



Minutes of the District Council meeting

Thursday, 29th October 2009

**The Buckingham Suite,
Holiday Inn – Peterborough West**

District Governor Dick Parsley

District Council Meeting, Thursday 29th October 2009

The District Governor, Rtn Dick Parsley chaired the meeting, which was held at the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough on Thursday, 29th October 2009 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

There were 139 Rotarians present from 65 Clubs. (Area A 10; B 10; C 10; D 8; E 10; F 7 and G 10, clubs represented).

C. 09/10. 13 Welcome and Apologies:

The District Governor welcomed all who were present, in particular the PDGs and all those Rotarians attending their first Council meeting who were invited to stand and be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

PDGs Rtns. Dan Connan, John Butcher, Frank Norburn, Peter Moreton, Robert Smith, Ken Parkin, Paul Buyers, & Richard Hyde

AGs for Area C Rtn Graham Scorthorne & Area F Rtn Peter Brearley, Rotaract District Chairman Rebecca Wilson & Protection Officer Rtn David Brown.

The Rotary Clubs of Huntingdon, Leicester De Montfort, Market Bosworth, Northampton West & Sandy Presidents Rtns. Ted Goad & Keith Crellin.

Secretaries Rtns. Fred Bellingall & Margaret Simpson

C. 09/10. 14 Act of Remembrance:

All present stood as a formal act of remembrance of all Rotarians who had passed to higher service since the previous Council meeting.

C.09/10. 15 Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

District Secretary PDG Barry Hasdell added apologies from Rtn Rodney Spokes, omitted from the minutes of the previous meeting.

PDG Roger May proposed the minutes of the Council meeting held on Wednesday, the 8th July 2009, having previously been circulated, should be agreed as a true record.

Seconded by AG Robert Bracegirdle and unanimously approved. The minutes were signed by the District Governor.

C. 09/10. 16 Matters arising there from:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

C. 09/10. 17 District Governor's Report and presentation of Regalia:

The District Governor had issued a written report prior to the meeting but had a number of additional points to make. He reported that he had now visited 66 clubs and attended 10 charters, receiving lively questions and a warm welcome on each occasion. R.I. had awarded a grant of £45,000 in recognition of all 29 Districts of R.I.B.I. working together on the 'Thanks for Life' campaign. The money would be used in part for promotion in particular in projecting logos on buildings. Additional money is to be provided to send the Education & Health correspondent of the Guardian, and a photographer, out to India with our immunisation teams. A film crew will produce a CD, voiced over by Konnie Huq, and two copies will go to each club together with extra copies for schools if required. During November a set of six A2 posters, funded by the grant, are to be given to each club to support work on the campaign. For the £600 used to seed the programme we have had a very good deal from R.I.B.I.

C. 09/10. 18 District Secretary's Comments and Correspondence:

The District Secretary had issued a report prior to the meeting but had a number of updates to address.

Forms 6 returns to RIBI

The District Secretary stressed to Club Secretaries that use of Form 6 is to be discontinued. In future the information will be extracted from entries in the incoming officers section of the RI database which needs to be completed if club information is to feature in the RI & RIBI directories. RIBI have now confirmed this process in the October mailing to clubs. Any queries should be addressed to Assistant District Secretary Rtn Janet Cooke.

The District Secretary had an addition to Changes in Club Details in the original report

The Rotary Club of Rushden Higham - new Secretary:

Karen Kearns
36 Queenswood Avenue
Boothville
Northampton
NN3 6JU
Tel: 01604 495100

RIBI Roadshow tender opportunity

RIBI are seeking closed bids for purchase of the Roadshow. The members of the Executive could see no advantage in attempting to purchase the trailer. Purchase would involve a substantial capital outlay plus considerable running and depreciation costs; these were deemed prohibitive.

District Executive unanimously agreed that District 1070 would not put in a bid.

Bill Huntley Endowment Fund

District Executive approved support to the Bill Huntley Endowment Fund, the sum of \$5,000 being allocated from the DDF. \$68,000 of the DDF underspend had been allocated to matching the polio donations with \$25,000 kept back for ambassadorial and peace scholarships

The Bill Huntley Endowment, while being a peace scholarship, was entirely separate.

A donation could be made without detriment to other commitments.

This matter has been passed to the Foundation committee to deal with and John Dehnel will be reporting on the matter.

RFE Problem

Following the visit of the Brazilians to the District last month, there was an unfortunate incident involving one of their party. It is extremely important that in the event of any difficulty of any function being organised, RFE or other that District Officer be informed immediately, so that any such problem can be dealt with whilst the visitors are still with us.

On this occasion the RFE Officer was successful in the recovery of the amount in respect of the financial loss suffered. This may not be the happy outcome in the future, unless early notification is made and there can be no responsibility on the District, financial or otherwise.

RIBI Constitutions & the Standard Club Constitutions

These were revised following the last business session of the RIBI Conference and have now been reprinted, effective date July 2009.

Copies have today been sent to all Club Secretaries.

One of the parts that affects Clubs in the immediate few weeks ahead is the requirement of current Club Presidents to provide Accounts Certification of the Clubs accounts each year. This applies to both the Club and Charity Accounts. The accounts need to be approved by the members at the SGM which Clubs will be holding shortly.

Our District Treasurer Robert has sent details to all Club Treasurers of the certificate that has to be completed by Club Presidents, and sent to him, within 6 months of the end of the accounting period, stating that the Club's accounts and Trust accounts have been properly prepared and examined. Robert had also asked for copies of the accounts to accompany this certification and whilst these accounts were not part of the requirement, it was hoped that Clubs would co-operate with this request.

The District Secretary has also sent this information to Club Secretaries.

Rotary fund raising from redundant Computers

Rtn Tim Leech of the Biggleswade Club brought to the attention of the District Secretary possible dangers of becoming involved with any such activity. Any Club that is offered "Old" computers for fund raising and recycling need to be very careful on how they dispose of them.

The District Secretary is advised that the simple rule is that old computers are a potential source of considerable fraud and their only safe value is in the precious metals on the circuit boards. A guide to the layman is that the discs in these systems will **ALWAYS** retain traceable personal data **irrespective** of what the "layman" does. This data is easily recoverable with standard technical tools not available to the public.

We know professionals can wipe discs, but that's an exception and not really available to the general public.

If this is done sometimes the units are considered valueless. Our advice is to avoid computer recycling for fund raising....the best course is a 5lb hammer on the disc.

As an aside think also of mobile phones--they may also have unit memory of addresses/numbers--after you have removed the SIM.

Rtn Patrick Boylan (Leicester) stressed that only the hard disc needed to be destroyed, the rest of the computer being recyclable.

Voting on matters at District Council meetings

The District Secretary understood there may be some concerns that inadequate notice was given to Clubs with regard to items where Clubs have been asked to vote this evening.

One in particular is that for the nomination of RI Director 2011-13

The District Secretary advised that he had written to all clubs on the 9th August seeking nominations giving what he hoped was plenty of notice for any nominations be sent to him, in writing by the 1st October, for submitting to the District Executive meeting on the 12th October.

This year 2 nominations had been received, both late September, one of which required clarification from RIBI as to whether it could be presented to clubs. This was confirmed as constitutional, and the matter referred to the Executive. The Executive approved the nominations.

Agendas and reports for this District Council meeting were then sent on the 14th & 15th October, advised details of those nominations.

The District Executive thought it would be helpful to members if individual CVs were obtained (not a requirement for non District Officer elections) and the District Secretary then asked the respective candidates for CVs.

These were sent to clubs on the earliest date possible - 23rd October, after they had been received.

Ideally this item of business would have been referred to the 25th January District Council meeting but, since the deadline for submission to RIBI would have been the same day, the matter had to be placed before this Council.

Details of each candidate's CV could have been read out to delegates this evening, but the District Secretary was trying to give as much information to clubs in general, rather than those present.

On reflection he felt perhaps he could have reduced the time given for candidates to come forward and apologised to anyone who felt they had not been given adequate information in good time.

Attendance at District Council meetings

The District Secretary addressed the District Governor regarding his concerns at the increasing number of Clubs not represented at District Council meetings and hence the perceived democracy of what is done in the District. He felt those here present were fully aware of the purpose of District Council meetings but some Clubs fail to appreciate their opportunity then level complaints that District has made decisions that they do not like. He emphasised District is for all, not just the Elected Officers.

He made this comment, to set the record right, particularly for those who will read the comment in the minutes, rather than those who were here tonight in knowing their opportunity.

The District Governor reported on a decision made by District Executive regarding 'homing' Health & Safety and Protection Officers. To conform with the RIBI structure these positions had been removed from within Membership and hence accidentally omitted from the District Directory. They are now 're-homed' within the Secretariat, under PDG Barry Hasdell, and the position will be regularised in time for the District Directory next year.

C. 09/10. 19 Ballot for a candidate for the Office of R.I. Director 2011/13

Nominations received:

- **PDG John Hammond (Loughborough Beacon)**
- **PDG Peter Offer (Coventry Jubilee)**

Past R.I. Director PDG Neville Hackett requested a correction be made and highlighted the fact that **PDG Peter Offer** additionally had been **Past President of R.I.B.I.**

The District Governor requested a departure from standing orders to allow a paper ballot rather than show of hands. This was unanimously approved.

Under instruction from his club, Rtn Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) objected to the short notice given of details of the two candidates standing for this important office. He expressed concern that the time scale limited opportunity for adequate discussion and comprehensive review within clubs. (Ref. C. 09/10. 18 District Secretary: "Voting on matters at District Council meetings"). The District Governor said that these comments would be looked into and referred to the District Executive.

The District Governor reemphasised the need to work within time limits.

PDG Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe) commented that clubs democratically elect delegates to represent them and as such these Rotarians should be able to make decisions on behalf of members.

The result of the paper ballot (announced later in the meeting after the count had been made) showed a resounding majority in favour of PDG John Hammond.

C.09/10. 20

District Treasurer's Report:

The District Treasurer had prepared and, together with a list of differences to budget, distributed prior to the meeting an **Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 30th June 2009.**

He explained a loss for the year of £206, which, bearing in mind some unforeseen expenditure was quite acceptable.

The District Treasurer addressed major unforeseen items in the accounts.

Kids Out - In past years the Kids Out charity contributed some £2.40 per child attendee. Due to new charity restrictions imposed by this government it was reduced this year to £1. This resulted in a net loss this year of £4500. There was a reserve in our accounts for Kids Out of £7501 and we could have set off the loss this year against this. However, the contribution from 'Kids Out' in 2010 will not be more than £1 and may not be anything.

To protect future years District Executive therefore agreed that we should write off the unexpected loss of 2283 x £1.40 in this year and carry forward a reserve of £6197 instead of the £3001

Hence the loss of £3196 in this year's accounts

There will be a similar loss in the 2009/10 accounts – perhaps more.

Thanks for Life -District Executive agreed to support the RIBI marketing campaign for ‘Thanks for Life’ in the sum of £600

RI Convention -District Executive agreed to support the RIBI PR campaign for the RI Convention in the sum of £450. There was however a reserve of £1000 for House of Friendship at the Convention of which only £260 was spent

Corporation Tax -Two years were payable in this year, which was in the past, he understood netted from Interest Received

DGN -The role of DGN has been enhanced but the budget for both DGE and DGN was split and is about equal to budget.

The District Treasurer had also distributed accounts for the period to 29th October. He reported that all subscriptions were in and all but one RIBI subscription paid. He reminded everyone that the subscription to District was due in full in July with RIBI contribution due half in July and half in January.

There were no questions.

PDG Neville Hackett proposed the Income & Expenditure Accounts for the year to 30th June 2009 be accepted, seconded by PDG Andrew Cowling and unanimously agreed.

The District Governor thanked The District Treasurer and Independent Accounts Examiner (Rtn Ken Craig) for processing the accounts so quickly and making them available in advance of budget building. On behalf of District 1070 he also thanked Rtn John Cartwright for his many years of service on the District Team most recently as Assistant Treasurer.

C. 09/10. 21 Assistant Governors’ Reports:

AG reports for each of the Areas A-G had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Rtn Ken Billington (Area A) was delighted to report that Simon Weston OBE had agreed to be a patron of Trade Aid. There were no questions for any of the AGs.

C. 09/10. 22 Support Team Chairmen’s Reports

Support Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a. Communications (including District Editor, Web site, Marketing):

District Editor - Rtn Graham Walker had spare copies of News & Events for anyone to collect after the meeting. He also reported finding a photograph in archives of the person last in possession of the Foundation trophy.

b. Conference:

The District Governor once again requested standing orders be suspended to allow a paper ballot to take place to select the venue for conference 2012 and for DGN(E) Chris Chew to have sufficient time to present his thoughts on the three venue in question. This was unanimously agreed.

Rtn Andy Roberts thanked all those who attended conference at Eastbourne and hoped all had enjoyed a successful conference.

He reported that DGE Roger McDermott had finished the programme for Bournemouth - details on the website. Keynote speakers will be comedian Roy Walker and Green Goddess Diana Moran. There will be no casino, this being replaced by alternative entertainment, for younger Rotarians on Saturday night.

There were no questions but the District Governor thanked Andy and his team for a super conference at Eastbourne.

The DGN(E) thanked those who had returned the questionnaire - guidance for future conferences beyond 2012.

He reiterated the strengths and weaknesses of the three venues for 2012 (all within 2½ hours drive) and, having visited Telford recently, expressed a personal preference for this venue. There was hotel accommodation on site for 250 rooms at present with a new hotel under construction offering a further 300 rooms. PDG Roger May was concerned that this hotel was not yet built but the DGN(E) explained a further 300 existing rooms were less than 10 mins walk away. The conference centre was very keen to host the event. They had offered room keys being made available on arrival at the conference centre to those travelling Saturday morning who could go straight into the session. Luggage would be taken to rooms.

PDG Barry Hasdell queried the rise in capitation for shorter conferences and that detailed figures hadn’t been provided on each venue, as previously requested, which he felt were important to be recorded.

The DGN(E) explained these figures were based upon several years ahead and whilst projected to 2012, but would provide the detailed figures as used in advising Clubs of the general figures shown in the comparison reports.

IPDG Iain Vernon added that these figures are never actually known until the year before. It was noted the projected capitation for Harrogate was the same but registration and hotel costs and the Saturday evening meal at Telford significantly lower.

Rtn John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) commented on the lower fuel costs in going to Telford.

Rtn Colin Scott (Holbeach) commented that the terms 2½ and 1½ day conference would be more accurate and questioned, in view of the shorter travelling time, whether conferences could continue into Sunday afternoon. The District Governor said Sunday afternoon could be considered subject to venue contract.

Rtn Lesley Hammond (Boston St Bololph) was assured Telford could accommodate all delegates for Saturday dinner.

Rtn Rodney Britten (Spalding) felt, after hearing the presentation, would like to change the decision agreed by his club. He was reminded by PDG Roger May that this was another case of being elected by the club to make decisions based on up to date information.

Rtn Janet Sinclair (Shepshed) was concerned that neither Telford nor London offered tiered seating. She was assured this would be managed with conveniently positioned Audio Visual equipment & screens.

The result of the paper ballot (announced later in the meeting) was:

3rd London
2nd Harrogate
1st Telford

The venue for the 2012 District Conference would therefore be TELFORD

c. Leadership, Development & Training:

Rtn Rodney Spokes announced, due to a cancellation, a place would be available on Saturday at a seminar for those interested in serving on District.

d. Membership (inc. Extension, Membership Development & Retention

Rtn David Morris commented on the 1st phase of the RIBI marketing campaign. Nationally 215 hits had been made on the web advertisement with 91 completing the 'How to join Rotary' form. Within District 1070 only 14 applications had been completed, significantly lower than expectation, but it is hoped the momentum will build. Meetings at Northampton and Kettering have been postponed but the meeting at Leicester is to go ahead.

RIBI press releases are still to come and specific groups (Federation of Small Businesses, Law Society etc.) to be targeted. He thanked AGs and members of the task force for all their work and asked clubs to be ready and welcoming. Examples of good and bad practice were related.

The District Governor added his gratitude for the work that had taken place.

e. Protection and H&S

Neither officer present.

C. 09/10. 23 Project Team Chairmen's Reports:

Project Team reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

a. Youth (inc. RYLA, Interact, Youth Exchange, Rotaract):

Rtn Mary Whitehead had several points to add to her report:

Competitions: She asked everyone to be mindful of the closing dates for youth competitions – information on the website – please note changes in rules for Youth Speaks and Young Photographer.

Rotary Bear: Po Lio will be going to India with the immunisation teams. His sister Pinkie will remain here and is available for hire. The bear has so far collected over £380 for the polio campaign.

Interact: Mary congratulated Rotary clubs beginning to set up new Interact clubs – next week (2nd – 8th November) is worldwide Interact week. District 1070 could have 5 new clubs or even more.

Young Citizen: nominations due by 28th February. Mary urged publicising this award (let her know if you need additional publicity material) when visiting schools or other groups of young people – nomination form on the website.

Camps and Tours: These are an excellent way of putting Short Term Exchange into practice – details on the website, make schools and youth groups aware.

RYLA: Mary had been impressed by the achievements of candidates this year but was concerned some clubs are not aware of the benefits of the programme. Improved publicity material is planned encouraging Clubs to work in partnership with businesses to find and support candidates.

PDG Andrew Cowling gave a short report on RYLA. He encouraged clubs to have a reserve candidate where possible, useful if someone drops out at the last minute. Course notes are available – contact Andrew. He offered to visit clubs to talk about RYLA and could bring previous candidates along. Grafham Water had increased the fee per candidate by £25 on last year but offered to hold this price for the next three years.

Rtn Richard Wells (Bourne) suggested three adjudicators should be employed in Young Musician heats, District and RIBI finals.

Rtn John Cartwright made comment that as a professional adjudicator was used, costing £200 per day that the increased costs would be impossible to fund.

b. Community and Vocational:

Rtn Simon Adlam reminded everyone of the Community & Vocational Forum, at The Lady Anne’s Stamford, on Wednesday 11th November.

c. Foundation (inc. Grants, GSE):

Polio Challenge - Rtn John Dehnel was pleased to report encouraging signs in the battle against polio with just 460 confirmed cases so far in India and just over 1000 worldwide. Cases are 49% down in Nigeria and 20% down worldwide. He congratulated the 69 clubs who had made contributions.

Grants - John invited clubs to approach him for help applying for District Simplified Grants, money is available and he wants to help. He reported that whilst “the shutters are down” on Matching Grants, due to the difficult Global recession, but stressed District funds would be used wherever possible.

Communications – Leaflets, posters and badges supporting the Thanks for Life polio eradication campaign were available for collection at the back of the room. John requested a £1 donation for each badge. Rotary calendars are also available. He and his team are keen to visit clubs to give fund raising ideas for the polio campaign and were already booked to speak at half of the clubs in November and December.

Rtn Jan Hetherington (Stamford St Martins) asked whether trips to London could be arranged for visiting GSE teams but was told time constraints had made this difficult.

The District Governor thanked all those involved with hosting the group from The Philippines.

d. International (inc RFE):

Rtn Lesley Hammond reported that donations to Leonard Cheshire from District 1070 had now reached £14,000 putting us in the top four within RIBI where contributions had now reached £260,000.

She also thanked all clubs for contributions to disaster aid, ShelterBox, Aqua boxes etc.

The District Governor added that £900 (almost two boxes) of the Sunday morning collection at conference had been donated to ShelterBox.

Rtn Simon Adlam (St. Neots St. Mary’s) surprised Lesley by presenting her with the missing International Derek Hooton Challenge Cup.

PDG John Hammond defended Rtn Bob Seery and felt he should not have been ‘attacked’ when representing the opinion of his club. He considered questions raised by Bob to district and RIBI over the years had been very constructive and urged him to continue his watching brief.

C. 09/10.24 Presentation by Past R.I. Director PDG Neville Hackett O.B.E. “Uganda Projects”

PDG Neville Hackett gave a very interesting report on projects in Uganda. He advised clubs to go out and visit countries they intended support, see the problems first hand and continue to visit to ensure money contributed was being spent in the correct way. He showed a series of photographs to illustrate the different projects with which he was involved giving an informed insight on challenges in Uganda. He thanked the 23 clubs who had supported his matching grant application for The Farnfield Hospital in Jinja and showed photographs of the essential equipment provided with the money raised. He suggested clubs should work together to provide funding for clean water projects and would ask that a further project supported.

The District Governor asked that the matter be referred to the District International committee for consideration.

C. 09/10.25 Date and venue for the next District Council meeting:

Buckingham Suite, Holiday Inn, Peterborough West, Peterborough

Monday, 25th January 2010

Meeting to commence at 7.30pm.

C. 09/10. 26 Any Other Business:

On behalf of DGE Linda May the District Secretary advised booking for the RI Convention in Montreal before 15th December to take advantage of the early booking incentive. Linda would like to know who intends going to Montreal.

The District Secretary expressed his disappointment that 22 clubs were not represented at this District Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date _____

District Governor