



# **Minutes of the District Council Meeting**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel  
Corby**

**District Governor Geoff Blurton**

## **Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting – Tuesday 21 July 2015**

District Governor (DG) Geoff Blurton chaired the meeting, which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel commencing at 7.30p.m.

There were 159 Rotarians present from 68 Clubs (Area A 12; Area B 10; Area C .12 Area D 11; Area E 12; Area F 10; e-Club 1 Clubs represented).

### **C 15/16.01 Apologies and Welcome**

DG Geoff welcomed all those present and asked those Rotarians attending a District Council meeting for the first time to stand and be recognized. Representatives of the two New Clubs Grantham Sunrise and 1070 E Club were present. Past DGs were also recognized.

Apologies were received from:

**Past DGs:** Martin Bridge, Ken Parkin, Andrew Cowling, Barry Hasdell, Paul Buyers.

**The Rotary Clubs** of Peterborough and Hinckley

**Rotarians:** DGE John Dehnel, Rodney Spokes, Chris Knight, Alan Jukes, Irvine Metcalf, Trevor Davies Sue Easton, David Ward, Chris Marrannino, Maggie Bailey, Michael Thompson

### **C15/16.02 Act of Remembrance**

All those present stood in remembrance of those Rotarians who had passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting and DG Geoff read out the names:

Geoff Bromley (Leicester), Freda Denyer (Wellingborough), Robert Eaton (St Neots St Mary's), Barry Guilfoyle (Lutterworth), Ken Hampson (Hon Member, Ashby de la Zouch), Francis Hanson (Spalding and Welland), Les Marsh (Hinckley Ambion), George Smith (Peterborough Minster), Ed Miller (Rutland), Ron Smith (Hon Member, Towcester), Mike Thilo (Huntingdon Cromwell), Robert Brindley (Market Harborough), Ken Ginns (Wigston), John Adams (Ashby de la Zouch)

### **C15/16.03 Minutes of the Last District Council Meeting**

Approval of the Minutes was Proposed by PDG Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe) and Seconded by PDG Chris Chew (South Holland) and agreed unanimously.

### **C15/16.04 Matters Arising**

There were no matter Arising which were not noted in the Agenda.

### **C15/16.05 District Governors Report**

Since the beginning of the Rotary Year, the DG had presented Charters to 2 new Clubs (District 1070 E Club and Grantham Sunrise). He had also taken part in a Dragon Boat race in Northampton at the start of which he got duly wet when the boat capsized.

The DG then made 2 presentations: Firstly he presented AG Graham Martin with his AG Collar and secondly a PHF Award with 2 sapphires to Past DS Dick Parsley.

The DG's Newsletter Drumbeat goes out to all Clubs and this forms his regular report to Clubs and the District.

He made a statement on the subject of the Clubs in D1270 voting to disband the District effective from 1 July 2016. This disbanding had been Club lead; however, the vote had been close and there was some disquiet among some Clubs where members had not agreed with the decisions that their Clubs took. The 48 Clubs in D1270 will join either

D1040, D1020 or D1070. The 4 DGs from each District are meeting amicably to coordinate the transition and he emphasised that Clubs within D1270 will be able to choose which District they join. For the moment no contact should be made with any of the Clubs whilst they go through the decision process. There will be no re-running of or changes to elections and Clubs will accept whichever District they choose exactly as they are. The key dates are:

D1270 Clubs decisions submitted to RIBI by 31 August

District Executive informed of the decisions made by Clubs and which Clubs wish to join D1070 by the end of September

District Council will be asked to approve Clubs joining in harmony at the November meeting and this decision will be passed to RIBI.

RIBI will give final approval in January and visits to the incoming Clubs by 1070 Officers will commence in February

### **C15/15.06 District Secretary**

The DS noted that there had been an error in his circulated report. Membership figures for next year will be taken from the RIBI database. Club Secretaries and Treasurers are encouraged to ensure that this is kept fully up to date. He noted that over 50% of compliance statements had now been received but emphasized that it is not just about signing the Statement; Statements should be read and understood before signing. These Statements took effect from 1 July and he encouraged Clubs through their respective AGs to ensure that the missing statements should be returned as soon as possible to ensure that Clubs are insured.

Where Clubs have out of date and unwanted Directories, please pass them to the DS for disposal.

### **C15/16.07 District Treasurers (DT) Report**

The Treasurers Report had been submitted and circulated to Clubs. The DT noted that Clubs should now have received their first ½ year subs invoice and the second invoice will follow later in the year.

In response to a question from the floor, Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell), about why the costs of a legal matter within the accounts had not been covered by the Insurance Co, DT Eric explained that the issue in question had had to be dealt with expediently and in conjunction with RIBI. This did not preclude recovering costs at a later date.

### **C15/16.08 Assistant Governors' Reports**

Written reports had been circulated for each Area and the following additional comments were made:

Area D AG noted that the Area Forum would be held on 24 July.

### **C15/16.09 Area Restructuring**

A District Executive proposal to reorganize the District 1070 Clubs into Areas had already been circulated. The proposal from District Executive could not be discussed until after an amendment submitted by The Rotary Club of Grantham and duly seconded by Rotary Club of Bourne had been discussed and voted on.

Amendment: "That the proposal to re-organise District 1070's clubs into 9 areas be postponed in order it may be reconsidered on 1 July 2017 so that the implications of any inclusion within D1070 of clubs from D1270 (which is being dissolved) can be considered and accommodated in D1070's area re-organisation when details are known.

Proposed : David Burr (President RC of Grantham)

Seconded: Richard Wells (RC of Bourne).

David Burr was not opposed to the principle of reducing the size of Areas with a consequent increase in the number of AGs, he was seeking the postponement until after the issues arising from the dissolution of D1270 had been resolved.

To inform discussion, Past DS Dick Parsley (Wellingborough Hatton) was asked to put the proposal in context. The proposal that had been put forward by the District Executive who are charged by Standing Orders to periodically examine the composition Of Area's and make recommendations to District Council. The proposal had taken into account AG workload and travel. The 9 areas allowed for circa 9 clubs per AG in a tight geographical area with consequent reduction in travel. The new area's would be implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 but immediately following District Council recruitment of AGs to be in office by 1 July 2016 would have to take place Any reorganisation would not preclude any Inter Club working across Area boundaries.

The Amendment was voted upon and the result was:

In Favour	88
Against	47
Abstentions	2

The Amendment was carried and the Proposal from District Executive was not discussed.

#### **C15/16.10 Project Team Chairmen's Reports**

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by all Committees:

There was nothing to add for Foundation; however, the IPDG Ken Billington (Grantham Kesteven) noted that the Community Ride would take place next year,.

Youth. Tim Tucker (St Ives) informed District Council that there had been 47 entries for Young Designer, the winner having designed a Tractor Mounting Device. Next year there Will be separate competitions for A level and GCSE students

International. Mike Kingdon (St Neots) informed Council that for Clubs across the District had donated £64888 to the Nepalese disaster appeal. The average across RIBI had been £45-55k. Much of the donations had gone to Shelter Box and a report had been prepared by them as to how donations had been utilised.

**C15/16.11 Support Teams Chairmen's Reports.** Reports from Team Leaders had been circulated. There were the following additional comments:

Communications, David Morris (Melton Mowbray) informed the Council that the Webmaster had resigned from Rotary and that a new one needed to be appointed. Currently there are 2 candidates and interviews are scheduled to take place soon. Any Rotarian who feels that they have something to offer may still apply. He noted that the District News and Events seemed to have gone AWOL. It is hoped that they arrive soon.

Membership. Robin Green (Northampton West) emphasized the point made by the DG and DS that Clubs needed to ensure that their membership figures were kept up to date and entered on the RIBI database. District Membership currently stands at 2298 and this figure includes the 2 new Clubs: Grantham Sunrise and D1070 e-club. He noted that some Clubs had made strong progress on both Associate and Corporate Membership and this was encouraging.

The DG emphasized that neither he nor the DS are informed by e-mail of either new members or those called to higher service. He asked that Clubs inform both himself and the DS of such events.

**C15/16.12 Scarborough Conference Accounts.** Rtn Bill Hill (Melton Mowbray) who had been the Deputy Conference Manager for the Scarborough Conference moved acceptance of the accounts. Terry Gooding (Oadby) asked for clarification that amendments to the accounts had been circulated and was informed that they had been so. He continued by saying that Oadby had submitted a letter to the DS stating that the accounts had been issued without any guidance or comments. A Member of Oadby who is an accountant had concluded that it was strange to submit the accounts to District Council before they were in a state to be approved. (Note: The Oadby letter had been received and acknowledged by the DS. A response was being worked on.)

The Accounts Examiner was asked to address the comments. Richard Gibson (Rushden Chichele) noted that the requirement for the Examiner did not run to a full blown audit and most issues had been addressed. He noted that District Standing Orders may not have been fully adhered to. This led to some robust discussion about whether or not the accounts could in fact be approved.

It was noted that in the accounts there had been some significant expenditure, although there had been no budget set. Bill Hill explained that this also applied to the budget for Bournemouth, which had been approved at the last District Council. This budget had been based on an attendance of 600 and if that figure was higher some extra expenditure may be possible. If the figure is less then some reduction in expenditure may have to ensue. The same principle applied to Scarborough where extra income allowed for the DGs drinks reception and additional donations to charities. Changes to District Standing Orders will ensure that most of the queries that had been raised could not arise again.

PDG Chris Chew (South Holland) suggested that with the absence of both the Scarborough Conference Manager and the Conference Accounting Officer to answer the issues that had been raised the accounts could not be approved.

**Vote:** That the Conference Accounts for Scarborough be Approved:

In Favour	27
Against	74
Abstentions	23

### **C15/16.13 Conference**

- 1 2015 Bournemouth. DG Geoff showed a short video of the plans for the Bournemouth Conference. He indicated his disappointment that Registrations were much less than for Scarborough to date. Bill Hill, Conference manager (Melton Mowbray) advised that there were still 4 rooms available in the Conference Hotel
- 2 2016 Nottingham. In the absence of DGE John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) there was no discussion on Conference 2016
- 3 2017. DGN Chris is seeking ideas and suggestions for Conference 2017

**C15/16.14 Revised Standing Orders**

The Revised Standing Orders had been circulated on 8 June. The revised DSOs had drawn some comments and some minor amendments Proposed by the RC of Huntingdon Cromwell, Seconded by the RC of Lutterworth Wycliffe. These minor amendments had been incorporated.

With a very few abstentions, the Revised District Standing Orders were approved and are effective immediately.

**C15/16.15 Next Meeting**

DG Geoff confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 7.30p.m.

**C15/16.16 Any Other Business** There was no AOB.