

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
COUNCIL AND CLUB MEETING - 7.30 WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2021

ATTENDEES

35 in total, including the following for Council:

Bryan Rickett - President	Steve George
Nick Bellamy	Bill Gidley
Nigel Budd	Graham Hollier
Keith Cameron	Mike Koscian
Clive Collier	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Brian Davies	Jon Livingstone - Secretary
Sandy Dunn	Roger Shepherd

Apologies: Stewart Mitchell

1. INTRODUCTION

Bryan welcomed all Members of RCoRT.

Gren had asked Jon to share the letter of thanks in respect of our donation to Shelterbox. This is attached.

Jon also referred to the Rotary National Volunteer EXPO, taking place virtually 7 and 8 May. There is a very good one-minute video about this, included with these minutes.

2. COUNCIL REPORTS

Club Treasurer

At the end of February, the Club had **£7,500** in its bank account. The account also held a positive balance of **£3,900** on members dinners accounts. During the month the Club spent only £110 and Individual members made donations totalling £810 to the Food Bank, plus the 25% Gift Aid.

Trust Fund Treasurer

Graham has previously circulated the financial position of the Club as at the end of 24 February 2021. This includes £3,740 committed within present year budgets, plus £4,133 uncommitted funds also relating to the present year.

Bryan advised the Club should consider appropriate requests that are received for support during the present year.

Graham advised donations in place of meals, by members to the Food Bank amount to just over £8,700, which is an excellent effort!

Club Service

'The President's Handover Night is proposed to be on 30 June which is after the proposed end of Covid restrictions on 21 June. Consideration is therefore being given to holding a face-to-face meeting with the alternative of a Zoom meeting if the end of restrictions is delayed.'

There is also the Rotary national prohibition of face-to-face meetings currently in place. I [Roger] have spoken with the national headquarters who have stated that there would be no reason for them continuing this prohibition if the government removes restrictions from 21 June.

Consideration is being given to an outdoor event with outside caterers preferably within Romsey. Shelter would be provided in case of rain. Clive Collier has been very helpful in developing ideas and is happy for the Social Committee to organise the event.

Although there are outstanding issues to resolve, Council is requested to approve in principle, holding a face-to-face outdoor President's Handover Night on 30 June with a Zoom meeting as a possible alternative if restrictions are still in place.'

Roger sought Members' support for this approach, which was agreed. Clive shared that this was a double handover, including Bill to Bryan for last year, also Bryan to Roger. Clive has arranged a preliminary booking with providers known to the Club. Mike Thorne mentioned the short window between relaxation of the restrictions 21 June and the event on 30 June and care not to incur expense if event could not proceed.

Events Co-ordinator and Scheduler

'David Sutton who currently undertakes this role has agreed to continue with it next year. He has asked if Council wish to reinstate the former practice of Committees being asked to organise a speaker/entertainment for a particular meeting. Council is requested to approve the reinstatement of this process.'

Fully supported. Agreed.

Communications Report February 2021

Keith' report:

'We had our monthly zoom meeting yesterday but little to report this month.

- *Bryan and Roger have provided an update for the front page of our website.*
- *Romsey Advertiser has been given an update on our activities with the ending of Lockdown on 21 June.*
 - *Confirmation of the cancellation of Reminiscences of Romsey.*
 - *Confirmation that this year's Walk the Test Way will be taking place on Sunday 26th September.*
 - *The Rotary Mayor's Picnic has not been cancelled and that an update will be provided once a new date has been confirmed- probably August.*
- *Our Rotary in Romsey signs have been put up at Hillier's for End Polio Now and Neil has provided some good crocus shots which we will forward with a reminder of End Polio Now.*
- *Shaun will be adding a few updates to Facebook over the next few weeks.*
- *I [Keith] will be standing down at the end of this Rotary year, having completed 3 years, so there is a great chair to be sat on by someone! Please could you let me know if you are interested to taking over the role and getting more involved with the Club's activities.'*

Keith also advised that Romsey Rotary are not holding a Handover meeting this year. The present President is continuing for a second year, 2021/ 2022.

Amidst much merriment, and whilst doubtless sorely tempted, Bryan declined this invitation for RCORT, not wishing to deprive other members of the Club of the opportunity

Membership & Recruitment

Bill has recently taken up the position from Shaun O'Brian due to his radio work taking up much of his time.

'There is nothing to report at the moment but I'd be happy to hear from anyone who has any thoughts on membership issues or new members. It goes without saying really that these are difficult times for Rotary. In the coming months the plan is to meet with Roger & Nigel to discuss our future membership strategy.'

Bill will refresh contact with Ian Catley once we move away from Zoom meetings.

Bryan mentioned that (in connection with a Compliance review) many newer [and existing members presumably?] are not aware of where the Rotary and Club policies are on the Club website at present. They are easy to find, held in the Member's Area, under 'Policy'.

Fundraising

Sandy confirmed Walk The Test Way will be on Sunday 26 September, on the existing model. The website is being prepared for later this month, along with publicity/ awareness; for example, communications with previous walkers.

Bookings will then go live once government announcements permit. Steve Beasley and Dave Healy are this year supporting the new registrars going forward, Bill Gidley and Mike Koscian. Graham Hollier issuing [now issued] the timeline, planning document.

Bryan and Roger thanked Sandy and the team. Roger referred to the need to replace Sandy for next year and he will invite volunteers for this key role.

Mike Koscian referred to the aspect of bussing and was a circular walk considered?

Sandy advised that the plan was for the existing format. Any adjustment or potential changes would be addressed if it was needed, once the government announcements are made.

Community Service

'It has been another quiet month for the Community Service group. A donation of £50 has been given to Romsey Young Carers. This is to enable them to purchase a pair of noise cancelling headphones for a young carer. This will help with school homework on their computer in a noisy home environment.'

'It is anticipated that as lockdown eases and charitable organisations begin personal contact with clients, calls on our service will increase.'

Discussion followed relating to the Mayor's Picnic. Peter Hurst has considered later months. October is too late. September is the Walk. This suggests August as a possible. Peter will seek to agree a date this month with Romsey Town Hall and advise.

Peter also noted that school orchestras have not been able to practise, so cannot attend and the event may be lower key than in previous years.

Jon asked if event organisers needed to contact Rotary insurers regarding cover for events? Sandy advised this is not the case. We check with the published guidelines on the Rotary GB&I site to ensure full compliance. We only need to contact the insurers if anything is outside of the guidelines, which is unlikely to occur. Bill did this for the 'Sokabloka' as a special instance exceptionally last year.

Bryan: District have advised that current Risk Assessments need to include Covid.

- [Jon 5 March: I have downloaded the current insurance guidelines and Risk Assessment template. If anyone would like copies please let me know.]

Foundation

'For confirmation; Colin Powell, a Rotary Polo Ambassador will be speaking to us Wednesday 24 March. 'Polio is not just a word'

Peace Jam are planning a one day event in November in association with Winchester University. Our local schools will be invited, Romsey school are already interested.

I [Stewart] have contacted District Grants team with regard to the grant we are holding for Peace Jam activities. They have agreed we can carry forward this to the new Rotary year to use in November. I have to confirm to District that by June the event is still going ahead. Please have a check on this link [Events | Peace Jam](#) It gives a flavour of what Peace Jam is all about especially for newer members. Our local schools may be attending, so would you like to be a mentor on the day? Contact me if you are interested. It's an eye opener on how these events inspire the young people.

I visited Hillier's Arboretum and the crocus are in flower again. The weather was kinder to them this year. Hillier's did not plant more to enhance the showing due to the restricted operations at the Arboretum. But better than last year.

Keith Cameron produced a short piece for their website and they have put up the Rotary signs at the crocus field.

AOB *I'm continuing to formulate the Schools Data base. Steve George and I have now talked to Romsey School about lines of communication with the school and we have set up a contact there for channelling ideas in both directions. Steve may have comments from a Youth perspective.*

International

Nothing to report this month.

Youth

Steve was pleased to advise that we have been invited to act as mentors for the Romsey School, Business Enterprise week, commencing 28 June.

School groups are given a business project and have to design, build, promote and sell their product. External business associates of the school and other helpers assist as mentors and see the pupils through the various stages of their project. On the final day all entries are judged by external volunteers.

Steve wanted to know if we would get six or more volunteers amongst the Club?

Bryan and Keith were keen to support this very worthwhile project. Keith referred to the additional benefit of building business contacts; and seek to be involved in planning stages for both parties to gain the maximum benefit.

Steve will confirm with Romsey School, we wish to support.

Sports & Social

Clive advised good take-up for the Cheese evening 31 March. We expect to have a speaker from Waitrose. Clive will communicate further closer to the date.

3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Graham Lee advised that the donations in lieu of meals to Romsey Foodbank likely to come to an end at the end of June. Graham will send a note outlining this and the excellent support to date.

Graham also noted that some of RCORT donations are deployed towards the Romsey Community Pantry, (now at Duke's Mill) for fresh provisions.

Bryan encouraged we remain in contact with the Foodbank. This is a source of real hardship in the town.

Bryan also thanked those who have assisted with a Compliance review prompted by District. Bryan will consolidate responses for next steps.

4. ALMONER

Warm welcomes were expressed to both Martin Harman and Tony Trowsdale.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Keith was keen we are planning ahead for the reduction/ end of restrictions. Seek to involve recent joiners and potential new members in advance of easing of restrictions.

Discussion regarding venues and catering for when face-to-face meetings recommence. Roger is liaising with the Town Hall and possibly other venues.

6. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17 March: Pakistan - Mountains and People.