



Club Assembly 8th June 2015

President's Overview 2015-16 - Richard Abbott

Our club is a traditional lunch time Rotary Club with a long and successful history. In order to thrive we need to address threats which are not unique amongst clubs like ourselves. The foremost of these threats are;

- 1) Declining membership.
- 2) The failure to adapt and modernise.

In the coming year I would hope that the club will actively address such issues and the whole membership will be encouraged to become involved in discussions on relevant topics. My plans for the year are addressed under the following headings;

Club Structure;

I have maintained the traditional committee structure, but placed some subjects (vocation and communications) as subcommittees.

Fundraising.

There will not be a specific fundraising committee and all members will be encouraged to be active in the fundraising arena. Some of the major fundraising activities will occur under project teams, each with a project leader who will report to Club Service. These teams will cross traditional committee boundaries. There will be 5 major fundraising events, namely Santa Fun Run, Duck Race, Concert with Uppingham School, September Ball and Vintage Vehicle Rally. In addition smaller items will be raised within individual committees

Finances;

Because two of our major fundraising events are new projects it is difficult, at this stage, to accurately predict the income that we will generate. We clearly will need to balance intended expenditure against this income. It is our intention to actively support the Rotary Foundation. We will need to be more precise when deciding on the targets for our raised income and more accurate in the manner in which we differentiate our allocated and unallocated fund raising.

Club Vision;

The club undertook a formal visioning exercise last year and some of the recruitment and process issues which arose from this have been addressed. We will continue to have more interactive lunchtime meetings, evening 'social' meetings and day trips. However there remains an element of discontent within the club and we continue to lose members. The club needs to address seriously why it has retention issues. I recommend that this year we hold a number of open forums in which we freely discuss views on what we do well and what we do badly so that the latter can be changed.

President's Charity;

My chosen charity for the year is STOREHOUSE (local foodbank). I will organise 2 fundraising events

- 1) A quiz in February.
- 2) A Treasure Hunt in April

In addition I would like to invite members to make occasional small donations (groceries etc) when they attend the lunchtime meetings which we can distribute on a regular basis to the charity.

In summary we will attempt to engage all members in the activities of the club and will strive to achieve all our targets in a harmonious and enjoyable environment.

Club Service - Ian Neale

The Committee will encompass the Fund Raising and Communications Teams in this Rotary year.

The Club will be presented with a programme both for our regular Monday lunchtime meetings and for a range of social and fund raising events.

The lunchtime programme will include 'external' speakers as well as contributions from members and fellow Rotarians from other Clubs.

The emphasis will be on enjoyment and entertainment but bearing in mind that it is Service before Self.

The arrangements for the key meetings;

Charter Dinner, Presidential Handover, Club Assembly, AGM and EGM will be within the remit of the Committee as will proposals for a Christmas Party, Burns Night and Safari Supper.

Other social non fundraising events that will build up the fellowship between members and also include their partners will be arranged, following the success of the concert visit to Birmingham and the response to our proposed visit to the Hampton Court Flower Show. It is proposed to circulate members as to what other outings they would wish us to organise.

Fund Raising;

Small teams of Rotarians will organise a limited number of major events.

The Santa Fun Run is now well established and will continue in 2015.

The Classic Car and Vintage Vehicle Meet arrangements are well advanced and it is hoped that this will be a major fundraiser for the club and become established in the calendar. Such events need to be planned well in advance.

The Charity Ball arrangements are also well advanced and it is good to be working with the Melton Aurora Rotary club on this venture.

We will also look into the possibility of a community raffle to be organised in 2016/17

The Fund Raising Team will work closely with other committees to understand the financial requirements and to build a sensible programme of events.

Communications

This team having been in existence for two years will continue to develop this crucially important aspect of the running of the Club. The links with external agencies and the media will be further developed but good communication within the Club is essential.

The use of email as the assumed means of contact with members will be enhanced by the introduction of other social media such as Twitter and Facebook. However we must remember the art of talking to each other is always the best form of communication.

Several ideas were proposed at the District Assembly and we will be looking at using them.

It is hoped in the current year to raise the profile of Rotary within the town and Borough.

The Club Service Committee will further develop the work already underway to ensure our archive material is properly managed.

Members will be encouraged to take part in the programme of quizzes and sporting events arranged by District 1070.

The Committee will respond to whatever request President Richard makes for assistance in ensuring the Club's affairs are conducted in a proper manner and to offer every member the opportunity to enjoy their Rotary involvement.

Membership Development and Retention - Michael Osborne

The purpose of the membership committee is to deal with issues relating to the recruitment and retention of members for the Club.

Our membership at the present time is recorded as 40 although several of these are not currently active. We have an urgent need to recruit new members which was recognised in the visioning exercise undertaken just over a year ago. However, that recruitment can only take place with the support of existing members. A key responsibility for existing members is to make suggestions for potential new members. Very few members have made suggestions in recent years.

There are new innovations which can be used to help the recruitment process. Considerable effort has been put into the creation of a satellite Club during the current Rotary year. While the normal expectation within Rotary is that the creation of a satellite club will lead to the establishment of a new independent Club, there may be a role for a satellite Club to be operated on a longer term basis. Rotary now allows the admission of Corporate Members and Associate Members, which may be a way forward for our Club.

The relationship with those who are supportive of Rotary, but who are not able to join the Club as members at the present time needs to be addressed. This is not just an issue for the membership committee but is relevant for those planning and promoting activities whether social or project based and for those charged with publicising and communicating our activities.

We need to cooperate with the other Clubs in Melton Mowbray in promoting Rotary as a reputable and caring organisation, and the recruiting of members to allow the good work that is undertaken to continue.

While it is inevitable that the Club will lose members from time to time, it is important that we offer an appropriate range of opportunities for members to enjoy being part of Rotary. Satisfaction can be gained from the gathering of friends at social events, participation in an event to raise funds, or from the successful delivery of worthwhile projects for the benefit of others. Whatever the key reason that each of us have for belonging to Rotary we must ensure that this happens because it is important for the retention of our members.

The role of the Almoner sits within this committee, but is one that has wider implications. We should as a Club be concerned with matters relating to the welfare of our members, to the widows of members, and to members on extended periods of absence.

The Vocational work undertaken by our Club is to be conducted through a sub committee of the membership committee in 2015/16.

Vocational Services (Sub-Committee of Membership) - Bill Hill

The 2015 committee has not met to discuss plans for the forthcoming year but the proposals detailed are presented as a basis for consideration.

The objective of the team is to identify and utilise the vocational skills and personal experience of fellow Rotarians to offer practical service to communities locally, nationally and internationally.

Identify skills and experience

The District Vocational team has introduced a comprehensive questionnaire to enable such information to be assembled in a manageable database and members will be encouraged to participate in this exercise.

The committee will seek to identify skills and experience of members in a less formal manner and mindful of the wishes of the membership.

Action

There are numerous ways by which we are able to support local projects without the need to contribute financially. For example;

- investigate potential for mock interviews in schools and colleges. The Ratcliffe experience being a typical example.
- the project to create an area within the Me and My Learning centre to inspire and support the clients of this very successful scheme.
- investigate the request for help from the promoters of a local Money Advice Centre
- maintain and develop the club's involvement in the Melton Business Forum and with the local authority in general.
- support the youth café centre in Prospect House.

These suggestions will be investigated and evaluated and any further proposals or developments will be brought to the club in due course.

There will always be opportunities for members to utilise their skills and experience within the day to day activities of the club.

I trust these suggestions meet with the approval of the club and I look forward to your support.

Youth Services - Eric Hall

In line with previous years, the committee will operate primarily in conjunction with Melton Mowbray Belvoir and Melton Aurora as a combined Youth Committee. As such, the following plans will be subject to review and possible development with our colleagues as part of establishing a joint programme.

Competitions

It will be challenging to match the success of last year's committee but that will be our minimum aim. We propose to support: Young Musician, Young Chef, Youth Speaks, Young Writer, Young Designer, Young Photographer and will hope to raise more interest in Young Artist and Young Citizen.

Rotary Stars

The objective of the scheme is to recognise and acknowledge Primary School children for acts of good citizenship.

We are hopeful of further developing last year's commitment to obtain wider participation from schools within our area. The scheme relies on the full co-operation of head teachers but past testimonies from participating schools demonstrate the benefits and satisfaction that can reward their involvement.

Rotary International Youth Exchange (RYE)

Short term exchange (STEP) gives young people (15-19 years) the opportunity to share a reciprocal family experience in another country. Recent attempts to find suitable families willing and able to participate in the scheme have failed to reach the final stage. However, we remain confident that success is achievable and will continue the work to identify a suitable candidate.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

The stated aim is to help less privileged young people to benefit from this initiative. Thanks to generous support from the Raynes Trust a worthy candidate was selected in the last Rotary year. We plan to succeed again this year but finding the necessary candidate and financial support will again need to be fruitful searches.

Warning Zone

As noted in the Youth report for the AGM, while the Warning Zone has been supported in past years and is seen as a very valuable educational resource, cost is an issue and the policy will be reviewed in the coming Rotary Year.

Interact

Interest in Interact in Melton Vale has failed to reach the levels shown in previous years but we remain willing to investigate and assist with initiatives to increase membership.

Estimated Costs:

Youth Speaks - £50	Young Chef - £250	Rotary Stars - £50
Young Writer - £35	Young Photographer - £35	Young Designer - £35
Youth Exchange - £75	RYLA - £290	Warning Zone - £500
Total Estimated Cost - £1,320	Current level of funds - £ 500	Shortfall - £820

* The Committee's ability to successfully deliver the programme outlined above will very much depend on the skills and experiences of its members. For many years we have benefitted from a committed team that comprised enthusiasm, experience and skill. Sadly, some of these qualities will be less obvious since Linda Moore and Jenny Foreman have decided, after commendable service to the Club and Youth Committee, to devote their energies to different causes.

International - Alison Blythe

The number of reported Polio cases in most of the endemic countries dropped in 2014 with the exception of Pakistan where cases have risen. This is thought to be connected to the ongoing civil war situation. The International committee will continue to support RI's initiative to work towards complete eradication of this terrible infliction which is still on track for 2017.

The Osprey project was successfully completed in June/July 2014 and since then has really taken off in the way that more schools are now involved with communication between those in the UK and others along the flight path of the birds.

The main focus of International has been the successful application of a Global Grant to support the repair of classrooms in the Sagkahan Primary School, Tacloban, Philippines. This Grant from Foundation has been supported by donations from many clubs both in District 1070 and others in the UK which has brought many people in contact with each other. The concert held at St Mary's Church in October 2014 was most successful and raised a substantial proportion of the contribution from our own club to this project. The International Committee have worked hard on this project and used the skills from all members – which particularly came in useful when the Grant Application had to be revised. Thanks go particularly to John Dehnel, Eric Hall and Graham Betts in this, not forgetting Janet Shortland for her fund raising lunches. Alison visited the school in May to view the work already in progress and will be reporting back separately on this. A further visit is planned in August/September for as many as would like to go.

This summer we are holding a "beef roast" on Sunday 2 August at 12.30pm. The tickets will be £15 including a glass of wine. The event has been moved back to lunch time in the hope that more families will be able to come and enjoy the food and many outdoor games available. It will be an open ticketed event and proceeds will be put towards the Philippine project. Anticipated receipts should be in the region of £400 - £500.

Another concert to further support the next stage of funding for the Philippine project is to be held on Friday 16 October 2015 with the main focal work being Schubert's Symphony No 8 – known as the “unfinished” and the Uppingham School Chamber Orchestra will be the principal performers. The supporting programme will include Aaron Copland's “Fanfare to the Common Man”. Agreement has just been received from Uppingham regarding the design of the programme and tickets – the latter being currently at the printers and will be available shortly. It is hoped a further £4000 - £5000 will be raised at this event.

Alison is once again opening her garden to the public through the NGS scheme, with the Philippine Project being the beneficiary of all refreshment takings – generally £250 - £300 per year! Janet is kindly going to host another lunch in Spring 2016 which will hopefully raise £350 - £400 and we are looking to “do something different” as another fund raiser.

It is proposed to apply for a further District Grant and possibly second Global Grant to enable the work on the school to be completed.

It has been a successful year for the International team and Alison wishes to thank everyone for their help.

Foundation (Manifesto) - Alison Blythe

The successful application and receipt of The Global Grant in connection with the repairs to some of the school buildings in Sagkahan, Tacloban has been a great achievement and enabled work to start immediately in the hope that as much as possible can be completed before the start of the new school year on 1 June. Boxes of books, second hand computers and stationery have been steadily trickling across the oceans through the balakbayan scheme (suggested by Joe Carrington) and although they can take up to 3 months to arrive, never-the-less have now all been unpacked and put to good use. The current DG in Tacloban has offered a further US\$10000 towards the next grant application.

The Foundation Chairman is disappointed that the Club is unlikely to be in a position to contribute the full recommended amount to the RI Foundation this year of \$100 per person. This is the first time in many years. So far a 50% donation has been made. This matter has been discussed at Club Council and Mr Horn and Mrs Blythe were delegated to further discuss and propose a suggested way forward in order to avoid the annual scramble for funds that currently exists. The Club, as we all know, is fortunate in receiving many grants both at District Level and now International Level towards the projects that it supports at home and abroad. It seems only right that we should be in a position to make our contribution in turn.

Following our discussion we therefore propose a way forward which could include some of the following options, the aim being to agree an acceptable format with membership, before the end of September 2015 :-

1. That a 5% - 10% contribution from every fund raising activity be placed towards the Club's Foundation donation. At the current rate of funds raised, this will not generate sufficient to meet the target of US\$100 per person, but will make a significant contribution
2. That an amount of say 50p - £1 per week per member be collected as a separate item – not related to the weekly lunch-time amount specifically to go towards the Foundation contribution. This would be collected from all members whether present at lunch or not
3. Members continue to make their own contributions. We know several already follow this route for which we are most grateful.

Any donation can of course attract “gift aid” and in order to make less work for the Treasurer quarterly donations would be easier to manager.

I appreciate that some of these suggestions may not be popular, but hope it is a practical solution and that the Club can take this forward for further discussion in order to reach a successful conclusion.

Community - Adrienne Holland

Our work in the Community has to be seen as a major part of the club's work as it, along with the work of the Youth committee, is the face of the club for the local community and people. We need to have a certain amount of flexibility in order to respond effectively and reasonably speedily to issues that arise and which require support. To fulfil Rotary aims within the local community we need to check that we have the balance right in terms of funding, time, effort and commitment. Community and our Youth work perhaps need to be seen as our core and all members will need to be supportive and as involved as possible to make our work effective.

The work of the Community committee will continue on the foundations already laid but will be implemented according to the available funds and any identified needs, changes or developments set and agreed by the committee and the club as a whole.

The following budget figures are guidelines only and may be changed as necessary.

KidsOut trip to Twinlakes

Presently the club funds the whole cost of a day trip to TwinLakes for Birchwood school. The Grove has not been taking up our offer and so our concentration has been with Birchwood; although this could change we will assume that this will be the situation in the near future.

The committee needs to discuss various aspects of this activity:-

- is it appropriate that we continue to fund the whole cost of the day/
- is it feasible that the greatest bulk of the selling of ducks for the duck race falls predominantly on the committee, with present practice meaning that one person takes the main burden of time and responsibility?
- have we checked with Birchwood that this activity represents a good value for money as we at the club think that it does? How could/should it be changed or improved?

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, KidsOut etc.

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. Again, we need to discover from the schools just how much the Life education visit is valued and whether it represents good value.

Budget £1000

Shelter Box

We will support the 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*