



Minutes of the District Council meeting

Thursday, 27th October 2011

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel

Corby

District Governor Linda May

District Council Meeting, Thursday 27th October 2011

District Governor Linda May chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Thursday, 27th October 2011 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 146 Rotarians present from 63 Clubs. (Area A 11; B 12; C 8; D 10; E 6; F 7 & G 9 clubs represented).

C. 11/12. 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 & John Butcher

Officers: Garner Roberts (AG Area B), Geoff Blurton (AG Area E), Peter Brearley (AG Area F), Colin Yarwood (Youth Exchange)

Clubs: Hinckley, Leicester De Montfort, Shepshed Charnwood, Towcester

Individuals: Presidents Stephen Rowe (Hinckley), Gordon Newman (Sandy) & Frank Kelly (Towcester), Secretaries Ian Thompson (Hinckley) & Adrian Harrison (Towcester).

Rtn.Patrick Boylan (Leicester)

C. 11/12. 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.

Alistair Cook - Loughborough Beacon	George Williams – Market Harborough
Godfrey Preston – Wigston	Ken Wood – Leicester
Ray Elam – Bedford	Michael White - Oadby
Ram Kalra – Leicester Novus	Derek McLaren – Stamford Burghley
Peter Janssen - Bedford	

C.11/12. 18 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

PDG Roger May proposed the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, 6th July 2011 should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Richard Hyde and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

C. 11/12. 19 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

C. 11/12.20 Presentation of the District Bulletin Award:

Graham Walker (Chairman of Communications) announced the awardees in the District 'Best Bulletin' competition. Presentations were made by IPDG Roger McDermott. The winners were as follows:

Best Bulletin	Bourne
Best New Entry	Market Bosworth
Best Article	Grantham Kesteven

C. 11/12. 21 District Governor's Report:

The District Governor briefly added to her report circulated prior to the meeting. She gave a humorous analysis of the meals eaten during 78 Club visits and 10 Charters attended.

C. 11/12. 22 District Secretary's Report:

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

Council on Legislation: The District Secretary drew attention to the article by RI Director Allan Jagger in the October edition of Rotary Today regarding a proposition to abolish RIBI being submitted to COL by District 1270. General Council are trying to resolve the problem. Should the proposal not be withdrawn, the District Secretary suggested our District Council may need to consider an amendment proposal seeking to retain RIBI, who are too good to lose.

It was also pointed out that there were no proposals being submitted by any Club in this district (the deadline being the 31st December 2011, but all such proposals had to be supported by the District Council and this meeting had been the last opportunity, this having been pointed out to clubs at previous district council meetings over the past 12 months).

Proposals to District Council: Delegates were reminded that proposals to District Council have to be seconded and submitted, in writing, 28 days before a meeting. Each proposal can then considered by Executive and circulated to Clubs 14 days before the meeting, allowing time for members to discuss. A proposition submitted by David Smith

(St.Neots): “District 1070 should publish a booklet giving details of Rotary Clubs successful fund raising activities that could possibly be adapted for use by other Rotary Clubs” will therefore come before the next meeting.

Health & Safety: Clubs are advised to make use of the expertise of District H&S Officer John Steedman who is very knowledgeable and keen to help. There are strict legal rules and regulations regarding Santa sleighs (not just Rotary and insurance implications) especially if Santa rides on the sleigh.

Any Club with concerns are advised to use the expertise that we have!

District Committees are now required to consult with John on all of their major projects, particularly those involving outside or non-Rotarian involvement.

Protection: Protection Officer David Brown

The Club Protection Officer for Northampton West has requested training. District & RIBI Protection Officer David Brown asked any other persons requiring training to contact him as soon as possible.

He asked Club Youth Exchange Officers to liaise closely with their Protection Officers to avoid timing issues associated with members of the public requiring Criminal Record Checks.

The District Secretary highlighted an error in the date quoted for **PETS**. The correct date is:

Saturday, 10th March 2012 – Venue: Kettering Park Hotel, Kettering

Full lists of nominations and successful candidates for **District Officers 2012/13** and **District Governor 2014/15** are published in the District Secretary’s report (full details also having been circulated to all Clubs).

RIBI is assisting with the “winding up” of Huntingdon Hinchingsbrooke which is yet to be formalised.

Change of District Officers details:

Bill Hill is now a member of the **Melton Mowbray** club. His Club entry is correct but Page17, Conference Committee, still shows him as a member of his former Club Wellingborough Hatton. Please note the change - Billy Hill (Wellingborough Hatton) will be quite relieved not to have people contacting him in the future!

Change of Club details: (in addition to those in the report)

For the time being the **Rotary Club of Biggleswade Ivel** will meet at

The Green Man

Stanford

Nr Biggleswade

For further information, please contact the Club Secretary Jan Hichisson (01462 700482)

District Database: DGN(E) Ken Billington gave a short demonstration of the capabilities and ease of use of the database.

Graham Walker (Peterborough Werrington) suggested it be made clear that the log on procedure for the District Database (requiring username and password) is different from that needed to access the RI and RIBI websites.

David Bibby (Daventry) expressed concern that those seated towards the rear of the room could not see the screen and requested details be sent out to Clubs.

The District Secretary reminded the Council that this time last year nine meetings had been held around the District, all Club Secretaries given a chance for local training. They should be able to provide details of username and password and give basic instruction following those meetings.

Required web address is: **www.rotary-ribi.org/clublogin.asp**

DGN(E) Ken offered to deal with individual problems after the meeting.

The District Secretary advised that he would e.mail all club Secretaries with simple “log in” procedures.

C. 11/12. 23 No item of business

C. 11/12. 24 Presentation by the District Health & Safety Officer:

District H&S Officer John Steedman commenced his presentation, aimed at raising the profile of Health and Safety, by pointing out fire exits and assembly points (omitted on this occasion at this meeting) and enquired how many people were in the room should there be a need for a roll call. He stressed that every event organiser must undertake a risk assessment. Club Presidents are responsible for ensuring this has been carried out (the buck stops here!) but every member should accept responsibility. Only 40% of Clubs list an H&S Officer in the District Directory. He hoped all Clubs would appoint an Officer next year and requested these be listed in the District Database.

There were requests for copies of the presentation to be sent to Club Secretaries. John agreed to send a copy to the District Secretary for distribution.

C. 11/12. 25 District Treasurer's Report:

Accounts for the period to 30th September 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The District Treasurer drew attention to the shortfall of £1,800 in the income from subscriptions, due to lower membership numbers, which had been compensated for by a similar reduction in the cost of directories arising from errors made by the printers.

Alastair Wood (Soar Valley) expressed concern at the low rate of interest achieved.

The District Treasurer had approached Lloyds TSB who offered no substantial improvement over HSBC.

Keith White (Sleaford Kesteven) suggested Lloyds TSB treasury bonds as a possible alternative - District Treasurer to investigate.

C. 11/12. 26 Matters referred to District Executive and now referred to District Council for Approval

a) Proposition: Re Future District Conferences

To limit any future rise in the Capitation Charge from 2014 directly to the Consumer Price Index, so that the Capitation fee will be calculated from a base of £8.40 (the 2011 figure) which will be increased by no more than the increase in the Consumer Price Index over the same period.

This method of calculation to be reviewed by the District Finance Committee tri-annually, commencing 2017. This would mean that if membership falls, savings will have to be found or the amount charged to delegates would have to increase.

The above, proposed by Brian Sykes (Treasurer of Loughborough Beacon) and seconded by Rtn Stephen Bellamy (Rushden Chichele), had been circulated to Clubs on 13th September 2011.

Brian spoke to the proposition. He emphasised that the proposition was equitable to the majority of the membership as it was the result of much consultation and input from Clubs.

The review would take place in October in time for the budget to be set in November/December.

PDG Ken MacKellar (Stamford Burghley) suggested September would be more in line with government reviews. The District Treasurer had no objection to September but Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) commented it was only chosen by the Government as it was generally the lowest month. He then asked why the proposition could not take place from 2013. The District Treasurer reminded him that figures for conferences in the coming two years had already been set and agreed at previous District Council meetings.

Robert Palmer (Thrapston & Raunds) was concerned the effect of the final paragraph could be to financially penalise the reducing numbers of delegates attending conference. He suggested earlier announcement of the programme could encourage more members to go. Conference manager Neville Thompson said DGE Chris Chew was giving details of the Telford programme to incoming Presidents at PrePETS with regular updates as soon as they become known. This would be the format for coming years.

Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) gave praise and expressed support for a proposition aimed at limiting the cost of Rotary. He felt the management of the conference budget to be an element fully under our control.

PDG Iain Vernon refuted this saying the Conference Committee had no control over conference centres raising their rates ahead of inflation. He did however think the priority on deciding whether to attend was 'good value for money'.

Tim Leech (Biggleswade) suggested better wording to be "rise limited to 5% or in line with CPI".

John Steedman (Ashby) felt District Council should retain flexibility.

Brian Sykes (Loughborough Beacon) in responding as the proposer, thanked everyone for their comments, useful to hear, but a pity some of the comment made weren't suggested sooner to them as the proposers, or to the District Treasurer who dealt with the referral to all clubs as a consultation paper back in July and giving a 7 week period for submitted propositions and comments.

A vote was taken and the motion carried.

b) District Directory Proposition:

1. Continue as at present with all having a copy

2. Restrict allocation to 10 per Club, plus sufficient for all District Officers, with Clubs/Members having the opportunity of ordering additional copies, as required. Such orders would need to be made at the end of May each year (cost of £1.10 per additional copy).

3. None at all and rely upon the District Database

The District Secretary referred those present to the figures detailed in his previously issued report and stressed that the printed directory is out of date by the time it is published.

Robert Palmer (Thrapston & Raunds) queried printing costs which he felt to be overpriced. The District Secretary welcomed any alternative quotation and would contact him.

Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) spoke in favour of using the database, a view echoed by Richard Haines (Melton Mowbray) and Alan Faulkner (Spalding Welland Centenary) who objected to those not requiring directories having to pay for those who do, also Graham Walker (Peterborough Werrington) who suggested clubs could produce their own hard copy or place just orders as required (not one of the options).

PDG Ken Parkin (Huntingdon) and PDG Neville Hackett (Oadby) supported the hard copy option, useful when travelling around District when a computer is not readily accessible.

Other delegates spoke in favour of a pdf version of the directory which would not have need for online access but the District Secretary explained that this would not be allowable under the Data Protection Act.

Following a point of order raised by Colin Scott (Holbeach) on exactly how the method of counting would be made and recorded. The Council members were advised that the proposition required a simple majority.

The District governor then asked all voting delegates to cast their votes, reminding them that they could only vote on one of the propositions made. The order in which the propositions were made was altered by the District Governor. The result of the ballot was:

<u>Propositions</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>
1. <i>No hard copies at all and rely upon the District Database</i>	33
2. <i>Restrict allocation to 10 per Club, plus sufficient for all District Officers, with Clubs/Members having the opportunity of ordering additional copies, as required. Such orders would need to be made at the end of May each year (cost of £1.10 per additional copy).</i>	78
3. <i>Continue as at present with all having a copy</i>	29

The 2nd option was adopted with a simple majority.

C. 11/12. 27 Assistant Governors' Reports:

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

AG Terry Gooding (Area D) referred to Item 10 of his report; the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus being in the early stages of forming a Rotaract Club for Leicester and surrounding areas. Terry asked all members present to inform any contacts aware of young persons in the 18–30 year age group in the Leicester area that the first 'Interest Meeting' will be on 9th November 2011. Details are in baskets and Jemma Kiddy (Leicester Novus) will be available to speak to interested parties at the end of the meeting.

Other Assistant Governors had nothing to add to their reports.

C. 11/12.28 Rotary Foundation

Foundation Chairman John Dehnel made a comprehensive presentation explaining the principles underlying Rotary Foundation and the benefits achieved by contributions made to Rotary's own charity. Members of the Committee addressed particular areas.

Stephen Bath (Sleaford) updated the successes of the campaign for polio eradication. He highlighted the outstanding \$12,800 raised by the four Northampton Clubs by their ascent of Kilimanjaro.

John Dehnel presented PDG Andrew Cowling with certificates of recognition to hand on to the appropriate persons.

Alan Davis (Nene Valley) spoke of the 35 District Grants awarded totalling £28,524. A further £10,000 is still available, **proposals to be submitted by 2nd December 2011**. Four global grants have been awarded and are in operation.

Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) spoke about the Vocational Training Team going trip to Kenya.

John Saunders (Leicester) about Ambassadorial Scholarships.

Trevor Davies (Brackley) about Peace Fellowships.

Paul Nyibek will be coming to the Foundation lunch.

John Dehnel concluded with a reminder of the guideline of \$100 per member annual giving, an amount of £5 per month (or £15 per quarter). He appealed for Rotarians, having heard the benefits highlighted in the presentation, to become sustaining members and claim gift aid.

IPDG Roger McDermott was invited to present banners to the clubs donating the highest amount per member for 2010/11.

3 rd	Kibworth & Fleckney	(\$128 per member)
2 nd	Oadby Launde	(\$135 per member)
1 st	Ashby-de-la-Zouch	(\$167 per member)

C. 11/12. 29 Support Team Reports:

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Graham Walker has spare copies of News & Events available for those wishing to promote Rotary at forthcoming events.

b) Leadership, Development & Training:

DGN(E) Ken Billington had nothing further to report

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

David Morris reminded delegates of the subsidy on capitation this year to finance marketing. This will be the third year of the subsidy. RIBI has no specific plans but the door is open for any District or Club to apply for funding if they have any ideas or suggestions.

Extension: PDG Iain Vernon added to his previously issued report. A steering group, led by IPDG Roger, is starting to work on a launch for a club based around **Groby** (North West of Leicester). Survey already approved.

The District Governor has signed off a survey for a new club in **Brackley**. Iain thanked Alan Jukes and Chris Watts (Brackley) who are the sponsors. They plan a Saturday morning club aimed at commuters who live in Brackley but work elsewhere.

A survey has been signed off for re-launch of a club south of Peterborough, new name **Norman Cross**, with area based on Yaxley, Stilton, Sawtry, possibly Peterborough Hampton township as well.

A steering group is already in place to commence when survey is approved by RIBI.

d) Conference:

Southport 2011: Conference Manager Chris Knight reported on a successful conference with fine weather, good speakers and 'free firework displays'. Relationships with the conference centre had been excellent, the only issue arising from the refusal to admit one member without a badge.

David Hollins (Loughborough), a member of the Club having a member excluded, said he thought the matter could have been handled better and common sense applied. The person concerned was a long standing member who had been Club conference organiser for many years and that there should have been a better system in place for dealing with such situations.

Conference Manager Chris explained that, had he been let through by the Sergeant at Arms, he would have been stopped by the centre security staff. Sunday featured high profile speakers Ann Widdecombe and Ben McBean so security was tight.

The Conference Committee would be asked to address the situation for the future.

PDG Neville Hackett (Oadby) invited everyone to congratulate DG Linda on an excellent conference.

Telford 2012: Neville Thompson encouraged everyone to come to Telford, pay low hotel prices and enjoy excellent speakers.

York 2013: Nothing to add at present.

Project Team Reports:

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

e) New Generations (Youth)

District Governor Linda welcomed Meredith Young, a Youth Exchange New Generation student. Meredith is experiencing work and life in the UK whilst working for three months in a PR Consultancy Company.

The DG presented Meredith with a District Banner.

Rotaract Officer Janet Sinclair (Shepshed) thanked all who participated in the Rotaract Challenge at conference.

Some sponsorship is still outstanding (please send to Rotaract District Chair Victoria Hitchcock).

Around £500 has been raised so far.

Mary Whitehead urged those collecting contents of baskets to ensure leaflets featuring Young Writer and Young Photographer dates are passed on to the appropriate person as soon as possible.

There has been an increase in requests to borrow one of the two display boards. Mary has devised a booking sheet.

Interest in Interact and Rotakids is spreading rapidly throughout RIBI hence a much wider set of resources are becoming available.

f) Community and Vocational:

Tony Robbs said RIBI are collaborating this year with Children in Need. Available packs have been placed in baskets, the shortfall will be sent direct to Clubs. He has a supply of badges and key rings, those interested to see him at the end of the meeting.

RIBI are keen on an initiative for a Rotarian to be involved with disasters, therefore there is a need for a retired 'blue light' person (police, fire, ambulance) to take this on at a District level.

g) International:

Roger Neuberg reminded those present of the training day for all interested Rotarians wishing to learn how to become a ShelterBox speaker. This is to be held on Saturday, December 3rd. The hope is that a larger pool of "Shelterbox Speakers" will result. If you or members in your club are interested please get back to Roger.

C. 11/12. 30 District Roadshows

DGN Margaret Morley urged as many people as possible to come to the Roadshows:

- Wednesday, 2nd November at the Hilton Hotel, Collingtree, Northampton 7.00 to 9.30pm
- Thursday, 3rd November at the Ramada Hotel, Thorpe Meadows, Peterborough 7.00 to 9.30pm

Members of the District teams have worked very hard and deserve support. District Committees need fresh blood, enquire if you have an interest in becoming a member.

C. 11/12. 31 Proposition by Rotary Club of Holbeach:

R.I.B.I. Constitutional Documents April 2011 By-Laws of R.I.B.I.

1. Amend By-law 6, Clause 4, paragraph (e)

Remove:

e) Voting by Proxy - There shall be no proxy votes. A voting delegate shall not at the same time be a deputy voting delegate.

Replace with:

e) Voting /in absentia/. Whilst Clubs have a duty to send their voting delegates to Conference (By-law 6, Clause 3), where a Club finds itself in practice unable to send some or all of its voting delegates, RIBI shall provide a scheme for the absent delegates' votes to be cast /in absentia/ by the Club. Voting /in absentia/ shall be conducted electronically, or by post, or by such other system as may from time to time be approved by General Council.

The method of implementing and administering all such voting schemes shall be approved by General Council and reviewed annually.

2. Amend By-law 6 Clause 9 - Quorum

Remove:

Voting delegates representing at least one-fourth of the voting delegates whose attendance has been recorded shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at the business meeting.

Replace with:

No vote shall be valid unless the sum of all votes cast (including votes cast /in absentia/) plus all abstentions recorded shall exceed one half of the Clubs in RIBI.

The above was proposed by Colin Scott (Holbeach) and seconded by PDG Iain Vernon (Peterborough Ortons).

Colin spoke to the proposition to amend Clause 4. He said since the last Council on Legislation, when a similar proposition was agreed, proxy voting has been adopted worldwide for District Conferences. At the subsequent RIBI Conference in Dublin the request to have proxy voting was turned down. Colin had with DG Linda and District Secretary Barry met with David Fowler (RIBI Cons & Regs committee chairman) and Annemarie Harte (CEO) at RIBI to discuss the way forward. General Council are working on a proposal to enable online voting which would resolve the problems of proxy voting. The above proposition (1) was a 'Plan B' in the event RIBI failed to arrive at a solution.

Colin then spoke to the 2nd proposition to amend Clause 9. The current quorum required for the RIBI conference is one fourth of the voting delegates who are registered and recorded as attending. There are approximately 1,800 Clubs in RIBI representing around 4,000 potential Club votes (these vary according to the size of each club). RIBI has around 120 inbuilt votes (RIBI Officers, Past Presidents of RIBI, District Governors, DGs Elect etc.). It had proved difficult to obtain figures from the Dublin conference but it seems 415 Clubs registered with a smaller number attending and able to vote. Theoretically one fourth of those present could be met by RIBI votes alone. The quorum at an RI Convention is 50% of Clubs in RI. This amendment would bring RIBI in line with RI.

The District Governor emphasised that the 1st proposition would be withdrawn if RIBI make electronic voting possible.

PDG Neville Hackett (Oadby) said RIBI has to adopt CoL constitution changes automatically. The District Governor explained the CoL ruling applied to 'District' Conferences. Colin added that this had been a change to an RI bye-law, not the constitution.

PDG Richard Hyde (Ramsey) spoke in support of the motion. Having read Page 8 of Rotary Today, an article written by RI Director Alan Jagger, where something agreed had later been overturned. Therefore he felt it very necessary for these proposals to go through as a safeguard, especially as the RI decision at CoL had secured an overwhelming majority.

John Mumford (Oundle) had been present at Dublin when the proposal was turned down and felt it now met objections raised.

The District Secretary explained that Holbeach did not require District Council approval to go ahead but hoped members would give the Club full support to strengthen the proposal.

A vote was taken on both sections of the proposals:

- 1. Unanimous in favour**
- 2. An overwhelming majority in favour**

C. 11/12. 32 Dates and venue for District Council meetings 2012/2013:

Thursday, 5th July 2012
Monday, 22nd October 2012
Tuesday, 29th January 2013
Wednesday, 17th April 2013
Wednesday, 3rd July 2013

Venue: Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE
All meetings to commence at 7.30p.m. unless otherwise stated.

Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) objected to the choice of Wednesday (meeting night for 10% of Clubs) rather than Monday as on the rota, for the first meeting of the Rotary year 2013/14.

DGN Margaret Morley replied advising that she had the rota changed to be at her own Club's first meeting, on Thursday, as District Governor 2014/15 and didn't feel that she wanted her first District Council meeting on Monday the 1st July.

Stan Wilson (St Neots) suggested for it to be put back to Tuesday.

A vote was taken on the original proposed dates

The meeting dates were approved (7 against, 2 abstentions)

C. 11/12. 33 Any Other Business

Sergeant at Arms Colin McCartney asked all those responsible for awarding trophies to email him details of the current holders.

He appealed for any help in finding the whereabouts of the previous DG bars, a piece of District history that had gone missing. A new chain had been bought in 2000 and previous name bars put into a display box, since mislaid.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.20p.m.

C. 11/12.34 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:

Monday, 23rd January 2012

Venue: Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE
Meeting to commence at 7.30p.m.

District Governor _____

Date _____