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HUB

Rotary Club of the City of Wolverhampton

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Service above self



District 1210
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Covid Status Certificates?

On 5th April 126,862 people have died in the UK but numbers are rising much more slowly. 31.5m have received their first vaccination, 5.4m their second. A very fine effort says the Whitty, Johnson, Vallance triumvirate. As they are saying that we can move to stage two and open hairdressers, garden centres and pub gardens from Monday 12th, they also “hope” for further unlocking on May 17th. Great caution is preached about mass events like the Cup Final and international travel and there is talk about ‘covid passports’ for the former and a traffic light system for the latter. (A group of Conservatives is chuntering about the ‘passports’ infringing our civil liberties!) Worldwide Chile and Israel are vaccinating fast. Covax (190 countries signed, 90 of them non-paying) is supplying vaccines when it gets supplies. China is reported to be supplying its own (not internationally approved) vaccines to other countries. Boris is urging us to make use of the now freely available ‘lateral flow tests’. Whitty is sure that ‘the virus will be with us for the foreseeable future’.



Annual General Meeting by Zoom

A good array of attendees for this event on 13th April. There was no need to vote on the nominees there being only one candidate per post – Charles Cox Vice-president, Derek Morgan Treasurer etc. We also agreed on the subscription, honorary memberships and noted our four life memberships. Following the AGM Richard Green brought greetings from President David Stainsby of RC Lichfield St. Chad, Sylvia Morgan conveyed greetings from St Georges (preparing to disband at the end of June) and Mike Boyce those of President Isilio

Mzyeke of RC Maluba in Lusaka, Zambia. (Mike also reported how he and friend Peter Kay attended a meeting at that club with General Wisdom Lopa (see picture) who ran the army and had once been shot in the buttocks!) Richard will send a report from two recent Club Administration Committee meetings. President Brian reported Governing Council's decisions: two grants from Fraser Dukes' bequest (Rain Forest Trust and MS Centre Information Hub – an annual music award is also proposed), a change in our Charitable Trust arrangements to avoid the cost of an independent auditor. RG (with RH and BW) is in regular contact with the Jack Hayward Suite (intended venue for our Centenary Dinner). We look forward still to actual meetings at Linden House. Nominations for the Les Burrell trophy are requested. The Small Grants group has deliberated with care and awarded 18 grants amounting to c.£11,000. It is proposed to apply for a Global Grant to Jaipur Limb to mark our centenary, with a fallback application for a Lusaka RC (for an ablutions block).



Prince Philip

Hub should report that the Duke of Edinburgh died on 9th April, two months short of his 100th birthday. His impressive curriculum vitae was presented in all the media. His funeral was held within Windsor Castle on 17th, attended by a restricted number and very impressive. The world was able to watch the ceremony on television. ('The significance of Rotary is that it has become one of the most active and effective forces on the lay side of righteousness, cooperation and goodwill.' See Rotary magazine June/July 2021.)

Small Grants Scheme

Twenty eight groups applied for a grant under this new scheme. They were carefully assessed and eighteen awards were made to the value of £11,261, in part financed by the James Beattie Charitable Trust. It was a very varied array of groups doing excellent work in the community. President Brian has emailed the list of recipients to members and Geoff Lowndes provided the article to appear in Wolverhampton West magazine which highlights Goldthorn Hill Pumping Station Allotment Society and Friends of Di's Kitchen. Our assessors are girding their loins for next year!



Martin Parnell

After a bit of business, twenty plus members listened with great interest to Martin's tale of his adventures beginning when he was 47 (he is now 65) and newly bereaved. Such a good reception via zoom and such an active story – he began with the cycling event Tour d'Afrique, a seminal game of table tennis in Ethiopia and a bungee jump at Victoria Falls ('don't do it!', he says). Thereafter there were many marathons and participation in projects like Right to Play and Quest for Kids, launching his professional speaking career and raising lots of dosh. We saw

several excellent pictures including some of the Barnyam site of the ancient Buddha destroyed by the Taleban – he got involved in the plight of Afghani women. His tale sparked off a good deal of discussion: Mike Boyce also climbed Kilimanjaro but in 5 days not 1 like Martin. Geoff Lowndes did the Wolverhampton marathon some years ago (in 3 hours 6 minutes, faster than Martin's best). (Mel Eves reported on the dismal loss against Burnley.) Martin began writing books and had a stroke from which he has striven hard (and successfully) to recover. His message is 'We can do more than we think'. There remained one item of club business, to approve the creation of a new type of Honorary Member and appoint Jenny Seagrove. Both were agreed, Jenny has said she would be honoured to accept – and Mel warned that Nuno might be calling on her to play for Wolves!

Continuing Covid News

On 1st May the grim total in the UK is 127,524 deaths, though continuing to rise much more slowly, and about 60% of the adult population have been vaccinated. 22 million people in the UK are said to be living in areas with no Covid deaths in a month. In Europe the vaccination percentages are in the 20s. In India the situation is dire. Russia is said to be providing its Sputnik V vaccine outside its borders while vaccinating rather slowly at home (c.20%). China is said to be celebrating its vaccination progress in Wuhan (where it all started). By and large the British remain cautious, more interested in possible future hugs and holidays than in the 6th May elections it seems. Dominic Raab declares that we have 'secured 1 billion vaccine doses for Covax' (supplying vaccines to the third world). Let us hope that we can materially support the world in this struggle while continuing to make good progress on the home front.

Help for India and the Kingswood Trust

On 11th May a good turnout of members heard that various authorities had approved Richard Green's laudable efforts to supply an Oxygen Concentrator costing c.£700 to a Jaipur hospital. We heard also that the club will receive some £790 in redistributed District surplus and a cheque (already !) from the James Beattie Trust to help finance next year's Small Grants Scheme. Peter Wright failed to win the Roll-over Raffle (ROAR 10) and we moved on to welcome Rachel Wells talking to us today about the Kingswood Trust. The Trust began its work to give deprived children a change of scene in the 1920s and Rachel cited the Chief Constable's Boot Fund as an early example of crowd funding. In 2019 they won the Queens Award but things have been difficult in the intervening pandemic. However they have managed to preserve monies to pursue projects and tidy up their site to begin receiving visitors again – the sheep will be pleased to see the children! 'Residentials' will restart in September and in the meantime there will be Wild Walk and Nature Play on Saturdays and Park and Play Tuesdays. There are also projects for the whole age range from babes in arms to older folk with dementia. We are invited to buy a Kingswood Rose, created by an early client and supported by David Austin. And Brian Woolley, chairman of Fellowship Committee, was tasked with arranging a Club outing to Kingswood in the summer. We look forward to it!



Club Assembly 25th May 2021

Richard Green reported to some 25 members that 'our' Oxygen Concentrator (made in China) was about to be delivered to Jaipur Limb. Other Clubs wishing to emulate us would have to settle for BIPAP machines. Richard also reported that the District Surplus should be redistributed to Clubs as previously agreed but two amendments would have to be voted down. At the annual Business Meeting of RIBI (RGI) concern was expressed at the high reserves figure of £1.8 million which might necessitate rejection of the budget – AG Dr Mukunda, present at our Assembly agreed, that concern had been expressed. President Brian referred us to his recent report on Governing Council's discussion of possible venues for future face-to-face meetings of the Club – among the candidates were Perton Park Golf Club, South Staffs Golf Club and Newbridge Tennis Club. Sylvia Morgan firstly gave us the good news that Lisa Stallard has given birth to Billy

weighing in (or out!) at 8 lb 4 oz and then reported on her Members Committee which has held regular informative meetings. Some prospective members will soon be interviewed, some St Georges Rotarians may join us and other ventures are in prospect. Brian Woolley chairs the Fellowship Committee which has similar plans for district sports and excursions (e.g. to Kingswood Trust) in mind. Brian Bailey's Grants Committee will make the best of a smaller budget, repeating i.a. this year's Small Grants Scheme (with help once more from the James Beattie Trust). RG reported that our application with Bangalore for a global grant of \$80 000 has been approved (and part of the private sponsorship for this would be channelled through our club). Mike Colley assured us that the Tree of Remembrance would at least mirror this year's (successful) effort (see Bulletin report 18th May.). Unfortunately both Dragon Boats and Best Foot Forward will not take place in 2021. However our Centenary celebration is still on track for Friday 20th May at Molineux in the Jack Hayward Suite. To complete this busy meeting Dr Mukunda (AG Zone 6), representing DG Ken Wagstaff and DGE Robyn Davies, called us 'a model for the District'.



Billy

Lisa Stallard's new son was born at New Cross hospital on 15th May 2021. He weighed 8 lb 4 oz. Lisa and Chris are loving getting to know him.



Delta Variant

Disregarding the secret wedding of Carrie Symonds and Boris Johnson at the end of May most people were concerned that the progress of the Indian Covid Variant (Delta Variant/B.1.617.2) might compromise the end of lockdown on 21st June. On the positive side 'very very few' of those in hospital have received two jabs – so the vaccination seems to be working well. On the negative side hospitals are filling up with patients whose various elective treatments have been delayed. So we have a race between vaccinations and variant cases to enable hospitals to tackle the non-covid backlog. What's to be done with those people who refuse (or can't receive) the vaccination? And should we start vaccinating the low risk young groups? (Or should we increase the export of doses to poorer countries?)

Grant Giving Committee

This picked up on 7th June from the Y&CS on 5th August, chaired by President Brian. The Small Grants Scheme was generally thought to be successful and will be repeated next year, hopefully with another donation by the James Beattie Trust. The Haven, Shoeboxes and the Music school were among the beneficiaries. The Young Citizen Committee is currently at the stage of shortlisting from c.40 nominations and Sally Wood has joined it. Mike Boyce reported on international matters including grants to Happy Schools, the Bangalore 3D printer (prostheses for Jaipur Limb), a district grant (two wells at Kimbilio, Congo), and another for a Zambia school refurbishment. It is hoped that a global grant with RC Maluba, also in Lusaka, Zambia, may be approved and become a Centenary Project. The Polio news is good – only 2 new cases this calendar year. Medic Malawi's Wolves Chicken House has encountered some problems. Thanks to sterling work by Richard Green the Oxygen Concentrator has now been delivered in Kerala and 5 BiPAP machines have been sourced and taken up by RCs including one by ourselves. Lend with Care is proceeding well and it was agreed to invest another £200, taking advantage of monies returned by District. Also 3 Y&CS funding requests will be accepted: a St Michaels foodbank action (£100), Wolverhampton Community Radio Training Ltd (£700) and the CRADLE charity (baby loss support services at New Cross hospital, £200). Peter Wright reported that the Cosford Apprentices evening was envisaged for next year.

Club Meeting 8th June

A full turnout welcomed the new Cosford CO Gareth Bryant. Before he spoke RG reported on meeting Bilston RC at their 'Cyclethon' and on the latest Oxygen Concentrator and BiPAP machine delivery. MB is working on a global grant project with RC Maluba. Sylvia Morgan has hopes of 5 new members as well as the two joiners from St Georges for whom Seven Day Letters have been sent out. Brian Bailey reported on yesterday's Grant Giving Committee (see previous item). The Rollover Raffle produced a winner! Peter Williams scooped the £843 pounds and was temporarily stuck for words! * Our guest Gareth Bryant spoke fluently and pleasantly about his career. Since graduating from RAF College Cranwell in 1997 he has served in Northern Ireland, Kosovo, the Falkland Islands, Afgh-



anistan, in Australia and at NATO HQ (just after the Brexit referendum!). He took over Cosford (Defence School of Aeronautical Engineering), his first training command, in July from his old friend Tone Baker. He is concerned to drive the training effort, often online at the present, and keep the trainees (including some Qataris and Saudis) fit and healthy. They have two flow tests per week and the instructors are fully vaccinated. He feels privileged to command such excellent people who have to learn to 'fix air-



craft' in difficult conditions and be prepared for the airforce of the future – reference was made to helicopters like the Puma (50 years old) and the Chinook (40 years old) as well as the Lightning fighter and the Tempest (Eurofighter replacement). He feels that now they are 'coming out of hibernation' regarding Covid. (Don't hold your breath!) He, his wife Helen, son Matthew(10) and daughter Louise(8) have seen quite a lot of the world and are enjoying Shropshire. Welcome! (*We later learned Peter had been awarded the MBE!)



Rotary Club Changanacherry, Kerala

Thanks to Richard Green, PDG Scaria Jose Kattoor of the above club and Rotarian Binoop Paul an Oxygen Concentrator paid for by our club has been delivered to Changanacherry hospital. In addition we have paid for a BiPAP (bilevel positive airway pressure) machine – 4 other RCs have paid for others. Mr Job Michael of the State Legislative Assembly has sent his heartfelt thanks. We hope that the dire situation in India will soon begin to improve.

The DRC and Kimbilio

A 'full screen' of members at our 22 June meeting began by congratulating Peter Williams on his MBE. Very sadly Peter reported that Tony Horton died recently. Greetings from Penrith and Rugeley via RG and RTM. There will be no Dragon Boats and no BFF this year. A deposit on the Jack Hayward Suite has been paid for our Centenary Dinner on Friday May 20th. Richard Horrell failed to win the Rollover raffle money (a measly amount this time!) And so we came to our guest **Ian Harvey** of the Congo Children Trust (www.congochildrentrust.org) which he set up in 2007 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The DRC, formerly Belgian Congo and Zaire, is large, fertile, with many mineral deposits (copper, gold, diamonds, cobalt etc). It's population (87m.) is largely poor, and



ravaged by disease, corruption and war. Ian's trust does a lot to help the children numbering some 250 000 in total who are on the streets because of poverty, parental death, disease and accusations of witchcraft! Most of the Trust's money is spent at the Kimbilio Sanctuary in Lubumbashi in the south – they aim to feed, protect and reunite children with their families. The trust is progressing well thanks to many small donations and is building a school, drilling wells and opening a new outreach centre at Kolwezi. Great work by this Anglican group, among many groups mainly from churches. What a pity that the rich Congolese and the International Corporations in Kinshasa are concentrating on exploiting the mineral wealth!



Brian's Valedictory

On 29th June we heard that Jenny Seagrove is very pleased to be made an honorary member. The 200 club draw of 3 prizes was carried out live. From GC we learn that £786 has been returned to the club from District, Roger Fellows donations added £900, the treasurer will sell some investments. The James Beattie Charitable Trust will offer money for a grant scheme and an Interact Club has been established at Heath Park School. In his Valedictory speech Brian referred back to his six priorities at the outset. Members have remained in contact via regular Zoom meetings and the input of the Bulletin, Hub and Almoner Jeremy. Despite limited budgets help has been given to the Haven, the Good Shepherd, 21 beneficiaries of the new Small Grants Scheme, African projects (Lend with Care and Kimbilio etc), Children in Need (the Pudsey raffle), the Samaritans (the signed Wolves shirt). There has been no Dragon Boats or Best Foot Forward but the tree of Remembrance was successfully rebadged (The Memories Live On). Club restructuring has begun. Arrangements for our Centenary are underway. New members have joined in and more are imminent. The President thanked all for their support and several by name. He asked us to remember John Baker, John Bloxham, Fraser Dukes, Roger Fellows and David King. He had tried hard in a challenging year, with some success – and was now 'looking forward to a bit of a rest'. Richard Green strongly reinforced his success and expressed the club's debt of gratitude, which will be rewarded by a platinum pin for his PHF. (See handover photo in the next issue.)