



Minutes of the District Council meeting

Tuesday, 19th April 2011

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel

Corby

District Governor Roger McDermott

District Council Meeting, Tuesday 19th April 2011

District Governor Roger McDermott chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Tuesday, 19th April 2011 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 126 Rotarians present from 66 Clubs. (Area A 11; B 10; C 7; D 12; E 9; F 6 & G 11 clubs represented).

C. 10/11. 43 Welcome and Apologies:

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

Apologies were received from:

PDGs: Ron Watson, John Butcher & Martin Bridge

Officers: Colin McCartney (S at Arms), David Brown (Protection) & Bill Hill (Conference)

Rotary Clubs: Shepshed Charnwood

Presidents: Ken Challenger, John Horn, George Hodgson, Phil Edmunds, Bryan Woodward, Chris Battye & Helen Scott

Secretaries: Bryan Swain & Stuart Mucklejohn.

In the absence of the Sergeant at Arms (Colin McCartney due to being admitted to hospital) DGN Chris Chew acted in that capacity.

C. 10/11. 44 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.10/11. 45 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

There were a number of minor corrections to the previous minutes;

Item **C. 10/11. 30 Welcome and Apologies:** Reference to the Rotaract Visitors should have read the Rotaract Club of Rushden; Simon Turner is also Rotaract D1070 Vice Chairman

C. 10/11. 40 Project Team Reports: c) Foundation: Proposal for the Share programme for 2011-12 was seconded by John Horn, Melton Mowbray

C. 10/11. 42 Any Other Business In addition to advising the date of this year's Swimathon being held by the Rotary Club of Grantham, it was also mentioned about the 2012 event as follows:

The Global Rotary Swimathon is being held **25th February 2012**

PDG Roger May proposed the duly amended minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday, the 24th January 2011 should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Neville Hackett and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

C. 10/11. 46 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

C. 10/11. 47 District Governor's Verbal Report:

The District Governor extended his congratulations and best wishes to District Secretary PDG Barry Hasdell, recently elected as D1070 representative to attend the Council of Legislation in 2013.

The District Governor has attended a number of charters and, including the inaugural meeting of Melton Aurora, which was also attended by the RIBI President Jim Moulson as part of his official visit to the District.

RIBI President Jim had expressed his delight of the warm welcome received on his visit to D1070 by all Clubs and impressed to see evidence of the excellent work being carried out in the District.

The District Governor congratulated those concerned with the very impressive start to the pilot of Future Vision (global and district grants), also those who took part in the Focus on the Crocus initiative. The DG remarked on the tremendous number of successes in the finals of youth competitions where D1070 were well represented.

One of the Young Citizens awards presented at the RIBI Conference in Dublin was a candidate nominated by a Club in D1070. He thanked everyone for their continued efforts.

C. 10/11. 48 District Secretary's Comments and Correspondence:

The District Secretary had the following additions and updates to his written report:

Protection Officer David Brown advised that he still awaits further information regarding the revisions to the Criminal Record checks so the current requirements remain in place pending their advices. David has been difficult to contact by email as he has been absent from work following illness and resultant surgery. Contact by telephone may be advisable if Clubs have any protection issues to discuss., although it is understood that David has now made a full recovery and back at work, where he has e.mail facilities.

DGE Linda May is seeking a skilled, articulate person to act as District H&S Officer next year.

The person would be expected to advise Clubs and District on H&S matters. A job description is available.

The District Secretary admitted his attempt to produce the District Directory directly from the District Database (a saving of at least £1000) has failed due to the non-compliance of 10% - 15% of Club Secretaries in entering sufficient data to propagate the Directory.

This has resulted in extra work for other Secretaries for which he apologised.

In order to ensure a District Directory is produced for 2011/12 District Executive agreed that for 2011/12 we proceed with the previous method of populating the Directory, but with one change - after the original page has been sent to the Club Secretaries they will then need to submit their revised Club page and any subsequent alterations direct to the printers.

2760 entries are now on the database but not all in sufficient detail.

The District Secretary updated the numbers of officers for 2011/12 currently entered on the database:

81 Presidents, 77 Secretaries, 74 Treasurers, 66 Presidents Elect and just 37 Vice Presidents.

This bearing in mind, under the requirements of the Constitution all such information is required to be advised to RI & RIBI in January each year, after the clubs had held their SMG's by the 1st January, so the information should be known, but just not entered into the District Database as had been requested.

The District Secretary thanked Ken Billington for all his help over the past 6 months in assisting him in the setting up of the new Database and training of Club Secretaries (some 10 meetings held in the District with the Secretaries)

Since an electronic District Directory could represent a saving of £2 per capita, he suggested 'hard copy or no hard copy' should be debated again at the October District Council meeting.

The proposition to seek to change the District Standing Orders, so that Capitation charges are based upon the details shown in the District Database as at 1st July (later on the agenda), arose from concerns expressed by Clubs.

The District Secretary reiterated the problems that could arise from failure to comply and maintain good Governance with the rules and regulations of the organisation and the "law of the land". He stressed that all members would be held jointly and severally responsible should Clubs fail to hold and maintain governance.

The District Secretary offered to give advice to any Clubs with concerns.

Council of Legislation 2013 offers a chance for Clubs to suggest changes.

He reminded everyone that it can be done, as shown by Holbeach with their approved Enactment at the 2010 C.O.L. Propositions must be submitted to RI by the end of December this year.

Any propositions first must be approved by District Council; only two meetings remain, July and October.

The District Secretary offered to advise Clubs. Especially in his additional capacity as the District representative for C.O.L. 2013.

District Assembly

He reminded those present of the need to send registrations and single club cheques for District Assembly (May 7th) to the District Assistant Secretary as soon as possible (reply date for normal registrations 28th April, after which an increased registration cost is incurred).

He congratulated Colin Scott and Helen Scott (Holbeach) on their excellent presentation at recent RIBI Conference in Dublin and expressed surprise and concern that the proposition requesting proxy voting had not succeeded (merely requesting implementation of the C.O.L. 2010 enactment, to apply to R.I.B.I., rather than just Districts.).

Change of Club details: The new venue for Rotary Club of Grantham as shown in his report also applies to Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven.

C. 10/11. 49 District Treasurer's Report:

Accounts for the period to 31st March 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The District Treasurer commented on the financial support District gives to Conference and reported that the Finance Committee has been asked by the District Executive, to review the way future Conferences should be funded.

A totally transparent, revised formula should be available before the next District Council meeting.

C. 10/11.50 To approve the District Conference Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2010

District Conference Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Conference Manager – Bournemouth - Neville Thompson was delighted to announce that, despite some overspends and underspends the accounts showed an overall surplus rather than the expected deficit. Contracts for hotels and catering had been signed several years in advance but, due to the persistence and diligence of members of the committee, the commitment had been successfully reduced.

PDG Richard Hyde proposed approval of the District Conference Accounts, seconded by Peter Berry (Grantham) and unanimously agreed.

C. 10/11. 51 Matters referred to District Executive and now referred to District Council for Approval

- **A proposition to change District Standing Orders:**

Section 16 Finance: subsection (c) currently states:

Numbers of members for capitation will be determined from the numbers in the District Directory for the year in which the capitation is due.

This to be changed to:

Numbers of members for capitation will be determined from the numbers shown in the respective Club entry in the District Database as at the 1st July each year, plus members not consenting to their details being recorded in the District Database.

In the event of any Club member not consenting to their details being recorded in the District Database, the Club Secretary shall keep a full record of those individuals' details and send these to the District Treasurer on the 1st July each year.

The District Secretary proposed the above change be approved, seconded by Roger Chivall (Hinckley Ambion) and unanimously agreed.

Colin Scott (Holbeach) asked when the change would take effect.

The District Secretary confirmed 1st July 2011.

C. 10/11. 52 Assistant Governors' Reports:

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Assistant Governors present had nothing to add to their reports. AG Garner Roberts (Area B) added his congratulations to the youth team.

C. 10/11. 53 Support Team Reports:

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

The District Governor presented Graham Walker with the RIBI award for the Best District Magazine.

This being the second year running that News & Events has been the winner announced at the RIBI conference.

He congratulated Graham, on behalf of all the team, for producing a publication that is the envy of all.

Graham reminded everyone of the District Photographic Competition, organised by Blaby Meridian with profits going to Rotary Foundation; entries by 1st May - details and entry forms on the District website.

Spare copies of News & Events are available for those wishing to promote Rotary at forthcoming events.

b) Conference:

Southport 2011: In the absence of Conference Manager Chris Knight, DGE Linda May updated the previously issued report. She said it was proving difficult to secure speakers but information will be added to the District website as it becomes available. To make registration for conference easier Mary French (Leicester de Montfort) will operate a registration desk at both District Assembly and the next District Council meeting.

Telford 2012: DGN Chris Chew had nothing further to report

York 2013: DGN(E) Margaret Morley was delighted to dispel fears raised at the previous meeting. She visited York, met the Mayor and found all work being undertaken by a world renowned company to be proceeding on schedule.

Events in the Barbican Centre are being advertised in the Daily Telegraph for May this year.

c) Leadership, Development & Training: Ken Billington had nothing further to report

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

David Morris updated recruitment and loss figures: So far this year 160 new Rotarians (including 30 in the new Melton Aurora Club) but 138 losses, an overall gain of 22 largely thanks to the inauguration of the new club. Exact figures are difficult to ascertain due to a large number of Clubs failing to send monthly information to Alan Faulkner. The RIBI media campaign in the Peterborough area has produced six positive responses so far.

Project Team Reports:

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

e) New Generations (Youth)

Mary Whitehead had several points to add to her report and reiterated the DGs comments that it has been a wonderful year for young people in D1070.

Young Photographer – The winner of the senior age group, Catherine Comerford, has since become the RIBI Senior Young Photographer winner.

Young Citizen – Four young people were nominated by Clubs in D1070.

Winner Jo Kier gave an excellent interview (watch it on iplayer) at the RIBI Conference in Dublin.

Reminders – It is recommended that Clubs send a representative to the New Generations session at District Assembly on 7th May this year as there are some important changes and updates.

f) Community and Vocational:

Simon Adlam updated his previously issued report.

29 Clubs are sending candidates to Calvert, 2 having dropped out.
50 Clubs (48 from D1070) are sending children to Kids Out on 8th June. He did not feel the £40 registration fee had deterred clubs from participating. It would need to be self funding next year.
Less than expected took part in the litter pick suggested by Bob Parfitt.
As this would be his last report to the Council, the District Governor thanked Simon for his work as chairman.

g) International:

Lesley Hammond updated her previously issued report.
Japan is now asking for Shelterboxes and water survival boxes. Aquaboxes are not being sent to Japan.
Lesley reminded Clubs to send their end of year International Returns – by email please.
She thanked members of her committee for their support over the years.
As this would be her last report to the Council, the District Governor thanked Lesley for her work as chairman.

C. 10/11.54 Rotary Foundation

The District Governor explained that, since Foundation underpins all other areas of work it would now be reported separately from other committees.
John Dehnel updated his previously issued report.
He stressed that **both the incoming Club President and a Club Foundation representative** must attend the appropriate sessions at District Assembly for Future Vision training in order to be able to apply for grants.
This year 50 Clubs received support for local and overseas community projects.
He urged Clubs to send Foundation donations, currently down (£50,000 as compared with £80,000 at this time last year), to secure grants for 3 years hence. £150,000 was donated by the end of last year.
Donations towards polio eradication currently are half way towards the target.
John reminded Clubs to seek suitable candidates for the VTT visit to Kenya this time next year (details in his report).
The VTT leader had been appointed – Rtn. Geoffrey Blurton (Kettering).
He was disappointed to have to report that a problem with visas has prevented Ambassadorial Scholar Sitsofe Gbogbo from going to James Cook University in Australia.
Attempts are being made to find an alternative university at a more reasonable cost.

C. 10/11.55 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 2AE
Wednesday, 6th July 2011
Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

C. 10/11. 56 Any Other Business

PDG Richard Hyde (previous COL delegate) added his commiseration to Holbeach on the rejection, by delegates at the recent RIBI Conference business meeting, of their proposition for proxy voting. He stressed this resulted in RIBI being out of line with the rest of the world. In his opinion proposals should be accepted by RIBI before being put before COL. He asked future District Governors to put this forward.
Tony Sharp (Biggleswade Ivel) requested clarification regarding the content of a letter in Rotary Today which alerted members to the use of first class travel for senior RI officers.
IPDG Dick Parsley advised and stressed that the number of officers using first class travel has been reduced but pointed out the need for comfortable travel for people with unbelievably crowded diaries and punishing schedules. Some officers go straight into meetings following long flights then move on without a break to the next flight and appointment, without proper travel arrangements, additional costs would be incurred and more time required, as if those Officers were not properly rested, they would have to have additional hotel accommodation, resulting in additional costs and more time in the Officers already busy diaries.
He also explained that RI is a powerful buying body able to secure competitive pricing and good deals.

IPDG Dick then thanked DG Roger for chairing District Council meetings through the year.
He commented on the well balanced use of time and the respect with which everyone had been treated. He applauded the good humour and light touch.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

_____ Date _____
District Governor