

# The Reminder



November 2014

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, Michigan

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## Bob Rossi: A Man with Two Careers

Bob Rossi, Chairman of the Club's Hospitality Committee, is one of those rare individuals who can look back at two distinguished careers during his lifetime.

The first career began when Bob joined the Detroit Police Department, a relationship that would extend 26 years. Bob worked his way up the ranks from Patrolman to Lieutenant. He was involved in virtually every aspect of law enforcement. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a Master's Degree in Education, both from Wayne State University. He has taught at the Detroit Police Academy, the Detroit Criminal Justice Institute, Wayne State and Oakland Community College. Throughout his career he attended and presented literally dozens of courses in areas as diverse as Jail Management, Ethical Awareness, and Auto Theft Investigation.



Career number two began when Bob joined the Oakland County Medical Examiner's staff following his retirement from the Detroit Police Department. In this position Bob, was part of a team of investigators who assisted the Medical Examiner. Their mission was to probe violent, accidental, sudden and unexplained deaths. The high regard in which Bob was held by his colleagues is reflected in a newspaper article which described him as "curious, thorough, and persistent."

Bob was raised in Detroit and graduated from Denby High School. He then attended Michigan State University where he competed in football and track. He played football under legendary coaches Biggie Munn and Duffy Daugherty. The 1952 team won the National Championship Title.

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## NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER CHAIRMAN: Doug Allen

- 7 Dorothy Deremo, Former President & CEO, Hospice of America..... *Challenges of Hospice Care*
- 14 Travis W. Walter, Artistic Director, Meadowbrook Theater ..... *Meadowbrook Theater Today*
- 21 C. Peter Theut, CEO, China Bridge ..... *What You Need to Know About China Bridge*
- 28 NO MEETING

## DECEMBER PROGRAMS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Dick Bradley

- 5 Chief of Police, James E. Craig, Detroit Police Department ..... *Crime Reduction*

## NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS

NOVEMBER CHAIRMAN: Tim McGee

- 7 Mark Kelly (SMC) and Nan Wilberding (Home Instead)..... *Helping Seniors Cope*
- 14 Frank Brady, Old Newsboy's Goodfellow Fund ..... *No Kiddie Without a Christmas*
- 21 Major Thomas Shields, USMC Commanding Officer – Detroit..... *Freedom's Front Door*
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## DECEMBER DISCUSSIONS

DECEMBER CHAIRMAN: Riggs Miller

- 5 Carl (SMC) & Charlotte Fischer..... *The Natural Wonders of Australia and New Zealand*

## New Member:



**Jeff J. Wachler**  
4969 Malibu  
Bloomfield, MI 48302-2254  
248-737-0534  
E-mail: jeffwachler@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Dick Kamp

## New Associates:

**James L. Ryan**  
32808 Outland Trail  
Bingham Farms, MI 48025-2552  
248-646-4998  
honjlr@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Cliff Worthy

**James T. Whitledge**  
812 Edgemont Run  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-1458  
248-335-6797  
jim.whitledge@yahoo.com  
Sponsor: Gil Livingston

**John M. Murray**  
3560 Bloomfield Club Dr.  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301-2103  
248-594-8778  
jmurrayusa@msn.com  
Sponsor: George Miller

**Keith D. Butler**  
2638 Hounds Chase Dr.  
Troy, MI 48098-2340  
248-905-4022  
kbutler@cranmgmt.com  
Sponsor: George Miller

## To Life Member:

Alfred Shrosbree  
Richard H. Smith

## Deaths:

William R. Dahlin (Life), joined July, 1997

**Ashok Gupta**  
2295 Shore Hill  
West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
248-681-6577  
walkingdr@gmail.com  
Sponsor: Jalal Panah

**William E. Ritter**  
3924 Glenwood Ct.  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
248-276-0387  
wilritter@comcast.net  
Sponsor: George Ritter

**Ralph E. Muenchausen**  
18326 Riverside Dr.  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
248-644-2636  
gene1945@wowway.com  
Sponsor: Ed Burke

—Pete Kass, Membership Chairman  
—Robert Beach, Database Chairman  
—Bill Shaffmaster, Tom Booth  
& Gene Markel, Photography

## An American in Paris

An American gentleman of 83 arrived in Paris by plane. At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his carry-on. "You have been to France before, Monsieur?" the customs officer asked sarcastically.

The gentleman admitted that he had been to France previously. "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it."

"Impossible. Americans always have to show their passports on arrival in France!"

The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly explained. "Well when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in 1944 to help liberate this country, I couldn't find a single Frenchman to show the passport to."

You could have heard a pin drop.



—Author Unknown



# Games



## Golf Events

The Annual Golf Banquet was held in The Community House Ballroom. Over \$2500 in prizes were raffled to the attendees. As usual, almost 60 senior golfers attended. It was great to see the attendees put aside the competitive spirit demonstrated during the summer rounds played at Lincoln Hills and Springdale to enjoy the companionship, tall storytelling and commiserating about barely missed putts.



The evening festivities were topped off by an upbeat speech by Club President, John Steele.

Golfers are encouraged to not pack away their clubs as winter practice at the Dome will begin on Thursday, January 8, 2015. Price to determined.

—The Committees

## Sports Trivia

The sports trivia challenge last month was really old – in fact, it took place in 1908. We asked you if you could remember the



time a major league player forever earned the nickname "Bonehead" for a play he didn't make. Only Pete Kass came up with the answer. Let's describe the event – it was the last game of the 1908 season – the New York Giants and the Chicago Cubs were tied for first place, playing at the Polo Grounds. The game was tied at 1-1, with the Giants batting in the last of the ninth, two outs with a Giant on third and rookie Fred Merkle on first. The next batter hit a single and the runner on first came home with an apparent winning run – clinching the pennant for the Giants. However, Merkle did not advance to second – a ball was retrieved and thrown to second and Merkle was called out and the run didn't count.

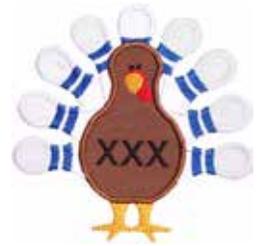
An extra game was played the following day – the Cubs won the game and the pennant and Fred Merkle was forever known as "Bonehead!" Congratulations, Pete!

This month, let's think about some positive nicknames. Two favorites are "Rocket" and "Goose". Several professional athletes have had these nicknames. Can you name any of them? Also – who was "The Mechanical Man"?

—Dick Harper

## Bowling

After seven weeks of bowling, one team has emerged as a clear leader. The Chargers – Chuck Ragains, Tom Venier, Nick Marinelli and Bob Jordan – have accumulated 42 points, well above the second place Impalas (Ted Chapekis, John Wargelin, Bob Beach and Art Byington) who have 34 points. Of course, we have many weeks of bowling left and lots of changes can be expected.



Rich Volpe is our leading bowler with an average of 167, followed closely by Phil Buccini at 165. Rich has the highest series of 600, while Nick Marinelli has the high game of 225.

Our league welcomed new bowler, Jim Phillips, who was sporting a new 13lb. ball and looking good. We certainly can use some more bowlers – just show up at Thunderbird Lanes at 9:00AM on Mondays – you will fit in and you will have fun!

—Dick Harper

## U of Michigan Football

Our trip to the Big House to see Michigan battle Minnesota for the Little Brown Jug was successful except for two items: 1. We didn't fill the bus and 2. Michigan played poorly and lost.



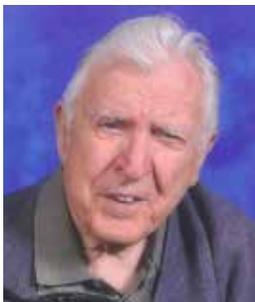
Despite valiant efforts by the Special Events Committee, only 30 tickets were sold for the bus trip. An additional 4 tickets were sold to attendees who had their own transportation, and five were sold outside the stadium at discounted prices.

Under the able direction of Malcolm Hendy, the travel arrangements were outstanding – we were dropped off and picked up right outside the stadium (despite heavy game traffic). Malcolm described the seats and location as very good, the coach service as outstanding and the weather as superb. Unfortunately, the game – at least for Michigan fans – could have ended better.

—Dick Harper

## New Life Member Al Shrosbree

Our most recent inductee into Life Membership, our most prestigious and honored category, is **Al Shrosbree**. Al has a most impressive list of educational and professional accomplishments, and has lived a full life of activities and interests. He spent his professional life as an educator, serving as a teacher and college professor, after achieving multiple degrees: a Bachelor's degree from Western Michigan; a Master's degree from the University of Michigan; and a Doctorate of Education from Harvard.



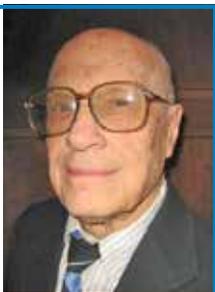
His family also has impressive educational credentials. His wife, Mary Alice, holds both a Bachelor and Master's degrees from University of Michigan. Both his sons also have U of M degrees. They have six grandchildren – all girls. Music has been important to the Shrosbree family – all belonged to performing groups. Other family activities have included travel (Al has visited more than 60 countries), church, camping and bridge. He has documented his life in nearly 300 scrapbooks!

Al indicates he appreciates the experience of membership in the Senior Men's Club and looks forward to more years of participation.

—Dick Harper

## Bill Kelly is 100

Member **Bill Kelly** reached the exalted age of 100 on October 18. He joins Bill Waltsgott, who achieved centurion status last May, as our two oldest members. Congratulations to both!



## SMC Officer Election

The SMC Nominating Committee under Chairman John Flintosh, has selected candidates for Club Officer positions for 2015. In accordance with our constitution, these candidate names will be posted on the Club bulletin board and announced to the membership on November 7.

The formal election will be held on November 14, led by President John Steele. At that time, an opportunity for nominations from the floor will be provided.

—Dick Harper

## Senior Health Matters Evaluation and Treatment of Elevated Cholesterol Levels

People older than 80 years comprise an increasing segment of the population with elevated cholesterol levels and risk of cardiovascular disease. Because there is substantial biologic and functional variation among older patients, the decision for the use of statin medications differs in older patients relative to younger ones. A review of the medical literature on the evaluation and treatment of patients 75 and older was published on September 17 in the Journal of the American Medical Association. The authors concluded:

- No randomized clinical trials of statins or any other medication for elevated cholesterol included persons older than 80 years at the start of the trial.
- Findings in 75-80 year olds support statin treatment for prevention of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) and probably in diabetics without ASCVD.
- Harms from statin drugs are not increased in older people so their use in prevention is possible but should be started before age 80.
- Because people older than 80 are functionally and biologically different, have varying life expectancy, may have frailty or concurrent illnesses and may take multiple medications, the decisions to treat with statins must be individualized but are not supported by high quality evidence.

—Augustine L. Perrotta, DO,  
Chairman, Visitation-Health

...continued from page 1

## Bob Rossi

He has been a member of the Senior Men's Club since 2008 and currently serves as Chairman of the Hospitality Committee. "He is highly respected by both members of the Club and by our partners in the community." said Bob Klein, who has worked with Bob Rossi on many projects over the years. "He also brings a unique perspective based on his years in law enforcement."

Bob and his wife Jackie reside in Birmingham. They have four children.

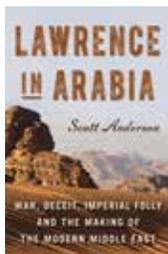
—Chuck Ragains

# Groups



## Book Reading Groups

On Wednesday, November 5 at 10:30AM we will discuss "Lawrence in Arabia" by Scott Anderson. During World War I, the course of the modern day Middle East was set by a handful of young, low-ranking personalities who exerted oversized influence on the region. Anderson focuses our attention on four men: a minor German diplomat and spy, an American oilman descended from the Yale family, a Romanian-born agronomist, and T.E. Lawrence himself. As we witness the western nations attempting to carve up a region that they were never able to master, these adventurous and often duplicitous men come to full life--none more so than Lawrence.



On Monday, November 17 at 3:00PM we will discuss "What We Know About Climate Change" by Kerry Emanuel. Professor Emanuel has been known for his "show me the data!" approach to climate science. In this book, he will present a long term, evidence-driven view of Earth's climate change, culminating in a discussion of current risks and implications. We should have a good discussion on this book.



—Ted Chapekis



## Investment Group

On Wednesday, November 5 at 2:45 PM, Tim Bearden, Managing Partner, Stonebridge Financial Partners, LLC, will address the group for the first time. Mr. Bearden will cover the following four topics:

- The importance of downside protection while drawing income from a portfolio
- Is a "Bond Bubble" coming and what should we do about it?
- Questions to ask a financial advisor
- Where are we in this market cycle?

The first stock game report will be available – who will be the leader? Bring a friend or spouse to this informative meeting.

—George Miller



## Classic Movie Group

On Monday, November 10 at 1:00PM, Irv Poston will show the musical, "Silk Stockings." It will be the last classic movie of 2014 and was the last musical for both of its stars, Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. The film features the music of Cole Porter that includes a parody on the then emerging rock and roll genre entitled "The Ritz Roll and Rock." "Silk Stockings" received Golden Globe nominations for Best Film and Best Actress (Charisse) in the comedy/musical category. Bring your date for this Broadway-type musical with English subtitles for the audiologically challenged.



—Dr. Augie L. Perrotta



## Camera Group

On Tuesday, November 11 at 2:00PM, member Jim King will trace the history of the ASAHI Optical Company and the development of the many Pentax branded cameras. Since its founding in 1919, this company (now the Pentax Corporation) has been among the leaders in the Japanese optical industry, especially in the development and popularization of the Single Lens Reflex (SLR) camera. Pentax has had its ups and downs in the digital era, and is currently a division of the Ricoh Corporation. This presentation will cover the history of Pentax and the evolution of its cameras over 55 years. Bring a friend or spouse to this most interesting meeting.

—John Slocum



## Computer Group

The Computer Group will meet on Wednesday, November 19 at 3:00PM. Our guest speaker will be Mike Mann, Best Buy mobile sales associate at the Oakland Mall. Mike will discuss the various smart phones currently on the market along with their features and interface capabilities. He will also discuss tablet interface features. There will be time for Q & A. Members and non-members are all welcome at this meeting!

—Ron Denton

# Special Events

## Preview the Parade

Tickets went on sale October 24 for the November 12 trip to the Parade Company trip. We will be reviewing the floats just prior to the big event. You will see many exciting floats being prepared and learn how a parade is put together. The Detroit Parade ranks third in the nation behind Macy and Rose Bowl Parades.



We will depart from the First Presbyterian Church at 9:15AM and tour the Parade Company at 10:00AM (some walking will be required.) We will lunch at the Dakota Inn at 12:30PM and head for home at 3:00PM. Ticket price is \$45.

—Bob Stevenson

## Save the Date!

Mark your calendars now for the annual SMC trip to the Detroit Auto Show at Cobo Hall on Thursday, January 22, 2015. This year's show should be an exciting one, with the latest production models from automakers around the world and many special show cars as well. We plan to have two buses this year, as demand has grown and spouses are invited. Ticket sales will begin in December. Check the December *Reminder* for more details about this popular event.



—Jim King

## No Club Name Change

At our regular meeting on October 17, an informal survey of 162 attending members asked if the word "senior" should be dropped from our Club name to attract younger prospects to the Club. The response was a prompt and overwhelming "No" (4 to 1). The Executive Board and Improvement Committee appreciate the responsiveness and candor of members. No further action will be taken on a name change.

—Improvement Committee

## SMC Christmas Dinner Dance

Wednesday, December 10 is the date of this year's Senior Men's Club Christmas Dinner Dance, which will be held once again at the San Marino Club in Troy, located on the north side of Big Beaver Road between Rochester and John R. Roads. This year we are asking each of you to consider inviting non-members to join us in the festivities. Let's make this a Christmas Party to remember!



Our evening will begin with a social reception at 6:00PM with snacks, punch, and a cash bar. We will be seated at 6:45PM for announcements and introductions, followed by dinner at 7:00PM and dancing thereafter.

Tickets are \$45 per person and will go on sale at the Special Events table beginning at 9:00AM on Friday, November 7, and continuing at each Friday SMC meeting through December 5. Last minute ticket sales (after December 5) may be arranged by contacting Tony DiMarco at 248-643-7368.

Tables will accommodate eight persons. For those who wish to sit together at a table, table reservation forms will be available on October 31, one week before ticket sales begin. We ask that groups reserving tables please designate one person to collect the ticket fees and meal choices for the group and make one payment for the table. Singles and individual couples are welcome as well. We will arrange seating for those who do not make up a group of eight.

The dinner menu will include stracciatella soup, a mixed green salad, and your choice of dinner entrée: tenderloin of beef with mushrooms, chicken Parmigiana with mozzarella cheese, or baked orange roughy with lemon garnish; along with side dishes of green beans and St Anne potatoes. Dinner will conclude with a raspberry sundae dessert. A cash bar will be available throughout the evening, with cocktails/wine at \$5, beer at \$1, and free soft drinks. The San Marino Club will be festively decorated, and "The Pros" dance band (with approximately sixteen members and a featured vocalist) will entertain us again this year, opening with a salute to the Armed Forces followed by a sing-along, and nostalgic and seasonal favorites for our listening and dancing pleasure during the evening.

This is one of our most popular and successful SMC events so please save the date and make your reservation plans early!

—Jim King

## SMC Legacy Endowment Fund

The SMC Legacy Endowment Fund (SMCLEF) was created in 2007 to commemorate the Club's 50th anniversary and to establish an enduring legacy benefitting The Community House. As members are aware, our Club also conducts an annual fund drive (AFD) directed at providing ongoing support for TCH. It is important that members understand how these two funds differ in terms of objectives as well as the time frame of their focus.

- Funds raised by the AFD are used by TCH to cover a portion of current operating expenses – hence, it has a short term focus. Contributions to the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) have a longer term focus. They are combined with the established TCH Endowment Fund to provide long term financial stability from combined earnings.
- Our annual fund is ongoing – members have received letters from Chairman Jack McLaughlin requesting financial support. With a longer term focus, the LEF has a continuing need. Members can consider contributions to this fund in the form of:
  - Direct donations by members
  - Members' will or trust
  - Bequests at death

As we approach the end of 2014, the Legacy Endowment Committee asks that you consider a legacy commitment in your gifting plans. Please contact any Committee member with any questions.

—Bill Johnson, Chairman, Legacy Endowment Committee

## 2015 Club Handbook

The 2015 SMC handbook will be printed in December for January distribution. This update will incorporate any changes in member information submitted through November 30, although earlier changes would be much appreciated.



Members should verify that all handbook information (permanent address, telephone and e-mail) is current, with any necessary changes submitted to Database Committee Chairman Bob Beach. Any pending changes effective by January 1, 2015 should be included.

In addition, all Committee Chairmen are asked to submit 2015 Committee rosters to Handbook Committee Chairman John Zarek, as soon as possible again with the November 30 deadline. Of equal importance, all members are encouraged to join Club working committees which can always use additional help.

—Bob Beach and John Zarek

### —Dues Are Due—

Treasurer John Groves reminds us that 2015 dues are due. They can be paid at any Friday meeting or by check using the coupon on this page. Checks dated prior to January 1, 2015 will be considered on time payments. After that date, dues are late and subject to a \$10 late fee.

### SMC 2015 Dues Coupon

2015 dues are payable before January 1, 2015. A \$10 late fee **must** be added for dues paid after January 1, 2015. Make checks payable to SMC and pay at a meeting or by mail. Please use the coupon if paying by mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by mail, send to:

Senior Men's Club - Dues  
The Community House  
380 South Bates Street  
Birmingham, MI 48009

Dues:

- \$40 Active Member
- \$40 Associate Member
- \$0 Life Member\*

*\*Life Members pay no dues, but many use the coupon to make a voluntary contribution for financial support of our Club.*

# Mystery Lyrics

Only six readers remembered the title of the old Harry James/Helen Forrest song containing these lyric lines:



*"I found your lips close to mine, so I kissed you and you didn't mind it at all"*

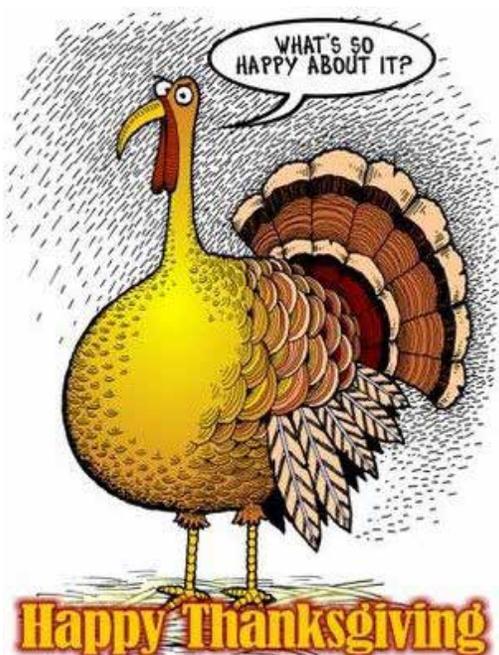
Congratulations to Dave and Mary Schwartz, Jack Howell, Norma (Dick) Secrest, Tom McNally, John O'Brien and Clay Gordon who knew the song is "I Had the Craziest Dream." (Confession – this was the first 78 RPM record the undersigned bought – in 1942! – no, I don't have it).

Let's try another romantic ballad. This was a big hit for Frank Sinatra back when, and has these opening lines:

*"Some day, when I'm awfully low  
When the world is cold I will feel  
a glow just thinking of you"*

Can you name that tune? (I only remember this because I just heard Tony Bennett sing it.)

—Dick Harper



# THE REMINDER

A monthly publication of the Senior Men's Club of Birmingham, which meets on Fridays at 10:30AM at The Community House, 380 South Bates Street, Birmingham, Michigan 48009.

Officers for 2014 are: John M. Steele, president; George L. Stern, first vice president; Eugene P. Jacoby, second vice president; Richard A. Kamp, recording secretary; Charles J. Blank, corresponding secretary; John P. Groves, treasurer; James A. Bayson, assistant treasurer; Robert L. Babcock and Charles D. Basch, officers at large; George A. Grove, parliamentarian.

THE REMINDER includes: Dick Harper, editor; Chuck Ragains, and John Flintosh, associate editors; Tom Booth, Bill Shaffmaster, and Geno Markel, photography; Mary Kennedy, computer layout; Bob Jordan, mailing.

Senior Men's Club of Birmingham  
380 South Bates St., Birmingham, MI 48009  
[www.tchserves.org](http://www.tchserves.org)

## CLUB DATES TO REMEMBER

**Executive Board Meeting:** Tuesday, November 11 at 9:30AM

**Reminder Deadline:** Friday, November 14

### Games

**Bowling:** Mondays at 9:00AM at Thunderbird Lanes

**Bridge:** Tuesdays at 9:00AM and Friday after lunch

**Thursday Golf:** Begins 9:30AM January 8, 2015 at Oakland Yard Dome

### Special Events

**Visit The Parade Company:** Wednesday, November 12 at 9:15AM

**Christmas Dinner Dance:** Wednesday, December 10 at 6:00PM

### Group Meetings

**Book Reading Groups:** Group A: Wednesday, November 5 at 10:30AM

Group B: Monday, November 17 at 3:00PM

**Classic Movie Group:** Monday, November 10 at 1:00PM

**Camera Group:** Tuesday, November 11 at 2:00PM

**Computer Group:** Wednesday, November 19 at 3:00PM

**Investment Group:** Wednesday, November 5 at 2:45PM

*All events at The Community House unless otherwise stated.*

### SMC ON THE WEB:

[www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com](http://www.seniormensclubbirmingham.com)

[www.tchserves.org/outreach-and-clubs/clubs/senior-mens-club-of-birmingham](http://www.tchserves.org/outreach-and-clubs/clubs/senior-mens-club-of-birmingham)