Editorial

HILLSBOROUGH FOOTBALL TRAGEDY

This has appeared recently in the media, so for our non-football followers, a brief resume of what it's all about.

In 1989 – yes, 1989, this is really history – the venue for holding the English FA Cup football semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest was chosen as Hillsborough, Sheffield Wednesday's ground, as it was then one of the largest stadiums in the UK with a capacity of 53 000 people. In an endeavour to minimise hooliganism, which was prevalent at the time, access to the ground to the two groups of supporters was arranged to be from different sides of the stadium and this achieved its purpose.

For whatever reason, the access to the Liverpool fans was restricted, with insufficient turnstiles open and as kick-off time approached, a huge number of fans were still effectively outside the ground. Panic ensued and in the melee which followed, 96 fans were crushed to death and 700-odd injured: the UK's worst sporting disaster.

30 years have now passed, but some families still refuse to drop the matter. There has to be a scapegoat(s). The fact that their own fans should take a portion of responsibility is perhaps unpalatable. Did they behave in a civilised manner?

There is no doubt that mistakes were made. Only one prosecution has been successful – that of 69 year old Graham Mackrell, former Secretary of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, who was found guilty of charges in terms of the good old Health-and-Safety legislation, which was in its infancy at the time. He had no guidelines to work to but received a substantial fine, not enough though for his accusers. One has to be realistic with claims for compensation. There are no sources of funds, the company which owns the club is a shell and with so many potential claimants... the matter is not over. It appears that a major cover up has taken place by the 'authorities' – falsification of evidence, plain lies, etc. etc., a right mess! But there will still be no winners; perhaps simply walking away would be the best option.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

PS Liverpool won the cup final that year and is on the verge of even greater glory, being in the final of the European Champions Cup to be played shortly, in Spain.

By String Smith





	Minutes: 9 May, 2019
	Compiled by Hugh Maunder
Attendance	17 members present = 68% 1 Hon. Member: Wenche 1 Visitor: Colin Bird
Fellowship	21 May: Keela's birthday22 May: Stephanie's birthday23 May: Lindsay's birthday
From the President's chair	Because of the pressures of work, members are asked not to phone Keela or Stephanie during working hours, unless urgent. Reminder of the raid on Kirstenbosch RC on Monday 27 May. Best wishes to Bruce on his Rotary Friendship Exchange to Europe. Wishing Justin much excitement when attending the RI Conference in Hamburg at the end of May.
Slots	Justin requested WRC banners for distribution at the RI Conference. Rob Has some left over Proms wine for sale. Dennis passed on kind regards from three of our ex-presidents, whom he met this last week: Jackie James, Schalk and Michelle van der Merwe.
Guest Speaker	Dennis brought 6 bottles of his own wine for us to have a very enjoyable wine tasting 'competition'. We had to taste 3 whites and 3 reds and tick off which wine, out of 5 listed, they were. Stephen vN was the best at identifying 3 of the wines. Hugh also guessed 3 of the wines, but it didn't count as he had misunderstood the rules in the first place.
Swindle	Stephen vN failed to find the Queen of Spades, and drew the 9 of Spades instead – missing the R1350 jackpot – ah shame! Monique won the attendance prize of R25.
President's 'Rotarian of the Week'	Dennis was declared the Rotarian of the Week for improving members' knowledge of wine; and was awarded the pot plant.

800 million heartbeats

Question: Why do we humans live 75 years or so when our fellow mammals check out much earlier? Answer: Life spans are puzzling: Mice live about three years, cats and dogs about a dozen. And elephants, in spite of lugging around several tons more than a mouse, cat or dog, live to a ripe old 35 or more. You begin to solve the puzzle, says Stephen Jay Gould in "The Panda's Thumb," when you realize all mammals except homo sapiens are good only for about 800 million heartbeats, 200 million breaths. Smaller animals, which lose heat much faster, need higher metabolisms (faster pulses, faster respiration) to stay warm, so they burn down their candle faster. You can watch your cat or dog breathing comparatively rapidly, its heart racing, its days numbered.

The lucky gift for humankind is that although we use up our 800 million heartbeats by age 25 or so, we go on for another half a century. For a mammal our size, we live about three times as long as we "should," perhaps because of our species' long gestation period and extended childhood.

	May		June	
Duty Roster	23	30 No Meeting	6 Club Meeting	13
Roster				
Sergeant	Barnard		Overbosch	Todd
Wynpress Editorial	Thomas		White	Barnard
Wynpress Minutes	Maunder		Cleveland	Bredenkamp
Door Duty	Bayes		Dietrich	Edwards
Grace	Munday		Schonegevel J	Schonegevel R
Loyal Toast	Maunder		Schonegevel R	Overbosch
International Toast	Schonegevel J		Thomas	White
Speaker Intro and Thanks				
Entertainment for the month	Jackson, Bayes, Thomas, Gowdy, White			

Dates To Diarise		
23 May	Karen's Quiz + prize for the winner!	
25 May (Saturday morning)	Induction of President Keela: Vineyard Hotel	
27 May (Monday)	Raid on Kirstenbosch RC. Guest Speaker Brian Ingpen: "Shipwrecks along the Coast"	
30 May	No meeting (replaced by raid on Kirstenbosch – above)	
13 June	Presentations to Proms 2019 beneficiaries and participating choirs	
20 June	Amoyo Performaing Arts Foundation will present their work	
27 June	Last month of Hugh's world cruise: Maldives, Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Petra, Suez Canal, Jerusalem and Malta	

HOW TO INVITE A DEPRESSION

A man lived by the side of the road and sold hotdogs. He was hard of hearing, so he had no radio. He had trouble with his eyes, so he read no newspapers. But he sold hotdogs. He put up signs on the highways telling how good they were. He stood on the side of the road and cried: "Buy a hotdog, Mister." And people bought. He increased his meat and bun orders. He got his son home from college to help him.

But then something happened...

His son said, "Father, haven't you been listeneing to the radio? There's a depression on. The European situation is terrible; the domestic situation is worse." Whereupon the father thought, "Well, my son's been to college. He reads the papers and listens to the radio, and he ought to know."

So the father cut down on his meat and bun orders, took down the advsrtising signs, and no longer stood out on the highway to sell hotdogs. And his hotdog sales fell almost overnight.

"You're right son," the father said to the boy, "We certainly are in the middle of a great depression!"

Tailpiece

MEN. TAKE NOTE - TAKE CAREFUL NOTE

Some Things Women Say and What They Really Mean

- "Fine." Translation: The opposite of fine. This just means that the discussion is over.
- "Do whatever you want." Translation: This is a test of your judgment. I'm not going to tell you if I think it's okay or not to do this thing. You should know enough about me by now to know if I'm okay with it. Which I'm not, by the way.

If you do this, we are through.

- "I'm almost ready." Translation: I'll be ready when I'm ready. Could be 10 minutes, could be an hour. Find something else to do.
- "We need to talk." Translation: I need to talk. You need to listen.
- "It's pretty." Translation: Thank you for the gift. It's the thought that counts. But I'm going to exchange this for something I actually like.
- "Maybe." Translation: No.
- "We'll see." Translation: No.
- "Yes." Translation: Yes. Or Maybe. But probably No.

