

July/August 2010



RCE NEWS

The Rotary Club of Eastbourne



**Activities, Events and News from
The Rotary Club of Eastbourne**

President: Ron Genty

Welcome...

WELCOME to the new Rotary Club of Eastbourne News with information about the club and its activities. The aim is to provide information to members about the activities and events of the club in the immediate past and in the future. Thanks to all contributors to this the first "new issue". Much has happened over the past couple of months which clearly demonstrates the efforts of our club and shows that we are a club well worth joining.

The first issue of any new publication is a difficult one as obviously contributors need to see what they are contributing to. I would now appeal to all members with information about our club and its activities to email the words to me at nngallery@sky.co.uk within the next six weeks and well before the next issue (September/October). The old style newsletter actually did a splendid job if members bothered to open the email so hopefully by making hard copies available, the news will get through to everyone.

Lots of activities and events to look forward to during the next couple of months from our hardworking committee chairs so please give them the support they need.

On a lighthearted note, we are introducing a caption competition with the first one based on the Braemar gathering, (see the back page) so please have a go!

Nigel J Greaves.

Chairman PR, Membership and Marketing.



President's Log...

We have lift off! Whoosh! Well, that's what it feels like after two months of taking office as President of your Rotary Club. Two very busy months have gone already. If e-mails are a measure of activity, then I have not been this busy since before my retirement ten years ago! Maybe it'll ease off a bit later when we get 'airborne'?

Distinguished record

It's a privilege and an honour to be President of the Rotary Club of Eastbourne, a great and historic club, 88 years young and with a distinguished record of service to the community and beyond. I shall try to ensure that I lead it effectively and leave it in as strong and healthy a condition when my year ends, as when I inherited it from my very able predecessor.

Handover (for me, Takeover) on the 28 June now seems a long time ago. It has been a challenging start with the need to find a new Secretary and Treasurer and, initially, to sort the responsibilities associated with Eastbourne Rotary Benevolent Fund Trustees and the Directors for Eastbourne Rotary Limited, both of which the Club voted to keep and subsequently endorsed the changes.

Talented ladies

Like any organization, a capable and willing team is essential for success. I have therefore appointed a blend of experienced members to give continuity in some leadership roles, also several newer members, including our talented ladies, who are given responsible tasks which will develop them as individual Rotarians and benefit the Club as a whole. As often said, the Club is only as good as its members.

Learning Experience

My election as President seemed to arrive quite suddenly, preceded as it had been by the customary two years of induction. As Vice-President it was a fairly quiet year of ad hoc support; more a learning experience, through Council membership and gradual exposure to wider issues of Club, District and Rotary matters in general. Then, as President Elect, came Club Service responsibilities across the dozen or so activities which it comprises, mainly concerned with Club promotion, membership development and fellowship.

Speakers

We've enjoyed some interesting speakers, thanks to the efforts of VP Nicola. Eric Huke gave a fascinating talk on "The Mary Rose", Julie Gilbert-King told us about ESFRS and PP George Collier clearly explained Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

I had the pleasure of representing us at Past Rotarians, enjoying a very pleasant lunch and witnessing the induction of President Brad Johnson (and Vice President, John McDonald, a PP of our Club). Business and Council meetings went as usual.

This month, sadly, we lost John Wallis; many attended his thanksgiving service and reception. John was a quiet, gentle Rotarian who will be missed by us all.

I then had a swift exit from the Club Golf competition, IPP Peter reversing last year's score in an enjoyable match. The opposition will surely get tougher from hereon in.

The month came to a close with an excellent evening organized by the Social Committee - supper at the Buccaneer pub and a super show by the Rattonians.



President Ron with Julie Gilbert-King ESFRS

Mayor's visit

Alas, in August due to an oversight on dates, the Mayor was booked to visit us when I was away on holiday. I had the pleasure of meeting her previously; she was well received by PE Simon and gave an enjoyable talk on her role as first citizen. I'll catch up with her again later in my year.



President Elect Simon with the Mayor.

Sandy Boyce

Sandy Boyce-Sharpe, of the Friends of Hampden Park, gave us an interesting talk on the problems and challenges of upgrading the park. There is plenty of space for purple crocuses (Polio Plus) if we decide we would like to plant some there.

Pakistan flood relief collection

A highlight of the month was the street collection we organized in aid of the Pakistan Flood Relief on Saturday, 21 August at the Arndale Centre where we collected £1,400, a terrific result! We were supported by six members from Beachy Head Club and I was pleased to thank President John (Boyle) for his help. John has since responded by inviting us to join his club in the national Polio Plus crocus planting project which Community Committee are now in the midst of planning.

We also prompted the other local Rotary Clubs to collect at the main Tesco store. President Don (Perman) arranged for his Sovereign Harbour club to collect there, raising a further £470. Sovereign and AM clubs offered their services but extra resources at Arndale and Tesco were not required.



Challenges ahead

Well, here we are at the end of August already. I think my fledgling team has now reached cruising speed and is ready for the challenges and fun times that lie ahead, in what we are told to expect by our political masters, will be a difficult and testing year for society at large. I'm confident that the Rotary Club of Eastbourne will forge its way through the stormy times ahead and be all the stronger for it.



Brad Johnson, new president of the past Rotarians club of Eastbourne and district being congratulated on his election by President Ron when he visited their club in July.

Honour

I enjoyed a very good lunch with the Past Rotarians who are keen to strengthen their links with the club and I hope we will see many of them at our meetings and, perhaps, be able to organise a joint meeting with them sometime during the year.

Finally, but certainly not least, I would like to reiterate my thanks to Club for granting me the privilege of being your President, an honour that I shall cherish, and I will do my best to follow in the illustrious footsteps of those who have gone before. I would also like to thank Immediate Past President Bill for his stewardship of the last year, and I hope that I can hand over, in due course, a Club in as good heart as it was to me.

Talks

A roller coaster of a summer is coming to an end. It started with hope, that turned to despair, and finally, heroically, relief at Cardiff. It ended much as it started, more in hope than anticipation, then in rapid succession it gave us reason to believe – we could couldn't we?-to concern – surely we cannot lose now?– to sudden and glorious victory at the Oval. The Ashes have been won.

Meanwhile back in Eastbourne, Rotary life continues as normal. It has been a good month, with interesting talks from the world of Girl guiding and Scouting – we even learnt that upper body exercise would be of benefit in those moments that our thoughts dared to stray to areas best left alone! The next time anyone stretches or puts their hands up in club we will all know what they are thinking!

Towner

We have heard from Ray Dixon on Group study exchange, and latterly, from Sara Cooper on the New Towner. The subsequent debate clearly demonstrates that art, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. My sole claim to fame in the art world is coming 107th out of 108 in the annual school exams – it might have been worse, but one boy was absent! Sara, has very kindly agreed to accommodate a club tour of the New Towner.

President Ron Genty.



Alan Wenham, Chairman

Community and Vocational Committee

Innovations

The past year has seen a few innovations. We were pleased that the Club was able to accept our idea of a Donations Plan as a way of placing our giving on a more rational and transparent footing. The Club raffle was re-introduced to help with fund-raising and raised nearly £1300 in 11 months.

Stroke awareness

It was pleasing that the remit of the Stroke Awareness Day at the Arndale was extended to include organ donation and that this was successful. We are grateful to the Club for supporting our proposal to donate £2,000 to Age Concern Eastbourne in order to continue their Befriending service for vulnerable people.

Visit to St Dunstan's

Looking forward, we have arranged a Club teatime visit to the Towner on 6 October to take a look behind the scenes. We have also arranged a morning visit to St Dunstons on 24 November. Following the Club's endorsement of the principle, we will be looking at how we can give volunteer support to the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.



Graham Marsden, Chairman Youth committee

The committee are planning to:

- Continue discussions with Sussex Downs College regarding development of either, or both, Rotoract and Interact clubs for students. Progress has been slow as a result of concerns from the College about ownership of prospective clubs. Publicity material has been prepared and another meeting is being scheduled.
- Work with Bishop Bell School to facilitate two students to attend R.Y.L.A. weekend on 3rd October at the Medway Centre. Details are in hand with the school – support to transport students to and from the centre during that weekend would be much appreciated.
- Work with Causeway School in 2011 to enable their students to take part in Kids Out, as in previous years. Level of funding support has been reduced and the committee is seeking small scale sponsorship from any willing local organisations to offset cost to the club.
- Work with Eastbourne Music and Arts Festival with the intention of helping young people to participate as well as provide voluntary support for the event.



Joe Smedley, Chairman International committee

Amreli Project

This project was signed off in June by TRF. It provided water purification facilities, toilets and desks for pupils at three schools in the village of Chital in North West India. A total of 900 pupils benefit and the benefits are on-going. There remains a visit by P.P. Bill Tozer who will meet members of the Amreli Club and in particular those involved in the project, see the benefits of the project and subsequently give a report to our Club. An indication of the conditions previously endured by the children can be seen in the picture.

Youth in Action

This is a project being led by the Haenertsburg club of South Africa. It involves the selection of disadvantaged young people with potential to be given training to help them develop their potential and enable them to become leaders in their communities. Simon Seath, my deputy, visited the club, the school attended by the youths and the training facilities before the project was agreed during 2009/10. Phase one of the project was completed earlier this year and the 30 youths who were selected to undertake the training were issued with their certificates. The final three phases during which the youths further training to fit them for their future tasks will be held during this Rotary year and the first three months of 2011/12.

Zimbabwe Student

For the past two years the Club has been supporting a Zimbabwe student through her A level studies. The final contribution to the student's education has been made and the only outstanding issue is the result of her examinations.

Polio Plus

Clubs were encouraged to contribute \$1,000 per year for three years towards the R.I. polio eradication project. The Club donated \$1,000 in 2008/9 and \$2,100 in 2009/10. Although it could be argued that we have the \$3,000 target has already been met, it is aimed to donate a further **\$1,000** this year.

Shelter Boxes

We had aimed to make a further donation to ShelterBoxes to add to the £2,717 donated last year. However, it was decided to donate £1000 to aquaboxes and £400 to the special drinking straws.

Additional Project

District 1120 is one of the 100 districts involved in the R.I. pilot project (Future Vision). To be involved as a club, we in the International Committee will seek to identify a project that might be used to allow us to gain experience in the new procedures. In this respect P.P. Chris Smith, who travels frequently to Uganda, is seeking to identify a suitable project. However, it is unlikely that we will have sufficient funds to make much, if any, progress this next year.

Fundraising

An International dinner; is to be held at the Langham Hotel on the 11th October. Entertainment will be provided by some of the young musicians of the East Sussex Music Service. A fashion parade by La Boutique has been agreed. The cost to attendees will be £20. It will be a black tie event.

Raffle

International is taking responsibility for organising the Christmas and Easter Tombolas at the Arndale Centre; the Christmas event is already booked. This is being led by Simon Seath. A raffle will be held during the Club Christmas evening meeting and the International dinner.

An application has been made to District for a grant of \$1,000 towards the Youth in Action project.





Christine Haniver, Chairman Carol Concert

Firming up arrangements

The Carol Concert is now well on the way and we have all the Acts in place. I have been waiting for the schools to return and will now begin firming up arrangements with the schools including ensuring we have the correct amount of chaperones for each school.

I am waiting to hear the costs for the producing of the programmes and I am meeting with Stella Blond shortly to arrange the actual programme.

Sponsors are, as anticipated, difficult to come by although we have so far received more sponsor money than last year. I am now going to send reminder letters out and if anyone is able to suggest firms who we could approach please let me know.

Publicity

We need to ensure the publicity is foremost this year and Bill Tozer has very kindly produced a poster for me that I have altered a little and I will use as posters and leaflets. I will be asking for help with the leaflet distribution before the concert and I will also be asking for volunteers for the day later on.

Information

If anyone has any information about previous concerts which they feel would be helpful please let me know as this is my first year and the previous Chairman is of course not available to answer any questions.

RCE NEWS

Caption competition No 1 The Braemar Gathering

What is RTN Bob Hamblyn saying to the photographer?

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Send your entry to nggallery@sky.com the winner will be announced in the next issue.



David (Lord) Lambird with fellows just to prove attendance, with a wee dram of Glenfiddich and... a banner, of course! Is that a new Rotary hat being worn by RTN Peter Nash?