



Minutes of the District Council meeting

Wednesday, 6th July 2011

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel

Corby



District Governor Linda May

District Council Meeting, Wednesday 6th July 2011

District Governor Linda May chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Wednesday, 6th July 2011 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 157 Rotarians present from 71 Clubs. (Area A 10; B 13; C 8; D 12; E 10; F 6 & G 12 clubs represented).

C. 11/12. 01 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. A special welcome was extended to visitors Tim Meynell and the Alconbury Recorders (Lucy Ramsaran, Leah Whitney & Jess Pack), Rotaract President Victoria Hitchcock and Youth Exchange Students (to be introduced later).

Apologies were received from:

PDGs: Neville Hackett, Ron Watson, Dan Connan, John Butcher, Paul Buyers & Richard Hyde

Officers: Tony Robbs (Com Voc)

C. 11/12. 02 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 of them and others whom we had not been notified.

Ken Bryant – Grantham

Graham Norris – Wigston

John Bryan – Sleaford Kesteven

John Allen – Bedford

David Holdsworth – Kettering

John Schofield - Boston

Basil Blackham – Grantham

Gordon Wiggins - Deepings

C. 11/12.03 New Generations:

The Alconbury Recorders, led by Tim Meynell, gave a recital. They had been sponsored by the Huntingdon Club in the previous Young Musician competition.

Moiria Bartlett (Young Musician Coordinator) presented the trio as an example of the excellent standards in the competition. She urged other Clubs to visit local schools and become involved this year.

The District Governor thanked them for their performance.

The District Secretary made a Point of Procedure:

“Everyone is encouraged to participate in our proceedings this evening, after all, the District Council is the parliament of the District, and you the members make the decisions through your voting delegates, but all have a say, you do not need to be a voting delegate to speak, but so that we can all have the benefit of hearing comments and debate, anyone wishing to address the Council is asked to come to the lectern down the front and use the microphone, ensuring that they state their name and club before any comment.

Anyone with a disability, please let Sergeant at Arms Colin know, a roving microphone will be available to them.”

C.11/12. 04 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Rtn Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) proposed the minutes of the Council meeting held on Tuesday, 19th April 2011 should be agreed as a true record. Seconded by PDG Roger May and unanimously approved.

The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

C. 11/12. 05 Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

C. 11/12. 06 District Governor’s Verbal Report:

Having only been in office for six days the District Governor had little to report. She had attended and enjoyed the RIBI handover in Colchester, District handover, one Club charter and made one official club visit. DG Linda thanked all who attended District handover and thanked District Secretary Barry for organising the event.

The District Governor presented regalia to District Officers who were not present at District handover.

District Treasurer – Stephen Bellamy

Assistant Governors: Area C – Geoff Richardson

Area F – Peter Brearley

Area G - Tim Tucker

C. 11/12. 07 District Secretary’s Comments and Correspondence:

The District Secretary had the following additions and updates to his written report:

District Database:

Figures as at 1st July 2011 show 2652 members on the District Database whereas the RI Global Database shows 2707. Adjustments of those 30 not prepared to have their details on the District Database makes 2682 for capitation charges.

District Directories:

This years' copies now available and were in the "basket system" for collection by Clubs and a box for confidential disposal of old editions placed near the baskets. The `hard copy debate 'will be revisited at the October District Council meeting as this could represent a saving of £6,500.

The District Secretary reiterated that **District Council** meetings had been confirmed with Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby up to and including the April 2012 Council meeting. Dates for 2012/13 are being ratified with DGE Chris Chew and a possible new venue being looked at (but not the previous venue at the Holiday Inn West Peterborough, with rates for this coming year 2011/12 at £200 for a Monday meeting but £500 any other evening!

He asked those present to ensure that project chairmen and members are made aware there will be special presentations made by the District Project Committees who will showcase their activities at designated District Council meetings:

July – New Generations	October - Foundation
January – International	April - ComVoc

The District Secretary reminded everyone that **PETS** this year will be held at Kettering Park Hotel, a saving of £2,000, date unchanged – 10th March 2012

Health & Safety:

The newly appointed District Health & Safety Officer, John Steedman (Ashby-de-la-Zouch), was invited to stand and be recognised. John is available to give advice and members are urged to consult with him on any H&S aspects.

Protection:

Updated information from the Criminal Records Bureau is still awaited - at present continue on the existing basis. Protection Officer David Brown invited Club Secretaries to let him have details of new or changed Club Protection Officers by the end of August. He will then contact them to arrange a Training Session.

Nominations for District Governor 2014/15

Nominations received from:

Rotarian Ken Billington	Rotary Club of Grantham Kesteven
Rotarian Geoff Blurton	Rotary Club of Kettering
Rotarian David Morris	Rotary Club of Melton Mowbray
Rotarian Ron Simpson	Rotary Club of Uppingham
Rotarian Tim Tucker	Rotary Club of St. Ives

The closing date for return of ballot papers is 6th August 2011.

The District Secretary then explained the voting procedures:

The voting paper must enable electors to exercise their votes for their preferred candidates by expressing their first preferences.

It must also permit them to indicate, if they desire, their subsequent orders of preference for any of the other candidates.

The number of preferences which may be expressed bears no relation to the number of places to be filled.

A voting paper is valid providing that a first preference is clearly expressed.

Later preferences are contingency choices only, which may or may not be expressed.

Nominations for District Officers:

The District Secretary stressed that nominations (vacancies as listed in his report) should be submitted to him with CV by **13th August 2011 (please note that this date has been altered from the 11th August).**

Club Governance:

Clubs changing the **time/day** of their meetings **must seek approval** from the DG and General Council of RIBI.

A change of venue does not require permission but Clubs should advise the District Secretary and alter the District and RI Global database entries.

Officers of a Club must all be Active members (it is not possible to appoint an Honorary member as an officer).

The District Secretary reiterated comments from **District Assembly** and the 2 previous District Council meetings and stressed that **Proposals from Clubs for COL** have to be with RI by 31st December 2011. Proposals must be submitted for approval by District Council, the last opportunity being on the 27th October 2011.

RIBI Conference 2011 – Dublin

During the business session 9 propositions were put to the conference, of which one was withdrawn and 4 (dealing with routine procedural matters) adopted. One that should be of considerable interest to all clubs was defeated, the one put forward by the RC of Holbeach and supported by resolution of this District Council. Proxy voting for District Conferences in the whole world had been accepted by RI at COL 2010 but was not accepted by Clubs in RIBI at their conference in Dublin this year. Proxy voting would allow all Clubs to have a say in the affairs of RIBI and not just the small percentage of Clubs that attend conference. Of the 1800+ Clubs in RIBI, less than 15% attend an RIBI Conference business session, so those 15% decide how we run and operate Rotary in these Islands. That minority ensured that it didn't get through! What is more important? Rules and regulations that limit free speech, which were passed, or how we operate Rotary in this Country. Elsewhere in the world they have Proxy Voting and all Clubs and Rotarians irrespective of attending a costly conference can have their say!

It is intended to put this proposition back to the RIBI conference 2012 at Bournemouth.

The District Secretary urged all clubs to try to attend and support this democratic proposition, so all can have a say in the affairs and running of RIBI and not the minority who can afford the time and money to attend the conference.

Change of District Officers details:

New Generations: Interact

Rtn Shirley Morley, new email address:
interserve10702011@hotmail.co.uk

Change of Club details: (in addition to those in the report)

Kimbolton Castle: temporary venue:

The George at Spaldwick is changing hands, current owners leaving on 6th July. As a result the club has had to make venue changes for at least July & August. Contact President Zelda or Secretary Philip if visiting

C. 11/12. 08 District Treasurer's Report:

Accounts for the period to 31st May 2011 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The District Treasurer requested claims for expenses and costs of events be submitted no later than 31st July. Bills for subscriptions will be sent out shortly. John Dehnel (Foundation) highlighted the income shown from MissionFish in the Trust Fund account. Selling on e-bay donations can be made towards polio eradication, £320.79 has been donated to date. He thanked Gordon Johnson (St Neots) for setting it up.

C. 11/12. 09 Matters referred to District Executive and now referred to District Council for Approval

Following various comments from Club delegates from over a period of time, the District Executive had asked the Finance Committee to look at the way that future District Conferences were funded and to prepare a report for them to consider.

As chairman of the District Finance Committee, the District Treasurer prepared such a report. This had then been referred to the District Executive who had recommended that before a proposal was put to Clubs, that Clubs be consulted with their proposals, requesting comment. The District Secretary would distribute details to Clubs in the next few days. The paper will suggest a fixed formula for forward planning from 2014 onwards; funding for interim conferences having been approved at previous District Council meetings. The District Treasurer encouraged clubs to discuss the proposals and as this was a consultation paper to let him know their views by the 1st September 2011. The Finance Committee would then reconvene to discuss these and then report to the District Executive, who would then make a recommendation be put to Clubs for adoption at the next District Council meeting to be held on the 27th October 2011.

C. 11/12. 10 Assistant Governors' Reports:

AG reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. AG Garner Roberts (Area B) has attended 13 assemblies and 3 handovers since his report was issued. Other Assistant Governors had nothing to add to their reports.

C. 11/12.11 Rotary Foundation

John Dehnel updated his previously issued report. The deadline for applications for District Grants has been extended. Outline proposals to be sent to Alan Davis (Nene Valley) in the next few days. Last year US \$212,000 was donated to Foundation by Clubs in D1070. Ashby-de-la-Zouch was the highest giver with \$167 per member with four other Clubs giving over \$120 per member. John thanked all Clubs especially those achieving in excess of \$100 per member. Sadly, nine Clubs had donated less than \$10 per member.

Additionally 40 Clubs met or exceeded the target of £25 per member for Polio Plus. Across the District £82,256 was raised, an average of just under £30 per member.

John congratulated Kibworth & Fleckney who raised an amazing £362 per member.

There has been a good response for special needs teachers for the VTT outgoing trip to Kenya but physios with paediatric experience are still required.

Vacancies exist on the District Foundation Committee, anyone interested should contact John.

C. 11/12. 12 Project Team Reports:

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a) New Generations (Youth)

Mary Whitehead introduced her team and the Showcase of New Generations.

PDG Andrew Cowling (Northampton) spoke about RYLA. There are two places still remaining on this year's course at Grafham Water starting on Saturday, 30th July for eight days. Andrew extended an invitation to come and meet the candidates on Sunday, 31st July and stay for afternoon tea (2.30pm onwards with tea at 4.00pm).

Next year's RYLA course has been arranged with no increase in price.

John Knight (Coalville) spoke about Young Photographer and Young Writer.

The theme for both competitions this year is a choice of Olympic Spirit or Olympic Dreams.

The deadline for District entries is the 1st February, because the deadlines for the RIBI entries is the 1st March

The winners of the RIBI competition will have their awards presented at the RIBI conference in Bournemouth on the 14th April 2012 to receive their awards.

An added advantage of the earlier date is that the District winners awards on the 24th March at the Regional Young Musician final

Details and entry forms are on the District 1070 website.

AG Geof Nichols (South Holland) raised concern regarding use of the word 'Olympic' against advice this word should be restricted to the Olympics themselves. Mary Whitehead said it was hoped the Get Set kite mark would feature and that The Olympic Committee had approved the choice of topic. Mary will check everything is in order.

In the absence of other team members Mary spoke briefly about Young Chef, Young Designer, Interact and RotaKids – information in the baskets. Interact Officer Shirley Morley (Melton Belvoir) has lots of new ideas.

Mary set **a challenge for the coming year for three new Interact and three new RotaKids to be chartered in D1070**. The attraction for schools is that forming these clubs encompasses the citizenship aspect of the curriculum.

Mary said the Roadshows in November were a chance to catch up with New Generations activities and offered to visit Clubs. She encouraged Clubs to get together to cover more of the competitions.

Rotaract Chairman Victoria Hitchcock spoke about Rotaract and stressed the need for support and guidance from Rotarians to ensure Rotaract Clubs could succeed. A new Club is planned for Leicester, to be supported by Leicester Novus. Rotaract in Peterborough is struggling at present and needs encouragement from Peterborough Rotary Clubs to rebuild. Those wishing to receive the Rotaract News Letter should contact Victoria. She stressed enthusiastic Rotaractors are the enthusiastic Rotarians of the future.

Colin Yarwood (Peterborough Ortons) spoke about Youth Exchange and thanked IPDG Roger McDermott for his support. Peterborough is second only to London in the number of exchanges achieved (26 going out this year), a huge success. **Colin asked members of all Clubs to try to get him an introduction to their local senior schools to spread the word across District 1070**. He spoke of the wide range of countries being visited and activities undertaken. Colin introduced a number of Youth Exchange candidates who were present at the meeting.

District Governor Linda presented banners to:

- Maryann Williams from Quincy Club, California, USA D5190 hosted by Peterborough Ortons doing an NGE
- Juliette Bigot De Préameneu from Alés, Cevenne, FRANCE D1780 Hosted by Rutland doing a STEP
- Megan Breen from Carson City Club, Nevada, USA D5190 hosted by Deepings doing a STEP
- Laura Benzoni from R C Ituzaingo, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA D4855 hosted by Peterborough Ortons doing an NGE

They were accompanied by their D1070 host partners: Molly Feeley, Suzi Lewis and ROTEX Ellie Davies

b) Community and Vocational:

Tony Robbs was not present. The District Secretary thanked Simon Adlam (previous chairman) for all his hard work as the chairman of this committee for the past 2 years and in particular for his commitment and organisation of the District KIDS OUT day (in which capacity he was continuing for this year).

c) International:

Roger Neuberg updated Lesley Hammond's previously issued report.

At District Assembly he had introduced the ambulances in Uganda as a project for a joint Club activity.

To date 23 Clubs have expressed an interest. Roger has spoken at one Club and is booked to speak to a further nine.

A vacancy exists for a Friendship Exchange member on the International Committee – would suit someone who has been on an exchange.

Roger gave an update on the East African crisis. Baroness Amos (Head of Humanitarian Affairs at UN) states over 10 million are affected in Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda. In Somalia, ¼ of the population have had to leave their homes to survive. One camp in Kenya receives 1,400 refugees a day. The UK government has provided £38million in food aid to Ethiopia. No response from RIBI to date. Shelterbox not currently involved.

Roger will circulate information to Club International contacts as it becomes available.

Until then:

www.unicef.org.uk/hornofafrica £30 provides 90 sachets of high calorie food. UNICEF are providing food, clean water, sanitation & immunisation

www.oxfam.org.uk/EastAfrica

Support Team Reports:

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

Graham has around 100 spare copies of News & Events available for those wishing to promote Rotary at forthcoming events. He is considering holding a Seminar on Social Networking.

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

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

David Morris updated recruitment and loss figures: Last year showed a net loss of around 68 members across D1070. He congratulated Lutterworth with a 30% increase in membership, also South Holland and Stamford St Martins with around 20%. In one year Melton Mowbray membership in the town has increased from 82 members to 120,(including the new Club - Melton Aurora with 31) around 50% rise.

Unfortunately 51 Clubs have ended the year with less members than at the start and three clubs have lost almost one third of their membership.

A **Membership Seminar** has been arranged in **Corby on Wednesday, 21st September**. It will be an open meeting with opportunities for successful Clubs to talk about their methods.

IPDG Roger McDermott discussed the result of applications for inclusion in the **RI Pilot Programmes 2011- 2014**. In District 1070:

- Northampton Becket was accepted into Corporate
- Northampton was accepted into Satellite
- Wellingborough was accepted into Associate Member

The following Clubs were not accepted: Grantham, Loughborough, Oundle, Peterborough, Peterborough Ortons, and The Deepings.

RI received over 1300 completed applications and most were eligible for the programs, but as stated in the Rotary constitution and bylaws, a maximum of 200 clubs can be selected for a pilot.

Regrettably, the RI selection committee had to decline more than 500 eligible and deserving clubs.

Roger wished selected clubs every success in these new opportunities. For those who were disappointed, the RIBI Membership Team intends to ask General Council for some controlled flexibility at a District level (governance being an issue). Pilot schemes came about because practices are already in existence (e.g. 'friends of Rotary').

Those who failed may get a chance to be more innovative in the year ahead.

David Morris introduced Eddie Pearson (Melton Aurora) who will organise the **District Quiz**.

David said the **Minor Sports** final would be held the following day: **Peterborough Werrington v Towcester**.

Malcolm Riddle (Blaby Meridian) announced the winners of the **District Photographic Competition** and IPDG Roger McDermott presented the trophies.

- Overall Winner: 'Friendly Frolics' by Mike Potter, Towcester
- Runner Up (General Category): 'Cat in a Hot Tin Gutter' by Graham Walker, Peterborough Werrington
- Runner Up (Winter): 'Berry 'n' Ice' by Mike Ward, Blaby Meridian

Malcolm said the number of entries grows each year and encouraged even more to enter.

Extension: PDG Iain Vernon added to his previously issued report. He had received two further expressions of interest in forming new clubs. He noted a change in attitude with more people seeing extension as the way forward. Iain congratulated Northampton who had made great changes to accommodate a satellite club under the RI Pilot.

g) Conference:

Southport 2011: In the absence of Conference Manager Chris Knight, Bill Hill said arrangements are now complete and registrations flowing in. Registration documents are on the District website. Cut off for the £39 early registration fee has been extended from 1st August to 31st August 2011. There are no restrictions on numbers for the Red Rose Gala Dinner in the Floral Hall on the Saturday evening. There will be a Bavarian night on Friday. Inspirational speakers include Ann Widdecombe (Strictly Ann), Ben McBean (former commando and double amputee), Colin Anderson (pastry chef to the royal household) and Joe Kier (Young Citizen Award winner). The golf competition will take place on Friday, details on the website.

Telford 2012: Neville Thompson (Grantham) warned future organisers of the financial implications arising from the increasing tendency for conference centres to manage the rigging themselves.

York 2013: Neville and DGN Margaret Morley are to visit York on 8th/9th August to confirm arrangements to present to the Conference Committee. The gala dinner will be held in the Railway Museum.

C. 11/12.13 District Roadshows

DGN Margaret Morley confirmed the dates of the Roadshows as:

- Wednesday, 2nd November at the Hilton Hotel, Collingtree, Northampton 7.00 to 9.30pm
- Thursday, 3rd November at the Ramada Hotel, Thorpe Meadows, Peterborough 7.00 to 9.30pm

The Roadshows are being repeated by popular demand and all District Teams will be there. Details are on the website and in News & Events. It is an opportunity to bring along prospective new members, teachers, charity organisers etc. to see what Rotary is about.

C. 11/12.14 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:

Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby. NN17 1AE
Thursday, 27th October 2011
Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

C. 11/12. 15 Any Other Business

Colin Scott (Holbeach) expanded on the report from the District Secretary on proxy voting. He urged members to go to the next RIBI conference (a great conference to attend) and use their voting rights to push through the facility for proxy voting. He emphasised that important issues could arise in the future that Clubs need to be able to vote on but may find themselves disenfranchised if members could not manage to attend. It was the 15% who voted at Dublin to continue to disenfranchise the remaining 85%.

The District Secretary announced that Huntingdon Hinchingsbrooke have surrendered their charter. He stressed that this was a voluntary action and that the Club was NOT closed down by District. IPDG Roger McDermott had during his term of Office as DG, made every effort to support the Club, including calling a special club meeting to meet with members to discuss their future and the way forward; but sadly, only five members turned up to meet with him and no positive feedback was given by the Club, who effectively had “given up heart”.

Matters now need to be finalised with RIBI and the Club had been asked to meet the various criteria, laid down by RIBI in order that the Club could formally be closed. The loss of the Club was regretted especially when they had in June organised for the 2nd year running raised £5,000 at a recent 10K Charity fun Run with £30,000 raised overall by other charities involved over the 2 years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.24pm

District Governor _____

Date _____