

Minutes of the Council Meeting of Rotary Club of Romsey Test

7 September 2022

Present:

Nigel Budd (President)*	Stuart Wineberg (Secretary)*
Bill Gidley	Brian Davies
Bryan Rickett	Steve George
Graham Hollier*	Roger Shepherd
Kerry Daley	

+ apologies from Charlie Daniel-Hobbs, Clive Collier, Ron Bowater, Ed Holmes, Nikki Jones

*Trustees

Following a request by Tony T at the main meeting and to help the sanity of the Secretary, Council members are asked to submit their reports to the club not later than the weekend prior to the Business meeting

Minutes of last meeting

Passed without comment

Secretary

Nothing to add

Trust Fund

As per report. Payment of £183 for district Youth Levy agreed

Club Treasurer

As report.

Club Service

Nothing to report

Communications

As per report. Bryan Taphouse is busy organising the logistics for the carols event with the Town Hall. Volunteers required for 19 December

Membership

Tony Trowsdale unanimously agreed as membership chair – proposed by Nigel seconded by Bryan

WTTW

As report. Round Table providing some manpower support and will be given a donation. This link up to be encouraged. Many thanks to Kerry for all her work on marketing and promotion

ROR

No change

Community

Nothing to report

Foundation

As report

International

Agreed to put to the club payment of £600 for shelter box and £400 to district appeal both to support the Pakistan flood relief efforts

Youth

As per report. Looking positive that we will get 6 teams for Youth Speaks which will make the event viable

Young tech competition 8 March 2023

Steve is working to get a couple of speakers – Judith Houghton from Romsey School to speak on governance and a speaker on plant based medicines

Sports and Social

Thanks to Clive for the excellent BBQ

President's remarks

Encouraged people to sign up for the Southampton conference 5 November – SW arranging a block booking

Asked if new and joining members were now assigned to committees or projects and if any of the project leads need more people. Agreed that we are thin on “overlap” – if one key person drops out in a number of areas we are vulnerable. We need to have shadows for key jobs.

Bryan asked if we have procedures manuals for key events – Kerry to talk to Paul about getting these on the website to ensure they are preserved

Nigel to speak to Tony T about re-establishing our mentor scheme

Nigel Budd – Chair

Stuart Wineberg - Secretary

Consolidated committee reports

President

WTTW not far away. I have noted lots of promotional work going on. Hopefully with positive results

The District International Service Team is seeking a Minute taker at their bi-monthly meetings in Eastleigh. First meeting is 14 Oct. Please ask around for any takers.

I have a volunteer to take up the Membership Chair, and I will bring up the subject at Wednesday's meeting.

District one day Conferences 8th October in Bournemouth with evening Dinner and 5th November in Southampton. I understand that both are undersubscribed. I understand that a number of us have put our names down for the Southampton event, and I would encourage maximum attendance. Travel by train is very convenient for this even

Funeral of Rex Trahorne took place during the month, and was well attended by Rotary Members. inv

Name Badges. Awaiting report on cost and availability.

RoR. Update

It is apparent that the current time allocated to the Business meeting allows very little time for discussion, nor AOB. Will Council members please try to limit their reports to items not contained in their written submissions. This should allow maximum time for discussion of matters arising and AOB.

Club Treasurer

Dear Fellow Rotarians

I'm sending this month's report a few days early as a) nothing much happens from a financial standpoint in the last few days of the month and b) I need to clear the decks before going on our last caravan holiday of the year.

Both Nick and myself now have full access to our the club's original Natwest account following the bank's initial refusal to accept a change of signatory for myself. We also have a fully functional Lloyds account created when we thought that we would have to quit Natwest which we now no longer have a use for.

The current General Fund (Natwest) bank balance is a positive £5830.88 of which a positive £544.50 is member's dinner accounts. I am awaiting bills totalling £851.50 from RBL so that the clubs 'Free Funds' stands at a healthy £4434.88.

The only non-meal expenses this month were £14.39 for our Web domain and £75.00 membership of the Romsey Chamber of Commerce.

The above does not include dinner charges for Wednesday's BBQ (£28pp I believe)

If anyone wishes to know the details of their individual dinner account (i.e. funds credits, meals debits and balance) or wishes to inspect the club accounts for any reason, please let me know.

Trust Fund Treasurer

FMR as at 31-08-22 attachment

The account shows the sum of £15,910 available in committee budgets out of a total of £19,780. In addition, there is now a sum of £1,452 in unrestricted funds to be spent as per the rules Under "Policy" on the Club website, **"Approval of Trust Fund Expenditure"**.

Current Activity by Category

There is a new line entry 1) Youth-District Levy of £3 per member x 61 = £183. It is shown as a separate line in the accounts because the payment request had been made after budgets had been set and I was not prepared to take this money from the unrestricted funds as was suggested, without adhering to the procedure which would require trustee/club approval. The upshot is that I paid the £183 to District as was requested by Ron as a result of an email from the District Treasurer, which I wasn't copied in initially.

"It was agreed that going forward and to enable Youth, a lynchpin of both our charitable work and our future growth as an organisation, to expand a levy would be applied at £3.00 per member and this would go directly to the Youth Funds within the Wessex CIO. This idea was that this actually formed part of a club's charitable giving and could be taken from Club charity funds rather than from club funds. For this year 2022-23 the Youth funding in the district 1110 budget has been removed and this, in turn, helped to keep the district levy that individual members pay to £15.00"

I would point out here, that our club has set aside already via our Youth Committee budget the sum of £5,500, 28%, and the second highest budget for the club and this request was sent AFTER the budgeting process was complete. Could this be setting a precedent?

This is the first time that this has happened, and, in my view, it is an unacceptable practice to pay a member's levy (another one) from the charity account. I believed that as this was a request for payment of a levy, this should have been paid from the Club Account and I emailed Ron to

ask him to transfer this money to the Trust fund if he agreed. He did not, given the email from the District Treasurer.

I paid this money in good faith during a time that I was under the impression that there was a problem with the Club Account and that in due course, funds would be returned as requested by my email to Ron which was declined.

The upshot is that I have broken the rules laid down in "Approval of Trust Fund Expenditure" as shown under "Policy" in the member's area of the Club Website for which I unreservedly apologise. So, the money has been paid and I am proposing to Trustees and club that this payment is ratified and approved following our policy and procedures, albeit, retrospectively.

you may take the view that it's only £183 and we can afford it and could 'bury' it in the accounts. I do not share that view; it is a **TRUST FUND** and a precedent has been set.

Budget Monitor attachment

This shows spending by committee versus budget and you will note that International has been busy. At the bottom of the report "Total of Miscellaneous Funds within Budget," you can see that we have £7,510 to be dispersed.

International

Summary:

- Donations are proposed of £600 to Shelterbox and £400 to Rotary Pakistan Flood Appeal
- Our donation of £1300 has arrived in the Rainbow Volunteer Club charity account in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- A significant update has been received from RCNEK regarding delays in handing on our previous donation to Rainbow.
- Thanks have been received from James Samo at Life Centre School, Kisumu, with photographs of the books bought with our recent donation.

Pakistan flooding

Everyone I'm sure will be fully aware of the current flooding in Pakistan which is of a biblical magnitude. In our budget for 22/23 we allocated £1000 for disaster relief. The immense scale of flooding in Pakistan seems a very appropriate target for these funds. RCRT have a history of supporting Shelterbox and Rotary has set up a [Pakistan Flood Appeal](#) .

I will make a proposal to Council and to members that we send £600 to Shelterbox (the approximate cost of a Shelterbox) and £400 to the Rotary Pakistan Flood Appeal. It needs to be noted that in reading the small print both are general disaster relief funds but the likelihood is that at present the bulk of the funds will be directed towards the Pakistan flooding.

Rainbow Volunteer Club, Kathmandu, Nepal:

Girls menstrual health project:

Our donation of £1300 to support a menstrual health project for girls attending the Rainbow School has been made directly to the Rainbow Volunteer Club. Our contact at Rainbow (Madan) has confirmed that the money has arrived in the Rainbow charity account and has sent his thanks to all club members. Madan has sent us the design for the brightly coloured bag which will hold the health products supplied to the girls and this is shown below.



2021 donation of £700 for Rainbow School computer equipment

In the last few months communication with Madan of Rainbow Volunteer Club revealed that the Rotary Club of NE Kathmandu had still not handed on our donation made in September 2021. During the last week I have learnt from our RCNEK contact Dr Dinesh Pant that the problem is being resolved by club bank account signatories being changed. We know the difficulties of doing this in the UK and Nepal is likely to be no better.

We now at least have a better explanation of the nature of the issue and assurance of good intentions but if nothing has been resolved in a month I feel we will have to begin to escalate this matter via RI.

For your information I include the text of Dr Dinesh Pant's recent reply below:

Dear Bill,

Thank you for your letter pushing us for speedy conclusion of the process of payment to Rainbow Volunteer Club.

We are extremely sorry for this situation. In fact, I am not in position to justify the delay from our side, but just to share with you our current problems at club level. After our two club members, who used to be signatories of the project bank account where the fund sent by your club to support Rainbow Volunteer Club is deposited, have remained inactive and absent in the club since long time, the club spent long time to trace them and bring back to club and it is just recently that the club has officially provisioned a set of three new signatories, of which one has yet register his new signature with the bank and hence this account is still inactivated. This is the main reason why we had to spent long time to trace the bank transfer from your side as the bank did not reveal the transferred amount in the absence of the concerned signatories. Even after this issue was somehow resolved, getting the cheque already drawn in the name of Rainbow Club still remains to be fully signed (by newly designated signatories).

Our club officials are seriously engaged to sort out this issue by any means sooner, besides the regular follow-up I am doing now. I hope this will be resolved. I will also consult with

Madan-ji if he can purchase the computers in advance with some sort of assurance of payment to the vendors.

We have been very happy to work with your club in partnership to channel support to our needy communities and other social clubs here in Nepal. Though there have been serious regretful lapses from our side this time, we are still hopeful and enthusiast that our two clubs can work together with new support projects in the coming days.

With best wishes and regards.

PS: Dear President and Secretary and other related officials: Please reconsider the communications taking place between our club and Rotary Club of Romsey Test (UK) in recent weeks. Please do the needful ASAP to resolve the said issue. Let us also talk about how we can promote our partnership of RC-RT in other areas with new vigor.

Dinesh Pant

Charter President, RC of Kathmandu North East

Life Centre School, Kisumu, Kenya:

I'm please to be able to include this email received on 3rd September from James Samo at Life Centre School

Dear Bill,

Rotary Club Romsey,

On behalf of LIFE CENTRE SCHOOL KISUMU both children and school administration.

We are pleased to let you know that we received the funds and bought the CBC books as request by our needs in the school.

This a huge task and test to pass without your support we would be nowhere since the government was on our neck but could not provide for us.

Our children are happy and learning well with the books required by the new curriculum act.

Please I have some of the exciting photo from the children receiving books attached I will send some more when they are in classrooms.

Thank you

James

+254718966016

Life Centre School Kisumu.

WTTW

We currently have 280 registered walkers (incl 3 cancellations) which is an increase of 14 since last Sunday. This is 63 up on 2021 at the same time (but still around 120 down from 2019).

BTW .. I've been asked about the dip in the last week for 2021. This is because 63 'no shows' were taken into account for this year and as far as I know, not in 2019. In 2021 (my first year in the Walk team) we actually had 330 registrations and 267 actual walkers (I am told that 20% no-shows is typical).

In the last 4 weeks of 2021, registrations were coming in 30 per week so if that were repeated this year we will be close to 400 by Sept 25th. However we have no idea what positive effect the Market Place/Romsey Show stands and other promotions will have, or the negative effect the developing cost of living crisis will have on new registration numbers and money raised.

This week's WTTW registration report with exactly **THREE** weeks to go can be found here ...

https://www.rotaryclubofromseytest.uk/walk_reports/WTTW-Report-04-09-2022.pdf

We currently have 294 registered walkers (incl 3 cancellations) which is an increase of 11 since last Sunday. This is 32 up on 2021 at the same time (but over 150 or so down from 2019).

As I said last week, it is impossible to say how the additional promotions will affect registrations in the coming weeks but if I were to hazard a guess I would say that we are talking about 350 final registrations and 280 actual walkers.

Note that my final 'revenue' number from the event does not include (positive) £1,000 business sponsorship and an estimated (negative) £4,500 event staging costs (mainly coaches, medical cover and toilets). However, there should (and will) be much more sponsorship money arriving in coming weeks before a final figure can be calculated.

Community

Club Service

Nothing to report

Youth

Speakers - Judith Houghton, Romsey School , Head of Board of Trustees, who we met at the Romsey School enterprise project, has agreed to come and talk to us in January.

Schools contact - I have been in touch with Helen Smart of Embley School who are keen to re establish connections with Rotary. She is the Head of Technology and i am hopeful will support the TT this year. We will be arranging to meet her in a couple of weeks to establish a relationship.

Youth Speaks - I will be writing to Romsey, Mountbatten, Embley and Test Valley to invite them to a Youth Debates event. We will look to book a date in Romsey in early January and will stress that there needs to be enough teams entering to make the event worthwhile. Charles has indicated he'll work with me on this one.

TT - Being led by Steve SJ - This event will be scheduled for March 2023

Young Chef - I met the head of food tech at Romsey School this year, Amanda Brice, and we may be able to entice her to participate. Unlikely we will get Mountbatten as the teacher lead is on maternity leave. Embley however have expressed an interest.

Young Photographer.- We are keen to give this a go this year and I will send a prospectus to the schools shortly. Shaun has expressed some interest in getting involved with this using social media.

Youth in Romsey - I briefly spoke with Wendy and Linda last month to see if there were any areas Rotary could help in the coming year. We discussed a renovation of the 'green' area outside the building where the plastic grass has somewhat deteriorated. We also spoke about an initiative they are exploring to reach local Ukrainian youth in the area but no plans here yet.

Dictionaries for Life - Stuart Wineberg will shortly be making contact with the primary schools involved to establish pupil numbers then we'll asking for volunteers to help with school delivery.

Sports and Social

Nothing to report

Communication

We had a great team meeting on the 16th August at Cork and Bean in Romsey and we will be having these bi-monthly going forward.

Autumn Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be Autumn issue. The deadline is the 16th September. We will also do a special edition end Sept/early October to showcase the Walk the Test Way.

YouTube

We now have access to our YouTube channel, it has been dormant for a while. Please click here if you would like to subscribe

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6q6odyOixjmgmfx_plbXEg we will be posting videos and content from now on. I will add the mayors picnic and we can use it for walk the test way.

Walk the Test Way

We are :-

- still pushing content through Facebook and Instagram
- articles have gone out over the last couple of months in local newsletters
- We have put in some paid advertising into the Romsey Advertiser which was digital and print for August and September
- We have emailed out to charities, businesses, present and past walkers to try and drum up some more registrations.
- We have organised a stall in Romsey Town Centre 28th Aug, 11th Sept and 18th September
- We are now having a stall at the Romsey Show on the 10th September
- Check out our blog page www.walkthetestway.org.uk/blog
- Take a look at our Digital Fundraising Pack along with posters that charities and walkers can add their details to, to help promote the event. [https://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/sponsorship-media](http://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/sponsorship-media)

We will also be giving the Walk website a complete re-vamp, we will look at starting this over winter 2022.

WTTW

This is now being advertised on the District Website - follow the link to view www.rotaryinwessex.org.uk

There are still slots available for helpers please on our stall at the Romsey Show on the 10th September (this Saturday). If any of you are able to do an hour slot that would be fab as this will allow Clive and I have to have a rest and enjoy some of the show too.

Here is the link to the spreadsheet :-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o8c4ose98bgjYBe9WXB3I_pUWYjOb9_1/edit#gid=1095241316

Rotary Test Website

Members area:-

There are a few items that are needing update (these are what we have noticed so far)

- Committee List (ongoing)
- Assets Register (present one is 2014)

Romsey Young Carers

Befriending Poster has now been printed and we have a meeting to help with their social media and website information.

If you know of any other charities that would like or need some marketing/social media support please let us know. We are happy to give our skills to help others.

Membership

No report

Foundation

Apart from organizing a very poor speaker on the 17th, I have nothing to report.

**Minutes of Business Meeting of Rotary Club of Romsey test
7 September 2022**

Any member wishing to attend the District Conference 1 day event in Southampton on 5 November along with Nigel, Stuart, Tony T and Bill please contact Stuart asap who is putting a block booking together

The President welcomed Sarah, an unexpected guest who had helped us with the Duck Race and dropped in to see what we were all about.

Secretary

Informed the club that the secretarial role is being split between SW and Rosemary Forward. Rosemary's courage was recognised with a round of applause.

The club voted to retrospectively approve a District Levy payment of £183. Proposed by SW, seconded by Nigel

Members were reminded to check the committee list on the website for accuracy and report any errors to SW

SW asked for volunteers to help drop off dictionaries to the schools over the next few weeks – please contact SW directly

Club Treasurer

As per report

Trust Fund

As per report

Club Service

Nothing to report.

Communications

As per report.

Membership

Tony Trowsdale has volunteered for the role and was welcomed as such by the members present

WTTW

Numbers now increasing 314 at last count. Kerry specifically thanked for her marketing efforts which are clearly working well.

Members are asked to look at the spreadsheet circulated by Kerry and help her fill in the vacant spaces particularly at the Romsey show and also on 18 September

Community Service

Carols service will take place as planned – volunteers needed for 19 December to help with signage and shake buckets in the crowd – please reply directly to Bryan Taphouse

Foundation

As per report.

International

Club voted to approve a payment of £600 to shelter box and £400 to the District Pakistan flood relief appeal both to support relief in Pakistan. Proposed by Bill, seconded by Gren

Last years payment to the Rainbow club in Nepal sent via the Rotary club of Kathmandu has finally surfaced, sadly with a cheque dated exactly 100 years ago. Cheque is being reissued. This year's payment which was set directly to the school has arrived OK

Kenya school project – books have arrived and welcomed

Keith Cameron updated us on Dentaaid – for the benefit of transferring in members, this is a major ongoing project for us. A local organisation providing mobile dental services and equipment to areas of the world and populations that have no access to dental services (which sadly now includes homeless people in UK). A local initiative to provide a mobile dental service to the homeless has expanded now to 8 vehicles. They are seeking somewhere with secure storage and regular access where they can keep the vehicles – any suggestions please direct them to Keith. 2 Dentaaid wheelie bins now on their way to Papua New Guinea

Keith is working to get us a Dentaaid speaker who will talk to us about building a Grant submission for work in Uganda

Youth

As per report. Jon Livingstone congratulated Steve G on the efforts and successes of our Youth team

Sports and Social

Clive thanked for his excellent BBQ

Xmas event will be 14 December at the White Horse

ROR

No information

President's remarks

WTTW needs more volunteers – please ask friends and family

Ditto carols in the square. Please volunteer early to relieve the stress on the organisers

District International team needs a minutes secretary – volunteers please contact SW

Countess Mountbatten hospice at Botley on 13 September – canapes evening. We have 2 invitations. Anyone who would like to accompany Nigel please contact him – he is driving

AOB

Jon Livingstone mentioned his team's limited success at the Jane Scarth Quiz

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

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President

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WTTW

We currently have 280 registered walkers (incl 3 cancellations) which is an increase of 14 since last Sunday. This is 63 up on 2021 at the same time (but still around 120 down from 2019).

BTW .. I've been asked about the dip in the last week for 2021. This is because 63 'no shows' were taken into account for this year and as far as I know, not in 2019. In 2021 (my first year in the Walk team) we actually had 330 registrations and 267 actual walkers (I am told that 20% no-shows is typical).

In the last 4 weeks of 2021, registrations were coming in 30 per week so if that were repeated this year we will be close to 400 by Sept 25th. However we have no idea what positive effect the Market Place/Romsey Show stands and other promotions will have, or the negative effect the developing cost of living crisis will have on new registration numbers and money raised.

This week's WTTW registration report with exactly **THREE** weeks to go can be found here ...

https://www.rotaryclubofromseytest.uk/walk_reports/WTTW-Report-04-09-2022.pdf

We currently have 294 registered walkers (incl 3 cancellations) which is an increase of 11 since last Sunday. This is 32 up on 2021 at the same time (but over 150 or so down from 2019).

As I said last week, it is impossible to say how the additional promotions will affect registrations in the coming weeks but if I were to hazard a guess I would say that we are talking about 350 final registrations and 280 actual walkers.

Note that my final 'revenue' number from the event does not include (positive) £1,000 business sponsorship and an estimated (negative) £4,500 event staging costs (mainly coaches, medical cover and toilets). However, there should (and will) be much more sponsorship money arriving in coming weeks before a final figure can be calculated.

Community

Club Service

Nothing to report

Youth

Speakers - Judith Houghton, Romsey School , Head of Board of Trustees, who we met at the Romsey School enterprise project, has agreed to come and talk to us in January.

Schools contact - I have been in touch with Helen Smart of Embley School who are keen to re establish connections with Rotary. She is the Head of Technology and i am hopeful will support the TT this year. We will be arranging to meet her in a couple of weeks to establish a relationship.

Youth Speaks - I will be writing to Romsey, Mountbatten, Embley and Test Valley to invite them to a Youth Debates event. We will look to book a date in Romsey in early January and will stress that there needs to be enough teams entering to make the event worthwhile. Charles has indicated he'll work with me on this one.

TT - Being led by Steve SJ - This event will be scheduled for March 2023

Young Chef - I met the head of food tech at Romsey School this year, Amanda Brice, and we may be able to entice her to participate. Unlikely we will get Mountbatten as the teacher lead is on maternity leave. Embley however have expressed an interest.

Young Photographer.- We are keen to give this a go this year and I will send a prospectus to the schools shortly. Shaun has expressed some interest in getting involved with this using social media.

Youth in Romsey - I briefly spoke with Wendy and Linda last month to see if there were any areas Rotary could help in the coming year. We discussed a renovation of the 'green' area outside the building where the plastic grass has somewhat deteriorated. We also spoke about an initiative they are exploring to reach local Ukrainian youth in the area but no plans here yet.

Dictionaries for Life - Stuart Wineberg will shortly be making contact with the primary schools involved to establish pupil numbers then we'll asking for volunteers to help with school delivery.

Sports and Social

Nothing to report

Communication

We had a great team meeting on the 16th August at Cork and Bean in Romsey and we will be having these bi-monthly going forward.

Autumn Newsletter

Our next Newsletter will be Autumn issue. The deadline is the 16th September. We will also do a special edition end Sept/early October to showcase the Walk the Test Way.

YouTube

We now have access to our YouTube channel, it has been dormant for a while. Please click here if you would like to subscribe

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6q6odyOixjmgmfx_plbXEg we will be posting videos and content from now on. I will add the mayors picnic and we can use it for walk the test way.

Walk the Test Way

We are :-

- still pushing content through Facebook and Instagram
- articles have gone out over the last couple of months in local newsletters
- We have put in some paid advertising into the Romsey Advertiser which was digital and print for August and September
- We have emailed out to charities, businesses, present and past walkers to try and drum up some more registrations.
- We have organised a stall in Romsey Town Centre 28th Aug, 11th Sept and 18th September
- We are now having a stall at the Romsey Show on the 10th September
- Check out our blog page www.walkthetestway.org.uk/blog
- Take a look at our Digital Fundraising Pack along with posters that charities and walkers can add their details to, to help promote the event. <https://www.walkthetestway.org.uk/sponsorship-media>

We will also be giving the Walk website a complete re-vamp, we will look at starting this over winter 2022.

WTTW

This is now being advertised on the District Website - follow the link to view www.rotaryinwessex.org.uk

There are still slots available for helpers please on our stall at the Romsey Show on the 10th September (this Saturday). If any of you are able to do an hour slot that would be fab as this will allow Clive and I have to have a rest and enjoy some of the show too.

Here is the link to the spreadsheet :-

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1o8c4ose98bgjYBe9WXB3I_pUWYjOb9_1/edit#gid=1095241316

Rotary Test Website

Members area:-

There are a few items that are needing update (these are what we have noticed so far)

- Committee List (ongoing)
- Assets Register (present one is 2014)

Romsey Young Carers

Befriending Poster has now been printed and we have a meeting to help with their social media and website information.

If you know of any other charities that would like or need some marketing/social media support please let us know. We are happy to give our skills to help others.

Membership

No report

Foundation

Apart from organizing a very poor speaker on the 17th, I have nothing to report.