

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 22nd April 2014

1. **Present:** Geoff Goodban (President), Viv Pritchard, Peer le Fleming, Sharon Jordan, Martin Ward, John Hill, Alastair Scott, Robert Yonge, Brian Dobinson. Peter Hermitage in attendance.
2. **Apologies:** Robert Boyd Howell, Tony Pomeroy, David Barton.
3. **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2014 were approved subject to item 4 thereof as appears below
4. **Matters arising:** none other than those dealt with as Agenda items.

5. **President's business:** at the lunchtime meeting that day the President had drawn attention to the enormous amount of unnecessary work being caused, largely to SJ, by members failing to respond in an orderly way to messages about meetings etc. MW pointed out that the website was working well and was the easy way to record apologies etc. Moreover, the book-keeping part of the website would be working by start of next Rotary year in July.

Agreed that MW would give a presentation of the working of the website at the June business meeting. Comment had been made that the main committee chairmen had not been making presentations at the business meetings, and it was agreed that TP would make a presentation on International at the May business meeting.

6. **Members' business:** Following item 6(a) of the January meeting, AS reported that the Awards committee had that day considered the possible award of Hon. membership for HR and SR. The committee's conclusion had been that there should be no Hon. memberships for members, but on its being pointed out that the Club had already approved of such Hon. memberships (on the principles described in item 5d of the minutes of the Council meeting of May 2013) AS said that the committee would support SR being offered such membership. SR had not paid his subscription for 2 years and, therefore, was technically not a member. Council resolved that SR be offered Hon. membership for one year. A letter was to be written to HR, inviting him to pay his unpaid subs by the end of May 2014 and telling him that he would be regarded as no longer being a member if he failed to do so. Subject to that, no further attempts would be made to recover the unpaid subs in view of the state of health of SR and HR. DG was coming to the end of his year's Hon. membership, and GG was to write to him remarking the event and telling him he would always be welcome to attend the Club as a guest. On PH's suggestion it was agreed that all departing members be reminded of the Past Rotarians' Club.
7. **Members' business TCK:** PH reviewed the recent TCK competition. There were 3 objectives for the event - fundraising; encouraging music; fellowship. Over the last 5 years, he felt all these objectives had been achieved and the recent competition was on course to raise well over £7000 plus the bucket collection for Demelza House which made £1418. However, there were underlying problems. Whereas in previous years 16/17 choirs had entered, this year there were only 6, and there was a traumatic period of uncertainty whether to abandon the event until the P&O choir agreed a guest appearance.

Ticket sales had been poor, and many Rotarians themselves had not supported the event, although there were other reasons for the empty seats such as Easter's being very late and there being only 6 and opposed to 8 choirs in the Final. There had been very good comment and feed back on the quality of the event, but he felt that we needed to do market research on why the choirs were staying away, there being some thoughts that the local choirs had then "done" the competition, and were looking for something new (although there were some choirs that had entered 2/3 years)

TB had suggested a possible change in venue, but we would need to sell 1200 seats at the Marlowe. A change in timing to after Kings' week had also been mentioned, but that might lower the likely audience. Major questions were: is the event viable? ; if so, what is to be its format?; what is to be the make-up of the team. In particular, the present team had been together for 5 years and had enjoyed it - but new blood was needed. PH was to become Club president and would not want to combine that with being i/c TCK and JH felt that here should be a new musical perspective. MW was happy to take on running TCK.

PLF and his guests had thoroughly enjoyed the show, and he felt 6 choirs plus P & O was about right, but a singer he knew had never heard of it. He wondered if the choirs which had entered should be canvassed about other choirs they felt might be interested, and likewise if other festivals, such as that at Deal, might be contacted. PH had routinely contacted all entrants after the event for feedback, but was holding off this year until the outlook was clearer.

There was discussion about the scale of proceeds from the event, given the amount of work (which had always begun the previous September), comparison in particular being made with the Sunrise sleepover, which made around £30000, but it was accepted that the quality of TCK, and amount of fellowship & goodwill it generated, were material factors, and were considerations behind the musical event Gill Dixon was promoting in the Summer. There was also the question of how much money the Club wanted to raise, given its expenditure. PH and his committee would consider all these matters and revert to the Council with proposals. Meanwhile GG voiced the appreciation of the Council and the Club for the very successful efforts of the whole TCK committee to date, and the work of PH and MW in particular.

8. **Financial Report:** AS circulated figures to 22/4/14. Club Funds - Faulty Towers debtors and St Quentin w/e cleared. 50% paid to Cornish leaving members' debentures of £1930 free of commitment and available to be repaid or, if members agreed, applied to other purposes. Free funds excluding debentures £2592. Dining/c £6356 plus debtor 155. Events - TCK 2013 £7142, 2014 to date £3357. Charity £8756 - with the TCK monies total £19255. Charity funds allocated - Pentangular £5404; Com Serv. £1493; Int. £5457; Foundation £179; Emergency £1306; Sailor Ted £390; TCK 2014 £3357; Prudent res. £1269; Voc. Serv. £400; Avail to allocate - nil. Millennium Fund- estd. £64000.

9. Committee Reports:

- a. **Club Service:** meeting previous week - mostly on H & S – Safeguarding and Protection. There had been changes in the guidance from District - very long - CRB checks were now DBS (Disclosure and Barring service) - only have to do it once,. Interact and Kids Day Out possibly affected but this thought unlikely in view of the numbers of teachers involved. Possible difficulties where photos taken of children eg in TCK. This could be relevant to our insurance cover. VP to make a presentation TO THE Club on how it is affected by H& S

- b. **Community Service:** minutes circulated - PLF stated nothing controversial
- c. **International:** No report in absence of TP
- d. **Foundation:** no separate report but VP said he intended to increase the prominence of this committee.
- e. **Fundraising:** RY said there would be a meeting in the next 2 weeks to discuss the Duck Race. Wishing well - Exmouth Rotary Club was marketing spiral plastic wells for around £1300. Cost should be recovered in a year or could perhaps be met from the Sailor Ted fund and/or some of the debenture monies (those members present who had debentures said they did not want their funds returned) RY was to sound out possible sites. Where the well was in the street, a licence would have to be taken from the Council.
- f. **Public relations:** no report
- g. **Vocational Service:** Minutes circulated. Thames Barge trip and visit to Down House going ahead. Meeting of the judges of the Innovation competition had taken place in the office of Carole Barron, Director of Kent Innovation and Enterprise. The entrants were being asked to supply some more information and, after the public exams, would all be invited to an event at the Centre where they would meet the judges and the winner would be announced.

10. **Secretary's report:** All members attending the District assembly had been notified. AGM 20th May - all committee chairmen to present reports and TP to talk of the work of Int.

11. **AOB:** VP was continuing to try to deal with the problems of non-attendance. He had eventually succeeded in speaking to MH on the phone, who claimed he had never received a Directory or information about meetings etc. VP had sent him another Directory with instructions how to get on the website. There is a problem in that, although apparently never having attended regularly, MH qualified for the 85 rule, which, on the face of it, exempted from attendance requirement those whose age and length of membership combined added up to 85. VP warned that the Club must be consistent. PLF felt that the 85 rule was basic, but did not preclude the Club introducing its own rule, perhaps requiring members to have been attenders at some stage.

AS reported that MH had driven into the K & C Club car park, narrowly missing AS's car, and proceeded to spend 2 hours there while he telephoned. He had no right to be in the car park, and ignored AS.

GG had been in touch with MB, from whom he had had negative feedback, MB stating that Tues lunchtimes conflicted with Saving Lives. PH had spoken to AC, who had advertised in the TCK programme, and said he would like to become interested in the Club!.

SJ reported an approach from the catering staff at the Cricket Ground who were proposing to put on a Christmas event for 150 disadvantaged folk. She was contacting Porchlight and Catching Lives and would refer the matter to Com Serv.

RY reported that Kent Alliance would provide the top Duck Race prize of £250

12. **DONM:** Tues 27th May at the K & C Club. 6.0pm. **Apology** J Hill and BD