

## Rotary Club of Canterbury (RCC) - International Service Group (ISG)

**Minutes of the meeting of ISG held on Tuesday, 26 August 2025**

**The meeting was held at 11:30 am at the Abbots Barton Hotel**

- 1. Present:** Graham Bough (GB) (Lead), Jan Bobba (JB), Raj Dasan (RD), Jim Gascoyne (JG), Clare Hewitt (CH), Viv Pritchard (VP), Julie Reza (JR), Robin Vickers (RV).

**Apologies received:** No apologies were received from any other committee members.

**Other Committee Members are thought to be:** Farrukh Hussain (FH), Nan Miller (NM), Mark Rosen (MR).

Item	Matters discussed	Action by	Due date
2	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 May 2025:</b> These were approved and adopted.</p> <p><b>Matters arising not covered in other agenda items:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No matters arising that were not discussed during the meeting as noted below:</li> </ol>		
3	<p><b>ISC Funding</b></p> <p><b>Funding available to the committee at 26 August 2025</b> Out of funds available to the Trustees of the RCC Trust Fund charity, an allocation of £500.00 has been made available to ISG.</p> <p><b>The funds available to ISG at the date of the meeting are:</b>  <b>from the RCC Trust Fund - £500.00.</b>  <b>from the RCC Events account - £Nil</b> pending receipt of funding generated by the 2025 Duck Race.</p>		
4	<b>Progress on current initiatives + recent contacts</b>		
4.1	<p><b>Rotary Club of Dhaka, Bangladesh</b> JR reported that the Cancer Prevention and Screening Project and the Prosthetics Project for underprivileged peoples continue and are successful.</p> <p>Projects which the ISG may wish to support in future are as follows:  <b>An ongoing Project</b> is a 'Flood Project' to help rebuild homes of those affected by floods in border areas of Bangladesh. These are often very rudimentary homes and the affected families are often poor, tribal minority groups. JD has seen such homes and spoken with those affected and she has photos if anyone wishes to see them.  <b>A new Project</b> is the 'SEE Project', an eye screening project at Government Schools in and around Dhaka, Bangladesh. Children who attend Government Schools are more likely to be from underprivileged backgrounds;  JR agreed to continue to communicate with RC Dhaka as they are able to identify financial needs and to bring any appropriate projects to the ISG meetings for consideration.</p>	<b>JR</b>	

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<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>RC Kandy, Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>RD reported that the Water Supply Project for children at schools in poor areas and the Spectacle Frames Project for underprivileged peoples continue and are successful.</p> <p>RD advised that <b>a new project</b>, the 'Cataract Operations' Project, is expected to be set up in the near future which the ISG may wish to support.</p> <p>RD agreed to continue to communicate with RC Kandy as they are able to identify financial needs and to bring any appropriate projects to the ISG meetings for consideration.</p>	<b>RD</b>	
<b>4.3</b>	<p><b>Lend With Care (LWC)</b></p> <p>RV advised that the microfinance organisation LWC continues to work well and he did not consider it necessary to provide further funds for the LWC organisation during the 2025/26 Presidential year.</p> <p>He reported that, in all years to date, the RCC has donated £3,050.00 to LWC to facilitate micro-finance loans to beneficiaries.</p> <p>A further 8 new loans have been made recently as to: Farming projects in Zambia, Kenya, Vietnam, Rwanda, Togo, Philippines, Ecuador and Malawi.</p> <p>Out of the total funds donated, £10,936.81 has been lent in 333 loans. These small loans have been made to 1,304 entrepreneurs, 4,165 family members have been helped, 900 jobs created and overall, 6,369 people have been helped.</p> <p>Funds totalling £548.40 currently remain available to lend.</p> <p>RV will continue to monitor the funding requests posted on the LWC website with a focus on food production and related equipment.</p>	<b>RV</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Immediate need</b>		
	<p><b>Shelter Box Appeal – Monsoon Flooding in Pakistan</b></p> <p>The RCC Secretary passed to the ISG an email received from David Lister, the Rotary District Secretary, relating to an appeal by ShelterBox for funding to assist in supplying shelter to the victims of the monsoon flooding in Pakistan.</p> <p>The need is for funding to provide emergency shelter and essential items including shelter repair kits, water filters and mosquito nets.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that</b> a grant of £500.00 be made direct to the ShelterBox appeal.</p> <p>GB is to investigate the most efficient method of passing these funds to ShelterBox and to work with the Treasurer to ensure that the payment is made using funds held in the RCC Trust Fund charity.</p>	<b>GB/AL</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Strategic Plan</b>		
	<p>The draft Strategic Plan document was considered.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that</b> the document be amended to utilise one of the 'Unallocated' amounts of £500.00 for the payment to ShelterBox as detailed at point 5 above.</p> <p>Subject to this amendment, it was agreed that this is a working document that is accepted by ISG until such time as the proceeds of the 2025 Duck Race are identified and the funding available to ISG from October 2025 becomes clearer.</p> <p>GB is to make the agreed amendment to the Strategic Plan and to submit it to Club Council for their information.</p>	<b>GB</b>	

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<b>7</b>	<b>Any other business</b>		
<b>7.1</b>	<p><b>Future Fund-Raising Events Previously Proposed</b></p> <p><b>1. A Quiz night with a Fish and Chip supper</b></p> <p>RD and JR have previously suggested that a Black and White Photo Quiz night be held at Lower Hardres Village Hall with a fish and chip supper being provide by a mobile fish and chip shop. RD will seek to include this event in his Presidential Year.</p> <p>Once a date has been agreed, the members of ISG will work on the full details of the event and which members of ISG will be available to assist with the logistics.</p> <p>RD agreed to contact the Bridge Village Hall to identify availability and costs and to contact the operator of the mobile fish and chip shop to identify his/her availability, menu and pricing.</p> <p><b>2. An event based around Sri Lanka</b></p> <p>RD suggested that a fund-raising event based around Sri Lankan food and culture be arranged to promote support for the projects mentioned at point 4.2 above.</p> <p>RD proposes that this event will also be scheduled during his Presidential Year.</p> <p>There may be Sri Lankan students attending UKC or Christ Church University and RD will investigate how to communicate with them.</p> <p>RD undertook to find out about the costs that may be incurred for use of premises and catering facilities and to report back to the committee.</p>	<p><b>RD/JR</b></p>         <p><b>RD</b></p>	
<b>7.2</b>	No further business was brought to the meeting.		

**8. Date of the next meeting**

As it is unlikely that further funding will be available to the ISG before the Club Council Meeting in October 2025, members of ISG agreed to the next meeting of ISG being held at 11:30 am on 28 October 2025 after notice of available funding has been received.

Should a matter arise that needs consideration before that meeting, the committee agreed that the subject can be discussed by email.