

# Raffles: Some Thoughts by Bryan Joyner

Haywards Heath & District Probus Club



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Long ago – 1946 to be exact – just out of short trousers, I was allowed to enrol into the Boys' Brigade.

At 12 years of age, I aimed to do well, become an NCO and then a squad leader.

To accomplish this, there were some rules to be fulfilled. One must have 98% attendance for a full year at weekly Company Meetings and Sunday church and also at Church Parade once a month. In addition, one had to write an article on a biblical person and another one on what I was told was a moral issue: *The Dangers of Drink or The Dangers of Gambling*.

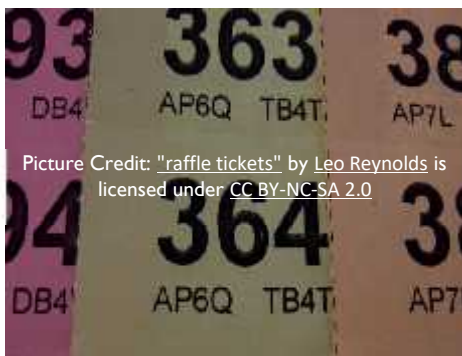
Not being sufficiently educated in such subjects, I chose Elijah and The Dangers of Gambling. With my lack of knowledge of gambling and lack of cash, I penned my essay RAFFLES: A "NO-GO".

Wonders upon wonders, I did pass and became an NCO and subsequently a squad leader.

Raffles never came into my mind again until I was posted to Egypt, my first camp in the RAF, and still penniless. My very first week at the station and I had to work the weekend – why, I never found out. NAAFI breaktime came and we all sat outside the hangar waiting for the NAAFI wagon to arrive. The Corporal in Charge asked me, quite strongly I thought, "let's have your cash for the raffle". He took my cash and went off. He returned shortly after carrying a huge tray of what he informed me was "Fly Pie". It was my winnings. Fly Pie is a tart covered with currants and glued together with a sweet substance that only the cook found available. "What on earth would I do with the tart?" I asked. His answer was quite aggressive: "Try a piece, enjoy it and any left over give it to the lads". There appeared to be enough to feed the whole hangar staff.

Back to the article: I cannot remember the actual words I wrote long ago, the time I considered raffles to be a No Go. Now my understanding is that they are a worthwhile cause and many benefit from the proceeds.

So, as you may have guessed, I am plugging for the Haywards Heath and District PROBUS club raffle. You will surely know, but I will humbly mention again, that the proceeds go towards the club's expenses and, of course, some to charity.



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So, float your money into the bucket at our next meeting. I say float because 'paper' money is safer, there is no change to give, and it is easier to count. To the winners, *Congratulations*, and to those who miss out: *Smile, be happy!* You will be a winner for being there and participating – and if that does not help, **THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME.**

### ON THE DAY OF THE NEXT MEETING:

- ) Place a donation in the bucket
- ) Collect 5 ticket halves (I keep the other halves for the draw)
- ) The draw is made in the usual way
- ) There will be 4 prizes – as we would usually have at a members and wives/guests occasion
- ) And finally... no hugs etc, just a smile or a wink!