

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
ASSEMBLY - WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2021
REPORTS

Vice President

2021-2022 Club Assembly Report - Incoming President

Firstly, I would like to welcome you all here to the second successive remote Assembly Meeting. Hopefully we may soon be able to meet face-to-face again which I am sure will be welcomed.

I would particularly like to welcome Cecil Rose to the Assembly. Cecil is the Assistant District Governor responsible for Group 5 and is attending to hear our plans for the coming year and provide advice from District.

I would like to thank Club members for electing me as President for 2021-2022 which I feel it is a great honour. I hope that I can serve the Club as well as my predecessors over the years, have done. It is reassuring to know that the Club has a wealth of experienced and enthusiastic members who I know will give me great support.

Bryan has been our President over the last year and what an unusual year he had with the restrictions imposed on our activities. I believe that he did a great job and would like to express thanks to him for this.

Members have been very good in volunteering to undertake roles as Officers and Committee Chairs for the forthcoming year, some continuing in a role and some undertaking a new role. The team is, I believe, very committed and I welcome you all. There is however, one role which remains vacant and that is for Junior Vice President. A priority is to fill this role and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking it on.

The initial Club activities this year will be concerned with getting back to the status quo after the (hoped for!) removal of Covid restrictions. Members have been consulted on the reintroduction of face-to-face meetings and plans are being made accordingly. It is hoped to be able to have a zoom connection to face-to-face meetings so that members who wish to do so may continue to attend remotely.

Apart from meetings, Peter and his team are working very hard organising the Mayor's Picnic which should be our first event of the year on Sunday 18 July. I believe that this is a great way for the Club to enable charities to raise funds for themselves.

After last year's very successful Walk The Test Another Way this year will see the return of Walk The Test Way, the Club's major fund raising event. It is planned to be held on Sunday 26 September. Brian and his team are similarly working hard organising this event which is very important to the funding of the charitable activities of the Club.

It is hoped that other regular events which could not be held during the last year will also be held again this year and I would encourage all members to assist wherever they can with all of these events.

The Club's charity/service activities will continue both locally and internationally. The reduction in income due to Covid restrictions has resulted in reduced funds being available but the main core activities can be financed.

Council have agreed to hold three trial meetings at the Royal British Legion and arrangements for this are being made.

While we all enjoy the activities of the Club, the average age of members is increasing and this threatens the longer term future of the Club. Consideration is therefore being given to measures which would seek to lower

the age profile of new members and level their gender profile. Such measures will be discussed with existing members at all stages and it is hoped to commence initial discussions with members on this shortly. It is likely that these considerations may take quite some time before the agreement of any changes. A founding principle of these considerations is that all members should be able to continue to enjoy the activities of the Club.

I look forward to an interesting year for the Club with a return to the familiar normality.

Roger Shepherd

Club Treasurer

The Clubs finances remain in a healthy state and at the end of the current year we are forecast to have £7,100 of positive funds at the bank excluding the positive balances on members meal accounts, down from its peak of £11,350

The Club subscription has been budgeted, for 2021/22, to remain at £10 per month giving a shortfall of £2,073 for the year. Our cash at the bank is therefore budgeted to reduce to £5,027 by the end of the financial year. As we require a working capital sum to deal with income/expenditure timings (£3,000) we will have a "surplus" of about £2,027 at 30th June 2022 which on that basis would permit one further year of a £10 per month subscription.

The budget figures are set out below and for comparison the budget for the current year and the actuals for 2018/19 (our last full year's figures) are shown. The main differences are subscriptions are based on a head count of 59 rather than 56 and a provision for twelve speaker payments.

Budget 2021/22				
		2018/19 Actual	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget
Income				
	Subscription	£6,950	£6,720	£7,080
Expenditure				
	Subscription RGBI	£3,534	£3,750	£3,953
	Subscription District	£969	£952	£885
	Room Hire	£1,800	£2,100	£2,100
	Speakers			£720
	Meals Speakers Club Guests	£699	£550	£550
	Gratuities	£200	£220	£220
	Communications	£401	£200	£200
	Web Housing Stationery	£59	£75	£75
	Regalia	£57	£50	£50
	Misc	£85		
	Presidents Honorarium		£300	£300
	Comtingency		£200	£100
Total	Expenditure	£7,804	£8,397	£9,153
	Surplus/Deficit	-£854	-£1,677	-£2,073
	Club Bank Balance 30/06/21	£7,100		
	Club Bank Balance 30/06/22	£5,027		

Nick Bellamy

Trust Fund Treasurer

RCoRT Trust Fund Budget Proposals for 2021/22

There is a difficulty in presenting accounts at the Club Assembly in that our financial year end on 30th June is some 4 weeks away so that when compiling outcomes for the following year, no predictions can be made regarding any income/expenditure I am not aware of for the remaining weeks.

The other issue for which we must contend is that whilst very actively planning for WTTW to go ahead in 2021, there is no guarantee of this at the moment so that the prudence shown in the planning reflects spending the financial resources that we know we will have on June 30th over 2 years. ANY ADDITIONAL MONIES RECEIVED EITHER FROM THE WALK OR WHEREVER, WILL BE SHARED OVER THIS 2 YEAR PERIOD. There will be no need for such sums to be sitting in our bank account when there are financial issues we could address.

Any funds raised in 2022/23 will provide funding for 2023/24, back to normal, hopefully.

FMR Updated to 18/5/21 attached (in Appendix)

Shows the account in balance with Unspent Budgets of £3,090 (of which Bryan will be spending the balance of £500 of his Presidents Giving), and £1,447 in uncommitted funds. This gives a total of £4,537 available for the remainder of the year after deducting the sum of £2,000 from this figure, carried forward to 2021/22. You will see the reason for this when you look at the Budget Forecast for 2021/22. Whatever is left as uncommitted funds at 30th June, will be carried forward to 2021/22 budgets still shown as uncommitted funds open to bid by Committee's for known and specific reasons.

FORECAST BUDGET COVERING 2021/22 attached (in Appendix)

This attachment shows budgets agreed with committee chairs for 2021/22 amounting to £12,180. The last time we had a full year's budget to contend with was for 2019/20 and this amounted to £18,424. I am grateful for the support received in dealing with this challenging time. An amount of c £12k is shown as 'Total Uncommitted Funds' available to fund 2022/23 if desired, thereby spreading our resources over 2 years, if necessary. I repeat, any funds earned from any source then the proposal is to split such sums over 2 years in addition to the c£12k budgets. The reason for the £2,000 carried forward from 2020/21 shows that this is committed to 2022/23 to enable equal budgets of C£12k to be available for each year which is considered the minimum requirement. Anyone studying this forecast in detail will notice an imbalance of c£150, it's a forecast.

Graham Hollier

Communications

I have taken over from Keith Cameron as Chair of the Communications Committee for the coming Rotary year. Keith has been very active over the past difficult year, and I have confidence that based on the foundation Keith and the team created, the Communications Committee will continue to provide an effective service to the Club.

My thanks to members of the team who have agreed to continue with their current roles as follows: Neill Beasley - photographer and general graphics person, Paul Grainger – managing and updating the Club website, David Sutton – updating and publishing the Club Events List. Peter Stuckey and Terry Proctor continue to give general support and I would like to welcome Ed Holmes who has agreed to join the committee this year.

We will miss Shaun O'Brien who initiated our Facebook page but unfortunately has left the Club, but I am pleased to say that Kerry Daley, although no longer a member of Romsey Rotary Club, has agreed to continue putting together the 'Rotary in Romsey' newsletter.

Our aim is to further communication in two ways. The first of these is to help Club members to keep abreast of what is happening in the Club. The second is to make people in the broader community aware of Rotary in general and, in particular, what our Club and Rotary in Romsey are doing. The more people who know about our activities, the greater the chance that some of them will be interested in joining our Club. Our challenge is to work out how best to communicate with them.

Peter Welsh

Membership & Recruitment

As a new chair to this role I anticipate needing a lot of help from the club. In this very strange year Shaun and Bill managed to have a very successful recruitment year, I aspire to match their great work.

In our club, Membership has always been maintained and grown by members introducing friends and contacts and I am sure this needs to continue, please let me know as soon as you find a potential new member so that we can respond positively from day one.

With Rotary numbers dropping significantly year on year we are fortunate to have bucked the trend so far. The long-standing issue is, of course that we tend to know and have contact with people of similar ages to ourselves so the average age of the club climbs year on year, obviously this has a finite end point. Roger has a small committee looking into our future and I will be heavily involved in its working. We need to find a way of attracting and then retaining young, diverse members while not damaging the club that we all enjoy. Work on this will continue throughout the next year.

Bryan Rickett

Fundraising

I would like to start my report by thanking Sandy for his Chairmanship of Fundraising over the past few years, especially during the past year in which we were still able to raise over 26k from the Walk the Test Another Way. This was a great achievement during a difficult time.

I would like to welcome Bill Gidley and Mike Koscian to the team who have already settled in well and with Steve and Dave's guidance have achieved some excellent work with the registration process.

The Walk The Test Way planning is well under way and as long as the Covid restrictions do not prevent it should be ok for 26th Sept. This is our major fundraising effort of the year and requires participation of all members of the Club in addition to outside assistance.

During the year hopefully we can resume to our other fundraising activities such as Parkinsons street collections and Hilliers Polio campaign. More information later.

Stay safe and well.

Brian Davies

Community Service

Although the last year has been relatively quiet due to the pandemic we still managed to support local causes to the tune of £2,235. This was broken down as follows:

Remap for a child seat	£85
Romsey Abbey primary school	£300
Romsey Opportunity Group	£500
Romsey Toy Library	£250
Ataxia (childhood degenerative disease)	£300
Romsey Young carers	£50
Romsey Young Carers	£500
Romsey Sea Cadets	£250

Following the eventual loosening of lockdown I fully expect requests for help to increase.

Mike Koscian

Foundation

Times have been difficult in many ways; however, the near future looks more positive and committees planning can start to happen, especially on budgets and funds available and Foundation is no exception. Foundations events are being planned now for later in the year.

Here is my overview of Foundation as a reminder to all about what Foundation means. So, if you have any queries or need help with more details or Grant applications, please contact me. I feel this is important as the club has done well in attracting new members.

Rotary is not a charity, but it is a charitable organisation. There is a difference.

Foundation is 'The Rotary Charity' It has been central to the workings of Rotary since the 1930's. Our donations enable us to award Paul Harris fellowships for exemplary service to our club and the wider community. However, none have been awarded for some time, but I hope there will be a club review on the process of awarding these well-deserved recognitions of service to Rotary and our community are implemented.

The funds that go into it enables Rotarians to 'punch above their weight' and think and act on the big issues in our world which individual clubs could never do. Because of its existence it should make us think more about our own club projects and how to finance them enabling us to broaden our contribution domestically and internationally. The club has been finding its way on working with Foundation much more in recent years.

Giving to Foundation is not mandatory. It is not a 'cost' of being a member. The funds we give are voluntary and are given because we want to support the initiatives that our organisation is doing. A lot of this work would not be sustainable at club level. Thank you to all who regularly contribute to 'our charity' and I hope you will continue during this difficult time. The funds will be needed more than ever.

There are lots of opportunities within the Foundation world and therefore the club should look at some of them with open eyes and make what we can of them. I think this process had started and should make us think about projects and events.

This year I will be Promoting Peace Jam again. Due to the pandemic timetables have changed and there will be an event at Winchester University in November. WE have had setbacks with this event, as it has been cancelled or curtailed for last 3 years, so momentum from our viewpoint has been lost. Problems with engaging with schools has not helped either.

I will be issuing the first draft on the school's data base soon. I hope this will help with an overall view of school liaison. Steve George and I have already set up a communications channel with Romsey School as a pilot.

As we did not have our usual Purple for Polio event in February, planning for an event at Hillier's in October is well advanced, which will give us an opportunity to send a donation. Bill Gates is still backing this 2 for 1.

Below is set out what I try to do during the year. If you need help, please ask.

Promote Foundation Grants and activities and help members participate. If you have a project in mind, please consider if you can use a grant which doubles your funding.

Help to oversee the qualification process for grants both global and district.

Conduct Foundation based club programmes/events, e.g. peace jam, polio plus

Work with the service project committees to develop and fund projects.

Help the treasurer to manage any Rotary Grant funds the club receives. Remember grants are available for domestic, as well international projects and can be sourced via an updated and now much simpler district fund or at international level.

Regards to you all Stewart Mitchell Foundation Officer

Stewart Mitchell

International

1. I am very fortunate to be able to report that the Committee members remain unchanged from last year and are Gren Lamb-Hughes (Chairman), Keith Cameron (who heads up the Rotary Dentaaid team), Nigel Budd, Philip Kirkland, Martin Radford (Christmas Shoeboxes mastermind), Iain Small, Mike Thorne and Peter Welsh.

2. The International Committee have agreed to continue with the same strategy approved at Club Assembly 2020, in that:

a. The Club should support fewer projects but that these projects should be ones in which the Club could become involved, or have a relationship, or work in partnership thereby having a greater understanding and commitment. It would also be beneficial if these International projects had a local theme or link.

b. The following projects should be considered for 2021/22: Disaster Relief, Dentaaid, the School in Mulpani Nepal, the School in Kisumu Kenya, the Ayub Hamdard Foundation (identified when a friend of Tony Abbot's spoke to the Club earlier this calendar year) and Microfinance (through LendwithCare) but with flexibility also being an option to be able to consider projects that emerge unexpectedly.

c. Christmas Shoeboxes would be collected subject to Covid 19 limitations.

d. Over the last couple of years, the International share of the Trust Fund budget was around 13 to 15%, whereas previously there had been a rough order rule of thumb in the Club that approximately 75/80% of club funds should go to local community projects/activities and 20/25% to international ones, and therefore consideration should be given to achieving something closer to this in the future.

3. However, the impact of Covid-19 on available Trust Fund finance is still with us and in order to ensure that the Presidents in 21/22 and 22/23 both have reasonable Trust Fund budgets, Committee Chairmen are effectively working to a similar budget to that which was available to them in 20/21. If and when further

funds become available, potentially through unspent and uncommitted funds from 20/21 and income from WTTW 21, then it may be possible to increase Trust Fund budgets for 21/22 and 22/23 later in the year.

4. Against this background, the International Committee concluded that initially the following projects should be supported:

a. Dentaid

Dentaid has been supported for many years and have identified their Healthy Kids Cambodia project, which aims to improve oral health for children by using simple procedures that prevent pain and ongoing dental problems, as a project that the Club could support this year. This comprehensive project includes education on hand washing and tooth brushing, de-worming and vitamin supplements, preventative dental treatments as well as pain relief dental treatments for those in need. However, because Cambodian children suffer with extremely high levels of dental problems, the main focus is dental prevention and the provision of fissure sealants on children's teeth to protect them. This procedure requires large numbers of dental hand instruments in order to treat the hundreds of children they see in a day. A new stock of dental hand instruments, at a cost of £700 is required and that sum has therefore been included in the International Committee budget for Dentaid.

b. School in Mulpani, Nepal

The Club first became aware of the school in Mulpani in 2018 through a retired Romsey Headmaster who has been supporting the school himself for many years. The Club has previously donated funds, through the Rotary Club of North East Kathmandu, for the construction of a ceiling (between the classrooms and the roof) and also to contribute towards the improvement of the very rudimentary audio/visual (A/V) facilities at the school.

There are currently still no computers available in the A/V classroom and the school's priority is to rectify that deficiency. They see Desktop PCs as providing children with access to the internet and the use of technology for learning together with access to e-libraries, video tutorials, and the potential opportunity to benefit from Microsoft office packages.

The school are seeking to fund 4 desktop computer sets, 4 voltage stabilizers and 2 multi plugs at a total cost of NR 154,000 (approx £978). Given the current position with the Club's Trust Fund finances, the International Committee propose that the Club should fund 3 desktop computer sets, 3 voltage stabilizers and 2 multi plugs at a total cost of £700 which is included in budget. It is anticipated that such funding would again be through the Rotary Club of North East Kathmandu, and potentially the purchase of the equipment might also be undertaken by them.

c. School in Kisumu, Kenya

The Club has been supporting the school in Kisumu for several years, courtesy of Neil Duncan through the provision of refurbished lap tops, and last year the Club made a contribution towards the cost of new text books required for the new syllabus being introduced in the schools by the Kenyan Government Ministry of Education in late 2020.

The School Manager has identified a number of items of equipment, from nursery tables and chairs, through stationery for all year grades, to paving slabs that are currently required. His highest priority was the nursery tables and chairs simply because the existing ones are so old that they break easily to the extent that they cannot be repaired and put back into use. A table for 6 children and 6 chairs costs £265 per set.

The International Committee has therefore included three sets in the budget at a total of £795. It is intended that the funds are provided, as last year, through the charity, Citizens 4 Change.

5. If and when necessary, Disaster Relief support would be provided utilising the Club's uncommitted funds as occurred in 2021. LendwithCare and the Ayub Hamdard Foundation (AHF) will be considered for

inclusion in the budget should additional funds become available as mentioned in paragraph 3 above. It should be noted that Mike Thorne has taken the lead role with respect to contact with the AHF.

6. In summary, the International Committee wishes to support, initially in 2021/22, three projects financially, namely Dentaid; the school in Mulpani and the school in Kisumu with a total budget of £2195. The District Christmas Shoebox scheme will also be supported subject to Covid 19 limitations. The Committee has not sought, given the current financial situation, to seek to increase the International share of the potentially available Trust Fund budget for 2021/22 in line with para 2d above.

Gren Lamb-Hughes

Youth Opportunities

Youth this year will firstly focus on the increasingly successful Dictionaries for life with an increased circulation as previously reported.

We are hopeful that the Tech tournament will resume as will Youth Speaks.

We are also looking to continue a connection with the lunchtime club and and The Romsey Abbey to support a scholarship for a young organist.

The budget reflects these activities.

Further activities will depend on the incoming committee and resourcing within the club.

Steve George

Sports and Social

The Social committee has met via zoom a couple of times this year but has really only discussed events to the end of this calendar year. These are, provided the road map allows, as follows:

30 June Presidents' handover dinner with partners at Ampfield golf club

29 September Partners' evening comprising a Murder Mystery evening written by and involving some club members and wives. Venue URC Abbey Hall with outside catering and members bring own drinks.

? December. Christmas meal.

We might try to rearrange the postponed Leckford visit.

We will participate in any District organised sporting competitions such as boules, skittles, darts, snooker etc and Norman will continue to organise golf followed by lunch in December. We might even try to resurrect our summer competition if there is sufficient interest.

Events for 2022 will be arranged and notified to members in due course.

Clive Collier

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST

COUNCIL MEETING - 6.30 WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE 2021

ATTENDEES

Bryan Rickett - President	Bill Gidley
Nick Bellamy	Graham Hollier
Nigel Budd	Nikki Jones
Clive Collier	Jon Livingstone - Secretary
Brian Davies	Stewart Mitchell
Sandy Dunn	Roger Shepherd
Steve George	

Apologies: Keith Cameron, Gren Lamb-Hughes

AGENDA

Bryan introduced the agenda to cover:

1. Face to face meetings restart preparations (Roger)
2. Organ Scholarship funding proposal (Steve G)
3. Honorarium update (Bryan)

Face to Face Meetings

Roger advised he had a positive response to the survey for the return to face-to-face meetings. No desire to use a self-certification form unless this is required in the guidelines.

There are a number of restrictions presently proposed for meetings F2F at the Town Hall. No meal possible and limit to 30, or possibly 36. Consensus was that these were not workable and we need to look elsewhere for the meeting 23 June.

Agreed Roger will enquire if Royal British Legion, a larger venue and keen to welcome us, are free on that day.

Roger will obtain the RBL risk assessment and one will be needed for RCORT also.

Youth

Support for the Organ Scholar donation of £500 (£250 in each of two years) was confirmed.

This was also approved by the Trust Fund Trustees present: Bryan, Roger, Brian, Graham, Nick and Jon.

Steve report ahead of the meeting was:

'At the last business meeting I advised that we had been approached by Ron Bowater of the Lunchtime club who were in contact with Romsey Abbey about supporting a young organ scholar. The proposal was that we would work alongside the Lunchtime club and contribute 50/50 towards a maximum two-year scholarship. Each year the contribution from Rotary Test would be £250 and thus a total request over two years of £500. Reviewable after the first year.

There was a general support from Council and the Business Meeting that we pursued this initiative and sought a formal request. We have previously supported a Romsey Abbey organ scholarship.

I am now pleased to attach the formal request from Martin Seymour for our consideration and hopefully approval.

Youth committee have seen this and either formally approve or have no objections.'

President's Honorarium

Bryan had received a recommendation to fund pre-dinner drinks from the President's Honorarium (up to £300) for drinks on arrival at the Handover meeting on 30 June.

Bryan surveyed the last 12 Presidents. Of 10 replies, seven had used the Honorarium on a variety of social events for Members. Nick as Treasurer pointed out ambiguity within Standing Orders. Jon will revisit this in the next update of the Standing Orders.

After discussion, confirmed the use of the Honorarium was at the President's discretion. Bryan will proceed with use in this way.

Romsey Food Bank

Nick congratulated Graham Lee and Members for the donations to Romsey Food Bank. The totals are:

➤ Member donations (own money, in lieu of meals)	£13,455
➤ Amount inclusive of Gift Aid	£16,700
Plus Waitrose contribution	<u>£1,000</u>
➤ Total	<u>£17,700</u>

All agreed this is outstanding, to a group who do great work in the town.

Membership

Bryan advised that Mike Kelly had resigned. Mike is a long-standing Member and will be missed. This is on good terms and Bryan has advised Mike the door is always open.