

Visit by H.R.H. John Bellwood and “Kiwi” Helen

A rather late report on the doings of our beloved leader, 41 Club International President and wife on their visit “Down Under” to New Zealand.

As the IRO for New Zealand I seem to have access to snippets of information about all sorts of people and events world wide.

It came to pass that there was a new International President who was crowned at his induction. I have seen, as many of you have also his pictures and souvenir program from the Coronation.



What you might not have seen is the “Pretender” also dressed in the Royal Garb practising for his turn. This worthy gentleman apparently was so dismayed by his audacious actions that he has now turned to religion and has become the “Penitent” and I believe he has lately been in retreat on an island in Cyprus, or at least that is what he would have me believe!

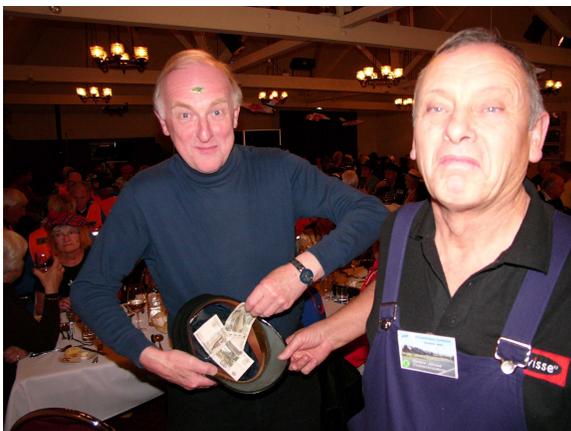


May well have been a 41 International board meeting

However I digress, I was writing about H.R.H. and his visit!!

John and I had been communicating for 2 years about them coming here and it was with great delight that we learned they would be here for our AGM in Blenheim.

Imagine travelling so far for such delight, decadence and debauchery!!!!!!



They arrived on the 21st May and spent time catching up with friends, family and future in-laws. Woops that should be now in-laws, I believe the wedding was just a few days ago, another Kiwi into the fold. Looks like a Kiwi take over John! I invited John to come along to the Christchurch 41 Club meeting and pass judgement on our act for AGM which we put on for the members who were not able to attend AGM.

This of course was a cunning plan to help us win the prize because we thought he would be one of the judges and maybe we would be able to bribe

him. As you can see he must have been quite desperate for funds as the notes he can be seen uplifting from my hat were actually Russian Roubles that I had hiding in my desk for years

wondering “what the hell will I ever do with these, where will I ever find some mug to accept them”. Job done!!!

We found out later that John and Helen weren't being judges but putting on an act themselves with Gordon and Elaine MacNab who also came to the AGM.

Helen unfortunately had other plans for that night so Tina (my better half) and I picked John up on our way in our little truck with our props on the back and squeezed John in between us. Lots of fun had of course and our Chairman, (ex pat bloody Brit) Ralph Lloyd presented John with a Christchurch Banner, we never have had a banner before so in desperation I had made one up on paper which John seemed to think was fairly special.



Prior to their arrival and while they were catching up with things family I had been inundated with e-mails to pass on from Bob Parton so on their way up to Blenheim they called in for morning tea and Helen being a Great Kiwi Girl from way back took over and played mother as Tina was at work while I did all the secretarial work. H.R.H. John was most gracious and awarded me the grand title of 2nd assistant secretary which Helen considered just a fob to get free work done.

Oh I wish we had more time with them but after this lot they probably won't come again!! John and Helen stole our hearts with their humour and spontaneity from the time they first arrived and were introduced to New Zealand 41 Club.

Suck up line before the next bits of scandal!!!

Opening speech from H.R.H. had him even asking for a “Blow Job”, he was it turned out asking for someone to re inflate one of the model planes hanging from the ceiling but certainly was a great start for the weekend.



Once again here's H.R.H. gathering funds, still desperate cause this time it's only a \$5 NZ note, worth a bit under €2 and he wasn't allowed to go for the next one!!!!!!!!!!!!!! That's the sheriff in the background carefully taking notes; we got most of the money back later!!

On a more serious note John made excellent speeches and told us a lot about what is happening within 41 Club both on the International and British scene and was very well received by all.

John and Helen thank you very much for coming and taking the time to spend with us, you are well remembered and more than welcome to return as we know you will; too many “Kiwis” in the family.

Grin and bear it, we are not too bad and we really enjoyed your company.

YI41

Derek Johns