

Diary of a Corporate Chair



January

Successfully completed my takeover bid for the athletic club after returning from my Millennium break. Suitably humble during the hand-over ceremony. Called my first board meeting. I will have to organise some sort of appraisal system for my fellow directors, some of whom appear to have settled in very lax ways under the previous dynasty. From now on I expect 100% commitment or heads will roll. Updated my CV. Wrote to Bingley Harriers to tell them to watch out. Organised the club Christmas do. It will be a superb extravaganza in December to celebrate my first year in office.

February

Rolled out a few of my corporate ideas. I want a new corporate style, regular newsletters, new members, new kit, new logos, improved performances and loads of publicity and sponsorship. Well received (no-one spoke). Delegated much of the nitty gritty to the hoi-polloi, including personal productivity targets and details of performance-related work bonuses.



Discussed the club Christmas do. It will still be a superb extravaganza to celebrate my first year in office, but will now take place in November. Glad to get this sorted before going away on holiday.

March

Released my new personal web site. An instant success, with the added bonus that I retain exclusive editorial control.



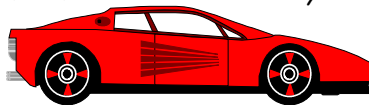
Added some race results to my web site. Decided to spice up the nomenclature by adding cheeky middle names to star performers, such as "Good Egg", etc. Phoned Brett and had a chuckle at this.

Called for contributions to the web site. Set a deadline for copy just before I went off skiing.

Re-organised the club Christmas do. It will now be a pretty exciting event in January.

Received an insulting letter from an anonymous source signed only by "Egg". Assumed it to be from a rival financial organisation and binned it immediately.

- April** *The start of the fell racing season. Looking forward to it. Did the Bunny Runs and found an egg (not an Easter one) stuffed up my exhaust when I got back. Ready for some serious racing when I get back from my Easter break.*
- May** *Joined Pete Carr's 55th celebration run to Otley. Very enjoyable, but must have drunk too much shandy as I swear the speedo on the Mondeo touched three figures on the way back, and I know that I've issued clear instructions to Mrs. Chair never to exceed 50.
Received further hate mail and poison e-mails on the subject of eggs from an anonymous source. This is one of the high prices one has to pay for taking elite executive positions. Feeling a bit stressed this month - need a holiday.*
- June** *A very busy month. Took part in the Mountain Navigation Challenge. A successful first day, due to my navigational prowess, but a disastrous second day. It's not for me to say, but I was sorely let down by Mrs. Chair. Made my feelings known at the end of the event by eating alone with my pack on. Made an hilarious comment about a fellow competitor, and tittered about it all night. Must put it on my web site.
Also did the Washburn Valley Relay. A corporate and personal disaster in every way. Charles "Navigation" Marshall took Tony Minikin the wrong way in the car, missing a vital changeover. It concerns me greatly that this guy is our Club Treasurer. I may well have to consider a cabinet re-shuffle. On a personal note, I pulled my calf whilst rocketing towards personal glory, and therefore left for my French vacation with a limp. Mrs. Chair disappointed, but said she was used to it.*
- July** *MGB written off by exuberant web site developer whilst on I was on holiday. Secretly pleased, as I can now purchase a sensible vehicle in keeping with my status. Camping in the Lakes for the Kentmere Horseshoe. Someone commented about the view at the top, but I reminded my fellow competitors that we were there to race, not as tourists. The new club ethos is seeping very slowly into some members. Had a word with Des Fretwell about corporate sponsorship on my web site. Difficult negotiations, but I eventually settled on paying a retainer to Des every month. Not sure that this was the ultimate aim, but it must be better than nothing. Received delivery of brochures for Nissan Micras and an anonymous parcel of rotten eggs.*
- August** *Acquired new vehicle. Not the modest one that I wanted, but a bold and brazen, leather-seated, soft top monstrosity that goes far too fast and is difficult to handle. It was something that Mrs. Chair chose, although I cannot for the life of me understand why.*



Arrived in the car for a Wednesday night run at the Dog & Gun and got left behind in the car park whilst manoeuvring to a standstill. Let Mrs. Chair drive home, reminding her of her 50 per limit.

Took issue with the Club President about the quality of bearded bald athletes. I think he was suitably chastened because he has now started addressing me as "Banker", no doubt due to my corporate style and daytime profession.

Re-organised the club Christmas do. Due to predicted post-Christmas poverty of most members (alas, the evils of alcohol), it will now be a modest but pleasant function in January.

September *Thought of a new catch phrase for the club, "**Good Running, Great Times**". I'm very proud of this, drawing as it does on my work at the big H and their new logo "New Loans, Great Profits".*



*Explained the new concept to everyone, pointing out in detail how the "Great Times" is in fact a rather clever **play on words**!! I Not everyone sees it at first, but it can mean "having a great time", as in, having a couple of halves of shandy and a laugh at Brett, and it can mean "great times", like running very fast. In fact, it's cleverer than the Big H one, where "Great Profits" simply means "Loads of Dosh". Explained it to Liam, who I think was impressed, and then wrote it all up on my web site.*

Up the Lakes again for Dale Head run. Retired early the night before, unlike Mrs. Chair, who refused to obey my instructions to turn in. Lectured her on the evils of drink in the morning, after she had tried to get up for the second time.

October *Tested my new "Pipistrel Ultraglow Safe Sonic" night activity system (PUSS for short) by cycling home from Halifax via Fly Flats. Alarmed when a Boeing 737 attempted to land, apparently mistaking me for Leeds/Bradford Airport.*

Realised that I have visited my web site over 3,000 times this year!

Re-organised the club Christmas do. It will now consist of a booze-up after the West Yorkshire League fixture next month.

November *Attended the West Yorkshire X-C League as club photographer. It's a sign of what I sacrifice for the club that I also attended the evening social, only to be abused by the Club President on the subject of alcohol consumption. I trust I don't end up like him! Took Mrs. Chair home early as she was beginning to look like having another Dale Head. Ha ha! I've just realised that I've accidentally made another **play on words**!! "Dale Head" could mean hangover, as well as the actual place where the hangover occurred! In fact,*

*it's even more clever because it could refer to dAle Head, meaning beer!!
Will have to put this on my web site and explain it to Liam.*

*Opened my Financial Times to the shock news that the Club President had died. I **knew** the drink would get him in the end. Found out later that it wasn't the President but a fictional TV character named Victor. Still, the omens are there and I will certainly stick to shandy this Christmas.*

December *Put in a club bid for the Millennium Dome after hearing of Will's NOF bid success. It will be an excellent HQ when I'm away in London on business. Rather a shock to then receive a telegram from the rest of the committee and coaching staff in Lanzarote. Apparently they'd already heard about the money.*

*An unusual experience whilst out training. Ran past Town Hall Square in Keighley, when suddenly there was a loud cheer from a group of people gathered there! I was at first surprised that they recognised me, wearing as I was my woolly hat and PUSS equipment, and assumed it was because I looked so majestic. Found out later that they had mistaken me for Keighley's **Christmas Lights**!! One of the crowd threw an egg at me.*

Developed my corporate ideas for 2001. I want a new corporate style, regular newsletters, new members, new kit, new logos, improved performances and loads of publicity and sponsorship.

Planned the club Christmas do for next year. It will now be a huge fireworks extravaganza and barbeque in May.

