



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

**Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel**

**Corby**

**District Governor Linda May**

## District Council Meeting, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012

District Governor Linda May chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 146 Rotarians present from 69 Clubs. (Area A 9; B 13; C 10; D 10; E 9; F 7 & G 11 clubs represented).

### **C. 11/12. 35 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.

Apologies were received from:

**PDGs:** Ron Watson, Dan Connan, John Butcher, Terry Watts, Andrew Cowling, Ken McKellar & Paul Buyers

**Officers:** David Brown (Protection), Bill Hill (Conference) & Colin Yarwood (Youth Exchange)

**Clubs:** Boston, Daventry Danetre, Market Bosworth, Oundle, Rushden Higham, Sleaford, Stamford Burghley & Wellingborough

#### **Individuals:**

Presidents - Malkiat Khinda, Margaret Dooley, Phil Norton, John Mumford, Alastair Wood, Clive Adkin & Bob Lymn,

Secretaries – Sue Roberts, Joyce Boddey, Chris Tiley, Adrian Harrison, Karen Kearns & John Hardaker

### **C. 11/12. 36 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.

Bryan Brittin (Thrapston & Raunds)	Brian Hephher (St Ives)
John Gammon (Ashby-de-la-Zouch)	John Legg (Bedford)
Jonathon Shapland (Huntingdon)	Frank Phillips (Market Harborough)
Derek Windsor (The Deepings)	Rev Stan Condon (Thrapston & Raunds)

### **C.11/12. 37 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

There were two corrections to the previous minutes:

C. 11/12. 17 Act of Remembrance – Alistair Cooke was a member of the Rotary Club of Loughborough

C. 11/12. 28 Rotary Foundation –the \$12,800 raised by four Northampton Clubs by their ascent of Kilimanjaro should read £12,931.21

Simon Adlam proposed the duly amended minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011 should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by DGN(E) Ken Billington and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

### **C. 11/12. 38 Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **C. 11/12. 39 District Governor's Report:**

The District Governor presented a trophy to the winner of the District Quiz to President Tom Green, Northampton West. Runners up were Boston with Kettering Huxloe in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. She congratulated the successful teams and thanked the organisers of this year's competition Robert Bracegirdle (Loughborough Beacon) and Eddie Pearson (Melton Aurora). Eddie had taken on the task of setting suitable questions in his 1<sup>st</sup> year as a Rotarian. They are already planning next year's event and would like to be contacted with suggestions for suitable venues.

Robert Bracegirdle said the quiz had made a profit in excess of £400. The money will be given to Polio Eradication.

The District Governor reminded Clubs applying for a Changemaker Award to have their completed applications to her by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Those applying for a Presidential Citation need to have their applications to her by 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Details of both awards can be found on the RI website under "Awards for Clubs".

### **C. 11/12. 40 The Future of R.I.B.I.**

The District Governor presented an overview of the proposed changes to the running of RIBI. Copies of her presentation will be sent out to Clubs by the District Secretary. A DVD presentation on the subject had been advised by RIBI as being available and be viewed on the RIBI website. Members are encouraged to respond with their views, directly to RIBI via the website, by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

PDG Neville Hackett (Oadby) thought the proposals to be too big, too rushed and in need of refinement, also next year's General Council didn't appear to be in agreement with it. He expressed concern that changes could adversely affect District 1070 and said some of the changes would need to be approved by the Council of Legislation.

The District Governor did not believe the running of our District would be affected. She thought it necessary to get on and make a start but acknowledged some of the changes would happen more slowly.

#### **C. 11/12. 41 District Secretary's Report:**

The District Secretary emphasised his concerns regarding the District Database, as detailed in his written report. To date the database is still suspended, effectively breaking the contract.

He stressed the need for Clubs to run their affairs correctly. A presentation on Club Governance will be made at PETS and he urged incoming Presidents to attend if possible. Invitations to Presidents Elect to attend PETS are in the baskets. He has started to receive photographs of Presidents 2012-13. All Presidents Elect have been asked by their respective Assistant Governors at Pre PETS meetings last year to let them have their photographs in a digital format, along with details of Club Officers. He asked those who have not yet responded, to do so as soon as possible.

Delegates at the previous District Council meeting voted to support propositions made by Holbeach to ensure a fairer representation of Clubs at RIBI Conferences. These were successful in the COL 2010 enactment, getting proxy voting accepted by RI for District Conferences. There has been considerable dialogue with RIBI over the past 6 months, including a visit by our District Governor, District Secretary and Colin Scott from Holbeach.

Colin, on behalf of the Club, has been continuing with his crusade despite frustrations. It has had an impact and we do have an assurance from RIBI that this year there will be electronic voting for voting delegates at Bournemouth and we are assured that there will be on-line voting at Harrogate in 2013.

Other issues have arisen so the District Secretary invited Colin to give a brief update. Colin explained that the Constitutions Committee has refused to accept the initial resolutions or to put them on the Agenda for the RIBI conference in April at Bournemouth. Following long negotiations with David Fowler the resolutions have been accepted, but not to include changes to Standing Orders. The positive result is that it can be passed by a simple majority (rather than two-thirds) but the negative aspect is that it will come at the end of a very full agenda. He emphasised that without proxy or on-line voting the massive proposed changes to RIBI could be approved with less than 25% of Clubs being able to vote.

The District Governor was pleased to report that, since Colin was last in communication, motions are to go to General Council regarding "voting in absentia".

The District Secretary has sent to all Clubs details of the District Officers for 2012/13 along with an invitation to apply for the position as editor of News & Events.

Vacancies also exist for Chair of Communications and a person to be responsible for Environmental matters.

H&S Officer John Steedman had nothing to add to his published report.

#### **C. 11/12. 42 District Treasurer's Report:**

**Adoption of the Examined Accounts for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011** (previously circulated)

Unfortunately examination of the accounts has not been finalised. Whilst appreciating, in accordance with Standing Orders, that they should be approved this month this item will be held over until the April Council meeting.

**District Budget for 2012-13 as proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by District Executive**

To allow for longer discussion the District Governor asked Council to approve the suspension of Standing Orders in respect of time allowed. This was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

The District Treasurer explained that figures had been arrived at in consultation with budget holders, starting from a zero base. All budget holders were asked to review their activities rather than just 'doing the same as last year'.

This was embraced by the New Generation team and resulted in significant savings in some areas.

Due to rises in fuel costs the RIBI mileage rate has increased from 24p last year to 29p currently and he had to use this current rate for the coming budget – resulting in a 21% increase in this area. The other major increases being the previously agreed £11 for Conference (subject to the conference committee being able to justify such costs, as detailed in their budget, as submitted) and the effect of reduced membership numbers.

PDG Roger May was concerned that the world class delivery of the New Generations team might be adversely affected by the move away from a budget giving a "global sum". The District Treasurer gave reassurance this would not be the case, there would be flexibility, but said looking at individual events had been an excellent starting point.

Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven) was concerned that, despite a third less being spent on directories, the capitation per member was set to rise. He highlighted increases in AG expenses, Communications and Conference. The District Treasurer reiterated that figures for Conference had been voted on at a previous District Council meeting (although again it is stressed that the conference committee had to justify such costs as submitted). Travel costs when visiting Clubs are a major factor in AG expenses. Consideration has been given to delivering the same level of service as economically as possible. He added that, had membership not dropped from 2750 to 2670, capitation would in fact have been lower than last year.

Mike Rose (Grantham Kesteven) thought the budget should not be approved until figures for the previous Conference have been published. The District Treasurer said figures could be circulated shortly but Standing Orders state April.

The District Secretary said Southport appears to have made a profit but each venue is so different comparisons are meaningless.

Mike Rose also considered voting for the venue for Conference in 2014 (Item C11/12 .45) to be inappropriate when base costs for each venue have not been shown.

The District Secretary highlighted the difficulties budgeting so far ahead and added that capitation costs would in any case come under the new rules for 2014.

Conference Manager Neville Thompson stressed the need to have a Conference and said every effort is made to stage a quality event as cheaply as possible. He is happy to speak to Clubs about Conference budgets.

Peter Borner (Towcester) praised the huge amount of work that is done to produce excellent Conferences and urged Clubs to encourage members to attend. Fewer members attending resulted in increased costs. He asked for annotation to be provided in future giving detail to aid understanding of fixed and variable costs.

PDG Ken Parkin (Huntingdon) urged a return to unpaid speakers.

**PDG Tony Martin (Deepings) proposed the Budget for 2012-2013 be approved, seconded by Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) and accepted by a clear majority in a show of hands.**

Standing Orders were reinstated.

### **Accounts for the year to date up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011**

Savings of £1800 gained from publishing errors in the District Directory had been offset by reduced income from subscriptions as a result of the reduced membership as at the start of the current Rotary year. The main expenditure items occur in the second half of the year.

### **C. 11/12. 43 Matters referred to District Executive and now referred to District Council for approval:**

Confirmation of the revised dates of the District Council meetings 2012/13

#### **MEETINGS OF THE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 2AE

Day	Date
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2012
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup> January 2013
Wednesday	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013

The first 4 dates were approved by District Council on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 2011. However, following representations from clubs, the District Executive have agreed to seek an alteration of the July 2013 date, from Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> July to Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> July 2013, this in agreement with the DGN (who will be DG for that date). Since the amended date is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in the month it allows new Presidents to attend their first club meeting of the Rotary year and attend District Council.

**Dates as above unanimously approved.**

### **C. 11/12. 44 Assistant Governors' Reports:**

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Garner Roberts (Area B) corrected an error in his report. The new venue for the prospective Loughborough club is to be The Boat House at Barrow on Soar (not The Riverside Inn).

Other Assistant Governors had nothing to add to their reports.

### **C. 11/12. 45 Project Team Reports:**

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The District Governor requested that **Item (g): Conference** should be considered first and, to allow sufficient discussion, asked Council to approve the suspension of Standing Orders in respect of time allowed. This was approved by a unanimous show of hands.

#### **g) Conference:**

- 1. Telford 2012:** Nothing to add
- 2. York 2013:** Nothing to add
- 3. Date and Venue for 2014:**

Conference Manager Neville Thompson read through the 'For' and 'Against' (as previously circulated to all Clubs) and stated the hire costs for each of the four venues - Scarborough: £17,000 Leeds: £40,000 Bournemouth: £17,630 and Llandudno: £15,000.

DGN(E) Ken Billington thanked Neville for all his hard work and, when asked, revealed his preference for Scarborough as the venue for 2014.

Mike Rose (Grantham Kesteven) sought affirmation that the vote this evening was simply for choice of venue and date, figures at this stage being simply for guidance. This was confirmed.

Frank Kelly (Towcester) asked for the limit on numbers for guests at the gala dinner at Scarborough – 648 as in the circulated advice.

A paper ballot was conducted amongst delegates entitled to vote. Completed ballot papers were collected by the appointed Scutineers (PDG Dick Parsley and Alan Faulkner).

Standing Orders were reinstated.

The result of the vote (as announced later) was a clear majority for Scarborough:

**Scarborough: 101 votes Bournemouth: 35 votes Leeds: 6 votes Llandudno: 5 votes Spoilt papers: 7**

**Dates for Scarborough: 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014**

#### **4. Venues beyond 2014:**

The Conference Manager would like to receive suggestions for possible venues that are large enough and the DG in particular asked that the following previous successful venues be considered:

Torquay, Eastbourne and Southport

##### **a) International (inc. RFE):**

Since Roger Neuberger was on holiday in the Caribbean Mike Kingdon (Biggleswade Ivel) led the item “Showcasing the work of the District International Committee. Roger spoke to delegates live, on a “computer link”. Members of the team gave interesting presentations featuring E-Ranger ambulances, Trade Aid (a District 1070 project), Mercy Ships and Friendship Exchange. Fifty Clubs have pledged to support the E-Ranger in Uganda project but £50,000 is needed in order to secure the global matching grant and it is hoped that with such Global and District matching Grants £125,000 can be raised.

IPDG Roger McDermott presented the trophy for an Outstanding International Project to Ken Billington in recognition of his leadership of the superb Trade Aid project undertaken by the Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven. Ken accepted on behalf of his Club giving particular credit to John Asher who started this worldwide project.

In addition to the published report, Mike Kingdon announced that the Jaipur Limb Project is seeking to train a representative from District 1070. On 11<sup>th</sup> March there will be a conference at the Kings Court Hotel (close to the RIBI Headquarters).

##### **b) New Generations (Youth)**

Mary Whitehead reminded delegates that it is competition time and asked them to be aware of entry dates. All entries should be sent direct to the District organisers.

She thanked all Clubs who have entered Youth Speaks, which is taking place at the moment, and advised them to keep in touch with their teams, individual entrants, RYLA and YEX candidates to make sure they stay in the project or competition. As it has not been possible to update the 1070 website information on venues and dates for Young Musician are in the baskets.

Only three RYLA reservations received so far. Mary urged Clubs to register with PDG Andrew Cowling as soon as possible to make sure the course will run.

She also appealed for Clubs to consider any group or individual worthy of recognition for a Young Citizen award. Details of last year’s entrants can be made available on request. Closing date for entries is 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Mary asked if any more Technology Tournaments are planned. She is aware of Huntingdon, Nene Valley and probably Biggleswade. She invited delegates to contact these Clubs for an invite to attend and see what goes on.

##### **c) Community and Vocational:**

Tony Robbs advised that the ‘Rotary Spring Clean’ will start on 12<sup>th</sup> March (the beginning of Climate Week) up to 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Details are in the baskets. He reminded delegates that Rotarians need not undertake the clean up personally and suggested involving scout groups etc.

All entries for ComVoc competitions by end of March please.

Details on Kids Out are in the baskets. Simon Adlam (St Neots St Mary’s) said this will be his last year organising Kids Out and invited a willing volunteer to shadow him to gain experience.

Tony reminded everyone that Community and Vocation at RI, RIBI and District will be split into two committees next year and invited anyone wishing to serve on either to contact him or Mary Whitehead.

##### **Support Team Reports:**

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Graham Walker informed delegates that RI and RIBI have awarded 10 Districts a PR grant to produce a newspaper aimed at making the public aware of Rotary.

There are 150 newsletters per Club in the baskets.

**These intended for the public and for use on Rotary Day or for distribution at Club events in the near future.**

The newsletters only show the RIBI address so it is essential that Clubs append a sticker or leaflet showing their own contact details. Spare copies of News & Events are also available for those wishing to promote Rotary at forthcoming events.

**e) Leadership, Development & Training:**

DGN(E) Ken Billington had nothing to report

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

David Morris had nothing further to report.

**C. 11/12. 46 Rotary Foundation**

John Dehnel reported that Mercy Ships had recently become a Strategic Partner with Rotary Foundation hence becoming eligible for Packaged Grants. As far as he is aware the indications are that a Strategic Partner can tie in with a Club and a member could work on the ship at no cost to themselves. He has been working with DGE Chris Chew investigating the possibility of a VTT (Vocational Training Team) being sent out to work on a Mercy Ship. Further details will be made known later as more is learnt.

Since his report it has been announced that India has been free from polio for a full year (last reported case 14<sup>th</sup> January 2011). However it will need three years before it can be declared non-endemic. The \$200million challenge set by Bill Gates has been met by RI. District 1070 has not yet met its commitment but is on course for achieving our target of £25 per Rotarian this year.

In an initiative by DGN Margaret Morley and Stephen Bath (Sleaford) an NID alumni get-together dinner is being organised, in Leicester, on 7<sup>th</sup> March. There is an open invitation for the next week or two for anyone interested in attending to find out more about NIDs.

**The recommendation on proposed SHARE distribution of the District Designated Fund had been circulated to Clubs before the meeting. John Dehnel proposed that the distribution be as published, seconded by PDG Richard Hyde and unanimously approved.**

AG Geoff Blurton (Team Leader) announced that the first VTT leaves for Kenya two weeks on Friday. On behalf of the team he thanked the District Governor for her support and Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) for his tremendous hard work. The District Governor thanked Geoff who has been out to Kenya in advance of the trip. She gave her best wishes for a successful visit.

**C. 11/12. 47 District Roadshows**

DGN Margaret Morley had circulated a summary report prior to the meeting. She thanked all Clubs who had attended the Roadshows for their support and excellent feedback. A complete report will be on the website.

Margaret asked any coordinators of Olympic events (torch bearers, sponsoring athletes etc.) to email her or their AG so RIBI can be informed. Any Club International event/activity could get a mention at the opening ceremony. RIBI should be informed direct via their website.

Graham Cooper (Soar Valley) asked if there would be a third Roadshow next year. Margaret said the feedback indicated that two were sufficient but the venues will be moved around the District. One will be held in Oadby next year.

**C. 11/12. 48 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:  
Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE  
Meeting to commence at 7.30 p.m.**

**C. 11/12. 49 Any Other Business - none**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37p.m.

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

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