

**Rotary Club of Canterbury**  
**Minutes of the meeting of the Club Council held on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at Raj's home.**

1. Present: Raj Dasan (President), Maxine Blades (Secretary), Graham Bough, Neil Fraser, Richard Kemball- Cook, Viv Pritchard and Andrew Clague.
2. Apologies – Tony Loughran (Treasurer) and Robin Vickers
3. Welcome – Raj welcomed everyone to his first Council Meeting as President.
4. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June were approved.
  - a. Matters arising (not listed below) None
5. Secretary's Business
  - a. RGB&I database showing 46 members & 2 honorary members as of 04/07/2025
  - b. Graham noted that as Lord Mayor, Keji Moses should not be paying subs this year.
  - c. Maxine to amend Keji's status on RV as 'honorary members' for this year.
6. President's Business
  - a. The Point update – Andrew Clague:
    - i. Andrew reported that the metal plate below the water dispenser had been installed.
    - ii. Canterbury City Council have now taken ownership of The Point.
    - iii. Maxine noted that the £10K 'deposit' had been returned.
    - iv. Raj reported that excess water was not draining away from the base of the column. It is suggested that the drain adjacent to The Point is blocked.
    - v. Raj will write to Richard Moore asking Council to clear the drain.
    - vi. Andrew also noted that there is an issue with the Council's contactor and the cleaning regime. Andrew to follow this up.
  - b. Cooperation with Local Clubs
    - i. Bat and Trap 19<sup>th</sup> August 2025 – local Rotary Clubs invited
      - I. Raj has provisionally booked for 40 people with a ticket price of £18 per head.
      - II. Graham noted that he will need lists of those booked and those attending to charge dining accounts appropriately,
    - ii. Maxine asked if she could send the North East Area Club's combined calendar to members and this was agreed.
7. Dining Arrangements - Review of Abbots Barton Hotel meals ,8th & 15<sup>th</sup> July
  - a. Raj noted that room and food at new venue were working well.
  - b. Graham noted that the payment system is also working well and that the Hotel appears happy with the systems for booking and payment that have been agreed.
8. Duck Races 21<sup>st</sup> September
  - a. Ticket Sales Public – Richard noted that the sign-up sheet for the Whitefriars slots was nearly completed. Maxine noted that RC Sunrise had offered to help and should be offered some slots.

- b. Tickets Sales Corporate – Raj is to meet with Roger on 22<sup>nd</sup> September to progress the development of the corporate duck race. Stephen Thompson has sent out the sales sheets for the corporate Ducks for members to sell direct to businesses they know.
  - c. Other points – Viv is to draft a list of activities for Race Day so that people can be allocated to the different tasks.
9. Riverfest 28<sup>th</sup> September – Maxine noted that she will set up and run a stall at the Riverfest Fayre on 28<sup>th</sup> September with activities for children. Help with the stall will be appreciated.
10. Pentangular
- a. St Quentin Visit – Raj noted that the weekend 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> December has been agreed as the date for the visit to Canterbury. He is waiting for St Quentin to confirm numbers.
11. Mini Group Study Exchange 2025 in Canterbury 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August– Martin joined the meeting by phone. He reported the following
- a. Accommodation has been arranged for 10 students in members' homes.
  - b. The programme has been updated and finalised - a copy will be sent to Club Council Members
  - c. Funding for MGSE from partner clubs has been received Martin is now awaiting confirmation of expenditure from those running the different events and activities.
  - d. Raj will prepare a risk assessment for the week. Maxine will contact RGB&I to check for any concerns that they may have about the week.
  - e. Martin to check that those travelling to UK have an ETA and appropriate personal medical and travel insurance.
12. JPP6 - Graham outlined the project that will be run by RC Ludenscheid working in partnership with a Rotary Club in Poland to train therapists to help in treating civilian mothers and children suffering from PTSD in Ukraine.
- a. To facilitate the Global Grant application by RC Ludenscheid, our Club has made a commitment to have its contribution of E6,000 available by October 2025.
  - b. There is also a E2,000 District Grant that will be made available.
  - c. To reach the required amount for the project RC Canterbury should try to find approx. £11,000 in additional funds
  - d. Potential sources are:
    - i. An appeal to the Clubs in the District - Raj will follow this up with DG Penny Spiller
    - ii. An appeal to individuals to make charitable donations to the RCC Trust Fund which can then be Gift Aided. Raj to put this on agenda for Business Meeting.
    - iii. Sourcing grants from non- Rotary organisations supporting the people of Ukraine. Neil, Maxine & Graham offered to research potential grant makers.
    - iv. Graham agreed to send an email message to Maxine and Neil giving details of the project, to work together to prepare a draft application and to co-ordinate the applications.
13. Treasurer's Report – email received from Tony (attached)
- a. Financial Accounts were reviewed.
  - b. Subscriptions 2025/6 were noted. Tony has indicated that he is following up on those who's subs are still outstanding.

- c. Tony has previously agreed to communicate with Rotarians about their Dining account balances to collect debts due and to investigate what Rotarians wish to do about the accounts that hold a large sum. Members of the committee, other than Tony, were reminded that the information about balances on Rotarians' Dining accounts is privileged information and is not to be discussed with individual Rotarians or outside of the committee meetings.
- d. Tony's proposal that the Club Council recommend to the Trustees of the Rotary Club of Canterbury Trust Fund that they approve each of the three 'spending Groups' to be given £500 to help with any funding requests received before money from Duck race is available in October. The Trustees of the RCC Trust Fund were present at the meeting and they indicated their agreement to this suggestion. Graham will prepare appropriate minutes of a meeting of the RCC Trust Fund Trustees.
- e. Andrew requested a copy of the Trust Deeds for both the RCC MSTF and RCC Trust Fund registered charities which Graham agreed to send to him.

#### 14. Group's Updates:

- a. Community Service Group –
  - i. Richard noted that he was going to continue to focus his Groups work with the local Community Resource Centres; try and reconnect with the local Special Schools and look to do support the work of local mental health providers.
  - ii. Maxine passed on a request from East Kent Mind for the involvement of Rotary in Canterbury in a project that they are looking at.
  - iii. Richard also noted that he is going to recommend to his Group that a £500 donation be made to Thanington Resource Centre to support a trip they are planning for young people to sail on a Thames Sailing Barge.
- b. Vocational Service Group
  - i. On behalf of Alan, Raj noted that The Club's support of the Children's Literacy Festival was well received and that the festival had been a success.
  - ii. The Group were looking to arrange a visit to the newly refurbished Maison Dieu in Dover.
  - iii. Maxine noted that the Colour Buddy proposal had been passed up to RGB&I for consideration.
  - iv. Raj and Alan visited the Queen Elizabeth and Invicta Grammar Schools to present certificates to the Innovation Competition prize winners.
- c. International Service Group
  - i. Graham reported that this Group will arrange to meet as soon as he has a list of the members for the 2025/26 year. At this time it is thought that the Group will plan to support ShelterBox, AquaBox, Lend With Care plus projects in partnership with RC Dakar and RC Kandy.

#### 15. Recruitment – Maxine reported on behalf of Robert Yonge

- a. No notices of Resignation have been received
- b. Robert has a couple of prospective new members which he is following up.

#### 16. Corporate membership Pilot

- a. Andrew noted that he has identified a possible candidate for corporate membership and will be following this up.

- b. Andrew also reported that he is working with Roger on the Corporate Duck Race and that this might generate some new leads.
- c. Andrew asked Raj if he can add an appeal to members to identify potential corporate members at the next Business Meeting.

## 17. Club Programme Update

### YEAR 2025/26 PROGRAMME – Version 2

Month	Date	Day	Meeting Type	Venue	Organiser
	21.7.25	Mon	Council Meeting	At Raj's	
	22.7.25	Tues	No meeting		
	29.7.25	Tues	Business meeting	K & C Club	

<b>Aug</b>	5.8.25	Tues	Lunchtime Social at Richard and Cora Cook – Fellowship Lunch	Highfield House, Harbledown	Richard and Cora
	12.8.25	Tues	My Job talk	Abbots Barton	Aruna Jago Brown
	19.8.25	Tues	Evening meeting Bat and Trap with MGSE	The Old Beverlie at St Stephens	
	25.8.25	Mon	Council Meeting	At Tony's	
	26.8.25	Tues	Lunchtime meeting – Drivers and Passengers	Abbots Barton	Teresa from KCC

## 18. AOB – Maxine noted the following:

- a. The Club should consider purchasing logoed Polo Shirts for new members, especially in time for the Duck Races.
- b. CCCU enquiry about potential link with Rotary in Canterbury has been passed onto Gary Robinson – President, Rotary Sunrise, to follow-up as per the agreement regarding corporate membership enquiries from the Universities.
- c. District News:
  - i. RI President 2025/6 Francesco Arezzo of Italy has replaced Mario Cesar Martins de Camargo. The Theme 'Unite for Good' continues.
  - ii. District Governor would like invites for visits to Clubs – breakfast or evening dinner only. Raj to contact penny and invite her.
  - iii. Maxine has dates for youth Competitions and RYLA which she will pass to Alan for consideration.
  - iv. District membership team are to focus their efforts on starting new Clubs in areas currently not served.
- d. The Charity Commission Newsletter has been circulated by Maxine – please read
- e. Honorary Membership Certificate needed for Lewis Norris – Maxine to source
- f. Eric Steiner of RC Wiesbaden-Kochbrunnen has contacted Andrew to arrange a visit for his Club to Canterbury 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026. Andrew will set up a group to facilitate this visit.
- g. Maxine to recirculate Version 4 of Stewards and Thought for the Day list for Raj to include in the EMD events notices.