

# Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray

## Minutes for Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2016

### 1. Annual reports from the Council and Committees.

Reports were presented see appendix 1.

### 2. Treasurer's report and proposed budget.

A budget report for the coming year was tabled by Treasurer K. Theobald recommending that the subscriptions remain at £110 and the Lunch levy remaining at £26.

(Proposed by I.N. and Seconded by R.Mc.C.)

The Treasurer's recommendation was agreed by all members present.

### 3. Election of Honorary members

Lady Gretton and Mike Powderly both to continue as a Honorary members, agreed unanimously by all members present. (Proposed W.H. and Seconded by J.D.)

### 4. Confirm the appointment of the Chairmen of Committees.

The following Chairmen were proposed by I.N. and agreed by all members present.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Club Service,                | Adrienne Holland and Janet Shortland (Joint Chairs) |
| Community/Vocational Service | Helen Bett  |
| International Service        | Diana Osborne                                       |
| Foundation                   | Alison Blythe                                       |
| Membership                   | Michael Osborne                                     |
| Youth Service                | Eric Hall   |

Nb. Sub Committees of : -

Club Service is Marketing, P.R. and Communications, chaired by Julia Joseph-Hinde.

### 5. Elect the ordinary members of the Council.

Committee Chairs who are not Club Officers were voted onto the Council en bloc.

(Namely D.O., M.O., E.H. and H.B.)

Steve Jeal was also nominated to continue as an elected member of Council having served two of normally three years on Council. (Proposed I.N. Seconded D.W.)

Agreed by all members present.

### 6. Appoint a person or persons to examine the Club's annual accounts.

Sarah Amos was as last year recommended for examining Trust accounts, with James Green for Club accounts. (Proposed by K.T. Seconded by M.O.)

Agreed by all members present.

### 7. Elect three representatives of the Club on the District Council.

President Ian Neale, Presidents Elect Adrienne Holland/Janet Shortland and Honorary Secretary David Ward were nominated and elected. (Proposed by J.D. Seconded by R.A.)

Agreed by all members present.

### 8. Any other business.

Nothing to report.



**Rotary**  
Club of Melton Mowbray



## Appendix 1

### AGM 2016 Reports from Council and Committees

#### President's Report - *Richard Abbott*

I have thoroughly enjoyed my Presidential year and hope it will be remembered as a success.

I have tried to achieve an acceptable balance between service and social events. Many thanks to the committee chairs and other team members who have contributed massively.

I hope that an ongoing legacy from this year will be good morale within the club, which will reflect as a desire to maintain a thriving and active institution. We have recently had an increase in membership, after the disappointment of losing some longstanding members, and we hope to continue to recruit successfully.

From a service viewpoint we continue to be active, both at a local community and international level. The club has an outstanding reputation due to our major achievements in the Philippines, and these go from strength to strength. In addition we continue to be extremely busy supporting virtually all the Rotary youth programmes. Our activities spread even wider, however, as we continue to support a large range of community projects.

In order to support these activities we have maintained our traditional fund raising events, The Santa Fun Run and the Duck Race, along with the successful concerts. To this we have added, this year, the Vintage Vehicle Event and the Ball, held jointly with Aurora.

As a consequence of these events we have raised over £10,000 for charities.

We have enjoyed ourselves as well. Christmas Dinner, Burn's Supper and the Charter evening spring immediately to mind.

A plea though. The Club has a huge range of activities, many of which require manpower. The vast majority of this activity is sustained by a relatively small number of club members.

Let's see if we can get every club member involved in future in, at least, the major events.

Richard Abbott

## **Club Service Committee - *President Elect Ian Neale***

It is quite a daunting task to take over the Club Service Committee which has such an influence on Club activities and supports the President for the year.

I am extremely glad that I sat on this committee the previous year, and gained some insight into what was required although it does depend on who is President and what their vision of events are for their year. Having said that, I could not have worked with anyone better than Richard and my life has been made easy by the events that he has organized.

We started off the year with a handover BBQ at Sysonby Knoll Hotel which included our families and was an excellent social evening. This was followed closely by our trip to Hampton Court Flower Show, another excellent day out. September saw our first Vintage and Classic Car Show, this was a whole club event and an excellent day was had in the play close in the sunshine. We were able to donate £300 from this event to the Helipad Appeal at the QMC hospital in Nottingham. My thanks go to the entire Club, but especially to Julia who launched the idea.

In October we took part in Minor Sports against the Aurora Club, with skittles, at the Plough in Stathern, again an excellent and very sociable evening made better by the fact that we won! In the next round we were drawn against Shepshed, but with Christmas and other pressures we eventually gave Shepshed a bye. As the skittle alley was booked and paid for we enjoyed an evening of club skittles. The club again all worked together assisting the international committee with their concert in St. Mary's Church raising monies for their project in the Philippines.

The Christmas Party was at SKH when we had a choice from their Christmas Menu; it was again a very sociable evening with crackers, balloons and party poppers. We played a game of "name the item in the bag" which went down well and caused some consternation!! My thanks go to Helen Bett for making the 24 bags. The Santa Fun Run was again a success although the Country Park was quite wet and muddy after all the rain. Once again it was a chance for organizations to raise money for their own funds, facilitated by the club. We all adjourned to the Harborough Hotel for a late lunch and it was great that Geoff Blurton the DG joined us after also taking part in the run. Thanks must go to Ron Edwards and Geoff Goodwin who do so much to make this event such a success.

January saw the start of organizing the Charter Night, with a food choice it made the invitations quite complicated, but was very worthwhile. Again a very enjoyable evening, Scalford Hall served the excellent food a table at a time, and this did mean that the last table waited quite a while after the first but the whole 72 of us were served in 1 Hr 20 mins. The Guest Speaker was excellent and received well by members and guests alike.

I am grateful to Ben and Bob for their organization of our Burn's Night celebration which again was an excellent evening, and also to Ben for organizing an evening at the Spice of India in Syston, the restaurant owned by Atul, where we were greeted by Heena and had our own room upstairs with a buffet of Indian dishes. The Fundraising Quiz was another enjoyable evening and raised monies for Richard's Charity. The Joint meeting of the three Melton Clubs was held at the Bowls Club when the District Governor came to speak to us all, it was an interesting meeting but not the best venue as we did not have exclusive use.

There are just a few events left before the end of our year, this weekend we will have the family treasure hunt organized by Richard. A concert organized by the International Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June, the

President's BBQ on the 25<sup>th</sup> June and Hand over on July 4<sup>th</sup>. I will also be organizing a trip to Tatton Park Flower Show on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

## **Club Service Committee (cont.)**

I would like to express my thanks to all the committee, Janet, Adrienne, Richard, Bob, Ben and Steve who have supported and advised me during the year, to Julia for her liaison with the press and to all the club who have supported the events and helped during the year.

Ian Neale

## **International - *Alison L Blythe***

The main focus of the year's activities has been the monitoring of the ongoing work to refurbish the Sagkahan Elementary School in Tacloban, Leyte, Philippine Islands which is the subject of the current Global Grant.

Work has progressed well and the first stage is more-or-less completed with the paperwork currently in progress to submit to Evanston.

Beef and hog roasts were held at Tresillian House and members joined either event (also supported by some of our host families).

Alison Blythe opened the gardens of Tresillian House under the NGS scheme Philippine fund and Uppingham School gave a superb concert again at St Mary's Church with different content from 2014, and raised a net profit of £1745.36 including donations.

Some local churches have added further donations through collections at their Harvest Festival and Carol Services.

The event is becoming a fixture in the Melton Calendar with the next concert scheduled for 14th October 2016.

Desford Colliery Band are scheduled to perform in St Mary's on 11th June 2016 which will hopefully appeal to a different audience and raise further funds.

Alison continues to visit Sagkahan to help collect information give support and follow up further requests for help, specifically in training of teachers in the use of IT in the classroom.

She continues to send out the Balakbayan boxes with school books, paper, printers, computer screens and second hand computers – some of which have been kindly donated through our members. She has another 4 boxes ready to ship.

Janet Shortlands' lunch has been moved to a summer tea on 24<sup>th</sup> July and I hope you will be able to support this with your families and a Roast Beef Dinner will be held on 14th August.

Other projects supported have included the Polio campaign, spectacle collections and Shelter Box.

It has been a successful and interesting year and I wish to thank all the members on the committee for their continued fantastic help and support.

## **Foundation - *Alison L Blythe***

This year the club has continued to support Foundation.

Discussions took place regarding future fund raising to enable a donation framework that could support the annual giving but the status quo seems to have prevailed.

We received an additional District Grant as well as the Global Grant over the year and John Dehnel and Eric Hall are now wading through pages of calculations to put together the report required in Evanston to complete this grant.

It is proposed to submit the project as a candidate for the Centennial Award.

## **Membership Development & Retention - *Michael Osborne***

The membership of the Club at the beginning of the Rotary year was 39. Three members - Linda Moore, Jenny Foreman and Bill Glancy - did not renew their membership.

During the year Peter Knowles resigned from membership.

Steve Robinson and Margaret Morris have been inducted as new members so that we now have a membership of 40.

The Committee has been working on suggestions for possible new members and arranged an evening information meeting in April to which several were invited. This will be repeated, probably at lunchtime.

Work has been continuing with recruiting members for the Satellite Club, largely through the efforts of David Morris. It has been reported to the Club that there are currently seven people who are prepared to be part of the Satellite Club which is expected to meet fortnightly.

My thanks are due to the members of this committee and those other members of the Club who have assisted the function of this committee in recruiting and retaining members.

## **Youth Services: - End of Term Report - *Eric Hall***

Working in conjunction with Melton Mowbray Belvoir and Melton Aurora has enabled the Youth Services Committee to provide another successful year and benefited many young people.

### Competitions

Our objectives for the year included supporting six competitions and raising more interest in a further two. As noted below, we have successfully supported six competitions but discovered that more work is required in relation to Young Artist and Young Citizen.

### Rotary Stars

This award is aimed at recognising good citizenship in local Primary School children. It is pleasing to report that more schools are supporting our initiative this year. The review process is not finalised until the latter part of the Summer Term.

## **Youth Services (cont.)**

### Rotary International Youth Exchange (RYE)

The candidate interviewed by representatives from Melton Mowbray Belvoir and our club has been accepted for a short term exchange programme in Switzerland. The programme will include trekking, culture, sports and cycling. He has agreed to give a talk to the club following his return.

### Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)

A potential candidate was identified and interviewed for this worthy programme but particular circumstances intervened in the process and reluctantly the candidate felt unable to continue with the process. However, a previous RYLA candidate supported by the club wishes to further develop their skills and promoted by their manager, has been recommended for a teaching course. This is excellent news for the candidate and our club.

### Warning Zone

The Warning Zone continues to provide an excellent facility and programme but also suffers from limited funding. A special request for further financial support was received by the club early in the year. Not surprisingly, the club again responded in a positive fashion and a cheque for £500, matched by one from the Belvoir club, was issued.

### Young Chef

Aided by kind support from Stapleford Park, Jane Abbott and Sue Ayres, we were again able to participate in the Young Chef competition. It was a new experience for many of us associated with the competition and although it was successfully delivered and much enjoyed by the young chefs, a few of us will relish being further along the learning curve next year. A more disappointing aspect was that a promising candidate fell ill the night before the District round and was unable to take part or communicate with us in time for a replacement to be contacted.

### Youth Speaks

Another successful programme although not totally problem free – can they ever be?

The local heat comprised 6 entries; 3 Senior and 3 Intermediate. Catmose proudly fielded five teams but it is also pleasing to report that John Ferneley provided a team in the Intermediate category. This is encouraging and we hope they will be able to build on the number next year. We are also hopeful that Longfield will participate next year.

Four teams from Catmose progressed to the District Semi-Final. Their good performance was rewarded with both Intermediate teams and one Senior advancing to the District Final. There, one Intermediate team successfully qualified for the Regional Final. Personal recognition was earned by Elizabeth Mott being selected the best Speaker and Jasmine Holland, in the other team, judged the best Chairman.

The senior team narrowly missed out from going further.

The high standard displayed at the competitions is a clear indication of the time and skills invested by the schools' staff. We are particularly grateful to Sue Mc'Grath and Richard Gray ( Catmose ) and Lizzie Strickland ( John Ferneley ) for their encouragement and support.

## **Youth Services (cont.)**

### Young Musician

The usual talent sourcing challenge for this year's competition was hampered by the non-availability of the prime organiser.

The Northern Semi-Final of the competition was held at the John Ferneley College where members from the joint Youth Committee of Belvoir and our club assisted on the day with Sheila Aston in the lead role.

Performers range in age from primary schools through to secondary schools and sixth form colleges. Robert Brown was supportive in providing constructive and encouraging criticism in addition to his role as the adjudicator.

St Francis RC Primary School choir successfully sang their way to the final in Leicester joined by:

Juniors: Jacob Inchley – junior solo instrumental (piano); Arantxa Middleton – junior solo vocal

Intermediates: Darci Benoit – intermediate solo instrumental (piano); Sophie Stevenson – intermediate solo vocal

Seniors: Wreake Valley – senior instrumental ensemble; Sam Dye – senior solo instrumental (trombone); Emily Newlyn – senior solo vocal

### Young Writer

District has been advised that the local winner in the intermediate age group (11 – 13 yrs) was Elois Ramsey.

### Young Photographer

It is disappointing to report that following miscommunication from District no local candidates were selected for this year's event. District endeavoured to help by extending the submission date but this conflicted with the Easter break and our ability to contact schools.

### Young Designer

Arrangements are in progress for the local heat to be held at MV16 with invigilators provided by Belvoir and our club. David Wilson (MV16) kindly and ably undertakes the main co-ordinating and organisational role and we are most grateful for his help and guidance.

As leader of the Youth Committee I am pleased to acknowledge and most grateful for the help and support of the committee members and club.

## **Youth Services**

### **Report of the Interact Officer - Diana Osborne**

During the year there have been regular meetings of the Club at MV16 although its membership has been small.

Although there have only been three members who have attended they have raised monies for research into ME ( myalgic encephalomyelitis ) from cake sales and other activities.

These interactors will remain at MV16 for a second year. They plan to address the new students coming to MV16 for an introductory session in July with a view to recruiting new members.

## **Vocational Service Committee - *Bill Hill***

The main objective this year has been mentoring and has been directed at leads and initiatives derived from two sources.

1. The Melton Business Forum
2. The Me and My Learning project

### **Business Forum;**

It has become apparent that there is a demand for mentoring and support from a number of individuals who have attended the business forums and have heard from club members attending these meetings who have promoted Rotary in the town and in particular, offered the assistance of the club in mentoring and support for new and start-up businesses.

Progress is extremely slow but two individuals have made contact and initial meetings are scheduled before the end of the month. Initially it will be a case of assessment of need and offering the person a chance to talk through their plans, problems and to win confidence. If an opportunity for further support is identified then this will be brought to the club for consideration.

Maria Ramshaw, Economic Development Officer at M.B.C. confirms she has often been asked for such support in the past and feels the club would be able to make a very useful contribution. Hopefully the two cases in process will help in developing the concept.

### **Me & My Learning;**

Work in establishing a satellite club quickly identified a need for a project to give focus to new potential members and this has evolved into a "New Business Enterprise" idea whereby individuals who maybe not be in regular employment for example, are coached and mentored in the possibilities of starting in self-employment. The Me & My Learning programme works in this area and their staff have contributed to much of the original thinking.

This has rapidly developed with the involvement of M.B.C. through Keith Aubrey, Deputy Chief Executive. I have, with David Morris, attended two meetings with K.A. and others to explore ways in which the Club and the embryonic satellite club may help in developing a programme to assist individuals who are facing challenging lifestyle difficulties in finding meaningful employment possibly through self-employment. Further meetings are already scheduled and this offers exciting possibilities for us.

### **Talent Match Leicestershire and Digital Profiling;**

A very recent development and more information is awaited but this project was introduced by Mark Frisby, of the M&ML project. The grand title simply means the project, which is funded by The National Lottery and The Princes Trust, aims to match an individual's skills and experience with employment and future ambition.

We have been invited to help develop effective methods of increasing youth employability and to help with an innovative trial exploring video CVs. Essentially this is a short video clip which allows an applicant to

pitch directly to an employer by utilising various technologies and digital platforms to assist their job search. More information to follow after a meeting early next month.

## **Community Service Committee - *Adrienne Holland***

The Community Committee has had another successful year, with everyone working together to provide a service to our local community..

### **Birchwood School's trip to Twinlakes**

On 24 September 2015 we provided all of the children and their teachers, support staff and carers with the opportunity to visit Twin Lakes. The children looked excited when they arrived and were clearly eager to enter the park. They left after a very successful and lovely day with huge smiles, exhausted but very happy.

The staff at Twin lakes were wonderful and we hope to repeat this activity again in 2016. Many thanks to all involved.

I have been approached by the Belvoir Club who would like to join us on the day with the 20 children and their carers whom they take from the unit at Sherard Primary. This will require further discussion, initially with the Community Committee but also with Belvoir Club. However, it would be a shame not to take this opportunity for increased co-operation and liaison – and it would clearly be a wonderful experience for the children of both schools.

A huge challenge for the future will be to consider whether the Community Group will be able to raise enough funds using our present method, as fewer and fewer people are available/willing to help with the duck selling, many visitors to Twin Lakes no longer carry cash with them, and austerity continues to have an impact!

It would be extremely helpful to hear suggestions from other members of the club as to how we might continue to fund such a valuable activity.

### **Christmas Parcels**

Many thanks to all members of our club who helped out with this event. It is good to work in conjunction with Melton Belvoir Rotarians, Melton Lions and The Barnes Trust in collecting groceries and delivering them to the needy in the town.

There were concerns this year about the efficiency of the event's organisation and distribution of the parcels , which will need to be addressed in the autumn but surely has to be solvable. It is unlikely that Duncan will continue to represent us with this event and he will need to be replaced after many years of doing a sterling job for us.

### **Stroke Awareness**

This is another annual joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club; again we are represented by Duncan, who is unlikely to continue to do so after many years of leading it effectively.

Rotarians from both clubs encourage and persuade shoppers to visit health professionals who check their blood pressure. This is a quick procedure which avoids the necessity of making an appointment at the surgery and rarely involved waiting for more than a couple of minutes.

If any people are found to cause concerns, they are recommended to approach their GP for further examination. Members of the club are asked to give up two hours of one Saturday per year to support this service to the Community. However, if we could persuade more of you to volunteer we might be able to reduce the commitment to just one hour – which would mean that no-one was standing around for two hours which, I suspect, is increasingly difficult for most of us as we become older!

## **Community (cont.)**

### **Christmas Tree Festival**

The festival is described as the largest Christmas Tree Festival in the country with over 220 organisations taking part and over 900 magical trees.

We contributed to the magic with our own tree while also promoting Rotary.

Particular thanks are due to Helen, Graham, Kate, Ian and all others who were closely involved – with apologies to anyone I have not mentioned.

### **Leicestershire Life Education**

This is an initiative that we have supported for many years and is a joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club and the Sir Richard Raynes Foundation.

Our normal donation is £1,000 and it is an invaluable service to schools and their pupils. However, all has gone quiet on this and I will have to report back to you if and when there is any development.

We continue to support the Warning Zone.

### **Senior Citizens' Contact Group**

This took place in Burton Lazaars Village Hall in October and was a real success. 35 elderly (although I am sure many of them would have rejected that title!) thoroughly enjoyed tea, coffee, sandwiches and cakes provided by, naturally, Ladies in Rotary, and supported brilliantly by some members of the club.

We were joined by the Leader of Leicestershire County Council, his wife and driver who all clearly enjoyed their afternoon.

Many thanks to all those involved, it was obviously very much appreciated by our guests.

### **Duck Race at Twin Lakes**

Sales were down this year but this in no way is due to a lack of commitment from those members of the club who gave so generously of their time and effort to help raise funds. There are several reasons why this is the case: there was one day when there was only one of us selling and several when there were just two (3 is the ideal number to cover both inside areas and the outside), the Easter break in schools was staggered across our catchment counties, therefore some days were extremely quiet; many visitors brought no cash with them whatsoever; a greater number than previously were unwilling to give and those that did bought ducks in ones or occasionally twos, rather than higher multiples.

The main impact of this is that, of course, we raised less money.

We need more help, please, and lots of ideas for additional ways to raise considerable amounts of money if, as I suspect, this method of fund raising continues to reduce in effectiveness.

Adrienne