

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Rotary Club of Romsey Test

6 July 2022

Present:

Nigel Budd (President)*	Stuart Wineberg (Secretary)*
Gren Lamb-Hughes	Kerry Daley
Clive Daley	Clive Collier
Ed Holmes	Ron Bowater*
Graham Hollier*	Roger Shepherd
Steve George	Brian Davies*

+ apologies from Charlie Daniel-Hobbs, Bryan Rickett, Nikki Jones, Bill Gidley
*Trustees

Minutes of last meeting

Passed without comment

Secretary

Committee chairs asked to notify Paul Grainger (copy Kerry Daley) of their members for the web site. Understood that this may change as joining members are integrated but please put current best list to them.

Brian Davies asked that we emphasise that filling key task roles for major projects is at least as important as filling committee roles. Consensus was that joining members should be strongly encouraged to both join a committee that interested them and also take up key tasks particularly for WTTW which is undermanned due to poor health of existing contributors

The absence of a specific fundraising chair was noted as a topic for further discussion

Trust Fund

As per report. Sumup machines worked well at Mayors Picnic both on duck race and bar. Ron specifically thanked for technical expertise in making them work independently.

Club Treasurer

As report. Balance £6500

Club Service

Nothing to report

Communications

As per report. Council commended Kerry for the excellent publicity drive for the MP and the resulting superb turnout on the day plus the excellent follow up materials especially the video.

Membership

As per report. Roger asked that emphasis be given to getting Nikki's people closer to the club and potentially members. Clive C mentioned the importance of getting members who contribute actively not just increased numbers for the sake of it.

WTTW

See Brian comments under "Secretary"

ROR

New leader required. Nick Bellamy is standing down in Autumn. Topic for further discussion is whether we continue with ROR

Foundation

Nothing to report

International

As per report

Youth

As per report. Also 6 people have now volunteered to support the Mountbatten interview day. Donations to the youth orchestra (and the choir) being arranged by Brian. Amount to be given to be assessed when final finances sorted.

Sports and Social

As per report. Clive C will be asking the club to purchase surplus bar stock at cost

President's remarks

Mike Hicks will examine the accounts this year but not after so we need a replacement. Clive C to approach David Bloomfield

The very sad passing of Martin Harman was noted by Council with huge regret

Peter Hurst was thanked for running Mayor's Picnic for several years

AOB

Bill Gidley recovering well from surgery

Clive C asked that we now drop "Rotary in Romsey" and revert to RCRT as there is only one club. Nigel will check the minutes of the meetings held with lunchtime club to see if anything there refers to this.

Clive C asked for Council's formal agreement to have Charlie D-H as a council member – this was agreed. Also to have him as a trustee and therefore a signatory – also agreed.

Charlie and Steve Arundel to be added to mail list

Nigel asked that in view of the number of new members and also for the benefit of visitors we re-introduce a policy of wearing name badges. To this end Clive C will look at sourcing some better quality ones than those we have.

Gren asked if we could revisit the weekly draw. Clive C reminded us that this had been previously discussed and the club had voted against its reintroduction

Trustees Meeting

No financial issues required approval

Consolidated committee reports

Consolidated reports July 2022

Club Treasurer

At the end of the financial year the Club had positive funds of **£6,500**. In addition the bank account held an overall balance of **£400** on members dinner accounts.

Year end statements to members of the balance on their dinner accounts have been issued and except for members with minor differences refunds have been made and negative balances are being collected.

In December we applied to NatWest to update the mandate to reflect this year's officers. However, during the past year the bank had unilaterally re-designated our account as a "Trust" account and would not accept a change to the mandate on the authority of our officers. They required the Trustees (We do not have Club Trustees) to apply for a change to the mandate. This discussion has been going on continuously for six months. I understand that other organisations have similar problems over "trusts" with NatWest. NatWest remained adamant. Following advice from District, Council agreed that we should change our account to another bank. We are in the process of opening a new account with Lloyds and this should be completed shortly.

Meanwhile discussions (weekly) have continued with NatWest and then this last week they have reversed their objection and have re-designated our account to its old status - an "Unincorporated Body". This means that the Club can now appoint new individuals to the mandate. We need to reapply for the changes we applied for last December, but with the pace at NatWest this may take some time to complete. Both Ron and myself believe it would be preferable to stay with NatWest, and an item on the Council's agenda is for a resolution to start this process.

Trust Fund Treasurer

FMR 01-07-22

This shows the fund as of 1st July 2022, the start of our new financial year with new year transactions to date included.

You will see from this that because of the prudent steps taken last year, we start the year with £22,239 for which payments have been requested at 01/07/22 of £4,110 of which £1,800 is awaiting clearing leaving us with a balance of £20,439. This puts us in a post-Covid financial position where we have the opportunity to run a full 'normal' programme of events and enables us to consider donations where members are made aware of a need and recommended. There is no necessity to await until the end of the year to use these funds for charitable causes.

You will see that having considered all budget requirements, committees have all of the funds requested and we have £2,854 available in uncommitted funds. Included in this figure

is the collection in Memoriam to Brian Stokes of £1,659. With regards to this, I have told Katie Stokes of the value collected and sought her opinion regarding if there was any particular way she would like this money to be spent and her reply was:-

"I've thought long and hard about Brian's memorial money and have concluded that I would like it to be used for Rotary good causes. It doesn't need to be for anything specific or grand but used to support any of Rotary's worthy charitable interests. I like to think of it being used for worthy needs identified in Romsey and to sponsor or support anything appropriate. It feels as if it should be "sprinkled" in a quiet way."

International

On behalf of Bill Gidley, who as you will know is recuperating at home following surgery, and the International Committee I am able to report that:

- a. Three projects (Dentaid's Toowa School Oral Hygiene programme, the purchase of text books for the Life Centre School Kisumu Kenya and the purchase of girl's hygiene bags for the Rainbow Volunteer Group School in Mulpani Nepal) were approved at Club Assembly.
- b. All have been advised that that approval has been given; that the funds that are available and have been requested to advise when the funds are required.
- c. To date, the approved funds were transferred on 1 July to Dentaid and the Life Centre School.

Club Service Nothing to Report

Youth

Romsey School Enterprise Project

Two Rotarians (Keith / Steve) supported Jon Vowles and his team at Romsey School for their year 10 Enterprise project. There were 22 teams each with a brief to invent a computer game. The teams had to come up with a design, theme, animations, characters, skill levels, objectives , financials , marketing and presentations / sales. Each team had to demonstrate leadership, teamwork, communication and planning skills. Rotarians were there to encourage / mentor the groups and liaise with the lead teachers. The school thanked us for volunteering for this two day programme and were very appreciative of rotary's involvement.

Mountbatten School Mock Interviews (July 13)

I am extremely pleased to say we have 6 rotarians able to support this project and will be volunteering next Wednesday conducting mock interviews for a number of Mountbatten's year 10 students. Work experience options have been very difficult this year for schools as many firms either don't want to be involved or staff are now home working and not in the workplace. Mock interview experience is therefore even more important for students, some who cant get any work experience and Mountbatten have expressed their thanks for our generous support.

Rotary's involvement in these initiatives helps build stronger relationships with the schools.

Dictionaries 4 Life - Dictionaries for delivery to schools in the Autumn have been delivered and checked. Rotary help will be called upon by Stuart W in due course once

The Youth Opportunities committee will now meet and consider what youth competitions we will support and promote this year.

Sports and Social

Not much to report but for the benefit of our new members any month in which there is a fifth Wed is a partners evening. Diary events between now and the end of this calendar year are as follows:

31 August. 5th Wed Early evening partners evening mBBQ in a garden, food provided by Taste catering. Members bring their own drinks. Further details nearer the date .

22 September. 14.00 Club golf at Wellow Golf Club organised by Norman Oldmeadow. Details already circulated. New members please contact Norman if interested in playing.

14 December. Christmas partners evening. Venue TBD.

Communication

Social Media

Newsletter

Mayors Picnic (in flow) had lots of others tagging the event which I was able to share which is great

Presidents Reception (in flow) Page performing well - see stats below

Sharing content a few times a week

Rotary in Romsey

Summer newsletter now complete NEXT ISSUE Autumn 16th September performing quite well for what it is. We have far more to share and talk about on RIR page so bound to have more people interested.

New page likes still going up though! Sharing content at least once a week.

WTTW

Website

Rotary Club of Romsey Test

Blog - Mayors picnic(in flow)

Blog - Presidents Reception (in flow)

Summer newsletter blog complete

Site updates

Who's Who page (nearly complete)

Homepage (in flow need to add Nigel comments) overall clean up of Website was done earlier this year.

Really encouraging for an information website. We are not selling anything but traffic is up - helped by the email marketing and Facebook

- I would not change what we are doing. If its not broke, don't fix it.

Blog - How to get involved - complete

Would be good to set up some email marketing here and start to talk to all the people who have registered so far

If we could get some sponsorship it would be good to look into Google PPC advertising

Engage more charities/Business to push our event provide a digital fundraising pack they can shout about make sure they have the link to our website on theirs

Thoughts !

Stats

Website is performing well considering we are not paying for any advertising or anything.

Local Organisations

Local Business Connections

Local Press/Articles

Paused for the moment until Networking Group up and running - hope to be August

2022 - Your Business Hub Test Valley

Chamber of Commerce - we missed the last breakfast meeting unfortunately, but hope to get in on the next one.

WTTW – ongoing articles in 18 different local publications

Romsey Advertiser (July 2022)

Pre-Mayors Picnic (Advertiser did not print)

Post - Mayors Picnic (will try again!!)

Presidents Reception (hope this will be printed!!)

Recently shared skills with Romsey Young Carers.

They now have a new business leaflet and business card designed and printed.

We are now setting up a meeting for me to share advice and guidance on their social media, look at their website and look at creating a fundraising pack.

Membership

Mayors picnic

The survey we conducted

- What do you know about Rotary?
- Do you get involved in the community?
- Are you interested in volunteering with Rotary?
- Would you like to find out more about being a member?
- Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletter?

Results

- 26 people spoken with
- 15 people engaged and 13 emails taken
- 14 interested in volunteering
- 13 want to know more about being a member

- 15 would like the newsletter
- 11 did not want to know

Points of note

- Spoke to Dr Susan Tippett (Romsey Extra Parish council) wife of Counsellor Mark Couper and volunteers for Romsey Good Neighbours
- Romsey Good Neighbours driver fleet reduced from 44 to 26 due to COVID
- Rotarian from Carshalton Park has son who is a paramedic in Romsey interested in joining
- Local policemen interested in volunteering and being a member within 2 years when he retires
- Nick Barrett (sound for Mayor's picnic) wants to transfer to Romsey test from Southampton

Clausentum due to closure of the club

Foundation

Nothing to report

Minutes of Business Meeting of Rotary Club of Romsey test
6 July 2022

The President asked for a minute's silence to remember our good friend Martin Harman who passed away that morning

President welcomed our guest Philip Talbot of Whitely Rotary who is considering joining us, also Simon Trotter at his first meeting with us since moving over from the lunchtime club

Club Treasurer

Club account stands at £600 with £60 members' credit

Trust Fund

As per report

Club Service

Nothing to report. Tony Trowsdale objected to the pre-creamed fruit salad

Communications

As per report. Kerry asked for any feedback on current or previous Mayor's Picnics to aid future planning

Tony Trowsdale asked for some explanation of the social media statistics on the comms report and asked that future reports should bear in mind the relative lack of technical know how (and interest) amongst a large number of members and that sufficient explanation should be given to aid understanding.

Kerry Daley reminded the meeting that the Newsletter goes to a wider audience than just the club.

Membership

Clive Daley ran through his strategy report and well as the monthly report as he had not previously been able to do so.

John Gould expressed his concern that the Membership report did not mention the many changes faced by the club over the coming year. He hoped that these would be dealt with, recognising the varied needs and expectations of existing, new and joining members.

Jon Livingstone expressed concern that 8 of the joining members were absent and asked that they be encouraged to join a committee and take an active role.

Community Service

As per report. Need to support people in the community continues to increase.

Foundation

As per report

International

As per report

Youth

- 2 day enterprise event at Romsey School went well supported by Steve George and Keith Cameron.
- Next week 6 Rotarians will act as interviewers at Mountbatten school careers event.
- The Romsey school event allowed Steve George to make contacts relating to the Young Chef event.

- D4L dictionaries to be stickered over the next few weeks.

Next step is to evaluate which District competitions to support

Sports and Social

Surplus bar stock from MP will be available for sale at cost

ROR

New chair required. Please contact President if interested. John Witham expressed some doubts about the event and asked that it be re-evaluated.

Mayors Picnic

The club thanked Peter Hurst for all his hard work in running the event over the last few years

Almoner

Bill Gidley doing well

Steve Beasley is now living in the West Country and the club wished him well

Philip Kirkland is unwell and being supported by his daughter. He has asked to revert to being a "friend of Rotary" rather than a full member. The club sent its very best regards and good wishes.

Clubs visited

None

President's remarks

President emphasised that his policy is one of evolution, if something isn't broken, don't fix it. He acknowledged that a lot of change will happen this year especially in integrating joining members and pulling together the threads of the major projects including WTTW, Broadlands Marathon, Carols in the square and songs of praise.

Joining members will be strongly encouraged to join a committee that interests them and also take on roles within major projects. If this does not materialise then this will be revisited in Council.

AOB

Brian Davies specifically asked for support with Walk signage and received several volunteers. Could they please make themselves known to Brian by email.

Tony Trowsdale suggested that joining members should be supported by a buddy to aid them in feeling comfortable and engaged with the club. President asked for volunteers to contact him.

Dave Sillence gave a warm and interesting review of the origins of the duck race thanking Vanessa and Steve George for making a success of it this year. Steve reciprocated, thanking Dave for all the years of preparing and running the event as well as all the volunteers who worked so hard.

Tony Trowsdale thanked the USA for celebrating his birthday every year on 4 July and particularly this year which was his 80th and marked both by him buying a round at the bar and being subjected to a rousing version of happy birthday.

Next meeting – breakfast at Youth in Romsey – 745 for 8

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