them our closest friends. When they decided about ten years ago to sell up in England and go to America it came as a bit of a shock, but I am happy to say they had a great time out there. Stan and I visited them and they arranged a great holiday for us in their 'RV' visiting places like the Grand Canyon, Mormon Tabernacle, and the Painted Desert and more - it was for us the holiday of a lifetime.

*Mary Pickering
25 Copt Oak Road
Narborough LE9 5EF*

Bishopbriggs

I was delighted to see on Page 12 of the latest '44 Club News' - 'Bishopbriggs - the first day' a photograph, with many faces I knew from the early part of my career. The best part was that my late father-in-law Alex Fraser was the first name in the frame. My wife Sheana, Alex's daughter, found this very poignant as we had attended the family open day with our eldest son who sadly was the only one of Alex's grandchildren that

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he got to know before his untimely death.

David Hillier
9 Deanstone Gardens
Deanstone
Doune FK16 6AZ



Alex Fraser

Brand Separation

I have often wondered how SMBP, on Brand Separation in 1975, decided who should go to Shell and who to BP. Perhaps a member knows the



detail of this event? [Ed: OK friends let's get to the truth on this one. How did they divide the Shell Sheep from the BP Goats?]

Tom Cannon
55a Chapel Road
Dersingham
King's Lynn PE31 6PJ

Moaning Doug!

I have just finished reading Edition 149 of the Club News. The 'Editorial' made me stop and think. I am now 83 years old (and I do mean old) and can sometimes be lonely - mainly because at this age my circle of friends is shrinking. It would be unfair to blame friends because they are no longer alive but that doesn't stop me from missing them - particularly at lunch time on a Friday when we used to meet at one of the local pubs or at the British Legion and discussed (and put right) all the world's problems. The particular 44 Club Branch I belong to is Bournemouth which appears to have suffered a shortage of members - please see previous 'moan' which you kindly published in full.

[Ed: Doug is still a moaning old B but I'm sure he will be pleased at the resurgence of the Bournemouth branch under Tony Reeve-Parker!]

Doug Quayle
24 Poppyfields
Gillingham SP8 4GH

By Royal Appointment

Reference the interesting recent correspondence concerning Royal Appointments. In the early 1960s I was employed in Lubricants Department working for the late Harold Tozer on Exhibitions. To transport equipment we were loaned a van, in SMBP colours, from the Fulham Motor Repair Centre, a Commer Cob, as I recall. I was stopped by the Police in Hyde Park on the way to the International Machine Tool exhibition at Olympia, unbeknown to me Commercial vehicles were not allowed in Royal Parks. I was cautioned and directed out of the nearest gate.

Some week later I was stopped again, this time driving down the Mall. I was unaware this formed part of a Royal Park. A bit of quick thinking, a vague reference to a problem with the pump at the palace and pointing to the magnificent 'By Royal Appointment' transfer on the driver's door earned me a salute and a wave on my way.

David Roberts
10 The Crofts
Balloughton Meadow
Douglas
Isle of Man IM2 1JQ

A Tribute to Trefor

I would like to pay tribute to Trefor Everett who sadly passed away on 30th December. Trefor was the Secretary of the Chelmsford Branch and acted both as a committee member and as the organiser of events for over twenty years. He served the members with true professionalism and dedication to the SMBP 44 Club. We had ten lunches per year with up to 90 plus members attending and this took up most of his personal time. We are very grateful to both him and his wife Pauline for this exemplary service and for what he gave to the Branch. As Chairman I was closely associated with Trefor and know that the members and I have lost someone irreplaceable and I'm sure that all



who knew him will agree that it was an honour and a privilege to have been his friend.

Peter Gobell
Chairman of the 44 Club
Chelmsford Branch

Barton

I worked at Barton between 1972 and 1978 as Distribution Manager under Frank Greene and Ray Carter with Alan Jones Production Manager, Bob Torres Chief Chemist, Colin Whitelegge Grease Plant Superintendent and Jack Evans Lub Oil Plant Superintendent. I had been promoted into the plant from a Lubricants Sales Engineer job in Manchester. I was previously an Group Industrial Fuels Rep (GIFR) in London and had held various clerical posts in Shell Mex House where I started as a 16 year old in 1955 (interrupted by 18 months National Service in the Royal Navy).

Later as Production Planning Manager in Cheadle Hulme (after 6 years abroad in Kenya, Panama and Barbados) I was sadly involved with the closure of both the Barton and the Shell Haven Lubs plants and the commissioning of Shell Lubricants Centre Stanlow (SLCS). There is an annual reunion in Worcester of ex Shell Lubricants staff (SLUK) which brings back many memories.

My career in SMBP and Shell was made possible by SMBP's sponsorship of my further education at night school in Mechanical Engineering at Borough Polytechnic and subsequent Membership of the Institute of Fuel and gaining Chartered Engineer status.

Gerald Keene
61 King George Gardens
Chichester PO19 6LE

Welcome New Members

Mr David Mottram	- Devizes
Mrs Anne Teal	- Arundel
Mrs Brenda Yates	- Wigan
Mrs Brenda Hale	- Great Sutton
Mrs Pauline Everett	- Benfleet
Mrs Jenifer Hall	- Southampton
Mr Eifion (Taffy) Rees	- Felinach

Birthday Thanks

80th It was so good to be remembered. My big birthday celebrations included a visit from our daughter and family from New Zealand for six wonderful weeks and twelve of us had a great weekend at Lensbury which had been a second home in my SMBP/Shell days. We remain 'Country' members. I still play indoor tennis and enjoy the country walks on our doorstep here in Hampshire.

Brian Lewis
37 Percival Road
Chandlers Ford SO53 4TS

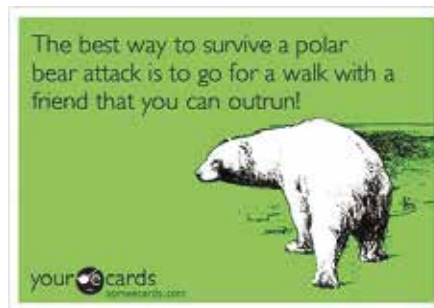
80th Bill always used to say that if anything happened to him that Shell would always look after me - they certainly have. My only regret is that he isn't here now for my 80th - we truly were a happy couple.

Barbara Strachan
61 Milton Street
Montifieth
Dundee DD5 4QF

82nd It's so nice to know that you have friends like the '44 Club'...

Sylvia Dignam
3, Sycamore Close
Kidderminster
Worcs DY10 2EY

84th I was trying to pretend that I'm not 84 but it's still nice to be remembered! I stepped down last year from managing my Division of the Derbyshire 'Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association' (SSAFA) when I realised that many of our cases are age related and when it dawned on me that they were mainly for people ten or twenty years younger than me! I still write monthly features for a local magazine which keeps the 'grey cells' active as M. Poirot would say! I travel widely and writing about these trips is a bonus. This year I am venturing to Svalbard 500 miles short of the North Pole. I understand that in Svalbard the polar bears eat people who can't outrun them. I better get fit! (**Ed:** Or go with a friend!)



Brian Spencer
7 Hackney Road
Hackney
Matlock DE4 2PW

85th I have such happy memories of my years in Shell-Mex House and later in BP Oil. I worked for 'Brookie' Brook-Nichol in Purchasing (never a dull moment!) and for Alex Davidson and then for Ted Harris and David Kendall in Finance. I cannot believe that I retired 30 years ago! I am very fortunate that at 85, and few arthritic twinges aside, I still enjoy a reasonably active life.

Jackie Ford
73 Barnehurst Avenue
Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 6QD

86th At 86 it is a wee surprise to me that I am still breathing but I'm not complaining! I enjoyed the article on Clifford Grinstead who I had the pleasure to meet via a colleague at the Domestic Heating Centre who was a member of his Salvation Army band. A true gentleman.

Desmond Brown

86th I first came to the area where I now live in 1951 and the first friend I made was a Shell Secretary who lived at Lensbury as did many Shell employees in those days. I thought of it the other day when I hosted friends there - it's still a treat though very different now. I married in 1960 - my late husband worked in the famous Number One Kingsway so I was brought up in the SMBP family and I am very grateful for it - and that it still continues via the 44 Club.

Gwyneth Mason
6, Holly Bush Lane
Hampton
Middlesex TW12 2QS

86th I am pleased to be reminded of those rewarding days when we had command of a handsome proportion of the UK Petroleum Market and worked (for the most part) with grateful customers who appreciated the good service we gave them. And of how much we gain from the continuing friendships that are a valuable legacy from our career days.

Getting old can be very frustrating, but a lesson I learned from Personnel was to 'Take the Helicopter View' of life. The limitations one has to accept later in life are much less debilitating when viewed objectively 'from a distance' than when just treated as personal problems!

Having completed 86 years of life I am still active volunteering at the Bluebell Railway. They try to look after me and don't expect me to stand on narrow ledges or lift heavy castings (I still do it a bit - with limitations which I'm not ashamed of!). I still look quite fit so I don't get any of the sympathy given to those who look more haggard - perhaps I should change my face cosmetics brand! Thanks for the memories

Jim MacCarthy
20 Reigate Road
Reigate
Surrey RH2 0QN

87th I spent all of my working life with Shell-Mex and B.P. from the age of 14 as an office boy with the Petroleum Board. I was later a Driver's Mate and a Driver at Dingle Bank and Haydock Terminals until I retired in 1982. They were by and large very happy years - a few ups and downs but very good times.

Tom Christie JP
174 Church Road
Haydock
St Helens WA11 0LD

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BIRTHDAY THANKS

88th It's good to be remembered and to be reminded of those happy days with the 'old firm'. I started with Power on 1st April 1954 – in those days a customer would sign a contract for an extra ¼d a gallon!

*Barrie Wilson
New House
The Hedgerows, Ditton Priors,
Bridgnorth WV16 6SQ*

90th On behalf of Roland (Ron) thank you for remembering his big birthday – he is still plodding along on his four and three wheelers – albeit slowly!

*Sylvia Horsfield
48 Norris Rd.
Sale M33 3QR*

91st My Pension provides me with a comfortable life, with a little help from the Government via the State Pension and from my daughter who cares for me. I'm very happy, though I need my legs back! Oh well, I did lots of dancing at the SMBP functions all those many years ago I suppose!

*Eunice Peacock
5 Clinch Green Avenue
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex TN39 5HN*

91st Seventy-five years ago I started my career in oil with the Petroleum

Board prior to war service in the R.A.F. After the war I was fortunate to be employed by SMBP and subsequently to join Shell. Finally I was honoured to serve as a Shell PLR accumulating a total service of more than forty years in a variety of roles and privileged to be accepted as a member of the Shell 4 Star Club. The working atmosphere in SMBP was a real joy, similar to that of a large caring family. That sense of belonging has extended into the years of retirement and I am grateful to all those responsible for continuing to keep us very much a part of such a paternal company.

*Maldwyn Clements.
44 Woodland Park Road
Newport
Gwent NP9 8LY*

95th Thank you so much for remembering me, it's always a lovely surprise particularly as my husband Eric died such a long time ago. I'm always delighted to receive the '44Club News' and read about those happy Shell-Mex and B.P. days!

*Beryl Westray
19 Milford Court
Milford-on-Sea
Hants SO41 0WF*

99th My mother Eveline (Betty) Charney (of Wheatley Oxford) would like to thank the '44 Club' for their birthday wishes to her for her 99th birthday on 9th January. She celebrated the day by opening her many cards and enjoying a family lunch out – with a glass of wine!

Jennifer Newton



Thanks also received from Bill Wright (80), Margaret Hughes (85), Eileen Readman (81), Muriel Mothio, Frank McIntyre (87), Lawrie Townsend, Jack Tufnell, Anne Curry, Mavis Humphries, Paddy Driver (90), Cliff Pretty, Alex Davidson, Peter Mann, Marion Rush, Mrs EJ Deathe, Joyce Bristow, Vivien Wilkens, Brian Fausset, Ernest Ribano, John Bonds (81), John Haines, Gladys Fryer, Jimmie Robertson (89), John Wells (81), Irene Hawksbee, Dennis Moore, Margaret Nicklin, Nigel Beesley, Ernie Choules (84), Anne Groves, John Nowill (91), Jack Chatfield.

Obituaries

ALLEN (87). Mr William Allen of Tamworth died on 9th January 2016. He was a Driver at Kingsbury Terminal when he left group service in 1984 after 24 years.

BARTLETT (94). Mr John Bartlett of Uppingham died on 29 January 2016. He was a Clerk at Tunbridge Wells Divisional Office when he left group service in 1951 after 12 years.

BEVAN (79). Mr Graham Bevan of Briton Ferry died on 29th October 2015. He was a Driver at Swansea when he left group service in 1985 after 22 years.

BISIKER (89). Mr John G. Bisiker of Midhurst died on 7th December 2015. He was Manager, Design & Acquisition, Road Transport, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1983 after 28 years.

BROOKER (97). Mr Arthur Brooker of Northfleet died on 10th January 2016. He was a Driver at Northfleet when he left group service in 1978 after 39 years.

BROWN (88). Mrs D A Brown of Sale died on 30th July 2015. She was the widow of Mr Henry Brown, once a Lubricants Retail Representative in Manchester.

BUDD (92). Mrs Edith Budd of Grassington died on 11th November 2015. She was the widow of Mr Denis Budd once Retail Representative, Leeds/Manchester.

CHARMAN (87). Mr Eric Charman of Dereham died on 9th January 2016. He was Group Cashier at Wandsworth Terminal when he left group service in 1985 after 22 years.

ENGLEDOW (87). Mr Cyril Engledow of Downham Market died on 9th February 2016. He was a Driver at King's Lynn when he left group service in 1981 after 30 years.

EVERETT (71). Mr Trefor Everett of Benfleet died on 30th December 2015. He was Project Manager, Information & Computing, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 22 years.

FARRANT (89). Mrs Jeane Farrant of Caversham died on 16th October 2015. She was the widow of Mr Albert Farrant once Manager – Distribution, Central Lubricants, Shell-Mex House.

GIBSON (86). Mr Thomas Gibson of South Wirral died on 19th July 2015. He was with Shell UK Oil, Stanlow when

he left the group in 1981 after 14 years' service.

GILBERT (97). Miss Millicent Gilbert of London died on 31st August 2015. She was a Secretarial Assistant, Shell-Mex House when she left in 1972 after 35 years' service.

GRAHAM (84). Mr Thomas Graham of Saltburn-by-the-Sea died on 13th February 2016. He was a Driver at Teesside Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 17 years.

GRANT (96). Mrs Patricia Grant of Storrington died on 24th December 2015. She was the widow of Mr James Grant once London Airports Manager.

GREEN (93). Mrs Joan Green of Lytham St Annes died on 11th February 2016. She was the widow of Mr Joseph Royle once an Operations Assistant at Barton Terminal.

HAINES (83). Mrs Sylvia Haines of Eastbourne died on 3rd August 2015. She was the wife of Mr John Haines once with BP Oil.

HALE (79). Mr David Hale of Great Sutton died on 4th January 2016. He was i/c Garage Administration at Stanlow Terminal when he left group service in 1989 after 24 years.

HALL (89). Mr Derek Hall of Southampton died on 14th January 2016. He was H&A Representative, SE Region, Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1976 after 24 years.

HEMINGWAY (94). Mrs Marguerite Hemingway of Warndon died on 12th January 2016. She was the wife of Mr James Hemingway who once worked at Kingsbury.

JAMES (84). Mr Tony James of Southampton died on 12th December 2015. He was Maintenance Group 1 Operator when he left group service in 1983 after 28 years.

JENNINGS (89). Mr Basil Jennings of Sandy died on 16th January 2016. He was Shift Manager at Royston Terminal when he left group service in 1983 after 18 years.

LITTLER (84). Mr John Littler died in France on 26th October 2015. He worked in North West Heating & Agriculture, Manchester when he left group service in 1977 after 19 years.

McKNIGHT (84). Mr William R McKnight of Sunderland died on 12th December 2015. He was a Driver, Class 1 when he left group service in 1987 after 35 years.

McPHAIL (96). Mr Archibald McPhail of Glasgow died on 7th December 2015. He was the husband of Mrs Dorothea McPhail once a Senior Financial Assistant, S&N Regional Office.

MITCHELL (90). Mr Harry Mitchell of Bury St Edmunds died on 13th February 2016. He was Terminal Group Manager at Leeds when he left group service in 1984 after 28 years.

NOYE (83). Mr James Noye of Strood died on 26th December 2015. He was a Vehicle Tester at Northfleet when he left the group after 8 years' service.

PHILLIPS (83). Miss Diana Phillips of Sale died on 25th November 2015. She was Business Development Manager, Shell UK Oil when she left group service in 1990 after 20 years.

PHILLIPS (89). Mr Stanley Phillips of Ellesmere Port died on 17th January 2016. He was an HGV Driver at Stanlow when he left group service after 36 years.

PLUMMER (90). Mr D E Plummer of Ipswich died on 23rd October 2015. He was a Representative at 197 Knightsbridge when he left group service in 1979 after a total of 18 years.

RANDOLL (81). Mr Bruce Randoll of Thundersley died on 21st December 2015. He was with Shell Oman Marketing, Mena Al Fahel Terminal when he left group service after 43 years.

RATCLIFF (78). Mr Dale Ratcliff of Basildon died on 14th February 2016. He was Systems Manager, SUKO, Stanford-le-Hope when he left group service in 1991 after 22 years.

RICHARDS (94). Mrs Madeline Richards of Briton Ferry died on 19th February 2016. She was the widow of Mr W J Richards once a Tanker Driver at Swansea.

ROBERTSON (86). Mr Donald Robertson of Invergordon died on 22nd November 2015. He was a Tanker Driver at Buncefield Terminal when he left group service after 29 years.

SCOTT (88). Mrs Sheila Scott of Weybridge died on 16th August 2015. She was the widow of Mr M O Scott once i/c Aviation Technical Services, Industrial Markets Division.

SMITH (80). Mr Andrew Smith of Falkirk died on 7th February 2016. He left group service in 1995 after 32 years.

SMITH (78). Mr James Smith of Buckie died on 27th November 2015. He was Chief Engineer, Marine, Shell-Mex House when he left group service after 22 years.

STRUDWICK (92). Mrs Mary Strudwick of Brigg died on 23rd January 2016. She was the widow of Mr Ivor Strudwick once Industrial Sales Representative, North East Region.

TAYLOR (89). Mr Jack Taylor of Aylesbury died on 3rd December 2015. He was a Driver at both Buncefield and Thame when he left group service in 1980 after 19 years.

TEAL (89). Mr Anthony Teal of Arundel died on 10th December 2015. He was Information and Computer Service Manager, Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, Lagos when he left group service after 37 years.

THOMAS (90). Mrs Gwyneth Thomas of Surbiton died on 27th December 2015. She was the widow of Mr Norman Stanley.

TULLY (90). Mr M B C Tully of Hexham died on 22nd December 2015. He was Area Manager (Retail), N.E. Region when he left group service in 1978 after 23 years.

TUTTLEBEE (85). Mrs Patricia Tuttlebee of Goring-by-Sea died on 17th August 2015. She was the widow of Mr Cecil Tuttlebee once a Vehicle Tester at Portslade Terminal.

WARD (92). Mr Dennis Ward of Nottingham died on 29th July 2015. He was Airfield Operator at East Midlands Airport when he left group service in 1981 after 31 years.

WARD-STARLING (103). Mrs Florence Ward-Starling of Eastbourne died on 3rd February 2016. She was the widow of Mr William Ward once Senior Industrial Lubricants Superintendent, Eastern Division.

WEST (98). Mr Dudley West of Middlesbrough died on 12th February 2016. He was Terminal Supervisor, Teesport when he left group service in 1973 after 39 years.

WILLETT (97). Mrs Dorothy Willett of Minehead died on 1st February 2016. She was the widow of Mr David Ernest Willett once Airfield Operator at Birmingham International Airport.

WILSON (86). Mrs Gladys Wilson of Cardiff died on 26th November 2015. She was the wife of Mr John Derek Wilson once a Retail Sales Representative, Shell UK Oil, Birmingham.

YATES (90). Mr William Yates of Wigan died on 8th January 2015. He was Motor Inspector at Haydock Terminal when he left group service in 1977 after 17 years.

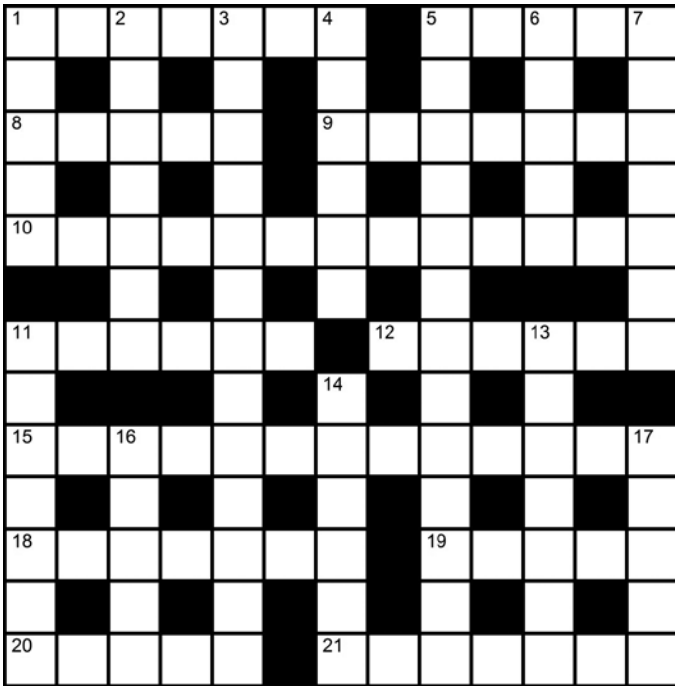
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"We hope that you will agree with us that there are very good reasons for starting up THE SMBP 44 ASSOCIATION."

Invitation to join the '44 Club' November 1977

Prize Crossword (one or two tricky clues here to challenge you!)



Across

- 1 A mound of earth made by ants as they dig their nest (7)
- 5 Rugby team near HQ (Nickname) (5)
- 8 Something that existed before the appearance of life (5)
- 9 A top of the range oil like TMO (7)
- 10 Immediate past Editor of this magazine (13)
- 11 A King of England, and of Wandsworth Terminal! (6)
- 12 Home of Fuel Supplies (Channel Islands) (6)
- 15 Editor of this magazine from March 1992 (13)
- 18 He makes himself well-liked - he _____ himself (7)
- 19 Any of a class of organic compounds that contain the divalent radical -CONHCO- (5)
- 20 Power booster for automotive engine (5)
- 21 Non-believer (7)

Down

- 1 Warns of danger (5)
- 2 Every Sales Engineer had one in his car (4,3)
- 3 If you remove yourself from the fray (13)
- 4 A benign tumour composed of body fat. (6)
- 5 Her Majesty's language (6,7)
- 6 'On top of the cake...'? (5)
- 7 Opening up? (Medical) (7)
- 11 The temperature now (7)
- 13 A language of Africa (7)
- 14 A File from a Ukrainian city ? (6)
- 16 See Photograph of the Cup (5)
- 17 Apply or bring to bear a force (5)



Clue for 16 Down

This edition of the Club News is available online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ClubNews150>



Last Issue's Crossword

A very good entry with a remarkable 23 all-correct answers. Well done all! Coming randomly to the top of the pile was **David Richens** of Bristol whose success will be marked by the usual generous prize!

Closing date for next issue
May 17th 2016