



Club Assembly 9th June 2014

President's Overview 2014-15

Fellow Rotarians.

I look forward to the new Rotary year with pride and trepidation.

Pride of course from being elected President of your Club, one which has such a proud history of achievement.

Trepidation as I am a relatively new member and aware of the many challenges facing both our Club and Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland.

The Project and Service Committees have prepared their programmes for the year ahead and I really hope all members will support these projects to the best of their ability and circumstances.

Such support should not be confined to involvement within their own committees but has to be across all aspects of the Club's activities. We need to work closely together to achieve our objectives and to enjoy the fellowship and satisfaction which I believe is important to all Rotarians.

The challenge of retaining members and attracting newcomers is so important to the future well being of our Club and this is the responsibility of all members. We must address this with continuing enthusiasm.

I have proposed a change to the committee structure by creating a separate Vocational Team which will be separate to the Community Project Committee. Please give this team, small as it may be, your support.

Vocational Service is a valuable and effective means of Rotary activity.

Communication within the Club at all levels is vital and we must use any means available to ensure members are aware of what is happening within the whole spectrum of the Club's activities.

I have one theme for the year ahead.

Every member should feel valued both as an individual and as a Rotarian

Good communications and a feeling of involvement are critical to achieving this.

The latest information concerning the Club Citation was circulated at District Assembly and is radically different in concept to previous editions. To achieve this recognition will require the efforts of all members and I urge everyone to contribute to this goal.

I look forward to serving as your President and will do my utmost to serve the Club to the best of my ability.

Enjoy your Rotary.

Bill Hill

Club Service - Richard Abbott

The Club Service Committee will endeavour to assist President Bill in achieving the harmonious running of the club during the next year. It will oversee the organisation of the Monday meetings and liaise with Steve Jeal in the organisation of the weekly programme.

In addition it will encompass the activity of the **fundraising** and **communications** subcommittees.

As in previous years the following club activities will take place;

Christmas Party,

Annual Charter Dinner,

Safari Supper,

Halloween Night.

It is hoped to reinstate the Burn's Supper this year.

At the recent visioning exercise the club identified the following targets relevant to the club service committee;

- a) For Rotarians to have more 'fun'.
- b) For meetings to be more flexible.
- c) To encourage commitment and involvement from all members.

The committee will address these issues. More non funding social occasions will be arranged. Liaison with the other Melton Rotary Clubs will be encouraged.

Fundraising (sub-committee) - Ron Edwards

The Fundraising Team, as in previous year's will work closely with other committees to understand the financial requirements, and to develop a sensible programme of events.

Well established projects will continue with expectations in the order of: -

- Twin Lakes Wishing Well - Phil Bendall - £750
- EBay Selling - Gavin Howling - £100
- Buying from Amazon, Club Website link - £200

The major event of 'The Santa Fun Run' is also well established with a small initial team commencing planning. As with the 'Duck Race' organized by the Community committee there will be a high level of members support and participation in facilitating the event. Expected income in the order of £2500.

Other events such as, but not exclusive to, a Golf Day and a Cycle Challenge, are under consideration to assist in this year's Fundraising efforts.

Membership Development and Retention - David Morris

With the elevation of Rtn Mike Powderly to honorary status, the membership of the Club is now 41: a net gain of 1 member since the Club Assembly one year ago. Whilst this is a little disappointing particularly in view of the efforts of members and the membership committee, this is nevertheless a 2.5% gain and should be set in the context of the 3% fall in membership throughout RIBI.

Whilst this is not an unsatisfactory Club result, we are seeking stronger membership growth during the coming year and the following action is planned by the membership committee:

- 1) A further 'open' evening has been arranged for Friday 12th September at the new pavilion at Sysonby Acres.
- 2) Engage with persons already identified as having expressed interest in Club membership.
- 3) Work closely with members who have recently joined to ensure they are fully welcomed and integrated into the club. This also includes introducing them to Rotary beyond the Club.
- 4) All Club members are invited to submit names for potential membership; these could be partners, family members, acquaintances; it could also be persons with whom they may not be personally acquainted but observed to be willing to serve others and otherwise of good standing.
- 5) Search for younger members; also progress a greater gender and ethnic balance.
- 6) Use social media to extend membership.
- 7) Develop a membership strategy from the specific matters identified and voted on during the recent Club Visioning.
- 8) Maintain strong links with persons who have expressed interest in Rotary but are unable to join due to their current circumstances. Build up a strong "Friends in Rotary".
- 9) Continue to develop the business support group which was recently re-launched as Melton Business Forum.
- 10) Ensure every member is included in the Club's programmes and nobody is left out. The 3% fall in RIBI membership is not because of any lack of recruitment, but because of Clubs' inability to retain their members.
- 11) Work with the two other Clubs in the town to compliment each other's membership activities.
- 12) Engage with the major employers in the town to create corporate membership.

Whilst a further net gain of 2.5% in membership during the coming year would not be unacceptable, we plan to drive membership forward to achieve a goal of 50 members. This is unlikely to be achieved in one year, but we will work tirelessly to make a substantial net gain in the year that lies ahead of us.

Community - Eric Hall

The work of the committee will continue on the firm foundations already laid but will be implemented according to the available funds and any developments from the visioning exercise.

Grove and Birchwood to Twinlakes

Following the successful trip by Birchwood to Twinlakes, we intend to provide a further visit in September 2014. We will also offer the opportunity for The Grove to go in June. We will approach the other two Rotary Clubs in Melton Mowbray with the intention of seeking their support for the visits.

Budget £2500

Christmas Parcels

We will repeat our joint working with Melton Belvoir Rotarians, Melton Lions and The Barnes Trust in collecting groceries and delivering parcels to the needy in the Town

Budget £650

Stroke Awareness

This is another joint venture with Melton Belvoir Club. We again ask club members to support the initiative which benefits the residents of Melton by highlighting potential health problems.

Christmas Tree Festival

We propose to have a tree in the Festival. This will provide an opportunity to promote the work of the club, hopefully encourage new members and also advertise the Santa Fun Run.

Budget £75

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. There is doubt whether we will be able to secure a grant for a second consecutive year

Budget £1000

Shelter Box

We will support Diana in her fund raising for Shelter box and will liaise with local churches to promote fund raising; especially during Lent

Budget £75

Fundraising

Duck Race 2014 £2250

Christmas Card sales 2014 £300

Allocation from Club Funds £1750* (subject to approval and based on above programme and income)

Expenditure £4300 Income £4300*

Vocational Services - Atul Dawda

As a new Committee formed for 2014 - 2015 separating from the previous ComVoc Committee, a programme and structure will be developed early in the new Rotary year.

Youth Services - John Horn

Plans for the Joint Youth Committee 2013 – 2014.

N.B. Necessarily these must be somewhat provisional in that more definite decisions will be taken at our joint meeting with our Belvoir colleagues on July 15th. This will be the first opportunity to discuss other initiatives such as Rota Kids mentioned at the District Assembly. New developments would depend on catching the interest of individual members.

Competitions

After a successful year, in which all members played an important part, we intend to support Young Musician, Young Chef, Youth Speaks, Young Writer, Young Designer and perhaps Young Photographer. Additions could be Young Artist and Young Citizen.

Rotary Stars : This year we have worked effectively to deliver our joint programme with the Belvoir Club, and plan to continue to do so. Additionally we have welcomed from the Aurora Club Jane Horn, Sue Herlihey and Iky Dodge, developing their particular emphasis on working with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. This year we welcome Heena Dawda and Mike Rowe, but will miss Richard Abbott's enthusiastic, efficient and wise leadership as he becomes President-elect, where we wish him well.

Our first task in a private meeting to be arranged in July /August will be to respond to Council's request on the results of the Visioning Exercise. Full details are in the minutes of the Council meeting on 8th May.

We will continue with this initiative.

Youth Exchange :

Although disappointed again with only one successful applicant, for reasons yet to be explained, we look forward to meeting Alison Shaw, the new District Officer, We will continue to explore possibilities of supporting applicants from less privileged backgrounds.

RYLA :

Again we hope to find a candidate within our stated goal to seek to help less privileged young people to benefit from this initiative as with Youth Exchange. This may require further financial support from the Club, though all costs are shared with the Belvoir Club.

Warning Zone :

Feedback from the Primary Schools is so positive from both staff and pupils, and the value so great that we would like the Club to support this initiative with £500 again.

Interact :

We are very grateful to President Diana and David Morris for their tremendous commitment to the success of the Club, and will discuss what further help might become available.

Estimated Costs :

Youth Speaks	£50	Young Chef	£250	Rotary Stars	£50	Young
Writer / Young Photographer / Young Designer			£100	overall Youth Exchange		£75
RYLA	£290	Warning Zone				£500

Total Costs £1300 approx.

Funding :

This is essentially a service committee, but funds are raised by committee members by supporting the general fund raising activities such as the Duck Race and the Santa Fun Run, They also intend to continue to invite members to take part in sweepstakes on as many sporting activities as possible. Approaches are also being made to the Melton Building Society, to sponsor competitions, and the Raines Trust, if suitable applicants come forward for RYLA or Youth Exchange.

International - Alison Blythe

The number of reported Polio cases in some of the endemic countries rose during 2013 when compared with the previous year. In others there has been a steady decline. The effect of population movement due largely to refugees fleeing war zones has contributed to the increase in reported cases. The International committee will continue to support RI's initiative to work towards complete eradication of this terrible affliction which is still on track for 2017.

The Osprey project is nearing completion as I write this, and is expected to be successfully finished by June 2014 although the emphasis has moved towards supplying two schools in the Gambia with computers with which to be able to track the migratory routes of the bird rather than the interaction of schools throughout Europe under the flight path. Some school interaction, however, has been set up and is working well.

A Global Grant Application is still planned and it is becoming more apparent that other Rotary clubs within the District are keen to be involved. Members from Sleaford and Huntingdon Cromwell joined JD, EH and AB in an assessment visit relating to the Mahaplag water project and then on to the disaster zone of the East coast of Leyte and north Cebu. The application will move to a more general title of The Philippine Leyte Project with possible involvement not just in the water project but in replenishing educational supplies in the disaster area. The DG awarded in 2014 to fund the water testing has been completed and final reports on the tests are due imminently. A new spring is being tested as the original one was found to contain too high a level of bacteria.

Although originally postponed, the lamb roast is back by popular demand and will be held on Saturday 9th August at 7pm. This will be an open ticketed event and proceeds will be put towards the Philippine project.

Plans for the Faure Requiem concert to be held on Friday 17 October 2014 are now well advanced and details are on the website. As Sir Malcolm Sargent took office as Organist and Choir Master at St Mary's Church on 16 October 1914 this centenary will be linked to the concert. The supporting programme is excellent with well-known works to complement the Requiem.

Foundation - Alison Blythe

It is hoped to proceed with The Global Grant application originally proposed in 2013, during the 2014/15 coming year. This application is likely to be headed by MM but include several other clubs in District 1070 who have expressed an interest in joining to make a much bigger project. If the Mahaplag water testing proposal moves forward, this in itself will require substantial funding due to the nature of the hill from where the new identified water will be sourced. The request by the DG in Tacloban for assistance in replenishing books and computer equipment in the disaster hit schools will raise the original proposed level of grant and therefore the support of the other clubs will be much appreciated. The focus of the grant will be further discussed after Alison Blythe returns from the Philippines just before Club Assembly. The two projects together will satisfy 4 of the focus areas of RI and are expected to run over at least 2 years.

The Foundation Chairman trusts and hopes that the Club will continue to support our own Charity - the RI Foundation - by making the full donation of US\$100 per member in 2014/15.