



**NEWSLETTER**

*Happy New Year!!*

2007

Open every Wednesday & Friday from 20:00 until late . . .  
**NATIONALITY MAKES NO DIFFERENCE**

# Apologies



## Advance Notice: Annual General Meeting 13th April 2007

This is the most important meeting in the club calendar. Last year we had an excellent turnout and a very productive AGM. I hope this year will be even better. There will be an official invitation in the next newsletter but for now please think about any topics you would like to discuss, any changes you would like to make to the club's constitution and whether you would like to stand for the committee. If you wish to propose any changes to the club constitution please come along to the next committee meeting or send them to me before 26th January so that we can publish them in the next newsletter. At the AGM all suggestions about the general running of the club can be discussed and voted on. If you would like to stand for the committee you can put your name forward at the AGM, it is not necessary to register beforehand. You can also propose someone else for the committee

## Committee Notes December 2006

### **Club Room**

(Stand by for a few double entendres) We have a slight damp problem in the gents' toilet. The architect has been again to have a look and decide a course of action. It would help, especially during the colder weather to leave the door open (when not in use) and the radiator on low. So all you 'Gents' when leaving the stall please leave the door open – thanks. We have asked the landlord (Haus & Grund) if we could put up a satellite dish so that we could receive English language television programmes. We don't have a definitive answer yet and there maybe some problems with the nearby tall buildings. We have ordered ten new bar stools in pine wood finish to match the

bar. The older 'odd' stools will be disposed of and the other dark wood stools placed around the bistro tables.

## **Christmas Party**

Just to say thank you again to everyone who contributed to such a great evening. It wasn't perfect but maybe that's what makes it so special. I for one was impressed at how we can put on such an excellent event. The food was first class this year, only the crackers were missing. Due to 'extra security measures' we couldn't import them though the Pete Hutchinson channel, but they'll definitely be back next year!

## **Events**

Two regular events are coming up. The Kohl and Pinkel Fahrt 2007 organised as usual by Chris. Not many places left so if you want to be there please register as soon as possible. The (In)famous Valentines Day Cocktail is on the 16th February. Dress is optional, but however you arrive you won't get better or cheaper cocktails anywhere. Thanks in advance to Nicky, Iris and the Cocktail Crew for doing the bar.

Mike Harding

## **!!! Reminder !!!**

### **11th English Club Kohl- und Pinkelfahrt**

**10 February 2007**

Not long now until February so get your name down and pay as soon as possible to secure a place.

The venue for the Kohlfahrt is small and friendly so numbers are limited; we must confirm how many will be attending as soon as possible. Register now to secure your place.

Any questions, queries, comments etc - you can contact Chris by phone up to 11pm most nights on **0421 5577556**



S<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub>

P<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub> N<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub>

*By the time you read this the Scrabble evening (22 Dec) will have been and gone. In the UK Scrabble is a very popular game but I have the impression that here in Germany it is not so well known (outside the English Club, that is).*

*Briefly the game is a bit like a cross-word puzzle where the players add the words to a grid-like board using small tiles. Each tile has a letter on it and each letter has a point value. Special squares on the board allow double or triple word or letter scores. The player (or team) with the highest score when all the letters are used up is the winner. There are 100 tiles in the English version of the game with the distribution of letters reflecting their frequency in the language. The German version has 102 tiles allowing for the extra umlaut letters and the generally longer words!*

*The game was invented in 1938 by an American, Alfred Mosher Butts an architect from Connecticut (there's a quiz question in there somewhere). As is often the case he couldn't market the game himself but sold the idea to James Brunot who produced the first commercial sets. Today there is an official World Championship and national and international tournaments.*

*The occasional games in the English club are a bit more modest but all the more enjoyable. At home we play with the German letter set but all players are allowed to make English or German words. What I often find it that's it's sometimes easier to get a good score with English words using the German tiles as their point values are more advantageous. What's also fun is to turn a German word into an English one (or vice versa) by adding letters.*

*Have a look in Wikipedia <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scrabble> for the whole Scrabble story.*

*Mike Harding*

S<sub>1</sub> C<sub>3</sub> R<sub>1</sub> A<sub>1</sub> B<sub>3</sub> B<sub>3</sub> L<sub>1</sub> E<sub>1</sub>

P<sub>3</sub> A<sub>1</sub> R<sub>1</sub> T<sub>1</sub>

T<sub>1</sub> W<sub>4</sub> O<sub>1</sub>

*Scrabble Competition Friday 22nd December*

*Having failed miserably to stamp my mark at the Wednesday Night Darts Competition (I didn't win a single match!) I thought that at least I should be able to make an impression in the Scrabble Competition. Nicky divided us carefully into four teams, two at the bar and two in the lounge and produced*

*an impressive large-scale home-made scrabble board which he carefully leant in a prominent position against the dart board wall. He then proceeded to take us through the rules with great eloquence and immaculate poise. Of course, all of this went completely over my head but it didn't matter as I was in Brita's Team! She would no doubt ensure that I would get through it!*

*Letters were drawn and the game commenced. After the first round we'd finished with the lowest score and, quite cleverly, one of our players swiftly seized the opportunity to leave on his motorbike. With typical British (and German) opportunism we claimed the right to bring in a new player from one of the other teams. The President had demonstrated his prowess even at such an early stage, so we decided to go for him and couldn't believe our luck when he practically sprinted over to us from Bar Team 1. Not sure if his ready and willingness was for matrimonial harmony reasons or just simply to get out of bar duty but it gave us a much needed boost nonetheless. We started to get better and even won a few of the rounds.*

*The academic highlight of the match however came from the eventual winners (Bar Team 1) who managed to achieve a 'triple word' score square and use all seven letters in the same word thus getting a further bonus of 50 points. Can't remember the word nor how many hundreds of points they'd scored for it but it made me realize that I should stick to darts as it's much easier to make up excuses for lack of ability (the darts, lack of practice, arm ache, Henry walked in front of me, not enough beer, too much beer etc.).*

*Anyway, in summary, it was a very interesting, entertaining and above all, successful evening. Let's see if Santa brings me a scrabble board or some new darts in a couple of days!*

*Nick O'Brien (Nobby).*

## **New Words Corner**

*If you can get on the Internet try **<http://www.collins.co.uk/wordex-change/>**. This is a site for the newest, sometimes very new, English words.*

*How about pognophobia, a fear of beards or 'snow clones' – I'll leave you to look that one up!*

*Mike Harding*

## Film-Brunch Offering for February

Imagine if you will, being randomly chosen to compete against 5 others to win \$2,000,000. A one-in-six chance to become an instant millionaire. This prospect is what a group of people on vacation in Las Vegas get put before them by casino-owner Donald Sinclair (played by John Cleese). A lawyer, a mother and daughter (recently reunited), two rather dim-witted brothers, a disgraced football referee, an Italian tourist and a Jewish family get the opportunity to race each other to a small town in New Mexico. A bag with the money has been placed in a locker at the train station. Each party gets an identical key to the locker and whoever gets there first, by hook or by crook, gets to keep the money. The only rule, they are told, is that “there are no rules”

...

This is the basic plot behind one of the funniest (and sadly underrated) movies of the last few years. In “Rat Race”, Rowan Atkinson (“Mr. Bean”), Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Jon Lovitz are among the players who originally believe the whole thing is a scam, but when one of them makes the first move, the others are quick to follow. The race is on! When I saw this film for the first time, I hadn’t laughed so much for a long time. Director Jerry Zucker has given us many hilarious comedies (“Airplane”, “Top Secret” and “Naked Gun” to mention but three) and this is probably his best offering to date.

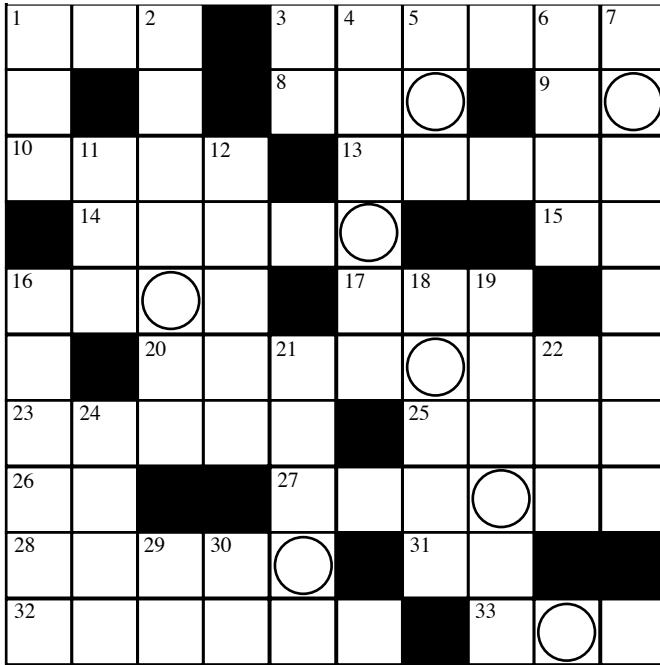
“Rat Race” is your Film-Brunch movie for February (Sunday, 4th at 10:30) and it would be great if you could put your name down on the list so we know how much food we will need for the full English breakfast.



For personal reasons, I had to choose the film myself this time. As of March, the movie will be once more chosen by a club member (it was a coincidence that our president got to choose the first film). A list will be available on the notice board. Please put your name down if you’d like to participate. At the Pub Quiz, a member will be chosen randomly to pick a film for the next-but-one month (so in January, the winner for March will be picked, in February for April, etc.) and the film chosen will be highlighted in the Newsletter, so everyone knows well in advance what will be on show.

Steve Schmied

# The English Club Crossword



Put your answer in the boxes

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## ACROSS

- 1 Definite article (3)
- 3 A car has at least six (6)
- 8 Abb. for Old Age Pensioner (3)
- 9 Computer science (2)
- 10 Farm animals (4)
- 13 Computer animation company (5)
- 14 Collapse (5)
- 15 Egyptian sun god (2)
- 16 It'll come sailing in (4)
- 17 Greek goddess of sunrise (3)
- 20 Glittering (8)
- 23 On any \_\_\_\_\_ day (5)
- 25 Not dead (4)
- 26 Original (2)
- 27 Pandora's box shouldn't have been (6)
- 28 Remedies (5)
- 31 Car sticker for Denmark (2)
- 32 Title (6)
- 33 Not me (3)

## DOWN

- 1 Opposite of bottom (3)
- 2 Our spoken language (7)
- 3 What makes a man female (2)
- 4 Take place (6)
- 5 Prefix for "above" (3)
- 6 Someone not telling the truth (4)
- 7 What Robinson Crusoe was (8)
- 11 Approximation suffix (3)
- 12 German cabbage and water mix (5)
- 16 Ungracious stance (6)
- 18 Got an eyeful (5)
- 19 Smooth and silky coil (6)
- 21 Got up (5)
- 22 Adam's better half (3)
- 24 Not false (4)
- 29 Egyptian sun god (again!) (2)
- 30 Short for editor (2)

## The English Club Committee

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**Keyholders**  **Duty bar person can get a key from a keyholder**

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<b>- Editor</b>			
<b>Darts Captain</b>	<b>Nicky Bryson</b>	<b>5980698</b>	
<b>Plattsnackers</b>	<b>Sigi</b>	<b>see website</b>	
<b>Cercle Français</b>	<b>Patrick</b>	<b>see website</b>	

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**Bank Details**      **Postbank Hamburg (20010020), Account Number 291728202**

Happy Birthday to You. . .

Bar Duty

**January**

**February**

**January**

**February**

<b>01st</b>	<b>Karo</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>Mike C.</b>	<b>03rd</b>	<b>Clemens</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Bettina</b>
<b>03rd</b>	<b>Sigi</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>Chris</b>	<b>05th</b>	<b>Amir</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>Amir</b>
<b>09th</b>	<b>Cornelia P.</b>	<b>20th</b>	<b>Nicole-</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>Kai</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>Karo</b>
<b>17th</b>	<b>Wilfried</b>		<b>Sevtap</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>Bettina</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>MOK</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Norman</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>Rainer</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>Brita</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
				<b>24th</b>	<b>Thomas Z.</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>Peter B.</b>
				<b>26th</b>	<b>Karo</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>Thomas K.</b>
				<b>31st</b>	<b>Thomas K.</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>Clemens</b>

# Coming Events

## January 2007

07<sup>th</sup> 11:00



Film Brunch  
(with English Breakfast)

"Second-Hand Lions"

19<sup>th</sup> 19:00

Committee Meeting



20:00

Happy Hour

21:00

Pub Quiz with Chris  
- A Review of 2006



## February 2007

04<sup>th</sup> 11:00



Film Brunch  
(with English Breakfast)

"Rat Race"

10<sup>th</sup>

Kohl & Pinkel  
- see Chris' article in  
the Newsletter



16<sup>th</sup> 20:00



Valentine's Day Cocktail Party  
- if you're still fit after the Kohlfahrt...

