

## Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting, Thursday 29 January 2014

District Governor Margaret Morley chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Thursday 29 January 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.

There were 146 Rotarians present from 62 Clubs (Area A 10; B 10; C 8; D 8; E 10; F 6; G 10 Clubs represented) and 2 Rotarians visiting from Norway.

### C. 13/14.32 Welcome and Apologies

District Governor Margaret welcomed all who were present, and asked Past District Governors and those Rotarians attending a District Council Meeting for the first time to stand to be recognised. She also welcomed AG John Stennes and Kjell Hoydal from District 2305 (Norway).

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Dan Connan, Barry Hasdell, Roger McDermott (New Club Formation Officer), Linda May and Roger May,

District Officers: Roger Neuberg (International Team Leader), Mary Whitehouse (Assistant Governor Area G) and David Morris (District Editor, News & Events).

Clubs: Biggleswade, Leicester Novus, Loughborough, Melton Mowbray Belvoir, Oundle, Sandy, Sleaford, and The Deepings,

Individuals: Gerry Barwood (Secretary, Ashby Hastings), Patrick Boylan (Leicester), Keith Cawdell (Bedford de Parys), Liz Cooke (Secretary, Peterborough Ortons), Juliet Gayford (President, Kempston), Malcolm Mann (Secretary, Rutland), Neil Rowbotham (President, Loughborough Beacon), Virendra Soni (Bedford Castle), Pam Spokes (Secretary, Leicester Novus), Martin Stephenson (President, Huntingdon Cromwell), Ian Thompson (Secretary, Hinckley), Chris Tily (President, Stamford Burghley) and Keith Yates (President, Melton Mowbray Belvoir).

### C. 13/14.33 Act of Remembrance

DG Margaret advised that the names of Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting were displayed on the screen: John Bower (Bourne), Alan Elston (Coalville), John Gilbert (Honorary Member, Grantham), Ian Glen (Former Member, Oadby Launde, Past AG and Past Assistant Secretary), Rodney Girdlestone (Spalding), Tony Gray (The Deepings), Nigel Kember (St Ives), Dick Hill (Stamford Burghley), Brian Lewis (Ise Valley), Dennis Pearson (Ise Valley), Jorgen Romose (Northampton), Norman Spiers (Melton Mowbray Belvoir), Trevor Wildman (Kettering Huxloe), Nick Yelland (Bedford Castle),

DG Margaret advised that the Book of Remembrance was available to which memorandum could be added. All present stood in an act of remembrance.

### C 13/14.34 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the last Council Meeting held on Tuesday 22 October 2013 was proposed by IPDG Chris Chew, seconded by Tony Robbs (Kettering) and agreed unanimously.

### C 12/13.35 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### C 13/14.36 District Governor's Report

DG Margaret referred to her message circulated via Club Presidents and asked for any questions, of which there were none.

### C12/13.37 District Secretary

District Secretary Dick Parsley advised that voting papers for Clubs for the election for the District Representative to the 2016 Council of Legislation were in the baskets for collection.

Following the delegated powers used for the nomination of a candidate for RI Director 2015/17, DS Dick said that he had received a written request as to what other delegated powers were available to the District Executive. He advised that the main delegated powers were to authorise Clubs to accept Associate Members and virement of funds between lines within the current budget. Everything else had to be agreed at the District Council meetings.

DS Dick said that so far 51 incoming Presidents 50 secretaries and 50 treasurers were shown on the District Database and asked Club Secretaries of the remaining Clubs to update their records.

District Protection, Equality and Diversity Officer, David Brown had nothing to add to his written report.

Health and Safety Officer, John Steedman reported that a new version of the RIBI H&S Manual should be available for Presidents Elect at PETS.

#### C 13/14.36 District Treasurer's Report

DG Margaret advised that the 2012/13 accounts had been circulated with just less notice than required by Standing Order and asked for agreement for the accounts to be considered at this shortened notice. This was agreed unanimously.

DT Eric Lenox, having received no questions, proposed adoption of the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2013; this was seconded by IPDG Chris Chew and agreed unanimously.

Following a request by DT Eric there were no questions concerning the accounts for the period ended 31 December 2013.

With regard to the 2014/15 Budget, DT Eric said that he had comments concerning Kid Out and Calvert to which he had replied in his written report. Tony Robbs (Chairman, Community Team) said that that Kids Out epitomised Rotary Service Above Self and he was very sad that the District subsidy had been reduced which would necessitate an increased cost (for June 2015) to participating Clubs from £125 to £155 which following a previous large increase he considered unworkable. He also said no member of the Executive had visited a Committee meeting to discuss this funding change. Mark Winfield (Calvert project organiser) said that he regretted the reduction in District budget for Calvert. DT Eric said that for consistency with other projects the Executive had decided that where an activity was not a constitutional District requirement then the administration cost would still be covered by the District budget but not the participation cost. In a plea to support extra funding for Kids Out, Bryan Swain (Huntingdon Cromwell) suggested that money budgeted for such items as the Presidents' Tea Party at District Conference could be used. Mike Warrington (Stamford) suggested that another way forward was for a proposal to be made that the capitation fee be increased to £33 to provide funding for these projects. No seconder came forward.

DG Margaret said that the District was totally committed to these two projects and the decision to limit the subsidy to administrative costs had not been taken lightly. The Kids Out Charity had significantly reduced its contribution and the reserves for this project had been used up. It was not fair on those Clubs that did not take part, or those from the edge of the District who used other facilities, to subsidise the participation costs.

DT Eric proposed adoption of the District Budget for 2014/15 as circulated including a District Capitation Fee of £32 per member be adopted. This was seconded by AG John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) and carried with 10 votes against.

#### C 13/14.37 Assistant Governors' Reports

There were no additions or questions concerning the written reports which had been circulated.

#### C 13/14.24 Frequency of District Council Meetings

DG Margaret introduced this item and emphasised that although the proposal came from several Clubs, in accordance with SO only one Club could propose.

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Grantham, Kevin Lawry proposed "That from July 2014 onwards, Council Meetings of District 1070 be held three times annually; a frequency allowed under RIBI by-laws and practiced by the majority of Districts within RIBI. A schedule for these Council Meetings and the associated preparation meetings be planned by the Executive to best accommodate the administrative needs of District 1070."

Kevin Lawry said that this proposal was being put forward after agreement of Clubs in Area A and taking account of the long drive on dark evenings to the January meeting. Of all the Districts in RIBI, 22 out of the 24 that responded held only three meetings per year. Area open meetings gave Clubs a good opportunity to discuss topics of wider Rotary interest. There would be a significant financial saving in reducing the series of meetings by 25%. And a significant reduction in carbon footprint would be achieved. DGE Ken Billington seconded the proposal on behalf of the District Executive. Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) said he was against the proposal as four meetings were needed to perform the proper duties of the Council. The meetings should be changed to be more effective with members taking a more active part. After a question from DG Margaret he confirmed that he was not speaking on behalf of his Club although no objections had been raised against his views when talking to members from his Club. AG John Dehnel said that members could become actively involved by joining District committees, or they could contact their Assistant Governor who could then raise matters at the District Executive meetings. AG Chris Davies said that Area forums were a good place for views to be put forward and discussed. District Independent Accounts Examiner Robin Gibson said that to comply with Standing Orders, the previous year's accounts and the budget for the forthcoming year were approved at the January meeting. DT Eric said that although the meeting dates had not been determined he had agreed that there would be sufficient time for the accounts to be approved at a November meeting and the budget could be approved at a meeting in March. David French (Blaby Meridian) proposed that voting on the motion was postponed so that "flesh could be put on the bone" including a specific meeting schedule. There was no seconder to this proposal. Colin Scott (Holbeach) asked "What was so special that District 1070 needed four meetings a year?" that it was not sensible to hold a meeting because we always had; and that it was a good idea to vote for this proposal. DG Margaret said that Area meetings were a good forum where Rotarians did not feel the need to hold back and that AGs would report back to the District Executive.

The proposal was agreed by 129 votes in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions.

It was agreed that a schedule of dates for future meetings to be presented at the April meeting.

#### C 13/14.39 Project Team Chairmen's Reports

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by all Committees.

**Youth:** Moira Bartlett said that all Rotaract Clubs in the District had been represented at a meeting last Saturday and it was good that all were now in touch and she hoped many ideas from the meeting could be put into practice. The Rotaract challenge had taken place at Youth Speak semi-finals and Young Chef, and would culminate on 21 June 2014 at the District Showcase/Young Designer competition. She asked Clubs to support their entrants by attending the Youth competitions. She reminded Clubs participating in Young Artist to let her know by 14 February 2014. Moira asked for volunteers interested in running Young Chef next year, Young Musician, or taking over as District Interact Officer to contact her.

PDG Andrew Cowling said that applications forms were in the baskets for our District's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) taking place 26 July – 2 August 2014. He offered

to speak at any Club who had not yet participated and said a DVD made jointly by Districts 1070 and 1080 was available.

Martin Bridge (South Holland) said that whilst the District Website was excellent it did not contain details about Rotaract. District Chairman for Rotaract, Alan Jukes (Brackley) offered assistance to any Clubs considering forming a Rotaract Club.

**Community:** Tony Robbs asked for volunteers to join the Committee for 2014/15. Calvert organiser, Mark Winfield (Rushden) asked Clubs to get applications in early to ensure a place was available. He expected to be short of Rotaract helpers and said applications from members of Rotarians families over 18 would be welcomed. DG Margaret commended Calvert as an amazing project.

**Community/Vocational Awards.** DG Margaret recommended we share ideas with other Clubs; she had seen so many good projects on her visits, all of which merited wider dissemination.

Support Team Chairmen's Reports

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by Committees.

**Communications:** Tim Tucker referred to the Bus Polio advert photograph competition and DG Margaret announced that AG Mary Whitehead was the winner.

Leadership, Development & Training: Peter Brearley advised that all District Team members and potential members were invited to attend the District Team Development Day taking place on Saturday 8 February 2014, and requested bookings to be made by 3 February 2014. He said that following requests a training course was being developed for Club Charity Account Trustees. This would be run as a small group with the first taking place in March and anyone interested should contact him.

**Membership:** A new Club is in formation at Groby near Leicester.

**Conference:** Conference Manager, Neville Thompson asked for any questions about the 2014 Scarborough Conference budget. Robert Palmer (Thrapston & Raunds) said he was pleased to see the budget had been amended to show a small profit but asked whether the Conference Committee could look at further savings such as not holding the Presidents' Tea Party or reducing the number at the Sunday lunch. Robert requested a poll was taken amongst Incoming Presidents at PETS to see how many wished to attend the Tea Party.

CM Neville said that the Conference Committee included items requested by the DG for that year. IPDG Chris Chew explained that the Tea Party had been used in the past to give a compulsory forum for the RI/RIBI Representative to speak avoiding an additional slot in the plenary programme. Geoff Nichols (South Holland) said that when he was conference manager, the RI requirement was for nine hours of business.

It was emphasised this no longer applies. DG Margaret commented she gave the choice to 2013/14 Presidents, time in York or a session with the RI representative; it had been their choice.

In reply to a question from Richard Wharton (Loughborough Beacon), CM Neville said the cost of transport of regalia included the year-long storage and transport of a pallet of equipment and files. He also confirmed that the main hotels would be providing free car parking and a reduced rate with NCP had been negotiated for other hotels.

CM Neville proposed adoption of the budget for the 2014 Conference in Scarborough as circulated including a Registration Fee of £40 per delegate. This was seconded David French (Blaby Meridian) and agreed unanimously.

C 13/14.40 The Rotary Foundation

Foundation Chairman, Trevor Davies advised that a PeaceJam for Rotarians and school partners would be held on Saturday 12 July 2014. Booking details had been put in the baskets for the

Foundation Lunch at Greetham Valley Golf Club on Sunday 6 April 2014 at which the speaker would be Jean Best talking about PeaceJam. Trevor emphasised this was about the future for our young people

DRFC Trevor proposed adoption of the District Designated Fund Share distribution as circulated. This was seconded by AG Janet Cooke and agreed unanimously.

DG Margaret announced she had received a message of congratulation from RI for the efficient way in which the stewardship of grants had been administered in District 1070, and she passed on congratulations to the Foundation Team.

#### C 13/14.41 Next Meeting

DG Margaret confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Thursday 24 April 2014 at 7.30pm

#### C13/14.32 Any other business

- a) AG John Dehnel reported on the significant support following the recent typhoon in District 3860 (Philippines) with which Melton Mowbray already had existing links. He also complimented Bob Parfitt (Wellingborough Hatton) on organising the filling of containers of relief material. He said that he and other members of the Melton Mowbray Club would be travelling to 3860 on 26 April 2014 and they would welcome members from other Clubs considering providing assistance with sustainable development to join them.
  
- b) DGE Ken Billington reported on the announcement at the RI Assembly that India had been Polio free for three years and confirmation that type B and C Polio had been eradicated. DG Margaret emphasised District 1070 was always well represented on National Immunisation Days in India and wished to thank all those who had taken part. President Colin Scott Holbeach RC reported several participating in February.
  
- c) DT Eric reminded Club President that RIBI rules required them to supply him with a certificate that their Club accounts had been examined and approved.

There being no other business, DG Margaret closed the meeting.

District Governor \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_