



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

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel**

**Corby**

**District Governor Roger McDermott**

## District Council Meeting, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010

The District Governor, Rtn. Roger McDermott chaired the meeting, which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 128 Rotarians present from 67 Clubs. (Area A 10; B 11; C 7; D 12; E 11; F 7 and G 9, clubs represented).

### **C. 10/11. 16 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 named were invited to stand and be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

**PDGs:** Ron Watson, Dan Connan, John Butcher, Peter Moreton, Paul Buyers, Tony Martin, Martin Bridge & Keith Brown

**Officers:** John Dehnel (Foundation), Ken Billington (Leadership, Dev. & Training), Geoff Richardson (AG Area C) & Peter Brearley (AG Area F)

**Rotary Clubs:** Kimbolton Castle, Grantham, Nene Valley & Towcester

**Presidents:** Phil Edmunds, Michael Kellett, Nigel Brittain, Roger Hutchinson, Ken Challenger, Ian Walker & Ashok Verma

**Secretaries:** Bryan Swain, Robin Stubbings, Hugh Watson, Liz Cooke, Stuart Mucklejohn, Adrian Harris & Sue Roberts

**Rotarians:** Lawrie Cooke & Harold Hall

### **C. 10/11. 17 Act of Remembrance:**

The District Governor named the following Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council meeting. All present stood as a formal act of remembrance.

Irene MacDonald – Ise Valley

Tim Stansby - Grantham

Ray Youngs - Kempston

### **C.10/11. 18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

There were two minor corrections to the previous minutes

**C. 10/11. 06 Presentation of awards:** To make clear that Grantham Swim Marathon had raised £44,000 this year alone, but £470,000 over the 21 years.

**C. 10/11. 07 District Secretary Comments:**

The correct date for **District Assembly should have been given as 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**

PDG Richard Hyde proposed the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010, should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Iain Vernon and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

### **C. 10/11. 19 Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **C. 10/11. 20 District Governor's Report:**

The District Governor reported on a whirlwind four months with 80% of visits achieved and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome he had received. He thanked IPDG Dick Parsley for ordering and distributing vast quantities of bulbs for the Focus on the Crocus undertaking. Conference in Bournemouth had been extremely successful largely due to the efforts of the Conference Committee and the District Governor praised their organisation.

### **Presentation of Banners**

IPDG Dick Parsley was invited by the District Governor to presented banners to the Clubs giving highest per capita contribution to Foundation for 2009-10:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	£126.26
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Melton Mowbray	\$128.60
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kettering Huxloe	\$244.11

The trophy had been presented previously.

## **C. 10/11. 21 District Secretary's Comments and Correspondence:**

### **District Database**

The District Secretary reported that over the past few weeks he and Rtn. Ken Billington had held 8 meetings with Club Secretaries in each administrative area across District 1070 to inform clubs about the District Database - "the Mountain going to Mohamed"

The final meeting had taken place at Corby last week attended by 26 people from 21 Clubs. Unfortunately 6 Clubs had not attended any of the sessions, only some of which are known to have very computer literate Secretaries. He stressed the importance of this database to both Club and District. Details for the District Directory would be extracted directly from this database (saving a lot of work) and Clubs failing to comply would have blank entries. He thanked Ken Billington for his invaluable help.

Unwanted old District Directories could be placed in a box at the back of the room. These would be recycled at no cost to District.

Having retrieved the data from his computer The District Secretary added the following changes to his previously issued report. Finer details of changes are given in the minutes below rather than being read out:

### **Change of District Officers details**

#### **Leadership, Training & Development**

Following the resignation of Carolyn Mentzel, the following person has been appointed:

Rtn Ken Billington RC of Grantham Kesteven

54 Durham Close

Grantham

NG31 8RL

[kenb1070@virginmedia.com](mailto:kenb1070@virginmedia.com)

01476 407207.

### **Youth Opportunities**

#### **Interact:**

Shirley Morley has changed her e.mail address, it is now:

[interserve10702010@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:interserve10702010@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Change of Club details:**

#### **Rotary Club of Bedford**

The correct e.mail address of President Elect Malcolm Kindha is

[mshkinda@gmail.com](mailto:mshkinda@gmail.com)

and not as shown in the District Directory

#### **Rotary Club of Biggleswade**

Change of Secretary's details:

Tim Leach new e.mail address:

[wixamtree@btinternet.com](mailto:wixamtree@btinternet.com)

#### **Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel**

The Secretary of the Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel advise that they are currently experiencing problems with their meeting venue.

For the immediate future, if you or your members are considering visiting this Club, please check with their Secretary Jan Hichisson before doing so, to ascertain their venue.

#### **Rotary Club of Boston St Botolph**

Club Secretary – correct e.mail address is:

[sd.fidler@btinternet.com](mailto:sd.fidler@btinternet.com)

#### **Rotary Club of Daventry**

Club Presidents' correct e.mail address is:

[m.large892@btinternet.com](mailto:m.large892@btinternet.com)

#### **Rotary Club of Kibworth & Fleckney**

Change of venue:

Kibworth Golf Club

Weir Road

Kibworth

Leicestershire

LE8 0LP

tel no 01162 2792301

When the venue is unavailable they will have occasional meetings at:

The Angel Hotel Market Harborough

(note: not at their former venue, at The Three Swans).

Anyone visiting the Club is asked to contact the Club Secretary, Rtn John Hunt beforehand:

Tel: 0116 2626052 (W) or 0116 2792136 (H)

### **Rotary Club of Kimbolton Castle**

Change of venue:

The club no longer meet at The Chequers, Keysoe, and are meeting in the main and for the time being at The George at Spaldwick.

Please check with their Club Secretary, Rtn. Phil Howard, Tel: 01480 861201 if thinking of visiting, as in his own words, "the new venue is our default venue and we may be trying other venues before making a final decision on a permanent venue".

### **Rotary Club of Rushden Higham**

The address of President Claire is shown incorrectly in the District Directory, please note it should be:

[c\\_mercer\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:c_mercer_uk@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Rotary Club of Sandy**

Would you please note that the Club no longer meet at the Salutation Inn at Blunham.

Pending finding a new meeting place they are for the time being meeting at different venues, therefore if you are considering visiting the club would you please contact the Club Secretary Nigel Jewers to ascertain where they will be meeting.

Further advices to follow when they have found a new permanent venue.

### **Rotary Club of South Holland**

Club's new meeting venue:

Orchid of Spalding

1 - 3 Chapel Lane

Spalding PE11 1BP

Tel: 01775 723179

However, since the original advices this venue has closed!

Please contact the Club Secretary for details of where the Club are meeting, temporarily they are trying different venues.

Club Secretary Ken Bush has moved, new address:

Rotary Club of South Holland

10 Station Road

Surfleet

Spalding

Lincolnshire PE11 4DA

Telephone: 01775 681360

Email and mobile unaltered

### **Rotary Club Wellingborough**

Correct e.mail of President David Cross should read:

[d.cross38@btinternet.com](mailto:d.cross38@btinternet.com)

### **Proposed dates and venue of District Council Meetings 2011-12**

The following dates were proposed and agreed by the District Council:

6<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (Wednesday)

27<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (Thursday)

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 (Monday)

17<sup>th</sup> April 2012 (Tuesday)

4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (Wednesday)

Venue: Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby

## **Protection Officer**

Rtn. David Brown updated his previously issued written report. As seen the press last week the Vetting and Barring Scheme for England, Wales and N. Ireland is still on hold. The scheme is now planned to take effect for professionals (care home staff etc.) in January but later for voluntary organisations. He urged extreme vigilance with the use of children's photographs, stressing the need for written proof of parental agreement.

### **C. 10/11. 22 District Treasurer's Report:**

Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September had been distributed prior to the meeting.

The District Treasurer explained that expenditure is low in the first quarter but builds up later.

He reminded members that the certification of accounts, signed by the President, an RIBI requirement, is now due to be sent, this after the club had held their SGM to approve those accounts (both Club and Charity accounts).

Copies of the actual accounts were requested to be sent with the certification, but this is not mandatory.

### **C. 10/11. 23 Matters referred to District Executive and now District Council for Approval**

#### **a) To adopt the Equality Policy for District**

Discussion took place prior to the vote.

Rtn. Jim Wiggins (Grantham Kesteven) stated that the excellent document fulfilled all requirements but questioned when the content would be activated, especially in respect of mixed gender, as some Clubs continue to exclude female members.

The District Secretary explained that, in line with the law of the land, RIBI already had this policy in force.

The version under discussion had simply been tailored to our District

PDG Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe) said the policy was a side issue. Clubs were already behaving illegally under the constitution by excluding females. If it became an issue the Charter would be withdrawn.

International Chairman Lesley Hammond (Boston St Botolph) urged action rather than fair words as female Rotarians were sometimes made to feel very unwelcome visiting these all male Clubs.

PDG Roger replied Clubs should be given time to change, seeking cooperation rather than confrontation.

The dual gender issue was only one of a raft of issues in the document.

The District Secretary added that the ultimate sanction would be a prosecution outside of Rotary should an individual decide to take the matter to court.

Rtn. Jim Wiggins (Grantham Kesteven) suggested a deadline be set for enforcement.

Rtn. Ian Clarkson (Market Harborough) emphasised that the law was currently being broken so a deadline was pointless.

Concerns were raised by members of currently single gender Clubs, not opposed to female members and prepared to welcome visitors, whether they were in contravention of the law. Assurances were made that this was not the case.

**A vote was taken and adoption of the Equality Policy approved by a huge majority (1 objection)**

#### **b) Proposition by the Rotary Club of Holbeach**

The proposition had been submitted to COL and adopted by R.I. It was also approved by District Executive.

Rtn. Graham Scorthorne (Holbeach) made the proposition and that this should be adopted within the R.I.B.I.

constitution and put before the business session of the R.I.B.I. annual conference to be held in Dublin in April 2011.

The proposition was seconded by DGE Chris Chew on behalf of the Rotary Club of South Holland.

Rtn. Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) spoke, on behalf of his club, in favour of the proposition. He emphasised the need to ensure it is enforced by R.I.B.I. prior to the conference in Belfast. Failure to do so would lead to many Clubs being disenfranchised if members chose not to travel the distance.

NB – Secretarial note: R.I.B.I. can only change their Constitution following the business session of the annual conference as already described. It is hoped that when the proposition is submitted to R.I.B.I. (which the District Secretary will do on behalf of the Rotary club of Holbeach, that the General Council of R.I.B.I. will adopt and support the proposition)

**A vote was taken and the proposition unanimously approved**

### **C. 10/11. 24 District Roadshows**

DGN Chris Chew urged members to attend one of the two District Roadshows being held next week. He said dropping in would offer a chance to find out what District does to support Club Rotarians.

He suggested attendance would particularly benefit newer Rotarians increasing their understanding.

Name badges should be worn. Free tea and coffee will be available.

DGE Linda May stressed the informality.

**C. 10/11 25 District Bulletin Competition** – presentation of awards  
IPDG Dick Parsley presented the award for 'best article' to Rtn. Richard Wells (Bourne) who accepted it on behalf of Rtn. Geoff Halliday-Pegg.

**C. 10/11. 26 Assistant Governors' Reports:**

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

AG Geof Nichols (Area A) highlighted the missing word PrePETS in his report (para 8).

Otherwise Assistant Governors present had nothing to add to their reports.

**C. 10/11. 27 Support Team Reports:**

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Rtn. Graham Walker praised Rtn. Peter Osborn (Lutterworth) for his proactive use of the press following the marketing campaign last year. The exposure had lead to 6 new Rotarians.

Additional copies of News & Events available for distribution to non-Rotarians – a chance to market Rotary.

**b) Conference:**

**Bournemouth 2010:** Conference Manager Neville Thompson apologised for not providing a written report.

He presented the following report:

"Bournemouth was a good and successful conference. I have received many compliments on its content, themes and the fellowship that we all aspire to and should be an integral part of any conference.

However, it did not all go without a few very minor hiccups, but every conference has its own problems.

I am aware of the overrun created by Diana Moran on Saturday and the short break that became a long one during Sunday's plenary sessions. Future conference teams will look at ways to ensure this does not happen again.

It is very difficult when you allocate a time for the speaker when they will not rehearse or give you their power point presentations etc. I would like to point out, however, that John Suchet also overran.

The difference was that we all were hanging on his every word as we were with Simon Weston last year.

The food was of the highest quality at the Marriott hotel along with the service and I have sent a letter to the general manager expressing my thanks. The gala dinner left a little to be desired. Although the main course was more than sufficient the vegetarians, as usual, suffered with a meagre meal. We also had issues with the pricing of wine of which a strongly worded letter from Dist Sec. Barry was sent to the caterers Managing Director.

The accommodation was first rate after some room changes at the HQ hotel.

The budget: I am confident that we will finish the conference account within budget. There are some final accounts to pay and credits to receive so the final figure is one that Melvyn Price is working on now and will be published as soon as possible"

**Southport 2011:** Future Conference Manager Chris Knight reported that the Abba Reunion group are booked for the dance on Saturday night. A Bavarian Evening will be held in the Convention Centre on Friday evening.

No transport will be provided since all accommodation is adjacent.

PDG Neville Hackett questioned provision for handicapped delegates as far as transport is concerned.

Chris responded that no arrangements have been made so far but individual requests will be considered.

**Telford 2012:** DGN Chris Chew had nothing to add.

**Future Conferences:** DGN Chris Chew reported that he and DGN(E) Margaret Morley are considering options for a 1-day or standard type 3 day conference in 2013. Options will be presented to District Executive and Council meetings in January. He added that District Roadshows could be made in the form of a 1-day Conference rather than risk losing the excellent traditional conference base established in the District.

**c) Leadership, Development & Training:** No report due to recent changes of chairman.

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

Rtn David Morris emphasised the need to retain members. He had been asked by RIBI to trial a mentoring workshop, which will feature presentations by Ray Burman, Peter Davy and Euan Eddie. The workshop will be held in Corby on 24<sup>th</sup> November. Assistant Governors are collecting names/numbers, focussing on newer Clubs in particular.

A separate District initiative has been preparation of a PowerPoint presentation on Mentorship to be shown at every Club. He thanked Rtn. Rosemary Good (Northampton) for preparing this excellent presentation. A team of 13 presenters has been identified and David requested Clubs to open their doors to welcome them.

He reminded Club Secretaries that monthly returns should be sent to Rtn. Alan Faulkner (some still going to David).

Seven Clubs have failed to send any returns so far this year.

Sec. John Steedman (Ashby) asked if a reminder could be emailed each month and suggested a simpler format would be useful.

**Project Team Reports:**

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

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

**World Interact week 1<sup>st</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Nov:**

Launch of the D1070 Interact project to collect Buttons and Zips for Trade Aid. Information in the baskets and will also be emailed to clubs. Each Interact Club will manage the project however they wish in their area, contact details included in the information.

**Youth Exchange:** Following visits to schools in the Peterborough area, 20 applications have been received so far from students via the website [www.youthribi.org](http://www.youthribi.org). We now have sponsorship from clubs for at least 11 candidates. Thanks to the clubs who have agreed so far.

**RotaKids:** Two D1070 projects recently started. In Rushden a whole year group of 80 is involved in a Shoe Box project. In Biggleswade 24 2-9 year olds in a village school will be starting a Kasiisi Porridge Project.

**Young Chef:** Look out for Bethany Dare our last year's District and Regional winner who has taken part in the Hairy Bikers' Cook Off – BBC 2 5.15pm.

**RYLA:** Mary reminded everyone to start looking for candidates if not already started and to keep in regular contact with them following their selection. She invited those with any questions, requests, suggestions or if keen to get more involved in Youth come along to the Roadshow on Wednesday or Thursday next week.

Mary expressed hope that all local competitions being held this term and after Christmas go well and thanked everyone for all the things organised for young people.

**f) Community and Vocational:**

Rtn. Simon Adlam added to his previously issued report. He said the Stroke Awareness pack will be issued shortly, being aware of some of the frustrations of last year. Fliers for the litter pick (an informal, inexpensive Rotary project), a superb District ComVoc Forum and Usborne Dictionaries have been placed in baskets. Simon asked Clubs to register with Bob Parfitt for the Litter Pick weekend, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> March.

Rtn. Jim Wiggins (Grantham Kesteven) asked whether the guidelines in the Stroke Awareness pack would present the same problem as last year, asking medical professionals to sign guidelines being totally impractical in a mass screening situation. Last year the Club had contacted Kate Allen (Stroke Awareness) who had explained that these were guidelines not rules. He feared unless the problem was resolved Clubs would not be able to support this worthwhile project.

Simon replied that he had read through the pack and could not see the difficulty.

The District Governor added that Rtn. Tony Robbs was to raise the issue at the RIBI Mid Year Review and following that meeting he would then with Derek Wright issue further guidelines to all clubs.

PDG Ken Parkin (Huntingdon) sought clarification on the registration fee of £40 per club for Kids Out.

Simon replied that the Kids Out Charity had been told by the Charity Commissioners that they could not only concentrate on a single day out and the amount of subsidy from this Charity diminished over recent years, therefore this income from Clubs therefore is essential to ensure solvency and continuation of the event.

Rtn. David Whitehead (Biggleswade Ivel) queried the payment situation where several clubs combined to support this project. It was confirmed that each club has to pay the £40.

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

Apologies had been received from Rtn. John Dehnel and Alan Davis was representing the committee at the council. There were no questions regarding the previously issued report.

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

Rtn. Lesley Hammond had a single matter to add her previously issued written report. She reported that the purchase cost of a ShelterBox had now risen to £590 and explained the cost of each box covers not only contents but also distribution. The increase in amount ensures standards of survival equipment remain the best whilst providing the facility for pre-positioning boxes in strategic places around the world. All donations of any amount valued.

**C. 10/11.28 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:**

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE

Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

**C. 10/11. 29 Any Other Business**

PDG Ken Parkin (Huntingdon) commented that he had difficulty hearing at the back of the room.

A show of hands confirmed this to be a general problem and varied with speakers.

Sergeant at Arms Colin McCartney commented it depended where the microphone was held.

The District Governor asked that, in future, any such problem be indicated by raising a hand at the time so the matter could be addressed immediately.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

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

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