

VOCATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held Tuesday 21st July 2015 at the Cricket Club.

Present: - Les Stephenson, Alan Mepstead, John Becket, Brian Dobinson. Nan Miller, Mike Talbot, Peter Hodge, Deborah Connolly.

Welcome. A warm welcome to Deborah at her first VSC meeting

Apologies: -. Tim Brett, Ian Wright

1. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th May 2015 were approved. The following matter arose.

- The Brett cup is FOUND!!

- 2 **Innovation competition. BD reported.** In all, we had received 30 entries, on which written enquiries were raised as they came in. The entries and such replies as we had received were then considered by the judges at a preliminary meeting, and such further queries as were considered necessary were raised in writing. Last year, when we received less than half that number of entries, we asked all entrants to address the judges orally at the judging final, but that was impractical with so many entries this year. Accordingly, a shortlist of 11 entrants was made, all of whom were asked to make an oral presentation at the final, but all entrants were asked to attend.

In the event, approximately 20 entrants attended the final, together with a number of teachers, President Peter, and some 8 Rotarians and wives, the judges, Robyn Ford, the extremely helpful PA to Carole Barron, the Director of Kent Innovation and Enterprise, and Nerissa Blower, Marketing and Events Co-ordinator of KIE. The judges were Marcus Wright, Innovation Manager at KIE, Gary Robinson, Senior Commercialisation officer and Senior Lecturer in Microbial Technology at UKC and a member of Sunrise, Christian Wilse of FOB, and our very own Robert Boyd Howell.

Bearing in mind that most entrants were 13/14 years old, some excellent presentations were made in an atmosphere of good will and good humour. The winner was Anna Blandford, aged 14, of Queen Elizabeth School, Faversham, with the "Cut-i-Cube", a series of plastic toy boxes which were designed to encourage young children to put things away - an LED flashing randomly in different boxes but ceasing when an object was placed in the box (at which point a short tune was played). The runners up were Tom Jefferies, Joe McNally, Jack Watts and Sam Pritchard, all of SLBS with their Gum Care device - a simple plastic housing for a toothbrush with a ball bearing running round a track on its circumference. When the ball was in alignment with a rubber band holding the toothbrush, the brush was at 45 deg to the tooth - the optimum angle for gum and tooth cleaning, we were told.

The University provided a lecture room and KIE some simple refreshments - unfortunately these included some boiled sweets, one of which was responsible for the loss of a filling in one of Gill Dixon's teeth, rather destroying the object of the runners up. The competition was also supported by Kentish Gazette, whose Gerry Warren has taken a real interest and published 2 articles

BD's thanks to all who helped especially the members of this club who assisted in various different ways - particularly to Simon Edridge and his staff for preparing the poster, and RBH for judging, and the members of this club, FOB and Sunrise for their efforts in publicising the event.

An article and photograph by Nerissa Blower is on our club website'

4. Schools Public Speaking competition. AM reported 11 entries so far and maybe 12 with Canterbury Academy interested. Flier put round to members and hopefully will be included in District newsletter. Semi Finals in November and final at Guildhall in Feb 2016.

5. Canterbury Children's' Choir. AM updated the committee on this.

Peter Hermitage and AM met with Kerry Boyle and Hannah, a post graduate student at Christchurch to talk about Rotary involvement in the formation of a Canterbury Children's Choir. Kerry is a voice coach at Christchurch and runs a number of choirs including Canterbury Vocals, and she is keen to form a Children's Choir. Hannah (who has recently graduated from CCCU) will help her. The project will target primary school children and consist of:

- September – November 2015:
 - Promotion of the scheme.
 - Running workshops in primary schools around Canterbury.
- January – March 2016
 - Delivering single workshops in schools in preparation for a large scale performance made up of individual school choirs and then a "mass choir" in March. From the Rotary Club's point of view, this could clash with TCK. There is no reason why the performance cannot be staged later in the summer term. This will need planning and further thought.
- April – July 2016
 - Establish weekly extra-curricular rehearsals for further performance opportunities and the establishment of a children's choir

KB is contacting other local bodies and individuals who might be willing to help. The creation of a children's choir was achieved in Hannah's home town and thus she has experience to draw upon.

This appears a project that Rotary can support through:

- Financial support
- Finding venues
- Stewarding
- Promoting

It would meet one of our goals of working with young people.

KB to keep us informed of progress. The number of schools participating will be key to the size of the project. Contact will be through AM

6. Events 2015/2016

Proposed trip to Middle Temple

***NM** has been looking into a possible visit to the Middle Temple. **The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple**, commonly known simply as **Middle Temple**, is one of the four Inns of Court exclusively entitled to call their members to the English Bar as Barristers, the others being the Inner temple, Gray's Inn and Lincolns Inn. It is located in the wider Temple area of London, near the Royal Courts of Justice, and within the City of London. . The trip will consist of a guided tour and lunch in the Temple. Cost about £28 per head to include a three course lunch Maximum (and minimum) number 20. NM will get a date in October and AM will send out an e-mail to members.

- Visit to **Chatham Dockyard**. 23 People went and the day was adjudged to be successful.
- **Tower Bridge** proving a bit more difficult to arrange. Tower bridge staff is not at all clued up.
- Visit to **Quex House** at Birchington as already noted and possibly aim for October
- A visit to **Paul Mansfield and Co**, apple growers, had been suggested and Tim Brett had agreed to investigate. Probably in the picking season. Leonard Rea is the contact and TB has not felt it right to pursue at the present time but he will keep it under review,
- **Police Visit**. As at the last meeting till nothing further to report. Awaiting on Peter Wales to organise a speaker at Rotary.
- **Thames Barge Trip**. Fully subscribed.
- **Vineyards** One for the future.
- **Others mentioned** . National Grid (BD to follow up). Batemans, Dover Tunnels (AM to follow up) London Gateway(AM to follow up). House of Lords (?Lord Carey)

7. Country walks .

LS agreed to organise a walk from Bridge to the Black Robin Pub at Barham. Date to be confirmed but end of August beginning of September

BD is following up the Fungi walk for the autumn. Nothing further to report.(Brian – We did not actually discuss this But....)

8. Next meeting 18th August 2015.(members preferring a lunch time).