

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST

SGM AND COUNCIL/CLUB MEETING - 7.30 WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2020

ATTENDEES

24 in total, including the following for Council:

- Bryan Rickett - President
- Nick Bellamy
- Keith Cameron
- Brian Davies
- Steve George
- Bill Gidley
- Graham Hollier
- Jon Livingstone - Secretary
- Shaun O'Brien
- Roger Shepherd

1. INTRODUCTION

Bryan welcomed all Members to the meeting.

2. SGM

The meeting began with a brief SGM, in which the following resolutions (a) (b) and (c) were approved:

(a) Elect the President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Secretary and the Trust Fund and Club Treasurers for the Rotary Year 2021/ 22.

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| President | Roger Shepherd |
| Vice President | Nigel Budd |
| Junior Vice-President | Shaun O'Brien |
| Secretary | Jon Livingstone |
| Club Treasurer | Nick Bellamy |
| Trust Fund Treasurer | Graham Hollier |

The above were approved and all are to be congratulated on taking up and continuing in these essential positions.

(b) Receive and approve the Club's annual accounts and the Trust Fund accounts for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Trust Fund Accounts: Graham advised he had received no queries to the accounts circulated in advance of the meeting. Graham expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Club to John Jones, who combines WTTW and Trust Fund accounts in the return.

Club Accounts: Nick drew attention to the gradual and planned reduction of Member funds to just over £9k, through the year, arising from reduced subscriptions levels. Nick also highlighted the donations by Members to the Food Bank. Both sets of accounts relate to the year to June 2020, which is the reason for inclusion of Room Charges in the Club Accounts. Nick thanked Mike Hicks for reviewing the Club Accounts, doing a brilliant job.

Both sets of accounts were approved by the meeting.

(c) Elect on an ongoing basis, three delegates: President, Vice-President and Secretary at the time, able to vote at RIBI Conference.

Approved.

3. COUNCIL REPORTS

Club Treasurer

At the end of October with all bills paid the Club had **£9,100** in its bank account. The account additionally held a positive balance of **£3,800** on members dinner accounts.

Trust Fund Treasurer

Graham raised the £500 previous commitment for an award to Stuart Marchant, Director of Music at Mountbatten School. Bill will contact Executive Head, Heather McIlroy and enquire if there is any School Assembly or similar event at which the award can be made.

Club Service/ and Strategy Review

Roger summarised the present position, with an ageing membership, demands to run existing events and any potential changes the Club might consider post Covid. Roger has invited views from Nikki and Chris on female membership. Also had an initial meeting of a small group comprising Roger, Bryan, Nigel and Jon. To include Bill as he has been thinking about this and discussing already with the Lunchtime Club; and Shaun as Membership Chair and for newer and younger members.

Roger will arrange a meeting as Next Step and keep all updated. Roger also liaising with Lunchtime Club who have the same issues. Contact Roger if you wish to assist.

Communications

Keith noted the content of the Communications report, circulated in advance of the meeting.

Keith advised the Communications Committee have introduced a monthly quiz, to look out for typos. It was won this month by Graham Hollier. The prize is one of the Dictionaries for Life donated to Romsey Schools. Mike Thorne requested a second prize for Grammer; the invitation 'wot' Keith politely declined.

Membership & Recruitment

Shaun was delighted to be part of the Strategy Review, including New Members.

One existing local Rotarian is considering moving Clubs. Bill is liaising and will confirm no sensitivities, before a possible transferee.

Fundraising

Sandy had circulated a report in advance. This included a delightful thank you letter for the £1,000 donation made by the club to the Warren Clark Golfing Dreams charity. And 'Thank you to those members who made individual donations.'

'Walk the Test *another* Way raised £26,000 after all expenses. Treasurer will report breakdown between RCoRT and other charities by separate email. Detailed planning for a 2021 will begin in earnest at the beginning of the year and subject to being able to, next year's event will be staged along the more traditional lines.....but who knows!!!!'

Brian Davies, Walk Treasurer:

'Getting to end of the Walk finances, latest/final figures show the 88 walkers raised as below.

Registration fees £679; Sponsorship £25,887.

Total raised £26,556

Of this total £4938.74 has been raised for Rotary Test, This is not the final figure as expenses and sponsorship have yet to be calculated.

I [Brian] will be forwarding payments to the charities this week .

Taking the situation we were in, I believe this is a great success and thanks to everyone involved.'

Tony Trowsdale asked about the options for next year, and the need to plan now as other charities would be doing so in advance. Brian indicated planning for next year may be shared early in 2021.

Community Service

Mike Koscian apologised Nikki was unable to be here, with business commitments and shared the following.

Community Service with help from Tony Abbott have delivered three TVs donated by Martin Harman and Sarah to the Family Support Group, for which thanks to Martin and Sarah. Other items include carpets from Gren and Ruth and armchair and coffee table delivered to Sister Catherine at the convent.

The Committee proposed a donation of £250 to Romsey Toy Library, to help fitting out following a move of location. Bryan confirmed this sum was already within the Community Service budget and therefore was agreed and can be made,

Keith suggested communications opportunities for both the above; Mike will liaise with Keith re text and any available, or 'library' photographs.

Liaison with North Baddesley Primary still progressing, slowed down with Covid.

Foundation

Stewart requested the following be added to his report circulated in advance; relating to the Polio/ Crocus partnership with Hilliers:

'Credit should be given to John Gould for coming up with the great idea of using the crocus for a club project. He passed this to Sandy and then myself and from there a working group was set up. Sandy then led the discussions with Hilliers and looked to widen opportunities for the club to work with them. Thank you to John.'

International

'In the International Budget in November this year, £500 was included for the Life Centre School in Kisumu, Kenya which has a catchment area covering the Tom Mboya district and the adjoining Slums of Nywita.

The school has 250 pupils ranging from nursery to Grade 8 which is the final year before high school. The funding of the school comes from regular monthly donors, one off donors, fund raising events and parents' fees with the cost to individual pupils varying considerably as it is determined by the family's ability to pay: an average would be £20 per month.

This donation of £500 is specifically towards the cost of the new curriculum text books required to cater for the new syllabus which is being introduced by Kenyan Government Ministry of Education from January 2021. The text books will cover the full range of subjects eg maths; science and languages.

Discussion with James Samo, the School Manager, indicated that providing the donation in November would be very timely particularly for the new syllabus start and as the school, in the wake of Covid-19, has a phased re-opening with Grade 4 and Grade 8 currently back at school.

The Trust Fund Treasurer has therefore transferred, at the request of the International Committee, the donation of £500 to the Citizens 4 Change Charity which supports the Life Centre School.'

Gren, updated on his report above, that the international Committee have now spent all the allocated 2020/21 budget.

Bryan advised the unallocated budget was available for worthy uses and a decision would be made on the Walk the Test Another Way, welcome funds. Further activity should therefore be possible on its merits.

Youth

Steve's report:

'Over recent years we have provided Dictionaries to year 4 age groups in 8 local primary schools. Wellow, Romsey Abbey, Cupernham, Romsey Primary, Halterworth, Lockerley, Awbridge and Ampfield. Due to one of the teachers moving to Kings Somborne, we added Kings Somborne to the list this year and were able to accommodate this within existing numbers and budget.

Given the positive feedback we continue to receive and to promote Rotary in the wider community we are considering extending the remit further next year to include the primary schools in North Baddesley and Whiteparish. This would likely increase the spend by approx £100. We do not know if they will wish to be a part of this but if agreed in principle, we will approach them.

Youth events

There has been a communication from District around the possibility of supporting Youth Speaks and other similar events virtually this year. They are interested to see if there is an appetite for this. I [Steve] am not particularly keen myself but wanted to draw this to attention.'

Steve referred to the outstanding feedback for Dictionaries for Life. Graham advised unallocated budget was available once the figure required for additional schools is agreed. This is likely to be modest. Keith mentioned Landford School as well. Tony Trowsdale, previous in charge of D4L very supportive.

Gren and Mike Thorne suggested a rationale be agreed for the schools which are to qualify as once started hard to stop in future years. Steve and Youth Committee will share this next month.

Sports & Social and Speakers

Bryan queried if there was support for another meeting on the fourth Wednesday, i.e. a third meeting each month, during lockdown. Clive had received a good reaction to the Quiz-nite and offered another.

The consensus, was to aim for engaging, interactive type evenings, with involvement or participation, rather than adding a further Speaker evening.

Clive happy to begin with a Quiz-nite on the fourth Wednesday in January.

ALL: please send your suggestions and other ideas to Bryan.

4. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Almoner

Bryan referred to recognition that Almoner demands will only increase with age. Ian Bullivant and Graham Lee will continue to keep members in the picture, respecting personal wishes.

Remembrance Day

Bryan updated that the Remembrance Parade had been cancelled and he would lay the RCORT wreath privately this weekend.

Peter Hurst, Chairman of Romsey British Legion explained that the reason for the original change of location (now cancelled) was inability to control social distancing amongst attendees in the Memorial Park.

5. NEXT MEETING

18 November. 'Turning a Negative into a Positive' Speaker: Fiona Mobbs Speaker Reception: Keith Cameron.