

# **Pipe Club of Norfolk Newsletter - December 2012**

## **Frank King (Senior) 1923-2012**

The club is very sad to report that Frank King (Senior) passed away recently.

Frank joined the Pipe Club some 20 years ago and, more often than not accompanied by his son Frank, he was a regular attendee at meetings held at The Rosary. He was a fund of stories, and always ready with a joke from what Max Miller might have called 'the Blue Book.'

Very much a Norwich man, having worked his time at Colman's, his quick wit contributed to every meeting, and he was no slouch at smoking contests. For example, the Newsletter report of the September 2001 meeting records that '...three grammes of Dunhill My Mixture 965 was smoked in clay pipes...at the fifty minute mark only three contestants remained, Len Ellis expiring after 54'10....in an exciting finish, Frank (57'20) beat Keith Coleman (56'35) by a whisker....'

Frank understandably found it difficult to make the meetings held at The Nelson following the closure of the Rosary, but enjoyed his pint in The Wellington, close to his Bullard Road home. We raise a glass, and puff a pipe, to his memory.

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From the familynotices24.co.uk website:

KING FRANK WILLIAM suddenly at home on November 30th, aged 89. Much-loved Dad of Frank, Julie and James, dear grandad to Donna and Tim, Sharon and David, Alexandra and Abigail. Will be sadly missed. Funeral service at St. Faiths Crematorium on Tuesday, December 18th, at 10.15am. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for the RAF Benevolent fund may be sent c/o Allcock Family Funeral Services, Falcon House, 96a City Road, Norwich, NR1 2HD.

## **Bits And Pieces**

### **Broads Awards 2012**

The 5th Annual Broads Awards took place at the Ferry Inn, Horning on Saturday 3rd November and was a resounding success with over 100 people in attendance who all had a very enjoyable evening. The Ferry provided an excellent carvery dinner followed by the Red Carpet ceremony and entertainment from local band Hard Rain.

The 'Most Smoker Friendly Pub' award (sponsored by the Pipe Club of Norfolk) was won by The Ship, Reedham.

Congratulations!

## **BPSC Report: A Report Of The British Pipe Smoking Championships By One Who Was There**

Sunday 15 July dawned bright and clear; just as well as a long journey to Newark on Trent lay ahead, which would usually entail trespassing through fields of cabbages behind assorted lorries, caravans and farm machinery. This trip was no different but at last the Showground hove into view. Yet, was this the place? It was very quiet. No placards proclaiming that 'Newark welcomes Pipesmokers'. No sponsors flags fluttering gaily from the staffs. Indeed the place was deserted.

Now some of you I am sure will have watched 'The Avengers' in your youth and may remember the episode where Steed and Mrs Peel fetch up at an RAF station only to find it deserted save for a sinister milk float. Well, I am sure I heard milk bottles.

Back to the plot. After driving aimlessly around for a while, a tent was espied, situated beside a rustic latrine block. Further investigation showed this to be the place as inside was a fair complement of smokers obviously enjoying themselves. Let me set the scene for those unlucky enough not to have attended. One end of the tent was commercial with a number of stalls selling pipes, smoking equipment and fuel. The middle of the tent housed the media centre, where the organisers were in animated conversation with the film crews. Beyond this was the arena where the contest would take place.

A sheet attached to a tent post gave the running order but things were running a little behind time and the business did not begin until mid afternoon. Anything approaching a record time would mean a ride home in the dark. The Norfolk contingent were joined at their table by a couple of Spaniards. The one who could speak English remarked that his mate was the Champion of Spain and had won contests all across Europe. So the contest began and an unexpected problem occurred which had the potential to spoil the whole event. The competition rules formulated many years ago stipulated two matches per competitor. No problem in an enclosed environment but in a tent where playful breezes issued through the open side flaps keeping the matches alight was a lottery. Your scribe, like a number of others, had the first match blown out. Faced with a 200 mile round trip for nothing, well the second match had got to work. It was a question of getting something alight somehow. Indeed one may say that the usual practiced ignition techniques had perforce to give way to expediency.

That other competitors had suffered similarly was evidenced by the high casualty rates early on in the piece but then things settled down somewhat. Mr Larner was smoking with confidence while DWK seemed set for a long afternoon. One of the Spaniards had dropped out but the Champion continued deftly guiding his ember round the bowl and occasionally, very occasionally, allowing pipe stem and mouth to enjoy fleeting contact. Mr Larner expired after a fine effort and all of a sudden only two men were left standing, the Spaniard and DWK. At last the media, who had sat bemused through much of the proceedings realised that something exciting was about to happen and sprung into life, film cameras quivering but inches from the

competitors glowing bowls. It was at this stage that your correspondent felt it appropriate to examine the latrines and upon return found he had missed the denouement; DWK had gone out and the wily Spaniard had declared his innings closed on 57 mins.

Speeches and prize giving followed soon after. Contestants were rewarded handsomely for their efforts while the Champion will travel home with a huge cache of prizes to aid the Spanish economy. The Nottingham pipe club deservedly won the team prize and a raffle of surplus stock raised a little more for the funds.

And so it was time to head home after an enjoyable and historic event. Roll on next year.

## **International Pipe Smoking Day - February 20th**

### **MISSION**

To foster links across the globe in honor of friendship, benevolence, and tranquility; and to celebrate the fraternity of pipe-smokers across all borders.

### **PURPOSE**

On this day we will take a breather and celebrate the noble art of pipe-smoking and the noble spirit which pervades the brother/sisterhood of the briar. We will put into practice the time-honored and ancestral traditions of raising our pipes in toast to each other in the evening in unison and, thus, share a bowl together.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

Today's hectic environment almost dictates that we run on full efficiency, have total involvement in our work, our families and in every aspect of what we do to survive and achieve in a world set at high speed. • With ever-changing values it is the intent that The International Pipe-Smoking Day will allow us, the Brothers and Sisters of the Briar to step back and appreciate our rich historical value. • For pipe-smokers and pipe-smoking everywhere the day will be emblematic of our shared values, history, traditions, and aspirations.

## **2012 Meetings**

### **July : Picture Quiz**

Free tobacco! The evening started with the distribution of several packets of (mainly aromatic) tobacco very generously donated by Steve, a former pipe smoker. Those present ended up with at least two packets each.

Those who attended the British Pipe Smoking Championships all said how enjoyable the event was. Hopefully, there will be another BPSC next year.

And now for the main event of the evening... Thanks again to Ronnie Bobbin for another excellent picture quiz which was won by Mr Eason who was presented with

a tin of Dunhill Navy Rolls. I don't know where John stores all the trivia that he knows.

### **August : Bowls**

An excellent afternoon at the Morley Club. Thanks to Tony for organising it and congratulations to him for being on the winning team. The weather threatened to disrupt the proceedings but we got under way after a slight delay due to rain. The Morley Club did us proud with an excellent buffet at the end of the event.

### **August : Secretary's Quiz**

An excellent quiz by the secretary. That is what most members said. Congrats to David Wollard-Kingston who won and gets to set the next quiz. Sample questions: 12. Blade is a fictional character, a superhero/vampire hunter created by which comic book publisher? 13. Skimmed milk is made when WHAT is removed from whole milk? 14. Which musical instrument does Eric Clapton play? See if you can spot the connections.

### **September: 3 Grams Clay Competition**

Annual 3 grams clay

Smoky Shed

19 September 2012

Early Morning Pipe

Contestant's choice of pipe

1	Keith Coleman	48:00
2	David Wollard-Kingston	47:50
3	Tony Lerner	33:50
4	John Walker	31:30

A small turnout for this year's clay competition and congratulations to winner Keith Coleman.

### **October : Talk about tobacco growing**

It was nice to see Stuart again and we were delighted to welcome Roger Howard who came to talk to us about tobacco growing.

It is perfectly legal to grow tobacco in the UK and you do not have to pay tax on it as long as it is used for personal consumption.

If you can grow tomatoes, you should also be able to grow tobacco. The secret is to start the seeds in a greenhouse in about March time. Once established, the plants are resistant to most pests apart from slugs.

The difficult part is the curing of the tobacco which is quite a skilled job.

## **November : Darts**

A very creditable victory for Keith Coleman who won four out of four matches. John Walker was the highest scorer with a very lucky 100.

### *An Alternative Report on Darts Night*

A clear winter's evening with a slight breeze blowing from right to left (but only when I was throwing) saw the annual darts competition. The venue was the Nelson, where I'm happy to say the beer is much improved, but even this failed to draw the expected large field of entrants so it was left to only five of us to do battle for the plethora of prize, which the Hon Sec will dig out from under his bed and present to the winner at some point in the (distant) future.

The five who did turn up were Keith Coleman, Len Ellis, the Walker Sisters\* and myself. Reg Walker claimed that the school nurse had put drops in his eyes and he couldn't see very well. I don't know about you, but I can't stand people who make excuses. But at least he turned up. Unlike Tony Lerner who has been on a safari in North Yorkshire and had shot thousands of innocent pheasants and partridges as well as several beaters. He claimed tiredness, but several reports came in from North Norfolk of an undesirable person going door to door trying to sell rotting game birds at exorbitant prices.

The competition began at about the same time as a meeting started at the other end of the bar. It soon became clear that those throwing the darts should have been holding the meeting (after all with four ex-HMSO people we had light years of experience) while there was no doubt from the scornful looks they gave us that those at the meeting could have won the mythical prize with their eyes closed.

But despite the noise and distraction that was corning from the Nelson Street end we battled on in what was to become a darts marathon, that threatened to last beyond licensed hours. And that was just the first tie.

Eventually the competition was won by Keith with a perfect record of four wins. Len was runner-up with three, while Walker Major had two and Walker Minor with a single (lucky) victory was not quite last. I had a perfect record as well, and would have had the highest score of the night when I threw a brilliant one hundred and ten, only to have it disallowed as I had needed one hundred and eleven to finish. So the high score non-prize went to John Walker with a measly one hundred.

All good fun, anyway. and I am bound to be much better at next month's cheese and pickles.

\*So called to avoid confusion with a vintage pop group.

## **November: Cheese and Quiz**

Thanks to John Eason for obtaining an excellent selection of cheeses for the annual cheese and pickles evening. The runner bean pickle went down very well, especially with Tony who spent the night at the Rennies.

Congratulations to Keith who won David's excellent quiz about smoking and food.

## **December: Xmas Draw**

Forty excellent prizes up for grabs thanks to astute purchasing by the secretary who had £215 to spend. The chairman and secretary seemed to win more than their fair share of prizes as usual. Everyone went home satisfied with their haul of goodies.

## **From The Archives**

The PCN was featured on 'Have I Got News For You' - BBC1 - 14th October 2010.

'...a bunch of rustic yokels ...with ruddy faces, puffing away on silly-looking pipes.'

That was how the Pipe Club of Norfolk was described on primetime television at just before 10pm on Friday 14 October 2010. Yes, this very Newsletter was chosen as Publication of the Month by the BBC television programme, Have I Got News For You.'

In the event, Messrs Hislop and Merton treated us relatively kindly, and there were pictures of select members. Speaking of members, the Chairman's final words were '...the darts tournament was won by Len, who celebrated the only way pipesmokers know how- with a damned good shag.'

A surprising number of people have commented on the programme (even an email from France) and John Walker reckons to have received some 250 'hits' on the PCN Website, and we have been approached by potential members.

You can view the video on the PCN website – [pipeclubofnorfolk.co.uk](http://pipeclubofnorfolk.co.uk)

## **This And That**

### **PCN Records**

Briar 3grs. Len Ellis 95.45 mins set 2004-10-10

Clay 3grs. James Oxley-Brennan 82.47 mins set 1995-09-20

Outdoor 3grs. Frank King Jnr. 51.10 mins set 2007-07-19

Briar 4grs. David Woollard-Kingston 113 mins set 2010-05-19

## **Anniversary**

The club celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

## **Forthcoming events in 2013**

16 January - AGM  
20 February - 3 grams briar competition  
20 March - TBA  
17 April - Cigar competition  
15 May - 4 grams  
19 June - 3 grams outdoor

## **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions for the year 2013 will soon be due. Please send £6.30 (cheque or postal order payable to 'Pipe Club of Norfolk') to the club treasurer: Mr K Coleman, 15 Kabin Road, New Costessey, Norwich, NR5 0LN

**A very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2013 to all our members and friends.**



unbeknownst to most,  
the world is completely  
controlled by a single  
pipe smoking rabbit.

m. johns