

25th anniversary speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon

On behalf of your committee, It is my privilege **and pleasure**, to welcome you all to

A celebration of The 25th anniversary of the 316 Club.

It was surely beyond the expectations of Alan Steeds, Bob Moggridge, and the other 38 founder members when they met for the first time on the **27 November 1990**, that the club would still be in such good health and with this wonderful turnout today.

To help us celebrate this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend a special welcome to our distinguished guests.

(But to save your hands perhaps we will give our traditional welcome after I have introduced them all)

Firstly, Our long term sponsor and friend, Robert Moggridge of Thumbprint Luton.

And From MBDA;

The Site General Manager, **Bryony Smith**, is here, welcome Bryony
The Media Relations Manager UK, **Conal Walker**.

A strong supporter of the 316 Club, The Group Head of Internal Communications, **Alan Fuller**.

The gentlemen making a photographic record of today – smile if he is around and pretend you are having a good time

Chris Miles of the MBDA Photographic Department.

And Lastly, two ladies who have given me so much help over the last few weeks –

Penny Bird from Customer Relations and

The Head of Customer Strategic Engagement, Helen Kersley-Allinson
thank you ladies for all your help.

We hope you all enjoy your time with us this afternoon and thank you for coming.

I would also like to introduce to you two people who have to earn their lunch today:

Here on table 3, a long term Club member and one time committee member, our after dinner speaker, **Mr Alan Davis**.

And finally, sitting with Richard on table 4, I am delighted to introduce our guest of honour,

Mr Keith Garden, Deputy Managing Director MBDA. UK

As I start to propose the toast, I am minded of those members unable to be here today : Most importantly ,The clubs founder and Life President, Eric Drury.

But also the likes of Robin Roe, Tony Allen, Ena Boylett and Ron Crumpler who wanted to be here today, but have had to withdraw through ill health, but have all sent their best wishes to you.

So with all absent members in mind, I ask you to raise your glasses and join me in the toast to:

THE 316 CLUB