

## The Listener Crossword Setters' Dinner 27<sup>th</sup> February 1993 : Birmingham

The venue for the 1993 Dinner was the Banqueting Room of Birmingham Council House, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Cllr Peter Barwell. The evening raised £750 for the Lord Mayor's chosen charities: Children in Cities '92, Birmingham Hospital Radio Network and the Peto UK Appeal for Conductive Education, the latter helping severely autistic children. On behalf of the Lord Mayor the local half of **Blod** thanked all those who contributed to these worthy causes.

Setters in attendance were:

**Adam, Aeschylus, Alban, Arepo, Ascot, BeRo, Blod** (2 persons), **Brym, Buff, Bufo, Calmac, Centigram, Cuth, Derek, Dimitry, Doc, Duck, Esrom, Fabrizio, Fenrix** (1 of 2 persons), **Foxglove, Gos, Hamamelis, Hellebore, Ilex, Jago, Jude** (latterly **Fawley**), **Kea, Lato, Llig, Macbu** (2 persons), **Mespot, Mr. Lemon, Nibor, Owzat, Pabulum** (aka **Waldteufel**), **Phalarope, Phi, Phil Brindall, Phobis, Ploutos, Politicaster, Salamanca, Trev, Zander**

They were joined by members of Birmingham City Council and five of the six all-correct solvers for 1992.

Apologies were received from:

**Alexis, Apex** (whose collected poems were distributed during the Dinner), **Bap, Bart, Essem, Gong, Ingrid, Ix, Jac, Klick, Law, Le Gallois, Machiavelli, Mime, Nicholas, Notlaw, Ozzie, Ram, Sabre, Scorpio** (whose debut in 1936 was as **Castor**), **Smokey, Swan**

Apologies were also received from Nicholas Wapshott, editor of The Times Saturday Review, Colin Dexter, Eric Burt, who used to draw the diagrams for THE LISTENER, and Andrew Scott, the sixth all-correct solver.

**Leon** and **Generalissimo** were fondly remembered as a prelude to the toast to absent setters moved by **Blod**.

**Ploutos** paid warm tribute to Birmingham's contribution to the Arts.

Sir Jeremy Morse (**Esrom**) gave the after-dinner speech and covered classic clues from **Torquemada** and **Ximenes**. As a chess problem judge he likened the Crossword to a chess problem and encouraged setters to aim for puzzles based on the precepts of elegance, economy and inherent logical consistency combined with clue writing in fine style. His challenge to setters was to compile a puzzle's whole set of individual clues which sequentially read as sensible prose.

Ross Beresford, 152 not out at the end of 1992, during which he broke Tony Sever's 12-year-old record (133) of consecutive correct entries, again graciously declined the Solver Silver Salver which was received by Henry Blanco White, who announced (after consultation with the other all-corrects) that the winner of the Ascot Gold Cup for 1992 should be **Law** for his puzzle 'Players', number 3150.

At the end of the evening a Slender Silver Stylus was left in the Banqueting Room. Unless claimed via 021 384 5946 it will be boxed and presented at next year's Dinner as an award for anything that **Ricshaw** can think of.