

WATER RATS FETE DUKE.

"King Rat" Arthur Scott received the Duke of Edinburgh and presented former Kings of the Grand Order of Water Rats. They included among famous entertainers, Albert Whelan, who is 85. A host of notables in light entertainment including Wee Georgie Wood and Bud Flanagan were at the Mayfair Hotel. It was the biggest 'Do' the Water Rats have had for many a long day, namely the installation of the Duke as an honorary member of the Order, a Companion Rat. The king rat himself performed the ceremony. So far it was nearly as orderly as a Parish Council.

Tommy Trinder presented a cheque for fifteen hundred pounds, subscribed by all who had autographed a book entitled, "SHOW BUSINESS SALUTES PRINCE PHILIP".

(Ted Ray speaking)

"Today is a milestone in my life, your Royal Highness, because I have seen two things I never thought I would see, the first is you becoming a member of the Companion of the Order of Water Rats, and Tommy Trinder giving away money! ..... Let's face it brothers rats some of our members walk around like unmade beds, in fact one King Rat who shall be nameless sent his jacket to be cleaned last week and it was so threadbare they sent it back on a spool!"...

Saying that the Water Rats wanted to avoid any jealousy at the Palace, Ted Ray presented a Teddy Bear for the royal baby.

(Ted Ray speaking)

"It's a little teddy bear with a baby water rat looking over his shoulder. We come to the Book, this book is bound with leather and affection, it contains the names of every available artist in show business today. They went to great lengths sir, to get their names in this book!. I do hope you will find time to look through its pages - it's a rotten plot, but a magnificent cast!! Your Royal Highness it's my proud privilege on behalf of the entire world of entertainment saluting you today for giving us the biggest philip we've ever known!....

When I say this is our life..."

(The Duke speaking)

"Thank you for your very kind hospitality to me today and for making me a Companion Rat but particularly for this cheque which means a very great deal to the London Federation of Boys Clubs and I think you never need regret having reached into the pocket even if it's got a hole in it, thank you very much indeed".....