

By George

newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2009



President Ian's Blog..

I was chatting to a family friend recently and I happened to mention something about the Rotary Club. He said, and I quote, "Whats that, is that not like the Masons or something?"

Clearly he thought Rotary was some kind of secret society of people who met behind closed doors in some sense. I explained to him who we are and the kind of things we are involved in - so there is at least one more person out there with a clearer understanding of Rotary! He lives in Aberdeen so there is no prospect of him joining the club. It did occur to me to wonder though how many other people might have a similar very vague and misguided understanding of what Rotary is all about. We cannot invest in the kind of publicity campaign that would communicate to all and sundry what Rotary does - that would cost a vast sum.

So how do we get the message out there? We try to get the local press for events etc that we do, which is important, but in reality a major part of letting people know is by us, individually, letting people know in the kind of conversation I had with the chap from Aberdeen.

So maybe it's worth introducing Rotary into conversations with people to see where that leads and to have a think about how we can promote the work of the club and the value of membership.

President Ian

The Craigendargity Trophy

The Craigendargity Trophy was donated by the president of one of the Rotary clubs in the north-east about 10 years ago to be competed for by Rotary Clubs in Dist. 1010 who sponsored a team of visually handicapped bowlers to play in a competition. The name seems to have come from a rock which is just offshore near Gardenstown.

The Rotary clubs take it in turn to host the competition and the clubs who have contact with a visually handicapped bowling club are: Aberdeen St.Nicholas, Dundee, Dunfermline, Inverurie, Kirkcaldy, Stonehaven, and ourselves. This year we were the organisers and the pre-planning (overseen by last year's Sports Convenor, Gail Mackay) involved finding a local club who, as well as allowing us the use of their green for a mid-week afternoon in August, would also be able to provide a snack lunch for the people who had travelled quite a distance. The Perth Bowling Club (next door to the Bell's Sports Centre) did us proud allowing us the use of the green at no charge and providing lovely home-made soup, filled rolls, biscuits and tea or coffee for only £2.50 a head !! Each "team" consisted

of four bowlers, one or two normally sighted helpers and one or two Rotarian drivers. This year there were six clubs competing. District runs the competition on the day. This year Arthur Duncan, R.C.Aloa, who is District Sports Officer, and he was assisted by Rob Burke, John Fyfe, Susan Scott and John Watson.



To see the blind bowlers playing is a marvellous, and humbling sight. Most of them have some vision (of sorts, but they are all registered visually impaired) but some are totally blind and they play using a length of string which runs the length of the green. The jack is thrown up and placed on the string so that when the bowler comes to play, he or she stands on the mat and then feels to find out in which direction the string is running so that they know in what direction to throw their bowl. One of the normally sighted helpers will then call to let the bowler know where the bowl has landed and does this by referring to a clock-face with the jack as the centre. For example, if the bowl finishes slightly short of the jack over to the left the helper will call out "Two feet, eight o'clock". This way they can correct for their next shot, and very often they do! The winners were the foursome who were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Inverurie.

When we were finished we went to the Royal George for high tea and were joined by two more District Officers, Samantha Miller and Michael Jamieson.

Rtn John Fyfe



SVP Paul and JVP Heather welcome DG Bill McFarlane Smith to the club on Aug 26

Weekly Duty Rota: 23 September to 04 November - 12.30 pm unless otherwise stated

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Door Duty 1:</u>	<u>Door Duty 2:</u>	<u>Bottle Duty:</u>	<u>Speakers Host & VOT:</u>
September 23	Louis Flood	Ian Mutch	Mark Cairns	Bruce Thomson
September 30	John Fox	Gail MacKay	Stuart Cameron	John Watson
October 7	Enrico Frattaroli	Susan Scott	tba	Neil Townend
October 14	Michael Jamieson	Bill Smith	Alison Crook	BUSINESS MEETING
October 21	John Fyfe	Bruce Thomson	David Cuthbert	Jim Urquhart
October 28	John Galbraith	Alexander Stewart	Albert Donaldson	Maureen Young
November 4	Graham Harding	Heather Stewart	tba	Michael Archibald

Summary of the Meeting of Council held on 7th September 2009

Matters arising:

Chernobyl: Meeting with the local organisers to review our involvement and the best way forward. Council felt it important we maintain contact and retain a good relationship.

Perth 800: Nothing to report but Council felt we should firm up details of our involvement for the "Perth Day" on July 2nd 2010 and therefore press ahead with our planning.

Black Watch Honorary Membership: Secretary David to issue notification letter to all members.

The resignation of Graham Fleming from the club at the end of June was confirmed and noted with regret.

Presidents Items (Ian Marr):

Secretary David has indicated he is taking on the role as Treasurer of Perth High Constables. Consequently he will be unable to attend four Council Meetings per year if the meeting time remains at 6pm. After full discussion, it was decided to retain the new 6pm start time. It was agreed that a minute secretary should be appointed to cover those meetings David is unable to attend. Ian Mutch indicated he was prepared to support David in the role.

Following the Prince's Trust presentation to the club on 02 September it was agreed to donate £100 to the local organisation.

There was a full discussion on the clubs focus and activities. It was agreed that we need to revitalise existing projects, establish new projects (both service and social) and encourage more member's involvement. Agreed to undertake a review.

Secretary's Report (Ian Mutch on behalf of David Grant):

Thanks for Life newsletter given to JVP Heather Stewart to manage our response to Rotary Day on 24/02/10. President Ian to speak with other 2 Perth clubs re their response to Polio Plus Campaign and see if a joint approach to the Perthshire Advertiser to get some positive promotion of Rotary's involvement in the Polio Plus Campaign

Letter of thanks from Ian Agnew for Secretary David's letter noted.

Letter of thanks received from Perth & Kinross Physiotherapy Service at Perth Royal Infirmary, for our donation to the Stroke Unit for the purchase of a patient hoist.

Details of this year's Rotary Christmas cards passed to SVP Paul to action as appropriate.

Circular re Rotary ID Cards was considered and no further action agreed.

Treasurers Report (Rob Burke):

Trust Fund return for last year has been sent to OSCR

President Ian requested by Treasurer Rob to write to the District Treasurer Jim Aitken to confirm that the accounts for last year have been prepared and examined.

Treasurer Rob requested Secretary David give due notice for an SGM to present the accounts to the club. Date to agreed.

Charity Account: Paid £170.00 for 200 Rotary Shoeboxes, £144.00 to Plan International. Perth Show invoice still outstanding but expected shortly. Balance £8290.16. Club

Account: One subscription outstanding. BBQ surplus is about £80.00. RIBI & District dues have been paid. Balance £6123.36, which includes £2023 in the Hospitality Reserve.

Service Committee (JVP Heather Stewart):

Shoeboxes ordered (200). Mark Cairns has this project in hand.

International Evening: May make this the Black Watch Honorary Membership award evening.

Club Administration (SVP Paul Kyle):

Paul reported on the very interesting Rotary New Members Seminar held in Stirling on 05/09/09 and its relevance to us as a club. This was very much a Challenge Approach to the club and membership, which the club should adopt. Agreed that President Ian & SVP Paul will present the Keep It / Bin It / Ideas principle to the club on 21/10/09 to obtain all club members

views on the way forward to the club. Agreed also to promote via By George. Council recognised the need reinvigorate the activities of the club, both service and social.

JVP Heather felt it very important we recruit new members as the same stalwarts are doing all the jobs.

Sports: Gavel in hand (John Galbraith. Curling games dates about to be issued to those members wishing to participate (Ian Mutch). Presidents Putter cancelled due to heavy rain.

Aschaffenburg: Nothing further to report since last Council meeting. SVP Paul has this in hand.

Hosting board for 2009/2010 will be put out shortly.

Still looking for someone to undertake PR for the club. SVP Paul has a couple of people still to approach.

Attendance & House (John Watson): 1st Quarter 2009/2010 attendance was 57%, but if the 85 rule members are removed attendance is 60%.

Ways and Means (Michael Jamieson):

Sportsman Dinner 19/02/10: Arrangements well in hand.

AOCB:

The club held a most successful BBQ on Sunday 30th August. It was agreed to consider a new venue and possible different timing for this popular club social event.

Maureen Young raised the issue re a possible visit to the 3 clubs Kyankerni project. Council confirmed its interest in such a visit. Maureen to look at the logistics of a visit in late 2010 and report back to Council.

Date of next meeting Monday 5th October at 6.00 pm.

It's going to be a BBQ Summer!!

2009 will go down as the barbecue summer that wasn't. But did we let that get us down? No, of course not and the annual club BBQ went ahead as planned, albeit inside with the heating on. The first challenge was getting the barbecue lit, as ever Stuart Cameron came to the rescue, surprisingly with a screwdriver rather than a match. Our three chefs were magnificent. Next delight was the many salads and puddings, not least Jeanette's clouty dumpling & pavlova. A drink, a burger and a salad along with some excellent company and it was all over for another year.



Rtn Alison Crook

....and finally. Old Age Memories:

"I can usually remember Monday through Thursday. If you can remember Friday, Saturday and Sunday, let's put our two heads together". Seen by Roger Ward when he was in Florida or so he says!!

Sent in by Rtn Roger from somewhere in Ontario, Canada

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary:

30 September	SGM Club
5 October	Club Council Meeting @ 1800
14 October	Club Business Meeting

Please send news items and contributions for the October Issue to Ian Mutch or bygeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 18 October 2009

Visit www.perthsjrotary.org.uk for full duty and diary details / Rotary Club of Perth St Johns Charitable Trust Fund, No: SC024989