

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST
COUNCIL MINUTES - 6.30 WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021

ATTENDEES

Roger Shepherd - President	Gren Lamb-Hughes
Nigel Budd	Jon Livingstone - Secretary
Clive Collier	Bryan Rickett
Brian Davies	Peter Welsh
Steve George	Stuart Wineberg - Past President
Graham Hollier	

Apologies: Nick Bellamy, Stewart Mitchell, Nikki Jones

1. CLUB OFFICERS REPORTS

Club Treasurer

As report.

Trust Fund Treasurer

Latest accounts circulated and no enquiries received.

Graham also requested members of Council confirm approval for the Trust Fund accounts for the 2020/21 Rotary Year. Approved by all.

Bryan enquired re Rotary subs. Jon advised that Nick expresses as '£10 a month subs, plus the cost of your meals'. Works out about £45 a month total. Bryan checking with Nick.

Club Service

Nigel has received Town Hall Risk Assessment; nothing unusual within this.

Communications

Peter confirmed that whilst Council Reports go to All Members, appropriate that anything sensitive is sent to Council initially.

Peter views internal communications are good within the Club. His focus will be on external comms, including Social-Media. Peter will familiarise with Facebook to post regular items himself.

Membership & Recruitment

Bryan Rickett summarised status of potential new members:

- Ron Bowater, ready to send '7-day letter'. Bryan and Roger confirmed to issue
- Kerry and Clive Daley, completing application forms with address and other contact details
- Ed Holmes' contact James, working at Grove Place to be invited to future meetings.

Fundraising

Brian Davies provided an update for Walk the Test Way 'WTTW' on 26 September 2021. C.185 Walkers registered. In part this helps members of the WTTW team who are taking on new roles. Ron Bowater hopefully to be welcomed for his ability to work with Dave Healy on the essential IT aspects of WTTW. Brian and Ron have discussed Ron taking on Walk Treasurer/ finance tasks from him, next year. The WTTW team may consider reducing number of start points, to minimise costs. Brian will keep Council and the Club advised.

Community Service

Nikki Jones has met the Romsey Community Pantry and as report. Graham expressed support for the approach Nikki and Community Service are taking.

Foundation

As report.

International

As report.

Youth

Steve delighted to advise that Technology Tournament will go ahead. Date later confirmed as 16 March 2022. This is great news!

Dictionaries for Life. Will be distributed in the forthcoming (Autumn) term. Final preparations of sticking labels in each book being completed. Stuart will request volunteers to help in Business Meeting following.

Sports & Social

As report.

2. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

RCORT 'Future Strategy'

Discussion re Roger's paper on the Future Strategy Review. Graham and others, concerns re cut-off age of 73. Agreed that page 3 should be excluded from the draft.

Discussions re approach; how to introduce the Review to Members; and when Roger sends the note.

Agreed that Roger share the next version i.e. the note he will send to Members, with Council to review, input and finalise. Roger will then send his note, incorporating input received. N.b. Council have already input to the first draft of the paper. This is a second review by Council, before Roger sends to Members. Peter suggested five days for Council to provide this input.

COVID Policy and Controls

Council considered the wearing of masks (when stood up), which is part of the RCORT Risk Assessment at present. Agreed, that the President would announce that this was the policy at the start of each Club meeting. Clive also confirmed that the policy could be reviewed and changed in future.

Note: this was discussed more fully at the subsequent Club Business Meeting, along with the Club Health and Safety Officer, and professional in this field. The approach was changed to temperature checking on entry to meetings in future, in place of wearing of masks when standing.

Wilding

John Gould asked if RCORT would support the Wilding initiative. Roger has requested Community consider.

Venue

Consensus after discussion that Nigel would seek to rebalance the forthcoming meetings more to RBL. In particular, aim to change the Council and Business meeting of 1 September, presently at the Town Hall, to RBL. Nigel will liaise with both venues and Town Hall caterers and advise.

REPORTS CIRCULATED FOR THE MEETING

CLUB TREASURER

At the end of July the Club had **£4,500** in its bank account having paid the RGBI and District levies for the half year. Refunds have been paid to members with positive balances on their dinner accounts at the end of June and there is now only a small positive overall balance on them.

TRUST FUND TREASURER

Report attached covering activity to 28th July required for Council & Business meeting on Wednesday, August 4th.

You are all familiar with this report and I would be grateful if you have any queries/comments that you raise with me before the meeting to enable me to give a considered response.

You will note at the bottom of the report under 'Total of Uncommitted Funds' there is a sum of £15,308 available of which the sum of £10,885 has been set aside for Nigel's year (the same as the budget for Roger's year) leaving a balance of uncommitted funds of £4,423. The proposal was that this is shared between Roger and Nigel's years with any income from WTTW 2021 again shared between the 2 years.

If some desperate plea for funding is called upon for the club to support, then there is money available, but it will impact upon the current plans which I believe to be prudent at the present time.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over the last month we have tried to increase awareness of our Club and Rotary's activities in Romsey generally.

A photograph and short explanation of Dictionaries 4 Life was published on the Rotary in Romsey Facebook (RIR FB) page. This showed the books being checked. We plan to follow up on this as presentations are made.

As our local MP, Caroline Nokes, has signed up a team for WTTW, we hoped this would be sufficiently newsworthy to have something published in the Romsey Advertiser in order to promote the walk generally. Unfortunately the RA did not publish it. However, the same article has now been published on the RIR FB page. The emphasis is on promoting WTTW, not the MP, so please don't be put off by the glossy photo of the MP (Rotary is a non-political organisation!!!)

We should soon have something on the Presidential Handover meeting on FB and our next issue of the Newsletter, which we plan to publish in August.

It is good to have a steady flow of topical information being published on FB, so if anybody has anything relating to Rotary that they think is suitable, please let me know. Photographs are always good, though you need to make sure that anybody shown in the photo is happy for it to be published. We see the main purpose of the FB page as letting the wider (younger members!) of the community aware of Rotary and what it is doing. We realise and accept that a number of existing members of the club don't want to have

anything to do with Facebook. However, if you would like to know how to sign up to the RIR FB page, please let me know.

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

We have three prospective members nearing the 7 day letter stage and one potential new member about to attend his first meeting. Ron Bowater has attended a number of Zoom meetings and two face to face meetings, he is well known to many club members and is already taking on duties within the walk committee. To Ron's credit he has waited until he fulfilled his duties as treasurer within the other club before proceeding with his application. We have spoken to the President of the lunchtime club and Ron will join us with their good wishes. I do have his completed application form and we are ready to issue the 7 day letter. Kerry and Clive Daley have both attended (and even organised) a number of Zoom meetings and the face to face handover meeting. They are both well known within the club having been producing our joint media material for some years. They resigned from the lunchtime club a few months ago so there is no need to formally consult with the other club but Roger will speak with them. Currently I do not have a completed membership application form but as soon as I do we can issue the 7day letter for them both. Ed has asked a potential new member (James Mahaffy) to come along to the Victoria Country Park visit, it will be our first chance to get to know him (and visa versa). Lets hope he likes what he sees and wants to come along to future meetings as Ed's guest.

FUNDRAISING

The Walk planning is progressing well, British Legion have been very helpful and we are confident we can operate the registration successfully on the day.

We are now up to 183 walkers registered to take part, this is still about 150 down on where we were in 2019 at this time, hopefully as we get closer to the Walk date people will feel more confident in getting about and decide to register. Our MP Caroline Nokes has registered and is walking for Jane Scarth House,

This has been placed on Facebook with her permission so if everyone likes and shares the page we could get good coverage, well done Comms team.

We still need a few more marshalls, please contact Graham Hollier if you can support.

My thanks for Fred and Tony who have been out walking the route to ensure all is well, still a few miles to go but all well so far.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Having some problems sending out emails at the moment so I hope this gets to you.

I'm away on holiday (limited WiFi!!) so won't be there this evening. Just a quick update. I've met with the lovely ladies running the Romsey Community Pantry. They offer a wide range of help and support for local families ranging from access to food, cooking advice and recipes, help with cv writing, getting a job and even accessing online nvq courses. I feel this will be a very worthwhile partnership to work with as they have access to, and have gained the trust of families trying their hardest to improve their lives but need help (these are the people we struggle to get to and so in my mind ticks all the boxes).

We have donated £200 to their 'pop up' mobile pantry and support facility and I would like to look at helping them more with future events and courses that they are looking to offer. They are very much in favour of giving families the knowledge and tools to help them learn life skills. As I've said before we need

to help people 'break the cycle', rather than just give money to families in need. (although I'm aware that there are cases when this is necessary, an organisation like this can help us get to those families in need)

They are going to come along on 11th August and do a talk on the community pantry, what they offer at the moment and what they would like to offer in the future.

FOUNDATION

Arrangements for October event for End polio proceeding well. I will be sending out a commitment sheet at end August/beginning of September. The new venue at Jermyns opened this past week and it can comfortably host 60-65 guests. This is a Rotary event so let's fill it, prioritising members but with guests also. Spreading the message about eradicating polio, learning about Hilliers Educational aspirations and having a really good evening in a quality venue.

WE will be having a raffle on the evening. We would like to have just a few good quality prizes. I have already sourced a couple to start, so if you have any ideas or can provide one that would be most welcome. Proceeds will go to End Polio Now.

I have organised a meeting with Clare Goddard regarding next year's 'Purple for Polio' February event. We will discuss the possibility of a children's trail during the half term in conjunction with the Hilliers Education Department. If this happens it would replace the crocus collection for 2022.

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

AOB I am setting up a working group to discuss how to use the Schools data base. Hopefully I will have something to report next months council meeting. Our Connection with Romsey School is already working well and gives us ideas on how to proceed with other schools.

Thank you to all those members that contributed info during the winter. If you have updated info or new contacts would you please let me know so I can keep the list updated This is most important, as the system will not work otherwise and will just make working with schools harder.

INTERNATIONAL

There is little to report but I am pleased to advise that work is now underway (see link) on the improvements to the audio/visual room in the school in Mulpani, Nepal after an extremely difficult time with Covid 19 which prevented any activity taking place. The funds being used for this work are those donated by the Club in 2020/21 and which until recently had been held by the Rotary Club of North East Kathmandu on our behalf.

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SPORTS & SOCIAL

Following a very successful albeit hot and noisy handover evening were are looking forward to our next event with partners. This is currently planned to be a "Murder Mystery" evening on 29th September with members acting parts scripted by Heather Whitham. The venue will be the URC Hall in The Abbey and the

caterers who provided an excellent meal in Timsbury in Oct 2019 have been booked. Members will, as then, be asked to bring their own liquid refreshments.

The next evening after that will be the club dinner at Christmas. Date and venue yet to be decided by your committee in conjunction with our president.

I have tried to contact District to discover what plans then may have (if any) to resurrect District sports but have received no reply. We will, as in the past, hope to arrange a golf day with lunch somewhere in December.