

President's Report to Dec 31st 2013.

Here we are again.

We all know the saying "Another day older and deeper in Debt".

But fortunately that's not true in the case of JCC.

Another YEAR older maybe.....but still not in debt.....that's more accurate.

As Richard just reported, membership numbers have increased this year from 473 to 494 (the highest number for 5 years) and daily attendance has increased againfrom 6950 to 6976.....the highest figure we've ever had.

Those may not sound like large increases but when you consider the deep financial recession that has taken place, it makes the numbers really impressive.

So what is the reason for this success?

The friendliness of JCC and its Members is ..OF COURSE... one..... but I think that the continuing rise in the popularity of APPLE and ANDROID devices has played a significant part.

The APPLE Group has continued to increase in numbers thanks in no small part to Simon, Ernie and Anne.

The ANDROID Group has also continued to increase its membership thanks to Scotty's enthusiasm for anything ANDROID.

It's also worth pointing out that for the past few years Fredrik has been telling us that Windows users are in decline. APPLE and ANDROID (and in particular SAMSUNG) have taken a large share of what used to be Microsoft's domain ...but don't write off Microsoft just yet. They still have 90% of PC Operating Systems and in the last 3 months of 2013 their profit went up by 14% to 24.5 BILLION dollars.....that puts JCC's profit in the shade.

The surge in interest in Smartphones, Netbooks, Tablets etc is still on the increase and hopefully JCC's success will continue as a result.....As far as we are concerned.....APPLE, ANDROID, WINDOWS....."the more the merrier".

The Committee is always aware that the needs and abilities of Members are constantly changing and, as a result, we came to the conclusion that the format of TUESDAYS was no longer relevant.

There are very few ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS who need basic tuition and, because of the ever increasing number of Operating systems, it became increasingly difficult to give formal presentations on Tuesdays.

Members of our Special Interest Groups, and the Apple and Android Groups in particular, can't be expected to wait upto 10 days before receiving help or assistance.

So we decided that we should allow any of the Groups that wished to meet weekly, to do so.

Having made that change, and bearing in mind that the Groups that meet on a Tuesday rarely have talks or give presentations, it seemed logical to accept that troubleshooting help is often needed on days other than just Monday. So Tuesday will also be a 'troubleshooting day.

It is only right that JCC's Members should benefit from the Club's continuing success.

They will do that as a result of the HALVING of the Membership Subscription, which was proposed a moment or two ago.

We can do that because, not only do we have a healthy Bank Balance, but we are also aware that we are unlikely to incur the expenditure of replacing the Club's PCs.

The vast majority of our Members bring their own devices to the Club.....Smartphones, Netbooks Tablets etc.....so we don't need as many PCs as we've had in the past.

We've mentioned before that we could perhaps invest in iPads and Samsung Tablets for all the Committee Members,but no-one has had the courage to propose it.

But we understand.....The only TABLETS that we are likely to get are PARACETAMOL FOR A HEADACHE.

I should point out that the reduction in the Annual fee is not currently seen as a TEMPORARY change, but each year the TREASURER puts forward his Budget for approval at the AGM, and that takes into account the anticipated level of income.

Turning now to the individuals who help to make the Club such a success.

We certainly have some remarkable people in the Club.

There's Chris, who supervises and has taken part in many excellent Thursday talks;There's Fredrik who gives us an insight into the future..... and there's Scotty whose enthusiasm for his gadgets is contagious..... and of course all the volunteers who help to make the Club run so well.

Then there's MIKE, who in spite of his current lack of mobility, still works as hard as anyone and keeps the Membership database up to date. Let's wish him well as he anticipates his forthcoming operation to recover his agility.

However, my greatest inspiration 4 years ago was asking JACKI to take on the role of SECRETARY. She has been a great help in sometimes difficult circumstances and I couldn't have done my job without her help and support.

But there is one more remarkable person that I would like to mention.

That is PAT HAYES.....Mervyn's wife and our MONDAY desk lady.

Many of you may be unaware that she is currently undergoing Chemotherapy treatment and actually organised her appointments so that she could still do the desk on Mondays.

That's remarkable enough in itself but more even more so is her attitude and determination to get on with life.

She talks openly about her illness..... as though she had a sore thumb.

She is always cheerful and pleasant to everyone..... (even Mervyn) and she is an inspiration to us all.

As I said.....she's organised her treatment to suit her timetable..... and I'm delighted that she's here today and I'd like.....on your behalf,..... to ask her to accept these flowers and our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

The President's report would not be complete without expressing my thanks personally to all the Committee Members for their hard work and commitment to JCC.

Apart from Richard..... (and more of that later).....they are all seeking re-election to the Committee.....and I'm sure that they will receive your support.

Finally, the future of JCC looks bright.

In a moment or two we will have 4 new Committee Members who will bring with them new ideas and enthusiasm to ensure that JCC continues to flourish.

So don't forget.....keep on coming..... and enjoy yourselves.....IN JCC