



The Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray

Club Assembly 2013

President's Introduction

I am proud to be leading the Club during the forthcoming year and ask members to support the programme of activities which are proposed. The chairmen of the service and project committees have planned a variety of events in order that the Rotary theme for the year "Engage Rotary Change Lives" will be in evidence.

There are several challenges which face our Club. The first of these is to recruit new members. The second is to create a closer feeling of co-operation between all members. The third is to improve our communication between members. The fourth is to increase the support for Rotary from our local community.

Members should accept a common responsibility for introducing potential new members to Rotary. We will be looking at the Visioning process, which involves all members making a contribution to the direction in which the Club should be moving.

The reports from the service and project committees set out the fellowship opportunities that we expect to offer, the service projects that we intend to deliver and the fundraising activities that we intend should fund those projects. In particular, I ask the Club to support The Rotary Foundation, Shelter Box and Home Start Melton Mowbray which are charities that I believe are especially worthy of our support. We expect to co-operate with the other service clubs in Melton in delivering some of our projects.

I commend this coming year's programme to you and ask for your continued support.

Diana Osborne

Club Service

The Committee will encompass the Fund Raising and Communications Teams in this Rotary year.

The Club will be presented with a programme both for our regular Monday lunchtime meetings and for a range of social and fund raising events. The lunchtime programme will include 'external' speakers as well as contributions from members and fellow Rotarians from other Clubs. The emphasis will be on enjoyment and entertainment.

The arrangements for the key meetings; Charter Dinner, Presidential Handover, Club Assembly, AGM and EGM will be within the remit of the Committee as will proposals for a Christmas Dinner, Safari Supper and Halloween Party.

Fund Raising;

A small team will be nominated to propose and organize a limited number of major events.

The Santa Fun Run is now well established and a Last Night of the Proms evening has been proposed and is currently being evaluated. Such events need to be planned well in advance and ideas are sought for a possible Summer Ball in summer 2014.

The concept of offering smaller more focused events is being considered with the aim of attracting more public interest. Examples maybe flower arranging, cookery/baking demonstration, cheese tasting, antique valuation.

The Fund Raising Team will work closely with other committees to understand the financial requirements and to build a sensible programme of events.

Communications;

Again another team will be formed to develop this crucially important aspect of the running of the Club. The links with external agencies and the media will be further developed but good communication within the Club is essential. The idea of labeling individual communications to members will be continued and extended upon.

The use of email as the assumed means of contact with members will be enhanced by the introduction of other social media such as Twitter and Face book.

The Committee will further develop the work already underway to ensure our archive material is properly managed and the matter of long term storage will be addressed.

Members will be encouraged to take part in the programme of quizzes and sporting events arrange by District 1070.

The Committee will respond to whatever request President Diana makes for assistance in ensuring the Club's affairs are conducted in a proper manner and to offer every member the opportunity to enjoy their Rotary involvement.

Bill Hill

Membership

Introduction

We commenced the current Rotary year with 46 members and finish with 40: a net loss of 6 members. This follows on a net loss of 5 members for the previous year.

This is a disappointing; in two years a net membership growth of 25% in 10 years has been reduced to a net loss of 5% over the same period.

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

A recent demographic survey carried out by RIBI showed that our Club experiences and challenges are commonplace in many Clubs throughout RIBI:

- 1) 35% of Rotarians are aged 71 and over, 45% are aged 61 to 70.
- 2) Almost two thirds (63%) have been a member for over 10 years as opposed to 8% for less than 2 years.
- 3) 65% of those surveyed are retired and 16% are self-employed.
- 4) Exactly 80% of Rotarians are aged 61 and over, with less than 1% aged 30 or under.
- 5) Over three quarters (76%) said they first heard about Rotary International via "A Rotarian talked to me about it". 25% stated "Word of mouth".
- 6) When asked what attracted them to becoming a Rotarian, 74% responded "I wanted to give something back to the community". 45% said "Discussions with a Rotarian" and 36% stated "I wanted to make new friends". Exactly one third (33%) commented: "I wanted to volunteer".

Matters to be addressed in the membership committee proposals for next year:

- 1) Plan a vigorous recruitment campaign which involves every member
- 2) Identify potential members within the local community and recruit them
- 3) Quarterly membership evenings
- 4) Target the over 50s and early retirees
- 5) Use social media to increase membership
- 6) Club Visioning to reduce the number of members leaving the Club.
- 7) Develop "friends of Rotary" to increase interest in membership.
- 8) Invite parents of members of Interact (past and present) to meetings and Rotary events
- 9) Continue with Business Support Group to create closer links and recruit members. To date 40 businesses have attended at least one meeting and requested that they are kept informed. We have 4 potential members that have approached us expressing their interest.

Community & Vocational

The work of the committee will continue on the firm foundations already laid, but will have to be cut according to the funds available.

Grove and Birchwood to Twinlakes

Following the successful trip by Birchwood to Twinlakes, we will be repeating this again in September, The Grove will be going in June, we have been in talks with the other two Rotary Clubs in Melton Mowbray and it is possible that more clubs will focus on Twinlakes in the future

Budget £2500

Christmas Parcels

We will repeat again our joint working with Melton Belvoir Rotarians, Melton Lions and The Barnes Trust in collecting groceries and delivering parcels to the aged in the Town

Budget £650

Stroke Awareness

Another joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club, we would ask club members to support this initiative which benefits the residents of Melton but highlighting blood pressure problems.

Scented Bulbs

We will not be supplying bulbs to Vista this coming year due to the very small number of people attending the club, we will provide bowls of bulbs to the Widows of Rotarians.

Budget £50

Christmas Tree Festival

We will again have a tree in the Festival, giving us the chance to promote the work of the club, hopefully to encourage new members and also advertising the Santa Fun Run.

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. We went for a District Grant last year and were unsuccessful we will try again this year, which will enable the education caravans to go to more schools in the Melton Borough.

Budget £1000

Shelter Box

We will support Diana in her fund raising for Shelter box, we will liaise with local churches to promote fund raising especially during Lent 2014

Fundraising

Duck Race 2014	£2500	
Christmas Card 2013	£400	
Grant Requests	£1000	
Club Funds	£1000	
Expenditure	£4200	Income £4900
Balance to go to sundry grant applications.		

Ian Neale

Youth Services

This year the committee was ably reinforced by John and David who brought both impetus and experience to our activities. We continue to work effectively with our Belvoir Club colleagues.

Plans for 2013-14

Competitions:

We have delivered successful outcomes in all the rotary competitions which we support. Every member has contributed significantly. Next year we will continue to support Young Musician, Young Chef, Youth Speaks, Young Writer and Young Designer. We hope that there will be applicants for Young Photographer also. We will explore options regarding Young Artist and Young Citizen. These competitions are not expensive but intensive on manpower.

Rotary Stars:

We will continue with this initiative.

Youth Exchange:

Despite considerable effort no candidate completed the exchange process this year and the reasons for this will be addressed. We plan to support two candidates from each club next year.

RYLA:

We will seek and support another candidate this year, again sharing costs between the two clubs. It is the stated goal of the committee to seek to help less privileged young people to benefit from each of these initiatives. Approach has been made to The Hub with this in mind. If suitable candidates are found we will look for ways of supporting individuals financially, and may approach the club for help with this.

Warning Zone:

The club donated £500 towards the funding of Melton schoolchildren to attend the Warning Zone. The feedback from pupils and staff regarding the value of their visit has been effusive. We will, therefore, ask the club if they will support this initiative to the same value this year.

Interact:

We continue to support this initiative.

Costs:

Projected costs to the club for our activities are as follows:

Youth Speaks	£50
Young Chef	£250
Rotary Stars	£50
Young Writer/Young Photographer/Young Designer	£100 overall.
Youth Exchange	£75
RYLA	£290
Warning Zone	£500
Total Costs	Approx £1300

Funding:

This is, predominantly, a service committee. Funds are raised by members who contribute to the general fund raising activities of the club such as the duck race and Santa fun run. Small figures are raised by activities such as sweepstakes. If the initiatives to support less privileged youngsters come to fruition other funding sources may be approached, and new fund raising initiatives will be considered in an attempt to cover this increase.

Richard Abbott

International

The International Committee will continue to support the final push to eradicate polio, particularly in view of the fact that new cases have been reported recently showing that until the very last country is clear for 3 continuous years the problem has not yet quite gone away.

The unfinished Osprey project has been much more difficult to move forward than originally expected. However following efforts by John Dehnel, a recent email from the DG of Rotary in Gambia looks as though he may have made contact with two members of the Rotary Club Fajara who are top school administrators and have shown initial positive reaction to the project. I have notified the District Grant Committee of the situation and they have asked to be kept informed.

The International Committee will also be supporting Foundation in the preparation of the application for the Global Grant for the Mahpalag Water Pipe Line Project in the Philipines. In this support International will be applying for a District Grant to fund the initial feasibility studies particularly related to the clarification of the water condition emanating from the natural spring above the village. Draft figures are not yet to hand, but the International Committee will be taking into consideration the other district grant applications proposed by other Committees in the club.

The lamb roast, becoming an annual fixture in our calendar, will take place on Sunday 18 August, the postponed snail race is planned for later in the year and a wine and cheese evening will be programmed for Spring/early Summer 2014. The Committee look forward to a more pro-active year and hope that members of the club, the wider rotary family, friends and relations will join them in the various planned occasions.

Alison Blythe

Foundation

The emphasis of the recent District Conference was on embarking on larger projects with support from several other local Rotary clubs. In Melton Mowbray this makes good sense and I hope to have discussions with my colleagues in both Aurora and Melton Belvoir with this in mind.

The main activity will be the planning of the Concert to be given in St Mary's Church on Friday 17 October 2014. This will possibly be preceded by an optional pre-concert dinner for a limited number of guests (for an added fee). The concert is to form a sound basis towards the contribution that we will make towards the Global Grant application which we plan to submit in 2014. This project is a long term project and will be phased over two or possibly three years.

It is hoped that the Club will be able to support the full donation of US\$100 towards the Foundation subscription in 2014.

Alison Blythe