



Congleton Rotary Huddle Meeting – December 4th 2023

Minutes of Meeting

Apologies for absence received from: Stuart H, Eddie Roberts, Joanne, David, Gill, John R, Joan, John K

December birthdays: 13th – David, 15th Denis, 28th Tony

Presentation

- Brian presented Simon and the environmental team with a certificate of appreciation from Friends of the Park

Correspondence

- Astbury Music and Beer Festival thanked the club for its support in July.

Visits

Ian had been to Biddulph's recent social night

Welfare

- Doug reported on Eddie Roberts transfer to Deeside and reportedly feeling better
- Reg's wife, Sheila is improving and needs to walk more...
- Jean Crawford is now back at home with a live-in carer. Sandra is to visit her.
- Doug reported the passing of Andy Millard – known to many

Treasurer's report

- Bob had previously circulated his report with most receipts now in.
- The normal 'routine' of members making a donation to Foundation in lieu of circulating Christmas cards is continued this year. Bob is to remind everyone of the **charity account** bank details
- Party monies: Bob asked for money to be paid in advance by bank transfer to the **general account**. (In order to save collecting money on the night)

Food and Friendship

- Council asked Ian to produce a report on Mark Bailey's charitable activities at the Town Hall. Subsequently members agreed to pay over the £1,000 held on account. Proposed by Rachel, Seconded by Stew.

New member forum

- It was suggested and agreed that an informal new members night in a pub might encourage ideas and promote involvement of new members.
- Brian stressed the importance of the District Training day on January 27th, for all new members to learn more about Rotary in general.

Bonfire review

- Brian summarised the bonfire activity

- Accurate figures from CIC assisted in analysis of sales, with 74% being adult tickets – although this did not account for adult families with under 5's. Despite increased costs, and the day not falling exactly on 5th November a profit of over £20,000 was creditable.
- Proposed to set Saturday 2nd November as the date for the 2024 bonfire, with some adjustment to the layout for the stalls in the park.
- Agreed to purchase LED rechargeable lighting for the approach path
- Agreed to purchase 60 additional barriers
- Emphasis on the need to recruit assistance from other bodies.
- Agreed to donate £500 to Friends of the Park in appreciation of help with equipment/gazebos etc. Proposed by Stew, Seconded Eddie Rush.

Youth

- Eric was on holiday
- Sandra asked for volunteers – particularly female assistance to cover the women's changing area to take turns with Gill.
- Stew stressed the need for a full turn-out of Rotarians to cover all the manning needs of the event.
- Stew confirmed that the Rustic Rotarians would enter a team.
- Sandra reported that only one lane remained to be filled on Saturday

Congleton Christmas Lights

- Rotary had received a 'thank-you' letter from the council in recognition of the help in marshalling.
- An event review is to be held by the TC. Particular note was made of the crush along the Santa route and the positioning of the main stage.

Charter

- All enjoyed the event and particularly the quality of the venue and the food.
- One guest objected to the entertainer – much enjoyed by everyone else!
- Bob reported a small profit of £77 from the event
- Rod confirmed that the Sandhole Barn had been booked for next year.

Tree of Light

- Jo had proposed the mulching of the wooden shapes to use as a top dressing for the tree.
- All agreed that the event had been a success, but aspects including the length of the event needed consideration for next year.
- Jo had passed the proceeds to Bob. Too soon to evaluate the cost and any profit.

New Projects

- Rod described a ToL- like tree of remembrance idea to be sponsored with a Rotary plaque and planted at care homes, as a focal point for residents unable to get out and about.
- The second idea is in memory of Rotarian David Worth. In consultation with the family, it is an annual environmental challenge award involving all local schools and youth groups. Rotary (Simon) to propose an environmental theme for the launch in January and judging by December. Prizes of £500, £350 and £150 and a trophy to be retained for 12 months. Prize money to be used to develop the project.

Christmas Concert

- Rod reported sales of 170 tickets so far and circulated posters to promote the event

- 6.15 start for volunteers on the day – with a list of duties circulated.
- Rod asked all non-involved members to purchase tickets and support the event,

Facebook

- Rod had asked all members to report Facebook usage. 16 use Facebook; 5 do not and 9 members did not respond to his email.
- John G said the Facebook was a central plank in promoting Rotary in the community. He uses it extensively to keep local people informed. There is no risk in using Facebook and he encouraged members to sign up, and like and share any messages posted by the club. In this way, the club will expand its coverage and promote its activity. He stressed that the only risk in using Facebook stems from posting personal information and counselled against this!
- Facebook is now as important as the Congleton Chronicle in maintaining the profile of the club in the community

Next meeting:

- Stew pointed out venue changes as follows while the Golf Club is being refurbished
 - 8th January: Business: Egerton Arms
 - 22nd January: Social/Speaker: Old Saw Mills
 - 5th February: Business: Egerton Arms
 - 19th February: Astbury Golf Club: LOL Foundation, speaker.
- **Ian said that apologies for non-attendance at meetings must be received by the due date or that meals not taken would have to be charged. Bob emphasised that a loss was being incurred on the general account as a result of late cancellations.**

Raffle

- The raffle was won by the president...

Closing toasts

John Gauld

Minutes secretary

5th December 2023