

# Know your District Governor

## BRIAN FRITH



Born into a Round Table/Rotary family, Brian brings to the position of Governor a lifetime of Rotary involvement, experience and enthusiasm. His father was a past Chairman of Round Table, his mother a past Chairman of inner Wheel (and still an active member), and his two brothers were also past Chairmen of Round Table.

Brian himself was Chairman in 1961 of Richmond Round Table and a member for 22 years, holding every position except Treasurer (I wonder why!). He joined Rotary in 1964 and was President of Richmond in 1981, again having held most of the jobs.

He joined the District Team as International member under Paul Brudenell and was Chairman of that committee the next year for two years and was notable for uniting the District and providing two Water Aid schemes. He describes joining District as like joining another Club, but a better one - this from a man who, like so many other Rotarians, had no time for District until he was President and became aware of the enthusiastic dedicated Rotarians.

He believes that if you do not like anything you should not just complain but act and that is why he has steadily worked to enthuse the 'Grey Men' of Rotary as he calls them - and finds that Rotary today is more dynamic and International than just parochial.

This year's theme is an apt one for Brian, "Enjoy Rotary" as no one can enjoy Rotary more than him as you will see when makes his official visits.

Brian was born in July 1932, left Hampton Grammar School to go farming and started a Young Farmers' Club in St Margarets. Through this he became cow judging champion of Middlesex and also public speaking champion for two years - a useful aid for the year ahead. His father became seriously ill so he left to rejoin the family business of chemists, photographic dealers and opticians. He is still an active working Director of a pharmacy and photographic shop in Richmond.

He is obviously in for a very busy year ahead and from July will be visiting seven clubs a week on his official visits.

He married in 1961 when Chairman of Round Table, had two children and divorced in 1981 when President of Rotary.

A glutton for punishment he married his second wife, March, in April this year and the very next day lead his Team to Loughborough for the RIBI Assembly, which was immediately followed by the RI Assembly in Phoenix. He says he dare not go any further in Rotary with this history! Fortunately, March enthusiastic supporter of Rotary and seems to "Enjoy Rotary" as much as Brian.

Thoughts for the future?

Brian thinks that Rotary is on the threshold of the most exciting era in its history. After PolioPlus it will never be the same, as we are now acknowledged to be the leading organisation for peace in the World. The World notices what we are doing and what we are doing is staggering. This fact, together with "Women in Rotary", a keen internationally minded man like Brian at our helm, and an enthusiastic District Team, should make this a most interesting Rotary year.