

ROTARY CLUB OF CANTERBURY

Minutes of a meeting of the Vocational Service Committee held on 10th September 2013

1. Present: Alan Mepstead, Leslie Stephenson, Mike Talbot, Roddy Tyndale-Biscoe, Nan Miller, Brian Dobinson. Mark Esdale also attended to assist in connection with the proposed innovation competition.

2. Apologies: Tim Brett, Ian Wright, John Beckett

3. Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting held on 6th August 2013 were approved subject to amendment of the normal price for the more expensive ECO tickets to £35 (item 17)

4. Matters Arising: None save those referred to in the Agenda.

5. Innovation Competition: A draft poster, produced by Lawrence Kemball Cook and based on a similar competition in which he had been concerned, had been circulated prior to the meeting for consideration. ME said he felt most innovation competitions went too far in requiring a business plan and description of how the item would be made as he felt that stifled creativity. What we should be stimulating was blue skies thought and that we should aim for an innovatory idea that was feasible and had a degree of practicality, not necessarily completely novel nor completely thought out. There would be no indication of the area of innovation, leaving the children to choose whatever they wished. BD preferred the open approach, but said it had occurred to him to ask the competitors to suggest a novel public transport system for the N/S axis of Canterbury or a method of gaining publicity for events by using the internet.

ME thought it might be possible to use these as examples. After discussion, it was agreed the competition would be open to anyone in secondary education and that entries could be from individuals or teams of up to 4 people. Initial entries would set out the proposal by email not longer than an A4 sheet and, say, the best 4 would be asked to submit a more detailed proposal.

ME, AM and BD would meet at AM's house on Tuesday 1st October 8.00pm to agree on the form of the poster to be put out, NM would proof read it, and it was hoped SE would produce it. We thought that the light-bulb motif used in LKC's poster might be incorporated. It was hoped we might get schools, churches, Canterbury Council, the local press and media and the public library to support the venture.

6. Young Photographer Competition: RTB said the joint committee was to meet again the following week. Final date for entries was 30th October. Three judges - Vic Banks, David Watts and A N Other - possibly Diana Forrest. They were going to press the schools again for entries and RTB and AM felt they had enough resources for this without recourse to the rest of the VS committee

7. Visit to railway at Shepherdswell 12th September: MT reported all arrangements were in place: 39 had paid up to attend, and although 5 had dropped out, 4 more had taken their place, including the 2 young ladies from Leiden on a slightly belated GSE visit. There was likely to be a surplus of about £30 and it was agreed that this be credited to VS to offset future minor expenses. Members wishing to have a drink with their meal were to be reminded to BYO and glasses.

8. Children's Creative Writing competition: Date for entries has been put back to 30th November, but as it appears that Daren Kearl at the Beaney had not provided his list of school contacts, nothing further had been done to chase up entries. It was felt that the subject (A visit to the Beaney) was uninspiring and agreed that should we try a similar event in the future, it would probably be as well to do so without involving the library.

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9. Possible visit to CERN: Although this had proved impossible to arrange, Becky Parker, Head of Science at the SL Boys ' School, had agreed to come and address the Club at the evening meeting on 10th December.

10. Possible visit to Whitechapel Bell Foundry: NM had not had the opportunity to chase this up, but would report to the next meeting on the feasibility of a trip on one or other of the 2 Saturdays in February next when tours were scheduled to take place.

11. Visit to Elham Valley Vineyard Wednesday 2nd October: Approximately 30 had signed up to this visit. There would be a meal, talk and tour, followed by a wine tasting. Members' preferences for the meal were being forwarded to the Vineyard, but as there was such a large menu, each member would pay for himself at the time, though we would have to make good any no-shows And recover the money afterwards.

12. Possible bird- watching walk: BD had spoken with JH and AF , who were interested in making arrangements. Best time would probably be the following Spring, and BD was following this up with AF. Members mentioned that previous such walks had been well received and on the Brett lakes past Sturry.

13. Possible visit to Hornby: BD reported that after numerous phone calls, the company was unable to offer any facilities for this.

14. Children's Public Speaking competition: BD had been in touch with Noel Ensoll of ESU who had asked for any school contacts VS had. RTB had provided a list of the relevant school contacts for the photographic competition, and these would be passed on. NM pointed out that at the outset of the Club's involvement with ESU, ESU had been anxious that we did not take over the competition. However, it seemed that if we wished the event to survive, we would have to render what aid we could in view of the poor entry the previous year.

15. Visit to ECO rehearsal and performance - Cadogan Hall, 6th November: About 16 members and partners had indicated interest plus 2/3 additional friends of NM - just short of the minimum for the reduced cost tickets, although there was some reason to believe that the discount would be available on the numbers we had. Monies to be in by 28th September.

16. Possible visit to Morgan cars in Malvern: It appeared there was some support for this. In view of the distance, it would have to be combined with a Presidential away trip - probably walking in the Malverns. GG was not interested in this for his year, but VP had agreed to investigate the possibility of such a trip in the autumn of 2014. The committee was happy with the proposal to organise the visit to the factory, but felt that the other aspects of the trip should be organised by others. BD undertook to discuss this with VP.

17. AoB: LS mentioned that DB had raised in Council the issue of the territorial boundary between the Vocational Service Committee and the Dining & Entertainments Committee. BD explained that he had agreed that VS would not compete by arranging visits to fixed-date performances (such as shows), although there would have to be exceptions for such things as the ECO performances, where NM had a special connection and there was a vocational element in that we had the opportunity of attending the rehearsal. However, that then begs the question of what happens about non fixed date events that D & E want to organise, and the best thing seems to be to go on as we are, but notify each other what we are proposing.

Date of Next Meeting: Tues 8th Oct @8.00pm at the cricket ground