

**Notes of Rotary Club of Romsey Test meeting held on Weds 19<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Royal British Legion at 19.30.**

In President Ed's absence and as Foundation Chairman, Bryan Rickett presiding.

22 Members attended.

Speaker was Nick Vaughan, District 1110 Foundation Chairman.

Nick was on his first club visit since taking on his role as District Foundation Chairman. He described The Rotary Foundation as a well run, robust and internationally recognised charity, and the only one to hold a seat at the UN. It is the largest educational and humanitarian charity in the world. It helps Rotarians to do good things in the world.

Polio Plus remains its flagship project and it is very close to eradicating polio from the world.

Nick took us through the present funding and donation processes and inviting each Rotarian to support it personally as our own charity.

He subsequently sent some information in response to a question from the floor. This is attached below.

Acting President Bryan gave the vote of thanks.

No urgent business or clubs visited.

Almoner Ian Bullivant reported that Graham Hollier is making a good recovery from his recent medical procedure.

Under AOB the RBL bar staff had asked us to check that we had three keys to the store cupboard, as they have only one. It appears that keys are held by John Gould, Steve Simmonds-Jacobs and David Sutton. If anyone knows otherwise please advise tonight's minute taker, Mike Thorne, who will confirm with RBL what the situation is.

The meeting closed at 21.15

Minute taker Mike Thorne.

### **Bryan's Post meeting notes**

#### 1. From our Speaker:

I was asked how much was donated to Foundation. According to Forbes, the amount in 2022 was \$560m. \$343m was from donations, \$4m from government and other grants etc. and \$213m from other sources which in the main is the Bill and Melinda Gates donations but would also include an element of interest on investments (I don't have that figure). I expect the amount in 2020/21 (three years ago on which the amount available from grants is calculated) was a lot less from donations because of Covid. The contributions figure will include End Polio donations which are not invested over 3 years and are used directly to obtain the Gates contributions.

#### 2. From me as Foundation Chair

I forgot to say that one of the missions for the Foundation committee this year is to increase the number of members who contribute to the Rotary charity (Foundation). My last set of figures (pre the merging of the two clubs) indicate that over 30% of members are not contributing. This is absolutely fine, it is not a compulsory fee but it might also be in part caused by a lack of emphasis with new joiners and possibly an out of date view regarding the efficiency and purpose of Foundation giving. For those that missed it, Nick's talk was great at addressing the importance of Foundation to Rotary and dispelling the myths around Foundation giving and efficiency. If you want to start contributing, simply advise the club treasurer in order to set up an annual or monthly standing order.

Regards to all

Mike Thome