

By George

newsletter

JANUARY 2010

President Ian's Blog



I have been hugely encouraged by the atmosphere around the club in these last couple of months as we look at the life and nature of our club and our future. We have had a number of people volunteer to take on new roles and

we have two people who have indicated that they want to join the club. All this demonstrates that although we are down a bit on numbers in terms of membership there is a really good spirit about the place.

In the second half of January we will be finalising our action plan moving forward with some significant developments in the way we do things and in the things that we do. We will be looking at new Social Activities and some new Service projects and maybe at the way we do our weekly lunch time meetings. All of this demonstrates that we are an active and committed club which people enjoy being a part of. Over the next 12 to 18 months I am confident that we will see even more new members join us and by working together we can further improve the life of a very positive and happy club.

I am now at the half way point of my year as President, and it has been a really exciting journey, so I look forward to serving the club over the next 6 months.

**God bless,
President Ian**

Request For Speakers

I believe that at the beginning of the year Paul asked the membership if everyone could nominate a speaker for the coming year. This would be extremely helpful to me and I'm sure that our collective networks stretch far and wide. John Fyfe has kicked this off with one nomination and I would be grateful to hear any more suggestions: just a name, possible subject area and tel/email and I'll do the rest. Many thanks

**Speakers Convenor
Jim Urquhart**

International disaster relief charity ShelterBox responds to Haiti earthquake

The club agreed at the its lunch meeting on 13 January to fund a Shelter Box in response to the Haiti crisis. Below is an email received by IPP Neil Townend from Angelina Lambourn, Press Officer of Shelter Box

A ShelterBox Response Team (SRT) is currently being mobilised with two SRT members from the USA and one from the UK leading the response.

A 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck the Caribbean island of Haiti at close to 2200 GMT on Tuesday, January 12. Initial reports state that hundreds of people are feared dead while thousands of people have been left homeless.

ShelterBox General Manager Lasse Petersen said: 'We're doing everything we can to ensure immediate aid reaches the people of Haiti. The process of getting our team on the ground is well under way.

'We were in Haiti eighteen months ago, delivering aid after a series of hurricanes left thousands homeless. We'll now be working closely with our contacts on the ground in the country to make sure we get aid to the people who need it most during the current crisis. Our thoughts go out to the people who have been affected by this disaster.'

Buildings destroyed! The earthquake, described as the worst to hit Haiti in centuries, was centred 10 miles to the south west of the islands capital, Port-au-Prince. The initial earthquake was followed by two aftershocks measuring 5.9 and 5.5 in magnitude.

Many buildings have been devastated including the HQ of the UN mission and the presidential palace. The USA have been quick to respond to the disaster.

President Barack Obama said in a statement: 'My thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by this earthquake. We are closely monitoring the situation and we stand ready to assist the people of Haiti.'

Note: On the BBC Breakfast programme this week a Shelter Box was featured as one of the key items being sent to Haiti.

Weekly Duty Rota: 20 January 2010 to 24 February 2010 - 12.30 pm unless otherwise stated
Members are asked to arrange a sub when they are unable to do their Weekly Duty. This includes members on Leave Of Absence.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Door Duty 1:</u>	<u>Door Duty 2:</u>	<u>Bottle Duty:</u>	<u>Speakers Host & VOT:</u>
January 20	Bill Smith	Roger Ward	Michael Jamieson	BUSINESS MEETING
January 27	Alexander Stewart	John Watson	Brian Kitching	Louis Flood
February 3	Heather Stewart	Maureen Young	Bert Macdonald	John Fox
February 10	Michael Archibald	Bruce Thomson	John MacIntyre	BUSINESS MEETING
February 17	George Beaton	Neil Townend	Sally McCartney	Enrico Frattaroli
February 24	Mike Buckley-Jones	James Urquhart	Gail Mackay	John Fyfe

Rotary Club of Perth St Johns

Draft Action Plan for 2010 & Beyond

Executive Summary

The Draft Action Plan is designed to bring new energy and vibrancy to a very good club which the members enjoy being part of. Our recent club wide discussion produced a wealth of important suggestions which we have incorporated in to this draft Action Plan. We believe that our club has a very positive and bright future if we pursue this draft Action Plan.

From the wealth of suggestions and the interplay of issues the priorities for our Club going forward are:

Priorities:

- Membership – growing the club by a minimum of ten members over the next 12 – 18 months.
- Fellowship – promoting working and laughing together which makes the club an attractive and positive place to be.
- Service Projects – finding meaningful projects to be involved in, particularly hands on projects.
- Internal relations – ensuring that the day to day running of the club serves the wider goals of the club.

Principles:

In all these areas we aim to

- Delegate responsibility widely across the club involving all members.
- Ensure that growing membership is clearly seen as the responsibility of all members
- Adapt our structures to meet the needs of a changing environment, particularly in the business world with increasing pressures on time there.
- We will implement changes at the earliest opportunity and certainly within the current Rotary year.
- This draft Action Plan is a dynamic document which will be subject to regular review by the whole club as we move forward.

Action Areas:

Membership:

- Growing the Club is the responsibility of the whole Club. To grow the membership by 10 in the next 12 – 18 months is our headline goal. The target membership of the club should be 45 – 50 members.
- All committees should identify one potential new member every month and committee conveners will actively report progress to Council every two months.
- In recruiting new members we should think particularly about people involved in business sectors under represented in the club.
- Positive management of our Public Relations will be important in promoting membership so this should be a priority in the work of the club.

Fellowship:

It is vital that we have a Fellowship Convener supported by a small committee.

- Maureen Young has already agreed to convene a Fellowship Committee with Gail Mackay and Jim Moyes. They are developing suggestions, including activities in conjunction with the other two clubs in Perth.
- Suggestions which came from the recent discussion at a Club lunch included:

- informal get togethers for a Pizza Night, Indian etc.
- vocational visits to local businesses and places of interest
- fellowship events which have a fundraising aspect
- theatre trips including partners
- hosting evenings continue to work well
- quiz nights, Burns Supper etc

Service Projects:

- We need more hands on project bringing members together for fellowship and action "Service above self".
- We need to balance the activity in service projects more evenly throughout the year.

- We should consider more joint service projects with the other two Rotary Clubs

- We need fresh exciting ideas for Service Projects. Some ideas that were suggested: District Young Musicians competition | Tool collection for sending to Africa | Book collection for sending to Africa | Work with other groups like Girl Guides | Continue some existing projects e.g. the Christmas parcel delivery | Use of empty shop units to promote Rotary and other local Charities.

Internal Relations:

- We should reduce the size of the Club Service committee by splitting it in two to form a Community Service Committee and a Youth Service Committee.

- We should have six standing committees:

1. Membership & Communications | 2. Fellowship | 3. Community Service | 4. Youth Service | 5. Ways and Means | 6. Foundation

- Other matters are dealt with by individuals as appropriate i.e. Sport, Speakers programme, Attendance and House, Public Relations

- Club membership should be re-assigned to these committees at the earliest opportunity, probably in March 2010.

- People should stay on their allocated committee for two years in the first instance with half retiring annually thereafter. This is to provide some consistency in understanding how a particular aspect of the clubs life functions.

- Council membership should comprise of Office Bearers of the club and the conveners of the six standing committees and all club members should be encouraged to attend Council at least once a year on a rota basis.

- We should dispense with the position of Junior Vice President

- At Council meeting all reports should be in writing in advance and taken as read at the meetings with time allowed for questions. This is to facilitate focus on the important issues of Membership, Fellowship and Service.

- Chairing of Council meeting should be rotated between office bearers and committee conveners.

- The club should only have two speakers per month with the other weeks devoted to allow the committees to meet over lunch; allow for open discussions with question and answer sessions and to allow for regular review of the new structures in the club. Reviews of the new structures to be every two months in the first instance

- Some of the committee focused lunch time meetings should take the form of a buffet subject to negotiation with the hotel.

- Subject to the regular reviews of these structures every two months that the club conduct a major review of the new structures in 18 months.

Timeline:

- Council approve the Draft Action Plan on 11th January 2010

- The Draft Action Plan goes to the Club on 20th January for discussion and feedback. The plan to be circulated in advance of the 20th.

- February Council to finalise the Draft Action Plan based on the discussions on 20th January.

- New structures and changes be implemented from March 2010.

To accommodate the Draft Plan the Minute of the 11/01/10 Council Meeting will be posted on the club notice board

Forthcoming Events for your Diary

20 January	1300 hrs Business Mtg Draft Plan Mtg
01 February	1800 hrs Council Meeting
10 February	1300 hrs Business Meeting
19 February	Sportsmans Dinner @ the Lovat Hotel
27 February	Thanks For Life Tesco Collection
01 March	1800 hrs Council Meeting
02 March	Primary Schools Quiz

Please send news items and contributions for the FEBRUARY issue to Ian Mutch or bygeorge@perthsjrotary.org.uk by 14 Feb 10

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