

**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**  
**COUNCIL AND CLUB MEETING - 7.30 WEDNESDAY 7 JULY 2021**

**ATTENDEES**

22 in total, including the following for Council:

Roger Shepherd - President	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Nick Bellamy	Nikki Jones
Clive Collier	Jon Livingstone - Secretary
Brian Davies	Stewart Mitchell
Steve George	Bryan Rickett
Graham Hollier	Peter Welsh
Apologies: Nigel Budd	

**1. INTRODUCTION**

Roger Shepherd welcomed all Members of RCoRT to the first meeting of the new Rotary Year. Roger thanked Council members for volunteering for their essential positions and looks forward to meetings recommencing face to face again in the near future, following government announcements.

**2. COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Club Treasurer**

Nick Bellamy: At the end of June the Club had **£7,100** in its bank account. The account additionally held a positive balance of **£8,900** on members dinner accounts. Most of the latter has been refunded to Members by now.

The balances this year are mainly positive and larger than usual due to our not meeting for meals.

**Trust Fund Treasurer**

Graham Hollier circulated the accounts to the end of June 2021; and also, the up-to-date position for the present year, in advance of the meeting and had received no queries.

Graham explained the budget provided funds for the present 2021/ 2022 year and also the following year. Assuming Walk the Test Way goes ahead, budgets can then be reviewed this December. The approach therefore provides a conservative practical approach, with built in flexibility to review later this year.

**Club Service**

See President's Remarks for forthcoming meetings.

**Communications**

Peter Welsh's report was as circulated before the meeting. Peter also requested Members responsible for content on the Club Website, to update information, so all entries relate to the present Rotary year.

## **Membership & Recruitment**

Bryan Rickett looking very relaxed wished Roger success for the coming year. More to follow at the Handover meeting on 21 July.

Bryan advised Ron Bowater is a guest of Bill Gidley at the Handover Night. Ron is supporting a number of activities of the Club at present, which is very much appreciated.

## **Fundraising**

Brian Davies provided an update for Walk the Test Way 'WTTW' on 26 September 2021.

The Walk passed over £4,000 (from Walk the Test Another Way/2020) last week to the Club Trust Fund.

Brian thanked Members, such as Gren, who had already shared WTTW for this September on Facebook and encouraged as many people as possible to do this.

Exactly 100 Walkers are now registered. We are four weeks behind the publicity of previous years, so this is encouraging; though all Members please do our best to catch up and publicise the event.

: Mike Koscian explained that numbers were consistent with the Walk in 2019, taking account of the later start for promotion this year.

Radio interviewing Brian next week!

Brian confirmed to Clive Collier that all costs were covered by sponsors. Nikki Jones will contact Brian with other potential business sponsors.

Stewart Mitchell raised an interesting query regarding the willingness of venues to display leaflets before the government removes remaining restrictions. Brian advised he had experienced this also, though on only two occasions from 22 venues and advised a pragmatic and understanding approach if this arises.

Lots of leaflets and posters are available. Please display where you can.

## **Community Service**

Nikki Jones has a meeting with the Romsey Community Pantry and will provide a proposal to support following this.

Also liaising with North Baddesley Primary School, concerning a nurture area, similar to that the Club supported at Abbey Primary School.

## **Foundation**

Stewart Mitchell advised: Arrangements for October event for End Polio proceeding well; and: Peace Jam will take place in November at Winchester University. Secondary schools have been informed.

The Club holds £490 as a District Grant, which must be used in connection with Peace Jam.

## **International**

Gren Lamb-Hughes advised donations approved at Club Assembly have been made to Dentaid (£700) and Life Centre School, Kisumu, Kenya (£795). Further details are in Gren's report circulated before the meeting.

## **Youth**

Steve George reported:

### Schools Contact

We have now made positive connections with Romsey and Mountbatten schools with the intention of having a central 'go to' point in each of our schools.

Chris Cox in Mountbatten has responded as the go to for Mountbatten and Chris Stevens in Romsey. They will coordinate appropriate teachers for specific initiatives.

It is clear that Covid has consumed their time but they have both expressed a genuine interest in working with and involving us once they are through it.

### Tech Tournament

In view of room hire requirements we have made a provisional booking for this 16 March 2022 but there is so much uncertainty as to whether schools will want or be able to participate it is very likely that the event will be postponed until 2023.

### Youth Speaks

Both Romsey schools have expressed an interest in participating but we will leave until the September term before any formal contact is made.

### Dictionaries for Life

Dictionaries ordered, no further updates at this stage. Distribution planning in earnest starts in September for deliveries in October.

### Abbey Organ Scholar

The Abbey are pleased that we have confirmed sponsorship. Interviews for the scholar will be taking place in early September. We now have the account details to pay into so Steve will hand this over to Graham.

### Schools Contacts Database

Stewart Mitchell referred to the database. We will need to think about how this is used and kept up to date.

Nikki Jones and Peter Welsh happy to be involved in this, in conjunction with Stewart and Steve.

## **Sports & Social**

All progressing for the Handover Night on 21 July - 70 attending.

Clive Collier has not heard from District regarding resumption of sporting events.

### 3. **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Roger circulated forthcoming meeting dates prior to the meeting, to give a few notes on what we are doing over the next few months.

This includes face-to-face meetings re-commencing, with the Handover Night 21 July.

Committees will arrange Speakers for the Speaker Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month; as shown in the Events List on the Member's section of the website.

Starting from September we will be reintroducing breakfast meetings at Youth in Romsey on the second Wednesday of each month. Members are invited to volunteer to provide a form of short talk/entertainment for a meeting. If one month before a meeting nobody has stepped forward three members will be selected at random, to come up between them with something for the following meeting. Volunteer for 8 September invited.

Roger congratulated Members on the support for Romsey Food Bank and thanked Graham Lee for initiating and coordinating this. As Graham's email:

'In the period from March 2020 to June 2021, we have collectively donated, with Gift Aid, a total of £16,580 plus a further £1,000 as a matching donation from Waitrose for our first month's contributions. I think this is a tremendous effort and thank you all for supporting this initiative for the benefit of those who are so much worse off than ourselves.'

#### 4. **AOB**

Nick Bellamy spoke about Reminiscences of Romsey, for which Crosfield Hall has been booked for 12 March 2022. We have been granted a free let by the Mayor. Whilst this is a very popular and well-attended event, the Clubs in Romsey that provide 75% of attendees have not resumed their own meetings yet. This may lead to uncertainty regarding numbers for Reminiscences. Nick recommended we continue to progress and review at the end of the year.

Positive discussion about the value of this event; how well it is received by attendees. A highly prized event in the Romsey community and calendar (Clive); very positive survey of attendees each year (Graham); Nikki and others agreed.

Keith Cameron also referred to the Facebook response to enforced cancellation of this year's Mayor's Picnic. This had reached 10,000 users, with 904 'engagements' and many comments expressing disappointment the event could not be held this Summer.

General consensus that it has been a tough year and a half and move forward positively with all Club events wherever possible. This includes Walk the Test Way (26 September), Reminiscences of Romsey (12 March 2022) and Technology Tournament for schools (16 March 2022).

Roger will liaise with the President of Romsey Rotary regarding the Songs of Praise event in the Market Square; any ways we can help?

Discussion about venues when we recommence F2F meetings. Clive queried only one date fixed at present for Romsey British Legion as a possible alternative venue. John Gould observed that the venue would take the Club's attendance more seriously if three dates are scheduled at the British Legion. Roger will liaise with Nigel Budd on this.

#### 5. **NEXT MEETINGS**

14 July - David Pantling speaker meeting, Liners in the Sky.

21 July - Handover Night.

## **President's Notes**

I thought it would be helpful to give a few notes on what we are doing over the next few months.

## **Programme**

The programme of face-to-face meetings for the next three months is:

21 July – Handover Night

28 July – Speaker – Royal British Legion

4 August – Business and Council – Town Hall

11 August – Visit to the Royal Victoria

18 August – Speaker – Town Hall

25 August – To be announced

1 September – Business and Council – Town Hall

8 September – Breakfast Meeting – Youth in Romsey

15 September – Speaker – Town Hall – Georgi Welsh: Dementia – A Global Crisis

22 September – Walk The Test Way Preparation Night – Town Hall

29 September – Murder Mystery with dinner – United Reform Church Hall

## **Speaker Meetings**

On the third Wednesday of each month we hold a speaker meeting. It has previously been the practice for speakers to be arranged by the different committees in rotation and this practice will continue. For the remainder of this year the dates for particular committees to arrange a speaker are listed in the Events List on the Member's section of the website. These are:

18 August – Community Service

15 September – Sports and Social – Speaker arranged

20 October – Membership and Recruitment

17 November – Youth Opportunities

15 December – Fund Raising

For next year I suggest that the dates are:

January 19 – Communications

February 16 – International

March 16 – Foundation

April 20 – Community Service

May 18 – Sports and Social

June 15 – Membership and Recruitment

### **Breakfast Meetings**

Starting from September we will be reintroducing breakfast meetings at Youth in Romsey on the second Wednesday of each month. Members are invited to volunteer to provide a form of short talk/entertainment for a meeting. If one month before a meeting nobody has stepped forward three members will be selected at random, to come up between them with something for the following meeting.

### **Walk The Test Way**

Yes another plug, it's on Sunday 26 September! Don't forget!