

Meeting at Royal British Legion - Wednesday 17 August 2022
Nigel Budd, President - Speaker, Bryan Rickett

Dear All,

An enjoyable meeting in the comparative cool of the RBL, after the recent rain and break in the weather.

Nikki conducted a thoughtful grace of her own composition, to appreciate the needs of others and the good fortune we have; both sharing food together and more generally.

After the interval, 25 members then heard Bryan Rickett our speaker for the evening. Bryan, recent Past President and a founder member - was talking about the early days of the Rotary Club of Romsey Test. The Club was formed in 1990, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Romsey. Bryan remembered fondly first President, Gordon Rogers; early meetings in the Conservative Club, before moving to the Abbey Hotel. Also, the District Extension Officer, who guided the founder members on establishing the new Club. Name I think was Ian; and never seen without a cigarette on the go.

There were no Committees at the start. This meant all Members were involved in every decision and meetings often ended after midnight!

Bryan explained how the Duck Race began. Ducks were launched in the Abbey Garden and had further to travel at the start. Many ducks were lost on the route. Others got swept out to sea at the bottom of the Memorial Park. Tony Abbott had been one of the members who tried to catch the ducks as they swam past. Bryan recalled the answer was to put a dam and nets across the River Test, in the Memorial Park. The Gamekeeper for the River suspected poaching and was apparently less than impressed!

Other incidents were shared; including tents taking off when guy ropes were let loose and meetings at the Abbey Hotel.

Walk the Test Way - 25 September

Brian Davies shared the present status of marshalls for WTTW; 17 more volunteers being sought at present. Please encourage friends or family who may be interested.

Ron Bowater advised numbers of Walkers are presently 265 and target is 350 if possible.

John Gould advised that he is now aged 80. Congratulations to John! Rather than providing drinks for approximately half of members at a meeting, John was making an appropriate contribution to Youth in Romsey. John thanked members and friends for their good wishes, followed by applause.

Jon advised that Jane Scarth House, Romsey Cancer Support Charity, are holding a quiz evening at the Concorde Club on Tuesday 6 September. The event includes prizes for winning teams and curry in the interval. Maximum of up to six in each team.

<https://www.theconcordeclub.com/product.php/1440/charity-quiz-curry-night-in-aid-of-jane-scarth-house>

Ian Bullivant advised that founder member Philip Kirkland had experienced a fall resulting in him being admitted to Southampton General Hospital for some tests and recovery. Ian expressed our best wishes towards Philip.

Nigel advised the meeting next week would be an informal social meeting with meal. Nigel will welcome any suggestions for the week four meetings, to him, or any member of Council.

Jon, Thursday 18/08