



The Banbury Bulletin

The Rotary Club of Banbury

District 1090 R.I.B.I. Club No. 415

President Ian Rodrick

February 2013



Rodrick's

Ramblings

As I write this I can see the green grass for the first time in a week or two. What chaos the weather has caused! We should have held the heats of young Musician last weekend but had to postpone as Sibford School was closed because of the snow. This has resulted in hours of phone calls to competitors and making new arrangements with the adjudicators. Thank you to Gareth and Shirley for shouldering all the extra work. This means that the heats and finals will be held on the same day – Saturday 23rd February. It will be a long day and extra help will be required to rescue this prestigious event – all hands to the pumps!

I attended the Rotaract Charter dinner last Friday, and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. They are certainly an active bunch and deserve our support but could do with a few more members

On the subject of membership we should not forget our Club. We have not inducted any members at all this year and I am not aware of any in the pipeline. We won't get any if we don't ask people and we can't leave it all to the membership committee. If you can think of anyone who might be suitable, ask them along to one of our lunches. If you don't ask you won't get!

I must finish on a sad note to finish. There have been two funerals this month – Pauline Swain and Ron Gorton. Ron was president of our Club in 1988/89. They will both be missed by their families and friends and our thoughts and prayers go to Charles Swain and to Raye Gorton.

"President's lunch" at Tudor Hall School on Sunday 24th March.

The President has decided to have a lunch this year instead of an evening function in the hope that our more senior members, who might be reluctant to go out in the evening, will attend. He hopes to keep the cost as reasonable as possible and that we can organise transport for anyone who does not want to drive and that this will encourage a good attendance, Please put the date in your diary"

Ian

Committee Reports.

Community and Vocational.

It was agreed that we send £3500.00 to Katherine House Hospice from the Christmas Street Organ collection.

Foundation.

Martin and the Club are hosting an Ambassadorial Scholar, Julie Self from Canada.

The annual Frugal Lunch is to be held on Paul Harris Day 22nd. February.

It was agreed that we send \$100 per member to Rotary Foundation.

Sports & Entertainment.-

The Club quiz to be held on 11 March 2013 at the Cricket Club.

District Conference. Hotel is booked, 1st.- 3rd. March.

The Spring Golf competition is to be held on 22nd April at the Feldon Valley Course.

The Bigwood Trophy will be on 27th August.

The Club Outing to be on Tuesday 9 April 2013 visiting Birmingham, "Back to Backs Museum and Cadbury World.

International:-

This year's Contact Meeting is with Olten Switzerland on May 9-12th with the option of staying on for a further three days at the Hotel Kusnacht on Lake Zurich, a hotel at which we had stayed at previously. John Hansford is currently arranging this and the flight. Contact John for details.

The Banbury Show "It's a Knockout" Competition will be run again this year, it is hoped to have 24 teams taking part.

Youth Opportunities.

The Young Musician competition will be held again at Sibford School, the heats now being held on the same day as the final on 23 February 2013

Young Chef has been successfully organised again at Oxford College, Banbury. The winner Megan Coy will go forward to the District final.

Two candidates have been found for R.Y.L.A. and will go forward as possible representatives of our Club.

Mock interviews are being organised for both B.G.N. School and Banbury Young Homelessness Project.

Rotaract, Interact.

Rotarians Ian Anthistle and John Bennett have continued with the new Interact club at B.G.N. and have successfully held their meetings and have now been supplied with "Hoodies" with the Interact Logo and their school name. They are very enthusiastic and planning a full programme of activities.

The Rotaract Club is now also up and running and is becoming involved in their own projects and showing interest in assisting at some Rotary projects. Their charter night has now been held at the Whately Hall Hotel .



The new Interact Club at Blessed George Napier school soon to be chartered. They pose in their new HOODIES with Rotarian Ian Anthistle who has been instrumental in the organisation.

Classification & Membership.

Bob Thompson (Chairman) - Over the past 6 months or so there has been some debate, both within the membership Committee and indeed Council, over exactly what are the do's and don'ts with regard to introducing potential new members to the Club. John Hansford has very kindly been looking into this and checked the relevant By-Laws of RIBI, which he has summarised and are noted below, headed 'The Election of New Members'. However, before you read this, I think it wise to run through some of the problems other Clubs are experiencing and how they are attempting to generate new members. Possibly 10-15 years ago RIBI were very keen to promote Rotary Clubs to go forth and multiply. We did so on the creation of The Cherwell Club. However, where some of these Clubs initially had membership numbers of 25-30, a lot have reduced due to lack of new members, with the result that many of the same Officers are having to remain in office year after year, which is wearing thin.

Membership drives have been generated by advertising, such as 'Would you like to join Rotary' or 'How to join Rotary'. In one case members have been awaiting the arrival of commuters from trains in their local station and approaching them to enquire if they have any interest in joining Rotary, or at least initially inviting them to attend as guests. Our Club is well respected within our District. We have held a membership total of around 73 for quite some time, albeit with Antony Scott-Andrews and now the sad loss of Roy Watkins, we are down to 71 from the start of our Rotary year.

It is interesting to note that of those members who have resigned from Clubs in our district many have been relatively new members generated via methods as noted above. Our Club however cannot be complacent as within our membership a considerable number are close to or over the age of 80, albeit most are still very active indeed as far as Club duties are concerned. So whilst we do not as yet have any membership problems sooner or later that might not

be the case if we do nothing. The Committee's view is that the quality of new members is far more important than the quantity. We wish to have a reasonable level of certainty that whoever proposes a prospective candidate is known to the proposer, who is able to confidently consider that the person, they are putting forward, will get involved with the Club, support events and carry out their respective duties, rather than just appearing at the lunchtime meetings. So this is to note the procedure as summarised by John Hansford, and I urge you to think about this as if or when you come into contact with a friend, colleague, or indeed relative, if you think that they might enjoy our Club, bring them initially to a meeting as your guest. If they wish to attend further meetings they should pay for the lunch themselves, initially it should be your responsibility. If they are interested in taking the matter further please be clear that it is not just a case of them stating that they wish to join our Club. There is an interview as noted below, where Rotary and its activities, and what is expected of all our members is explained to them, and so long as the Committee are happy with the outcome of the interview a proposal form is handed to Council. Subject to Council being satisfied our members are then informed of the candidates details, and subject to there being no objections, the candidate and proposer are invited to a meeting to induct the new member. Classification does not now pose much or any problem. The days of one Solicitor, one Bank Manager etc are over. Indeed it is no longer a Club of professionals, it extends to all walks of life.

So where I have noted that we want quality members this has nothing to do with their academic abilities, but far more to do with their willingness to get involved with the Club.

I have filed on my computer the relevant By-Laws to which John Hansford has referred, should you wish to see them please email me.

The procedure and requirements for the election of new members is defined in By-law 8 of the RIBI By-laws and Articles 7 and 8 of the Standard Club Constitution and By-laws.
By-law 8b defines that Membership is by invitation only.

Article 7 provides the general qualification for Membership and By-laws 8c provides information regarding the limitation of Membership.

By-law 8d identifies the procedure for the election to active Membership.

As part of this procedure our Club will take account of the following:-

- a) Prior to any proposal for Membership a Candidate will be brought to two or three Club meetings as a guest but not introduced as a prospective Member.
- b) A Candidate together with the Proposer will meet with the Information sub-committee to be fully informed about Rotary and the activities of our Club. At that meeting the Proposal form can be completed or taken away to allow consideration of Membership.
- c) It should be specifically pointed out to the Candidate that there is a procedure for the Club to follow and completion of the application form does not provide an automatic passage to Membership.

Upon receipt of the completed form a report should be submitted from the Information sub-committee to the Membership committee as By-law 8dii and the defined process then continues.

There are general provisions of Classification and limitations on the numbers of the same Classification defined in Article 8.

AN URGENT REMINDER OF THE E.MAIL

Malcolm Dibb. for your lunch apologies and Rotary business.

>malcolmrotary@btinternet.com

If the old Address is used it will not be noted!!!

Have you seen the BBC Dimbleby Lecture??

Bill Gates of Microsoft fame gave the lecture and featured the Polio Eradication campaign. He gave an excellent update of the progress and aims of the Polio campaign and for a change Rotary had a mention. At about 30 minutes into the talk he praised the part that Rotary had made in the success of the Polio Campaign. It is well worth watching the whole lecture which may now be viewed on the BBC I. Player.

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