



***Minutes of the District Council meeting***

**Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**The Buckingham Suite,  
Holiday Inn – Peterborough West**

**District Governor Dick Parsley**

The District Governor, Rtn. Dick Parsley chaired the meeting, which was held at the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 125 Rotarians present from 62 Clubs. (Area A 9; B 8; C 8; D 9; E 7; F 8 and G11, clubs represented).

#### **C. 09/10. 40 Welcome and Apologies:**

The District Governor welcomed all who were present, in particular the PDGs and all those Rotarians attending their first Council meeting who were invited to stand and be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

PDGs Ronald Watson, Dan Connan, John Butcher, Peter Moreton, Paul Buyers, Terry Watts, Tony Martin and Martin Bridge

Conference Manager Andy Roberts

Protection Officer David Brown

The Rotary Clubs of Grantham, Kettering Huxloe, Rutland, Shepshed and Soar Valley

Rtn Tim Leach - President of Biggleswade, Rtn. Mike Kingdom – President of Biggleswade Ivel.

Rtn. Maureen Jerman – President Leicester De Montfort, Rtn Andrew Carnell – President Kettering Huxloe &

Rtn. Keith Crellin – President Rutland

Rtns Janet Sinclair, Adrian Harrison, Al Good, Geoff Blurton, Fred Bellingall, Margaret Simpson, Ron Simpson, & Stuart Mucklejohn

#### **C. 09/10. 41 Act of Remembrance:**

All present stood as a formal act of remembrance of all Rotarians who had passed to higher service since the previous Council meeting.

#### **C.09/10. 42 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

The District Secretary made an amendment to the previous minutes to add a missing word;

Page 5: Conference Budget, DGE Roger McDermott said “he could not guarantee such costs would **not** be incurred”

PDG Ken McKellar proposed the amended minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010, should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Roger May and unanimously approved.

The minutes were then signed by the District Governor.

#### **C. 09/10. 43 Matters Arising:**

##### **Page 2, Item 09/10.29**

IPDG Iain Vernon reported that a sub-group commissioned to review the current Standing Orders has been formed.

In addition to himself members of the group are the District Governor, PDG Barry Hasdell (District Secretary & former Conference Manager, Rtn Geof Nichols (former Conference Manager), Rtn Steve Bellamy (incoming District Treasurer) and Rtn Neville Thompson (Assistant Conference Manager). The review is well under way and findings will be available for discussion at the next District Council meeting in July.

Rtn. Bob Seery (Rotary Club of Thrapston & Raunds) referred to Items C.09/10.29 and C09/10.31, and asked whether both matters were being considered by the sub-group. He also suggested it would be advisable, due to the sensitivity of issues under review, that draft revised Standing Orders should be circulated to clubs for full consultation, and constructive positive comment, before the document is finalised.

The District Governor confirmed that both items referred to are indeed being considered by the sub-group. He said the sub-group would wish to thank clubs and individuals for comments already received regarding existing Standing Orders. He confirmed that the revised Standing Orders will be circulated, in draft form, to all clubs for consultation well before the next District Council meeting.

Rtn Colin Scott (Rotary Club of Holbeach) had read the existing Standing Orders and advised other members to do likewise. He raised concern that, at the previous meeting, discussion on Conference expenses had not taken place due to the review of Standing Orders whilst discussion regarding retention of the District Directory, also in Standing Orders, had taken place. He referred to Item 17 which states that a District Directory will be published annually and supplied to all full members of all clubs in the District.

The District Governor replied that Council had debated all items within the construction of the budget for the coming year, with those raising concern being referred to the review of Standing Orders.

#### **C. 09/10. 44 District Governor's Report:**

The District Governor had issued a report prior to the meeting. He reiterated his gratitude for all efforts for Thanks for Life. He reported that the fund currently stands at £1 million plus an additional £54,000 above target, pledged funds for this District currently standing at £41,000. He invited clubs to tell him about activities and achievements and noted the excellent way clubs were working together on this project.

The District Governor also thanked those who had attended the business session at the RIBI Conference in Bournemouth and announced appointments confirmed at the Conference:

- John Minhinick RIBI President 2012/13
- Greg Thacker RIBI Hon. Treasurer 2011/12
- Alan O Jagger RI Director 2011/13

Also in the business session, Resolution 1 - following the vote, the date for nominations for RIBI President and Treasurer posts will be brought forward to 30<sup>th</sup> November from 25<sup>th</sup> January so the election can take place prior to the RIBI Assembly.

He reported that a one hour debate on the Marketing Campaign had resulted in a vote to extend the £2.75 levy on capitation for a further year. The campaign will operate differently next year with a local focus on Districts or groups of Clubs.

The District Governor thanked members of the District Team standing down this year and attending Council for the last time. Formal appreciation for their hard work will be expressed at the Handover Lunch.

#### **C. 09/10. 45 Presentation of awards**

The District Governor mentioned his joy at the showcase of activities seen at RIBI Conference also the chance for recognition of achievements. He had been especially delighted to accept the award for the best District Magazine (out of 29 Districts) on behalf of Rtn Graham Walker and his team. He thanked the editorial team and the printers. The District Governor presented the award to Graham.

The District Governor also acknowledged over 30 years of service to Rotary by Rtn Geoff Hastings and his family at The Lady Anne's in Stamford. Use of this facility for meetings had been a huge asset and financial saving for District, those attending meetings always assured of a warm welcome. On behalf of District he presented Geoff with a District Paul Harris award in recognition of his outstanding contribution. Geoff thanked everyone for the honour and expressed his pleasure at belonging to the best charity organisation in the world.

#### **C. 09/10. 46 District Secretary's Comments and Correspondence:**

The District Secretary had issued a report prior to the meeting but had a number of updates to address. He informed Council that District Executive had given approval for an investigation of a District Database (separate from the RI Global Database).

Possible benefits will be identified and findings reported back to the Executive & Council.

To date 150 members have registered for District Assembly with only 10 days remaining for applications without incurring a surcharge.

District Directory responses will be known when the District Secretary goes back on line this week.

The first draft must go to the printers by 1<sup>st</sup> May.

#### **Change of details for District Secretary**

##### **Address:**

Willowbrook House  
Willowbrook Close  
SHARNFORD  
Leicestershire  
LE10 3PZ

**Telephone:** 01455 27 33 27

**Email:** unchanged

Details of the Handover Lunch, Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June, at Greetham Valley are in the baskets and will also be circulated via e.mail shortly.

#### **C. 09/10.47 District Treasurer's Report:**

The District Treasurer apologised that accounts had not been distributed prior to the meeting, copies of the accounts are in the baskets and some copies distributed around the room. The Rotary year is three quarters over but he had little to report as most activity takes place towards the end of the year.

At the RIBI Conference last year a resolution was passed that every Club President must send certification to the District Treasurer confirming that both general and trust accounts had been prepared and audited. Out of 87 Clubs 19 have yet to complete this obligation. He requested those present ask Club President & Treasurer to ensure the certificate has been sent, this being a mandatory requirement he is duty bound to report to RIBI. District 1070 did

suggest copies of the accounts (not mandatory) be included so the District Treasurer could generate publicity on fund raising achieved by the District.

Clubs yet to send certification are Boston, Bourne St Peter, Sleaford, Spalding Welland, Ashby Hastings, Coalville, Soar Valley, Stamford St Martins, Hinckley, Leicester de Montfort, Brackley, Northampton Apollo, Bedford Castle, Biggleswade, Biggleswade Ivel, Huntingdon, Huntingdon Hinchingsbrooke and Kempston.

**C. 09/10. 48 Assistant Governors' Reports:**

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Assistant Governors present had nothing to add to their reports.

**C. 09/10. 49 Project Team Reports:**

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**a. Community and Vocational:**

Rtn Simon Adlam reported that 55 Clubs have registered for Kids Out in June and Calvert Trust is up and running.

Despite concerns regarding Stroke Awareness the day seems to have gone off fairly well.

A letter has been issued to clubs requesting information on what was done and how it went.

Rtn Bill Burton (Environment) gave a presentation entitled "The 10:10 Campaign – Cutting UK Carbon Emissions" in which he highlighted the Government aims for reduction in greenhouse gases.

He mentioned the establishment of CRAGs (Carbon Rationing Action Groups) and offered to visit Clubs to give information on the Cheltenham Sunrise model and offer suggestions for a similar Club project.

Spare copies of the handout issued at the last District Council meeting were made available.

**b. Youth (incl. RYLA, Interact, Youth Exchange, Rotaract):**

Rtn Mary Whitehead had several points to add to her report:

She was delighted to report the formation of another new Interact Club in Wellingborough.

District 1070's Young Chef regional winner, Bethany from Market Harborough, competes in Chichester on Saturday.

The Region 2 Young Musician Final will be held at the Loughborough Endowed School at 2.00pm this Sunday.

Youth Speaks entries compete in both RIBI Finals at Stratford-upon-Avon High School on 8<sup>th</sup> May.

The bear is still available for events, book through her or Rtn Margaret Morley.

Deposits for RYLA candidates are now due, there are a few spaces left.

Rtn Colin Yarwood (District Youth Exchange Officer) gave a short presentation on Youth Exchange.

He mentioned that President David Fowler had invited Youth Exchange students to attend the recent RIBI Conference at Bournemouth to appear with him on stage. Five members from District 1070 attended.

A number of exchange students, past and future, joined Colin at this meeting and they gave short presentations.

Those who had undertaken the exchange briefly explained their positive personal gain and acquired language skills resulting from the experience and outlined their future aspirations.

Future participants gave details of their forthcoming projects.

Colin explained that Government restrictions on visas now prevent long term exchanges but short term exchanges are possible and touch on all avenues of service.

**c. International (incl. RFE):**

Rtn Lesley Hammond had a couple of points to add to her report.

She was pleased to report on the Leonard Cheshire School in Uganda. Latrines and ramps have now been installed and 20 – 30 students registered. The plaque recognising District 1070 will be erected shortly.

Lesley made an appeal to Council for the return of her Water Survival Box, possibly last on loan to Ise Valley.

**d. Foundation (incl. Polio Challenge & Future Vision):**

Rtn John Dehnel reported that the polio campaign is developing well. Four Rotarians have been to the NID in India, with several more going in November. The good news is that only ONE case of polio has been reported in Nigeria so far this year (compared with 171 last year). Only 39 cases have been reported worldwide in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year. He reminded those present of the \$100mill challenge issued by Bill Gates and the added challenge to raise a further \$100mill to match his \$255mill offer, so far 80 clubs in District 1070 have contributed. From 1<sup>st</sup> July the suggested contribution will be on an individual basis - £25 per member per year (or £20 with gift aid).

In a brief presentation on Future Vision John said it will make local or international grant application better and speedier. AGs and Club Presidents have received training. He said foundation is there to support Clubs with their work and projects. Club Presidents should have passed on the Foundation manual, issued at PETS to foundation officers. Club foundation officers will be trained at District Assembly and John reiterated that grants could only be awarded to those attending District Assembly.

A small amount (£900) remains in this year's District Simplified Grant. Applications should be made to Rtn Eddie Brew when he returns from Florida.

John concluded that, across District, all bar 23 Clubs have already contributed in excess of \$50 per a member with 16 Clubs giving in excess of \$100 per member to Foundation.

All Project Team Chairmen urged Clubs to send a representative to their sessions at District Assembly.

### **C. 09/10. 50 Support Team Reports:**

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **a. Conference:**

The Conference Manager, Andy Roberts, being unwell and working away so not able to attend

**1. Eastbourne 2009:** The District Governor reminded members that a deficit budget of £6,500 had been planned but the financial downturn had made the losses greater. Conference accounts had been independently examined and verified and expenditure found to be consistent with current Standing Orders. A pessimistic estimate of numbers had still exceeded the reality by 125 attendees. Furthermore organisations had not given the headroom and leeway enjoyed in previous years, in the current economic climate contracts gave little room for negotiation. Rtn Andrew Deptford (Sleaford) expressed the view that members of his club believed hospitality costs should be curtailed (hotel accommodation for guests and officers, regalia and transport, lunch and top table drinks), believing the hierarchy should pay their own expenses.

The District Governor responded that these were the very items subject to the current review of Standing Orders and that points raised by the club had been fed into the review.

Rtn Patrick Boylan (Leicester) requested that the review should seriously look at the claim that we are bound to have both an Assembly and a Conference asking whether it was obligatory to have both. He believed Districts outside the UK seem to have what we call Conference as an Assembly.

The District Governor said the suggestion would be looked at and remarked that the £13,000 loss does come out of the conference reserve which had previously been increasing each year.

PDG Ken McKellar (Stamford Burghley) said he believed some of the loss arose from Rotarians booking accommodation and failing to honour the commitment.

The District Governor confirmed that, in part, numbers did not match aspirations.

#### **2. Presentation of the Examined Conference Accounts for 2009**

**The District Governor asked for acceptance of the accounts.**

**Proposed by PDG Andrew Cowling (Northampton), seconded by Rtn John Cartwright (St Neots) and agreed by a significant majority (none against, 2 abstentions).**

**3. Bournemouth 2010:** DGE Roger McDermott said Bournemouth was chosen 2½ years ago. Problems from last year have been taken into account and every effort made to reduce costs and liabilities where possible. At the HQ hotel the liability for 150 rooms has been reduced to just 90 rooms to prevent overexposure. The Friday night concert costs have been limited by involving voluntary organisations and young people. It was aimed to produce a top class conference as economically as possible. Keynote speakers will be John Suchet (not charging), Diana Moran and Roy Walker. There will be no casino this year but alternative entertainment in a quiet corner for those not wishing to dance. He ended by saying that conference committee had worked very hard to produce this conference and he hoped it would be well supported.

The District Secretary addressed problems associated with provision of coffee to delegates. He understood arrangements were not very satisfactory at the recent RIBI conference.

This was confirmed by DGE Roger who said coffee costs are high and impossible to negotiate as the caterers are tied in with the BIC. He will discuss this with the Conference Committee, in future it may be worth considering not having coffee.

**4. Southport 2011:** DGN Linda May reported that this Conference will start on the Saturday with opportunity for Clubs to socialise on Friday evening if members arrive the night before. A light lunch will be provided for Presidents on Saturday in place of the Friday tea party.

**5. Telford 2012:** DGN (E) Chris Chew said, with average travel time of 1½ hours from anywhere in the District, delegates could choose to travel Friday evening or Saturday morning.

**6. Future Conferences:** The District Governor said the format of future conferences was still under consideration. He invited input from every Rotarian, not just Conference delegates, as it was important to satisfy the majority. A venue needs to be chosen soon.

**b. Communications (incl. District Editor, Web site, Marketing):**

On behalf of the team, Editor Graham Walker thanked all those providing information for News & Events and the website. He aims to provide District Assembly presentations on the website rather than having copious notes. He invited Youth Exchange students to take copies of News & Events for distribution to non-Rotarians – a chance to market Rotary.

**c. Leadership, Development & Training:**

At his last District Council in this role District Team Development Officer Rodney Spokes thanked all those who have helped with training and those who came to seminars aiming to improve their ability to do their job on District or as Club leaders.

**d. Membership (inc. Extension, Membership Development & Retention & Inter-Club Sports)**

Rtn David Morris updated his written report with latest news on membership numbers. 131 new members have been inducted with 99 losses making a net gain of 32. He explained that the continuing marketing campaign, as voted at RIBI Conference would have a different format, focussing on clusters of clubs, and invited proposals. He warned that District 1070 might not top the list for funding in view of our involvement this year.

The Membership session at District Assembly will have a different format this year with open forum and case study.

PDG Richard Hyde reported a lot of activity in Extension with two further clubs expressing a desire to extend. He said he hopes to get to COL in Chicago to facilitate the proposal put forward by Holbeach.

**C. 09/10.51 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:**

Buckingham Suite, Holiday Inn, Peterborough West, Peterborough (last meeting at this venue)

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

**C. 09/10. 52 Any Other Business**

PDG Ken McKellar extended good wishes to PDG Richard Hyde who has worked so hard in preparation for COL. He and the District Governor wished him a safe journey.

IPDG Iain Vernon gave a vote of thanks to District Governor Dick who he identified as a super DG, a tremendous support whilst he was DG and a pleasure to work with. Iain congratulated him on handling so well some very 'interesting' District Council meetings. He recognised District 1070 as one of the best Districts in RIBI, the influence of Governors such as Dick in making it so successful.

The District Governor responded that being DG has been a pleasure and privilege; he thanked Clubs and members for all their work.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

**District Governor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_