

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
HANDOVER AND BUSINESS MEETING - 1 JULY 2020

HANDOVER

Bill

Bill welcomed 44 Members to the Rotary Club of Romsey Test Handover meeting. An excellent turnout!

He thanked Bryan for gifts of flowers for Sandra and a tankard for himself. Bill expressed the unusual nature of the year and how lockdown and the inability to meet face to face had prevented a review of the meetings format and strategy of the Club, also some key events on the annual calendar.

Bill was pleased with the way in which Zoom meetings had become established, to retain continuity. This seems to be working well. Bill referred to excellent talks provided by David Pantling and Stewart Mitchell on Wednesday evenings to date and requested Members help Bryan with ideas for talks, or future evenings going forward.

Bill expressed his thanks to Council, who have all been universally helpful and supportive throughout the year. He also expressed his thanks to Club Treasurer, Nick; Trust Fund Treasurer, Graham; and Secretary, Jon. Bill described these as the behind the scenes roles, without which the Club would not run. Also particular thanks to Graham for volunteering to remain Trust Fund Treasurer for another year, to support the Club.

Bill concluded, offering his best wishes to Bryan.

Bryan

Bryan responded, inviting a well-earned round of applause for Bill. Bryan expressed his thanks to Bill and Sandra and his appreciation Bill had established the Zoom meetings, so the Club could continue to meet in this way.

Bryan shared that it was an honour for him to become President, especially as a Founder member. And that 'Did the Club know what it was doing?'

His aim was to continue the Social meetings on the third Wednesday of each month; and requested Members share ideas for these meetings with himself and Sports and Social Chair, Clive. There is no certainty at present, how long lockdown will last and with the average age of Members, Bryan will adopt a cautious approach for the re-commencement of face to face meetings. Clive and Sports and Social team will also arrange a get together and celebration, when the time is right.

Bryan concluded by looking forward to the year ahead.

Chains of Office

Chains of Office were handed over. This took place virtually, rather in four corners of Bill's garage:

- : Bill - President, to Bryan
- : Bryan - Vice-President, to Roger Shepherd
- : Roger - Junior Vice-President, to Nigel Budd.

Congratulations to all.

BUSINESS MEETING

Bryan invited Committee Chairs to provide updates:

Club Treasurer: Nick advised the Club has a balance of £9,300. This is £1,800 less than at the beginning of the year, but more than budgeted. Lockdown has reduced expenditure with only £202 being expended over the last four months.

Lockdown has also swelled Members' accounts and the bank account now holds £6,100 of Members' positive balances. Nick will reconcile Dinner Accounts and Members will be receiving their statements. Most are due to receive a refund.

Trust Fund Treasurer: Graham has circulated Trust Fund accounts to all Club Members and advised that no queries have been received.

Club Service: Roger welcomed there is nothing to report, whilst meetings are held by Zoom.

Communications: Keith has held a Communications Committee meeting, Peter Stuckey advised. This was joined by a local communications specialist, Kerry Daley, to explore ways to work together.

Membership: Shaun is preparing a promotion for digital Lockdown FM radio - 100.7 FM. Have look at Shaun's profile:

<https://www.lockdownfm.com/index.php/presenters/>

The Station Manager has offered and has now agreed to present at our next meeting in two weeks' time; see below.

Good points made that Working from Home in future provides more time and opportunity to become involved in organisations like Rotary; also that working in isolation makes it more important for people to be able to socialise locally, for example through Rotary.

Community Service: Nikki is in touch with Romsey Abbey School. At Romsey Abbey School we have helped with 'the Ark' to assist and support young children when entering the school. They have future plans to develop the kitchen, for which we may assist. Nikki is also in touch with other primary schools and will keep us advised.

Nikki liaising with Jo Topley, Manager at Romsey Foodbank. They are grateful for the Club's financial support. There is an expectation that demands on the Foodbank will continue and possibly grow, once children return to school in September and the furlough scheme ends the next month.

Foundation: Stewart is laying down [tram] tracks for his '**Walk the Test *Another Way***' in support of Youth In Romsey, whilst seeking to '*stay on the rails*' and '*remain on track*', as heard offstage over the Zoom.

International: Gren advised currently nothing to report.

Youth Opportunities: Steve's view this would be a different year for Youth, as RGBI not running any national competitions. The logic is to involve RCoRT Youth with other local Rotary Clubs and possibly consider smaller, more local Youth activities.

Stuart Wineberg advised the Dictionaries for Life have now arrived and being stored in Tony Trowsdale's garage. To be delivered to primary schools sealed, in October, for the schools to distribute; with RCoRT message included.

Fundraising: Brian Davies advised now 64 registrations for '**Walk the Test *Another Way***' and £14k and rising being distributed to charities.

Sandy outlined present plans to promote **'Walk the Test *Another* Way'** focussing in Romsey and area. The highly visible banner on Tony Trowsdale's house on Southampton Road has been updated, thanks to David Sillence, and is now on display.

'Walk the Test *Another* Way' to be promoted by posters around Romsey, now pubs, restaurants and shops are opening up. Stuart Wineberg will take posters to the Town Hall. Stewart Mitchell, sharing with Romsey Chamber of Commerce

Sandy invited a big push in the last month and all can help. Sandy will send the poster to us all in digital form, which Members may wish to share with other friends and contacts.

Bryan requested, whether **'Walk the Test *Another* Way'** would be extended for another month? Sandy advised 31 July will not be a hard deadline. If people choose to fundraise for their charity subsequently, we will continue to distribute to charities.

David Sutton shared a delightful and insightful letter from Macmillan Cancer. They clearly appreciate the events we run for the people of Romsey (and Hampshire) and very much value the opportunities Rotary Club of Romsey Test provides for fundraising for charities such as themselves.

Sports and Social: Clive pointed out the lack of consistency in the present Government guidelines. For example, whilst pubs can open and any number can meet in a pub, so long as social distancing; only six people can meet in a garden. This means ideas for a pub BBQ would work with one guideline, though not with the other.

Clive advised possible ideas for the third Wednesday meetings could include:

: Tell a Joke evening

: A Quiz, following the first successful one

: Internal/ external speakers.

Please keep ideas coming to Clive and Bryan.

Clive applauded the contribution Mark Edgerley has made as Town Centre Manager and suggested the Club consider some form of recognition.

Almoner

Ian Bullivant observed that with the absence of social contact during lockdown, it was more important than ever, that Members let him or Graham Lee know of anyone who might need a call or support.

AOB

Clive confirmed that Zoom ownership has been handed over by Bill to Bryan; and recommended use of the 'All Mute' function.

PRESIDENT'S CLOSING REMARKS

Bryan encouraged support for **'Walk the Test *Another* Way'** over the next month and if extended beyond end of July. And invited suggestions for third Wednesday meetings to himself and Clive.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15 July: Lockdown FM, Station Manager.

'Rotary Peace and Fellowship the World Over'