

## ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST

### COUNCIL MINUTES - 6.30 WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021

#### ATTENDEES

Roger Shepherd - President  
Clive Collier  
Brian Davies  
Steve George  
Graham Hollier  
Nikki Jones

Gren Lamb-Hughes  
Jon Livingstone - Secretary  
Stewart Mitchell  
Bryan Rickett  
Peter Welsh  
Stuart Wineberg

Apologies: Nick Bellamy, Nigel Budd

#### 1. CLUB OFFICERS' REPORTS

Reports sent in advance follow these minutes, from page 3.

##### Secretary

Jon confirmed SGM to follow, within the Business Meeting.

##### Club Treasurer

As Report.

##### Trust Fund Treasurer

As Report, no queries received by Graham.

##### Club Service

Nothing to report.

##### Communications

Peter proposed the Committee pages on the Members' website to be updated, noting Sandy's passing had been updated on other parts of the site. Roger has written to Committee Chairs to identify all updates since the start of the year.

Ed Holmes has volunteered to coordinate efforts by RCORT to seek sponsorship. Consensus was that a new position on Council would not be needed; Roger indicated this would be resolved within the SGM. Ed is standing for Vice-President in July 2022, and as immediate Junior Vice-President.

##### Membership

Bryan updated his Membership Report. Bob Dalton from the defunct Chandler's Ford & Itchin Valley Rotary club has decided not to join RCORT, rather to join Itchin Valley Probus club instead. The other Member from this Club has joined Eastleigh Rotary.

##### Fundraising

Brian advised RCORT receipts from WTTW will be circa £7k or £8k. This is after our donation to Inner Wheel for their support.

##### Community

Nikki is very encouraged with progress now and to come, as per the Community Service Report.

Activities include £250 support for Baby Necessities to be spent initially on nappies and breast pumps.

Community Service have agreed to purchase £150 worth of tickets, for the North Baddesley Primary School bonfire. These were given to the Romsey Community Pantry and distributed to struggling North Baddesley families and individuals; helping two groups at once.

Excellent links being developed with the Romsey Community Pantry and expanded with Youth In Romsey. More details regarding proposals for both to follow.

### **Mayor's Picnic**

Roger asked how this would be run next July, having been contacted by Romsey Town Hall on behalf of the Mayor. Clive indicated Charles Lacey may be happy to work with Peter Hirst, dual running initially. Clive will liaise and advise. Roger advised the Club have been requested to meet with the Council soon.

### **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday Meetings**

Nikki is planning quarterly cheese and wine style meetings for the new Community Activity Group. Roger queried if the introductory meeting could be the Club meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of November; on 24 November? Nikki was happy with this and likely to require funding to help with this evening, as the first of these quarterly events. There were suggestions to invite the Club's Business Associates; and extend invites to the Chamber of Commerce.

### **Foundation**

Very positive indeed response to the evening at the Hilliers! A great night; with over £500 raised through the raffle on the evening.

Other Foundation activities, as in Stewart's report.

### **International**

As Gren's report.

### **Youth**

Steve summarised extensive activities within his report. In addition, Steve has been approached by Romsey School regarding potential support financial and practical for 'Learn to Earn'. This is a new curriculum subject, using resources from TV Money Saving Expert, Martin Lewis. Overall cost to the school up to £2,500 - will Rotary assist with part of this and practical help? Steve will find out more and make a proposal.

### **Heartbeat House**

District are seeking 40 Clubs to commit to £500 a year for three years, to renovate Heartbeat House at Southampton Hospital. RCORT were very significant leaders of its building and establishment in the early 1990s. Stuart is seeking an initial indication of support at the Business Meeting to follow.

### **Sports & Social**

Meeting adjourned, we ran out of time.

## 2. **AOB**

Meeting adjourned to prepare for Business Meeting and SGM.

## **REPORTS CIRCULATED FOR THE MEETING**

### **PRESIDENT**

Roger circulated initial outputs of Rotary – The Future Working Group, for discussion at the Business Meeting.

### **SECRETARY**

Jon circulated papers relating to the SGM.

### **CLUB TREASURER**

At the end of October, after making an allowance for one late invoice, there is a positive balance of **£5,700** on the Club account and a negative balance of **£1,500** on members dinner accounts. These combined give a positive balance of **£4,200** at the bank.

### **TRUST FUND TREASURER**

**FMR report dated 30th October** was attached showing available cash at this time of £26,226. Can I [Graham] remind you to look at the Restricted Fund Section at the bottom half of the report that shows we are carrying £11,080 forward to 2022/23 Nigel's year, the same budget figure as 2021/22 Roger's year. On top of that, there is currently £4,140 available in Uncommitted funds. When the result of WTTW income is known, this will be added to the £4,140 of Uncommitted Funds and this will then be shared over the 2 years accounts as agreed.

For 2018/19 the budget figures set by committees were as shown below and are c£6.8k higher than our currently planned budgets of £11,080 for 2021/22 & 2022/23. At 2018/19 levels of planned budget spend, over a 2 year period, this would be c£36k. We have currently £26,226 to which we would need to add c£10k from this years walk to equal the pre-Covid budget proposals.

If there is any unease regarding the current level of our bank balance, it would be desirable for alternative proposals if any, to be clearly stated; it is after all the Club's money, not mine.

RCoRT BUDGETS FOR 2018/19	
<u>ITEM</u>	<u>Budget-2018/19</u>
Bank Interest	
Com. Ser.	6,687
> R.O.R	1,145
> M.P.	0
Donations/Grants/Transfers	0
Foundation	1,720
Foundation members giving	
Gift Aid Tax Recovered	
International	2,492
Miscellaneous/Sundries	
Presidents Giving 2019/20 Bill Gidley	1,000
Working Contingency	0
Xmas Cards	
WTTW Transfer 01/07/19	
Youth	4,800
Budget Reduction (adjusted)	
B/fwd 2018/19	
<b>Total Funds (A) (in real time)</b>	<b>17,844</b>

**Budget Monitor to 30th October** was also attached and hopefully, self-explanatory.

## **CLUB SERVICE**

Nothing to report.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

During October we have tried to inform the wider community of what our Club is doing using social media. In November we plan to publish another edition of the Rotary in Romsey Newsletter.

The Events List and Club Website have been ably updated during the month by David Sutton and Paul Grainger respectively. Please contact them direct if any changes need to be made.

Kerry Daley has been on holiday for part of the month, but I am sure is now returning with renewed enthusiasm. I hope so, as she prepares the Newsletter! She uses committee reports, club minutes etc in the main, but if anyone has anything else of general interest, please submit it to her.

'Communication' is not limited to our committee. If any member of the club has ideas, knowledge, ability and/or enthusiasm about how we can improve things, please don't hesitate to let me know. You would be welcome to join the communications team, or just contribute on an ad-hoc basis. It would also be good if we could have a steady flow of information and photos for our Rotary in Romsey Facebook page.

## **MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT**

Bob Dalton from the defunct Itchin Valley Rotary club has decided not to join us but to join Itchin Valley Probus club instead.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Report from Brian Davies: I [Brian] can advise that as of today we have raised as below from the Walk.

Reg Fees - £3209; Just Giving £38699; Sponsor sheets £2062; Gift Aid £240.

Total = £44210

I am not expecting any great changes from the above figures.

Planning is already under way for Walk 2022!!! Yes we don't stop

More details over coming weeks

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Report from Nikki Jones: Please see below the report for Community Service. Having not had much to report for over a year I [Nikki] now feel I've written 'War and Peace'!!

As the country starts to reopen it's becoming clear what impact the pandemic has had on our community. Dialogue has resumed with many of the Schools and charities we began working with before Covid, this shows what good progress we are making in developing relationships which will ensure our donated funds go to those families and individuals that need help.

### **Baby Necessities. Romsey**

Based at Basepoint in Romsey are a baby bank providing new and pre loved items to families in need. Their aim is to alleviate child poverty and promote the reuse of items through their distribution programme. They work on a referral basis (midwives, health visitors, food bank etc) and provide items for both children and the parents, however predominately the mother.

Very briefly the Romsey facility has national lottery funding for its first year to cover rent and 2x part time salaries. Outside of that they rely on donations of both items and money so as to purchase needed essentials. They also put together birthday packages for children in extreme circumstances (for example. A woman and a small boy arrived at a refuge to escape abuse and danger to life with nothing. Through the communication channels they have with these centres they were able to provide mother and young child with essentials plus (as it was the boys birthday) some presents and a cake.

We are making a donation of £250. This will be spent initially on nappies and breast pumps. They are keen to promote mothers using their own milk as its free!! These are expensive but essential items We will continue to work closely with the charity and become involved in future projects. Also I would ask if any of you are on facebook to please find and like their page. They put up a wish-list every Wednesday. Many of us are grandparents and may have items we could donate?

It's worth mentioning that Baby Necessities put in a team and supported WTTW and will do so again next year.

### **North Baddesley Primary School**

Having made initial contact before lockdown with the school I'm happy to say that the relationship is well and truly back on track. Like Romsey Abbey school it has a very diverse range of children attending, and finds its funds stretched trying to accommodate both ends of the spectrum. There are up and coming projects that i hope we can become involved in (more information to follow next month) They have a new PTA who are very proactive and keen to find ways of raising much needed funds. One of these projects is putting on a firework display. Having been involved in one of these personally I know how hard and expensive it can be!! They are looking at £8000 to put the evening on. At the time of typing this they are pretty much at break even on ticket sales (a great achievement) funds will be raised on the evening through food and drink sales. Community Service agreed that we would like to help, however instead of just giving a donation we purchased £150 worth of tickets. These were given to the Romsey Community Pantry and distributed to struggling North Baddesley families and individuals. I hope you'll agree that this is a great way of two charities, and more importantly local people, benefitting from one donation.

## Community Pantry

A huge big thank you to all fellow Rotarians that kindly donated food items. It was a great haul of goods and very much appreciated. We also had a good response from facebook and I have been contacted by several people who A. Now know that the pantry exists and will contribute and B. Are interested in hearing about Rotary in Romsey and how they can get involved. A great positive outcome. I would like to make this a regular occurrence and i know several of you have suggested donating money direct to them so they can purchase 'fresh' items when needed. I have a meeting with Wendy tomorrow and will let you know on Wednesday the outcome.

They also have a fantastic project called 'Christmas cracker' this is the coming together of several local charities and providers who put together 'care packages ' for local families. They are hoping to reach up to 300 families providing presents and food for the big day itself, but also that difficult time after when children are still not receiving free school meals and family finances are stretched to their limits. So again more information to come, but I hope you'll agree an exciting project for us as a club to get involved in.

## Youth In Romsey

YIR as a charity has lost much of its government funding recently. This has had a huge impact on them being able to deliver services outside of their, very busy, everyday counselling services. After a good positive meeting last week with both Wendy and Linda I have a great project to put forward for funding. I haven't had a chance to discuss this with the Community Service team yet so will send out details once we've had a chance to go through it.

They have an immediate need for several items. One being a laminator (Ed Holmes had one going spare so this has been delivered) Thank you Ed. The other is a pressure washer? Can anyone help with this? If not I'll look into how much they are?

I'll finish by saying that I feel really positive about the impact Community Service and Rotary are having. After a tough 18 months I'm confident that our donated funds are, and will continue to reach many and make a difference. Our aim as a group is to become a valuable resource to these and many other local charities, schools and groups. We are looking at the possibilities of arranging and funding workshops, dealing with anything from learning how to cook, managing and budgeting finances to family counselling and wellbeing. By working with and listening to the experts we hope to give families and individuals the tools and life skills needed to break bad habits.

## **FOUNDATION**

Report from Stewart Mitchell: Our purple for polio event on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October went very well. Clare Goddard gave us a warm welcome. Those attending had a really good time and we have had a lot of positive feedback. Should we use this venue again perhaps?

It turned out this event was the first full evening event their new Jermyn's restaurant, so a milestone for them and our club. I {Stewart} have sent an official thank you to Terry Lewis and his team. I haven't had the invoice yet so will let you know how much we raised when I know the figures.

**Thank you to those who ordered Purple for polio gins. If you haven't ordered yet please do so by Wednesday evening. Details on my e-mail to all members. I will give details of payments after Wednesday deadline for orders.**

I have met with Clare Goddard and started arrangements for the Purple for Polio Crocus collection at the Main Pavilion. Hilliers have said we can have our display during half term. So lots of families around. Half term is February 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> plus the weekends at either end. So please put these dates in your diaries. Hopefully we can get back to schedule f again after last year's collection could not go ahead

Peace jam will take place in November at Winchester University. Secondary schools have been informed and Romsey School have registered.

I am setting up a working group to discuss how to use the Schools data base. This is proceeding slowly with schools and the club settling back into some sort of routine. We will work on this during the winter. The main point at this time is, does the club need one and how to fit it into the workings of the club. Together with Steve George of Youth Opps we will put forward a proposal on how it might work

There is a Peace Jam Slam at Winchester Uni on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Romsey School are attending. As usual I have not heard from Mountbatten. I will endeavour to attend at least part of the day to support the students. Would anyone else be interested in attending as you have to Register. That's free. It's a real eye opener to see the event progress.

There is a Foundation seminar about grants this Thursday at 6pm at Legion in Romsey. Programme includes supporting scholarships End polio etc.

Attached was an interesting article about Polio and Afghanistan

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Christmas Shoeboxes**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November is the last day for shoeboxes to be delivered to Martin Radford, the Club's Shoebox Co-ordinator, so please bring your shoeboxes to the Council/Business meeting on Wednesday.

Unfortunately Martin will not be present but Mike Thorne has agreed to collect any shoeboxes that you may bring to the meeting.

### **Nursery Tables and Chairs for the School in Kisumu, Kenya**

October's International Committee report to Council reported that there had been a delay in obtaining timber to manufacture the tables and chairs. A significant price increase in timber was then added to that delay such that the school decided to proceed with heavy duty man made materials, which could be purchased now, rather than timber.

A series of photographs of the new tables and chairs was included.

## **YOUTH**

An update of youth projects as follows:

### **Technology Tournament - March 16 2022**

We have again linked up with Chris Nixon of the Southampton Magna club and have agreed to hold the Technology tournament on March 16th 2022..

Commitment so far have been received from

Mountbatten School - 2 teams - 1x KS3 + 1 x KS4

Test Valley School - 3 Teams - 3 x KS4

Romsey School - 3 teams - 3 x KS3

Bitterne Park - 7 teams

Woodlands - 1 Team

Hamble - 2 Teams.

Chris Nixon has offered to contact a couple of extra Southampton schools but given 18 teams have committed we have not taken him up on this at this stage as this will be more manageable for "first time back"

We have invited Jitendra Gopal, Head of IT at Mountbatten to talk to Rotary on November 17th to speak about his experiences of the TT and current challenges for teachers.

### **Dictionaries For Life**

Over 400 dictionaries have now been delivered to 12 schools and pupil presentations are now taking place. Thank you to those who are supporting Stuart at school assemblies which conclude over the next fortnight, November 8th at Halterworth and then finally on November 15th with Kings Somborne.

### **Youth Speaks**

We need to consider how we want to engage with this this year, Romsey and Mountbatten have previously indicated they would likely attend but we have not made any formal approach yet. Two years ago a Romsey Intermediate team entered and progressed to the regional finals in Devon but the event was cancelled due to the pandemic. The event did not run last year. in 2019 we ran the event at the Town hall with just two teams and the rotary resource v pupil benefit felt disproportionate.

We have now been approached by Southampton Rotary club ( Philip Brazier) who ran a small Southampton event in 2019 and is keen along with St Annes school, to run an event this year. Our proposal is to formally contact Romsey and Mountbatten now and hold a joint event with Southampton - confident in the knowledge that it would be worth running the event even with limited engagement from our local schools.

### **Young Chef**

We have been approached by Mountbatten and are currently in talks with them about entering the Young Chef competition. It's likely that we will try and piggy back into the Salisbury event and are in contact with Rotary colleagues there.

## **SPORTS & SOCIAL**

Nothing to report.



**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**  
**BUSINESS MEETING & SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**7.30 WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021**

3. **WELCOME & GRACE**

Roger welcomed 32 Members to the meeting. Ed Holmes delivered Grace.

4. **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING**

Roger requested Jon conduct the Special General Meeting, to:

- Elect the President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Secretary and the Club and Trust Fund Treasurers, for the Rotary Year 2022/23. i.e. the year commencing 1 July 2022
- Receive and approve the Club and Trust Fund annual accounts for the last Rotary year, ended 30 June 2021.

**Election of Officers**

The following nominations were received for Club Officers for the Rotary year from 1 July 2022.

<b>Role/ Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
President	<b>Nigel Budd</b>	Roger Shepherd	Jon Livingstone
Senior Vice-President	<b>Ed Holmes *</b>	Roger Shepherd	Jon Livingstone
Junior Vice President	<b>Kerry Daley</b>	Nigel Budd	Roger Shepherd
Secretary	<b>Stuart Wineberg</b>	Jon Livingstone	Roger Shepherd
Club Treasurer	<b>Ron Bowater</b>	Nick Bellamy	Jon Livingstone
Trust Fund Treasurer	<b>Graham Hollier</b>	Nigel Budd	Roger Shepherd

[ \* Ed to commence as Junior Vice-President straight away.]

**All of the above were confirmed as elected. Congratulations to all who are taking up these positions next year!**

**Approval of Accounts**

Club accounts and Trust Fund accounts for the previous Rotary year, as circulated during October, were also approved.

5. **BUSINESS MEETING**

**President – Rotary The Future Working Group**

Roger had circulated initial outputs of 'Rotary – The Future Working Group' on 21 October.

There was a detailed discussion of the points this contained, with multiple contributions from many Members. Please see the separate attachment for the notes of this discussion. Roger committed, on behalf of the Working Group, to consider all the points raised and those raised in recent days by Members unable to attend this meeting.

Roger will then bring recommendations on the way forward to a future meeting/s.

Clive thanked Roger and members of the Working Group for the proposals to date at the end of the meeting.

### **Club Treasurer**

At the end of October, after making an allowance for one late invoice, there is a positive balance of **£5,700** on the Club account and a negative balance of **£1,500** on members dinner accounts. These combined give a positive balance of **£4,200** at the bank.

### **Trust Fund Treasurer**

Graham circulated the Financial Management Accounts and Budgets, as at 30 October, in advance of the meeting and had received no queries in response. Funds are broadly healthy, including the provision made for budgets for next year.

### **Communications**

Peter's report in advance of the meeting: 'During October we have tried to inform the wider community of what our Club is doing using social media. In November we plan to publish another edition of the Rotary in Romsey Newsletter.

The Events List and Club Website have been ably updated during the month by David Sutton and Paul Grainger respectively. Please contact them direct if any changes need to be made.

Kerry Daley has been on holiday for part of the month, but I am sure is now returning with renewed enthusiasm. I hope so, as she prepares the Newsletter! She uses committee reports, club minutes etc in the main, but if anyone has anything else of general interest, please submit it to Kerry.

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### **Membership**

Bryan updated his Membership Report. Bob Dalton from the defunct Chandler's Ford & Itchin Valley Rotary club has decided not to join RCORT, rather to join Itchin Valley Probus club instead. The other Member who visited from this Club has joined Eastleigh Rotary.

### **Fundraising**

Brian advised RCORT receipts from WTTW will be circa £7k or £8k. This is after our donation to Inner Wheel for their considerable support.

'The total raised from this year's WTTW is now £44,210! Planning is already under way for Walk 2022! Yes, we don't stop!' Brian advises; more details over coming weeks.

### **Community**

Nikki is very encouraged with progress now and in train, as per the Community Service Report.

Activities include £250 support for Baby Necessities to be spent initially on nappies and breast pumps.

Community Service have agreed to purchase £150 worth of tickets, for the North Baddesley Primary School bonfire/ fireworks event. These were given to the Romsey Community Pantry and distributed to struggling North Baddesley families and individuals; helping two groups at once.

Excellent links being developed with the Romsey Community Pantry and expanded with Youth In Romsey. More details regarding proposals for both to follow at forthcoming meetings.

### **Foundation**

Very positive indeed response to the evening at the Hilliers! A great night; plus over £500 raised through the raffle on the evening.

Other Foundation activities, as in Stewart's report, extracts follow:

'I [Stewart] have met with Clare Goddard and started arrangements for the Purple for Polio Crocus collection at the Main Pavilion. Hilliers have said we can have our display during half term. So, lots of families around. Half term is February 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> plus the weekends at either end. So please put these dates in your diaries. Hopefully we can get back to schedule f again after last year's collection could not go ahead

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There is a Peace Jam Slam at Winchester Uni on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Romsey School are attending. I have not heard from Mountbatten. I will endeavour to attend at least part of the day to support the students. Would anyone else be interested in attending as you have to Register. That's free. It's a real eye opener to see the event progress.'

Stewart reminded Committees and Members that District Grants are a way in which to get double the funding for an initiative supported in this way.

## **International**

As Gren's report:

### **'Christmas Shoeboxes**

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## **Youth**

Steve summarised extensive activities within his report. This includes:

### **'Technology Tournament**

The schools Technology Tournament 16 March 2022, which the Youth Committee and other Members are progressing, together with Southampton Magna Rotary Club. Steve has invited Jitendra Gopal, Head of IT at Mountbatten to talk to Rotary on November 17th to speak on his experiences of the TT and challenges for teachers.

### **Dictionaries For Life**

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### **Young Chef**

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## 'Learn to Earn'

In addition, Steve has been approached by Romsey School regarding potential support financial and practical for 'Learn to Earn'. This is a new curriculum subject, using resources from TV Money Saving Expert, Martin Lewis. Overall cost to the school up to £2,500 - will Rotary assist with part of this and practical help? Steve will find out more and develop a proposal for the Club.

## Sports & Social

Nothing to report at this time.

## 6. AOB

### Heartbeat House

District are seeking 40 Clubs to commit to £500 a year for three years, to renovate Heartbeat House at Southampton Hospital. Keith Lawrenson and other members of RCORT raised £130,000 ( !! ) to build Heartbeat House in the early 1990s. Nick Lockyer was the architect and spoke about the support provided by RCORT at that time.

Stuart invited support from RCORT to commit £500 annually for three years for this activity, subject to District successfully getting other Clubs involved.

Proposer: Stuart Wineberg

Seconded: Nick Lockyer

All in favour. Passed. Stuart will keep Members advised.

### Almoner

Ian Bullivant has sent a note to Members since the meeting.

### Facebook & Communications Committee

Peter Welsh invited volunteers to help with Facebook and other Social Media posts. Welcome to join Communications Committee - contact Peter.

## 7. FUTURE MEETINGS

Wed 10 Nov 21		Entertainment from Jon Livingstone Youth in Romsey, Southampton Road, Romsey SO51 8AF	Jon Livingstone					David Sutton
Wed 17 Nov 21	Youth Opp.	Challenges of teaching during covid, and the benefits of the Technology Tournament. Royal British Legion	Jitendra Gopal -	Steve George	Ian Bullivant	Peter Hurst		Michael Thorne

**Next week, Breakfast Meeting, Youth in Romsey** - Jon (I) mentioned this would be a short talk about Rotary and how RCORT works, hopefully of interest to all members. Also intending to show a selection of short video clips before and after, to start the day in a good frame of mind.

**19 January 2022** - Roger advised that the District Governor, Paul Steele will be joining our speaker meeting on this date. Roger has also invited Members of Romsey Rotary to also attend this meeting.

## ROTARY - THE FUTURE

### DISCUSSION AT BUSINESS MEETING - 7.30 WEDNESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2021

#### **Rotary – The Future Working Group**

The Working Group wish to report on suggestions for the future of the Club. A survey was circulated to all members in August. Many thanks to all members who responded to the request for views and suggestions.

A series of meetings have been held to analyse the results and to consider how the Club might progress. The survey revealed a wide range of members' views over the future of the club. However, a number of consistent themes emerged, namely:

- The idea of a separate 'Romsey Test Seniors' was not favoured.
- Strong appetite to step up involvement in the community.
- The core of the club should be preserved, with meetings continuing as at present.
- Any changes should be incremental.
- Don't damage our very successful club.
- Don't undervalue long-standing members.

The Working Group found these themes very useful and have endeavoured to develop proposals along these lines. The following RGBI suggestions (as previously circulated to Members) for the development of Clubs include:

- Reducing formalities particularly at meetings.
- Reducing rules.
- Reducing the cost of membership.
- Increasing the emphasis on projects and their outcomes.
- Sponsoring of a new club.
- Meetings being held on-line or at venues such as a coffee bar to suit people who are working and with a busy family life.
- Different types of membership such as corporate and associate.

The Working Group has discussed the above points and has involved Nikki Jones in these discussions particularly due to her Community Services role. Various proposals have been devised and these are now for consideration by the Club.

Roger invited comments regarding each of the following. These are in Blue. Where there is no entry in Blue, this indicates there were no comments or observations on that point.

Mike Thorne read the Objects of Rotary to introduce the discussion - included on the last page below.

The Working Group proposes that:

1. The Club should aim to be attractive to a diverse range of the community and to have a number of different activity focusses to suit different sections of the community.
2. Existing Business, Speaker and Breakfast Meetings will continue as at present without change, as an important area of focus particularly for existing members.
3. A substantially increased area of focus would be based around Community Service activities. This would be project based and particularly aimed at new and younger members. Nikki Jones is already aware of a number of potential new members who would be keen to be involved in this area. The group would aim to involve potential and new members immediately in these community activities. This group would meet monthly (probably fourth Wednesday) in a form of meeting to be determined by the group, possibly to suit people who are working and with a busy family life.
  - Mike Thorne viewed that the Community focus was laudable. Mike asked who would run the Community Service/ Project Based group. Nikki Jones advised that she would do this initially.
  - David Sutton queried what would be different; Bill Gidley's summary in [ 11 ] below may help here.
4. Due to its scale another area of focus would be Walk The Test Way which will hopefully involve most members in assisting on the day besides a more restricted group organising it. Meetings would be arranged as required by the organising group.
5. Other areas of focus could be similarly developed.

6. In view of the survey response the suggestions for the formation of 'Romsey Test Seniors' will not be proceeded with.
7. All Members would be welcome to be active (or not) in any of these different areas of focus. Members could choose which meetings to attend. They will also choose whether that activity is attending meetings or getting involved in organising projects or just helping at events.
8. As at present there would be no minimum attendance requirement.
9. Members would pay the cost of membership without meals (currently £12/month) plus the cost of whatever meetings that they choose to attend. Thus those choosing to attend Business, Speaker and Breakfast meetings would pay what they pay today. Those only attending Community Service group meetings would only pay £12/month plus the cost of those meetings. This should help to reduce the cost of being a Rotarian in line with RGBI suggestions.
  - Brian Davies asked why should/ would the new Community Activities joiners pay £12 a month? Nikki advised this is a form of commitment and has not been raised as a problem by any of the potential joiners to date.
  - Tony Trowsdale saw a potential minefield for the Club Treasurer. Seek to avoid this.
10. Following consultations with the District Governor and the DG Elect the present process to become a member would be replaced such that:
  - a. Sponsorship by an existing member would not be required, this would allow younger potential members to join who might not know one of the existing members.
  - b. Upon expressing interest possible members would be appointed as an Associate Member for a fixed period of 6 months. This would enable them to see if Rotary suits them and if they suit Rotary. During this period they pay exactly what they would as a member.
  - c. After 5 months an email would be sent to all existing full members asking if they had any concerns about the person becoming a full member. Any such concerns would be considered by Council who would decide if that person became a member.
  - Brian Davies recommended need to be flexible on timings. Avoid a hard and fast six months for potential joiners to decide if they wish to become full members, or not.
  - Clive Collier queried why a need to change the Membership Application process, that 'works pretty well' at present.
  - Mike Thorne expressed the view that the need for change was based on the present age profile of Members. Clive advised that this need not affect the process for new joiners.
  - One for the Working Group to reflect on.
11. Consideration be given to introducing a form of corporate membership.
  - John Gould read his earlier email. Included on the last page, below. John expressed the concern that many Members with valuable views were not, or could not be here, for example if safeguarding. Roger advised that the emails received would also be taken into account.
  - Mike Koscian expressed the need for friends to act as helpers of Rotary activities.
  - Nikki said we may end up with two groups of the new joiners. One group who over time become full members of Rotary; and another who remain within the Community Service/ Project Based group, meeting once a month, rather than weekly. Nikki's thoughts were for committed, potential new Rotarians.
  - Stewart Mitchell made an interesting observation, that the discussion should be more about how to enable people to engage with Rotary; and less about or driven by our own internal processes and Club rules.
  - Clive Collier did not anticipate likely success in seeking to attract forty or fifty-year-olds; and recommended explore the Club's Business Partners/ Charity Contacts/ and Chamber of Commerce links.
  - Peter Welsh advised that the Club when founded was made up of forty-year-olds. One or two expressions that times change.
  - Nick Lockyer 'Don't lose sight of fun and fellowship!'
  - Bill Gidley summarised the proposal and his views:
    - : 'This was a new group as part of the Club.
    - : It could develop into a new Club over time. Not initially.
    - : Expect it to have its own type of meetings/ and meet in a different way and frequency.
    - : With the objective 'to keep Rotary Going in the Town'.
    - : Facing up to the fact that we are all ageing.'
12. Associate Members would not be given access to the existing Club Website as members. A special Facebook or WhatsApp group may be more appropriate. Further consideration will be given as to this.
  - Roger advised that the potential concern here was Data Protection.
13. Communication would be important to the success of the Club in this format. Further discussions about this will take place with the Communications chair, Peter Welsh.
14. There is no proposal to sponsor a new club.

15. The above arrangements would be introduced initially for a trial period of 12 months. For this period the existing Club Standing Orders would be suspended where required to permit this trial to proceed. Even if the trial were to be abandoned any new members recruited during this trial would remain members of the Club. Anyone still an Associate Member at such an end of the trial would continue for the remainder of the 6 month period and then treated in accordance with the process referred to in point 10 above.
  - Roger and/ or Stuart Wineberg advised that Rotary RGBI rules and guidance allow for a lot of flexibility.

It is believed that the Working Group's proposals largely reflect both the views of members and the RGBI suggestions for the development of Clubs. The advantage in proceeding along these lines is that existing members who enjoy the status quo will be able to continue to do so, while at the same time new members can hopefully be attracted to enable the continued existence of the Club into the future.

It is proposed that this be discussed by all Members at the Business Meeting on 3 November. Members' approval will be requested to proceed with the development of the future of the Club in accordance with the proposals listed above. Members not attending the Business Meeting may respond by email.

Roger advised that all these views will be considered by the Working Group; also emails received from Members not able to attend this meeting. This will help Roger and the Working Group to review these proposals and recommend a way forward.

# Rotary



## Objectives of Rotary

The Objective of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

### First

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity to service;

### Second

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

### Third

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

### Fourth

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

SV

Dear Roger and fellow members.

I will be at the meeting this evening but since many members will not be there the following is a summary of the points I would make.

Regards John G

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I suspect I am not the only person who read the proposed strategy with a sense of Déjà vu.

Looking back through my files I found similar documents and strategies dating back over 10 years.

There were several common themes: Less formality, flexible meetings, reduce costs – and yet we still haven't solved the perceived problem of an ageing membership and an inability to recruit and retain younger and more diverse Rotarians.

The fact that after 10 years of trying to rethink our future we still face the same challenge suggests to me that a more radical approach is needed.

I question whether, for the people who we are trying to attract and retain, the idea of membership of a Club is too old fashioned and restrictive.

A different model might be to develop and engage with a group of Rotary supporters who :-

- Would subscribe to the ethos of "Service above Self"
- Would be willing to support Rotary's projects and to help develop new ones
- Would meet to plan these projects and to get to know one-another

The fundamental question is, are we being too introspective by trying to safeguard the future of our Club?

Should we, instead, be trying to assure a vibrant presence of "Rotary in Romsey"?

For the people of Romsey only the latter is of any importance.

"Service above self"