

Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray

Minutes for Annual General Meeting held on 28th April 2014

1. Annual reports from the Council and Committees.

Reports were presented see appendix.

2. Treasurer's report and proposed budget.

A budget report for next year was tabled by Treasurer R.Mc.C. recommending that the subscriptions should remain at £110 and the Lunch levy remain at £26. The Treasurer's recommendation was proposed by A.B., seconded by W.H. and agreed by all members present.

3. Election of Honorary members

Lady Gretton to continue as a Honorary member proposed by J.D. seconded by I.N. all members present in agreement.

Mike Powderly proposed as a Honorary member by R.Mc.C. seconded by J.J-H. and agreed by all members present. Secretary to write offering Honorary membership to Mike.

4. Confirm the appointment of the Chairmen of Committees.

President Diana explained to members present that for 2014/15 ComVoc would be separated into two roles one of Community and one of Vocational with two separate committees, hence an additional committee chair.

The following Chairmen were proposed by W.H., seconded by B.G. and agreed by all members present.

Club Service	Richard Abbott
Community Service	Eric Hall
Vocational Service	Atul Dawda
International Service	Alison Blythe
Foundation	Alison Blythe
Membership	David Morris
Youth Service	John Horn

Nb. Sub Committees of Club Service are Fundraising chaired by Ron Edwards and Marketing, P.R./Communications chaired by Julia Joseph-Hinde.

5. Elect the ordinary members of the Council.

Committee Chairs were voted onto the Council en bloc.

Proposed by W.H. seconded by B.G. and agreed by all members present.

Nominations for the remaining vacancy on Council.

Steve Jeal was nominated and proposed by D.M. seconded by J.H. and elected unopposed 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, and Michael Osborne and/or James Green for Club accounts.

Proposed by R.Mc.C. seconded by D.O. and agreed by all members present.

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

President Bill Hill, President Elect Richard Abbott and Secretary David Ward were elected, proposed by E.H. seconded by I.N. and agreed by all members present.

8. Any other business.

John Dehnel as A.G. and Club Member thanked President Diana on behalf of the members for all of her contribution and hard work for the Club over the year.

APPENDIX (For Minutes of AGM)

Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray

Annual Reports from Council and Committees

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Rotary year is drawing to a close and it is time to take stock of our achievements in the past ten months. My thanks are due to those members of the Club who have worked hard in line with our theme for the year: 'Engage Rotary Change Lives'.

The first challenge to which I referred at Club Assembly was to recruit new members. We have been pleased to welcome Sue Ayres, Atul Dawda, Heena Dawda and Sue Bailey to our Club. We have been sorry to lose Marshall Pobjoy and Jane Abbott. Our membership at the present time stands at 42. The Membership Committee is working to recruit further new members.

Our second challenge was to create a closer feeling of cooperation between all members. Within the last few days we have held a Visioning exercise which should help with this process.

The third challenge was to improve the communication between members. The subcommittee charged with this have met regularly during the year. The report from Club Service will cover this activity.

The fourth challenge was to increase the support for Rotary from our local community. The appeal for donations to send to the Philippines in order to assist with relief work arising from the disastrous typhoon raised the awareness of Rotary and enabled us to transfer significant funds to the Rotary district in the Philippines. The increased entries for The Santa Fun Run and the repeat of The Duck Race again showed the face of Rotary in our local community.

The reports from our service committees illustrate the variety of projects that we have engaged in to encourage young people to develop their talents, to help elderly people at Christmas, to support our work overseas and others.

We have raised funds to support Shelter box and Homestart Melton Mowbray. We continue to support The Rotary Foundation.

I was pleased to present the Rotarian of the Year Award to Eric Hall, as a small recognition of his tremendous commitment to the work of the Club in several different areas during the last year.

We have enjoyed an excellent relationship with the other clubs in Melton Mowbray, and have been mutually supportive with social, service and fundraising activities.

Diana Osborne

CLUB SERVICE

May I first thank all members who have contributed to the work of the Committee and for the help, advice and support given to me personally.

A varied and interesting programme has been delivered and we have enjoyed presentations from many interesting and diverse speakers.

The Club participated in the District Minor Sports and Quiz events and the teams acquitted themselves in true Melton fashion – not progressing too far in the competitions.

The Halloween and Christmas Party events were enjoyed by members and the Charter Anniversary Dinner was attended by nearly one hundred guests and members.

Attention has been given to compiling a register of the Club's assets including a valuation of the more valuable items.

The Committee has been kept informed of matters of member's welfare and regular contact maintained with the widows of past members. Thanks to President Diana who has undertaken this role.

The Club has been represented at regular meetings of the Interact Club and problems identified within their club accounts are being addressed.

The Committee initiated a Club Visioning exercise and this was subsequently progressed by the Membership Committee.

Communications Team.

This group have worked hard to further develop all aspects of communication both within and outside the club.

We have an excellent and up to date website and the use of social media to publicise our events and activities is now well established.

Our relationship with local media and the Melton Times in particular has been excellent. The team has supported club projects whenever possible by offering and delivering a range of publicity and promotion opportunities.

Fund Raising

The Santa Fun Run is now established as a major event within the town and the 2013 event was very successful with a increased number of participants.

Unfortunately the major event planned for late summer had to be cancelled due to lack of support and this followed the aborted Summer Ball planned earlier.

The concept of a cycling event to be held in the spring also proved impracticable this year.

There is an obvious need to review the fund raising activities for the future and perhaps the Club Visioning exercise will assist with this.

Bill Hill

COMMUNITY AND VOCATIONAL

As previous the year has been busy for the ComVoc committee, the taking of Birchwood School to Twinlakes was again huge success and the costing per head were very similar to taking children on Kids Day Out to Wickstead Park. This year we took 214 pupils and carers out grateful thanks go to the staff of Twinlakes who ensured the success of the day and especially to Rotarian Phil Bendall.

The big advantage was that the school had a full 4 hours in the park, travelling was to a minimum, they had a choice of hot food.

To be repeated.

We were also able to take 43 disadvantaged Children from the Grove School on a separate occasion, and this time we provided them with a buffet lunch. The committee feel that we should support district with the Wickstead Park Day, and will review following the Duck Sales.

New for 2013/14 we entertained 36 Elderly Folk to Tea in Burton Lazars village hall, called the Sunday Contact Group; they are taken out each month by a team of volunteer drivers, and go to a different venue for tea. Our thanks go to the Rotarians and their other halves that made cakes, sandwiches and trifles for the event, it was an outstanding success and we have been asked to repeat it again in October 2014.

The Christmas card raised the expected amount, and to add to ComVoc funds Kate made a Christmas Cake which was weighed at the Christmas Party, the Rotarian who won it confirmed that it was delicious!

- We worked together with Melton Belvoir Rotary, the Lions and the Barnes Trust collecting groceries and delivering parcels to the old folks of Melton, it is always good to work with others for the benefit of the Town.

We promoted the club through our entry in the Christmas Tree Festival and took the opportunity to promote the Santa Fun Run as well.

Stroke Awareness has been co-ordinated by Duncan Mandelson and is another event when we work together with Melton Belvoir. This year some 177 blood pressures were taken with many asked to go back and have it retested in 4 weeks and a few referred immediately.

With Easter being late the Duck race has not yet taken place, selling will commence on the 15th April with the race on Sunday 27th, we hope that there will be better weather than 2013 which will enhance duck sales, we also have an online sales point that we will be promoting.

The Grant for Leicestershire Life Education will be given to the joint committee before the end of our year; it is good that Eric Hall Adrienne Holland and Julia Joseph have joined with the Melton Belvoir Members to monitor the scheme. The District Grant enabled us to donate £1000 again this year.

We are repeating the guess the weight of the Simnel Cake amongst members, and thanks go to Adrienne for supplying it this year.

My thanks go to the ComVoc Team, Kate, Adrienne, Eric, Jim and Duncan and to Julia and Diana for all their support and work throughout the Year, and to all the other members of the club who have supported our fundraising, especially the duck sales. It was sad to say goodbye to Marshall during the year, when he moved to be closer to his family, we thank him for all his work on the ComVoc committee, for his wise council and loyal support of the committee and the club in general.

Ian A Neale

YOUTH

The joint activity in the Youth Committee between ourselves and the Belvoir Club continues to be very successful. In addition individual members of Aurora have attended some meetings on an unofficial basis, and are now engaging in activities relating to rotary competitions.

We continue to liaise with the local schools to encourage participation in the rotary competitions. Long running events such as Young Musician, Young Writer, Youth Speaks and Young Chef are well supported, whilst Young Designer and Young Photographer are gaining in popularity. Success in Youth Speaks was manifested by our teams from Catmose who, to date, have progressed to the Regional Finals. The Young Chef candidates experienced a master class which was kindly provided by Stapleford Park. Rotary Stars are again being made available to individual junior school pupils.

We supported an enthusiastic candidate for RYLA. We identified 4 candidates (2 for each club) for Youth Exchanges, but unfortunately, for reasons out of our control, the exchanges failed to materialise. In future we will look more critically at the mechanisms for choosing and supporting potential candidates.

A visit to Warning Zone has encouraged committee members to push for ongoing financial support from our club for this very worthwhile enterprise.

Finally, for various reasons, the club representation on the Youth Committee will fall to only 4 next year and we are keen to recruit active and enthusiastic new members.

Richard Abbott

FOUNDATION

The Club has made a payment on account for its contribution to the Rotary Foundation in the sum of £1200. We are planning an additional event to enable us to increase this sum. Hopefully some funds will come through from the Duck Race sales. The grants that have been received for International projects have been covered in the report from the International Committee, and the grant for Life Education has been covered in the report from the Community Service committee.

Alison Blythe

INTERNATIONAL

The year has revolved round two main projects: The Osprey migration linked to the education of children along the route and the proposed fresh water pipeline proposal for Mahaplag on Leyte Island in the Philippines.

Two fund raising events to support the Osprey project have foundered due to insufficient interest or support. The project has also suffered from the fact that along the migration route across Europe, schools are already engaged in various wild life and bird projects and therefore not interested in embarking on a new one. However Bill Hill and Bill Glancy had a highly successful visit in January to the Gambia and were able to install the first computer in one of the schools and the focus of the project has now centred on the Gambia itself. A fund-raising lunch is to be held at Janet Shortland's house on Sunday 11 May and Bill Hill together with Bill Glancy and Julia Joseph-Hinde are organising a lottery-type competition connected to the Ospreys themselves. It is hoped that these two functions will raise the majority of the funds required from the club to match the district grant and that this project can be finalised in the current Rotary year.

A £500 matching grant was received from District to help support the initial water testing in Mahaplag. Funds are already in the International account to cover the club's contribution. However it has been a frustrating year trying to get more detailed information from the water engineer regarding the testing of the water source from which to run the proposed pipe line. The initial source was found to be totally unsuitable and a secondary source is now under investigation. Relief work following the earthquake in October, together with the devastation from cyclone Haiyan and subsequent tsunami have naturally taken precedence. Following the recent visit by John Dehnel, Eric Hall and Alison Blythe it is expected that the discussions held will start to move everything forward.

The lamb roast held in July was enjoyed by those who attended and the event will be repeated this summer by popular request. The main fundraiser will be the concert to be held in St Mary's Church on Friday 17 October with performances from pupils attending Uppingham School.

The Club and general public from Melton Mowbray responded brilliantly to raising funds to send to Rotary District 3860 Disaster Fund and almost £10,000 was sent directly to their bank.

Alison Blythe

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

This year to date membership of the Club has increased from 40 to 42: we have gained four new members and lost two: this is a net gain of two members, and successfully meets the challenges made to Clubs by both RI and RIBI for membership growth.

The reasons for the membership success are:

- 1) Club 'Open' Evening on the 4th October
- 2) The energies and support given by the Club Membership Committee
- 3) Suggestions / Introductions to potential new members by existing members
- 4) Effective mentoring of the new members
- 5) Readiness of existing members to welcome and embrace new members
- 6) A good and interesting Club programme.

In addition to the four new members, the 'open' evening generated interest from a further nine potential members all of whom say they would like to join Rotary at some time in the future. We are keeping in contact with all of these and send them regular updates on the Club's activities.

A further six potential members have been identified, some have visited the Club, and all are being carefully monitored with a view to inviting them to join.

The Rotary Business Support Group, now re-named Melton Business Forum, has also been a success. Whilst membership was not the prime reason for the initiative, it has unquestionably raised the awareness of Rotary within the local community and I am confident that in time this will have a positive effect on membership. The forthcoming speaker from The Bank of England will create a further opportunity to promote Rotary and I will be looking on the night for a way to encourage suitable persons within our community to "give something" back.

I would like to thank everyone who has served with me on this committee during the current year. We are small in number, but this has not limited the commitment given by each member of the committee. Included in this is President Diana who has attended every meeting: thank you Diana; it has been a privilege to work with you.

David Morris