

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE - UPDATE – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2020

1. Updates on applications for grants

- a) **RC Dhaka Global Grant** - Club Council has confirmed that we will join RC Dhaka as International Partners to help them with their global grant application to set up a Covid testing facility at a cancer hospital in Dhaka. The current lack of testing is causing significant delays in urgent cancer treatment. The total cost of the project is \$76,000. Most of the funding will be raised locally. We are one of probably three international partners. Our club has committed £1,000 from our charity funds towards the project, Julie is aiming to raise a separate £500. We have been in contact with our District and they have confirmed their approval and set aside a matching £1,500 of District Designated Funds (DDF) and this will also attract a further £1,500 of global grant. So our donation will result in a total of £4,500 towards the project.

RC Dhaka has formally submitted the grant application and is awaiting a decision from Rotary Foundation. Julie is acting as the main link with district and RC Dhaka.

I must urge members to support Julie's effort in fundraising for this project, in particular the Guess the Baby competition.

- b) **JPP3 and Juba School** - Club Council has agreed that we should submit a district grant application for an international project during the current round. This year, the amount of grant available is limited to a maximum \$650 (about £500) per project. The project is based largely on continued bursaries, primarily for those students impacted by Covid. We have committed £600 from the club charity accounts to match fund the grant. The assumption has been made that this sum will be secured from part of the surplus of the JPP3 project, which will be completed this year. This is subject to confirmation by the membership at the Business Meeting on 29th September.

I have prepared a note for the Club Council meeting of 28th September on Juba School finances and to update on the current situation. This note is attached.

2. Lend with Care

The microcredit scheme was suspended during the spring due to the pandemic. However, I checked their website earlier today and it appears to be up and running again. They have included a new note to say "...please be aware that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic your repayments could be at greater risk of delay or default". This is hardly surprising.

We currently have £665.84 credit available. Suggest that Kailash reviews our approach and consider when we should provide new loans.

3. Funds available

I am unclear on what sums are currently allocated to the committee and am seeking clarification.

According to the Club Financial Statement to the end of August, we have £1,458 allocated to the International Committee.

In addition, there is £262 in the Weekly Raffle account which was intended for Shelterbox, Aquabox or Water Aid.

4. Tools for Self Reliance

Bob Anderson has continued to liaise with the local group during the pandemic, even though they have had to remain closed during the lockdown. Discussions are being held with the Hospice on possible reopening the workshop. In the meantime, their work has focussed on fundraising, mainly through boot fairs. Items which were left unsold at the recent auction have been passed on to TfSR to raise money through sale via eBay.

Despite the suspension of the workshop, tools have been passed on for shipment and a container is scheduled to be sent to Malawi in December and another one to Ghana next April.

Bob will induct Caroline to act as our future contact as soon as the workshop is up and running.

I hope that the committee will continue to support TfSR in the coming years, even though funds may be limited.

5. Other Business

Following a request by Gill Dixon to consider support for refugees caught up in the devastating fire in the camp in Lesbos, I have investigated a possible donation to Shelterbox. However, Shelterbox are not active in Greece at present. Given the political stalemate in addressing the refugee problem, it is difficult to see how best to contribute to the aid effort, but I will continue to monitor the situation. If any member has any ideas, please let me know.

Viv Pritchard
25th September 2020