

## ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

### Minutes of a meeting of Club Council Held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013

1. Present: Geoff Goodban (President) , Viv Pritchard ( President elect), Sharon Jordan, Robert Yonge, Robert Boyd Howell (IPP) , Peer LeFleming, David Barton, John Hill, Martin Ward, Alastair Scott, Brian Dobinson.
2. Apologies: Tony Pomeroy
3. Minutes : the minutes of the last meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013, were approved.
4. Matters arising:
  - Item 3a: RY was about to meet Jamie Clifford of KCC to agree the position in which the new plaque was to be erected. KCC would pay.
  - Item 4: the revised Directory was about to be proof read and printed
  - Item 4b: Margaret Griffin had agreed to take on the role of Interact Committee Chairman. MB had not attended any meeting of Vocational Committee for a very long time and therefore Council recommended his name be removed from it.
  - Item 4c: Almoner - GG was interested in the role, and it was agreed he should take it on. Conference Officer: GG had not yet spoken to NM about taking on the role , and agreed to do so the next day. Steward Co-ordinator and 100 Club officer - GG proposed these offices be taken on by prospective member Jackie Bartlett. Millenium Scholar Administrator: PH had agreed to take on the role
  - Item 4e: there was discussion about the problem of the punters' interference with the Duck Race and it was agreed that the matter be left until after a discussion about it, which was proposed to take place at a meeting of the Fund Raising Committee the following week, following which RY and GG would discuss what was to be done and, if appropriate, GG would have a discussion with the punters.
5. President's Business:
  - 5a. and 5b. VP had produced drafts of the Health and Safety, Child Protection, and Equality and Diversity policy statements , which were similar to those of the previous year. These were approved and signed by GG and thanks given to VP for his work.
  - 5c: There was general discussion of the problem of members who failed to attend meetings regularly and to participate in or contribute to Club events and activities. A distinction was made between those who were unable to contribute due to age or infirmity, and those who were fit and had no reasonable explanation for not contributing. In relation to the former group, it was felt the solution to the difficulty might lie in offering honorary membership, and AS mentioned that 2 of older members in this category had not been asked to pay their subscriptions for the current or previous years. The criteria for honorary membership were to be discussed at the forthcoming business meeting,

with the Council adopting as its proposals those put forward by RY as amended, and it was agreed that the suggestion for offering such honorary membership to those non-contributing older members as fell within those criteria was to be discussed at the same time. As to the other group of non-contributors, it was agreed that the first step was to agree what prospective members were to be told would be expected of them (see Item 5d below) . Once that had been done, a common yardstick would have been created , and when it was brought to Council for approval, a policy decision could be made on the non-contributors, but it was stressed by a number of members that the Club should avoid being too prescriptive on attendance and lose potentially useful members.

5d: Arrangements for attracting and retaining members: MW had produced a paper , which had been circulated, dealing with the the information to be given to prospective members about what was expected of them, the speeding up of the processing of applications, and the mentoring of those who had recently joined. The expectations, as drafted, included 50% attendance ,which it was felt would present an impossible bar to many in work , while others, who could make valuable “Indians”, might be put off by an insistence on aspirations of leadership. It was agreed that the paper was very valuable in helping to form policy, and that it was to be discussed by a sub-committee comprising MW, PLF and BD with view to agreeing a version to be considered by the Membership committee. This consideration would include (in addition to the expectations of new members) the parts of the paper dealing with processing and mentoring. The position of the membership committee was also considered. RY felt this should not be responsible for finding members, but should act as a catalyst to encourage members to find them, and mentioned that HC had been asked to propose ways in which that might be done

5e: Clarification of the areas of activity of Vocational Service and Dining and Entertainment Committees: This had been requested by DB to avoid overlap , and it was agreed that, generally speaking, Voc Serv would avoid fixed date events , such as plays, not containing an educational element, and that the existing practice of the committees’ co-operating by exchanging agendas etc would continue.

#### 6. Financial Report:

AS produced a summary of the Club finances at 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013, which did not show great change from the position in July. All but one member had paid his subscription. There had been comment on amount apparently available in the Dining Account, AS explained how this was required to pay the regular bills, and undertook to explain this at the next business meeting. He also explained that the Millenium Fund was largely the gift of some £40,000 by Jack Parkin.

#### 7. Committee Reports:

- a. Club Service . No minutes were available, but VP said he would ask KB, to ensure they were put on the website. The July meeting had been concerned with the membership issues mentioned above, and the next meeting was to be on the following day. RY mentioned that although PW had provided excellent speakers, a number of members

had never given “My Job” talks, and VP would attend to this. Reference was made to the occasional pub meetings that BR had arranged for new members, and GG said he intended to continue arranging these himself

- b. Community service: no minutes or August meeting
  - c. International/ Foundation: No August meeting or minutes
  - d. Fund Raising: a meeting was to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> September
  - e. Public service and communications: no meeting
  - f. Vocational Service: Minutes circulated
8. Secretary's report:
- a. Leave of absence for Georges Dussart approved for the remainder of the Rotary year
  - b. Leave of absence for RY approved for period 6<sup>th</sup> Sept - 7<sup>th</sup> Oct
  - c. Arrangements for members to discuss criteria for members to be granted honorary membership: This to be done at the next business meeting as set out above.
  - d. Application for membership by Jacqueline Bartlett was approved.  
Designation: Health and Safety officer
9. District matters:  
GG, PLF, RBH and VP would attend the District Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September.
10. AOB:
- a. It was agreed that SJ be formally co-opted a member of Council for the Residue of the year
  - b. JH reminded the meeting of the recent death of Don Bierling, a noted Canterbury benefactor and a friend of Rotary. It was agreed that GG would write to his widow, Poppy, expressing the Club's regrets and sympathies. PLF was to circulate details of the funeral arrangements when known.
  - c. MW reported that there had been much progress with the Events Manager program, but some matters remained uncorrected, including the emails which were supposed to be sent to members automatically, warning of the next meeting, but which had not been sent. He had been informed that this part of the package would be fixed with effect from the forthcoming Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> August), when the first of the emails would be delivered. Although he thought the behaviour of Cornish had been unbusinesslike, he believed they had by then acquired some competent staff, and although he did not feel able to give a date by which all matters would be rectified, he did not consider it appropriate to deliver at that stage an ultimatum requiring rectification by a named date or the monies to be repaid.
11. DONM:  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2013, at 6.0pm, at the K & C Club