

ROTARY CLUB of MELTON MOWBRAY
Minutes for Annual General Meeting
13th May 2013

Annual Reports

Reports were presented see appendix

Treasurers Report

A budget report for next year was tabled by David Ward on behalf of Treasurer Bob McCord, recommending that the subscriptions should remain at £110.00 and the Lunch levy remain at £26.00 it was proposed by Bill Hill, seconded by Diana Osborne and agreed by members.

Honorary Members

Lady Gretton continues as a Honorary member

Committee Chairs

The following were elected

Club Service	Bill Hill
Community and Vocational Service	Ian Neale
International Service	Alison Blythe
Foundation	Alison Blythe
Membership	David Morris
Youth Service	Richard Abbott
Communication	Julia Joseph-Hinde

Council Members

Committee Chairs were voted onto the Council.

In addition Eric Hall and Jenny Foreman were elected as Council members proposed David Ward seconded Bill Hill

Accounts inspection

It was agreed to ask Sarah Amos to inspect our Trust accounts and James Green and or Michael Osborne our Club accounts

District Representatives

Diana Osborne, David Ward and Bill Hill were elected

AOB

None

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Standing here today I cannot believe my year is into the last couple of months the time has flown by and I have thoroughly enjoyed heading up the Club in its 85th Year. There are many of you with far more experience than myself as the new girl on the block so I thank you for your faith in putting me at the helm and trust that I have not fallen short of your expectations.

As a hands on President I have made the most getting out and about at the Charters and meeting and enjoying the company of fellow Rotarians in the District and experiencing the diverse profiles of the Clubs within 1070 on the way consuming soup, roast beef and apple pies, to last a lifetime at the expense of my waistline. I have attended as many committee meetings as possible and supported events which has given me the opportunity to get to know you all a lot better and develop my understanding of the projects you undertake. I have worked hard at Comms building the foundation for our outward face with links on facebook and in the press making page 3 in the MT last month with support from my team which I hope to continue next year and being part of the District Team for next year, as well as being part of the Life Education Committee

We have enjoyed a variety of speakers and social events thanks to the work to the Club Service Committee lead by Diana. Charter Night being a great success and we are still being highlighted in the District for the best food and District attendance hosting 10 guests. I was delighted to award a Paul Harris to Joe Carrington, Rotarian of the year to Alison Blythe and to Marshall his 40 year Service Certificate all moments to treasure.

Comm Voc has fulfilled its remit meeting its objectives set at Club assembly lead by Ian and support from his team culminating last month in the organisation of the Duck Race successfully achieved by us all.

Youth has worked well this year with the Committee having a better balance with Belvoir and us having good success in the Youth Competitions with thanks to the Club for their support. I am delighted at the strengthening links we have developed with Belvoir and Aroua and hope this will continue as the face of Rotary in Melton.

Membership is a challenge for Rotary Internationally the strategies are in place to build our numbers but it is in the hands of us all to support these initiatives and for the life of our Club to be active Rotarians inside and out wearing our badges and promoting the Rotary ideals with pride. My thanks to David and his team for their support and work with Interact and the new Business Support group diversifying the Life of Rotary in the Town.

International, the work of this Committee is fascinating to me and never ceases to amaze the diverse projects which they are involved attracting successful grant funding to support and achieve their objectives administered by Alison.

Fundraising has had a difficult challenge in this climate but the successful Santa Run is now established as part of the Melton Christmas Calender and growing year on year.

Therefore my thanks goes out to you all for contributing to my year in the Life of Rotary in Melton achieved with guidance from my wise Council and support from yourselves to make it all possible Richard to keep me in line, Bob for balancing the books and big thank you to Alison for her hospitality and venue for Council Meetings and for the fellowship and good times shared with you all.

Julia

May 2013

CLUB SERVICE

We have endeavoured to provide opportunities for fellowship by arranging a varied programme for members. The Club is indebted to Sysonby Knoll Hotel for the excellent service that they continue to provide for our weekly meetings.

During the year we have heard speakers on a range of subjects, some serious and others more light hearted, ably co-ordinated by Steve Jeal. We tried a new venue and different evening for the Christmas party, with mixed results. The Charter Dinner was held at Scalford Hall, and we celebrated our 85th Anniversary with a good meal and excellent fellowship with our guests.

We enjoyed an evening meeting at Rutland Water nature reserve to observe the ospreys and a pub meal afterwards.

We entered the District minor sports competition and enjoyed the social interaction. However we were eliminated in the first round skittles match by Grantham Kesteven. Two teams were entered in the District Quiz and acquitted themselves well.

Nine members attended the District Conference at Telford, a new venue. We enjoyed an excellent conference with good speakers.

In December we visited Twinlakes Park at lunchtime on Phil Bendall's birthday. We were impressed by the new Santa's Grotto. We are grateful for the support they give in several ways to the Club.

The Safari Supper is being arranged for 18 May and the President's evening on 29 June.

Diana Osborne
May 2013

COMMUNITY AND VOCATIONAL

As previous the year has been busy for the ComVoc committee, the introduction of taking Birchwood School to Twinlakes was a huge success and the costing per head were very similar to taking children on Kids Day Out to Whickstead Park. The big advantage was that the school had a full 4 hours in the park, travelling was to a minimum, they had a choice of hot food. To be repeated.

The Bulbs for the Blind were delivered, it was disappointing that the Vista Group had reduced in number; the spare bulbs were given to the Rotarian Widows by our president and were much appreciated.

The Christmas card raised the expected amount, but costs of producing a copy for members will have to be reviewed for next year.

We worked together with Melton Belvoir Rotary, the Lions and the Barnes Trust collecting groceries and delivering parcels to the old folks of Melton, it is always good to work with others for the benefit of the Town.

We promoted the club through our entry in the Christmas Tree Festival and took the opportunity to promote the Santa Fun Run as well.

Fundraising took place at the Charter Night when the Simnel Cake raised £88, and Over Easter at Twinlakes when we ran our Duck Race, Sales were harder than in previous years due to the inclement weather and the reduction in visitors to the Park.

A very creditable 2085 duck were sold and funds generated for all committees of the club. The duck race would not have succeeded without the hard work and commitment by Eric Hall who co-ordinated the whole two weeks sales.

Stroke Awareness has been co-ordinated by Duncan Mandelson and is another event when we work together with Melton Belvoir.

The Grant for Leicestershire Life Education will be given to the joint committee before the end of our year; it is good that Eric Hall, Adrienne Holland and Julia Joseph have joined with the Melton Belvoir Members to monitor the scheme.

The Grant allocated to the Home Start Group will be given before the end of this Rotary Year.

Dictionaries for life are in Stock and are to given out to the Junior School Libraries before the end of this summer term.

My thanks go to the ComVoc Team, Kate, Adrienne, Eric, Marshall, Jim and Duncan and to Julia for all their support and work throughout the Year, and to all the other members of the club who have supported our fundraising, especially the duck sales.

Ian A Neale
May 2013

YOUTH

The committee continues to work successfully with Belvoir club with combined membership and joint chairs. This combination allows good support for the various rotary young generation initiatives. We are exploring ways in which the less advantaged youngsters can be encouraged and helped to participate. A subcommittee is looking at this in more detail. Pleasingly all committee members have contributed by supporting one or more ventures. There is good interaction between members from the two clubs and the committee work fosters social interaction.

The initiatives supported are:

Competitions

Young Musician

Despite losing the local heats due to bad weather the semi final at Ferneley school and district final at Melton College were very successful again and we hope that they will continue in Melton despite some reservations relating to cost.

Young Chef

A very professionally run competition with the final in Wigston judged by professional chefs. Thanks again to Stapleford Park for their support and encouragement to the youngsters.

Youth Speaks

Although only Catmose College provided teams the standard was high. Our leading team were second in the final at Kettering and are invited speakers to our meeting in the near future.

Young Writer

Competition still in progress. The junior submissions were non compliant in terms of content but will be judged locally. At intermediate level the 3 local schools (MV excluded) are represented.

Young Designer

Not yet completed.

RYLA

A candidate has been found name to be announced shortly.

Youth Exchange

6 potential candidates were interviewed. Unfortunately none completed the process and all dropped out. This has led us to re evaluate the process of selection. There is concern that some young people, although enthused to take part , finally withdraw for financial reasons. We are exploring whether more can be done to assist similar candidates in future.

Rotary Stars

This new initiative continues to be enthusiastically received in the primary schools.

Warning Zone

Our club donated £500 from fundraising towards sending local schoolchildren here. There was also financial support to Warning Zone from the other 2 Melton Clubs and from the Borough Council. Feedback from the schools has been gushing with praise, so the committee will be asking the club if they are prepared to continue to support this initiative next year.

Richard Abbott

May 2013

FOUNDATION

1. The Club has made an initial payment of £2000 towards the annual contribution of \$100 per member. It is planned to hopefully make a donation of the further £900 or so towards the end of this financial year.
2. We have received 1 district grant in relation to the Osprey project of £800. We are working on matching this grant and a bit more (£1200 in total) but at the time of writing the project may be delayed in fruition until 2013/2014.
3. The club continues to raise funds towards research into the eradication of polio.

Mrs Alison Blythe

Foundation Chairman

May 2013

FUNDRAISING

I stated in my previous report that the Rotary year 2011-2012 had been a difficult one, with some major activities having to be cancelled due to lack of support, and we anticipated that the Rotary year 2012-2013 would present similar challenges. I regret that this has been an even more difficult year, and we have failed to fulfil our programme or our target for the year.

Twin Lakes Wishing Well

£1,000.00

Visitor numbers at Twin lakes have been down, and the latest figure I have for the wishing well is only £182.83. Hopefully this will rise over the period April to end of June, but it looks very unlikely that we will reach what looks like having been a very unrealistic target.

Ebay & Amazon

£300.00

We are currently nearly half way to achieving the target at £140.73. With members support we may get close to the anticipated figure.

Santa Fun Run & Walk 2012

£2500.00 (nett)

We did not get the hoped for 30% increase in entries, and as we had bought sufficient Santa suits to cope with an increase, it made a bit of a dent in our profit. However, the gross profit was £3,403.67, and the nett figure was £2,216.00, very close to our target.

Golf Day

Ben Abbott

£1,500.00

No figures for this year's event as it has yet to be run.

Cycle Fun Ride and Fun day to be held at Melton Park

This did not take place as Mars decided that it did not want to support the event with sponsorship, and the local council had rather a different agenda to ours. A pity, as it would have raised Rotary's profile, but it would have cost us too much to run.

Sports Dinner & Speaker

Owing to difficulties beyond our control (in terms of venue and speaker) we were unable to run this event, at which we had hoped to raise £1,000 nett. We decided to postpone it to next Rotary year, and originally hoped to have a Summer Ball in its place, but then faced competition from the Golf Club who chose the same date to have their Summer Ball. However work was done, primarily by young Geoff to obtain costs for both events, and the Committee therefore anticipates that at least one of them will take place in the new Rotary year.

Cicle Challenge

£650 - £1,000

There was a drop in support for this event, as we expected, but entries picked up close to the event and the sum of £790.84 was obtained. Colin has chosen a new date for the next Rotary year, which we hope will provide us with at least the same amount as this year.

Balance at time of writing

In spite of our having a disappointing year, with monies carried forward from Last year, we currently have a total of £3,228.84 raised by the Committee (having voted at the last Club meeting to make an interim payment of £2,000 as our contribution to Rotary Foundation). We have tried, as far as possible, not to ask too much of members by way of individual financial contributions, but hope that next year the Club will support the Dinner and Dance.

Mike Rowe

May 2013

INTERNATIONAL

The International Committee proposed three projects for the Rotary year 2012/13. One project has been completed, the second is ongoing and planning for the third is progressing.

The project to support students at Long Field School and their efforts to assist the Asubun project in Uganda was completed successfully. A number of pre used computers and peripherals together with a quantity of stationery equipment was presented to the pupils and a cheque from the Club for two hundred pounds gave the pupils a chance to purchase further items for their project. The Club benefitted from the publicity derived from the feature published in the Melton Times. Thanks to Janet Shortland for overseeing this project.

The proposal to support the Osprey Migration Project (OMP) at Rutland Water is ongoing. We were successful in obtaining a District Foundation Grant of eight hundred pounds towards our target of two thousand. The computer equipment required has been specified and the efforts to find Rotary contacts in West Africa are ongoing. The OMP Senior Officer, Tim Mackrill has advised in the light of recent experience, our efforts be directed to Morocco and Senegal. We also have a contact in Gibraltar, introduced by Club member Richard Abbott.

The acquisition of the computer equipment will be completed when contacts and working relationships have been established with Rotary Clubs and selected schools in West Africa. The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust will retain title to any of these assets to ensure future propriety.

The nomination of schools to be identified in West Africa will take a little more time and will roll over into the next Rotary year. John Redwood and Joe Carrington are working on this and I am grateful for their efforts.

The Committee proposed a major fund raising effort over the next two years to support a scheme to provide fresh water for Mahaplag village in the Philippeans. John Dehnel has worked tirelessly to liaise with the Philipinos who have identified a number of problems which have delayed real progress. However it is anticipated these difficulties will be overcome and Alison Blythe has been working on plans for a major classical concert in Autumn 2014 aimed at raising substantial funds for the scheme. It is hoped to apply for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant in due course. John and Alison have quietly worked away at these tasks and their efforts are appreciated.

The Club has once again made a significant donation of five hundred pounds to the End Polio Now Campaign.

The Committee has been less successful in it's fund raising endeavours this year and will require the support of the Club's Trust Fund to meet it's target for the OMP.

Bill Hill
May 2013

MEMBERSHIP

The current year has seen our membership fall by 7 members from 47 to 40.

This includes the death of Geoff Beardsley plus Honorary Member Ray Green who is not included in this figure. James Wiggins transferred to RC Grantham.

Two years ago the Club had 51 members: this means there has been a net loss of 11 members in that period – 21%.

We have not inducted a single member during the same period.

The year commenced with 7 members of long term Leave of Absence; this has now been reduced to one member.

There are ten members who are exempted from regular attendance at Club meetings under the "85 Rule".

What are the reasons for such a dramatic collapse in membership?

- 1) Reflection of the current economic downturn
- 2) A lunch time meeting does not appeal to the majority of people in work.
- 3) Existing members are failing to recruit new members; only four current members have introduced a new member in the past 5 years.
- 4) Complacency
- 5) Demographics

David Morris
May 2013