



## **Minutes for Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2015**

### **1. Annual reports from the Council and Committees.**

Reports were presented see appendix.

### **2. Treasurer's report and proposed budget.**

A budget report for next year was tabled by Treasurer K. Theobald recommending that the subscriptions should remain at £110 and the Lunch levy remain at £26. The Treasurer's recommendation was agreed by all members present.

### **3. Election of Honorary members**

Lady Gretton and Mike Powderly both to continue as a Honorary members, agreed unanimously by all members present.

### **4. Confirm the appointment of the Chairmen of Committees.**

The following Chairmen were proposed by R.A., and agreed by all members present.

Club Service,	Ian Neale
Community Service	Adrienne Holland
International Service	Alison Blythe
Foundation	Alison Blythe
Membership	Michael Osborne
Youth Service	Eric Hall

Nb. Sub Committees of : -

Club Service is Marketing, P.R. and Comms, chaired by Julia Joseph-Hinde.

Membership is Vocational, chaired by Bill Hill.

### **5. Elect the ordinary members of the Council.**

Committee Chairs who are not Club Officers were voted onto the Council en bloc, agreed by all members present. (Namely A.B., M.O., E.H.)

Steve Jeal was also nominated to continue as an elected member of Council having served one of normally three years on Council. Agreed by all members present.

### **6. Appoint a person or persons to examine the Club's annual accounts.**

Sarah Amos was as last year recommended for examining Trust accounts, with James Green for Club accounts. Agreed by all members present.

### **7. Elect three representatives of the Club on the District Council.**

President Richard Abbott, President Elect Ian Neale and Honorary Secretary David Ward were nominated and elected. Agreed by all members present.

## Appendix for Minutes of AGM

### AGM 2015 Reports from Council and Committees

#### President's Report - *Bill Hill*

A week may be a long time in politics but a year in Rotary?

As the Rotary year draws to a close I reflect on the past nine months with mixed feelings as I am sure Presidents before have done. It has been a privilege to represent the club at many events for example presenting prizes and certificates to children and students at local schools and the opportunity to take part in the remembrance service and wreath laying in November.

My thanks to the club officers who have been so proficient and supportive producing minutes and accounts whilst the Club Service team have ensured members enjoyed an excellent meetings and social programme. It is easy to take their work for granted but I am grateful to David, Kate and Richard for their efforts.

The standing committees of project and service teams have also worked diligently to deliver projects both traditional and innovative.

The Membership Committee led by David has worked to address the major problem of retaining members and recruiting new Rotarians and it has been a pleasure for me to have inducted Dick, Graham, Helen and Fiona but equally sad to lose two members. The work to establish a satellite group as part of the club is taking time but I am sure will succeed and I appreciate the diligent efforts of this committee.

The project teams have delivered their programmes and who will forget the wonderful concert in St Mary's church, the fun and enjoyment of the children at Twin lakes and the quiet satisfaction of seeing so many local schoolchildren taking part in the various youth competitions. This is a cornerstone of Rotary activity – service to our community. News has been received that the final administration to ensure work may start on our Global Grant Project in the Philippians has been completed. Well done and thank you Alison, John and Eric and all who have helped make these events happen.

Communications and Publicity are critical to both the smooth running of the club and to our public image. This small team meeting over breakfast at Julia's have achieved real success with excellent media coverage and ever increasing use of social media. It easy to dismiss Facebook and Twitter as gimmicks but thanks to the efforts of this team we have enjoyed a much higher profile for our events and projects.

I am conscious more work needs to be done to develop Vocational aspects of our service and fund raising is an issue which will require careful planning. Spending the funds is easy but raising the money is becoming more difficult as other charities become, of necessity, more ingenious and professional with their fundraising.

Some ten months ago I introduced my theme for the year;

*Every member should feel valued both as an individual and as a Rotarian*

I hope I may have made some progress towards achieving this and I thank you for your support and encouragement.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Bill Hill

## **Club Service Committee - *Richard Abbott***

The Club Service Committee has attempted to follow the guidelines given by club visioning to improve the social activities within the club, and to add variety to the lunch time meetings. Although the questionnaire enquiring of members preferences for social activities had a disappointing response we have had a trip to Birmingham Symphony Hall and a visit to Hampton Court Garden Show is planned for July. We have visited St Mary's Church Tower and Launde Abbey. At lunchtime Eggheads and Hand Bell ringing have appeared (thank you Linda) and more 'alternative' meetings are planned.

The committee has addressed fund raising issues and is looking at additional events to boost club finances, some with project teams in place. There will be a Vintage Vehicle Rally in September and a September Ball in association with Aurora. These are first time events, but we hope that they will raise a lot of money, and can become possible annual fundraisers. We are hoping for strong support from club members and their friends with these new events. The well established Duck Race and Santa Fun Run, were both completed successfully again this year.

In addition we have held the traditional events including Christmas Party, Burns Supper, Quiz Night and Charter Dinner. We participated in the District Quiz Competition and Minor Sports, although we lost in round 2 to a youthful Aurora Team!

The Communication Team have been active and increasingly effective in coordinating and publicising club events and activities.

Finally thanks to all committee members, but particular mention for Steve who has generated an interesting and variable lunch time programme, and Ian for invaluable support in all committee activities.

## **Community Service Committee - *Eric Hall***

The group has continued to develop past achievements by completing another successful year.

### **Birchwood School's trip to Twinlakes**

25 September 2014 was the date Rotarians joined 80 staff/helpers to accompany 140 special needs and 15 wheelchair bound students on a visit to TwinLakes. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and judged to have been a great success.

The decision to change from joining Rotary's Kids Day Out at Wicksteed Park, with the related long journey time, to our local Twinlakes has again proven to be the right choice. Twinlakes' team fully co-operated in meeting the special needs of the pupils and ensured every child had the maximum opportunity to enjoy the fun.

Past trips have involved The Grove School but I understand changes within the school meant they were unable to participate this year.

The challenge for the future will be to consider whether the Community Group will be able to fund such a large number of pupils and transport costs each year. It may be necessary limit the numbers so that each pupil goes in alternate years.

### **Christmas Parcels**

Although ostensibly under the control of Community Service, this annual event relies on and enjoys the full support of a wider club membership. The event operates in conjunction with Melton Belvoir Rotarians, Melton Lions and The Barnes Trust in collecting groceries and delivering them to the needy in the town. In so doing, the event emphasises the benefits of co-operation and the season's spirit of kindness and consideration for the needs of others less fortunate.

## **Stroke Awareness**

This is another annual joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club. Club members, too often the same candidates each year, join health professionals in the Bell Centre where they provide an opportunity for our citizen's to undertake a short health examination. The aim being that skilled practitioners with a minimum of equipment identify suspicious conditions. If any are found, the person is then recommended to approach their GP for further examination.

## **Christmas Tree Festival**

The festival is described as the largest Christmas Tree Festival in the country with over 220 organisations taking part and over 900 magical trees. We contributed to the magic with our own tree while also promoting Rotary

## **Leicestershire Life Education**

This is an initiative that we have supported for many years and is a joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club and the Sir Richard Raynes Foundation. Our normal donation is £1,000 but we have not yet been asked to make a donation for the current year.

## **Senior Citizens' Contact Group**

This group has previously been referred to as "Old Folks Teas". I prefer the new title but the event still provides a group 35 or so senior citizens with the opportunity to socialise and enjoy a friendly afternoon of chatter and catch-up with an excellent afternoon tea prepared by Club Members. I am most grateful for the support provided by Club Members in preparing and serving the delicacies – the fact that little food is left demonstrates how much the efforts are appreciated.

## **Wellbeing Arts Group in Melton**

This is our first year of support for this group which uses art to assist people with mental health issues. The group receives close attention from Melton Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council. It is early days and we look forward to discovery whether our involvement provides a meaningful benefit to the participants.

## **Duck Race at Twin Lakes**

This is a major fund raising venture for the Club where every participant is able to generate funds - whether providing 1 hour or 10 hours. It is well known that this event has only recently been completed but the big news is that with sales of 2542, they showed an increase of 19% on last year's figure – our approach must be improving! Thank you to all who gave their time to assist in making it a bumper year.

## **Membership Development & Retention - *David Morris***

This year to date membership of the Club has increased from 41 to 42: we have gained four new members and lost three: this is a net gain of one member, and successfully meets the challenges made to Clubs by both RI and RIBI for membership growth.

The reasons for the membership success are:

- 1) Club 'Open' Evening on the 12<sup>th</sup> September
- 2) The energies and support given by the Club Membership Committee
- 3) Suggestions / Introductions to potential new members by existing members
- 4) Effective mentoring of the new members
- 5) Readiness of existing members to welcome and embrace new members
- 6) A good and interesting Club programme.

In addition to the four new members, the 'open' evening generated interest from a further nine potential members all of whom say they would like to join Rotary at some time in the future. We are keeping in contact with all of these and send them regular updates on the Club's activities. A further six potential members have been identified, some have visited the Club, and all are being carefully monitored with a view to inviting them to join.

Regular meetings are now taking place at Amici's, Nottingham Street at 6.15 pm and will continue on alternate Tuesdays until further notice. There are four potential members who have signed Membership Proposal Forms.

It was agreed that these should be interviewed in the usual way for prospective members. Work is continuing to bring the membership of the satellite up to 8 members at which point the club will apply for 'Provisional Status'.

There has been some confusion between membership recruitment and project work by the prospective members but this is now settled; the "café" project has been undertaken as a club vocational initiative.

The Rotary Business Support Group has not been active during this year and will go forward under the direction of the Club Vocational Committee.

I would like to thank everyone who has served with me on this committee during the current year. We are small in number, but this has not limited the commitment given by each member of the committee. Included in this is President Diana who has attended every meeting: thank you Diana; it has been a privilege to work with you.

## **International - *Alison Blythe***

The main focus of the year's activities has been the fund raising to support our Global Grant application to refurbish the Sagkahan Elementary School in Tacloban, Leyte, Philippine Islands following the Haiyan Cyclone Disaster in November 2013. Successful lamb and pig roasts were held at Tresillian House and members joined either event (also supported by some of our host families) and raised £500.00. Alison Blythe opened the gardens of Tresillian House under the NGS scheme and this year donated the refreshment takings of £232 to the Philippine fund. An inaugural concert at St Mary's Church in cooperation with Uppingham School was deemed a great success and raised a net profit of £6679.50 including donations. Further donations from local churches added another £200. The event is to be repeated in October 2015. Alison made three trips to Sagkahan to help collect information for the GG application and give support. She has also sent out 5 large balakbayan boxes with school books, paper, computer screens and a second hand computer. Another box is due to be shipped imminently. Our final event of the year was a very successful lunch at Janet Shortland's house in March which raised another £257.

The GG has been authorised but at the time of writing although the money has been released it has still not yet arrived in the designated bank account. The Rotary Club of San Juanico, our partners in the project, are anxious to commence and complete a large part of the work before start of term on 1 June.

Other projects supported have included the Polio campaign, spectacle collections and Shelter Box. It has been a successful and interesting year.

Finally, I thank all the members of the International committee for their support and help during the year, without which our very successful programme could not have been achieved.

## **Foundation - *Alison Blythe***

I am pleased to report that the club has been able to send £1000 towards our donation for 2014/15 so far. Discussions are currently taking place regarding future fund raising to enable a donation framework that could support the annual giving and this will be outlined in the Club Assembly. The foundation has generously supported the Global Grant application for Sagkahan Elementary School both from a District and International level, and a further District Grant has been applied for to support the Communities team project with a local Art Group. The total amount of the grants received this year has been £25750.

## **Youth - *John Horn***

The Joint Committee, with representatives from all 3 Clubs, has continued to plan and implement an interesting programme of activities for local young people though not, it must be said, without some disappointments. The Chair was shared between Maggie Saunders and John Horn, with support from Linda Moore and Eric Sylt. As new members, we welcomed Sue Herlihy and Kathryn Manderson from Aurora, Geoff Theobald from Belvoir and Mike Rowe from us. We have also missed Belvoir's Mic Hirst through illness.

### Competitions and other activities.

For Young Musician shortage of entrants rendered a local Heat unnecessary, but a very successful Semi-Final was held at John Ferneley College. As usual we are very grateful to Sheila Aston for all her efforts on behalf of young musicians

Successful heats for Young Chef were held at all three secondary schools, and again we were grateful for support from Martin Furlong from Stapleford Park for our District Semi-Finalist from Belvoir High.

Youth Speaks. Catmose College, coached by Sue McGrath. continue to produce excellent teams at both Intermediate and Senior Level winning through Local, District Semi-Final and Finals to the Regional Final yet to be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

It is disappointing to report that no entries appeared for Young Writers despite persistent encouragement.

Young Photographer and Young Designer have yet to take place.

We welcomed the expansion of Rotary Stars to more Primary Schools, and our success in finding an excellent candidate for RYLA ( also to be supported by a generous grant from the Raynes Trust ).

Jane Horn reported that the Aurora Club are sponsoring an Art Week for Birchwood in May followed by an Exhibition for parents and the public in June. They are also involved in the ambitious Community project with the Hub, the Council, VAM and Pera to develop the Venue, a social Youth Hub for 13 to 17 year olds, supported by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

Both Belvoir and Melton have given financial support for Primary schools to attend the Warning Zone, a very valuable educational resource, but intend to review the policy next year.

Thanks to Diana Osborne the Club has kept an interest in Interact in Melton Vale, though lack of members has prevented development this year.

Finally, as Joint Chair, my thanks go to all members of the Committee for all their efforts to ensure that the programme outlined above ( and some fundraising) went so well, and I wish my successor, Eric Hall, every success.