



**Minutes of the District Council Meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel Corby**

**District Governor Geoff Blurton**

## **Rotary District 1070 Council Meeting – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

District Governor (DG) Geoff Blurton chaired the meeting, which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel commencing at 7.30p.m.

There were 114 Rotarians present from 58 Clubs (Area A 9 ; Area B 7 ; Area C 11 . Area D 9 ; Area E 12 ; Area F 10; e-Club 1 Clubs represented).

### **C 15/16.32 Apologies and Welcome**

DG Geoff welcomed all those present and asked those Rotarians attending a District Council meeting for the first time to stand and be recognized. Past DGs were also recognized.

Apologies were received from:

**Past DGs: Iain Vernon**

**Rotarians Maureen Jerman, David Brown, Chris Thurlow, John Clayton, Janet Sinclair, David Knight, Tim Tucker, Zelda Gunn, Jeremy Hyde, And the Rotary Club of Melton Aurora**

### **C15/16.33 Act of Remembrance**

All those present stood in remembrance of those Rotarians who had passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting and DG Geoff read out the names:

**John Claire (Mkt Harborough)**

**Jim Osborne (Rushden)**

**Michael Wellen (Uppingham)**

**Mike Steele (Rushden)**

**Paul Titchener (Brackley)**

**Pat King (Stamford)**

### **C15/16.34 Minutes of the Last District Council Meeting**

PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby) raised comments about the Scarborough Accounts. The DS Roger McDermott (Coalville) considered that these should be brought under Matters Arising and dealt with separately. Approval of the Minutes was Proposed by DGN Chris Davies (Market Harborough) and Seconded by AG Graham Martin (Soar Valley) and agreed unanimously.

### **C15/16.35 Matters Arising**

PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby) raised a comment on para 15/16.21.1 noting that the proposition was not regular since it did not meet the requirements of Standing Orders. The DG and DS both felt that the proposal from the floor to accept the accounts had been unconstitutional but the overwhelming acceptance of the accounts that followed had shown that District Council were now ready to move on. However in order to satisfy constitutional requirements these accounts will be presented again at the March Council. The DS stressed that the accounts would be exactly as those that had been accepted and there was no question of disagreement on the content, just the procedure. There was a great deal of discussion about procedural matters raised by the Scarborough Accounts issues 15 months after the event. Some review of Standing Orders may be required.

A comment was raised about the signing of cheques by Members of the Conference Committee. The DT noted that in his experience it was entirely usual for businesses to allow for such methods always provided that there is more than one signature and that neither of the signatories has signed off the invoice. This method also made it

straightforward for the DT to carry out his voluntary role. Changes to this procedure would be a *red line* for him and he would tender his resignation. There was no further discussion.

Rtn Bob Seery (Thrapston and Raunds) raised several points concerning the proposed reorganization of the District with the Clubs from D1270 joining. The DG addressed all of the issues raised. The issues are being addressed through RI/RIBI and it is hoped that they will all be resolved and agreed by the end of January.

### **C15/16.36 District Governors Report**

Much of the DG Report had already been circulated in Drumbeat; however, he wished to note his thanks to all of those involved in dealing with the reorganisation. Members of joining Clubs will be present at District Assembly and some have agreed to join some of the Committees. The DG proposed that the DG from D1270 who is a member of a joining Club, would be afforded the privileges of an IPDG in 16/17. There was no dissent.

The DG was particularly pleased that the Know Your Rotary Evenings had been a great success and thanked all those who had been involved. The DGN echoed the DG's thanks.

### **C15/16.365 DGE Report**

The DGE explained that planning for Conference 2016 from 17-18 Sept 2016 continues. The location has been designed to make access as simple as possible with travel distances shortened. Thus, many will be able to travel for the day without the need to book into a hotel. Nevertheless, the format of the weekend will be the same as that with which we are familiar. The Gala Dinner on the Saturday will be self-funding and there will be no requirement to register for the whole Conference to attend the dinner. The Conference manager has prepared a detailed budget that he will present to this District Council. The DGE and Conference Manager would welcome any ideas that there may be about sponsorship for the event.

The centenary of the Rotary Foundation falls in 2016-17. DGEs across RIBI have proposed a RIBI wide compendium of projects under the umbrella of "Giving Disadvantaged Young People a Fresh Start in Life". Districts will have freedom to choose their own projects and it is likely that funding from a Rotary Foundation Global Grant may be available. There will be great opportunities for positive publicity opportunities. Everyone is encouraged to contact the District Foundation Team with ideas.

Team Leaders for District Project and Service Teams are now in place. Any Rotarian who wishes to be involved in any of the Teams is encouraged to contact the Team Leader or DGE.

### **C15/15.37 District Secretary**

Compliance Documents continue to trickle in. Clubs are reminded that there could be insurance implications for any Club that finds themselves in difficulties in this area if they are not compliant.

The Data Bases in RI and RIBI still do not talk to each other, hence the requirement to enter data twice, once in each database. The issue seems to revolve around RI software. Information on members joining or leaving will become notifiable by e-mail once full integration is complete.

### **C15/16.38 District Treasurers (DT) Report**

The Treasurers Report and accounts have been submitted and circulated to Clubs. It was proposed and Agreed that the accounts to June 2015 be accepted. Proposed Rtn Robert Webb (Kettering Huxloe) Seconded AG Bill Martindale (Sleaford Kesteven).

The DT offered his thanks to Rtn Robert Gibson (Rushden Chichele) for his work on the accounts in his role as Accounts Examiner. He noted that there was nothing further to report on the accounts to Sept 2015. He also noted that the Non-specific Reserve portion to D1260 of some £4000 was accounted for and that a cheque had been raised for over £19000 to be passed to the Conference Committee.

In response to a question from PDG Chris Chew (South Holland) about the effect on income from Foundation in 3 years following reorganisation, Rtn Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell) noted that this is in hand and will happen.

The DG stated that this year has been a challenging year with the District having to cope with a much-reduced budget but all is working well.

### **C15/16.39 Assistant Governors' Reports**

Written reports had been circulated for each Area and the following additional comments were made:

Area E DGN Chris Davies informed DC that the International Camp noted under the Youth Liaison part of her brief might not happen in 2016.

### **C15/16.40 Foundation**

There were no questions raised about the Foundation Brief. There were, however, a number of presentations:

RI Banner for Annual Giving; Rotary Club of Ashby and Rotary Club of Holbeach.

Sustained contribution of \$100 per member Rotary Club of Brackley and Rotary Club of Leicester de Montfort.

A certificate for having every Active member contributing was presented to the Rotary Club of the Nene Valley and The Rotary Club of Oadby.

A certificate to every Club that had contributed \$1500 to End Polio Now was presented to each of the following Rotary Clubs:

Ashby de la Zouch, Grantham, Loughborough Beacon, Market  
Harborough, Oadby, Peterborough, Sleaford St Ives and Wellingborough.

### **C15/16.41 Council on Legislation (COL)**

PDG Dick Parsley (Wellingborough Hatton) presented an update on the Council on Legislation to be held in April 2016. A list of 181 items of legislation has been reduced by 16 (1 enactment and 15 resolutions).

He had completed the mandated 1-day delegate preparation programme at Chesford Grange along with delegates from the rest of GB&I and Scandinavia. Drilling down into the detail of each item is now beginning. There are 2 items that need some elaboration:

1. The grouping of Enactments around Club flexibility of meetings is led by one from the RI Board which, if enacted would allow Clubs to:
  - a. Determine when and how often they meet
  - b. Set attendance requirements
  - c. Modify or eliminate termination policies for non-attendance

In effect this would give every Club the right to be flexible whilst allowing those who choose to continue as before, to do so.

2. In his original brief circulated to Clubs, PDG Dick had made reference to the enactment that would allow the RI Board to terminate a Club for litigation related actions. This refers to clubs taking action against the RI Board for repeated election complaints prior to exhausting the remedies provided by the byelaws for disputes.

There will be a meeting, probably in March following the next District Council with those willing to give PDG Dick their views on any of the items being considered.

#### **C15/16.42 Project Teams' Reports.**

Youth Service. School Partnership Programme. Rtn Sally Harrison Harrison (St Neots) presented a short brief about a link with the Rotary Club in Mombasa, Kenya. The programme to develop a local school is progressing well and the school is being developed. There is even a move to buy some additional land on which to build a new school. This will need funding but the aim is to involve local schools in UK with the schools fundraising and Rotary involvement will be to provide facilitators.

Community Service. The Rotary Bike Ride will take place again next year. Registration will be through the RI website. Details have been sent to Rotarians by RIBI to each Rotarian who gets a copy of the Newsletter.

#### **C15/16.43 Support Teams Chairmen's Reports**

Communications. It is hoped that the new website will be up and running by the New Year. Rtn Janet Cooke (Peterborough Ortons) briefed DC that the Magazine is being revamped. There is a new magazine – Just Rotary – which is glossy and more appealing in appearance is being produced. Some 50000 copies are being distributed nationwide, To continue the revamp of the magazine, articles are needed that are Inspiring, Compassionate and Smart.

Membership. IPDG Ken Billington (Grantham Kesteven) made the following presentations:

Best Growth in D1070	Corby Phoenix
Highest Retention Rate in Last 3 Years	St Neots
Bringing in Most Members to D1070	Spalding and Welland

Winners of the Rotary Quiz were the Rotary Club of Oadby.

#### **C15/16.44 Conference**

Conference 2016. A briefing paper and budget had been circulated to Clubs by Rtn Bill Hill (Melton Mowbray). This year there will be flexible registration with registration

being either by hard copy or on-line. The on-line facility will be available early in the New Year. There will be no requirement to be registered for the Conference to attend the Gala Dinner and vice-versa. Based on the DE agreeing to set 500 attendees as a basis for calculating the Registration Fee, Rtn Bill Hill (Melton Mowbray) Proposed, Seconded by DGE John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) that the Registration Fee for Conference 2016 would be set at £34. With 7 abstentions and none against, the motion was carried. A further motion setting the cost of the Gala Dinner, which will be self-funding, at £40 a head was Proposed by Rtn Bill Hill and Seconded by DGE John Dehnel was carried with 9 abstentions and none against.

Conference 2017. There were 2 venues as an option for Conference 2017, Llandudno and Harrogate. A costing based on 600 delegates demonstrated a much higher cost per delegate (£50) at Harrogate compared with Llandudno (£34). At Llandudno coffee is included in the cost.

PDG Chris Chew (South Holland) noted that on the previous occasion that the District Conference had been held at Harrogate, over 1000 attended. Nevertheless, when put to a vote Llandudno emerged the clear favourite.

#### **C15/16.45 Next Meeting**

The next District Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 3 March 2016 at Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel commencing at 7.30p.m.

#### **C15/16.46 Any Other Business**

Rtn Paul Bertenshaw (Ashby Hastings) gave a short presentation about a fund raising effort that he had completed by jumping out of an aeroplane at height with a parachute. He had raised over £3000 for charity