



Vivian Thomas – from selling Fuel Oil in Shell-Mex and B.P. to Chief Executive of BP Oil UK

Viv Thomas's Life in (and after) oil is one of the most remarkable among the 1950s intake of Shell-Mex and B.P. His story - from 16-year-old school leaver to head honcho of BP Oil - begins on Page 4

Useful Contacts

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

The SMBP 44 Association

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44 Club News

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The BP Society

- For BP Pensioners
Administration Secretary
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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

One of the scariest but in retrospect most valuable things I did in Shell-Mex and B.P. was sales training. In particular the three weeks I spent in Peter Ost's Industrial Area in Kent and the few days I had there with his senior rep. John Auger. It was the summer of 1970 and my main interest, once I had received my Ealing degree in July, was to follow Kent cricket's push for a first County Championship since 1913. I wasn't over hopeful but at a cricket dinner pre-season Edward Heath, the chief guest and a man of Kent himself, had predicted that he would become Prime Minister and that Kent would win the Championship. No chance, I thought, on either count! Well 'The Grocer' (as 'Private Eye' called him) surprised us all in June. At this point Kent was bottom of the table with only one win! But gradually they got going and by the time my training was underway in late August it was becoming a possibility. Maidstone looked like a great training choice – maybe I could fit in the odd visit to a Kent game or two! Some chance! Ost put together a busy programme and Auger was to be his trainer of choice!

John Auger was a pro. He had learned his salesmanship with Unilever where he sold their range of Fast Moving Consumer Goods to supermarkets and the like. Whilst not (quite) 'foot in the door' this was systematic salesmanship of a very high order. Auger brought these skills with him and applied them equally successfully as a Group Commercial Rep (GCR) in SMBP. On the first morning of my training he took me to a rough looking haulage company somewhere in the Medway towns. He parked outside. "Right" he said "Go and sell them a barrel of Vanellus". Hmm! I didn't know my Vanellus from my elbow! I grabbed my 'Product Information Book' and wandered in only a few seconds later to be chased out of the yard by a very large dog. "You didn't check the IM2" said Auger showing it to me - on the customer record was the legend in red '**Beware of the dog!**'

I thought again of my sales days recently (I survived Maidstone and became a GCR in North London for a few years and enjoyed it enormously) when I interviewed Viv Thomas for 'Life after Oil'. In the article you will see a quote about customers which rang very true with me. Selling is part Art and part Science. John Auger was probably more of the scientific salesman – ASAMI and all that. I later became friends with the brilliant Sales Manager Bryan Mayor who was also a believer in the well-planned sales interviews. Others (including Viv I think) were more relationship salesman relying on building trust with customers, especially by helping them. In truth it was a mixture of the two – good relationships and good techniques.

As a Sales Rep I learned how to read upside down (a handy trick in any job) and above all to let the customer speak. 80/20 was a good rule of thumb about the split between the customer and the salesman talking in a sales interview. My fellow GCRs were a rum lot in many ways but you didn't need to tell any of them to 'put the customer first' or that there was no such thing as a bad customer (non-payers aside). That, and checking your IM2, was the key to success!

Paddy Briggs



AGM

We have a provisional date for the AGM in 2017 – Thursday 27th April in Shell Centre.

44 Club Diaries

Many thanks to all of you who have ordered a club diary for 2017 (2017???! – where did it all go?) If you would like one but haven't ordered yet there is an order form enclosed. The diaries will be despatched as soon as we get them so please don't worry if you've ordered and haven't received yours yet. It will be on its way soon.

PLR

Adrian Smith, Pensioner Liaison Representative for Cambridgeshire, Part Lincolnshire, Part Norfolk, Part Bedfordshire, Part Suffolk & Northamptonshire retired from his duties on 30th of June 2016. We are happy to announce he has been replaced by David Smith: Tel: 0753 1242235 Email: D.Smith7@shell.com

How we work

There are some changes to the days which the Club office (Canary Wharf) will be manned. The Secretary will be working 2.5 days (reduced from three days) a week from September - 2 days one week (Wednesday and Thursday) and 3 days the following (Wednesday-Friday). The only other significant cost is this magazine which we manage to produce as economically as we can with a honorary/ volunteer Editor, who works from home, and very cost-effective design, production, printing and distribution. Thanks are due to all our volunteers around the country without whom, quite literally, the 44 Club would not exist.

Duplicate Magazines

We have a number of members whose spouse/partner is also a member of the 44 Club, often meaning two magazines get delivered to the same household. From now onwards, only one copy will be sent per household. If any of you still wish to receive a copy each, please let Colin Hill know. 44-club@shell.com

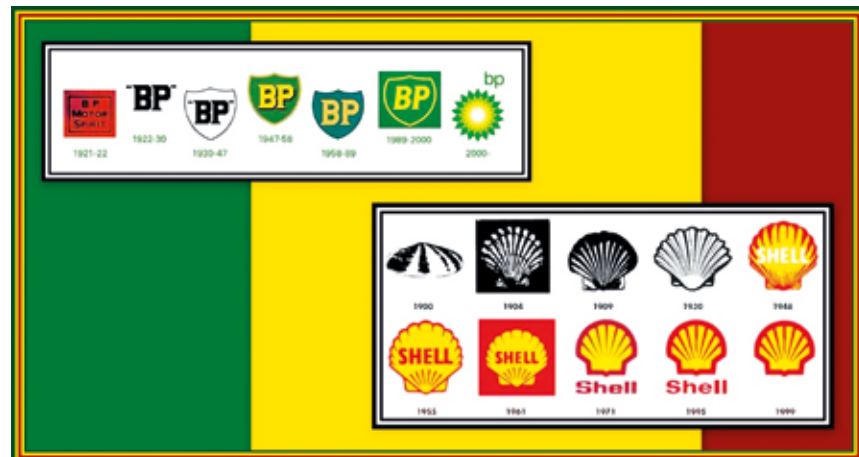
Shell Travel Club



The Shell Travel Club welcomes members from the 44 Club. Many members are ex- Shell-Mex & BP and even if you went green in 1976 you will be most welcome. The Club has an excellent new website: www.shelltravelclub.com - Take a look.

Changing Look

On the front of the magazine we show the Shell and BP symbols that were used by SMBP back in the glory years of the 1950s. It is interesting to see how the parent companies' logo/identity changed over the years. The most radical change was perhaps BP's in the year 2000 when the Shield was dropped after 70 years. At that time the then top man in BP wanted a symbol which would be as recognisable as that of Shell (a bit of envy we might think)



Viv Thomas – Life at the top



Vivian Elliott Sgrifan Thomas (as the citation for his OBE in 1992 and CBE in 1998 referred to him) is one of Shell-Mex and B.P.'s most distinguished alumni. Born in 1932 Viv had a peripatetic childhood attending at least twelve different schools as his father's job with the Admiralty took the family around the country. He left school at 16 and became a student apprentice¹ at British Railways in Swindon, qualifying from Southampton University as a Marine Engineer. In 1953 he joined the Union-Castle Line and for the next six years he was an Engineer Officer with that shipping line – mainly on passenger vessels (photo right). The voyages to and from South Africa took two weeks and Vivian was expected as part of his duties to fraternise, in his gold-braided uniform, with the passengers – a task that he seems to have relished. Although he didn't know it at the time he says now that that early experience of constantly meeting new people (including Peter May's England cricket team in 1956) was good training for his later sales and marketing career in SMBP.

In late 1958 Viv decided that the time to move on had arrived and a chance

encounter when on a training course at Southampton University led to him and other students visiting Shell-Mex and B.P. facilities in London. In a pub in Wandsworth over lunch he spent some time chatting to the Installation Manager of Lensbury Wharf who told him that the company was recruiting engineers in their Sales and Marketing Department. An interview with an 'immaculately suited and well-mannered' SMBP executive in the company's new office in Wine Street, Bristol was to follow. "What do you know about business" he was asked. "Nothing at all", he replied, "but I'm a quick learner!" He got the job.

At the age of 28 Viv was a comparatively mature and experienced (in the 'University of Life' as he puts it) entrant to SMBP, which had been recruiting young graduates for some time. As a 'Fuel Oil Superintendent' (as the salesmen were then called) he joined at an auspicious time. The 'Coal to Oil' conversion push was still in full swing – he knew about boilers and he had learned about people. Fuel Oil Manager Reg Samuel gave Viv his



freedom and support and he made swift progress – and he was also spotted by the managers of the Fuel Oil Department in London including George Richardson, Eric Frost and Tom Osbourne. After a couple of years he was offered a move to Shell-Mex House where for the next nine months he learned more about the company and the market by doing various commercial and technical projects. "My real aim was to learn about what makes businesses tick" he says today. "SMBP was a market leader and highly respected - and a good place to work. It had wonderful people but its culture was very different from today - frankly it was a bit fat, complacent and inefficient with too many layers and low productivity – but they still generated shedloads of money!"

Viv's next step had a dodgy start. He was asked to go for an interview to be a District Manager in the North West Division based in Manchester where the Division Manager was the legendary George Lees. Lees wasn't keen on having this young high flyer imposed upon him by London ahead of his preferred local candidate and the interview was fiery, finishing with the candidate saying bluntly "I don't think I want to work for you Mr Lees!" But Viv must nevertheless have made an impression because Lees phoned George Richardson and said that he would "take Thomas, but reluctantly"! So in 1962, at the age of 30 Viv became a District Manager with a team of Reps – his career was well and truly launched. His fellow District Managers under George Lees were Jim Bryce and

¹ Viv recently discovered that his interview for the Apprenticeship was conducted by BR's then Western Region Chief Mechanical Engineer, Mr R.A. Smeddle. Who turns out to have been the father of SMBP colleague John Smeddle!

Roly Cutts who were, Viv says, so generous and understanding in helping their colourful new colleague. Looking back, Viv says that if you are ambitious you must be noticed – for whatever reason. It seems to have worked!

In the mid-1960s Shell-Mex and B.P. was (rather reluctantly) asked by the parent companies to look at its structure and ways of working and the management consultants McKinsey were hired to assist with the task. The new organisation created market Divisions in place of the old cross-market regional structure and Viv Thomas joined the new Industrial Markets Division as Area Manager in Liverpool. He reported to Regional Manager Trevor Marsden and for the first time had a broad product/customer portfolio, including Commercial Road Transport and Lubricants as well as Industrial Fuels. Marsden gave him great support “He was a big man in every way with an uncomplicated Yorkshire bluntness allied to shrewdness” Viv says. The Area was a crucial one in the North West Industrial market with major buyers like Pilkingtons, BICC, and British Leyland (BL) among many others. Viv’s team – which included Reps like Reg Higgins, Norman Rigby, Geoff Crisp and Roly Aspinall – performed well and he himself had the chance to shine in crucial negotiations with the biggest customers. He jealously guarded his independence – for example turning down Head Office’s offer to assist in contract negotiations with huge Lubs buyer BICC and renewing the equally important BL Fuel Oil contract where others had failed!

After three years in Liverpool Viv Thomas was seconded first to Shell and then to BP to learn about the Marine market with a view to his taking over as the head of SMBP’s Marine Department in succession to Gus Barber. The Marine market was an important and complex one – multiproduct, multi-customer and with international characteristics to it. It

was also ‘oil specific’ – ships needed fuel and lubrication and it had to be oil! Viv had a head start both with his Industrial Markets experience and with his background as a Marine Engineer but at still only in his mid-thirties this was another rapid step up the ladder.

When he took over in June 1970 he found himself in a political maelstrom! The two parent companies wanted to take charge of Marine lubricants and it was in the middle of this that Viv realised just how different the Shell and BP cultures were. There was a lot of tension but in the end the parents got their way and the SMBP Marine Manager job disappeared! It was at this time (1968-1971) that secret work was underway in SMBP, Shell and BP, to consider what became known as ‘Brand Separation’ – the decision to proceed with which was announced to staff in April 1971.

Brand Separation was by far the most complex demerger that any business had ever undertaken and not for the first (or last!) time Viv reckons he was in the right place at the right time. As Manager of ‘Special Trade’ he negotiated major deals like the Fuel Oil supply to the Northern Ireland



Viv Thomas (standing left), Mike Ross (standing Right) and Brian Bowden (Director Industrial) signing a Fuel Oil Agreement with the Northern Ireland Electricity Service in 1972

Electricity Service (see photo). One of the key challenges ahead was to ‘brand separate’ such major industrial customers – huge users of Fuels and Lubricants like the CEGB, National Coal Board, ICI and the rest. This ‘Centralised Trade’ made up a large proportion of the business and it was crucial to get it right. Viv’s task was to move approximately 40% (Fuels) and 20% (Lubricants) from SMBP to BP supply. Alongside him David Soame did the same job for Shell. Viv and David became great friends. David had the easier job, says Viv, because most customers were predisposed to favour Shell - but in the end they cooperated well to deliver the right outcome by the end of 1975 when Brand Separation became a reality. (All of this was happening at a time of turmoil in the oil industry with the quadrupling of oil prices and the associated troubles in the UK economy – not easy!).

On 1st January 1976 Viv Thomas transferred to BP Oil as the head of BP’s Centralised Trade Department and commenced what was to be a 16 year career as a BP executive culminating in his appointment in 1990 as Chief Executive of BP Oil UK. Along the way he was a Division Manager of Distributor Trade and in 1984 of the new multiproduct and multi-market Commercial Division. He also spent some time





as Retail Director for the BP Europe organisation where, as he puts it, he challenged the 'incestuous and closed' Retail establishment! Overall the key strategic task at the time was managing change in the new world of much higher oil prices and tough competition. He came to know the BP hierarchy like David Simon, Bob Horton and John Browne well and also became something of a public figure appearing often on radio and television where he followed the maxim that he 'should be able to challenge the media when they get it wrong'!

Viv Thomas retired from BP at the age of 60 in March 1992 completing a third of a century in 'oil' with Shell-Mex and B.P. and BP. He said at the time that he had had "no detailed vision of how my career would work out. I took each job at its face value...I've [also] been extremely lucky. But I also had a wonderfully supportive wife in Valerie to whom I

owe so much". He was clearly very ambitious with a healthy appetite for success. He acknowledges the part that SMBP played in helping him realise his ambitions. The company selected him, trained him, promoted him swiftly and stretched him. He accepts that he was tough "You can be tolerably decent and a bastard" he says! But you mustn't be passive and you must never want to be beaten – and you must exploit your good luck. In negotiations you must put yourself in the other party's place and always seek 'Win/Win'.

Viv Thomas's 'Life after Oil' had one big job as Non-Executive Chairman of the BSI Group (the old Business Standards Institute as was). Here he faced the challenge of turning round what was a rather moribund and bureaucratic organisation and making it commercial. He had, he says, effectively to 'set up a business from scratch'. It took five to six years and his success led to the award of a CBE in the 1998 New Year's Honours. Viv has also been



a Director of Southern Water, Chairman of the British Road Federation and (his favourite of all as a dedicated petrolhead) a Non-Executive Director of Jaguar Cars! When he talks about the latter there are echoes of the Oil industry that he no doubt was well equipped to wrestle with. Jaguar was at the time owned by Ford who, he says, "Wouldn't allow Jaguar to manage – although Ford did teach them the secret of product quality control!" So from Merchant Navy officer to retired (at last in 2002!) senior executive Viv Thomas can look back with pride on a remarkable career which, he says, if he had his time again he would probably do mostly the same. He said when he left BP that he had been "guilty of chauvinism, arrogance, impatience, bad temper and occasional bad judgment. I'm prepared to admit to all of those things and more as long as people don't remember me as dull"! Amen to that. **PSB**

"We pay lip service to the importance of the customer but there are too few people in [BP] who come into contact with real customers. Too often we hear the complaint, 'We can't afford to do business with so and so'. But there is no such thing as a bad customer, apart from those who don't pay their bills. We are in danger of losing sight of that simple fact".

Vivian Thomas on retirement from BP in 1992



Grandfathers Lunch

Seven members of the Grandfathers' Club met Clifford and Patricia Grinsted for lunch at the splendid Grand Hotel, Eastbourne on July 12th. Present: (left to right) John Hunter, Clifford Grinsted, John Perry, Patricia Grinsted, Rick Westley, Russell Elden, John Smeddle, Vivian Thomas, John Bamberg.

1966. Looking back half a century to a golden era.

1966 – The year England won the Football World Cup and the year that tentative steps were being taken by Shell and BP to explore for hydrocarbons in the North Sea – though the setback of the loss of BP’s drilling barge (and the lives of thirteen operatives) *Sea Gem* the previous year meant that this was a time of scepticism and caution. The Shell-Mex and B.P. Group vice-chairman and managing director T.R.Grieve shared the scepticism when he said in the SMBP ‘Book of the Year 1966’ *“Whilst Natural Gas is important it will not revolutionise the energy picture. It can be said that the effect on the Fuel Oil market will be no more than a slowing down in the inevitable growth”*. Oh well, crystal balls not fully tuned at that time perhaps!



The swinging sixties (I was there, so I’m told) were times of major change for SMBP and 1966 - fifty years ago this year - was no exception. We are now as far away from 1966 as we were that year from the Battle of the Somme! So let’s look back and try and prick a few memories. Tom Grieve called it a ‘difficult trading year’ and referred to the ‘burden of the times’ – maybe wrestling with the effects of McKinsey was taking its toll? Competition was intense - though the sheer scale of the SMBP Group surely meant it was better equipped than most to deal with this? January saw the first edition of ‘The Magazine of the Shell-Mex and B.P. Group’ which incorporated the Shell-BP News, National Journal etc. It was edited by Angus Stewart and was an eclectic and rather unusual house magazine. Looking back through its twelve issues is a nostalgic, enjoyable and sometimes revealing task.

The new organisation set up post McKinsey was being introduced. The organigrams show the new names and structure: Brian Bowden was

‘General Manager – Retail’ and there were five Regions each with its Shell, BP and National streams. Eric Rendall ran Industrial which had an extra Region (in Leeds) over Retail! Harry Brewster was the head of Domestic which only had four regions – as did Consumer where Bob Ingle was the man at the top. Operations had some very familiar names in its five regions including Victor Brett, Graham Smailes and Ted Trees. So what were these new Divisions busy with?

Let’s start with BP Retail where the big event was the launch of BP Super

visco-static (‘BP Super V’) – an SAE 10W/40 multigrade oil pitched as being ‘suitable for all models and all temperatures’ with BP’s other engine

Who is the lady demonstrating the ‘Note Acceptor’ unit? Small prize to the first reader who gets it right!



oils for cars being discontinued to emphasise the one oil for every car pitch. BP Retail was innovating in other areas as well with blender pumps and also opened its first ‘unattended self-service site’ where the customer paid at a note acceptor unit. There was a coherent approach to brands and sub-brands as well with shops being called ‘BP Autoshop’ and service bays ‘BP Auto-Care’.

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and hot water. There are other examples of new initiatives in other markets like Agriculture and Bitumen as well as operational improvements like anti-jack-knifing on road tankers and new larger rail cars.

Over at Shell Retail 'Make Money' was the promotion to end all promotions! It was launched on 21st July and many regard it as the most successful promotion of all time in any sector. On the forecourt Shell Retail introduced new lubricants dispensers – note that petrol was 5/7 a gallon which if my maths are right is equivalent to about 6p a litre! No wonder Gerald Wagner, a Managing Director of Royal Dutch/Shell said *"Petroleum prices in a number of major markets are now so low that it would be impossible to continue to make new investments..."*

National Benzole also had a promotion that I'm sure that we all remember with affection. It was the year of Georgie Fame's 'Getaway' a jingle/song that promoted National petrol and reached the top of the pop charts in July. National also had a floral competition for its dealers and

experimented with 'Fast lanes' at some of its sites – a 'Quick-service' lane for motorist in a hurry.

The first cross-Channel passenger hovercraft entered service in June 1966 fuelled and lubricated by BP. And the Group's Aviation business continued to grow rapidly as air travel had another year of double-digit growth. In the new Industrial Markets Division a big event was the opening of a pipeline from BP Llandarcy to the Port Talbot steel works. The Severn Bridge opened in September and the contractors had all used SMBP Group fuels and lubricants.

In the Domestic Market SMBP introduced another innovation with the offer of Warmaire 'convected heating' which had a radiant gas fire in the living room which also provided warm air (hence the brand name!) around the rest of the house

1966 was just one year in the 44 year life of Shell-Mex and B.P. but despite some pessimism it was clear that the Group was a major player in Britain and a very innovative one. The post McKinsey organisation was in its infancy and it is clear reading between the lines that not all were happy with it! But generally looking back on that year 50 years on we see a Company confident in its role and far from as conservative as we might think. That said, reading the magazines and the yearbook it was clearly a deferential, formal and very male time! I could not find one reference to a woman in anything but support and secretarial type roles and most of the photographs of women emphasised mainly their charms rather than their brains! Every month the back cover of 'The Magazine of the Shell-Mex and B.P. Group' had a beautiful young woman employee on it! Here's Ann Green of Manchester





Ann Green



For outstanding service to the Lensbury Players Greta Chandler, the Players' Secretary, has received chairman A L King's personal award. The R A Denne award for non-acting activities went to Ron Cowie for his work in running training classes, and as a producer.

Regional office from May! Her ambition was 'to be a secretary'.

Away from the work environment we see employees active both in the many social events the Company provided and in other extracurricular activities. One example was the Lensbury Players (see clipping!). Every SMBP office and installation had its own Sports and Social activities – many faithfully recorded in the magazine. Almost at random here is one from South East Region 195 which had a river cruise on the Thames. Can you spot anyone you know? (bottom right).

In 'The Go-Between' the narrator looks back fifty years and concludes that 'The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.' And so they did. I was only a couple of years into my SMBP career in 1966

and was pretty bewildered about what I saw. At 19 I'm not sure that I was much use to man nor beast. But I do remember many of the things that this nostalgic backward glance has confirmed. There were I think signs that brands as strong as Shell and BP cannot credibly be part of the same management operation – not least if everywhere else in the world they are fierce competitors. There are signs that SMBP was, McKinsey notwithstanding, likely to be vulnerable to changes in the oil price and the arrival of competitive fuels. But this is hindsight and there are few hints in the records. Was it a golden era? Perhaps it was. But Tom Grieve's Year Book remarks were rather top down and patrician – and perhaps a little haughty! One small item caught my eye as a one-time Shell International Brand Manager.

The Shell Logotype (the way the word 'Shell' was written on petrol stations and elsewhere) was being refreshed by Shell International. The Logotype is a fairly key part of the Shell visual identity - but the report says that for SMBP "...a decision will be taken... as to whether we will use it or not"! Back in the early 1990s I was the project manager for a design project which – after a gap of 25 years – once again introduced a new Logotype. In 1993 we certainly would not have allowed any Operating Company not to use it! This weak signal suggests that SMBP was not a natural conformist to Shell standards – and the rest, brand separation and all, is history!

Paddy Briggs.



New Style Shell Shell International are introducing a new look in their lettering. The modernised style is intended to give Shell sites and vehicles a new up-do-date look. Shell-Mex and B.P. are preparing an experimental site with the new type and a decision will be taken after the site has been seen as to whether we will use it or not.



Sports and Social activities - South East Region on a Thames river cruise

News from the Branches

Inverness

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

Coming up:

Coffee morning and meeting. Maple Court Hotel on last Thursday of every month at 11.00am.

In September we are having a canal trip by the 'Seagull Trust' group from Inverness. Back to Maple Court hotel in October.

Aberdeen

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

Coming up:

The intended meetings dates in Rubislaw Church Centre, Beaconsfield Place, Aberdeen, on the second Monday of each month, will be as follows:

Monday 10th October: at 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. for a coffee morning.

Monday 14th November: at 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. for a coffee morning.

Tuesday 6th December: 11.30 for 12.30 for Xmas Lunch. (Prompt please). The Christmas Luncheon is booked in the main restaurant of the Double Tree Hotel, Links Road, Beach Boulevard. Aberdeen.

Monday 13th February 2017: at 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. for a coffee morning.

Monday 13th March: at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30a.m. for a coffee morning.

Glasgow

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

Coffee and Chat

The third 'Coffee and Chat' meeting was held in Dobbies Garden Centre, Milngavie on Thursday 23 June 2016 and was, once again, well attended.



Glasgow Branch

We had a mini reunion of airport drivers which was great. We do hope that those who came along just as 'interested parties' will join the Branch for next session. All present enjoyed tea/coffee or juice and very tasty nibbles and we were very well looked after by Dobbies. The next Coffee and Chat date is still to be finalised but the venue will be the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew. Full details will be sent out once known.

Summer Lunch

Sarti's Restaurant in Renfield Street, Glasgow on Thursday 11 August was the venue for our inaugural Summer Lunch. There were 14 of us on the day, an excellent turnout. It may have been dismal weather outside but in the restaurant everyone was in fine form and we all enjoyed catching up on where people had been for their holidays and what they had been doing over the summer. Sarti's provided a delicious meal – at a very reasonable cost – and various liquid refreshments were also consumed. Those present all agreed that the Summer Lunch is something that should become an annual fixture!



Glasgow Branch

The programme for 2016/2017 is on our website and the first meeting is on Thursday 20 October where we will be learning about the delights of homemade wine! As always we welcome new members so please do get in touch if you would like more information.

Coming up:

Apart from the Christmas Lunch all meetings take place in the Stirling Room, The Mitchell, North Street, Glasgow G3 7DN. Coffee/tea and nibbles available from 10.00am and the meetings start at 10.30a.m.

Thursday 20th October: Making & Tasting of Homemade Wine

Mrs Rodgers will share her knowledge of the subject – we suggest you use public transport for this meeting!

Thursday 17th November: Laugh – I nearly died! Judith Bowers, founder and director of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall Campaign, talks about the world's oldest surviving music hall and its colourful history.

Thursday 15th December at 12.30p.m.: Christmas Lunch at Fratelli Sarti, 42 Renfield Street, Glasgow G2 1NF. Three course meal with choices for each course. As always this event is for partners/spouses too but must be booked and paid for in advance. Please complete the form accordingly and add £30 per head to your subscription.

Thursday 19th January 2017: Antiques. Mr Watt returns to further our knowledge of the Antiques World.

Thursday 16th February: The story continues ... Christine Millar – Genealogy.

Thursday 23rd March: The Joy of Singing and Musical Games. Lucinda Geoghegan shares her knowledge of why singing and musical games are an essential part of childhood and an important

feature of our culture. (Preceded by AGM)

Belfast

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

Coming up:

The Christmas lunch will once again be at Donaghadee golf club and everybody will be contacted in early November with the date. Please contact Norman for further details.

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

Coming up:

9th November: 1200-1230 Light Lunch: The Chichester Arms, Chichester Road, South Shields.

14th December: 1200-1230 Christmas Lunch: The Sea Hotel, Sea Road, South Shields, NE33 2ID

11th January 2017: 1200-1230 Light Lunch: The Chichester Arms.

8th February: 1200-1230 Light Lunch: The Chichester Arms.

West Riding

Contact: Terry Morley
☎ 0113 2667326

Coming up:

23rd November: Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Queens Arms (A61) 201 Harrogate Road Leeds LS7 3PT.

Teesside

Contact: Ces Tate
☎ 01642 722 491

On 18th August 19 members of the Teesside 44 Club branch met at the

'Bay Horse', Great Broughton, a picturesque village near Stokesley, North Yorkshire. Everyone enjoyed the superb food and hot sunny day. Many thanks to Ces and Doreen Tate for organising a very enjoyable day.



Teesside Branch

Coming up:

8th December: Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Falcon, Seamer Rd, High Leven, Yarm TS15 9LB.

South Yorkshire & Lincolnshire

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

Coming up:

6th December: Christmas Lunch 1200-1230 The Consort Hotel, Brampton Road, Thurgroft, Rotherham, S66 9JA.

Manchester

Contact: Pat Withers
☎ 0161 437 2072/0226 100 6720
✉ witherspt@gmail.com

Coming up:

13th September, 11th October and 8th November and 13th October: Regular monthly pub lunch on 2nd Tuesday of every month at 12:30.

15th December: The Cresta Court on Thursday 15th December.

North West - Western

Contact: Norman Waterfall
☎ 01829 270 095
✉ normanwaterfall@talktalk.net

In mid-May we changed our location from Southport to a local hostelry, The Sandpiper at Bickerstaffe near Ormskirk. Sixteen members and guests thought our new location was easily accessible to members in the North



North West - Western Branch

West and more importantly the food was excellent. We intend to keep the Sandpiper as one of our locations for 2017.

The end of June saw our visit to Forest Hills Hotel at Frodsham. Twenty six members and guests enjoyed the rather wet weather, but this did not detract us from the enjoyment of everyone present.



North West - Western Branch

Coming up:

8th September and 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 (Tel: 015394 48553).

14th December: 12.30 for 1.00p.m. Christmas Lunch at the Forest Hills Hotel Frodsham WA6 6HH (Tel: 01928 735255).

North Midlands

Contact: Frank or Carol Barnett
☎ 01384 833 132
✉ carol.a.barnett@blueyonder.co.uk

After many requests we decided on a further visit to Bodenham Arboretum & Earth Centre at Wolverley nr Kidderminster, for a Carvery Lunch on 1st June 2016. We had 35 booked for lunch but only 31

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North Midlands Branch

attended due to illness and other commitments. Although the weather had been a little unsettled prior to our visit the day was warm and sunny to start although there was a cool wind blowing across the lake where we sat with a coffee before lunch. We did manage to sit by the lake for a little while again after lunch but with clouds rolling round and the wind still blowing decided it would be too cold to stay for too long.

Many of our group once again spent time looking at and purchasing plants for their garden (although the prices were considerably higher than last year) and food to feed the many ducks that were around.

The food was once again excellent but having to wait in line to get served at the carvery table is a little off putting, but as it is a very popular venue I guess we shall be returning again in the future.



North Midlands Branch

This year our Lunch and Bowls were held on 17th August 2016 with 30 members and guests attending a Carvery Lunch at The Island Pool, Cookley near Kidderminster and Bowls at Cookley Village Hall, as we have in the last couple of years. The Carvery Lunch was very disappointing (not up to its usual standard) however the weather was the best it could have been, (Summer here at last). In fact a little too hot at times for those playing bowls. It was a wonderful afternoon and

half way through the games of bowls, tea and biscuits were served in the hall, followed by our raffle, giving the players a well-earned break.

Coming up:

For details of the monthly meetings (every 3rd Wednesday) of North Midlands Branch at Northampton Working Men's Club, 56a-56b Sheep Street, Northampton (New Venue!) please Contact John Wooding 01604 643292.

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

February 2017: 12:00pm Carvery Lunch being arranged (date to be confirmed) at The Plough, Far Forest, Bewdley.

March: Skittles & Lunch being arranged (date to be confirmed) at The Squirrel.

April: Spring Lunch to be arranged (date to be confirmed). Further details will be sent out by letter.

South Midlands

Contact: Malcolm Bury

☎ 01296 630169

✉ malcolmgb@btinternet.com

Our July pub lunch was held at the Two Brewers in Chipperfield and was well supported with over thirty members present. Many regular attendees were in evidence and it was good to welcome Bryan Plowright who had made the trip from Great Brickhill to join us. After our summer break we shall be holding our final pub lunch of the year on 12th October at the Bridgewater Arms in Little Gaddesden. As we approach the autumn/winter months, the South Midlands Branch has two events planned. A return visit to The Bridgewater Arms in Little Gaddesden, and our Christmas Lunch and Annual General Meeting will be held at Berkhamsted Golf Club.

Coming up:

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 Bridgewater Arms, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted HP4 1PD. Contact Malcolm Bury (as above).

9th December: Christmas lunch and AGM at Berkhamsted Golf Club.

King's Lynn

Contact: Tom Cannon

☎ 01485 540346

✉ tomcannon36@gmail.com

Our event in July at The Sandringham Club: Left to right, Colin Hill, Tom Cannon, Peter Gobell, Steve Ensor, Eric Baroth, and Tony Grayston. 30 of us were present on a pleasant day



King's Lynn Branch

in July for an informal finger buffet which was as excellent as last year. We were honoured with the presence of our national secretary, Colin Hill, as well as long distance friends from Ipswich branch, namely Tony and Rosemary Grayston and Peter Gobell (area coordinator). Also Eric and Pam Baroth who travelled from Brackley, Northants to meet up with old colleagues. A most enjoyable time was had by all.

Coming up:

The next lunch event will be in the Autumn, venue and date yet to be decided.

Ipswich

Contact: Tony Grayston

☎ 01473 219860

✉ rosemary.grayston@sky.com

Or **Contact:** David Cattermole

☎ 01473 610 534

✉ davidcattermole@yahoo.co.uk

A return to a favourite of the branch was held on June 29th at Hintlesham Hall, a Queen Anne Hotel offering fine dining. 29 members and guests attended, including members and friends who have not been to our lunches for a very long time, which is encouraging for future venues, let's hope they come again, all welcome.



Ipswich Branch

Coming up:

29th September: Lunch is planned for a new venue which will be at the Lodge Restaurant part of Ipswich Ski Centre.

8th December: The final lunch of the year will be at Rushmere Golf Club.

Chelmsford

Contact: Peter Gobell

☎ 01206 867947

✉ peter.gobell39@btinternet.com

We continue to have good support from members. A lunch was held at the Oysterfleet, Canvey Island when 63 members and guests had a superb meal on June 7th. The weather was good enabling members to sit by the lake for pre-lunch drinks. The Oysterfleet staff were professional and we hope to be back next year.

Our next lunch was a return visit to the Beauvoir Arms, with 61 members and guests attended, including new visitors who were most welcome. The

menu was extensive and we had a three courses plus coffee for £16. The same menu in the evening would be £34.00 plus. Food was superb and Italian in style. Many members were on holiday on this occasion but even so it was an increase on last year.

Coming up:

5th September: 12:00 for 12:45pm. Lunch at Beauvoir Arms, Downham, Nr Billericay.

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

14th December: 12:00 for 12:45. Lunch at Langdon Hills Golf Club.

Plymouth & West Wales

Contact: John Harvey

☎ 01291 641279

✉ jharvey@phonecoop.coop

Greater Bristol

Contact: Roger Gamlin

☎ 0117 9684 638/ 07748787392

✉ rogergamlin@aol.com

Coming up:

22nd September: Our Autumn Pub Lunch will be a return trip to 'The Salthouse' in Clevedon. Meet at 11am for coffee and a chat, sit down 12.30 and afterwards walk along the front or revisit the wonderful local church.

6th December: The Christmas Lunch and AGM at a new venue – Henbury Golf Club, Westbury on Trym, Bristol. Full details of each event will be mailed or emailed to you by Roger nearer the day. But please pencil in the dates in your diary now! And remember, if you are on your own you are very welcome to bring a friend for a nice day out.

East Kent

Contact: Bernard Smith

☎ 01227 262 775

✉ tessdale2004@hotmail.com

Message from John Harvey

May I make a plea for two branches which have of late become semi-defunct. The branches concerned are South Wales and South West of England. South Wales covers all counties in the south of Wales including the southern half of Powys. South West of England comprises Cornwall and Devon, South Somerset and West Dorset.

The 44 Association would very much like to revive a social programme for these branches, notwithstanding the meetings of small groups within these areas. I am prepared to act as convenor for each of these two branches. I suggest that a meeting could be held at a convenient location, for a majority of members of each of these two branches. The primary task is not at this stage to appoint officials/committees, but to arrange at least four functions per annum, one of which will be a Christmas Luncheon.

These gatherings could be arranged by a small group of volunteers or even an individual being responsible for one event. I am prepared notwithstanding the demise of the coordinators role to give every assistance. Should the branches wish to form their own organisations (e.g. Split Cornwall into two groups) they are welcome to do so.

Anyone interested in giving support can contact me by e-mail at jharvey@phonecoop.coop or telephone at 01239821505 and leave a message if I am absent.



Chelmsford Branch

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Tunbridge Wells

Contact: Charles Richards

☎ 01892 528 231

✉ cajrichards@yahoo.co.uk

After a very successful lunchtime get together at The Horse and Groom at Charing, it was hoped that our next get together was to be at the Crown at Groombridge in September. Sadly this has had to be postponed. However we look forward to our annual autumn visit to The Hydro at Eastbourne on Thursday October the 13th, details are in the process of being sent out to Branch members. Our next proposed visit is to a new venue for us, at Wrotham just off the M20/A25. This will be on the 27th October and once again details are shortly to be sent out! Both these events are being organised by our ever reliable Chairman, Mike Baker! Sadly, Mike and his wife Christine, are to leave these shores in November, setting up permanent residence in South Africa. They both will be enormously missed by all their friends - but especially the 44 Club here in the South East! We are now desperate for a replacement for Mike as Chairman, but also most importantly, a new Committee, to run the 44 Club here in the South East, as everybody else has now retired!
Charles Richards

Coming up:

September: (Date to be confirmed)
Lunch at the Crown Inn,
Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells
TN3 9LY.

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

Brighton

Contact: to be advised

Coming up:

14th October: 11:30 Autumn Lunch at the Hydro 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:

October: (Date to be confirmed)
11:45 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:

11th October: Lunch 12.30 at The George, 2 Bury Street, Ruislip, HA4 7TJ (tel: 01895 6222109)
Buses from Ruislip Station H.13 and U10. Parking available. Please advise Greta if you wish to come.

Bournemouth, Southampton and District

Contact: Tony Reeve-Parker

☎ 01425 837285

✉ stelony@talktalk.net

We hope that all Branch members will have enjoyed the summer here in the south of the country, it is truly beautiful. By the time you read this, you will have received your invitations for our September function and I do hope you will make a special effort to attend. You were all circulated with a questionnaire recently as to whether you wanted a Christmas spectacular again this year. From the replies received, the positives for such a function were minimal and nowhere near the required number to be able to hold it in the Oceana Suite at the Cumberland Hotel. So this year we will plan to hold a Christmassy lunch in a pub in the middle of the area.

Your Letters

Maelor Jones (1)

I first met Maelor in the early 1960s when I was working as Sales Supervisor for the SMBP Authorised Distributer 'Fairhurst & Jaffrey' in Sandbach, Cheshire. Maelor, Bill Tune and Alan Flowers were the link between us and the NW region of SMBP. We became good friends and worked together during the very cold winter of 1962/3 when the snow and ice lasted from Christmas until

Easter! The area we supplied covered the commuter belt of North East Cheshire and a large proportion of our deliveries were domestic heating fuels products such as 'Domesticol' 28 & 35 and Pink Paraffin. As a result of the huge demand our small storage, road fed from Stanlow, was stretched and we were inundated with orders and the need to deliver them. The phone lines from SMBP Oxford Road, Manchester (Maelor) to Sandbach were red hot whilst I

was in the depot trying to control the situation for those three months.

I joined SMBP as a Domestic Householder Representative in 1965 in Manchester and from time to time saw Maelor again in Leeds, our Regional office – he was then the Consumer Area Manager in Nottingham. In 1970 I joined Maelor and Ivan Balmforth as a Supervisor. Brand Separation was just starting then and Ivan and I looked after

this whilst Maelor was standing in as Manager of Northern Region and was also busy setting up Pilot Oils. Our next Meeting was when on retirement, we moved from Hampshire to Anglesey. Maelor told us how during the war he had been evacuated from Liverpool to stay with his Auntie in Moelfre! We then had visits from him and Audrey on a yearly basis. We will miss these visits.

*Derrick Roberts
Awen-y-don
Moelfre
Anglesey LL72 8LA*

Maelor Jones (2)

You invited memories of Maelor Jones, and amongst mine was the occasion when a few of us went to Keyworth to visit him at Pilot Oils in the early 1980s. After the morning's discussions we repaired to a local pub, where the only others in the bar were the Nottinghamshire County cricket team on their way to their next match. They were, at the time, a formidable side, captained by Clive Rice, and including Richard Hadlee, Derek Randall and several other England players. They were very friendly and we were able to chat with them briefly. As Notts were to go on to win the County Championship that year perhaps Maelor had passed on to Clive Rice the advice he had given us earlier, that the job of the manager is to "play your hand to get the best out of the cards you've been dealt". Maelor said he had little interest in cricket, but was very friendly with a near neighbour, R.T. (Reg) Simpson, an outstanding England batsman in the post war years, who also lived well into his nineties.

*Dick Tinson
Coachman's Cottage
High Street
Ripley GU22 6BE*

Maelor Jones (3)

What a terrible shock to be told about the passing of Maelor in June; I have known him for more than 50 years. I was walking down Moreton-in-Marsh High Street in

April with Maelor and his wife Audrey chatting about his recent 90th birthday. We reminisced over the years our paths came together and how he was enjoying his 23rd Distributor Trade Reunion (out of 23!) which I started to arrange in 1989. At the farewell lunch in 1976 for Derek Higgins held in Shell Mex House on his transfer to Shell Centre (see Photo right) it was suggested that a DT reunion should be held each year after our retirement. And so it was, the rest is history. At Brand Separation, I spent a lot of time with Maelor setting up the Pilot Oils Distributor finance procedures in the small Keyworth office above a supermarket. His life history was very well documented in the '44 Club News' last year and this news leaves a lot of saddened 44 Club members. A great friend with plenty of happy memories.

*Mike Howard
25 Dove Park
Chorleywood
Rickmansworth WD3 5NY*

Hugh Wickham

Hugh Wickham was active promoting the development of mental health support services in Kingston-upon-Thames for over thirty years and in 2004 he was presented with a Community Award in connection with this - he had been nominated for the Award by the mental health charity



*Hugh Wickham collecting his
Community Award*

MIND. Coincidentally at this time I was Mayor of the Borough but Hugh told me, in no uncertain terms, that he did not want any publicity about the award - his voluntary work was a personal commitment and that was



*Left to right
- John Smeddle, Eddie Morton, Graham Smailes, Derek Higgins, Maurice Husbands, Geoff Bryant, Mike Howard, Dick Tinson and Maelor Jones*

that! He did however agree to a private presentation in the Mayor's parlour.

*Dennis Doe
59 Kings Drive
Surbiton KT5 8NQ*

Robert Hill

R.A.H. (Robert) Hill was a valued colleague in the HR community in SMBP and later in Shell - I was very sad to learn of his death. He was an excellent friend and talented professional in the Human Resources community. I interfaced with him a lot in my early years in SMBP and had the joy of working for him in Brunei for several years in the early 80s. Robert was quick-witted, dry but with an engaging sense of humor and someone who was always ready with a story to brighten up conversations. He was also an excellent coach and I recall in particular his ability to make you think about what you had just said. His 'do you really think so' was the most subtly coded 'that is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard anyone say so you might want to re-think it!' He will be greatly missed by all who knew and worked with him.

*Julian Dalzell
Columbia
South Carolina
USA*

Brand Separation (1)

The correspondence on brand separation in 44 Club News has been fascinating - I am probably a 'rare bird' who has been through

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the process twice! A BP Retail rep in the old East Midlands area (under Harry Davidson) I had to pass on to Shell something close to 7 million gallons from my patch based around Coventry and Rugby, including two of the most recent new self-service stations! Moving then to Northampton Terminal as Shift Manager, I participated in the 'divvying up' of distribution assets. Two or three jobs later, I found myself in Britannic House in 1987 working on brand separation in East Africa. The last throes of the former Consolidated Petroleum Supply Co. threw up some difficulties over freeholds in Zimbabwe and Kenya, where to this day, I believe, we still operate joint marketing companies. It was thrilling, meanwhile, to be told that the vernacular for a filling station in Swahili was a 'Shelly'!!

Nick Carter
3 Great Western Close,
Devizes SN10 1AQ

Brand Separation (2)

In 1975 I was in Finance, involved with the allocation of the asset registers to Shell and BP. By that stage the decision had been taken that there would not be a joint supply and distribution company but instead all distribution depots would be allocated to either Shell

or BP with the other company allowed guest drawing rights through product exchanges. The aim, of course, was an equitable 60:40 split of distribution assets and the allocation was made, I am sure, with considerable input from SMBP staff as they would be the ones having to work the new system afterwards. Up went recommendations to Shell and BP and back came decisions and instructions in the form of a series of letters addressed to 'My dear Greenborough'. By the time I saw these letters they were photocopies



of photocopies but they became my bible to allocate assets to Shell Marketing Ltd and BP Marketing Ltd. Then we found we had locations not covered by the letters and the hunt through the files began – what were they, who wanted them? Land used by Authorised Distributors and bitumen railheads was easily sorted, then there was land bought for expansion plans that had been put on hold and maybe even the odd speculative purchase. Eventually

everything found a home. The river vessels and coastal tanker fleet were another problem as the numbers did not split neatly 60:40. Then fate intervened in an unfortunate way. In July 1975 the coastal tanker 'Point Law' ran onto rocks at Alderney and was wrecked. The crew were rescued and there was little pollution but it must have been traumatic for all involved.

(Ed: This event was later commemorated on a Guernsey postage stamp!) For the bookkeepers though, we found the fleet that remained could easily be allocated 60:40 – another problem solved.

Nigel Penny
Mill Mere, Stacey's Farm Road
Elstead
Godalming
Surrey GU8 6EN

(Ed: Thanks Nigel. How interesting that consideration had been given to creating a 'joint supply and distribution company' for Shell and BP. I hadn't heard this before and can't find a mention of it in the papers I have. It was, perhaps, an idea ahead of its time! Have any of our readers a recollection of this?)

NOTE: For space reasons some of your letters have been held over until the next issue. They will appear!

Birthday Thanks

80th I nearly missed my big birthday (and many others)! Back in 1970 I was a National Benzole lubricants supervisor in the South of England and South and Mid Wales. On 1st October when I was just 34 I was driving to an appointment in Bristol. A Builders' van came around a bend in the road on the wrong side and hit my car head on. It was to be six months before I returned to work having been exonerated of any blame in what was, sadly, a fatal accident. There had been a police car behind me and the officer had seen all that happened. The National Benzole

management were simply amazing, supporting my wife and me and taking care of all the legal aspects of the accident. To this day I thank them in my heart of hearts.

Barry Niblett
107 Chetwyn Avenue
Bromley Cross
Bolton BL7 9BW

85th In 1947 I joined the Petroleum Board at Avonmouth as a sixteen-year-old lorry boy and loved it! I moved across to SMBP where the Transport Manager was Jack Williams. One day



he emerged from his office with rolls of paper under his arm. They were new Shell posters which he asked me to stick over the old ones on the trucks! All the flatbed trucks had panels on the side and the rear. It was always exciting wondering what the latest poster would be before I pasted them on!

Since those poster days I've always been aware of those in Publicity

Departments and the Film Units who ensured that our great Company was able to commission and sponsor some terrific Art. I often pictured an unknown 'gnome' in a cubby hole in Shell-Mex House making the final selection – he seems still to be there choosing our birthday cards!

*Ray Bateman
20 Capenor Close
Portishead BS20 6RH*

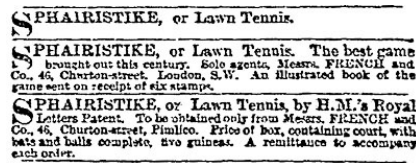
(Ed: Here's one from 1952, Ray, which you may remember. The Shell poster collection is now housed at the 'National Motor Museum Trust' at Beaulieu. Well worth a visit.)

86th There is great pleasure in reading the magazine and hearing news of past colleagues and friends. I was fortunate to have a very varied career and this meant that I worked with quite a large number of people. A recent edition of the Club News reminded me of some of them. Frank Devlin (new entrants' course at The Node). Stanley Broadbent (IFR on my path in the north-west) who played in a Brass Band and won a prize for marching and also took me to the Still Rooms of the breweries we did business with. Geoff Wyatt who thanked you modestly for a card in his 90th year without mentioning that he had been a Spitfire pilot! Gavin Elbourne who taught me one great lesson – On a 'Study Group B' course we were asked to give a talk on a subject of our choice. I spoke on Lawn Tennis, confident that I would know more about the sport than anyone else. I was wrong! He told me that the game could have been called 'Sphairistike' which was its original name! News to me, and I tried never to assume anything again!

*Bryan Mayor
31 Keverstone Court
97 Manor Road
Bournemouth BH1 3BY*

(Ed: A quick 'Google' tells us that Sphairistike was an ancient Greek term, meaning skill in playing at ball, which Major Walter Wingfield, called the game he invented and patented in 1874. The name was never popular, not least because only those few people well versed in ancient Greek knew how to say it! Luckily, as the advertisement

shows, Major Wingfield also called his new game lawn tennis!.)



90th I am so pleased to receive the 44 Club News every quarter. I have many happy memories of SMBP. I joined as a Lubricants Supervisor in Eastern Division Ipswich under the Divisional Manager Archie Hardie. My first job was in Ipswich Branch where I made friends with many comrades during my eight years. After leaving Ipswich I was moved briefly to Coventry Industrial Branch and then to Cardiff.

In Cardiff, one night after work, I called into the Officers Mess of the Territorial Army of which I was a young Officer. (I had joined the TA while in Ipswich where my Lubricants Manager was John Wall who was to end up as Chief of Staff in the War Office!) I was in 'civvies' and sat at the bar where I noticed an attractive young lady wearing a pretty dress! I spoke to her and after a while suggested we met again. Within a month of meeting Elisabeth I was again on the move this time to Guildford - back in Cardiff I immediately asked Elisabeth to marry me and we got married the following week!

*Philip Woodman.
Apartment 3C, Sheringham House,
Drifi, Sheringham, Norfolk. NR26 8HZ*

(Ed: Thanks for the memory of Archie Hardie, Philip. His years as Eastern Division Manager (1953-1957) were his only time outside of Scotland where he rose to be the Managing Director of Shell and BP Scotland before retiring in 1966 after forty years' service.)



87th Since I had a hip replacement last August my life has changed for the better and I am independent again which pleases me greatly. My best regards to all my 44 Club friends.

*Christine Bangert
34 Mancroft Avenue
Fareham PO14 2BD*

75th A lovely surprise which gives me the feeling of still belonging to the SMBP family. I always felt a sense of family during my 27 years with SMBP and BP Oil. I always look forward to receiving my copy of the '44 Club News' – long may it continue and thank you to all!

*W. Ernest Lakey
45 The Loont
Over
Winsford
Cheshire CW7 1EX*

93rd Many thanks to all the '44 Club' volunteers who do so much to keep our birthdays happy. I keep on going being blessed with reasonable health – though the old joints need a squirt of X100 now and again! I'm a bit less mobile now and no longer drive a car or a golf ball – but I still do a bit of gardening.

*Archie Paterson
23 Petters Road
Ashtead
Surrey KT21 1NB*

77th To see a picture with two swans on a lake made me just a little bit envious. We have not had any proper rain since last November and Malta is burnt dry and parched. Fortunately the brewery has its own water supply!

*Clive Brousson.
Rabat, Malta*

88th Set me thinking of the time spent at the Eastern Divisional office in Ipswich where I was told when starting in 1957 that this was not just a job but a way of life, and so it turned out to be. And this continued after I moved to the Hemel Hempstead computer centre in 1963. Very many thanks for being remembered again.

*Tony Baillie
43 Tameton Close
Luton LU2 8UX*

Thanks also received from Shirley Macmillan Smith (80), Edna Price (90), Peter Melrose (85), Frank Sadlier (86), Bill Wray (90), Josephine Andrews.



Wedding Anniversaries

Platinum

Jim and Marion Morne
19 Shalgrove Field
Fulwood
Preston
PR2 3SX
27th July 2016

Diamond

Willie and Maggie Farquhar
Orchard Grove
Smithton
Inverness
IV1 2NL
16th June 2016

Emerald

Peter and Bridget Cast
14 Watling Street
Thaxted
Essex
CM6 2PE
29th July 2016



Welcome New Members

Mrs Lesley Armstrong - Nicosia
Mrs Barbara Barnes - Warlingham
Mr Peter Bishop - Hemel Hempstead
Mrs Wilma Clark - Inverness
Mrs Gillian Cockill - Ashton-on-Mersey
Mr Keith Edleston - Mosman, NSW, Australia
Mr Alan Dolan - Corringham
Mrs Joan Heath - Warrington
Mr John Hudson - Reading
Mrs Elizabeth Jacobs - Poulton-le-Fylde
Mrs Valerie McLean - Leighton Buzzard
Mrs Anne Martin - Great Dunmow
Mr David Roberts - Plymouth
Mrs Alexandra Sard - Portsmouth
Mrs Pam Truckel - Chipping Sodbury
Mr John Woods - Immingham

Obituaries

We are sorry to report the loss of the following members. Our sympathies go to their families and friends.

BAMFORD (86). Mr Robert Bamford of Ulstrup, Denmark died on 26th June 2016. He was a Driver at Kingsbury Terminal when he left group service in 1985 after 23 years.

BLOYCE (82). Mr Brian Bloyce of Gloucester died on 2nd August 2016. He was a Driver at Northampton Terminal when he left group service in 1987 after 25 years.

BRADY (77). Miss Patricia Brady of Walton-on-Thames died on 8th August 2016. She worked in the Car Unit (ODLST/22), Shell Centre when she left group service in 1994 after 30 years.

CHAPMAN (97). Mr Walter Chapman of Dursley died on 14th July 2016. He was a Shift Supervisor at Faversham when he left group service in 1975 after 43 years.

CHARLES (95). Mr Donovan (Don) Charles of Harrogate has died. He was Regional Distribution Manager, Leeds Regional Office when he left group service in 1981 after 32 years.

CHARNEY (99). Mrs Eveline Charney of Wheatley died on 19th April 2016. She was the widow of Mr Norman Charney once a Group Commercial Representative, NW Industrial Region.

CLARK (83). Mrs Pauline Clark of Hemel Hempstead has died. She was a Senior Financial Assistant at Hemel Hempstead when she left group service in 1983 after 10 years.

COCKILL (80). Mr Clarence Cockill of Ashton-on-Mersey died on 29th June 2016. He was a Craftsman 2 at Barton Terminal when he left group service in 1989 after 22 years.

COTTON (102). Miss Violet Cotton of Leicester died on 20th July 2016. She was Secretary, Wolverhampton Branch when she left group service in 1956 after 19 years.

DEADMAN (80). Mrs Paula Deadman of Benfleet died on 13th July 2016. She was the wife of Mr Richard Deadman once a Driver at Shell Haven.

EDMUNDSON (80). Mr Derek Edmundson of Sunderland died on 7th July 2016. He was an Airfield Operator at Heathrow Airport when he left group service in 1987 after 22 years.

GALE (86). Mr Anthony Gale of Easton-in-Gordano has died. He was in Retail Marketing, BP Oil, Bristol when he left group service in 1985 after 28 years.

GARRARD (76). Mrs Rena Garrard of Ramsbottom has died. She was the wife of Mr Ronald Garrard once Chief Electrical Engineer, British Pipeline Agency, Hemel Hempstead.

GODDARD (97). Mrs G E Goddard of Capel St Mary died on 5th May 2016. She was Secretary to D&A Division: Head Office, Shell Mex House when she left group service in 1973 after 35 years.

GOODIER (96). Mr Leslie Goodier of Great Sutton has died. He was Operator 1 at BP Stanlow when he left group service in 1980 after 42 years.

GURNEY (87). Mr Robert Gurney of Reigate died on 8th April 2016. He was an Airfield Operator at Gatwick Airport when he left group service in 1983 after 20 years.

HAWKES (78). Mrs Barbara Hawkes of Luton died on 15th June 2016. She was the widow of Mr Brian Hawkes once a Driver at Buncefield Terminal.

HEATH (88). Mr Sidney Heath of Warrington died on 2nd July 2016. He was a Tanker Driver at Haydock when he left group service in 1987 after 18 years.

HERMANN (96). Miss Lorna Hermann of Chislehurst died on 15th June 2016. She was Secretary to Mr Upton, Finance Director, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1972 after 25 years.

HEWITT (90). Mr Alfred Hewitt of Belfast died on 22nd June 2016. He was a Driver 1 at Belfast Terminal when he left group service in 1985 after 25 years.

HILL (76). Mr Robert Hill of Haslemere died on 9th August 2016. He was HR & Medical Personnel Planner, SIPC, Shell Centre when he left group service in 1996 after 36 years.

HORSFIELD (90). Mr Roland (Ron) Horsfield of Sale died on 31st July 2016. He was an Accounts Assistant at Oxford Road, Manchester when he left group service in 1983 after 34 years.

HUDSON (née Hartley) (81). Mrs Pamela Hudson of Reading died on 4th July 2016. She was a Divisional Secretary, Shell-Mex House when she left in 1969 after 12 years. Wife of Mr John Hudson, once Shell Investment Department, Shell International, Shell Centre.

HUGHES (106). Mrs Nellie Hughes of West Coker died on 29th July 2016. She was the widow of Mr S Hughes who was a Supervisor at Northampton Depot.

HUNT (88). Mr John Hunt of Newton-le-Willows died on 14th July 2016. He was a Supervisory Assistant at Haydock Terminal when he left group service in 1981 after 15 years.

JACOBS (81). Mr James Jacobs of Poulton-le-Fylde died on 19th July 2016. He was a Terminal Operator at Haydock when he left group service in 1984 after 29 years.

JACKSON (95). Mr Raymond Jackson of Chalfont St Giles has died. He was Manager, Technological Services, Lubricants Division when he left group service in 1980 after 32 years.

JONES (83). Mr Colin Jones of Cardiff died on 9th May 2016. He was a Terminal Manager at Cardiff when he left group service in 1987 after 32 years.

JONES (90). Mr Maelor Jones of Widmerpool died on 20th June 2016. He was on Special Duties in UOMK/13, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1982 after 27 years.

KEYS (94). Mr Frederick Keys of Lee, London died on 22nd June 2016. He was an Operative 1 at Northfleet when he left group service in 1974 after 36 years.

KING (98). Mr Victor King of Hadleigh died on 28th July 2016. He was a Statistics Clerk at Shell Haven when he left group service in 1974 after 18 years.

LONG (86). Mr Norman Long of Warrington died on 11th August 2016. He was a Driver at Stanlow Terminal when he left group service in 1989 after 22 years.

MALIN (91). Mr Sidney Malin of Hampstead, NW3, died on 11th August 2016. He was in Commercial Sales, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1980 after 24 years.

MANNING (95). Mrs Rosa Manning of Stanford-le-Hope died on 30th May 2016. She was the widow of Mr Albert Manning once a Shift Supervisor at Shell Haven.

McLEAN (73). Mr James (Jim) McLean of Leighton Buzzard died on 10th June 2016. He was Admin Supervisor, Retail, Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1992 after 28 years.

MILES (78). Mr Selwyn Miles of Briton Ferry died on 14th July 2016. He was with Shell UK, Swansea when he left group service in 1992 after 19 years.

MORGAN (88). Mr Howard Morgan of Hungerford died on 27th June 2016. He was a Retail Representative at Southern Region, Norbury when he left group service in 1987 after 18 years.

NEW (93). Mr Dennis New of Poole died on 29th July 2016. He was a Driver at Hamworthy (Poole) when he left group service in 1981 after 43 years.

NEWTON (85). Miss Joan Newton of Holt died on 10th August 2016. She was Secretary, Shell-Mex House when she left group service in 1984 after 18 years.

PURNELL (96). Mrs Joan Purnell of Newmarket, Ontario died on 26th June 2016. She was the wife of Mr Ronald Purnell once a Senior Clerk, Southern Division, Southampton.

REES (83). Mr Eifion (Taffy) Rees of Lampeter died on 9th July 2016. He worked at Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1993 after 25 years.

RUTHERFORD (75). Mr John Rutherford of Londonderry died on 22nd July 2016. He was a Driver at Londonderry when he left group service in 1990 after 20 years.

SHARP (87). Mr Peter Sharp of Southampton died on 29th July 2016. He was a Section Head, Industrial Marketing, Shell UK Oil, Southampton when he left group service in 1979 after 27 years.

SHIELDS (86). Mr Robert Shields of Melton Mowbray has died. He was a Mate, BP Estuarial Fleet at Northfleet when he left group service in 1985 after 15 years.

SMITH (88). Mrs Olive Smith of Glasgow died on 13th August 2016. She was the widow of Mr Daniel Smith once a Terminal Operator at Bishopbriggs.

SWIFT (91). Mr John Swift of Plympton died on 28th June 2016. He was Senior Operations Assistant at Plymouth Terminal when he left group service in 1982 after 16 years.

TALBOT (82). Mr John Talbot of Boothstown, Manchester died on 16th August 2016. He worked at Barton until he left group service in 1987 after 18 years.

TURNER (87). Mr Raymond Turner of Spalding has died. He was a Commercial Sales Representative with BP Oil based at Hemel Hempstead when he left group service in 1988 after 38 years.

WILKINSON (74). Mr Philip Wilkinson of Tickenham died on 7th August 2016. He was Aviation Operations Manager, Shell-Mex House when he left group service in 1992 after 27 years.

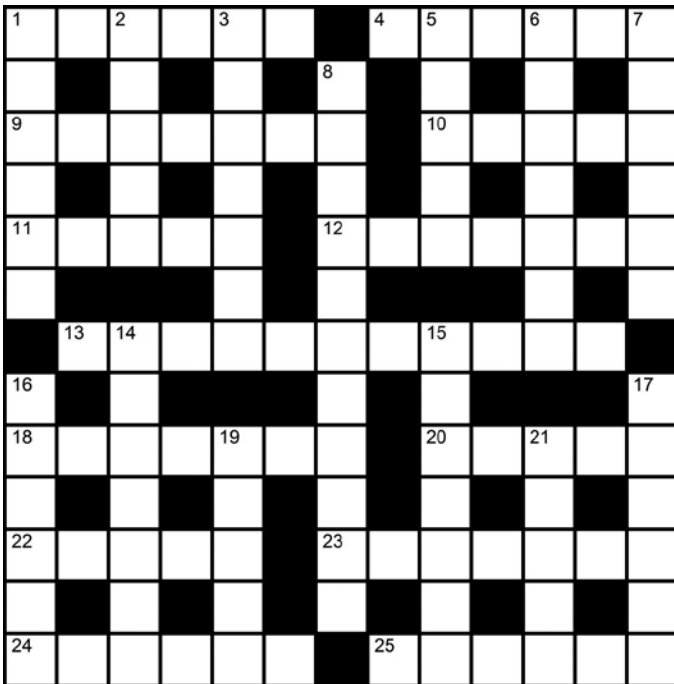
and Finally ...

Quotable Quote

"We have to guard against spending too much time on keeping things going and not enough time on thinking up new ways of improving our methods"

Tom Grieve 1966

Prize Crossword



Across

- 1 Viv Thomas's first employer (second word) (6)
- 4 With Propane main gas in LPG (6)
- 9 Old Blue Eyes (7)
- 10 Head Office in Victoria Street (5)
- 11 Viv Thomas's first employer (first word) (5)
- 12 George_____ ran this AD and Motor dealer (7)
- 13 To look into (11)
- 18 Motor Fuel that you grow (7)
- 20 Captain of the 1966 cup winners (5)
- 22 A snake that's good at sums? (5)
- 23 You throw it on an idea you don't like (4,3)
- 24 Sea Holly (6)
- 25 SMBP's big boss in 1966 (6)

Down

- 1 An Australian marsupial (6)
- 2 Egyptian desert (5)
- 3 An indigenous peoples of Brazil also known as the Leitodu (7)
- 5 A built up area (5)
- 6 A follower of a natural philosophy based on atoms and voids (7)
- 7 Given in praise of a person (6)
- 8 Where marketers compete (11)
- 14 The gun fired in Hong Kong at midday (7)
- 15 Someone who bets on outcomes (7)
- 16 A fire is this once it's taken hold (6)
- 17 A legendary Division Manager in Manchester (first name) (6)
- 19 To remove the rigging (5)
- 21 To make a speech (5)



Last Issue's Crossword

Fourteen all-correct entries last time (well done !) and our random winner selection system chose Chris L'Estrange of Huddersfield ! Good show Chris – generous prize will be on its way soon.

This edition of the Club News is available online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/ClubNews152>

Closing date for next issue
November 17th 2016