

## **Rotary Congleton- Club Assembly 2020-21**

Monday 1 June 2020

### **President Elect – Stewart Price**

Firstly, I would like to thank Rod for all his efforts and hard work getting us through what has been a difficult year and I will be saying more when we handover in July.

This year's Club Assembly is on-line and, therefore, I am not going into too much detail on my thoughts for my president's year. Instead in these difficult times my report is very simple.

My primary aim will be to get the Club back to some form of normality as soon as possible and to resume our meetings and social occasions as much as we can at the earliest opportunity. In my opinion, fund raising should not be the priority and should only be considered after we have regenerated Fellowship. However, we do need to review our commitments for the next year as things are going to be very different in the months to come.

In the past, it has been mentioned on numerous occasions that Rotary needs to do things differently and, therefore, this is an ideal opportunity to see if we can change and bring our Club into the 21st century.

Early on in my Rotary life I concluded the need for change and this has now been re-emphasised by District in my recent online PEP's course.

The RI theme for my year is "Rotary Opens Opportunities" and I am going to interpolate this to mean that we have opportunities to help our Congleton community

However, I am going to introduce my own theme for my term of office as your Club President which is going to be:

#### ***"To Lead the Need for Change"***

##### **My Goals**

1. To try and change the image of Rotary within our club as we are not serving all the segments of society.
2. Doing things differently
3. Looking after the local community should be our priority.

4. Increasing membership and tapping into the spirit of volunteering that has become part of so many people's lives over these past few months

But the bottom line is:

***“Rotary in our Club is not all about raising funds; it's about Fellowship, looking after the Congleton community and having fun”***

I am proposing a new way of running the club - Lets KISS -Keep it Simple.

Now is not the time to go into detail so I will brief you on my thoughts as we progressively come out of lock down and eventually meet face to face.

My project is going to be ***“WrapUp”*** which is the collection of coats for distribution to charities. However, this needs to be a District led initiative as we need other Clubs in the area to get involved as well. At present District have decided to put this on hold due to the current situation, but I am going to persevere and hopefully have it all set up for next year. I will be giving the Club a presentation on this project at a later date.

Finally, I look forward to working with you all over the next year to make the Club bigger and more successful.

### **Treasurer's Report – David Worth**

Council has agreed that next Rotary year the subs are to be set at £30 per quarter and any shortfall in revenue is to be addressed by holding specific fundraising events for the General account.

Because of the uncertainty regarding the corona virus it is impossible to make forecasts nor plans for any future events.

### **Membership services – Kevin Thompson**

On behalf of our Club I would like to express my gratitude to Stew Price for his fantastic efforts together with his membership services team on a year packed full of wonderful events and fun activities. From barbeques to quizzes it has been a great year from the membership services team – Thank you.

My thanks also go to the membership services team who have kindly agreed to continue their roles this year.

As we enter our new Rotary year the phrase “Rotary Opens Opportunities” has never been so apt or more important. It is likely that we will connect remotely throughout the first part of the year and because of Rotary we have “an open opportunity” to connect with like-minded people. I am committed to ensuring

that your club remains as accessible and inclusive as possible even when we cannot meet in person. We will use Zoom to hold meetings and to also hold speaker evenings and possibly quiz nights.

Whilst our planned events are understandably “on hold”, once we come through the current situation your membership services team are committed to making the most from the rest of the Rotary year.

Communication - A key message this year from me is accessibility and inclusiveness – The membership services team are committed to helping every member regardless of whether they can attend meetings or not and regardless of their IT capabilities that they will be kept informed and made to feel a part of our Club. Perhaps the use of Zoom could be used for those who can't physically attend a meeting? We will continue to produce the newsletter – for those of you who would prefer a printed version posted to you, please let me know.

Finally, Membership Services are open to every member of our Club. If you would like to help please get in touch. Let us all keep talking, connecting and through Rotary open as many opportunities for us all to connect and stay connected as possible.

### **Community Report - Rod Goodier**

With current covid-19 situation is hard to predict just what the Club will be able to do during the coming Presidential year. Our Community Project Leader Alan Parton sadly resigned in February due to ill health having undertaken the position shortly after joining us from Warwick Rotary.

Objectives:

To continue developing the Rotary brand via local weekly newspapers, our website and our Facebook plus the Congleton Chat Facebook. The media outlets we have used during the past year have produced a lot of publicity for the Club including full pages in the local paper, but have done little to increase membership. I feel that RGBI should be using some of the money clubs donate to develop regular advertising in the national press and perhaps use local commercial radio to promote local clubs in specific areas.

If Covid-19 allows we will stage Last Night of the Proms in late September. In November we plan to hold our annual Bonfire and Firework Display for the people of Congleton.

We will help the annual Christmas Light Switch On, marshalling and crowd control.

We will stage our annual Christmas show at the Daneside theatre.

We hope to have a second Tree of Light subject to the L.A. granting permission.

We will actively support the current Town Mayor and the incoming Town Mayor who happens to be a member of our Rotary Club.

We maintain contact with our local MP Fiona Bruce and invite her to various events.

Towards the end of the year we will launch a number of Youth competitions with local schools.

Earlier in the year we joined the local Chamber of Commerce and will actively develop our status within the Chamber offering commercial membership to local business's.

We support numerous good causes within the community including the local Foodbanks which are very important at this point in time.

Budget for Tree of Light - £750:00

### **Foundation/International - Ian Robinson**

This year any plans, targets and where with all is very much in the air. I think it is generally accepted within the Club that charity begins locally. With this in mind I would hope that monies can be considered for any urgent disaster relief help - thus by giving to the Rotary Disaster Relief fund we at least honour some of our Every Rotarian Every Year commitments

I also hope that we are able to generate funds for End Polio Now as this wonderful cause must be seen through to its ultimate goal. To this end I recommend a specific fund raising event (when safe to do so) be organised specifically for this purpose as well as advertising this brilliant project and Rotary to the general public.

### **Youth – Eric Westwood**

Remit:-

- To support the local youth projects, schools, organisations, clubs and individuals.
- To promote the work of Rotary at all events and to encourage people to join the Rotary Family.

## Principal Projects:

- Young Chef Competition: We will organise these competitions with the High Schools.
- Young Artist Competition: Local competition aimed at all school children. (Already cancelled for 2020/21).
- Young Photographer Competition: Will be staged for High Schools, Primary Schools &

## Youth Organisations.

- Youth Speaks: Will be staged for the High Schools Given the current situation, the number of youth projects we undertake will be subject to agreement with both High Schools.

## Benefits to Rotary

Promoting events (before and after) via social media, Club newsletter, and the local press.

To promote communication with local schools, youth groups, associations and clubs to better understand their financial needs and support requirements and to establish how both parties can assist each other.

## Budget Proposals:

Young Chef competition	£500
Young Artist competition	£00
Young Photographer	£300
Youth Speaks	£300
Budget Total:	£1100

Some of the competition budgets will hopefully be paid for via local sponsorship. Forecasts are subject to change depending on whether or not youngsters progress to Regional / RGBI finals.

## Projects

### Bonfire and Firework Display in the Park – Brian Hogan

Bonfire Costs

Bonfire costs amounted to £12.5 in 2019. The costs are about £2 higher than last year although this included to some extent, costs that were increased for inflation, such as insurance, advertising and security

Expenses for 2019 have been higher due principally to the following factors: -  
 No discount from Star Fireworks, it has returned to its original price of £7500 due to the increased cost of fireworks, the previous discount was 10%, amounting to £825 extra.

Last year there was no charge from St John's Ambulance, this year it was £293  
 £160 increase in cost for additional security to stop individuals entering the firework firing zone from the woods

£350 for a permit from Cheshire East (not yet paid)

£168 for cost of additional barriers compared to 2018

The factors above have reduced income by about £2000

The area which caused the greatest detrimental negative effect on net income, was of course poor ticket sales, down on 2018 by £3600 and by £9000 on 2017.

Income and Expenditure 2017 - 2019

	2017	2018	2019
	£	£	£
Total ticket sales	22810	17399	13780
Rotary stalls	1303	1627	1786
Traders	935	800	925
Sponsors & Donations	1050	1150	1050
Total Income	26099	20976	17541
Expenses	11637 1	0680 1	2448
<b><i>Estimated net Income</i></b>	<b>14462</b>	<b>10296</b>	<b>5093</b>

## Historical Net profit

	Net profit in Previous years £	Date of event in November
2011	9163	5th
2012	8004	3rd
2013	3313	2nd
2014	5492	1st
2015	8180	7th
2016	15829	5th
2017	14461	4th
2018	10296	3rd
2019	5093	2nd

### Projection for 2020

The expense budget for 2020 is going to be in the order of £k12.5.

When looking at this coming year 2020, projected income is somewhat difficult to define for the following reasons: -

1. Historical net profit as shown in the table is very variable, but seems to suggest that the further away from the 5 th November the event date is held, the lower the attendance and hence ticket sales.
2. The weather undoubtedly is a major factor in terms of influencing the turnout of numbers of spectators, and hence sales of tickets.
3. The other interesting point to note is the fact that the Park Road Gate takes by far the most income, followed by the Roldane Gate, whilst the other two gates take very small amounts. The other surprising factor is that adult ticket sales exceed child sales by a factor of 4:1., via tickets sold through the T.I.C. Approximately 50% of sales emanate from this source. This data also suggests there is little point in offering a family ticket at reduced prices as typically the spectators are made up of adults.

4. Income from sponsors and Rotary stalls is expected to remain the same at about £k2.8.

### Planning 2020

This year, the event will undoubtedly be severely affected by the corona virus as the government has already stated that whilst the lock down will ease in the coming weeks, social distancing will be the key strategy to follow going forward, and this is likely to continue for the next 6 to 9 months until a vaccine is readily available. In such circumstances it is difficult to envisage how the Bonfire and Fireworks Display could possibly go ahead. At some point a decision will need to be made to cancel all the arrangements and bookings made so far for the event, this decision must be taken no later than the beginning of August and possibly earlier.

### Suppliers

On a positive note, the suppliers used in previous years have been contacted and confirmed for 2020 and include: -

Star Fireworks

Cheshire Marshalls

James Bedford Funfair

Rushey Farm

Paella Store

St John's Ambulance

James Gordon security

Chris Booth DJ

### Members' Involvement

It is now clear that both Ken Williams and John Lilley, because of ill health, will not in future be available to us to assist in setting up on the Friday and Saturday morning of the event and in the dismantling operation taking place on Saturday evening. Just as a reminder of the work required to successfully undertake the event, which requires members to assist in the following areas: -

- Act as members of the Bonfire Coordination Team
- Man the stand selling tickets in the Town Centre



- Assist in erecting and dismantling the stands and equipment required for the event on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 1st, 2nd and 3rd November
- Man the stalls on Saturday 2nd November and Man the gates
- Assist in the collection of takings

Last year members did an admirable job in helping with the various tasks to make the event a great success, but, our age profile is getting older and some members simply cannot be expected to undertake some of the heavy manual tasks.

If and when the next event takes place we will need to come up with a plan which provides manpower from other sources to assist in undertaking much of the manual work. Possible options are using the Young Farmers, suggested by IR, and engaging some of the local businesses to use some of their personnel based on some companies desire to make a social contribution to the community.

### **Lorraine Sloane**

#### LendwithCare

We shall continue with this project once the current crisis is over.

#### Dictionaries4Life.

As you are all aware these were ordered before this Virus arrived and we are aware that it is unlikely we would be allowed in the schools to present them to year 6 at the end of the school year. When the schools are opened in June, I will contact the Head and propose that we issue the books still sealed in the boxes as delivered to us. The staff will write the names in each book to hand out to their students. I have spoken to Marlfields already and they will gladly oblige as I am sure the other schools will too. We shall continue with this very beneficial project next year.

#### Swimathon

I have already spoken to Alex Chalis, manager of the Leisure Centre, and he is reserving the first weekend in February for the event. Hopefully, this will still be able to proceed. I would like to ask that all members help in this labour intensive event and not take holiday at that time.

#### Easter Eggs

We intend to hold this very successful fund raising event again next year. Unfortunately, this year has meant we have only recovered the cost of the Eggs.

When the Pubs, Hairdressers and Coffee Shops open I will be able to make contact and discuss the following idea; my intention is that they can scratch the football team name to see if anyone has won if they have raised the minimum of £15. If there is no winner, we can collect the eggs and Steve from New Life Church will gladly accept them to hand out