

# *HV* *BS* *The Hudson Valley* *Bullshit Society*

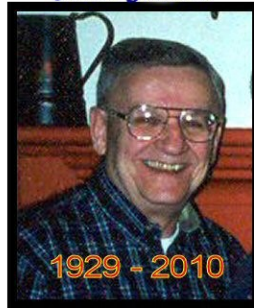
*Jack Gahan*



*Ramrod*



*Gladiator*



*Deliberator*



*PC Wiz*



*Surveyor*

## HVBS Official Minutes - Seventh Meeting of 2018

1- **Surveyor**, vacation over, picked up **Gladiator** and **PC Wiz** for the journey to the **Hoffman House** on a day predicted to be in the 90s. We arrived at an early 10:50 AM to an empty parking lot. While waiting for the arrival of **Ramrod**, **Surveyor** tuned his Sirius XM radio to the in progress Judge Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court hearings. At 11:20 AM **Ramrod** arrived and we entered the premises through the already quite warm empty patio. We were greeted by **bartender Pat** and **Hostess Ginny** who set up our table for **Surveyor**. **HVBS Official Waitress Lorayne** duly appeared to take our beverage orders. **Surveyor** ordered an 'orange Stoli' while **Ramrod** and **Gladiator** agreed on Tanqueray gin and tonics with lime wedges. **PC Wiz** opted for a Keegan's Mothers Milk stout. It being the day after **Ramrod's** 89<sup>th</sup> birthday **Gladiator** presented him with a birthday card and a wrapped bottle which he referred to as 'the missing bottle' (at a **Bobbi** and **Randy** party this Metaxa Ouzo liquor that went mysteriously missing). Members toasted **Ramrod**, to the memory of **Jack Gahan** and the armed forces of the United States.

2- **Ramrod** regaled us with some jokes he had brought along. One concerned a man on a Purina 'complete' dog chow diet with a great punch line. He showed it to **Lorayne** and she also enjoyed the humor. **PC Wiz** noted that the NY Post had an article on the Yankee playoffs – 'One and done, loser go home'. Members said it was not clear that they would make the playoffs. **Gladiator** stated that they should not 'blame it on injuries' – noting that all teams have to cope with players getting injured. He specifically referred to the Michael Kay show where they think the Yankee solution lies with the return of the injured Aaron Judge. After a discussion of Yankee catcher problems **Ramrod** said that 'CC' is over the hill – an opinion seconded by members. **Surveyor** mentioned a prospect for first base for the Yankees – Luke Boynton, attending Walton. **Ramrod** related that Andrew McCutcheon hit a home run in the Oakland game on September 3.

3- It was time to order our luncheon selections. **Ramrod** was attracted to the 'Chicken Souvlaki' on the 'specials' menu. He asked **Lorayne** if their chef was Greek – that was a 'no'. He then inquired if she had tried the entre – also a 'no'. The description appearing quite attractive **Ramrod** decided to give it a try. **Gladiator** asked for his favorite French dip with hot au jus – **Lorayne** anticipated his request for reduced meat and said she would see to it. **Surveyor's** choice was the Garlic Steak Sandwich while **PC Wiz** opted for the shrimp and scallop Boboli specials item. The tavern was strikingly empty with only one couple behind us. **Lorayne** commented that post-Labor Day usually was very quiet. The discussion continued with **Gladiator** referring to the Official Agenda items on the continuing NFL ratings decline – down 10% in 2017. He said to 'thank Roger Goodell' for the gutless decision for kneeling players to stay in the locker room leading to the TV coverage (ESPN) not showing the anthem preliminaries.

4- **Gladiator** also mentioned the agenda item that children's (over 6) participation in school football is down 38% since 2006 – less candidates for pro ball. **Ramrod** related that it is so serious that some schools have reduced teams to 8 members – with some fielding a team formed from 2 schools! **Gladiator** thought it time for our annual **HVBS** member predictions for the NY Giant season. **Ramrod** iterated that the Giants 'have a plan'. **Gladiator** said they better 'have a plan' considering the 2017 season record of 3-13! Overlooking the traditional forecasts, the conversation turned to baseball with **PC Wiz** relating the NY Post's Yankee prediction of a playoff conclusion of 'One and done, loser goes home'. **Ramrod** opined that, as a baseball fan, he hates interleague play. Members agreed that and wished for the end of designated batters. **Ramrod** said that AL pitchers are not instructed in batting although they members of the team and should be in the rotation. He also commented that pitching is 80% of the game, pitchers today rarely pitch a complete game and that their 100 MPH pitches have little movement and can be hit by today's batters.

5- **Surveyor** noted that they are not trained for 9 innings and **Gladiator** chimed in with recollections of past performances where the starting double header pitchers actually started the second game after a complete game. We then went to great catchers of the past with **Gladiator** extolling Yogi Berra who was noted to hit almost anything pitched to him, **Ramrod** cited Cincinnati Reds Johnny Bench. **PC Wiz** mentioned Thurman Munson as one of the great Yankees. **Ramrod** brought up the great Mickey Mantle's records and members noted he played despite many injuries. Bench's mention brought up Pete Rose whom **Gladiator** thought should be in the Hall of Fame based on his record. The issue of sports gambling was on **HVBS** member's minds with misgivings – human nature not changed since the Black Sox scandal of the 1919 World Series.

6- **Lorayne** arrived for our coffee orders. **Gladiator** asked what fruit the cobbler came with – it was only apple and he ordered that dessert with vanilla ice cream. **Lorayne** listed the desserts and the remaining three all ordered the Bailey's cheese cake. When they arrived **Ramrod** compared the dishes and noted that each had a different serving of whipped topping – 4 on **Surveyor's**, 3 on **PC Wiz's**, and one large blob on **Ramrod's**. Asked why, **Lorayne** said she finished the dishes and felt creative. **Gladiator** asked **Surveyor** about his daughter's wedding; he said it went well and told us of the preparations. When they went to determine the menu **Surveyor** was charged \$75 a plate for the tasting – the actual cost per plate at the wedding was \$250! **Gladiator** related his wedding was in church with the reception in the rectory serving coffee and cookies – how times have changed (with the news item about the aborted wedding where the bride insisted on holding it in Aruba, with the guests to donate \$1500 each – it never happened).

7- Asked by **Gladiator** how his golfing season had gone, **Surveyor** told us they won the competition – making it three years in a row! The issue of how many meetings **Surveyor** missed in his Florida absence came up and **PC Wiz** was given orders to check (**Ramrod** and **Gladiator** thought more than one). The result is that **Surveyor** missed \*\*one meeting after his Winter absence: Aug. 1\*\*. **Gladiator** noted that **PC Wiz** had received a NY State check, \$264 for 'property tax relief'; no one else had. **PC Wiz** said it was for his school district not raising taxes more than a specified amount. He hoped the others were 'in the mail'. **Ramrod** said Governor Cuomo was trying to find a way around the \$10,000 property tax deduction on the new Federal Income Tax. **Gladiator** told members that **Randy** and **Bobbi** have sold their house and are moving to Florida. He sold his Chevy truck and bought a VW Macan with only 6,000 miles (trucks not being allowed at their new residence). **Ramrod** noted that Truecar, a useful buying service, was now useless – being allied with the dealers.

8- Celebrating **Ramrod's** 89<sup>th</sup> birthday – members covered his lunch bill. A date for our next meeting was set at either **Wednesday October 10 or October 17**. The meeting was adjourned. Outside **Surveyor** showed us his car's back door with a keyed mark, a \$1500 repair. **Gladiator** suggested trying one of the 'scratch repair' products available to hide it. **Surveyor's** correction \*\*: thanks for **Ramrod's** approval; **Gladiator's** 'minute' corrections to be 'discussed at our next pow-wow'.

**HVBS** Official Scribe Laureate **PC Wiz**

September 11, 2018

[Official corrected version and .pdf web page version September 15, 2018](#)