



# HOWZAT!



## ROTARY CLUB OF NEWLANDS

“The club that appeals”



**President: Chris Beech**  
**Secretary: Bill Meyer**



Editor: Peter Ennis

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Newlands Rotary website: [www.newlands.org.za](http://www.newlands.org.za)

Rotary District 9350 website: [www.rotary9350.co.za](http://www.rotary9350.co.za)

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16 January 2017

## WEEKLY UPDATE

P O Box 44735  
CLAREMONT  
7735

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**MEETINGS:** Western Province Cricket Club Sports Centre, Ave De Mist, Rondebosch, every Monday at 18h00 for 18h15 (Except for first Monday of the Month which is a Partner's Meeting, 18h30 for 19h00).

**ATTENDANCE:** Notice of apologies and guests and/or meal specifics to email Melinda Stapleton at [mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za](mailto:mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za) and copy to Bill Meyer at [meyport@iafrica.com](mailto:meyport@iafrica.com) before 10h30 on Monday mornings please.

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### Comment

***Via Richard Burnett***

### English Is a Crazy Language

By Richard Lederer

English is the most widely spoken language in the history of our planet, used in some way by at least one out of every seven human beings around the globe. Half of the world's books are written in English, and the majority of international telephone calls are made in English. English is the language of over sixty percent of the world's radio programs, many of them beamed, ironically, by the Russians, who know that to win friends and influence nations, they're best off using English. More than seventy percent of international mail is written and addressed in English, and eighty percent of all computer text is stored in English. English has acquired the largest vocabulary of all the world's languages, perhaps as many as two million words, and has generated one of the noblest bodies of literature in the annals of the human race.

Nonetheless, it is now time to face the fact that English is a crazy language.

In the crazy English language, the blackbird hen is brown, blackboards can be blue or green, and blackberries are green and then red before they are ripe. Even if blackberries were really black and blueberries really blue, what are strawberries, cranberries, elderberries, huckleberries, raspberries, boysenberries, mulberries, and gooseberries supposed to look like?

To add to the insanity, there is no butter in buttermilk, no egg in eggplant, no grape in grapefruit, neither worms nor wood in wormwood, neither pine nor apple in pineapple, neither peas nor nuts in peanuts, and no ham in a hamburger. (In fact, if somebody invented a sandwich consisting of a ham patty in a bun, we would have a hard time finding a name for it.) To make matters worse, English muffins weren't invented in England, french fries in France, or danish pastries in Denmark. And we discover even more culinary madness in the revelations that sweetmeat is candy, while sweetbread, which isn't sweet, is made from meat.

In this unreliable English tongue, greyhounds aren't always grey (or gray); panda bears and koala bears aren't bears (they're marsupials); a woodchuck is a groundhog, which is not a hog; a horned toad is a lizard; glowworms are fireflies, but fireflies are not flies (they're beetles); ladybugs and lightning bugs are also beetles (and to propagate, a significant proportion of ladybugs must be male); a guinea pig is neither a pig nor from Guinea (it's a South American rodent); and a titmouse is neither mammal nor mammaried.

Language is like the air we breathe. It's invisible, inescapable, indispensable, and we take it for granted. But when we take the time, step back, and listen to the sounds that escape from the holes in people's faces and explore the paradoxes and vagaries of English, we find that hot dogs can be cold, darkrooms can be lit, homework can be done in school, nightmares can take place in broad daylight, while morning sickness and daydreaming can take place at night, tomboys are girls, midwives can be men, hours — especially happy hours and rush hours — can last longer than sixty minutes, quicksand works very slowly, boxing rings are square, silverware can be made of plastic and tablecloths of paper, most telephones are dialled by being punched (or pushed?), and most bathrooms don't have any baths in them. In fact, a dog can go to the bathroom under a tree — no bath, no room; it's still going to the bathroom. And doesn't it seem at least a little bizarre that we go to the bathroom in order to go to the bathroom?

Why is it that a woman can man a station but a man can't woman one, that a man can father a movement but a woman can't mother one, and that a king rules a kingdom but a queen doesn't rule a queendom? How did all those Renaissance men reproduce when there don't seem to have been any Renaissance women?

A writer is someone who writes, and a stinger is something that stings. But fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, hammers don't ham, and humdingers don't humding. If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth? One goose, two geese — so one moose, two meese? One index, two indices — one Kleenex, two Kleenices? If people ring a bell today and rang a bell yesterday, why don't we say that they flang a ball? If they wrote a letter, perhaps they also bote their tongue. If the teacher taught, why isn't it also true that the preacher praught? Why is it that the sun shone yesterday while I shined my shoes, that I treaded water and then trod on soil, and that I flew out to see a World Series game in which my favourite player flied out?

If we conceive a conception and receive at a reception, why don't we grieve a greption and believe a beleption? If a horsehair mat is made from the hair of horses and a camel's hair brush from the hair of camels, from what is a mohair coat made? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? If a firefighter fights fire, what does a freedom fighter fight? If a weightlifter lifts weights, what does a shoplifter lift? If pro and con are opposites, is congress the opposite of progress?

Sometimes you have to believe that all English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what other language do people drive in a parkway and park in a driveway? In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? In what other language do privates eat in the general mess and generals eat in the private mess? In what other language do men get hernias and women get hysterectomies?

In what other language do people ship by truck and send cargo by ship? In what other language can your nose run and your feet smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, "what's going on?" and "what's coming off?" be the same, and a bad licking and a good licking be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? How can sharp speech and blunt speech be the same and quite a lot and quite a few the same, while overlook and oversee are opposites? How can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell the next?

If button and unbutton and tie and untie are opposites, why are loosen and unloosen and ravel and unravel the same? If bad is the opposite of good, hard the opposite of soft, and up the opposite of down, why are badly and goodly, hardly and softly, and upright and downright not opposing pairs? If harmless actions are the opposite of harmful actions, why are shameless and shameful behaviour the same and pricey objects less expensive than priceless ones? If appropriate and inappropriate remarks and passable and impassable mountain trails are opposites, why are flammable and inflammable materials, heritable and inheritable property, and passive and impassive people the same and valuable objects less treasured than invaluable ones? If uplift is the same as lift up, why are upset and set up opposite in meaning? Why are pertinent and impertinent, canny and uncanny, and famous and infamous neither opposites nor the same? How can raise and raze and reckless and wreckless be opposites when each pair contains the same sound?

Why is it that when the sun or the moon or the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible, and that when I wind up my watch, I start it, but when I wind up this essay, I shall end it?

English is a crazy language.

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Richard Lederer is the author of more than a thousand articles on writing and language. His popular, lighthearted works on the wonders and oddities of the English language — and how it is fractured by politicians and bureaucrats, among others — include *Anguished English* (1987), *Crazy English* (1989), *The Miracle of Language* (1991), and *Adventures of a Verbivore* (1995).

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## Previous Meeting

**Minutes of the Partners Meeting on 9 January 2017**

**Scribe: Menno de Wet**

Sergeant: Menno de Wet

The first meeting of 2017 got off to a good start and the new time of 6 for 6:15 was remembered by all. The meeting started off at exactly 6:15 and was opened by President Chris who welcomed our speaker Chris Adlam and his partner Christal van Niekerk.

The tone of the meeting was very upbeat and the break and Christmas cheer was plain to see.

Lew Botha recited the 4 Way Test and then added his 5<sup>th</sup> "Is it sustainable"

Colin Burke did the Grace & Toast and he was followed by Paul Spiller who did the Wine Swindle. The winners were Graham Lowden and Vanessa Rousseau

The Wooden Spoon was not evident so was ignored by the Sergeant

Richard Burnett introduced the guest speaker Chris Adlam who spoke on his "Neuro Linguistics Programme"

In essence the programme came about when he tried to give up smoking and realised that he was not addicted to the nicotine, but what kept him there was the frame that he had built around himself fearing the change in his life of how to cope without cigarettes. He further said that how we view ourselves plays a very big part in how we are seen by others and thy reaction of people to our own self-perception. The talk was very interesting and gave I believe a lot of food for thought.

Wybe Meinesz presented the speaker with a pen and thanked him for his talk.

Dinner was served and the food was really good, with 2 meats, baby potatoes, roasted veg and salad. The meal was really good and we can but hope that the standard is maintained.

It was President Chris's birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> January and he was kind enough to put wine on the table for all to enjoy, and the members sang "Happy Birthday" to him

### **Spots:**

#### **NB PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY**

**Terry Lancaster**, brought it to the club's attention that we are less than 9 weeks away from "Cape Town Cycle Tour" There were a number of points that he gave to the club and we would all be well advised to take note of them

- 1) There is a complete NEW TEAM at Cycle Tour offices and they will depend heavily on Newlands Rotary to assist and ensure that Cycle Tour goes smoothly.
- 2) We have a short period in which to get to know them and we as Newlands Rotarians must do all in our power to ensure that WE are not found wanting in our commitment.
- 3) All members who are Refreshment Station Managers, Sector Marshals, JOC / VOC Quartermaster, or any function that requires you to be at a Cycle Tour meeting, that you are there, even if you have done the job for 10 years.
- 4) Terry requested all Newrots who are going to ride the Cycle Tour do their practise on various parts of the course and report any problem areas directly to Terry.
- 5) It was also requested that all Sector Marshals, carefully drive their sectors, to look for potential problems and to report those to Terry, as a matter of priority.
- 6) The attendance register must be filled in to show your attendance, so that in the event of a disaster, it can be shown that the responsible people were at the meetings.
- 5) This register will be looked at after Cycle Tour and if we are found wanting, can place our position in jeopardy.
- 6) We have received increases in the income and as this is by far our largest income earner, it is crucial that we do what is necessary to do our jobs properly.
- 7) Terry appealed to all Newlands Rotarians to put in maximum effort in the lead up to the Cycle Tour.

**Jenny Ibbotson**: Reminded the club of the forthcoming Rotary visitors from Canada, Oregon USA and a proposed visit from Uganda.

The Group from Canada arrive on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February and depart on the 9<sup>th</sup>. More info to follow.

The group from Oregon arrive on 15<sup>th</sup> February and depart on the 21<sup>st</sup> February. Colin Burke has worked out and put a great itinerary into place, all the hosting is in place and confirmed.

There is also a possibility of a group from Rotary Uganda at the end of March, but Jenny will come back to the club with further information.

DG Ian commented that the people he had met from Uganda were really nice people who we would get on with very well.

**Brian Pickup:** Pointed out that we had a very important date coming up fast, namely District Conference on the 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> April in Swellendam. Brian recommended that we start to book NOW as accommodation in Swellendam is at a premium, so book now and do not be disappointed. **We must all try to be there to support our DG**

**President Chris:** Thanked everyone for their good wishes and wished everyone a great 2017  
President Chris also brought it to the club's attention that if anyone in the club knew of anyone who would be interested in standing for District Governor, to forward that person's information to District Office.

The meeting was brought to a close at 8:27 and Happy Rands were gathered. For the first time a guest, Christal van Niekerk contributed to Happy Rands



[www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary](http://www.facebook.com/newlandsrotary)

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[Newlands Rotary Club Runner Calendar](#)

#### FUTURE FIXTURES

##### Year Planner

Please advise the secretary promptly of any additions or changes

##### January 2017

Mon 16 Ordinary  
Mon 23 Business?  
Mon 30 Ordinary

##### February 2017

Mon 6 Partners  
Mon 13 Ordinary  
Mon 20 Ordinary  
Mon 27 Business

##### March 2017

Mon 6 Partners  
**Sun 12 Cape Town Cycle Tour**

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### Coming up this week

#### Birthdays

Jan 16	Nora See
Jan 17	Bill Meyer
Jan 18	Shân Biesman-Simons
Jan 21	Anthony Galloway

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## **Birthdays and anniversaries over the holidays**

### **Birthdays**

<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Martyn Webb</b>
<b>Dec 5</b>	<b>Paula Pursch</b>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Corinne Hudson</b>
<b>Dec 16</b>	<b>Brian Pickup</b>
<b>Dec 22</b>	<b>Richard Burnett</b>
<b>Dec 25</b>	<b>Hilary Botha</b>
<b>Dec 29</b>	<b>Kevin Andersson</b>
<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>Pat Young</b>
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>Susan Wijenberg</b>
<b>Jan 3</b>	<b>Anne Meyer</b>
<b>Jan 4</b>	<b>Blanche Stephenson</b>
<b>Jan 5</b>	<b>Chris Beech</b>
<b>Jan 7</b>	<b>Graham Lowden</b>
<b>Jan 11</b>	<b>Chippy Burnett</b>
<b>Jan 11</b>	<b>Judy Spiller</b>
<b>Jan 13</b>	<b>Jenny Ibbotson</b>

### **Anniversaries**

<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Shân &amp; John Biesman-Simons</b>
<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>John &amp; Blanche Stephenson</b>
<b>Dec 12</b>	<b>Richard &amp; Chippy Burnett</b>
<b>Dec 13</b>	<b>Paul &amp; Judy Spiller</b>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Andy &amp; Liz Ismay</b>
<b>Dec 15</b>	<b>Kenny &amp; Philippa van Aardt</b>
<b>Dec 17</b>	<b>Bill &amp; Lynell Holland</b>
<b>Dec 19</b>	<b>Pippa &amp; Stuart McLeod</b>
<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>Jenny &amp; Johan</b>

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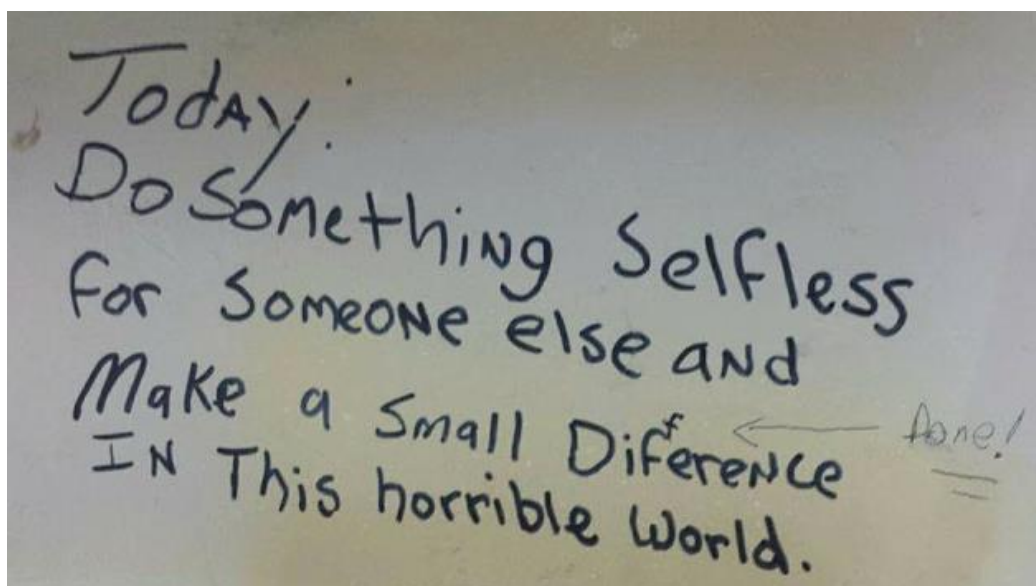
## UMPIRES AND SCORERS

<b>DATE</b>	<b>16 January</b>	<b>23 January</b>	<b>30 January</b>	<b>6 February</b>
<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Ordinary</b>	<b>Ordinary</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>Partners</b>
<b>SERGEANT</b>	<b>Jenny Howard</b>	<b>Jana Forrester</b>	<b>Graham Lowden</b>	<b>Colin Burke</b>
4 WAY TEST/ OBJECT	Johan Beukman	Peter Henshilwood	Vanessa Rousseau	Janey Ball
GRACE & TOAST	Bill Meyer	John Stephenson	Christine Calothi	Jamie Hart
ATTENDANCE	Geraldine Nicol	Wybe Meinesz	Vanessa Rousseau	Glynis Menné
FELLOWSHIP	Richard House	Andrew Peile	Terry Lancaster	Graham Finlayson
MINUTES	Andy Ismay	Henry Campbell	Mike Young	Jenny Ibbotson
COMMENT	Paul Spiller	Lucian Pitt	Pieter van Aswegen	Rochelle Malherbe
THANK SPEAKER	Anthony Galloway		Corinne Hudson	Richard Burnett
INTRO SPEAKER	Shân Biesman- Simons		Michael Walwyn	Menno de Wet

**Invited  
GUEST SPEAKERS**

16 Jan **André Odendaal** – *The  
History of Cricket Retold*

If you cannot do your job on the day, please find someone who can do it instead of you, then contact the Sergeant on the day to update the roster. Please don't leave this until the Monday afternoon – let the Sergeant know in advance if you have not been able to arrange a swap. If you are going to be away for particular future meetings let Peter Ennis know.



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## Rotary Club of Newlands Office Bearers

Chris Beech	President	chris@aaam.co.za
Bill Meyer	Secretary	meyport@iafrica.com
Peter Ennis	Treasurer	treasurer@newlands.org.za
Graham Finlayson	President Elect	graham@gfinarch.co.za
Corinne Hudson	Community Service	corinne.hudson@gmail.com
Melinda Stapleton	Club Service	mjstapleton@webafrica.org.za
Jenny Ibbotson	International & Vocational Service	jennyi@mweb.co.za
Colin Burke	Past President	colinburke@mweb.co.za
Regine le Roux	Public Relations	rotary@reputationmatters.co.za
Vanessa Rousseau	Youth Service	rousseau@iafrica.com
Menno de Wet	Membership	menno.tricorp@gmail.com
Andy Ismay	Entrepreneurship	andy@quicktint.co.za

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## Books for the World

For all educational school books and novels for age from early education to High school

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**St Anthony's Catholic Church, Ndabeni Street, Langa**

