

**MEETINGS IN MAY – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN ORDER**

9<sup>th</sup>

16<sup>th</sup>

23<sup>rd</sup>

30<sup>th</sup>

Lunch

Breakfast

Breakfast

Lunch

## Old School Breakfast

On a beautiful, sunny morning President Jeff welcomed 22 members, 1 Honorary and 3 guests to our breakfast meeting where we were served by Katie and Jamie with their usual aplomb.

Guests were Michael Hall from the Old School Boxing Club who was our speaker (more later). He was accompanied by Neil Harrison who, it turns out, has known President Jeff for many years. Our other guest was friend of the club Faye Marsh from the Darlington Borough Council Leaving Care & Fostering Team. We also welcomed back David Whitley who has suffered with his health and moved to Scotland whilst retaining club membership – good to see ya David.

(Although the picture above was chosen from the [Old School Facebook page](#) there was no animosity or need for fisticuffs for most of breakfast although Roger James did get a bit feisty about mention last week of his performance in the Ron Hall Trophy.)

Notices given by members were firstly from Gary Blenkinsopp, Chair of Community Service, who spoke on behalf of Ken Wiper to promote and encourage members and their families to sign up for marshalling the 10k Run. The board is circulating – please email [Ken Wiper](#) if you need more details.

SVP Jane Bradshaw, who had been giving out personal invitations prior to the meeting, gave details of the Kind Hearts Ball to be held on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> at the Raby Castle Riding Stables. She enthused about what will be a fantastic event with only 150 tickets available – these will be on tables of 10 (and no other number!). Price to Rotarians is £60 and Jane asked if members could arrange themselves into groups of 10 if possible. Tickets will be available on the new Event Hub (see over) from next week. Jane also stressed that, apart from a table allocated for sponsors Charles and Angela Tompkins, no tables had yet been sold. Get in early to avoid disappointment.

President Jeff's notices included urging everyone to sign up for the Choirs for Cancer Care on 10<sup>th</sup> June (see over). He also reported on attending a Zoom meeting with other local Rotary Clubs which focused on membership development. On Thursday he attended the Abbey School GreenPower session and enjoyed watching the young drivers try out their skills. He announced that Gail Wiper and Barry Chapman had won the Bonus Ball.

Walid reported that Bob Devonport was in hospital and that a decision

continued overleaf.....



## Coming Soon...

### May

Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting**

Speaker: Brian Dobinson,  
Darlington Sports Winners

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May:

**Quoits**, Raby Terrace, DL3 7AB

Friday 16<sup>th</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**

Speaker: Hayley McKay, Music  
Minds at the Forum

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Chris Lloyd** (see overleaf)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**

Speaker: Caroline Todd, King's  
Church Foodbank

Friday 30<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 Club Lunchtime meeting**

Speaker: Cllr. Bob Donoghue "My  
Year As Mayor"

### June

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

**19:00 Choirs For Cancer Care**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

**12:15 CLUB ASSEMBLY**

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

**07:15 Club Breakfast meeting**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

**18:30 Handover Dinner**  
(No Lunchtime Meeting)

## Old School Breakfast....continued

would soon be made as to where would be best for his care and support. Richard Western's health is of course of concern to us but is showing no change. We send them both our best wishes.

Secretary Andy announced that on Tuesday, 6pm there is the International Committee at the Dolphin Centre and on Wednesday, 5pm the PR Group meets at St. Teresa's Hospice. Next week's lunchtime speaker will be Brian Dobinson from the Darlington Sports Winners Scheme - celebrating 50 years of acknowledging young talent.



Our speaker was Michael Hall from the Old School Boxing Club. Here pictured on the left in 1995 when he won the ABA Welterweight title, going on to be picked for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta but unable to compete due to ill health. And here he is now with the President and Neil Harrison who accompanied him.



Following an auspicious amateur career, including fighting Ricky Hatton, Michael went pro as a part of the famous Brendan Ingle gym in Sheffield. He also joined the local Fire Service and has been a firefighter ever since becoming a part of Durham & Darlington Fire Service when he moved back. He actually came to our meeting straight from a night shift!

With encouragement from others he has established the Old School Boxing Club in the Old Telephone Exchange in Darlington. The "old school" values he espouses ensure that fitness and wellbeing come before competition and only when participants ask do they progress to actual contests. Girls and boys are benefitting from this new club in town, led by a very small team with a culture that we can all appreciate and support.

A very good talk generated lots of questions and an appreciative vote of thanks from Gary Blenkinsopp.

## Boards & Invitations circulating:

**Annual Quoits Evening** to be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May at Darlington Quoits Club, Raby Terrace, DL3 7AB  
Organised by Tony Marshall.

**Choirs 4 Cancer Care** – book your tickets or use the new Event Hub.

**Darlington 10K Run** – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 08:30-12:30. Ken Wiper is asking for you to confirm attendance and chosen duty.

**Kind Hearts, the Ball – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October in the Raby Castle Riding School.** Tickets available on the Event Hub from next week (see below).  
Price to Rotarians: £60



**Darlington Rotary Event Hub:** Club events can now be booked by going to [www.darlingtonrotary.org/event-hub](http://www.darlingtonrotary.org/event-hub) or using this QR code starting with the Choirs. If you need a demonstration please ask.

## Chris Lloyd talk on 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Stockton & Darlington Railway

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

6.30pm for 7.00pm

Bannatyne Hotel

£20 per head

Two course meal



**Now only 2 Places Remaining!**

are you have sent  
**Steve Rose** your meal choices  
and paid for the event into the  
Club's General Account

**Darlington Rotary Club**

**52-30-18**

**41856384**

## Handover Dinner

Our annual black tie dinner to mark another year and the handing over of the Presidency....and have a bit of fun too.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**  
**Headlam Hall Hotel**

Reception 6.30pm

Meal 7.15pm

Tickets: £48

Rooms available at special rate

Email **Steve Rose** to book –  
include details of your party if  
booking a table of 10

## Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

Club Diary: [click here](#)

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary