



## Billericay Welcome Two New Brothers

**Billericay Circle** was delighted to enrol two new brothers at its recent Clergy night.

Max Yao (pictured right) and Chris Wood (left), seen here with their wives Carine and Yvonne, proudly display their enrolment scrolls presented to them by Provincial President Paul Abbott.

Billericay membership now stands at 56 brothers with currently two visiting gentlemen and is one of the largest circles in the Association.



## Welcome Kevin

**Croydon Circle's** newest member Kevin Gower was enrolled and welcomed by President Bernard Diver and 42 members of the Circle gathered at their November 2009 meeting.



*Pictured (l to r): Bernard Diver (President), Kevin Gower and Philip Tomei (Membership Officer)*

## The Way Forward – Looking For An Edge!

*By Damian Collins, President of Manchester North and Middleton Circle 168*

The experience of performing the 'Welcome Now' song on the stage of the Bridgewater Hall to open the Centenary Conference has now faded; we are now faced with the fact that at a membership of 25 brothers **Manchester North and Middleton Circle** has to attract new members, and speedily.

I put the case to Council that we needed to increase the number of interesting activities, to engage the interest of members and prospective members – activities which would take place immediately after the circle meeting. We already have held a Sports Quiz, Bottle Draw and our famous 'Yellow Duster' General Knowledge Quiz, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part; but what about the remaining nine circle meetings during the Catenian year. We set about devising a programme of unusual, sometimes bizarre activities, so that this year has become something of a prolonged experiment. After the April meeting we arranged an indoor golf putting competition with medals for the winners – the atmosphere was electric! Some of our senior members had forgotten they were 70+ and played with all the enthusiasm of 20 year olds! After the May meeting we had an indoor ferret race with six lanes of ferrets, the profits from the betting going to the President's charity. (Did you know that a ferret is flexible enough to double



*Ferret Racing*

back in a drainpipe size tube?) After the June meeting we had a darts quiz and match (quickest round the clock) with the two scores being added together. The result was very close – there was just one point in it! I won't tell you which Circle won as it was all down to who knew what a Shanghai score was! The argument still continues throughout Province 1! At the end of the July meeting the staff from St Joseph's Mission to Deaf People gave us a demonstration of sign

language with voice over, at the same time delivering a Power Point presentation all about the deaf community and their international links. Following the September meeting we had a music Quiz with six sections of ten questions. For one section each team had to nominate a member to either sing, whistle, or dance to a well known tune for a straight five points – death or glory! The result was an astonishing array of spontaneous dances, which would have totally baffled the jury of 'Strictly Come Dancing'! It was a brilliant occasion with so much fun and everyone had a great time.



*L - R Gold Medal winners of the Darts Match - Bernard Raby, Alan Pritchard, Circle President Damian Collins, Peter Carlon, Phil Brown*

So we come to the October meeting – we enrolled a new brother, Tom Doyle, who says that it was these activities that attracted him to our Circle – hopefully Tom's point of view will be shared by other prospective members.

For the remainder of the Catenian year, Council has given me support for the following programme. 4th November our Sports Quiz; 10th November a trip to Martin Mere Wetland; 2nd December the Bottle Draw; 29th December Our Ladies Evening; 6th January the Formula One Quiz and Scalextric challenge; 3rd February The Yellow Duster General Knowledge Quiz; February Shrove Tuesday the Clergy Dinner, and finally 7th March visit of 'Shake the Barley' Irish Band. Come and join us – let's face it, life isn't so bad!