

MINUTES OF ROTARY MEETING HELD AT THE BRITISH LEGION CLUB, LOVE LANE, ROMSEY ON
WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023

The President, Nigel Budd, opened the meeting and the grace was read by Clive Collier.

The President made the Loyal Toast at 2020hrs followed by a 10 minute grace.

The speaker for the evening was our very own John Gould who gave a fascinating talk entitled: 'Choosing a Round-The-World Cruise. Lessons from 150 years ago'.

John took us back to the 1870's when Britannia ruled the waves. The British Empire spread far and wide, the Suez Canal opened in 1869, the electric telegraph had been invented and a united Germany was formed in 1870.

A converted Pearl Class corvette, launched in 1858, named HMS Challenger was converted to a research ship to circumnavigate the world taking various sea measurements and collecting samples. The Challenger's trip lasted 1256 days starting on the 7th December 1872.

At a similar time the Germans converted one of their ships, the SMS Gazelle to perform a similar task but their trip turned out to be a lot shorter, commencing on the 20th June 1874 but only for a period of 679 days.

Both ships provided meagre rations for the crew but HMS Challenger at least had lime juice (to prevent scurvy) but the German ships thought they could manage with citric acid (which was cheaper) but this did not have the anti-scurvy properties of lime juice.

At the end of both trips the Germans produced five volumes of reports but the British (taking up to 20 years) produced 50 volumes of reports which are still referred to today.

The only physical remains of HMS Challenger is the figurehead which is situated in the entrance hall at the National Oceanography Centre in the Eastern docks at Southampton.

There followed a number of questions which proved how interesting John's talk was.

Council members reports:

Secretary – Stuart Wineberg reported that Peter Hurst had been put forward as the Trust Fund Treasurer (from July 2023). There were no further nominees so Peter was voted in.

International – Bill Gidley thanked everyone for their prompt response to the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and as a result approximately £3,500 had been sent from the club to District.

Club Service – Ed Holmes reported that the meeting next week involving talks from Ukrainians living in the Romsey area would take place downstairs where we will have exclusive use (the upstairs room has a long-standing booking). This is a partners evening so as many as possible are invited to attend.

Youth Opportunities – Steve George reported that the Youth Speaks District event was held in Andover last Wednesday but unfortunately our teams were ‘pipped at the post’ by an excellent team from a private school in Andover.

The Tech. Tournament will take place on Wednesday 8th March in the Crosfield Hall, commencing at 0900hrs. There are currently 23 teams taking part. More volunteers are required on the day – please contact Steve Simmons-Jacobs.

Almoner – Ian Bullivant handed over to Peter Stuckey who reported that Graham Hollier had gone into hospital to have his prostate cancer investigated.

Clubs Visited – Tony Trowsdale reported that David Upton (ex. Member) had visited a club in the south island of New Zealand whose name was unpronounceable but they had a barbecue in the shape of a Rotary roundel!

Next Meeting – as reported by Ed Holmes (see above), the meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd February at the British Legion, Love Lane downstairs. Normal 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Talk entitled ‘Ukrainian hosts talking about their experiences’. Speaker reception: Ron Bowater, Minute taker: Nick Lockyer.

The final toast was taken and the meeting ended at 2130hrs.

Tony Abbott

15 February 2023