

## Update Number Eight

March "In the Good Old Summertime"



The Convention is now just eight weeks away. That does not seem possible as I look out of the window and see all that snow. Perhaps the only Norwich conventioneer who hasn't been snowed in is Bill Winfield in Cyprus! Whatever happened to Global Warming? I almost expect to see two street musicians singing 'In the Good Old Summertime'. Oh well, better weather is supposedly around the corner and so too is the **38th UK Laurel & Hardy Convention**

### OUR CHECK LIST?

As you can imagine, there has been a few 'Busy Bodies' at this end checking that we are as prepared as we can possibly be for the Norwich Convention. We can't guarantee that won't be some hiccups but if there are, hold your breath and then what usually happens is that everything is fine again!

### YOUR CHECK LIST?

Well it up to you how many pairs of socks you bring – more than one pair, I hope. But here is a reminder of four things that you may need to think about.

- **Tent Banners** - we will display them in the Ballroom. We will not have a Parade as such, but a 'Welcome Sons' greeting on the first night
- **Fancy Dress** - it is always fun to participate. If you have never taken part then break your duck in Norwich
- **Sons Entertain** – Contact John Ullah [j.ullah@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:j.ullah@blueyonder.co.uk) if you want to (and we want you to) participate. No live animals though!
- **Dealer's Tables** - Contact Paul Allen [sapsontour@aol.com](mailto:sapsontour@aol.com) if you would like a table. We have a large room so plenty of opportunity to buy & sell.

## SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

We all have different diets. The hotel is very much aware of the specific requirements of the Conventioneers who have indicated they are pescetarian, vegetarian, non-dairy, non-chicken, gluten free diet etc. Paul and I have discussed menus with them and we have their assurance that all tastes/diets will be catered for throughout the weekend. We have a system that will indicate to the people serving meals which guests have special food requirements, so hopefully this will work. If a problem does arise, please let us know at the time.

## MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

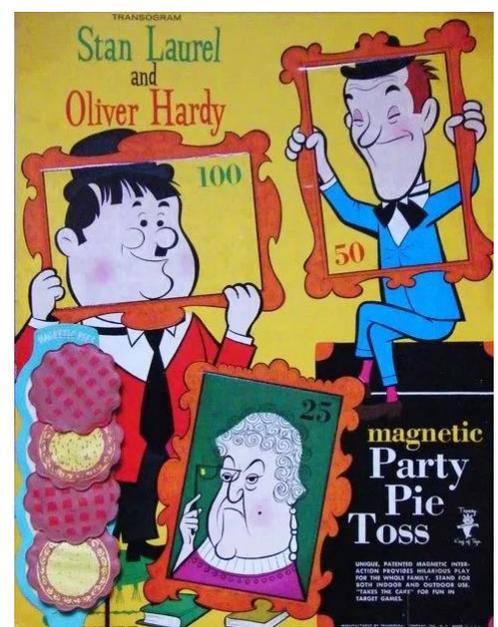
Ask anyone who has organised a Convention previously what the worst task is, and I sure they will say “collecting money”. I would agree with that because different amounts come in at different times. Thanks to my abacus and a pink pig money box, I have survived! Seriously, I would like to say THANK YOU SONS for prompt and regular payments. Nearly all payments have been made and it has assisted us in balancing the books.

I have sent receipts for all payments. Where a small amount has remained outstanding – maybe for a polo-shirt or Bank transfer or PayPal transaction reducing the amount received - I have indicated this on the receipt and requested that this o/s be paid at the Registration Desk. There are ten cases that amount to £140, so you will appreciate why it is necessary to collect all these bits and pieces.

Thank you

## PARTY PIE TOSS?

I hope that you won't be disappointed that magnetic Party Pie Toss is not one of the games that you can play at Norwich. However we do have SEVEN easy to play pub-type games ready to play on Friday afternoon from after Registration which will open at 2.00pm. And for any late arrivals there will be an opportunity for them to have a go, probably late on Sunday afternoon.



## BROADS TOUR

How can you be in Norfolk and not go the Broads? On Sunday afternoon we have a relaxing 90 minute cruise. Because we have such a large number in our group, we have filled the 'The Queen of the Broads' the largest boat on the Norfolk Broads. Therefore we have a second boat, 'The Cordon Rouge' which we will also use. Both boats are comfortably equipped and have bars. Do any Sons drink? You will be advised which boat to board by your coach marshal.



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## THE CONVENTIONEERS

Inevitably there have been changes to the list of attendees since we began booking. We currently still have a 'Full House' of 143 attendees. I am pleased that we have been able to give everyone who had to drop out for whatever reason, a full refund. I am also pleased that everyone who was on the 'Reserve List' and it really was quite a long list not so long ago, has been offered a place. We have no one waiting in the wings now, but if you know of anyone at this late stage who would like to go on the list, then get them to contact me just in case a late vacancy occurs. We will have a list of attendees in the Convention Programme.

## TWO PUBS OF INTEREST IN NORWICH



I have no doubt that some Sons will have already done some research about the best Pubs in Norwich. 'The Belgian Monk' will not only attract our Belgian Sons but connoisseurs of good ale. It is a couple of minutes' walk from the centre of the city in the lanes area of Norwich. (I understand that if you drink in there once it could become a habit!).



'The Stanley' is in Magdalene Road a 15 minute walk from the city centre. The pub took its name from Mr Laurel, but one of the original landlords. Over the years it has had mixed fortunes, sometimes flourishing with the Laurel and Hardy connection and displaying pictures,



posters and paintings. Paul and I visited it and although there are a few L & H bits there, it is a bit thin on the ground. I would say that this is a local's pub which perhaps is very noisy and lively at the weekend.



**Well, now that I have completed this penultimate Update, I think it is time for my beer. Update Number Nine will be sent out in April. And the following month.....we will see you all in Norwich. CHEERS.**



**Rogerrrrr..... the Essex Monk**

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