

Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting, Monday 22 October 2012

District Governor Chris Chew chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Monday 22 October 2012 commencing at 7.30pm.

There were 160 Rotarians present from 72 Clubs (Area A 8; B 12; C 11; D 12; E 10; F 8; G 11 Clubs represented).

C. 12/13. 15 Welcome and Apologies

District Governor Chris welcomed all who were present, in particular asking those attending their first Council meeting and Past District Governors to stand to be recognised.

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Ronald Watson, John Butcher, Neville Hackett and Roger McDermott

Officers: Garner Roberts (Assistant Governor Area B) and Colin Yarwood (Youth Exchange Officer).

Clubs: Boston, Oundle and Spalding.

Individuals: Julia Joseph-Hinde, Hilary Painter, John Sadler and Ossie Williams.

C. 12/13. 16 Act of Remembrance

DG Chris named the following Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting: Philip Ash (Bourne), Chris Davey (Nene Valley), Robyn Griffith-Jones (Coalville), Alan Harrison (Nene Valley), Michael Inchley (Ashby Hastings), Bernard Millhouse (Grantham), Richard Paten (Peterborough), Robert Robert-Smith (Leicester) and Peter Vickers (Biggleswade). All present stood in an act of remembrance.

C 12/13. 17 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

District Secretary Dick Parsley advised corrections to the names of Paul Barnes and Ronald Watson. AG Robin Green (Northampton West) proposed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 5 July 2012 should be agreed as a true record. This was seconded by Bryan Swain (Huntingdon Cromwell), unanimously agreed, and signed by District Governor Chris.

C 12/13. 18 Matters arising

Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) asked for an update on incident referred to in item C12/13.06. DG Chris said that Club Presidents and Secretaries had been advised that an update would be included in his report.

C 12/13. 19 District Governor's Report

Activity. DG Chris advised he had carried out 78 Club Visits, attended 10 Charter Celebration dinners, and the following meetings: 2 General Council, 3 District Committee and a Constitutional Committee. He had also attended an Inner Wheel Rally, a Dragon Boat Race and a Sailability BBQ. He had enjoyed excellent hospitality and fellowship at every Club.

Social Media. DG Chris advised that the first social media training course had taken place and congratulated the team involved.

Financial Incident. DG Chris referred to the message which he had sent to all Club Presidents and had been sent by DS Dick to Club Secretaries. Accounts for the Rotary Years 2010/11 and 2011/12 are with Rawlinson's Chartered Accountants of Peterborough for audit but these cannot be signed off until completion of criminal proceedings.

On 15 October 2012 DS Dick and Robert Gibson (Rushden Chichele) attended the Magistrates Court in Wellingborough, as observers representing the district, at which charges against the former District Treasurer, Stephen Bellamy, were referred to a further court hearing on 26 November 2012. He would issue a further update after 26 November 2012.

Of the apparent shortfall of £55,000 - £60,000, he was pleased to report that £50,000 had been received from the insurance arranged by RIBI (Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland). The shortfall was from District monies and none of the funds involved had been monies held for charity.

He asked Rotarians not to make any comments to the media. Contact details of any media enquiries should be taken without comment and passed to PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby) or Rebecca Warner at RIBI. or Rtn. Jon Whowell (Stamford Burghley)

Malkiat Khinda (Bedford) asked whether any other Districts had suffered similar problems in the past. DG Chris said that he was not aware of details of any recent similar case nor full details a problem in District 1080 some years ago.

Conference. DG Chris said that the reports had shown that everyone had enjoyed the Conference in Telford and thanked those involved.

C12/13. 20 District Secretary

Changes. DS Dick asked members to ensure they did not use the contact details in the Directory for the President of Ashby Hastings, Malcolm Inchley who died. Rotary Youth Leadership Award organiser, PDG Andrew Cowling had changed his e-mail address to andrew@johnmartin.co.uk and District Membership Chairman, Alan Faulkner had changed his telephone number to 01945 428824

Use of District Directory. An organisation called Community Courtyard had apparently used District Directory information to send an e-mail promoting "Hoodies are Goodies" without approval. The organisation has now accepted that the action was wrong and has apologised. It was understood that the Directory had been supplied by a Rotarian. Members were asked to take the message back to their Clubs that "**The Directory is issued for use of Rotarians only, and it must not pass out of their hands nor be used for purposes other than those of the Rotary movement**"(Directory Page 3). Old copies of directories should be passed to DS Dick for secure disposal and anyone knowing of misuses should advise DS Dick rather than contacting the organisation involved.

C 12/13. 21 District Treasurer's Report

DG Chris advised that the Income and Expenditure account for the three month period ended 30 September 2012 had been circulated. District Treasurer Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell) had nothing further to add. No questions were raised.

C 12/13. 22 Matters referred to the District Executive and now referred back for District Council approval.

i) Approval of Revised Standing Orders.

DS Dick referred to the pre circulated revised Standing Orders identifying that the principal changes reflect more strongly the experience and qualifications of those responsible for district monies; requirement for two signatures on every cheque; and two people to sign-off the accounting statements to both Executive and Council on a quarterly basis. These changes would impact on the workload of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer but are deemed necessary.

He said that following a question prior to the meeting, he proposed the wording in paragraph 2(d) be amended from “The posts include:” to “The posts are:” to make it clear that the requirement is for specified District posts and does not place an obligation for Clubs officers.

Acceptance of the revised Standing Orders was proposed by PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby), seconded by Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) and accepted by a unanimous vote.

DS Dick announced that following the acceptance of these changes he was now able to seek nominations for the outstanding 2013/14 posts of District Secretary, Assistant District Secretary, District Treasurer, Assistant District Treasurer, 2 independent members of the Finance Committee and the District Independent Account Examiner. At the same time he would be seeking a suitably qualified volunteer to take over from Trevor Thomas (Northampton) who has completed 3 years as Foundation Grants Treasurer and wishes to stand down. This is an appointed post and not elected but is bound by the new criteria for financial posts.

ii) Proposition from Rotary Club of Bourne

Richard Wells on behalf of Bourne proposed “That the District Treasurer sets up a provision within the New Generations’ budget so that expenses grants may be made available to candidates representing the District at Regional and RIBI New Generations’ Finals which are held outside the District 1070 Boundaries.”

In speaking to this proposition, Richard said that the proposal was not to set a formal protocol for expenses because these differed from year to year but to recognise that the winners of District competitions are representing our District. He considered that it is right for District to be fully behind its representatives by making grants to defray the costs.

The proposal was seconded by Sally Smith on behalf of Northampton West.

Mary Whitehead (Biggleswade Ivel) said that as a past Chairman of New Generations she would not like to see this as part of the general New Generations funding in case money was moved from other valuable projects if there were a large number of claimants.

Patrick Boylan (Leicester) said that as the amounts had not been quantified, the proposal should be referred to the District Executive.

District Treasurer Geoff clarified that if the resolution was agreed, a budget would be submitted to District Executive for approval.

Jim Wiggins (Melton Mowbray) spoke in favour of funding because otherwise it might mean that District winners could not afford to compete in subsequent rounds.

DG Chris advised that the proposal could be referred back to the District Executive and this was overwhelmingly agreed by a show of voting cards.

iii) Presentation on Redistricting

DG Chris said that this objective was being driven by RI globally because membership has decreased in the USA, Australia and RIBI whilst countries such as India and the Far East membership is increasing rapidly. Five Districts have over 5,000 members, some over 130 Clubs and some cover up to six countries with different languages, so change is needed. The cost of maintaining a District is the same irrespective of size but is funded by a membership which is static worldwide. RIBI put forward a plan for membership growth and for redistricting because otherwise this would be imposed by RI.

The target for RIBI is to have a minimum of 2,500 members and 65 Clubs per District, with an expected reduction from 29 to 24 Districts.

The majority of Clubs currently in 1070 would join a new District currently identified as K. This would probably include more Clubs from Lincolnshire and Whittlesey near Peterborough. Clubs in Bedfordshire, and Brackley would probably be in another District. He had visited the Bedford Clubs who had agreed in principle to the new District and would be meeting Brackley this coming Thursday (25th October).

Afternote: At that meeting the members of the Rotary Club of Brackley requested to remain with the Northamptonshire Clubs – this request would be reported to RIBI re Districting Committee and DG Chris did not foresee any problem.

Feedback available to all Club Presidents.– Cut-off date for feedback. 26 November 2012 – Ratification by RIBI General Council. January 2013 – Ratification by RI Board. By 31 May 2013 - Election of District Governors 2015/16 (Electronic voting if necessary facilitated by RIBI). 1 July 2013 – Transition management teams for new Districts. 1 July 2015 – New Districts come into effect. Any one District voting against could stop these proposals but then RI would be likely to impose its own plan.

It is important to realise that these are new Districts and they will establish their own standing orders. The assets brought into the new District by each Club will be based on a proportion of the number of members of the Club compared with total membership of their old District.

DG Chris asked for any questions. Jim Wiggins (Melton Mowbray) asked for details of the maximum distance between the extremities of the new District. DG Chris estimated at 135 miles. PDG Ian Vernon (Peterborough Ortons) asked whether the plan had been accepted by RI. DG Chris understood that only the plans from RIBI and Australia had been accepted. Jim Richardson (Bedford) asked how Clubs of a new District would be consulted as he was concerned that Bedford would be swallowed up. DG Chris said Bedford would be the largest Club in their proposed District so thought they would have an important influence. Janet Sinclair (Shepshed) asked what the effect would be on Rotaract Club of Bedford. DG Chris said he expect Rotaract to change to the new Districts structure. Annette Lewis (Bedford de Parys) informed that Italian membership was high because spouses were automatically counted as members. Mark Chamberlain (Bedford) asked what the effect would be on Inner Wheel. PDG Roger May (Lutterworth Wycliffe) said that Rotaract was controlled by RI and therefore would follow the new Districts. Inner Wheel was an independent organisation and could make their own choice. DT Geoff Richardson advised the proposed District K would have approximately 43 members more than 1070, providing increased revenue of approximately £1,300 and increase costs of between £1,000 and £1,500.

DG Chris said that he was charged to take back the views of District to RIBI and asked for support. Jim Wiggins (Melton Mowbray) said that he understood that we either accepted

these proposals or a plan would be imposed by RI. DG Chris said he understood this to be the case.

The vote of support for the Redistricting Plan was unanimously in favour save for one abstention each from Brackley and Rushden. 72 Clubs were present (from 87) 160 Rotarians.

C 12/13. 23 Assistant Governors' Reports

In addition to the written reports: AGE John Dehnel reported on behalf of AG Garner Roberts (Area B) that eight members had been inducted by Loughborough Beacon and they would be meeting as the Loughborough Beacon Jubilee Satellite Group. AG Robin Green (Area F) advised that the Northampton West Interact Club in formation now had 34 members.

C 12/13. 24 Rotary Foundation

John Dehnel had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions.

C 12/13. 25 Project Team Chairmen's Reports

a) Community. Tony Robbs asked for help in finding someone to take over "Environment" activities. He also asked for those Clubs involved in Children in Need to let him know how much had been raised.

He then introduced the Kids Out project coordinator Bryan Swain (Huntingdon Cromwell) to speak on the proposal to change the Kids Out funding contribution to £125 per Club.

Bryan briefly covered the history and benefits of this projected taking special needs children to Wicksteed Park. Funding had been by District capitation until 2004 when the Kids Out charity started contributing £4 per child. This had now been reduced to £1 per child and costs have increased. After the per capita from Kids Out and £1,000 from District capitation this gave a shortfall of just over £5,000 to be funded on a per Club basis. He asked for support and said he would shortly be asking Clubs to advise whether they would be participating. Last year some Clubs who were not able to take part had made donations and this was appreciated.

David Whitehead (Biggleswade Ivel) asked whether the fee would still apply if a Club provided only one child. DG Chris said the charge was irrespective of number attending. Carole Baldam (Market Harborough) asked whether a cheaper venue could be used. Bryan Swain said that other venues investigated were more expensive, for example Drayton Manor used by some Clubs in the north of the District. Robin Green (Northampton West) said that overall costs for his Club's participation were over £1,000 which was funded from donations. PDG Ian Vernon (Peterborough Ortons) said that Clubs should consider their participation in the round and there were "swings and roundabouts" (laughter) to projects. The importance was taking the most children and perhaps cutting down on extras like caps and t-shirts from a limited budget. DG Chris said that this was an extremely worthwhile project and had provided him with Rotary Moments.

The funding of the District participation in Kids Out at a per participating Club charge of £125 was proposed by PDG Ian Vernon (Peterborough Ortons), seconded AG Robin Green (Northampton West) and agreed overwhelmingly.

b) Vocational Service. Mary Whitehead encouraged members to attend the forthcoming District Roadshows to find out more about the Rotary skills resource list. She asked Clubs to make sure that the relevant people know that details of the Task for the 2013 Technology

Tournament are now available from her. She asked Clubs to send information to the Vocational Team on any projects or ideas for Vocational.

Support Team Chairmen's Reports

c) Communications. DG Chris invited IPDG Linda May to present awards for the 2011/12 Club Bulletin competitions as follows: Best Club Bulletin – Market Bosworth. Best New Entry – Peterborough Minster. David Morris drew attention to the fact that the overall winner, Market Bosworth had won the new entry award last year. He also said that spare copies of News and Events would be available for collection after the meeting.

DG Chris said that David Morris had stepped in to edit News and Events without any similar previous experience. He congratulated him on the new style and asked members to let David know their views.

d) Leadership, Development & Training. Peter Brearley said that his written report was brief because of the timing of Committee meetings but all actions were in hand for development and training events.

e) Conference. Neville Thompson said that the Conference in Telford had shown a surplus of approximately £3,500. With regard to the next Conference in York, a larger list of Bed & Breakfast and hotel accommodation would shortly be made available on the District website.

Following a question from Graham Martin (Soar Valley), DG Chris said that the closing date for Conference evaluation forms to be returned is 30 October 2012 in time for review at the next Conference Committee meeting. The results would be circulated. He gave a brief review of the figures from forms so far received.

Elaine Sefton (Huntingdon Cromwell) asked that hotel cancellation conditions be made available to all those booking. Neville Thompson said that the conditions were supplied to Club Presidents who should make them available to members.

There were no questions on the reports circulated by all other Committees.

C 12/13. 26 Roadshows

DGN Ken said that everything was in hand for the District Roadshows (Monday 29 October at Orton Hall Hotel, Peterborough and on Thursday 1 November 2012 at the Best Western Wigston Stage Hotel, Leicester.) Further details are on the District website and he encouraged Rotarians and potential Rotarians to attend,

C 12/13. 27 Council of Legislation

The District representative to COL, PDG Barry Hasdell (Oadby) gave a brief overview of the volume and nature of the resolutions and enactments on which he would vote on behalf of the District in Chicago in April 2013. He would be holding a meeting in Corby in January 2013 on a date to be advised for all interested Rotarians in the District.

Following a question from Bryan Swain (Huntingdon Cromwell), it was confirmed that the details of all resolutions had been sent in pdf format to Club Secretaries by DS Dick. In answer to a question from Bob Seery (Thrapston & Raunds) it was confirmed that there was no resolution to abolish RIBI – so we would continue to receive the financial benefits, including insurance.

Rotarians were encouraged to be part of the changing face of Rotary by attending the January meeting.

C12/13. 28 Next Meeting

DG Chris confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Tuesday 29 January 2013 at 7.30pm

C12/13. 29 Any other business

- a) Rob Murray (St Neots) said that the Alzheimer’s Society had withdrawn funding for a **memory café** and St Neots was continuing operation under the Rotary Easing Problems of Dementia banner. He requested donations of percussion instruments excluding drums.
- b) AG Geoff Blurton reported on a visit to Kenya in District 9200 which he and Irvin Metcalf had undertaken following up on the recent **Vocational Training Team** visit. He reported that the “hell” on their first visit when they had found Physically Impaired children who were considered beyond hope and spent their days lying on the floor had been replaced by the “heaven” of inclusive activities including using a computer. DG Chris congratulated them on this follow up visit and noted this had been undertaken at their own expense.
- c) DG Chris said that all Clubs should have signed up to the **Diversity and Discrimination** policies and he was therefore disappointed to have to visit a Club recently to remind them that their actions were wrong and illegal. He said that he hoped he would not have to remind any other Clubs that membership is available to all from business and the professions without discrimination.

There being no other business the meeting was declared the meeting closed

District Governor _____

Date _____