



The Banbury Bulletin **SERVICE Above Self**

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September 2007

The President Pontificates.....



The past couple of months have been relatively quiet given the holiday season, but July saw a great evening when the club supported the Young Zulu Warriors event at St Mary's church.



This was an extremely successful evening both in terms of the quality of the event itself, and the financial outcome which raised nearly £7,500 for God's Golden Acre – a big thank you to Alan Wolstencroft and all the other club members which made this such a huge success.

In August we again enjoyed our now annual Clay Pigeon Shooting evening – a great time was had by all and our thanks go to Malcolm Douglas for organising this again!

August also saw the induction of a new member (although not a new face to service in Banbury),

when we welcomed John Donaldson into the club – please join me in taking every opportunity to make John feel at home.

We also have a couple of other new members in the pipeline. Could I take the opportunity to remind you that it is everyone in the clubs responsibility to make new members welcome and involve them in the club's activities, so that they have fun, forge new friendships, and so are better able to serve.

So far this year the District Governor has written Welcome to Rotary letters to 12 new members, one of whom is just 23 years old! This would normally be a good start but, if we are to achieve a 10% net increase in membership this year, it should really be twice as many.

It is the responsibility of all of us, not just Malcolm's committee, to introduce new members in order to ensure that the club stays strong - this is particularly important with this year's target for RIBI of 10% growth in terms of members – if this is not achieved we stand to lose RIBI altogether and become an administrative division of France!

Plans are well underway for a radically different approach to the Meet the Scholars event this year. The District Committee Chairmen are working on a Project and Recruitment Fair showcasing much of Rotary's work and, in particular, projects that have been undertaken by the clubs in 1090.

This will take place at the Oxford Community School during October. The exact date has still to be agreed but the target audience will include

schools as Interact is firmly on the agenda. The date, time and more information will follow shortly.

Looking forward, Friday 14th September will see a visit to the club from District Governor Tony Bacon – I would like to see a full meeting to give him a traditional Banbury welcome.



Also coming up in the near future is our club visit to the BYHP (Supporting Young People in Housing Need) on Thursday 13th September at 12.30pm – this is a charity literally on our doorstep so it would be good to see a healthy turnout for this visit!

Just to remind you of a few other dates for your diaries as follows:

November 3rd - Paul Harris Annual Peace Conference, Bradford

November 16th - Foundation Seminar, Kenilworth

November 17th -18th - Zone Institute, Kenilworth

November 29th - District Council Meeting, Madejski Theatre, Reading University

December 9th - District Carol Service, St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

Finally, Maurice Humphris has asked me to remind you all that the fifth Friday meeting (with wives and partners) in November is, in fact, on **Thursday 29th November** as all venues were fully booked for the Friday.

President Martin

Speaker Report - Friday 13th July



George Hedges spoke on ROSY - Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters.

Moving stories of families with terminally or life long ill children struggling to care for them without help.

ROSY now gives them respite through dedicated nurses and equipment, giving them a few hours each week to spend with other members of their family, having a full nights sleep or just going shopping, something most of us take for granted.

He spoke of the many fund and profile raising activities which take place - from sponsorship for events (e.g. firework display, a Charity Ball, cooking up breakfast), a regular market stall to the Michael Lynagh Classic Golf tournament in September in which our Rotary Club has agreed to enter a team.

One event for the siblings of those families who nurse very sick children was a "Party in the Park". This was to acknowledge the support they give to their parents and sick brothers and sisters.

The charity is now in its fifth year and has made tremendous strides in the help it can give but the demand for its services still outstrip the resources available.

Helen Braisby.



Ryla Induction Day - Saturday 7th July 2007

Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall

After collecting Banbury candidate Kerry at 08.30 am and a gentle drive down to Crowmarsh Gifford, we were soon thrown into a melee of Rotarians, Rotoractors, 27 Candidates and three cooks on the most perfect day of what we loosely call summer.

The day began with introductions by the district RYLA officer, followed by the outgoing District Governor and National Rotoract secretary extolling the virtues of our organisation.

Then a brief motivating talk about involvement followed by the core of the day, an explanation of the course, its contents, its atmosphere, expectations, risks and rewards. It was stressed that the week would be wet, dark at times and personally challenging.

Interspersed with this was a series of problem solving exercises within groups requiring both mental and physical prowess. Written details/work undertaken by the groups was retained, to be developed whilst participating on the residential course.

Lunch was provided and scored the highest points on everyone's chuff-chart! A superb buffet with puddings to die for.

We returned to Banbury by about 5.00pm, Kerry was much more talkative on the way back, enthused by the prospect of the course. But what a busy person she is. Immediately she got home she had a dissertation to start and complete, the following day she was off to St. Albans to begin a two week secondment at a teacher training spot in a London based school. Kelly returns late on the Saturday then has only a few hours to prepare for her week in North Wales.

She seems to be a very worthy candidate, like the other 26 who showed that there is still talent, consideration, understanding, enthusiasm and responsibility among the young people in our society.

For me it was like a Rotary meeting at District level combined with the start of a Raleigh International selection process. Missing the Wimbledon final was no loss, if the footy season was in full flow, well, we'll never know!!

Roy Watkins

In case you had forgotten.....

Conference 2008

4th - 6th April 2008

Friday -

Golf at Meyrick Park

Shopping or relaxation with friends in the morning.

House of Friendship opens at 1.00 p.m.

Inner Wheel session starts at 2.00 p.m.

Conference starts at 3.30p.m.

Saturday -

House of Friendship

Varied Rotary Business and Interesting Speakers

Foundation Rally

Relaxation and Fellowship activities

Birthday Dinner Dance (Black Tie) with Tod Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra

Rotary ranked among top five NGOs for corporate partnerships

Rotary International News - **11 July 2007**

The *Financial Times* has ranked Rotary International one of the **top five** nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for corporate partnerships. In the newspaper's special supplement, *Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy*, Rotary came in fifth in the global rankings of 34 finalists.

Published in conjunction with the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit held 5-6 July in Geneva, the supplement reached some 1.4 million senior business executives, industry and government leaders, and private/institutional investors across 140 countries.

The summit, which was chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, featured an international roster of business leaders, government ministers, and heads of civil society and focused on such key challenges to building future markets as human rights and climate change. RI Director Bernard Rosen of Belgium represented RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson at the event.

UN Global Compact and Dalberg Global Development Advisors, who developed the report in preparation for the summit, surveyed 20,000 companies worldwide, identifying 550 NGOs, UN agencies, foundations, and other organisations with which companies had partnered, and profiled 85 of those based on company ratings.

Organisations that ranked higher than RI showcased long-standing partnerships with corporations. Because RI's global partnerships include only UN agencies and other non-profit organisations - and only Rotary clubs and districts have partnered with corporations to date – the organisation's ranking should be considered exemplary. RI has a long and distinguished history of collaborating with other organisations in the name of humanitarian service.

The Duchess of Cornwall becomes ShelterBox President



The Duchess of Cornwall is to become President of ShelterBox, the Cornwall-based disaster relief charity set up by the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard.

The announcement of a Royal Patron – thought to be a first for a Rotary project in the UK – follows an official visit in July, when The Duchess toured ShelterBox's premises in Helston and met many of the volunteers who make the charity's work possible.

Since beginning work in 2001, ShelterBox has rapidly developed into a highly effective humanitarian aid agency that has raised £15 million and sent emergency help to 33 countries. It is also believed to now be the biggest club project in the history of Rotary.

On 8th August, the charity reached a major milestone when a consignment of aid sent to help victims of monsoon floods in Nepal brought the total number of people assisted by the charity to an estimated 500,000.

ShelterBox founder and chief executive Tom Henderson said: *"We are absolutely delighted and extremely honoured that Her Royal Highness has agreed to become the President of ShelterBox.*

"Now, in 2007, we're responding at an ever-increasing level to emergencies around the world. So far this year, we've sent aid to help victims of disasters in Kenya, Bolivia, The Solomons, Pakistan, Swaziland and Nepal."

During 2006-2007, RIBI clubs contributed 30% of ShelterBox's funds, with 45% coming as direct public donations. ShelterBox also gets fundraising support from international affiliates set up by Rotary clubs in the USA, Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, Denmark and Norway. These affiliates now raise around 25% of the charity's funds – although all aid operations take place via ShelterBox's headquarters in Helston.

Mr Henderson said: *"RIBI clubs played a crucial role in getting ShelterBox started and have always given us tremendous support. Worldwide, Rotary also plays a major part in both raising the funds to make our work possible and in providing logistical support on the ground in many countries.*

As a charity with a growing international reputation, we're extremely proud of what has been achieved and the fact that The Duchess of Cornwall has now recognised the value of our work to the extent that she has agreed to become President of ShelterBox is a superb accolade.

Dragon Boat Racing on the Horizon

When an annual event becomes a success, it is sometimes hard to recollect the uncertainties involved when it was originally envisaged. Indeed, many participants will probably not even be aware of the doubts felt by the instigating organisers. However, we wouldn't do anything in life if we didn't accept risks. I would suggest that the main questions in assessing whether to accept them in these circumstances are:

- (a) Is the event worthwhile? That is, are the objectives sufficiently attractive to warrant taking the risk that it might not go completely to plan;
- (b) Are there measures that can be implemented at reasonable cost and/or effort to provide the conditions to ensure the greatest chance of success and to mitigate the downside?; and
- (c) Is there the commitment to proceed?

Dealing with these in the same order:

- (a) The Dragon Boat Racing proposal is designed to be a community and fund raising event, both worthwhile objectives and has the potential to become a major annual occasion in the local calendar;
- (b) The most catastrophic situation would be a complete cancellation. I am looking into the cost of obtaining insurance cover for this. Other than that, the risks are diminished by the characteristics of the proposal.
 - i. An ideal location in the grounds of Broughton Castle;
 - ii. An event to capture the imagination of young and old, families and businesses alike;
 - iii. Great entertainment with prizes for winning but also, for example, for the most outrageously attired teams;
 - iv. The prospect of laying on other entertainment (beer tent, pig roast, ice cream vending, a bouncy castle etc);
 - v. The use of a marquee and wc facilities at no cost;
 - vi. The possibility of obtaining individual and corporate sponsorship;

- vii. An event that can replace the void left by the loss of the Carnival; and
- viii. The experience and facilities of Gable Events who run similar days for other Rotary Clubs around the country. They provide the dragon boats with a helmsman in each, a manned safety boat, they organise the racing and procure insurance for the boating aspect of the occasion.

- (c) It is proposed that a small sub-committee should be formed within the Club who will commit the necessary time and energy and who will endeavour to use their contacts to promote this proposal to give it the best chance of success. However, they cannot do it without the general support and involvement of the Club.

Conclusion – to my mind, it is a simple matter of risk versus reward. The reward is there, certainly one worth aiming for, and, in my opinion, the risks can be brought down to an acceptable level. Therefore, the final and most important question is, is the Club membership prepared to actively support this exciting venture?

Andrew Fairbairn



Herzlich willkommen

Rotary Club Olten

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Just a reminder to you to keep free the 1st to 4th of May next for the contact weekend which is in Olten, which this year will have an extra three days tagged on if you wish to celebrate President Martin's significant birthday!

More details will be forthcoming from John Hansford in the near future – watch this space!

Please note the new e-mail address for Rtn. Croft as follows – bwcroft2@googlemail.com

Speaker Report Friday 20th July – Neill Brodey – Managing Director Norbar Torque Tools Limited



Engineering comes from the Latin word “ingeniare” – to contrive. Neill is a mechanical engineer, and the son of a former Banbury Rotarian, Ian Brodey (engineer), who was the son of a Banbury Rotarian, Bill Brodey (engineer).

He is a passionate advocate of the engineering profession and came to talk to us about the severe shortage of engineers in the country, and the decreasing number of A level students wishing to go on to take an engineering degree.

Potential engineering students need to have an aptitude for, and good grounding in mathematics and physics (or chemistry in the case of chemical engineers), but at the present time these subjects are not popular and there is a shortage of teachers.

The engineering profession is not pushed in secondary schools, and very few students have a good idea of what engineering entails.

Neill believes that it is important to enthuse them for engineering long before they reach AS level, so that their study subjects can be pointed in the right direction.

As Neill said, “Engineering design is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.”

He went on to give the example of the electric light bulb which was invented by Thomas Edison, and involved passing an electric current through a carbon fibre. The light however, only lasted for a few seconds before it burnt out; it was turned into a practical proposition by a man called Swann who spent years developing a bulb that would last for many hours.

Neill has already given talks to schools in the Banbury area and is involved in an Industrial Trust Scheme to bring the subject to young people. He believes that his father Ian would have been delighted that his bequest to Rotary was being used to assist scholars going on to take an engineering degree, and fully supports our efforts.

John Brodey

And finally a little light relief, which I am allowed to tell being married to a blond, and having once been many many years ago a blond myself, back in the days of having hair!!

A blind man wanders into an all girls biker bar by mistake. He finds his way to a bar stool and orders some coffee. After sitting there for a while, he yells to the waiter, "Hey, you wanna hear a blonde joke?" The bar immediately falls absolutely silent. In a very deep, husky voice, the woman next to him says, "Before you tell that joke, sir, I think it is only fair -- given that you are blind -- that you should know five things:

1. The bartender is a blonde girl with a baseball bat.
2. The bouncer is a blonde girl.
3. I'm a 6 foot tall, 175 lb. blonde woman with a black belt in karate.
4. The woman sitting next to me is blonde and a professional weightlifter.
5. The lady to your right is blonde and a professional wrestler.

Now, think about it seriously, Mister. Do you still wanna tell that joke?"

The blind man thinks for a second, shakes his head, and mutters, "No, not if I'm gonna have to explain it five times."