

Diary Week Commencing 5th July 2010

Monday
5th

I started the day with a staff meeting at my local office then set off for London. I had a lunch time meeting regarding the future of the Tote, then returned to the Commons to start on the paperwork. I then attended a meeting regarding the food and drink industries and at 7pm attended the shadow Liaison Committee meeting. We were voting later that evening.

Tuesday
6th

I held a meeting with a representative of Betfair, one of the betting exchanges, and then held a meeting with the secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Another meeting followed at lunch time and then I attended a reception on behalf of children with difficulties. The Chairman of gala Coral was in town and asked to see me at short notice, then I attended our All Party Racing Group meeting, of which I am Joint Chairman. I then went to see some people from Calor. Afterwards, I managed to get through a great deal of paperwork as we were voting until 2.30am on the Wednesday morning. I left the Commons at 2.45am.

Wednesday
7th

I held a meeting with the Clerk of the Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee then went to a reception hosted by the Association of British Insurers. After carrying out much paperwork, I then held a meeting with members of the Youth Parliament from Gloucestershire. I was invited to have drinks with Nigel Evans, one of the new Deputy Speakers then I attended the annual Corporate Governance Group dinner in the Commons.

Thursday
8th

The day was mainly spent on computer work. I then travelled back to Tewkesbury.

Friday
9th

I spent most of the day at Cheltenham Police Station as part of my Police Service Parliamentary Scheme. I was mainly looking at the work of the CID.

Saturday
10th

GE Aviation were holding an open day so I attended that and held discussions with some of their management and staff. It was a good day. I did a few emails in the afternoon and then attended an event at Swindon Village in the evening.

Sunday
11th

Our local village held some football events today to coincide with the World Cup Final, which I took part in. I'm really too old to be playing football but the flame did flicker again! More than can be said for the World Cup Final.

Diary Week Commencing 7th June 2010

Monday
7th

I set off early to get to London as pupils from Tredington School were visiting. After their tour, we had a discussion about Parliament and the work of an MP. I then set about the paperwork and emails before having a meeting with a representative of First Great Western. We covered a number of issues, such as the need to improve the service between Cheltenham/Gloucester and London. I then had further meetings that day.

Tuesday
8th

For the first time, MPs took part in a ballot to elect the three Deputy Speakers. As the Speaker is a Conservative, only one of the Deputies could be so. I didn't like the rigged voting, which was designed to ensure that one was a woman, as I believe in meritocracy and not discrimination. But I wouldn't have a problem voting for a woman, of course. I then set about further paperwork and emails, which are now up to pre-election levels. I then found myself elected unopposed to be Chairman of the Northern Ireland select Committee and then, on the same evening, became Joint Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Racing & Bloodstock Group. After all this excitement, I chaired a dinner hosted by Bosch about telehealth.

Wednesday
9th

I was re-elected as Chairman of the All party Ethiopia Group in the morning then held a number of further meetings that day, including one with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein, which was quite lively. I did a television interview and then held a meeting with a representative of a local company, and then attended a reception hosted by EDF Energy. I then set off back for Tewkesbury.

Thursday
10th

I started to tackle further paperwork and emails. I also delivered many of my information leaflets to houses in Bishop's Cleeve. And I met Universities secretary, David Willets, who was on a visit to UCAS, which is just inside my constituency.

Friday
11th

I did further leaflets in Bishop's Cleeve, meeting people as I went round, and further paperwork.

Saturday
12th

This was the continuing trend for the weekend. But today I managed a round of golf, getting eight pars yet failing to break 90. It's a strange game. In the evening I watched England failing to beat the USA. We really do need to do better than this.

Sunday
13th

I spent the day locally, seeing a few friends and preparing for the coming week.