



***Minutes of the District Council meeting***

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel  
Corby**

**District Governor Roger McDermott**

## District Council Meeting, Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011

District Governor Roger McDermott chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 133 Rotarians present from 66 Clubs. (Area A 9; B 11; C 9; D 11; E 10; F 6 and G 10 clubs represented).

### **C. 10/11. 30 Welcome and Apologies:**

The District Governor welcomed all who were present, in particular the PDGs and all those Rotarians attending their first Council meeting: all named were invited to stand and be recognised. He welcomed three visitors from Kettering Rotaract: Simon Turner, Sara Turner and Paige Field.

Apologies were received from:

**PDGs:** Ron Watson, John Butcher, Martin Bridge & Roger May

**Officers:** DGE Linda May, DGN Chris Chew, Peter Brearley (AG Area F), Geoff Blurton (AG Elect Area E) & Lesley Hammond (International)

**Rotary Clubs:** Kimbolton Castle, Sandy, Peterborough Minster, Lutterworth Wycliffe & Leicester De Montfort

**President:** Ken Challenger

**Secretaries:** Bryan Swain, Stuart Mucklejohn, & Peter Sweatman

### **C. 10/11. 31 Act of Remembrance:**

The District Governor named the following Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council meeting. All present stood as a formal act of remembrance.

Martin Burton (Melton Mowbray)

Ray Youngs (Kempston)

Cyril Smith (Biggleswade)

Peter Mason (Hinckley)

PDG Peter Moreton (Nene Valley)

Ian Chrystal (Bedford)

Kevin Coleman (St Neots St Mary's)

Tom Walker (Market Harborough)

Ron Hadnam (Peterborough)

Marie Plumb (Peterborough Ortons)

David Woodworth (Ashby Hastings)

Ralph Riley (Stamford)

### **C.10/11. 32 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

There were a number of minor corrections to the previous minutes;

C. 10/11. 16 Robin Stubbings is the President of Bedford Castle and not Secretary as stated.

C. 10/11. 20 The amount of contributions should all be in US\$ and not £

C. 10/11. 21 Rotary Club of Daventry: Club President's correct email address is:

[m.large829@btinternet.com](mailto:m.large829@btinternet.com)

C. 10/11. 23 The RIBI conference venue for 2011 was incorrectly stated as Belfast, it is of course Dublin.

PDG Richard Hyde proposed the duly amended minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 should be agreed as a true record.

Seconded by President John Horn (Melton Mowbray) and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

### **C. 10/11. 33 Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **C. 10/11. 34 District Governor's Verbal Report:**

The District Governor informed those present that Thanks for Life leaflets had been put in baskets and posters would be available for collection from the back of the room.

He reminded Club Presidents and Secretaries of the deadline for Presidential Citations (31<sup>st</sup> March) and urged all who qualify to submit.

Voting forms for the COL representative have also been put in baskets. Three nominations have been received:

PDG Martin Bridge (South Holland), PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby) & PDG Richard Hyde (Ramsey).

The District Governor said RIBI President Jim Moulson will be in District 1070 from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. Jim will visit Sailability at Rutland Water and attend the joint Charter of the Blaby & Wigston Clubs and also the Oadby Launde Charter.

### **C. 10/11. 35 District Secretary's Comments and Correspondence:**

An update from the written report:

The District Secretary reported that, with the exception of 2 Clubs, all have now attended one of the 9 District Database meetings held around the District. He thanked Ken Billington for his assistance. He emphasised that if Clubs don't get to grips with the new system, then any District Directory, either electronic or hard copy won't have their details in. A small minority of members have objected to their details being entered into the new database.

Under the Database Act and protocols their decision has to be accepted. The District Secretary expressed surprise that

these same people seemed happy to have their details in the current printed directory, an uncontrolled database to which anyone could have access, rather than the password protected much more secure electronic version that would result from the District Database system.

Any future printed version will reflect exactly what is entered in the database.

As advised to all Club Secretaries - RI Semi annual reports, sent out by mistake to all Clubs by RI, can be ignored. Club Treasurers complete separate returns to RIBI.

Details of PETS had been put in the basket system. Club Secretaries were asked to hand to Presidents Elect.

#### **Change of District Officers details**

In error the DG's incorrect email address had been printed on the Officers Page in the District Directory. Club Secretaries had been advised, also the error was reported at the July Council meeting. Emails however are still going to the DG's defunct email address. Please note his correct email address is: **kandrmcdermott@talktalk.net**

#### **Change of Club details**

##### **Rotary club of St Neots St. Mary's**

After some 25+ years of meeting at the White Horse in Eaton Socon, St Neots they are moving to: -

The Chequers Inn,

St Mary's Street,

Eynesbury,

ST NEOTS, Cambs. PE19 2TA

Tel: 01480 - 472116

(with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> February)

#### **Protection Officer**

Rtn. David Brown had nothing to report.

Following the District Secretary's report, members asked several questions of the District Secretary and the following noted:

Several issues were raised regarding the use of the District Database.

Concern was raised that exclusion of members from the District Directory, based on unwillingness to be entered on the District Database, could be discriminatory.

It was also noted that current Standing Orders state that capitation is based on the number of members in the District Directory.

It was agreed that, should the database be used, Club Secretaries would need to inform the District Secretary and District Treasurer on or just before 1<sup>st</sup> July of any member not registered on the database.

The District Secretary stressed that the printed District Directory is itself a form of database, but one that cannot be kept up to date. Direct use of the database would enable a PDF format to be sent to the printers which would reduce the load of Club Secretaries and reduce printing costs (based on a copy per member) by £1000.

The need for manual changes would negate these advantages.

The District Secretary acknowledged the need for a change to Standing Orders.

He would have liked the matter to have been addressed at this meeting, but District Executive needed to be certain that the District Database would be fully functional prior to a proposal for amendment.

He hoped to be able to inform Clubs in time for the matter to be discussed and voted upon at the April District Council meeting.

In view of the financial implications further discussion took place under the budget section in the Treasurers report.

#### **C. 10/11. 36 District Treasurer's Report:**

Examined Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Current Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 and Conference/ District Budget Proposals for 2011/12 had been distributed prior to the meeting.

The District Governor requested that Standing Orders be suspended to allow for longer discussion of the budget proposals: proposed by PDG Tony Martin, seconded by PDG Neville Hackett and unanimously approved.

#### **Standing Orders Suspended**

AG Geoff Richardson proposed the examined accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 be adopted, seconded by Chris Knight and unanimously approved.

The District Treasurer outlined the budgeting process and the input made by District Officers and the Conference Committee. Figures reflect the increase in VAT (we are not VAT registered) and rising fuel costs. He explained that the budget is designed to support the delivery of the Service & Project programmes, Training and the District Conference (required by RI). He reiterated that the duration and scope of the Southport Conference was as agreed by District Council at an earlier meeting. Numbers for conference have been calculated on the basis of 700 attending,

considered prudent based on the attendance at last year's conference at Bournemouth. The subvention is based on an agreed formula with the Southport Council and is expected to be achieved. District's support for Conference has returned to 2009 levels of £23,100.

The District Treasurer pointed out possible reductions in the overall budget could be achieved by reducing the number of District Directories to say 10 per club, and revisiting the way we produce News and Events. He reminded those present that these changes were both rejected by District Council last January. Reducing the number of directories as above would result in a reduction in capitation of £1 per member. Should additional copies be desired these could be purchased at £1.25 per copy.

Hugh Holden (Uppingham) considered capitation of £8.40 per member towards conference to be self indulgent. He felt the conference committee should be given a set capitation and made to work within it.

The District Treasurer replied that Southport had already been agreed. Hugh was concerned about future conferences. Receiving printed copies of News & Events costs £3.65 per member, and using electronic versions could save a large amount of money.

Communications Chair Graham Walker (Werrington) was concerned that no budget had been set for membership development or marketing. The District Treasurer explained that the money for these was included under the membership and extension headings. He offered that these could be shown as a separate line.

Past District Treasurer Robert Gibson (Rushden Chichele) added that previous amount for this had come from reserves.

John Hardaker (Wellingborough) was concerned regarding a 34% rise in training costs (PETS, DOTS etc.)

The District Treasurer explained that uptake for training had been slow initially but demand is now increasing. Additional training has been laid on for new Secretaries and Treasurers and shown to be very worthwhile.

The District Secretary added that venue hire costs for 'Training in a Day' are high. Holywell Park at Loughborough University is expensive (£45 per person per day, plus VAT) but is considered worthwhile to motivate and train incoming Presidents in the proper environment. He explained some costs are offset in part as Presidents Elect and District Officers pay their full meal costs.

The subject of the District Database and District Directories provoked further lively discussion. Comments were made that Club members needed to be made fully aware of the cost/benefit implications before decisions could be made on how next year's District Directory was produced. Further concerns were raised regarding payments from members not listed and the limitations of an incomplete database with missing entries. It was suggested the idea of the database should be better marketed – members seeing it from the wrong angle. Frustration was expressed since hardly any member is missing from the RI Global database held in Evanston.

The District Treasurer said, once the position is clear, Clubs will be circulated and the matter discussed.

The District Secretary agreed to review the situation and attempt to market the database anew explaining clearly the advantages, cost and time savings, data security and additional benefits.

Sue Roberts (Loughborough Beacon) suggested, rather than 10 printed directories per Club, the number distributed should be pro rata the number of members.

The District Treasurer said he was happy to put this alternative forward.

**Robert Gibson proposed the District Budget for 2011-12 be approved by District Council, seconded by John Cartright. Approval was granted by a large majority (2 votes against).**

The District Governor thanked everyone who had contributed to the discussion.

### **Standing Orders Reinstated**

**C. 10/11. 37 Matters referred to District Executive and now referred to District Council for Approval**

- a) To adopt the Data Protection Policy for District

**A vote was taken and adoption of the Data Protection Policy was unanimously approved**

**C. 10/11. 38 To consider the reports and decide the venue and date for the 2013 District Conference**

Details of the proposed venues had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The District Governor requested that Standing Orders once again be suspended to allow for longer discussion: proposed by PDG Iain Vernon, seconded by AG Garner Roberts and unanimously approved.

### **Standing Orders Suspended**

DGN(E) Margaret Morley stated "The future of conference is in your hands". She discussed the feasibility of a 1-day Conference with Peterborough being the only practical solution. Margaret expressed concern this option would completely change the nature of our successful conferences. Previous conferences had been long enough to provide a

balance of inspirational speakers, fun and fellowship, active participation of partners and the pleasure of going somewhere different. She was concerned that prices could escalate if the required 650 delegates were not achieved. Considering alternatives, but still mindful of cost, travel and carbon footprint Margaret had visited York and Lincoln. At Lincoln the conference centre is outside the city requiring transport to be provided for delegates to and from their hotels.

Margaret highlighted the many attractions at York including the Barbican Centre able to take 1000 delegates and within walking distance of hotels. She expressed her wish that the conference be held in York.

PDG Neville Hackett urged those present to support Margaret and make the conference the highlight of the year.

Norman Brown (Bourne) considered the Barbican Centre to be high risk as it has been closed since 2004 and not yet refurbished. He was concerned that York City Council may not go ahead with SMG Europe, the proposed operators of the conference centre.

On her visit to York Margaret had been assured refurbishment would take place and be completed by 2012.

The Race Course would be an alternative but was outside the town, which would require transport for delegates to and from the conference centre and their hotels.

PDG Richard Hyde enquired of the capacity at Lincoln. Margaret replied the venue is huge

Rodney Spokes (Leicester) said the actual decision required was whether to reject a 1-Day Conference and retain our quality conference so successful previously.

The District Secretary felt the District Governor for 2013 should be supported in her choice of York – ‘subject to satisfactory contracts being entered into to protect the District, particularly on any penalty clauses being included to ensure that in the event of the facilities not being ready in time, that sufficient compensation made to the District an making alternative arrangements’.

He emphasised that whichever way District Council vote, arrangements must be monitored carefully and safeguards set.

**DGN(E) Margaret Morley proposed York be the venue for the 2013 District Conference, seconded by Conference Secretary Bill Hill. The proposal was accepted by a large majority (9 against).**

### **Standing Orders Reinstated**

#### **C. 10/11. 39 Assistant Governors’ Reports:**

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Assistant Governors present had nothing to add to their reports.

#### **C. 10/11. 40 Project Team Reports:**

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

##### **a) Youth (incl. RYLA, Interact, Youth Exchange, Rotaract):**

Mary Whitehead had several points to add to her report:

**Youth Speaks** – Intermediate semi-finals are now completed, seniors this week. Intermediate numbers down this year however there will be 6 teams at each of the 3 venues for the senior competition.

**Young Chef** – First final this weekend at Huntingdon, Leicester final the following weekend. This is not a spectator event but Rotarians are welcome to go along to support and view final results.

**Reminders** – Entries for Young Citizen due in by Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Mary asked to be informed (email or phone) of any entries submitted.

Young Writer and Young Photographer entries are due soon – dates in report. Mary understood the Young Writer topic “Community Spirit” to be causing teachers some concern. She asked Clubs to reassure schools that the heading on the piece of writing only has to reflect the topic in some broad manner.

Display boards are available to borrow – please contact Mary

**Youth Exchange** – 29 young people from District have now signed up. YE Officer Colin Yarwood (Peterborough Ortons) introduced Ellie Davies who is about to go to Argentina for a 2 month vocational led New Generations exchange and hoping to improve her Spanish. Her exchange partner from District 4855 will be over here in July & August. The District Governor presented her with a District banner and letter. He congratulated Colin.

**Young Photographer** – President Courtney Finn (Grantham) presented a magnificent trophy to the committee. The shield had been made by a member of the Club in memory of PDG David Green, himself a great photographer.

##### **b) Community and Vocational:**

Simon Adlam added to his previously issued report. He confirmed that Mark Winfield (Rushden) has received just 8 registrations for Calvert candidates (35 places available). The District Governor said Calvert was a wonderful project and reinforced that applications for Calvert places should be made ASAP.

Kids Out envelopes are in baskets.

The District Secretary asked whether problems with Stroke Awareness have been resolved. Simon reported this to be a matter of continuing concern but 8 Clubs have registered.

Compliance remains an issue.

The rules imposed cannot be changed.

**c) Foundation (incl. a proposal for Council's approval):**

**Distribution of District Designated Fund – 2011/12 – “SHARE”**

John Dehnel confirmed that a small amount of money for district grants has been returned by Clubs and is available (until 28<sup>th</sup> January) - bids for local and overseas grants should go to Alan Davis (Nene Valley) ASAP.

John reminded those present of the need for Clubs to re-qualify for the right to apply for grants next year. Training for Presidents will be at PETS and for Foundation Chairs at District Assembly.

A suitable Rotarian is required to lead the Vocational Training Team going to Kenya from January to April 2012.

Clubs are asked to seek team members who fit specific categories: 1 physiotherapist, 2 SEN teachers and 1 child psychologist. The group will be involved training both teachers and students in 2 SEN schools near Nairobi.

The Foundation lunch will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March with guest speaker Hilary Boone presenting a very different view of the effects of polio.

**SHARE**

On behalf of the Foundation committee, **John Dehnel proposed the following distribution of the District**

**Designated Fund (DDF)** allocated by the Rotary Foundation for 2011-12. (circulated to Clubs prior to the meeting)

Available DDF will be \$114,463:

- District Grants: Proposal: \$55k;
- Global Grants for club humanitarian projects: Proposal: \$30k. (sufficient for two fresh Global Grants);
- Global Grant to support Vocational Training Team: Proposal: \$15k;
- Global Grant to support a university scholar: Proposal: not to support an ambassadorial-type scholarship;
- Peace Fellowships: Proposal: to donate \$5k to the Bill Huntley Peace Fellowship fund;
- Polio: Proposal: ca. \$10k.

**The proposal was seconded by John Melton and unanimously approved.**

**d) International (incl. RFE):**

Apologies had been received from Lesley Hammond – there were no questions for Mike Kingdon (Biggleswade Ivel).

**Support Team Reports:**

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**e) Communications (incl. District Editor, Web site, Marketing):**

Graham Walker has spare copies of News & Events which will be available at the rear of the room.

He reminded those present of the Members Only section of the District Website, a place to store minutes etc.

**f) Conference:**

**Southport 2011:** Conference Manager Chris Knight confirmed the dates as 30<sup>th</sup> September to 2nd October. Abba Reunion is booked for the dinner and dance on Saturday night with in-house catering. A Bavarian Evening will be held in the Floral Hall on Friday evening. No transport will be provided other than for disabled. Ann Widdecombe will be a keynote speaker. Registration forms will be available at PETS. Further details on the website.

**Telford 2012:** Conference Secretary Bill Hill visited Telford and The International Centre with DGN Chris Chew and Stage Manager Chris Knight on 11<sup>th</sup> January. He admitted to having been sceptical of this choice initially but found the International Centre much changed and the venue very convenient for delegates from the East Midlands. Bill gave a report citing attractions of accessibility, adjacent hotels and free car parking. He said the conference centre had two levels, offering open access to the expansive floor areas without passageways, more stairs or escalators. The Ironbridge Suite, proposed for our plenary sessions and the dinner dance on Saturday, has flexible walling which may be altered to suit our exact requirements giving plenty of space to move around and socialize. The ceiling height of 6 metres makes for a more intimate atmosphere than other venues we have used. The House of Friendship will be held in an area which offers complete flexibility and numerous options for layout and access. The International Centre and three of the hotels including the Holiday Inn are under common management. This will simplify registration and check in for delegates. Two of the hotels, offering 250 rooms, are adjacent to the conference centre and cost £100 per night for a double room.

Bill was very impressed with the venue and hotels and is convinced conference in 2102 will be excellent.

Hugh Holden (Uppingham) expressed concern regarding the £11 capitation level.

The District Secretary said that at the January 2010 District Council meeting, that provisional costs had been indicated to delegates including the fact there could be a Capitation cost in the region of £11, based upon the current way the District allocates costs between Capitation and Registration. He suggested that the Rotary Club of Uppingham might like to put forward a proposition regarding the District Standing Orders and capitation levels for discussion at a future meeting.

**g) Leadership, Development & Training:** Ken Billington had nothing further to report

**h) Membership (inc. Extension, Membership Development & Retention & Inter-Club Sports)**

David Morris updated recruitment and loss figures: 91 new Rotarians but 107 losses, overall loss of 16.

The outlined the RIBI marketing campaign seeking volunteers from Clubs in the Peterborough area to formulate a target database and to leaflet commuters at Peterborough station.

The District Governor presented the shield for the District Quiz to the winning team Kettering Huxloe.

Graham Cooper (Soar Valley) said this year 86 teams from 56 clubs (including Kettering Tresham in formation) had taken part in the quiz.

**C. 10/11.41 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:**

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

**C. 10/11. 42 Any Other Business**

Gordon Johnston (St Neots) enquired of the whereabouts of the District display boards. Graham Walker advised that following the death of PDG Peter Moreton, that he now has them.

Gordon also drew attention to an item on the accounts MissionFish. Purchases made on E-bay generate income for District 1070 End Polio Now campaign using this account set up by the Rotary Club of St Neots.

Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) highlighted their Rotary Global Swim Marathon taking place on 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> February. Lanes are still available for entries.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.34pm

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

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_