

"RUCTIONS IN THE ROSE AND CROWN"

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CHARACTERS:

Councillors - DICK DOITY, I. SMELLARAT, AYNOCK CORNOCK, ALI KALI  
Town Clerk - WILFRED WATERCRESS.

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D.D. - Bout time we started ay it Watercress.

W.W. - Indeed it is Councillor Doity. We are half an hour late already.

A.C. - Are. We are getting wuss and wuss. We'll be startin later than the Bingo start their "does" soon.

D.D. - Aw be quiet Cornock. We've heard enough of you lately. Doe start moaning before the meeting begins. Anybody got a pencil? Aa thanks Councillor Kali. Get on with the minutes Watercress.

W.W. - Surely Councillor Doity you are not contemplating taking notes while I am reading minutes? They will demand your full attention as Chairman.

D.D. - No I bay gooen ter tak notes. I only want ter do me coupon. Goo on Watercress doe keep us here all night. Read the minutes.

W.W. - Ahem/ These are the minutes of the 431st meeting of the Lower Bernal Town Council held at the Back Room of the "Rose & Crown" an I'm overlooking the beautiful Cradley Cut and perfumed by the fragrant aromas of the council muck-tip. The Cradley Cut is the Cut mentioned by the Poet Price in his Black Country Ballard when he writes - "The Breezes that blow O'er the Cut from Blackheath, Are perfumed by the Gas Works as they blow, and the women in the lowlands down in Old Hill, speak a language that the strangers do not know"

The aforesaid meeting was held on Wednesday the 21st January, present were Councillors Doity, Cornock, Smellarat, Ali Kali, Dick Bloggs and his Dominoe partner Joe and the Town Clerkyour humble servant Wilfred Watercress commonly called "Watercress". In the adjoining Bar were the various Councillors wives who had expressed a desire in no uncertain tones that the meeting be terminated early. The meeting went smoothly, apart from the sudden and discreet exit of Councillor Bloggs through the window upon the arrival of the local Inspector of Police in the adjoining bar. After the minutes had been read and passed Councillor Cornock moved a resolution condemning those people who did not give much for West Bromwich Albion's chances of winning the League & Cup. This resolution was hotly apposed by Councillor Doity who is a native of Wolverhampton. This discourse was terminated at the request of the Landlord who came in to announce that the people in the bar could not hear themselves talk for the noise in the Council Chamber.

Next the Council were pleased to learn from Councillor Kali that another house would be built this year bringing the total since the war up to ten. It was decided to ask the Prime Minister to open the house upon completion to commemorate the Council's achievement in reaching double figures. It was also decided to announce the news to the 2,347 people on the waiting list to cheer them up. In order to celebrate the Coronation it was decided that a dinner on a grand scale be given to members of the Council, a lollipop to all the school children, a headache tablet to all the publicans, a book on the Rules of Football to all the supporters of the Albion and Villa, a quarter pound of tea and two ounces of tobacco to the old folk, and a sixpenny rate to the rate payers. After a brief discussion on the lukewarm nature of modern beer and the chances of Billiard Ball in the 2.30., the meeting was closed.

- D.D. - Gentlemen/ Yo have heard the minutes, shall I sign 'em.
- A.K. Ah/Goo on, we woe stop thee.
- W.W. any apologies?
- D.D. - Doe look like it, Sam Bloggs ay here.
- I.S. Sam's got a Dominoe Match on, he toed me he would try to get here afore we've left.
- D.D. - Well if he doe get here afore we go, he woe get here till after.
- A.C. I bet he doe cum, he owe's me half a crown.