

The Listener Crossword Setters' Dinner 12th March 1994 : Nottingham

Just over 100 people attended the setters' annual dinner which was organised by **Bufo** and held at the Stakis Victoria Hotel.

Setters in attendance were:

Adam, Aeschylus, Albipediis, Alexis, Ascot, Bandmaster, BeRo, Blod (2 persons), **Brym, Bufo, Calmac, Cuth, Dimitry, Duck, Fawley, Gos, Hellebore, Jago, Lato, Law, Llig, Macbu** (2 persons), **Machiavelli, Mespot, Mr. Lemon, Nibor, Noggs, Obiter, Owzat, Pabulum, Petti, Phalarope, Phi, Piccadilly, Plausus, Ploutos, Trev, Zander**

Apologies were received from:

Amicus, Arepo, Bap, Buff, Derek, D. G. Tallis, Esrom, Essem, Fabrizzio, Hamamelis, Highlander, Jac, Klick, Le Gallois, Mass, Mime, Notlaw, Phobis, Potin, Sabre, Swan, Waterloo

News had been received of the deaths of **Nicholas** (D A Nicholls), the “-to” half of **Peto** (Helen “Toto” Williams), and **Bart** (J B Widdowson).

After the meal, Peter Rhodes (**Bufo**) started the talking with a preamble in which he welcomed everybody and had the first dig at the recent **Amicus** puzzle that attracted only 8 correct solutions. He then handed over to Chris Feetenby (**Corylus**) who made a short speech before proposing the toast to absent friends. He then announced the winner of the Solver Silver Salver.

There were three all-correct solvers in 1993 who were contending for the Salver; **Phi**'s ‘Raving’ was the puzzle that had eliminated most of the other contenders. The all-corrects were: Keith Burton, a first-time all-correct after 30 years of trying; Ross Beresford, continuing his record run which stood at 203 puzzles at the end of 1993; and David Flower, who was on 103 consecutive correct puzzles at the end of 1993. Ross, once again, declined the salver saying that it should go to someone who hadn't won it before. Hence, David Flower was declared this year's winner.

David then gave a solver's eye view of things before announcing the winner of the Ascot Gold Cup. After consultation with the other all-corrects, he decided that the winner should be **Mime** for puzzle 3202, ‘Whodunnit 3: Locked Room Mystery’. Unfortunately, **Mime** was not present to receive the trophy.

John Grimshaw then announced that he is standing down as a vetter. The new vetting team is Mike Rich and Ross Beresford. Submissions should be sent to Ross (10 Wagtail Close, Twyford, Berks RG10 9ED).

The guest for the evening was Anne Seaton, a lexicographer who works on ‘Chambers Dictionary’. Her speech was very well received by an appreciative audience. During the evening she noted down many of the suggestions with which she was bombarded. She also announced that Chambers will soon be available on CD-Rom at £55.

Phi will be organising next year's dinner which will be held “somewhere in the south-east”.