

**ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES - WEDNESDAY 6 MAY 2020**

**Attendees** - including incoming Council members

- Bill Gidley - Chair
- Nick Bellamy
- Keith Cameron
- Clive Collier
- Brian Davies
- Sandy Dunn
- Steve George
- Graham Hollier
- Apologies: Nigel Budd
- Nicki Jones
- Gren Lamb-Hughes
- Jon Livingstone - Secretary
- Stewart Mitchell
- Bryan Rickett
- Roger Shepherd
- Iain Small
- Peter Stuckey

**1. Presentation of annual reports of Club Council and Committee Chairs for the current Rotary year**

Thanks expressed for the excellent AGM reports included on the following pages. Reports have been circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting.

All recorded 'As Report' except where noted:

- Club Treasurer - Item 2. below
- Trust Fund Treasurer - Item 2. below
- Club Service
- Communications
- Membership & Recruitment - Iain congratulated and thanked Shaun as incoming Chair
- Fundraising
- Community Service - Peter congratulated and thanked Nicki as incoming Chair
- Foundation - Stewart will progress Hillier's debrief once lockdown is lifted
- International
- Youth Opportunities
- Sports & Social.

**2. Presentation of the Club Treasurer's & Trust Fund Treasurer's Reports on the year to date against budget**

Nick and Graham advised no queries received on either Club or Trust Fund accounts. Nick explained Meal Costs unrecovered item of £440 includes Speakers' and Guests' meals.

Both Reports noted and approved up to the present date.

Sandy asked how the final accounts are shared with Club Members. This is subsequent to the end of the Rotary year, 30 June. Accounts are approved by Members at the SGM held annually in October or November.

**3. Appointment of Independent Examiners of Accounts for the Club's financial accounts for 2020/21**

Peter Stuckey and Mike Hicks have kindly agreed to continue as Independent Examiners for 2020/21. Peter for the Trust Fund accounts. Mike Hicks for the Club accounts. Peter advised this is an Independent Examination rather than Audit.

**4. Election of Junior Vice-President**

One nomination had been received for Nigel Budd, proposed by Bryan Rickett, seconded by Bill Gidley. Nigel was unanimously elected and is congratulated. Bryan will advise Nigel.

## **5. Election of Honorary Members**

None proposed for the forthcoming year.

## **6. Election of Council Members**

Bryan Rickett proposed and Bill Gidley seconded the following:

- Trust Fund Treasurer: Graham Hollier
- Communications: Keith Cameron
- Membership & Recruitment: Shaun O'Brien
- Fundraising Chair: Sandy Dunn      WTTW Treasurer: Brian Davies
- Community Service: Nicki Jones
- Foundation: Stewart Mitchell
- International: Gren Lamb-Hughes
- Youth Opportunities: Steve George
- Sports & Social: Clive Collier.

All Officers unanimously elected. Graham has kindly supported the Club by continuing as Trust Fund Treasurer, now Nigel Budd is Junior Vice.

Other positions for 2020/21: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Club Treasurer previously appointed at the SGM in November 2019.

## **7. Election of Representatives of the Club to District Council**

In accordance with established practice, the incoming President (Bryan Rickett), Vice-President (Roger Shepherd) and Secretary (Jon Livingstone) are proposed as the Nominated Representatives to District Council for 2020/21. Approved.

## **8. Adoption of Current RGBI Policies Concerning**

- Equality and Diversity
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding (Children)
- Safeguarding (Vulnerable Adults)
- Data Protection Policy/ RCoRT Privacy Statement.

These standard RGBI policies were adopted.

Bryan has signed the annual certificate for the Club, which Jon returns to District.

(The policies are available on the Rotary Club of Romsey Test website within the Members area, select the button 'Policy')

## **9. Any Other Business**

Shaun queried when the transition takes place. Whilst the Rotary Year commences 1 July, new Council members encouraged to liaise with existing Chairs now, to help with planning for the new year and proposals for the Assembly next month.

Stewart queried regarding the balance on the WTTW account. Brian advised this includes £18k proceeds from WTTW which will be transferred to the Club Trust Fund for the year ahead.

**Rotary Club of Romsey Test**  
**Annual General Meeting - Reports**

**Club Treasurer**

The Club's finances are in good shape and at the end of April the Club had **£8,899** in its bank account and in addition it held **£3,652** of positive balances on members dinner accounts.

The Club subscription remained at the desirable low level of £10 per month resulting in the planned shortfall, (£1,328 at the end of April). On this basis the surplus in our bank account will continue to fall and we should be able to maintain the subscription at this level for another three years.

In March and April members have donated, through their dinner accounts, £1820 (£2,250 including Gift Aid), to the Romsey Food Bank. Graham Lee has advised that the Food Bank do not require further donations at this point in time.

**Club Accounts to 30th April 2020**

	2019/20 Full Year Annual Budget	2019/20 Actual To End April
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	<b>£7,200</b>	<b>£5,600</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Subscriptions RIBI	£3,830	£3,693
Subscriptions District	£1,020	£969
Romsey Town Hall	£1,950	£1,272
Purchasing Regalia	£75	( £4)
President's Honorarium £300		£75
Gratuities	£200	£220
Postage Stationery	£150	£66
Sundries	£200	£127
Communications	£200	£70
Unrecovered Meal Costs	£550	£440
Contingency	£200	£0
 Total Expenditure	 <b>£8,675</b>	 <b>£6,928</b>
 Surplus/(Deficit)	 <b>(£1,475)</b>	 <b>(£1,328)</b>

Club Bank Balance 30/06/19   £10,194

Club Bank Balance 30/04/20   £8,899

Nick Bellamy

## Trust Fund Treasurer

To be read in conjunction with the Financial Management Report - see last page.

### **BANK BALANCE**

The attached account show a reconciled bank balance as of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 of £13,959

### **CURRENT ACTIVITY BY CATEGORY**

This shows the distribution of funds being £13,959. The accounts are therefore in balance.

### **BUDGET: STATUS**

Due to the current unprecedented circumstances, a budget review has been carried out with committee chairs resulting in the initial budget of £17,844 being reduced by £9,883. The result of this action leaves £1,224 in the accounts to cover until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 and we are currently showing £12,666 in uncommitted funds. The reason for taking this action is to cover the contingency that should the walk or any other fundraising activity not be forthcoming, the funds to be transferred to the account from the walk on July 1<sup>st</sup> will be £18k to be added to the available uncommitted funds at this time which will need to cover club activities for a 2 year period.

### **OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES**

The only known liabilities at this time are for unrepresented debits of £754

### **COMMITTED FUNDS**

2 donations to Guineau Besau £32, Members Giving to Foundation £38 to be c/fwd to 2020/21 and outstanding budgets of £1,224

### **UNCOMMITTED FUNDS**

The figure shown of £12,666 is available for the reason stated above. If urgent financial support should be required, application can be made through the usual channels. Bear in mind that whatever we spend of this sum will reduce the funds available for 2 years should funds from the walk or any other activity not be forthcoming.

### **Notes on accounts**

Under current activity by category and Foundation Members Giving, receipts are £3,798 of which £3,760 has been paid to RFUK. Because Districts financial year end is March 31<sup>st</sup> and the clubs is June 30th means that donations until this time are carried forward to the following year. The balance of £38 can be shown under committed funds.

Graham Hollier, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

## Club Service and House Committee

This year we have:

- As a result of some very poor food offerings formed a working committee to look for alternative caterers (Bill, Roger, Clive, me)
- Decided that we were reviewing food supply not the meeting formats
- Investigated many alternatives before deciding to go back to Paul Bascombe
- Changed from the Olive Tree (with no ill feelings) to Paul and so far he has provided excellent service.
- Sadly the virus may mean that we will need to start again, lets hope not!
- We have switched from the Olive Tree to the Phoenix for our monthly social
- We are down to a very small number of buffet takers and may need to review this aspect if and when we return to socials
- The breakfast venue has changed from the Cromwell Arms (not very private) to Youth In Romsey (charity receiving funds)
- Sadly we have not had many breakfast meetings under this new regime.

With thanks to those involved and the members of the Club who have assisted throughout the year with the following additional 'Other Club Roles' and responsibilities.

Club History	Martin Russell
Environmental Adviser	John Gould
Events Co-ordinator and Scheduler	David Sutton
Health and Safety, including Risk Assessments	Roger Shepherd [+ Fred Stanley/Jon Livingstone WTTW]
Protection Officer	Norman Oldmeadow
Regalia Officer	Clive Collier
House Committee	Jim Purdie.

Bryan Rickett

## Communications

### **Communications Team**

*John Gould, David Sutton, Shaun O'Brien, Neill Beasley, Paul Grainger, Keith Cameron*

### **Overview**

A year of many changes in the way in which the Club communicates. With less meetings the importance of networking has been highlighted with the lack of face-to-face contact. The present situation has brought this to the fore. No single platform provided a replacement for meeting but fortunately the majority of members are IT savvy and we seem to be finding the best ways for all of us.

We held two Team meetings this year assessing what further enhancements could be made. The main topics are covered under the following headings: -

## **Internally**

David has done a good job on keeping our events schedule updated and circulated along with the duty roles and minute takers. Paul has maintained our website as the backbone of our system with all information available there, including managing our booking-in system.

Shaun has set up a Facebook page for members internal use.

## **Externally**

### *Local media*

This has proved difficult for all organisations. However, David Sutton took up the challenge this year and has been more successful than most organisations in the Romsey area. We have had articles at least once a month with some full page covering of our high-profile events. We have also reached out to many of the local publications for our high-profile events sending copy to over twenty publications. Success is difficult to assess and I feel it is rather like fishing - casting the bait but rarely knowing if it will catch any results!

### *Newsletter*

John has continued to produce our quarterly Newsletter which has provided an excellent overview of what we have been doing and highlighting upcoming events. As well as distribution to Club members, it has a wide circulation within the community and is also well regarded by other Clubs and District, providing a good overview of our activities and some additional publicity.

### *Facebook*

With Shaun's leadership Facebook activity has taken off this year and with his enthusiasm we have been hitting the Radio waves.

### *Distribution of RIBI magazine*

Some members have been very helpful with distribution in the community. Feedback has been mixed, with the rather dreary covers of the magazine not seen as helpful in promoting our image. Distribution now seems to have changed and we are now all getting a copy of the magazine delivered to our home. What members decided to do with their copy will vary. If there is any interest in sharing their copy with a Club flier attached, we can provide this if required.

### *Website*

This is the backbone of our external face of our club. John has done a great job on ensuring that this is up-to-date and relevant while Paul has been behind the scenes making sure that it all functions.

### *Banners and Flags*

Thanks to the skills of Neil Beasley we have been able to enhance our visual image at events. Hopefully it will not be too long before we will be using them again.

Keith Cameron, 22 April 2020

## Membership & Recruitment

The Rotary year started with the Mayor's Picnic where we had a substantial presence in the form of the Rotary Gazebo and assorted banners and information sources, it appeared to generate some interest but no direct introductions ensued. I would recommend repeating this exercise at our major events.

The team created a set of 'Ideal Attributes for New Rotary Members', I am glad to say these were adopted by the Club and can be found under the Policy section of our website. They form a useful set of guidelines.

During the year Joe Billett resigned from the Club and Jaime Garner came to the end of her Associate Membership period having decided not to commit to full Membership.

Steve Davies joined as an Associate and Steve Simmons-Jacobs as a full Member, although his formal induction has been delayed. At the time of meeting suspension we had one potential Member who has an application form and another who has attended several meetings. I am also aware of a potential transferee who is awaiting our return to normality.

I would like to thank Colin Staples, Ian Bullivant and Graham Lee for their support this year. After 5 years on the Membership team, including one as Chair, I am planning to move to another committee and therefore wish my successor well.

Iain Small

## Fundraising

Once again our club members have risen to the demands of fundraising in very challenging times for charities. Exacerbated by Covid 19, the past Rotary year has experienced unprecedented demands for funds by charities at a time when there is considerable downward pressure on the ability of individuals and families to make discretionary contributions to charity.

This environment will continue for the foreseeable future and your fundraising committee is formulating ways in which it can address and meet these challenges. More of this will follow and be reported in detail at our Club Assembly or in regular club updates from President Bill.

'Walk the Test Way' continues to be our main fund-raising activity with ad hoc events from time to time.

Unfortunately we have had to cancel our Street Collection for Parkinson's UK due to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. This will be rearranged at a future date when appropriate. However, the club had already made a donation of £1,000 to Parkinsons UK in anticipation of the Street Collection going ahead to take advantage of the 'Big Christmas Give', which matched our donation and is reported below.

The Big Christmas Give also allowed us to raise funds for Ataxia and Action for M.E.

In brief, our club raised the following sums for charities during the last Rotary year:

Source	Amount Raised
Walk the Test Way	£85,000 *
Big Christmas Give	£1,700
End Polio Now	£ 3,000 **
Total	£89,700

\* The total now raised for charities by our club from WTTW alone over the 16 years that the event has been held has now reached £950,000.

\* \* Hilliers partnership. We raised circa £1,000 but the final total includes the Bill Gates Foundation grant of 2 times amount raised.

The annual 'Big Christmas Give' was a new source of funds that we tapped into this year. If the charities that we choose to support register their charity on The Big Christmas Give website by the 30<sup>th</sup> June, they can benefit from a 100% matching grant on any donation that we make. Members who are nominated as our point of contact to a particular charity should make their charity aware of the opportunity. Please contact Graham Hollier or myself should you require any further information about 'Big Give'.

My committee will follow the same successful fundraising strategy in 2020-21 and I will report any new initiatives in my report to Club Assembly later this year.

I take this opportunity to thank all members who have worked on and with the fundraising committee and of course, a special mention to our members, the members of Inner Wheel, spouses, family and friends without whose help we simply could not have achieved so much for the community both here at home and internationally.

Sandy Dunn

#### WTTW Treasurer

Walk Account Bank Balance as of today 28/4/2020 £25,450.19.

includes £750 sponsorship received from Audley Homes for this year's Walk.

Club to receive £18,000 in June/July.

Brian Davies

#### Community Service

Mike Thorne looks after our contacts with Young Carers and we have supported their summer camp.

Mike Koscian continues our link with Family Support Group. They have not required help this year.

Nick Bellamy looks after Blood Pressure Day as well as Reminiscences. The planning still has to be done whether the events take place or not but his efforts are appreciated.

Nikki Jones masterminded the Rotary input to The Ark at Romsey Abbey School. This new facility for distressed and disadvantaged children has been very well used and appreciated.

For Kids Out last year, we took around 60 children to Marwell from Great Oaks special school in Southampton. They now provide their own transport so the cost is the £300 that we pay to district.

Ben Fryer is a local young person with severe disabilities and we helped with the purchase of a special bed - pictures on Facebook I think.

Emma Barton used to live in Stockbridge, but has moved to Winchester. Again profoundly disabled, we



have joined with Winchester Rotary to provide a specialist wheelchair

The project for wheelchair user Mr Searle was completed early in the year

Nikki Jones has also worked on our proposed subsidised holiday club for JustAboutManaging families in conjunction with Youth in Romsey. With Coronavirus, unfortunately that will not happen this year

Thanks to the team

Peter Stuckey

## Foundation

The club has again sent over £3000 to Foundation of which about half comes back to District. This is personal Members giving, which is voluntary. A big thank you to all those members who make contributions this and every year. If you don't, please reconsider. This qualifies the club to partake in all grant schemes after filling in an annual Memorandum of Understanding. This is completed each year by the incoming President.

We have been more engaged in recent years and now seek grant funding most years. We need to use this wherever possible to enhance what we do domestically and abroad. Remember Foundation is Rotary's charity. With a central fund it enables our Organisation to punch above our weight and be world partners.

At club level grants encourages us to think more positively about and upscale our projects. It focuses the mind on bigger possibilities. Foundation is certainly not just about grants, its about the projects it enables.

There is lots of information about Foundation and how it works on RIBI and RI sites.

It is important that members of the club are clear in what Foundation does, how we contribute and how it can help in match funding some of our projects. I'm always available to help with information or ways to apply for a grant. Please consider Grant Aid whenever looking at committee projects.

Remember grants are available for domestic, as well international projects and can be sourced via an updated and now much simpler district fund or at international level.

It's been mixed year so far for Foundation projects. Due to budgeting constraints at Winchester Peace Jam was reduced to a one-day Event. The upside was that primary schools were also invited to a parallel event. With schools having more time constraints and other priorities, not enough mentors for the younger pupils came forward, so none of our primaries decided to attend. Sadly, Peace Jam was cancelled again, but due to the Corona virus, it was snow last year. Romsey school had a number of students attending, but our contacts at Mountbatten did not engage. The secret is finding the right person to talk to, but that seems the most difficult part of working with the schools. In connection with John Burgess we have already started to look at ways of engaging with schools, especially Mountbatten. This is on hold as long as schools are 'out'

I have some grant monies which can now be carried forward to next year's event. I'm assuming that it will be in March 2021.

On the positive side the End polio event took Place in co-operation with Hillier's Arboretum. It was a qualified success, as the weather was against us. This affected the attendances and opportunities to be at different collecting points. Also, it didn't help the quality of the crocus as two storms hit our region during the preceding two weeks. We were a little disappointed that Hillier's didn't do more to promote the event, but

we know they had large commitment to half term the week before. But we are both learning as we go through our 5year agreement with them and Ive been in contact to set up a wash up meeting

Thank you to the event team of Keith Cameron and Sandy Dunn, also to all those from Lunchtime club and our club and family members who took part in the collection. Nearly £1250 was collected for End Polio Now. With Bill Gates Foundation matching gives a total of nearly £3750 to End Polio now. This buys about 12,500 doses of vaccine. Certainly a good result.

Thanks to Keith Cameron we made use of Districts promotional Grant Scheme to tune of £220 for materials for End Polio now. District does come in useful sometimes, use these schemes where appropriate.

The winter is busy for Foundation activity and is not so affected by the club changeover and committee changes. But I will be starting work on next year's major events in the autumn. This may well coincide with some lifting of restrictions currently employed due to Corona virus.

I thank Bill Gidley for his support and advice during the year and look forward to supporting our incoming President Bryan Rickett for Rotary year 2020-21.

Regards to you and your families at this difficult time.

Stewart Mitchell

## International

1. Firstly, may I thank the International Committee members, who were Nigel Budd, Sandy Dunn (Dentaid focal point), Jaime Garner (part of the year only), Philip Kirkland, Jim Purdie (Christmas Puddings lead), Martin Radford (Christmas Shoeboxes mastermind) and Peter Welsh for their support and involvement during the past year.
2. At the 2019 Club Assembly, the International Committee's budget was agreed at a smidgeon under £2500 to support and/or provide financial assistance to the following activities:

### Dentaid

The budgeted sum of £750 was provided, in August 2019, to Dentaid to support the Bright Smiles Cameroon dental outreach project. The project's aim was to reach children and communities, including an orphanage, in the Bamboutus region of Cameroon where it was estimated that there are 8300 people who have no access to healthcare or dental care. Dentaid had been in regular contact with Bright Smiles Cameroon following the provision of a Rotary DentaidBox the previous year.

Further donations, from uncommitted funds, were made as follows:

- a. In December 2019, £100 was donated to the Dentaid Christmas Toothbrush Campaign that allowed 16000 children living in Cambodia and refugee camps in Greece to be given a toothbrush and access to oral health education..
- b. In February 2020, it was discovered that Emcor, a UK facilities management company, with an office in Eastleigh had raised £1500, by not sending company Christmas cards, to sponsor a Rotary DentaidBox for the Pebbles Project (a South African charity), which has 48 children centres, serving 1600 children supporting their education and health in the farming communities. Some of the centres are very remote (up to 100 miles) from the main centre which houses the principal dental clinic, so portable equipment is vital. Unfortunately the funds raised by Emcor were insufficient to cover shipping, so £325, the cost of sea freight, was donated.

### Disaster Relief

In October 2019, the budgeted sum of £500 was donated to the Rotary District 6990 Relief Fund in the Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, and at the same time, £500, from uncommitted funds, was donated to Shelterbox.

It was decided in April 2020 that, although the outstanding amount of £550 in the budget for Disaster Relief could readily be donated to any one of a number of disasters in the world, better use could be made of these funds by either using them locally in the wake of Covid-19, or, given that WTTW may not occur in September 2020, setting the sum aside to fund Club activities in Rotary Years 20/21 and/or 21/22.

### Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is a Charity that aims to provide chronically hungry children in several countries throughout the world with one meal every school day, thereby encouraging the children to attend school and gain an education that can potentially lift them out of poverty in their later life. A budgeted donation of £250 was made in October 2019 which, according to the charity, will feed 18 children for a school year.

### Vision Aid

A budgeted donation of £250 will be made in May 2020 to Vision Aid Overseas which is a Charity working with local Ministries of Health and Education to establish and deliver their own sustainable eye care services in four countries across Africa, which has 73% more blind and visually impaired people than any other region in the world.

Unwanted glasses have also been collected and forwarded to Vision Aid, through White's Opticians, so that they can be recycled. They are no longer sent overseas but the income generated by recycling, for instance for their precious metal content or by selling retro/vintage glasses on eBay, then supports the eye care programmes.

### Plan International UK

Plan International UK is a Charity which provides access to essential services, including education, healthcare, clean water and toilets, for children in more than 45 countries around the world. For this Rotary year, a budgeted monthly payment of £16 has been made to sponsor the educational and vocational needs of Tafara Rugwevera who is 8 years old and comes from Chiredzi in Zimbabwe.

### Christmas Puddings

Christmas puddings, slightly fewer than last year, were again sold within the Club, on behalf of the Rotary Club of Cwmbran Vale, with the funds raised being used to support Prostate Cancer Charities in Wales, Scotland and the UK.

### Christmas Shoeboxes

The Rotary District 1110 Christmas Shoebox scheme provided more than 26000 shoeboxes to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Moldova, Romania and the Philippines. The Club again participated in the scheme; filling, collecting and delivering shoeboxes to the District collection point, although the number of shoeboxes was not as many as it had been in previous years.

### 3. School in Mulpani, Nepal

- a. A chance discussion between a retired Romsey Headmaster and John Gould, identified a group of volunteers, the Rainbow Volunteer Club, who were building a school for underprivileged and disadvantaged children in Mulpani, Nepal. A donation of £100, from uncommitted funds, was made in July 2019, together with another donation of £300 to the Club to which it was possible to add Gift Aid.
- b. Further investigation in conjunction with the Rotary Club of North East Kathmandu (RCoNEK) identified that funds were still required for the materials and construction of a ceiling in the school between the roof and the classrooms themselves. A ceiling being required to prevent dust ingress in the hot summers and condensation falling from the roof in the below zero winters. RCoNEK verified the quotations, established an MOU with the contractor and the Rainbow Volunteer Club, which then allowed a donation of £1100, from uncommitted funds, to be transferred to RCoNEK to pay the contractor in accordance with the agreed payment plan.

### Summary

4. The International Committee has been able to utilise all the funds provided by the Club at the start of the year with the exception of £550 earmarked for Disaster Relief which, although it could readily be donated to any one of a number of disasters in the world, would be better used either locally in the wake of Covid-19, or, given that WTTW may not occur in September 2020, by setting the sum aside to fund Club activities in Rotary Years 20/21 and/or 21/22.
5. However, the International Committee was fortunately able to double this expenditure by identifying a number of additional projects and activities to which a further circa £2000, from uncommitted funds, was donated.

Gren Lamb-Hughes

### Youth Opportunities

The following is a resume of the youth activities

Youth In Romsey - In August , some 24 young children , identified by YIR through liaison with local schools, were invited to attend a week long 'holiday'. A summer holiday break that, because of their personal family circumstances, they would not otherwise have had. Run by YIR with support from local groups, Rotary Club of Romsey Test sponsored the event and hope to develop further ideas with YIR for future events. This has led to a strengthening of the relationship with YIR. Unfortunately the coronavirus lockdown has curtailed ideas for 2020 but we will build on this key 'need' group when normality returns. We promoted this under the Kids Out Rotary initiative.

Dictionaries for Life - Distributed in February - Rotarian Tony Trowsdale has taken the lead on this over the last 3 years. He and President Bill, together with supporting rotarians, visited 8 primary schools in the Romsey area and gave Dictionaries4Life to nearly 300 delighted, year four children. There is now an expectation in schools and teachers often plan to integrate the dictionaries into their class activities.

This was the seventh year we have completed this project, first introduced by John Gould when he was President, so around two thousand books in total. It has become an integral part of the Primary schools' year; Dictionaries to Year 4 at the end of the first half term! Tony will be handing over the batten to Stuart Wineberg next year so a special thanks to Tony for his super efforts in establishing this high profile activity in the Rotary calendar.

Youth Speaks - Held in January, 3 local Intermediate teams, two from Mountbatten and one from Romsey, participated in the local round of Youth Speaks - A Debate. The first time the event had been held as a debate,

the format proved successful and is likely to be maintained next year. Lead teachers, Anna Vicarage and Kitty Love were our contact points and they combined with parents, supported their teams at our Town Hall event. Romsey school emerged victors and went on to win subsequent rounds at Salisbury and Southampton. The regional finals in Exmouth were cancelled due to the coronavirus lockdown which was a shame for our young winners who hopefully we will see develop in coming years. Many thanks to Dave and Martin who helped ensure the admin and support side of this prestigious event ran smoothly.

Technology Tournament - In March we had 23 school teams enter into this year's event. 14 in the Foundation years and 9 in the Intermediates made up from 7 local schools, Romsey and Mountbatten, Bitterne Park, Harrow Way, Hamble, Test Valley and Woodlands. Well supported by Rotarians and teachers this annual event tests the scientific, creative, logical and engineering skills of senior school children. Many thanks to Bill Gidley and Martin Harman our Rotarian leads on this.

Many thanks to my committee Tony, Shaun, Bill, Martin and Frank for supporting me in my first year in Youth. An excellent year and many lessons learnt.

Steve George

### Sports and Social

Good afternoon all. I apologise for this being late and have taken a sound remotely delivered slap from our awesome Sec !!!!! [ *Never happened. .... I wasn't there (JRL)* ]

This report will be, you will be pleased to hear, shorter than most if not all !!!

Our sports and Social year has proceeded (or not) as follows :

26 June. Presidential Handover at Mottisfont Barns with a speaker from the Hampshire Gardens Trust. An enjoyable if hot evening.

31 July. Partners evening at the Cromwell Arms with Louise Govier from Mottisfont entertaining us well with details of the Past, Present and Future of the Nat Trust and the Abbey.

September saw David Pantling kindly escorting a group of members to have a look around Honey Pot House in the New Forest.

30 October. An evening with a difference at the Jubilee Hall, Timsbury. Our outside caterers, Taste Dining Company produced a superb meal and we were then well entertained by a bagpiper kindly arranged by David Sutton. Everyone brought their own drinks and enjoyed the new format.

11 December. Black Tie Christmas dinner at AGC with following entertainment by Ron and Kim.

29 January. A Burns night was being planned but didn't take place.

29 April. A quiz night was planned but has been cancelled due to the lockdown.

John Whitham arranged a trip to the John Lewis Partnership at Leckford but this has been cancelled but will be rescheduled.

1 July. The Presidential handover is being planned and not being cancelled. Caterers are on hold as is the guest speaker. This may well not happen but far too early to cancel.

The new "Village Hall" with outside caterers and members bringing own drinks was voted a great success by those who attended and it is planned to repeat as the Abbey Hotel is unlikely to reopen.

Golfers enjoyed a round of golf followed by lunch at Royal Winchester in December and the skittles team is so far undefeated (again) and is into the group final. This comp is on hold as is Boules and Snooker so we have no idea whether or not they will be completed this year.

Many thanks are due to the committee members for their support during this unusual year.

Clive Collier

