



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

**Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

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

**District Governor Dick Parsley**

## District Council Meeting, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010

The District Governor, Rtn. Dick Parsley chaired the meeting, which was held at the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2010 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 173 Rotarians present from 77 Clubs. (Area A 10; B 12; C 11; D 12; E 9; F 9 and G14, clubs represented).

### **C. 09/10. 25 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 Rtns. Dan Connan & John Butcher

AGs for Area C Rtn. Graham Scorthorne & Area G Rtn. Rob Gaskell & Conference Manager Rtn. Andy Roberts

The Rotary Clubs of Daventry Danetre, Oundle & Sleaford

Presidents Rtns. Les Dodds, Norry Bell & Anne Donaldson

Secretary Rtn. Sue Roberts

### **C. 09/10. 26 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. 27 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

PDG Roger May proposed the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009, having previously been circulated, should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Ken McKellar and unanimously approved. The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

### **C. 09/10. 28 Matters Arising:**

#### **Page 4, Item 09/10.19**

The District Governor referred to concern raised at the previous meeting regarding the timeliness of the CVs distributed for the candidates for the nominations of RI Director. This had been referred to the Executive who agreed, in this specific case, the point raised was valid. It was resolved that in the future, if similar circumstances occur (insufficient time for consultation in Clubs or not possible to hold over to the next Council meeting) the vote will be decided by postal ballot.

Rtn. Bob Seery from the Rotary Club of Thrapston & Raunds, thanked the District Governor

There was also the inference that there had been other occasions when short notice has been given but even though requested, no further examples have been provided. The District Governor requested should any such examples be known he be informed so he could refer them to Executive for consideration. .

### **C. 09/10. 29 District Governor's Report:**

The District Governor noted the full agenda and invited all present to participate but keep remarks brief.

To avoid repetition he asked that questions be restricted to new points and comments **not** be personal.

The District Governor then gave a verbal report.

#### **Review of District Standing Orders:**

He stated that District Executive had noted concerns being expressed about some aspects of the way District is run; especially those relating to finance. Addressing these issues requires a need to review the current District Standing Orders that were agreed by Council at this meeting in January 2008. Because of this, and with particular reference to budgets and budgeting, the District Executive has commissioned a sub-group to review the District Standing Orders. This review will be led by IPDG Iain Vernon. Any comments made during discussions at this meeting, that impact on the Standing Orders as they are framed and are currently being implemented, will be noted. The District Governor invited everyone to review the existing orders and, as clubs, submit suggested amendments to IPDG Iain Vernon within the next two months.

**Haiti Relief:** The District Governor thanked everyone for supporting the relief effort for Haiti. He acknowledged the use of existing funds and special fund raising efforts undertaken to support the various disaster box schemes.

He asked that Clubs report activities and donations to Lesley Hammond, International Chairman, to track what help has been given. He asked members to keep in mind that later on these same people will need help and support to rebuild their communities when our own Trade Aid Boxes will come into their own. Similarly, the RIBI Disaster Fund was established to support community regeneration schemes in the longer term.

**NID Trip to India:** The District Governor also thanked Rotarians, family members and friends, who made the trip to India in November to support the polio immunisation days. He asked everyone to spread the word about polio and raise funds for the campaign during our new focus - activities to be staged in our Thanks for Life week in February. He stressed that money collected at Sainsbury and Tesco **must be for polio** and not be diverted to other causes. There are now 12 experts prepared to speak on immunisation at Club meetings.

**Club SGMs:** The District Governor thanked the significant majority of clubs who have updated the RI Global Data Base with details of their club officers for next year.

**RIBI President's Visit:** The District Governor reminded members that RIBI President David Fowler and his wife Daphne will be in the District from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February (schedule below) visiting projects and clubs.

He thanked host clubs.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>** p.m. - Sailability at Peterborough with, later that afternoon, a visit to a Club garden project with Loughborough Beacon and in the evening a meeting in Ashby hosted by all 3 Clubs.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup>** a.m. - an informal meeting with the District Team followed by a lunch meeting with as many Club Rotarians as can make it hosted by Northampton West. In the evening the joint charter of all 3 Clubs in Rushden

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>** a.m. – joining the Northampton clubs (especially Northampton Apollo) collecting for TfL before leaving for an appointment with another District.

### **C. 09/10. 30 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.

**PETS:** The District Secretary had put invitations to all incoming Presidents 2010-11 in the baskets and asked Club Secretaries to ensure they receive these asap as the reply date is **20<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Club returns following SGM meetings:** The District Secretary thanked the 75 Clubs who have entered incoming Officers on the RI Global database, 6 of these Clubs having yet to appoint a Secretary for next year. The remaining 12 Clubs have **until 31<sup>st</sup> January to input details**.

Any Secretary experiencing problems should contact the District Assistant Secretary, Janet Cooke, for assistance.

**Incoming Secretary & Treasurer training:** Details have been sent to all Clubs, **Reply date 1<sup>st</sup> March**.

The District Secretary had an addition to changes in Club details in the original report

#### **The Rotary Club of Danetre Daventry - venue:**

The Windmill at Badby has closed, having gone into receivership. The Club will meet at The Heart of England Hotel in Weedon whilst they look for a new venue. **Contact Secretary Jonathon Hanslip** if you wish to visit.

**Health & Safety and Protection:** The District Secretary reminded members that these areas were now a part of the Secretariat. Rtn. David Brown, District & RIBI Protection Officer, spoke to his previously issued written report.

He commented that we in Rotary were right to do nothing until the new guidelines were finally agreed at government level. He would be meeting with the Home Office again at the end of February. New forms can be used from July (completed in June) and seem improved with the use of highlights to indicate where information must be entered. The new system is improved from a Rotary perspective as irregular contact has been changed from once a month to once a week. The amount of paperwork should be less. David will keep members up to date with new information.

### **C. 09/10.31 District Treasurer's Report:**

The District Treasurer had distributed prior to the meeting the accounts until Christmas and circulated copies of the accounts to date around the room. He commented on the successful LINK weekend and congratulated PDG Roger May for this coming below budget. There were no questions on the current accounts.

He said the District Assistant Treasurer, Steven Bellamy, would be mainly answering questions concerning the budget for next year when he takes over as District Treasurer.

The District Governor asked for a suspension of Standing Orders to allow more time for discussion of budget proposals. This was agreed unanimously. He asked that the conference and general budgets be considered separately. To cover many issues the District Treasurer provided answers to questions on the budget raised prior to the meeting.

#### **Income and Expenditure Account:**

The District Treasurer highlighted the difficulty attempting to forecast how the rest of the year will progress, particularly with regard to the Youth Competitions, Kids Out, RYLA etc as they vary from year to year. However, with regard to the 'normal' items he expected them to come in under budget as we did not spend the full reserve for the Link weekend and Directories were £500 under budget.

#### **District Budget 2010/11:**

The Treasurer advised that when he took over as Treasurer in July 2008, he noticed that there were several reserves on the Balance Sheet that were perhaps no longer necessary. One of these was a Youth Camp reserve created during his

previous tenure in office some 10 years ago and another was a VAT reserve created in case there was a liability when we de-registered for VAT. These two amounted to £9416 or £3.42 per member. It was agreed at the District Council meeting in January 2009 that this should be written off and Capitation reduced by this amount.

Without this the current year capitation would have been £26.50

#### **Other Costs:**

A £2000 reserve had been created some years ago to help Clubs recruit new members. Some £1000 of that will be spent in 2009 so the £1000 item in the budget is to replace that spent this year.

Up until last year the Kids Out Charity had paid the full cost of £2.40 for each child attending. Unfortunately the rules on charities have changed and they cannot now support a single function, so we only received £1 per child in 2009 and are not sure we will receive anything this year. We are currently looking at other ways to fund this, including charging Clubs and receiving a matching grant. However this has all happened rather quickly so we felt it prudent to include something in the budget for 2010 so that we know the event can go ahead. (cost £3196 in 2009).

Hopefully it will be self-funding in future years

District have agreed to appoint Training Officers in each of the AG's areas, hence the increase in the budget.

The Conference Committee have separate accounts outside his remit hence questions should be addressed to the Conference Manager, Andy Roberts

#### **Club Accounts:**

A resolution was passed at the RIBI Conference that all Clubs must certify that the Club has prepared audited Club and Trust Accounts and Club Treasurers were e-mailed a copy of this, together with the form of certificate required. District Executive felt it would be helpful if Clubs also sent in copies of their Accounts, which many have done. It was not intended to show a lack of trust, but perhaps we could see what format Clubs use, advise of alternatives but also add up total donations and publicise that Rotary in 1070 have donated £xxxxx to charity.

We also know of at least one Club in this District where cheques have been returned on their Charity Account.

#### **Cost of running District:**

The District Treasurer pointed out that if the costs of Conference are excluded, the budgeted cost of running District for 2010/11 has increased from £62,850 to £63,780 an increase of 1.48%. If we then considered that we have had to make a contribution to Kids Out of £2,500 due to lack of funding from the Kids Out Charity our budget has gone down by £1,570 or 2.5%

The District Treasurer felt that the Treasurers, Finance Committee and the Exec have been prudent in their budgeting and in controlling costs.

**The District Assistant Treasurer** gave outline details of the process used when for formulating the budget. All Team Members had been asked to submit details of costs for fulfilling their roles. He suggested that events such as Calvert, Kids Out and RYLA should be self funding, but £1,000 had been budgeted for Calvert to cover the costs for Rotaract support. Money was also budgeted for youth events run and supported by District. At the Finance Committee meeting two significant areas of expenditure had been highlighted as possibilities for reduction, namely District Directories and News & Events. Producing these electronically could save £2.00 and £2.50 per member respectively. At the Executive meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January there was a divergence of opinion, but an alternative suggestion had been formulated. It was accepted that some Club and District members needed hard copies of the directory so it was suggested £1.20 per member could be saved if clubs were to receive 8 hard copies. Additional copies could be purchased at £2.00 per copy.

There was a concern loss of hard copy form of News & Events would remove a useful marketing tool.

**The District Governor** added that the budget had been built according to the current Standing Orders and had been critically scrutinised by the finance committee. He emphasised that the decision taken by District Council to use the £9,416 support from reserves for capitation meant that the true figure for this year is £26.50.

He asked whether, leaving aside the capitation for conference for the moment, members of District Council were happy with the budget or wished to debate issues raised.

He invited comments from the floor a summary of which is shown below.

PDG Neville Hackett (Market Harborough) –keep the District Directory in hard copy form as members find it useful.

Pres. Lesley Allitt (Northampton) – Clubs should decide how many Directories they need.

Colin Scott (Holbeach) –pdf form of the Directory raises concerns regarding data protection and piracy of information for illicit purposes. Rotarians may refuse to have their details included. Attendance at District Council meetings in Peterborough seems higher, more important than a £200 saving. The **District Secretary** responded - attendance figures are under constant review, those at Peterborough showed no increase over Irthlingborough. Research on mileages from all clubs, as carried out by the District Treasurer, show Corby to be the epicentre of the District.

Any venue chosen would disadvantage, some clubs to the advantage of others.

Graham Walker (Peterborough Werrington) – hard copy of N&E available to the public hence a valuable marketing tool promoting Rotary when given to visitors and guests. A pdf version is available on the website but has low resolution and is expensive to print. Hard copy only costs 84p per issue. News & Events has not overspent.

Pres. Geoff Burniston (Huntingdon) –commitment to RYLA, Kids Out and Calvert should not be reduced but supported rather than expenditure on conference.

Pres. Patrick Boylan (Leicester – largest Club requiring most Directories) - should not print more than being used, 8 copies per club a reasonable compromise.

Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) put forward a complex motion that was ruled invalid since many of the proposals were contrary to existing Standing Orders. The points raised will be referred to the subcommittee reviewing a revision to Standing Orders. He added that the recession should be reflected in Rotary management.

PDG Paul Buyers (Kempston) – meals are the greatest cost of being a member, look within Clubs rather than cut service District gives.

District Treasurer – grant of £12,000 from RIBI towards administration costs.

Lesley Hammond (Boston St Botolph) – Directories on CD means no books to shred and environmentally friendly.

Pres. Robin Green (Northampton West) – 8 Directories enough - most members only want Club information.

IPDG Iain Vernon (Peterborough Ortons) – £29 good value when it includes Directories, N&E and training.

Pres. Bill Kentigern-Fox (Sleaford Kesteven) – is all training necessary?

### **The District Governor invited proposals on the budget from the floor**

**Graham Cooper** (Soar Valley) **proposed the District Directory be retained as one copy per member**, seconded by PDG Neville Hackett. 104 For and 51 Against – carried.

*Secretary **Richard Haines** (Melton Mowbray) suggested the issue be revisited in future when Clubs could be given option of saying if they do not want Directories.*

**Terry Gooding** (Oadby) **proposed News & Events be retained as hard copy**, seconded by PDG Paul Buyers and carried with a significant majority.

The District Governor suggested any proposals be made early before preparation of the budget for next year commences. Focus moved on to the conference budget.

### **Conference Budget**

The District Governor explained the provisional Eastbourne figures were offered to show current position. These will be finalised in time for a full discussion at the next meeting – there is still some more income to show.

He asked members to keep in mind that as a District Council we did agree at the meeting this time last year to run a deficit budget of some £6K to reduce the increasing running fund that we were holding – to take it down from £24K to £18K. The additional losses can be contained within the conference accounts.

The budget for 2010/11 had been built in accordance with District standing Orders in terms of what is included and what is apportioned to capitation and registration.

He reminded members that District Council agreed a transition to a different conference structure. This takes time, since the lead in to book venue is some 3 years with contracts let that far in advance, thus the need to manage this transition in the short-term and hence the additional capitation support figure for the coming year. Once it was realised attendance was down savings had been sought.

DGE Roger McDermott added every attempt was being made to cut back and limit liability for the future conference where possible.

PGD Ken Parkin (Huntingdon) asked - can the current committee negotiate? Untaken rooms at the HQ hotel had cost £3205, he stated that as in previous years any rooms not taken within 28 days of the conference should be handed back, with no cost to District. Is this happening again this year in Bournemouth? The cost of the BIC in Bournemouth is £12,800 with a £4,000 subvention, could it have been negotiated for less?

DGE Roger replied that some rooms had been returned with no penalty charge and every attempt was being made to limit liability, but he could not guarantee such costs would be incurred.

The District Secretary urged Clubs, PDGs and District Team members to reserve required rooms at HQ hotel asap with a firm commitment.

Unwanted rooms could then be returned early, with attempt at renegotiation on the current contracted numbers.

Courtney Finn (Grantham) – why should conference be funded by District and those not attending pay the price?

The District Governor explained the requirement to hold a conference and Standing Orders specifying the split between capitation (business – to be paid by all members) and registration (social aspect).

Members could propose a change in the balance in the review of Standing Orders.

Robin Field (Sleaford Kesteven) – concern about the cost of the DG's tea party.

DG explained this gave airtime to RI & RIBI representatives cutting their time on stage during plenary sessions and added to the required conference time (an RI requirement)

Peter Sweatman (Lutterworth Wycliffe) – accepts budget is now set, concerned about the future

DGN(E) Chris Chew replied – Telford was voted for at the last meeting, hotel costs much lower but costs for the International Centre high, despite hard negotiation.

Alan Francis (Kettering) – mixing business with pleasure, suggested business conference like Assembly with a social dinner separately.

**The District Governor summarised that IPDG Iain Vernon would be leading the review of Standing Orders, taking on board all comments. He hoped the draft would be ready for the April meeting with a vote taking place in July.**

**The District Treasurer proposed acceptance of the budget with a £29 capitation, seconded by IPDG Iain Vernon and carried with a large majority.** (71 voting delegates in favour, with a number of Abstentions).

The District Governor announced that Standing Orders on time were reinstated.

**C. 09/10. 32 Assistant Governors' Reports:**

Some AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. No reports received for Areas A or G.

Assistant Governors present had nothing to add to their reports

Pres. Janette Hopkins (Northampton Apollo) objected to the naming of 'failing' Clubs (Area F report). The nature of age range and jobs in her Club resulted in a high turnover of membership, 5 had been lost but 2 recruited, 1 about to be inducted and 3 considering membership. Being named was damaging to morale.

The District Governor apologised to her and members of the Club.

**C. 09/10. 33 Project Team Chairmen's Reports:**

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Rtn Lesley Hammond thanked everyone for their efforts to support Haiti. To date 3,000 Shelterboxes had arrived, in Haiti, future details would be on the District website. Lesley asked Clubs to inform her of their activities. Water boxes were arriving via the Dominican Republic.

**b. Community and Vocational:**

Rtn Simon Adlam read through his report highlighting items. He had placed envelopes in baskets giving details of Kids Out.

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

Rtn John Dehnel had recently returned from training in San Diego and spoke to his earlier written report.

He is now preparing to cascade the information on Future Vision from San Diego at PETS and District Assembly.

John thanked Clubs for cheques received for Foundation and Polio. He reported that the redesigned pilot programme was intended to support Clubs, giving money and advice. He urged Clubs to advance plan for next year as the more detail given the more grant support was likely to be received.

John reported the changing focus on increased vocation and training within the GSE programme. Kenya was a likely contender for the future exchange, possibly sending a team of doctors and nurses to a medical camp.

He highlighted the Peace fellowship aspect of Foundation. A Peace Scholar, Mabel Medziwe who is studying at the University of Bradford, would be the speaker at the Foundation Lunch, on 7<sup>th</sup> March, giving Rotarians the chance to learn more.

PDG Neville Hackett highlighted the Permanent Fund and advised of the opportunity to make bequests to Foundation.

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

Rtn Mary Whitehead had several points to add to her report. A flyer showing approaching deadlines for Youth Competitions had been placed in baskets and members were reminded both District bears were available for bookings to support Club TFL activities. She congratulated the Rotary Club of Shepshed on their newly formed Interact Club and added that Rtn. Tim Tucker had cards explaining Rotaract.

Mary introduced Rtn Colin Yarwood (Peterborough Ortons), the new Youth Exchange coordinator, who had several short term exchanges in the pipeline.

PDG Andrew Cowling had also placed RYLA details in baskets and reminded Rotarians that children and grandchildren of Rotarians are eligible for RYLA. He urged members to distribute information on RYLA in youth clubs, scouts, guides etc and to display details at TFL activities.

Mary asked that Rotarians keep her informed of any Club involvement in youth activities.

Rtn Lawrie Cooke (Huntingdon Cromwell) appealed for entries for the Young Musician to be sent asap. The closing date is only 10 days before the event so time is short.

### **C. 09/10. 34 Support Team Chairmen's Reports:**

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

The Conference Manager, Andy Roberts, was working in Wales so not present.

DGN(E) Chris Chew had summarised results from the Future Conference Survey in News & Events with a full report on the District website. The survey had given every Rotarian (2750 in District) the chance to voice an opinion but only 322 had responded.

The District Governor reminded members that they had voted for a rolling programme of differing styles/lengths of Conference, results of which would be fed back.

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

Editor Graham Walker had half a box of News & Events available for distribution at TFL events – a chance to market Rotary.

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

District Team Development Officer Rodney Spokes reported that 40 of the 56 Rotarians booked in for DOTS had battled to Corby through the snow to attend and thanked them for giving up a Saturday. He introduced Rtn Carolyn Mentzel (Bourne St Peter) who will head Leadership Development & Training in the next Rotary year. She gave a brief report on plans for next year with 4 extra Area Training Officers offering assistance with confidence, motivation and presentation skills to anyone interested in self development. Topics would include 'Being in control without being controlling', 'Managing conflict in Clubs' and 'Encouraging attendance'. She identified a need for additional trainers and asked for volunteers.

The District Governor suggested Training could be developed as a new role in Clubs.

#### **d. Membership (inc. Extension, Membership Development & Retention)**

Rtn David Morris updated his written report with latest news about the Marketing Campaign. No new members had yet been inducted, but several applications were being processed. He appealed to Rotarians to keep up the momentum. He had received a poor response from Clubs (3 returns) to his attempt to make retention of members more proactive rather than reactive and appealed to Clubs to ask members to complete the survey. With 77 members leaving (9 deaths) already this year retention was paramount. The good news was 85 new members inducted. He identified two vacancies for next year: District Golf organiser and District Quiz joint organiser.

The District Governor added that 54 contacts from the marketing campaign were being 'massaged'. The campaign has now finished in this District, but moved on, with a wealth of experience gained, to three other geographical areas. Pres. Robin Green (Northampton West) reported receiving a cheque for £100 for Shelterbox as a direct result of the marketing campaign.

### **C09/10.35 Presentation of the District Quiz Trophy**

Rtn. Graham Cooper (Soar Valley) reported that 81 teams from 51 clubs (300 Rotarians) had entered the quiz this year. He appealed to more Clubs to join in next year. Over 400 questions had been set (different for each heat).

The runner up       **Oundle**

Winner this year   **Bedford Castle**

The District Governor presented the trophy to President Elect Robin Stubbins (Bedford Castle).

### **C. 09/10.36 Presentation by PDG Richard Hyde. "Council on Legislation"**

PDG Richard Hyde gave a very informative overview of the proposals. He explained the difference between a resolution (original) and an enactment (alteration to an existing resolution). Richard picked out some of the more interesting items but advised members to visit to the website and to be alert to those affecting us in District 1070.

He offered to discuss any of the proposals should members approach him.

In total there are 219 pieces of legislation for debate (full details on the RI website).

### **C. 09/10.37 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:**

Buckingham Suite, Holiday Inn, Peterborough West, Peterborough

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

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

### **C. 09/10. 38 Date and venue for future District Council meetings 2010/11:**

1. 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 (Wednesday) – Holiday Inn West, Peterborough
2. 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 (Thursday) – Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby
3. 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (Monday) – Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby
4. 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (Tuesday) – Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby
5. 6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (Wednesday) – Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby

These were confirmed

**C. 09/10. 39 Any Other Business:**

Rtn. Mike Warrington (Stamford) reported Alcester no longer stock the circular attendance discs.

They were organising stocks and invited Clubs to contact him if they were interested, estimated cost £20 for 100 discs.

The District Treasurer reminded Clubs that at RIBI Conference it had been decided Presidents should submit a certification of all Club accounts ( Club, Trust & Charity accounts). District 1070 had suggested it would be useful if, in addition, copies of both accounts be sent allowing advice to be given where necessary.

To date only 49 certifications and 38 sets of accounts had been received.

He urged clubs to send certification as soon as possible, as all should now be available, as the accounts would have been approved at the Club SGM's held by the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The District Governor extended an invitation to District 1070 attendees to attend an informal dinner on the Saturday evening of the RIBI Conference. Pres. Lesley Allitt (Northampton) has offered to coordinate the evening.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

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

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