

## **Rotary Club of Canterbury**

### **Minutes of the Club's Business Meeting to be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

1. **Welcome** : President Maxine welcomed Heather Scott and Dr Aruba Jago-Brown as visitors.
2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from: Andrew Barchi, Brian Dobinson, Rosemary Doyle, Jim Gascoyne and David Lewis.
3. **Thought for the Day**: At President Maxine's request Stephen Thompson read The objects of Rotary.
4. **Almoner / Health Report**: In the absence of David Lewis who had had a fall and consequent hip replacement President Maxine advised that Jim Gascoyne was now receiving Dialysis 3 times per week; Andrew Barchi was unwell; Brian Dobinson was recovering from surgery and Joan Hall had had a fall whilst caring for John.
5. **Induction of Bettie Morton & Aragon St Charles**: President Maxine introduced Bettie Morton (proposed by Rosemarie Morton) and Aragon St Charles (proposed by Robert Yonge) and duly inducted them into Rotary membership with the Classification of Gallery Director and Operational Sustainability respectively.
6. **Minutes of last Business Meeting** held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 were agreed.
7. **Secretary's Business**
  - a. December membership 47 Active including new members and 1 Honorary member.
  - b. New Programme for February to June 2025 had been circulated. Robert Yonge asked whether provision is being made for a Safari Supper at the end of the Rotary year.
8. **Presidents' Matters -**
  - a. Club Council: Minutes of the meeting on the 20th January meeting had been circulated.
  - b. The Point: Stephen Thompson advised that the project is on course for the planned opening on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and principal supporters and the Club had been advised to save the date. Formal invitations are being prepared and will be sent out later in February. Local businesses had also been advised. Andrew Clague reported that work continued to progress satisfactorily.
  - c. Cooperation with other clubs
    - i. Funds have not yet been received for the Club's participation in the Sunrise Club's Santa's Sleigh during December.
  - d. District update: The next District meeting will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and President Maxine will attend. Maxine will also view the Rotary GB video on Corporate Membership which has been prepared.
9. **MGSE**:

Martin Ward reported that the Hosting Committee will be meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February.
10. **Pentangular**

Following the presentation by the Rotary Club of Leuven on the 21<sup>st</sup> January full details of the Pentangular week end of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> June have now been received with booking details. In the absence of Rosemary Doyle President Maxine asked that all Club members confirm to her by the end of February whether they hope to attend or not.
11. **Treasurers' report**

Tony Loughran advised that the January Financial Report as circulated showed the Club's finances to be satisfactory. He congratulated the Vocational Services committee on spending funds that had been allocated to them and encouraged other committees to follow their lead.

## 12. Updated Club Programme:

Events for February/March:

- i. 11<sup>th</sup> February **evening** meeting – Andrew Clague ‘Sailing the Atlantic.’
- ii. 18<sup>th</sup> February – no meeting
- iii. 25<sup>th</sup> February – Founders Anniversary **Dinner** celebrating the Club’s 103 years to be held at Howfield Manor Hotel. Black tie or lounge suits.
- iv. 4<sup>th</sup> March **Lunchtime** Business Meeting K&C Club.
- v. 11<sup>th</sup> March – **Lunchtime** Speaker Meeting – Dr Andrew Richardson Royal Daughters of Kent – Anglo Saxon Women of Power.
- vi. 18<sup>th</sup> March -St Patrick’s Day **Supper** at Prince of Wales Youth Club.
- vii. 15<sup>th</sup> March – No meeting.

## 13. Updates from:

- a. Community Service Group: Richard Kemball-Cook reported on continuing activity with Club members now embedded in Thanington Resource Centre, Rising Sun Domestic Abuse Service and The Prince of Wales Youth Club.
- b. Vocational Service Group: Alan Mepstead reported that:  
The Innovation Competition has now been taken over by CCCU and a new poster has been prepared and circulated to schools. The Club has offered prizes of £300, £150 and £50. Junior Writing competition received nearly 80 entries from 5 schools and has been judged by Mary McGeary, Jane Loughran and Alan Mepstead. Prizes and certificates have been awarded at a cost of £365.  
Senior Writing competition is continuing and a new poster has been circulated to the schools. The first prize of £100 has been sponsored but the Club will fund second and third prizes of £50 and £25.  
Canterbury Children Literary Festival organiser had met with Alan Mepstead. The Festival in July hopes to encourage children to enjoy reading with various venues offered throughout Canterbury for workshops, drama sessions and visits by children’s authors. The Club involvement will be through volunteers and a £300 contribution to the Crowd Funding for the Festival.  
All the above funds dispensed exceeded the Budget by £40 which the Treasurer confirmed could be absorbed.  
London Charterhouse visit being organised by Brian Dobinson on 14<sup>th</sup> April has 18 people who have expressed interest.  
Colour Buddy proposal by Mike Talbot is being held over until Mike’s return to the UK.
- c. International Service Group: In Raj Dasan’s absence there had not been a meeting of this committee although Graham Bough advised that use of the allocated funds had been agreed.

## 14. Membership update:

Robert Yonge reported that Clare Hewitt would be inducted into Club membership when she has recovered from recent surgery. 2 further prospective members have had information meetings with the Membership Committee.

## 15. AOB:

- a. Temporary cover of Almoner’s Role was required during David Lewis’ incapacity and President Maxine sought a volunteer.
- b. President Maxine reminded the Club that if she is advised any special dietary needs of members can now be recorded on the Dining Lists on the EMS.