

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
COUNCIL MINUTES – 1 MARCH 2023

Present: Nigel Budd* – President Ed Holmes* Bill Gidley
 Bryan Rickett Clive Collier Graham Hollier*
 Steve George Brian Davies* Tony Trowsdale
 Roger Shepherd

Apologies: Ron Bowater* Nikki Jones Stuart Wineberg*
 Charles Daniel-Hobbs*

* - Trustees

President Nigel welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Clive remarked that today was St David's Day.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Passed without comment.

Secretary

No report received.

Club Service

No report received.

Nigel proposed that partners be invited to attend the informal meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Clive suggested that friends be invited together with partners. Council agreed that both partners and friends be invited along to 4th Wednesday meetings.

Trust Fund

As per report. Nigel thanked Graham (Trust Fund) and Bill (International) for the quick response to raise funds for relief of suffering caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Club Treasurer

As per report.

Communications

No report received.

We still have no volunteer for the chair. Ed has spoken with Nikki regarding publicity. She has suggested a person who might undertake the role and this will be pursued.

Membership

As per report. Tony noted that the potential member he referred to is keen to join but is also visiting other Rotary clubs.

Nigel reported that he has someone who is interested in joining and will chase other friends. He will also speak with Nikki about the possibility of some of her Community group becoming members.

WTTW

As per report. All is smoothly moving ahead.

Relay Marathon

As per report.

Steve George reported that Embley Park School are keen to be involved both participating and marshalling. Steve also asked if he could attend a Relay Marathon Committee meeting.

Community

As per report.

Foundation

As per report. Bryan reported that he has found that it is unlikely that a grant from Area can be obtained to increase our polio fund raising.

International

As per report. Bill thanked everyone for the fundraising for relief of suffering caused by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Youth

As per report.

Steve noted that the ladies from Life Education Wessex who had spoken at the breakfast meeting recently had asked if we would like to enter a team for a quiz they are organising. He will members at the Business Meeting.

Steve reported that the Organ Scholar scheme which both of the Romsey Clubs supported was proceeding and that it is likely that we would be invited to attend a concert.

Steve has a speaker arranged on poisons and antidotes.

Steve remarked on the good contacts he has with Embley Park School.

Sports and Social

As per report. Clive requested that members encourage wives and friends to attend the March 4th Wednesday Meeting when well known wit and raconteur, Robbie Sprague will speak.

President

As per report.

Tony asked if the Club might attend a Hythe and Waterside Club event which was on a Wednesday. Council decided that the Club would not attend in place of the regular meeting but that if individual members wished to attend that would be OK. They will be asked at the Business Meeting.

Any Other Business

Bryan noted that he is arranging to put some things in the Club's storage container on the Broadlands estate. He asked anyone to contact him if they wished to put anything else in the container.

Nigel thanked everyone involved for the polio fundraising.

Nigel informed Council that the 18.15 start to Council meetings would remain in place.

Nigel Budd – President

Stuart Wineberg - Secretary

Minutes of a Business Meeting of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test

1st March 2023

The President welcomed members to the meeting and introduced our guests Steve Rhodes who is visiting us for the second time and Michael Hughes who has kindly agreed to be a judge in the Technical Tournament

The President then mentioned the glass of port we had all been given and handed over to David Sutton. David explained that it was the first anniversary of the death of greatly respected member and very dear friend of his – Brian Stokes and following a Club tradition he toasted Brian's memory in port.

Secretary

In the absence of the Secretary, Rosemary said that correspondence had been received from Hythe and Waterside Rotary Club about their Foundation Dinner at the Domus – Beaulieu on May 17th 2023. This had been circulated to all members.

Club Treasurer - Report attached

There were no questions arising from the accounts.

Trust Fund - Report attached

Graham had nothing further to add to this report and there had been no queries. He thanked the Club members for their support and understanding over his diagnosis of prostate cancer.

Club Service No report.

Ed agreed there was no report but he had had a recent communication from the Caterer who was willing to produce a curry for one of our dinners. Ed put this idea to the vote and 3 members present would prefer not to have curry. In answer to a question Ed said there was a 6 week rolling rota of menus and he would send this out to the membership if that was their wish.

Communications no report

There is still no Chairman for the Communications Committee and Nigel put out a plea for someone to come forward for this role.

Ed congratulated Bill on his prompt action to raise donations for the people affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and felt that this was an action that we should promote to a wider public and this is why it is so important that we have an effective communications officer.

Membership Report attached.

Tony elaborated on his report that the person in question wished to become a Rotarian but had a choice of Club to join as he lives equidistant from several Clubs. Tony urged us to make him welcome on 15th March.

Fund Raising Report of Relay Marathon and Walk the Test Way attached.

Rosemary reported that plans for the Relay Marathon are progressing well and that Club members would be asked for their help on the day and for setting up the site.

Brian reported that plans are progressing well on WTTW

Community Service Reports attached.

In addition to the report from Nikki a letter of thanks, a certificate and a receipt are attached to these minutes for our donation to the Kids Cancer Charity.

Nigel reported that notification had gone our about the Mayor's Picnic on the 1st Sunday in July and there has been a lot of interest from people wishing to have a stall at the event both commercial and private. All [payment would in future be directly by BACs.

Foundation – report attached.

Bryan reiterated his thanks to all who had helped at the event at Hilliers in aid of polio plus.

Nigel thanked Bryan for all his work on this and added a little snippet of information – that queen bees use crocus flowers to shelter in if they have no hive to go to!

International - Report attached.

Bill thanked all those who donated to the earthquake appeal. The money would go out together with all funds collected in District via the Isle of Wight.

Youth - Report attached.

Steve wished to add that the TT now had 25 teams taking part and he thanked Steve S-J for all his help in setting up.

Further news on Embley who very much wish to get involved with the Relay Marathon – this information has been chared with the Relay Marathon team.

Wessex Life Education, which is a charity working with young children, are holding a Quiz evening to raise money. Steve would like to enter a team of 6 in this and already has two people he asked for

any more interested to contact him. Failing that he would like to give the charity a donation of £250 to help with their work. A proposal to this effect was made by Bill Gidley and seconded by Nigel Budd and agreed by the members present.

After a lapse of 3 years Romsey Abbey have a candidate for an organ scholarship and would like sponsorship for the candidate Edward Bence. Both the Rotary Clubs in Romsey have supported this in the past.

Sports and Social Report attached.

Clive emphasised that the fourth Wednesday evenings were social evenings to which any guests of members may come and which are very informal.

Club Almoner No further reports at present.

AOB

Tony Trowsdale promoted the Dinner at Beaulieu and said he would be going and if anyone else would like to attend to contact him.

President's remarks Nigel closed the meeting with the Rotary toast.

Next meeting Breakfast meeting at YIR Wednesday 8th March at 8am.

CONSOLIDATED COMMITTEE REPORTS

CLUB TREASURER

Club Account (Natwest)

Balance as of 24 Feb 2023 - £8,145.72
Pending invoices from British Legion - £2,062.50
Members' dinner accounts - £991.50
Club's money - £5,091.72

Walk/Relay Marathon account (Co-op)

Balance as of 24th Feb 2023 - £26,697.06

This is comprised of :

- Brought Forward from 2021 - £15,000
- Transferred to Trust Fund for 22-23 Committee etc spend etc - £8000
- Proceeds of 2022 Walk - £9,900
- Receipts of team payments and sponsorship to date for Relay Marathon - £9,739

We also have a Paypal account used to receive payments from RM teams who do not pay on registration as an alternative to BACS. Current balance is £1755.62

TRUST FUND TREASURER

Report Reconciled with a bank statement dated 22/02/23

Bank Balances

- Details Cash available taking into account outstanding debits and credits showing a balance of **£14,387** as available funds. This figure takes into account outstanding debtors and creditors as they are shown.

Current Activity by Category

- Shows that out of an annual budget of £19,080, there is a balance remaining of **£9,464** for the remaining 4 months of the financial year. This categorises the amount of spent/unspent budget by committees

Restricted Funds Outstanding

- To service the remaining total of committee budgets plus any other known commitments which are detailed here, this leaves a positive balance of **£1,898** as unrestricted Funds

Total of Committee Miscellaneous Funds with Budget Variances

Of the **£9,464** shown as the total budget variance, within this figure is the sum of **£4,175** which is unrestricted in that funds have been set aside as contingency, therefore, with a global and not specific purpose.

Conclusions

After servicing all budgets and assuming that they are expended by the year end, this leaves a surplus of uncommitted funds **£1,898**

If this figure **£1,898** is added to the uncommitted funds within budgets of **£4,175** this gives us a total **£6,073** with no/general and not a specific purpose as to its use.

If you would like any clarification or have any questions, it would be helpful and save time if you would contact me in advance of the meeting to enable me to give a considered response.

MEMBERSHIP

We have a guest interested in joining Rotary, and maybe our club, who will be at March 15 meeting. Hope persists for other possibles but no applications as yet.

WTTW

Walk planning is well under way, the first timeline meeting is planned for March.

Progress has been made with sponsors, Michael Rhodes has agreed to be a sponsor and Martin Russell at Bells has agreed to increase their sponsorship, our thanks to both. We still would like more sponsors and I am in discussion with one hopeful company.

With personnel changes from last year I will be looking for volunteers for a few posts.

RELAY MARATHON

Here is a progress update for the Club's Relay Marathon event to be held on Sunday 21st May 2023 at Broadlands.

Team Registrations

As of this afternoon, we have 88 teams (each of 10 runners) registered. At this point with 64 days to go to the event, we are slightly ahead (by 4 teams) of our best year (2019) when we ended up with 175 teams, and well ahead of last year when we only had 11 teams booked at this point! We are therefore optimistic that we will reach our target of 180 teams by May 21st.

Note: The Early Bird team entrance fee of £100 will end on March 31st when it will rise to £120.

Sponsorship

We have committed sponsorship to easily cover staging costs of the event including an increased amount from our main sponsor (Barratt Homes).

Note: the financial model of the Marathon is that staging costs are totally covered by sponsorship

and that all team entrance fees go to 'good causes', either via the Club's Trust Fund or by donations to organizations such as Scout Groups who help us with marshalling duties on Race Day.

Dates for you diary

We would like as many Rotarians as possible to help on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th for setting up of the track and site. On Race Day, the majority of marshalling will be done by scout groups with their leaders. However, we need Rotarians to play supervisory roles, especially in the event of an emergency.

Please see the Marathon Committee minutes for further information.

COMMUNITY

Please see attached the thank you letter from Children's Cancer Charity

Good progress is being made with the Psalm 23 garden. Working with Michelle (@Romsey Abbey Primary School) an application has been made for a grant towards the building of the shelter. Will keep you updated

The organisation of The Mayors Picnic is well under way. We will be looking for volunteers for the day (2 July) so if you'd like to put your name down please let me know.

Romsey Community Service Life skills family workshops project. This project, which I explained in my last report, is almost ready to go live. The plan is for it to be ready for the summer holidays.

Whilst there are no other big projects to report at the moment, it's worth mentioning that because of the contacts and relationships that have been built, many of the smaller local charities are benefiting from donations and offers of volunteers and help. This day to day kind of action is what's essential for the survival and effectiveness of these essential organisations.

We all enjoyed helping with the Hillier's collection and I've sent a thank you to Sharron karsenbarg, Ruth Hughes, Liz Purdie and Lesley Dunn for their help.

There are more people interested and joining community service to help on a part time basis. My hope is that the more they learn about Rotary the more they're likely to join in some form or another and help towards its longevity. We need to be forward thinking and acceptable to small degrees of change in this competitive society, in order to survive

FOUNDATION

Many thanks for the Rotarians, Partners and friends of Rotary for your support over the week at Hilliers. Despite some quiet days we have £1265 in the coffers to donate to the Polio eradication project. I am waiting to receive data from RIBI in order to ensure that we don't miss any opportunity to increase the funding further before the Gates Foundation triples the amount raised. Overall a great result.

Hilliers have asked us to renew our relationship for fund raising for Polio elimination but they would like a change in format. As a result I am looking good ideas that involve the Hilliers venue and could raise over £1000, ideas welcome please.

INTERNATIONAL

Since the last business meeting RCRT has donated a total of £3,500 (approx.) to the Rotary District 1110 Turkish'/Syrian Earthquake Appeal. This comprised £1000 from RCRT Trust Fund uncommitted funds and c£2,500 raised from the personal donations of members and ex-members of RCRT (including Gift Aid). Council approved the immediate release of these funds in light of the urgency of the need for help in the earthquake region.

Thanks to all those who participated or gave via other routes for their generous donations.

YOUTH

Technology Tournament - We are ready for our annual TT event on March 8th at Crosfield hall. 25 teams are now confirmed for this event. Testwood School Totton and John Hanson School Andover as well as Embley, all new to the competition, are submitting teams in addition to regular attendees, Romsey, Mountbatten, Woodlands, Hamble and Bitterne Park. 16 teams at Key Stage 3 and 9 at Key Stage 4. Thank you to all those that have volunteered to assist on the day and to Steve SJ for leading the event.

Youth Speaks - On February 8th we had two Romsey School teams compete in a second round event at Andover. Whilst we put up a good fight we were no match for double winners Rockwood School in Andover. Thank you to those Rotarians who supported on the night.

Embley Park relationship - Embley School have confirmed they would like to work with Rotary to the mutual benefit of both parties. This may involve providing us with support on community or fund raising projects and allowing access to some Embley resources such as premises or facilities for meetings or events, transport etc. Relevant Rotarians/committees will be put in touch with Embley personnel as appropriate.

Embley have contacted us and wish to put in two teams for the Relay Marathon unless we would prefer to use their 'cadet' resources in marshalling. Advice please.

Young Photographer - The local winner, Teddy Lennox-Clearly of Test Valley School for his 'The Skyscraper' and a runner up Xenia Daniel-Collings of Embley School for her 'Eye of Venice' have been awarded certificates. The winning photograph is now submitted to District. We await to hear how the winner fared in the final District round

PeaceJam - The November event was cancelled and organisers have booked March 11th for a Peacejam event at Winchester. Romsey School have indicated interest through Gabrielle Bradbeer and Mountbatten through Megan Roodt but only Romsey have made a commitment to support.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL

Nothing further to add to my last report as yet but plans proceed for the partners' evenings at the end of March and May.

I have invited that well known wit and raconteur Robbie Sprague to come and talk to us at the Social Evening on 22 March in the Legion. Partners will be most welcome to attend.

Robbie will be known to many as the revered head of Halterworth School who walked the Test Way some years ago and took hours as he was busy chatting to so many people en route.

Members should book partners in on the website in the normal way. If any of our Friends would like to attend then please let me know and I will book you in. Please let me know whether you would like pudding of the day or fruit salad.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Busy month with lots going on across Committee are, with excellent support from Rotarians for a number of high profile events. Please see Steve George's report for full details.

Fundraising events included our annual Hilliers Polio event. Please see Bryan's Report. Well done to all for the excellent, short notice, response to the request for monies for the Turkish/Syrian Earthquake appeal, with a considerable sum raised from Members.

I would like to discuss with Council the current format/arrangements for the 4th Wednesday meetings.