

Friends of Congleton Rotary

Preamble

This initiative is in the hope of attracting individuals who have an interest in Rotary but do not want to commit to a full membership at this time.

“Friends of Congleton Rotary” is a well-established informal mechanism that allows and encourages the active participation of non-Rotarian individuals in social events and activities organised by our club.

Our Objective

There are many people known to each of us who support the ideals of Rotary but who cannot make the commitment to join the club for a variety of reasons such as time constraints. Nevertheless, these friends often attend our fund-raising events and are generally willing to lend their support to service activities as and when they can.

“Friends of Congleton Rotary” is taken to mean an ad hoc relationship – for example they will support when they can at Bonfire, Swimathon, assisting with setting up social events and so on. “Friends” will not be required to pay a subscription or fee and there is no expectation to attend meetings – although obviously they would be encouraged to do so from time to time as guests – but they will have to pay for their meal.

There is a strong case for using the “Friends of Congleton Rotary” mechanism as a stepping stone into encouraging a “Friend of Congleton Rotary” becoming a fully fledged Rotarian in a fun and pressure free way.

What will they get?

- An invitation to the quarterly partners night (where a fifth Monday occurs in the month) it is clearly our responsibility to ensure this meeting is fun and welcoming and makes them want to come back for more.
- Access to our own club’s website (www.congletonrotary.co.uk) member area so they can see the wealth of fun and meaningful activities we are involved in so that this can be used as a tool to inspire them. This will let them see what has happened, what is about to happen and what is planned for the next partners evening they are invited to so that they get excited about it and hopefully share with their network about it.
- Invitations to join us at our social fund raising events such as 60’s night, Last night of the proms and so on and for them to invite their own friends – all of which they will pay for.
- Eligibility to attend our charter night – which they will pay for.
- Invitations to help us on service projects

What will they NOT get?

- They will not be able to join a project team or influence its direction

- They will not be able to attend district or national conference by themselves. However, they can be invited by a full Rotarian.
- They will not be able to vote on or influence the running of the club
- They can only attend the partners evening (where a fifth Monday in the month occurs) unless a “Friend” is expressing an interest in becoming a Rotarian, in which case their sponsor can invite them to ordinary club meetings as a guest in the usual manner.
- They may not attend another Rotary club as a “visiting Rotarian”
- They will not be able to influence or lead our social events
- They will not be allowed to handle money on behalf of Rotary
- They will not be able to describe themselves as a Rotarian
- They may recommend others as “Friends” but will have no say in their acceptance or otherwise. To be a “Friend of Congleton Rotary” will be at the sole discretion of the club.
- They will not get communication from district or RIBI and will not have access to the members area of the RIBI website – save for when the club chooses to share communication with them in the hope that it further inspires them into becoming a Rotarian.
- “Friend of Congleton Rotary” will not be entitled to wear any item of Rotary merchandise that may imply they are full Rotarians although they may use Rotary tabards and/or high vis jackets when engaged in a service activity purely from a health and safety perspective.