

ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY TEST- BUSINESS MEETING - 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

GRACE AND WELCOMES

Tony Abbott delivered Grace; Roger then welcomed Members to the Town Hall, including Ron Bowater, Kerry Daley and Clive Daley, this to be their first meeting as New Members.

Following the meal, Roger invited all three to say a few words. Ron expressed his thanks to Bill Gidley for proposing him. Clive, for himself and Kerry, thanked all Members for their welcome and expressed his admiration for the principle of 'Service Above Self'. Ron, Clive and Kerry were keen to contribute and get involved in the Club's activities.

1. BUSINESS MEETING

SECRETARY

Jon advised 36 Members present was a high number, whilst some Members are still safeguarding.

Jon will circulate details of forthcoming Winchester Rotary Club speaker Zoom event; 'An evening with Admiral Sir. Tony Radakin, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff'.

CLUB TREASURER

Nick's report: *'At the end of August, the Club will have **£4,900** in its bank account after making an allowance for the cost of one meal at the Royal British Legion for which the invoice has not been received at the time of writing this report. In addition, the overall balance on members dinner accounts will be a negative - **£190.**'*

Nick advised that a negative balance on these accounts was a 'first' whilst he has been Treasurer. It arises from the Partners' Handover Event held recently.

TRUST FUND TREASURER

Graham had sent the updated Financial Management Report to all members in advance of the meeting and had received no queries; all under control.

CLUB SERVICE

Nigel advised nothing to report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Peter circulated a report to all Members before the meeting:

He requested Members to check the Photos section of the club website is up to date. *'If you have no photo, or you want to 'refresh' the existing one, please send a suitable photo of yourself to Paul Grainger by email.'*

Peter personally welcomed Kerry to RCORT. Kerry has been the lead creator of the Rotary in Romsey newsletters and other Communications activities which is already and will be a great help to Peter and the Club and Rotary in Romsey Communications.

MEMBERSHIP & RECRUITMENT

Membership Report September 2021 from Bryan Rickett: *'We have completed the membership process for Ron Bowater, Kerry and Clive Daley. We await a meeting where we can formally welcome them into the club (Weds 1 September). Ed has now introduced the club to a potential new member (James Mahaffy sales and marketing manager of Grove Place retirement village) during the Victoria Country Park visit. He was*

impressed and Ed has been asked to invite him to a couple of other (more typical) meetings before we start the application process.

We have also received a request via our Facebook page from Warren Clarke's mother Dawn (you will recall that the club has helped Warren to set up his golfing career. She has suggested that Warren would like to become a member of the club. They have been sent my email details and asked to make contact; so far I have not heard from them.' Jon asked whether Round Table may be more appropriate at Warren's age. Bryan will consider if further response.

FUNDRAISING

Brian Davies gave an upbeat update on Walk the Test Way. Two teams, one of 12 and one of six have signed up in the last two days. Total registrations are now 235. Signs now on display in Romsey likely to continue the positive effect. Thanks to John Whitham and Mike Kelly for erecting the signs.

Graham Hollier advised we have 28 Non-Rotarian volunteer Marshalls this year. Graham advised the Walk Briefing and Preparation meeting is Weds 22 September; be sure to welcome the volunteer Marshalls on the evening. Wear a name badge if you have one. Graham also thanked Members for all support; as an example, the speed with which people volunteered to clean the route directional and distance markers for the Walk.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nikki reminded Members of her excellent Romsey Community Pantry talk, 18 August; and nothing further to report.

Graham and Jon between them combined to recommend £250 support from unallocated funds for the forthcoming Romsey Chamber Music Festival, 9 to 12 September.

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/romseycmf/>

The request came initially via Stuart Wineberg:

'This would be third year we have supported the concerts, an initiative first proposed by Mike Thorne. I (Stuart) am very supportive of it first because the musicians are young, it is a very high-quality event and as mentioned there is extensive knock-on benefit to local schools. I would ask that this be put to the club as a proposal. I would very much prefer a smaller amount rather than a refusal if a reduction were necessary especially as our reduced resources would be understood by Laura' - Stuart.

**Proposed: Graham Hollier, Seconded: Jon Livingstone. Passed.
Confirmed with Trust Fund Trustees by email.**

FOUNDATION

Membership Report from Stewart Mitchell:

'Purple for Polio event 27th October 2021.

This will be held at Jermyns House, Hilliers Arboretum from 7pm.

We were unable to have our crocus collection in February due to restrictions. So this event is our fund raising effort for Polio support while having a very enjoyable evening.

Places are limited so in first instance members will be able to invite their partners or a guest. If there is further availability, friends and family may also be able to attend. Please keep this in mind. I would like us to fill the very smart new restaurant that Hilliers have developed.

Tickets will be £30 for three course meal and coffee. There will be speakers and an opportunity to win a raffle prize.

I (Stewart) will be sending out a commitment sheet from 6th September when I return from holiday with further details.

Many weeks ago, I (Stewart) asked for idea of interest and I took note of those that said they would like to attend, but I will need their confirmation.'

INTERNATIONAL

Gren has had an accident with secateurs which has led to hospital treatment and was unable to be at the meeting. Graham expressed Gren's recommendation for a £700 donation from unallocated funds to improve the Audio/Visual classroom at the School in Mulpani in Nepal, as included in Gren's report.

Proposed: Gren Lamb-Hughes/ Graham Hollier, Seconded: Jon Livingstone. Passed.

Confirmed by Trust Fund Trustees present.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Steve provided an update on Dictionaries for Life, to 560 Year 4 Pupils in local schools, the highest number yet. Invitations for Rotarians to deliver to schools, end September/ start of October to come soon.

Youth team will be sending invites soon for the Technology Tournament 16 March 2022, to firm up schools taking part and numbers.

Steve also mentioned the Schools' database, Stewart Mitchell has set up and is discussing usage with Nikki, Peter Welsh and Stewart, to ensure the right contact in each school.

Steve invited any newer Members wishing to help with Youth to talk with him.

SPORTS & SOCIAL

Clive Collier publicised the Murder Mystery evening for 29 September and will send around a Commitment Sheet soon.

ALMONER

Jim Purdie shared the latest from Sandy Dunn, who is having tests in hospital at present and hoping to be home soon. Any queries or support please to Lesley by email, rather than phone. Jim will keep Members advised.

2. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

RAFFLE

Roger invited views regarding: *'At the first and third Wednesday meetings before lockdown there was a wine raffle. This was organised by the most recent member to have joined the club. This also provided a bottle of wine for the speaker.'*

After quite a lengthy debate, with points for and against recommencing the wine raffle, a vote was taken. It was a close result.

Votes counted to Recommence the Raffle: 13

Against: 21.

MEETING VENUE

Roger advised: *'The third trial meeting at the Royal British Legion will now take place 15 September. After that date the club will need to decide which venue to choose for the first and third Wednesday meetings from the start of October. It is proposed that this be undertaken by means of an email to all current members so as to include all members who may not be attending meetings at the present time. The email would be sent*

out on 15 September and replies requested by the end of 19 September so as to enable time to book the appropriate venue for 6 October and thereafter.'

Brief discussion followed, in which Clive Collier queried how Members still safeguarding could assess the alternatives and form a view? Consensus was that as this was a Club decision, all Members should have a vote.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY MEETINGS

Roger outlined the proposal that for the fourth Wednesday, which is presently a meeting in a pub; to replace with: *'One suggestion is that we switch to a coffee meeting in Café Nero anytime between 7.30 and 10.30am so as to encompass people en route to work as well. It was suggested that this is more the way in which people today meet and transact, so it is relevant as part of bringing Rotary up to date.'* As this does not arise until November, the first free fourth Wednesday, Roger suggested consider next month.

SPEAKER MEETING 15 SEPTEMBER

Agreed partners to be invited to Georgi Welsh talking about Dementia - A Global Crisis on this date, at the British Legion; as this is something of interest to all. Di Metters of RomDag also invited.

'ROTARY - THE FUTURE'

Roger thanked Members for responses to date and invited any further responses by 5 September. This is sure to be a regular item for the next few months' Business Meetings.

Stuart Wineberg has been in liaison with the Rotary Club of Chandlers Ford and Itchen Valley. The Club is going to demise at the end of October. Support for Members of this Club who wish to remain in Rotary to be able to consider Rotary Club of Romsey Test. Stuart will continue to liaise.

KNOW YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE DAY

John Gould has advised that the NHS is now offering free blood pressure testing through Boots branches. John went onto the Stroke Association website (we ran our KYBP days in association with them) and discovered that they had already decided not to run any more such events. This is the end of an activity John started in 2013. 9 Years of an enjoyable and worthwhile event in our town of Romsey, a significant landmark!

Roger expressed the Club's thanks to John Gould, acknowledged with applause.

3. AOB

Peter Hurst, who is also Chairman of the Romsey Royal British Legion invited volunteers to guide and direct walkers from the Abbey into the Memorial Park. This is at 10.30 on Remembrance Sunday - 14 November this year. Peter will send an email request for people able to help.

4. Future Meetings

Wed 08 Sep 21		Talk from our organ scholar Henry Roberts. Time 7.45am for 8am Youth in Romsey, Southampton Road, Romsey SO51 8AF		Henry Roberts
Wed 15 Sep 21	Social & Sporting	Dementia - A Global Health Crisis APOLOGIES REQUIRED. Royal British Legion	P	Georgi Welsh
Wed 22 Sep 21		Walk preparation night. APOLOGIES REQUIRED. Royal British Legion		