

Annual General Meeting of the Burglars Union (A Registered Charity).

Chairman's Report for the Year 2007/2008

Welcome, Gentlemen and Ladies, to the AGM for the financial year 2007/2008. You will see from the Treasurer's Report, which we shall hear later, that this last year has been a record one for our Union. Before reading my Chairman's Report I would like to remind all present that it is absolutely forbidden to leave this room in possession of another member's wallet, Montblanc or Rolex.

It is very encouraging to see such a good turn-out today and we warmly welcome those new members from Africa and Eastern Europe. We are truly a multinational organisation.

I am sorry to have to report that our longest-serving member, Old Jeb, is still hospitalised since a retired lady struck him forcibly with a copper cooking pan as he was entering her kitchen via the window. I have personally tried to convince him that perhaps the old ways are no longer appropriate but he insists that he does not wish to change at this late stage of his life. We wish him well.

I said we are a multinational organisation and this is well demonstrated by our close attention to global trends. With the high price of diesel and petrol, a whole new chapter has opened up for us with every opportunity presenting itself to filch thousands of gallons from parked trucks. Our Precision Tools service has a display stand outside in the reception area where members can inspect and purchase the Multi-Purpose Key Set and the Cap Chisel Pack. Also available is the Helpful Driver Disguise.

You may remember that at last year's meeting concern was expressed at how difficult it is these days to burgle banks. Your Board promised to address the issue and our Financial Instruments service focussed on how to remove money from banks in new and innovative ways. As you know, they found a splendid method and are to be much congratulated. For the benefit of newer members, they invented an instrument called an ICS - an Illiquid Credit Security. Rather than become involved in the direct sale of these instruments we judged it more sensible to license the technique to banks and chose Wall Street as the first beneficiary. Since which time we have earned millions of dollars from a royalty of 7.5%. You will be pleased to note that your Union has not suffered in any way from the recent credit crunch. Our decision to license rather than to buy and sell the ICSs proved prudent.

The business of resale of mobile phones to Eastern Europe is flourishing. I would remind you that we have franchised a number of market traders to unlock mobiles and you should look for our logo on the stand when seeking to do this.

We have two awards to make this year. The First is our Emeritus Award for Long Service to Pick-Pocketing. We are awarding this to our Prime Minister, the Right Hon. Gordon Brown, who has had his hand in the pockets of the public for at least ten years

with a stunning array of stealth taxes. A remarkable achievement and one that rightly deserves our award. We congratulate him. As Churchill would have said, 'Never in the field of human filching has so much been filched from so many by so few.'

Our second award is for 'The Most Audacious Entry'. Miss Tracy Billingsgate, here on my left, actually managed to gain entry to 10 Downing Street. Wearing her best stolen Dior dress, she posed as a French Cabinet Minister and rapidly passed through the portal of Number Ten. When our Ministers had finished chatting her up in broken French, she stole a George 3rd. solid silver decanter set and left. I know you will join me in congratulating her warmly on this subtle feat.

I turn now to identity theft. As you know, this is a burgeoning addition to our operations. It generates much revenue with little chance of being apprehended. Your Board has decided that a reasonable percentage of this revenue should be donated to charity. This will serve two purposes. One, it will help us fulfill our status as a registered charity. And two, it will be a pleasant redistribution of income. Rob Locksley will be handling this important part of our mission

That brings me to the end of my report and we can now all adjourn to the reception area next door, where I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you all individually over a glass of stolen Krug Clos d' Ambonnay. Thank you.