



Service above self

HUB



Rotary Club of the City of Wolverhampton

District 1210 RIBI No. 77 RI No. 19999

A Hundred Years of Service

Founded in 1921

June 2022

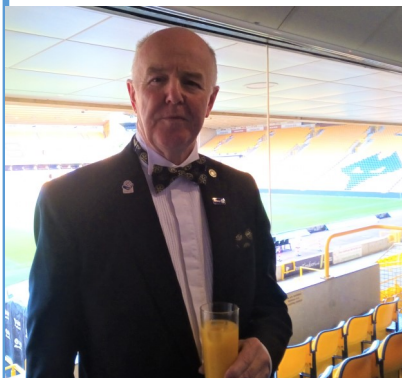
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www.rotaryclubwolverhampton.co.uk

Centenary Celebration

What a journey! The club celebrated 100 years of Service above Self and the organising committee aged as much in the past 12 months! The planning was not helped by the venue having a fire just at the point at which invitations were to be sent out and final clearance from the venue was only a matter of weeks before the event. Truth to tell we were more than a little nervous about attracting the required numbers, having heard of other clubs finding support difficult. We were delighted therefore that 106 attended. Nevertheless, in the end, the Jack Hayward Suite at the Molineux, which had been completely renovated, looked fantastic. Many thanks to the Molineux staff for their cooperation in the preparation and the efficient serving of the meal.

It was a great honour to receive the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, Councillor Sandra Samuels, OBE, and her Consort, Husband Karl Samuels at what we understood to



be one of her first official engagements. President Richard also welcomed Rotarian David Ellis, Chairman of the Executive, Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland. David asked to be photographed with the Wolves football pitch in the background, the better to enjoy his team, Manchester City, and their defeat of Wolves 5-1 in the previous week. David spoke about the changes that need to take place in Rotary if it is to survive and eventually grow. He said how the changes start at the top and that we need to communicate better to others inside and outside of

Rotary of the those changes.

The main speaker was Geoff Mackey who gave us one of his typical forthright performances which though very amusing, had points to make. District Governor Robyn Davies gave a short address and toast to the club. Proceedings were drawn to a close by President Richard giving his response and a fitting end to the last 100 years.

We look forward to the next 100, well some of it at least!!





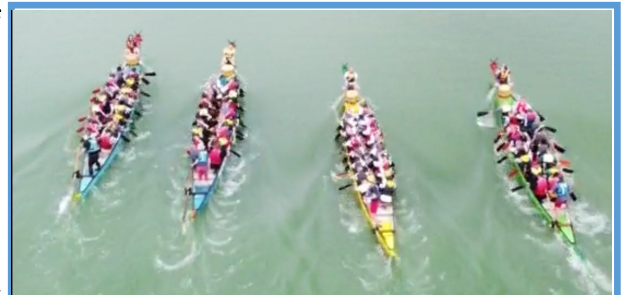
The Dragons roared again

at Himley Park on Sunday May 22nd for the first time since 2019. All our praying for kind weather paid off which helped bring the crowds in too. The committee had been busy in planning the event for quite some time and thankfully it all came together nicely on the day.

The set up took place a day earlier and I am very grateful to for the help from (L to R) Ade, Clive, John, President Richard, Nigel and Peter and also my chum Peter Jones (not in the photo) who all gave up their time to help erect the Rotary marquee, mark out the team pitches and boat loading areas. Race Day.

With Richard Horrell and Clive Baker at the Rotary HQ entrance gazebo (well- Clive's van) all teams and concessions were shown to their places with the efficiency that you would expect from well oiled Rotary machine. Ok- so the 'oiling' perhaps came a little later in the day when the corkscrew finally arrived but by 10.00am we were all good to go! The Dragon Boat Event company handled the day with their usual efficiency managing all the training, races, and timing scoring beautifully.

The Grand Final was the highlight of the day and after a thrilling race which, following a re-start after an earlier 'racing incident' the event was won by the University of Birmingham Air Squadron Old Blue Lions, beating our old friend Joe Hawkes and his Crafted Kitchens team by a mere 3 tenths of a second. In speaking with the various crews and reading the messages after the event, it seems everyone had a wonderful day. We didn't have to test the Rotary Insurance policy which is a big



Collision ahead !!



help and safe to say we are already planning our next event- Sunday May 21st 2023.

I am deeply grateful to all the Rotarians and friends who gave up their time to help, with particular thanks to all the New Members who came along and played such a vital part in the success of the day. Of course, the real success of the event will not be known for sometime. How much will be raised for both the Rotary Charitable



Trust, and the teams chosen good causes will only be known when all the sponsor monies are paid in. The unenviable job of administering all of this falls to committee secretary Peter Hand, who as ever, gets my biggest thanks for all his super hard work. Mike Boyce.

Wolves Shirt. The signed Wolves shirt which was very kindly obtained by Mel Eves once again achieved some good raffle ticket sales. Thanks to all the sellers!

The President congratulates Simon Love and his Sponsored Breaks team for a creditable fourth place.



Thanks from Ukraine.

We have received a letter of thanks from President Andrei Puiu of the rotary club of Suceava Bucovina. Unfortunately as it is in the form of a PDF I cannot reproduce it here. He thanks us for our donations over the past two months in helping displaced people. The Facebook page of Daniel Tanase has some interesting information.

President Induction

As the incoming President of our club I would be very pleased to invite you to come along to our lunchtime meeting on the 5 th July at South Staffs golf club. Usual time of 12-30 for 1 pm. Whilst I expect as many Rotarians to be present as possible it would be really nice to see as many of your family and friends also. I would like to see our Rotary family come together this year since it has been a difficult time for all of us. We have missed you . I have missed you ,so let's try and make a positive start to our new Rotary year. My very best wishes to you all.
Sylvia.

Reminder garden visit.

Please let Brian Woolley know if you wish to visit the splendid garden of Brian and Anne Bailey at Waterdale on Tuesday the 21st June. Last date for letting him know is 16th June

30 Years of "Service above Self"



Many congratulations and thanks to PP Peter Hand on passing the landmark 30 years as both a Rotarian and member of this club.

Diary Note

One of our major fundraisers, Best Foot Forward, is on 25th June at the Aldersley Leisure Centre and your help is still needed. You can be "Helpers" on the day or "Lappers" to help fill the charity pot by doing a few laps of the track. Let Geoff Lowndes know if you can help.

Rotary Junior Technology Challenge a great success...again!



After a 2 year gap it was a great pleasure to be invited back to Uplands Junior School in Finchfield to present the Rotary Junior Technology Challenge to 96 year 5 children over 2 days.

The pupils learn about what engineers do and how they build bridges. This is all done in a fun way and then the youngsters are set a challenge to build a bridge using the kits we provide.

The bridge has to meet certain criteria then it's tested by trying to blow a toy squirrel off with a hair dryer, as if there was a gale in force! This always causes great amusement and it's wonderful to hear the children laughing.

Also very amusing were the names of the teams the children chose for themselves such as 'The Floppers,'

'Crafty Warriors' and 'Little Tech Einsteins.'

The winning team on the first day was 'The Golden Hackers' and on the second day, 'DT Whizzkids.' Each member of the teams received a book token prize.

My thanks to club members Lorraine McCarthy, Charles Cox, Richard Horrell and Lisa Stallard for providing such valuable support; on the first day we were joined by District Governor Robyn Davies and the District organiser, Peter Langdon. Grateful thanks and appreciation are also due to IPP Brian Bailey who worked so hard in getting all the equipment and materials prepared before the event.

It's really satisfying to be able to report that the feedback from the school staff and the youngsters has been first class, as evidenced by the postings on the school website and facebook page. **President Richard.**

Sports Report 1

District Croquet v Sedgely and Wombourne.



In the grounds of the splendid Himley Hall with the Great Pool in the background, our team of Stewart Ross, Norman Holmes, Geoff Lowndes, Peter Hand and yours truly, met with the team from Sedgely and Wombourne club to do battle on the croquet lawn. The word battle sums up this sport because no quarter is asked nor given. After a fine evening of "friendly" competition we succumbed to the oppositions greater knowledge of the lie of the land. At least that is my interpretation of it. That means that for this season the mallets and hoops are put away. Well done to Sedgely and Wombourne and good luck in the next round.



from the Rotary Club of Laguna Niguel in California. He and Richard exchanged banners and sent greetings. Sylvia took aim at the glass ceiling by reminding us that not only is she to become the first lady President of our club but that the President of Rotary International will be Jen Jones who will be the first lady President in 117 years. Sylvia said that the future of Rotary is to be bold, be brave and invite and welcome change. "Older members are the oak trees with experience and newer, younger members will have new ideas and breathe new life into our organisation. There is no doubt that our club has adopted change and is beginning to reap rewards." Sylvia is looking forward leading us to a brighter future.

Sports Report 2

District Crown Green Bowls v Tettenhall



I feel that for our newer members, I should explain that there has always been a certain competitive edge to our sporting encounters with Tettenhall club. It was no different at the Danescourt Bowls club when team captain Peter Hand led his warriors out onto the sward. (*Oh dear.. Perhaps I am getting a bit carried away here!*) It is so very hard not to boast but we stuffed 'em 3 - 0, and look forward to the next round in Stafford. Thank you to Peter, Derek, Sylvia, Simon for a great win. I thought that as someone from the Tettenhall club may see the pictures of the game that for reasons of preserving their mental wellbeing I would just show the "fellowship" in the pub afterwards.

Club Assembly

Club Assembly is the annual occasion for the President Elect to let the members know what they have in mind for their year in the Chair. We were joined this year by our Assistant Governor Allen Roberts and Taje Gill, a member



National Memorial Arboretum visit



On 5th May, a party of Rotarians, wives and friends hit the road to visit the Arboretum. The date was specially selected as it was the birthday of our late, wonderful Rotarian and friend, Fraser Dukes, which was felt to be a fitting (though poignant) memory of him and all his achievements both in Rotary and, indeed, his whole life.

We arrived and assembled in the "V.I.P. lounge" (nothing less expected !!) to enjoy tea and coffee and (posh!) biscuits (none of your custard creams when Rotarians are on a day

out.....).and then boarded the land-train for an excellent one hour tour of the Arboretum which included an intercom commentary of the almost countless memorials to the "fallen heroes" of many warfare conflicts over many years and including civilian organisations. (With two "old soldiers" on board I have to tell you that Peter Williams (R.A.F. long-since retired) and "yours truly" Woolley (K.S.L.I. long-since given up fighting the Mau Mau !) stood to attention and saluted on passing the memorials to their regiments.....}

The tour was followed by an excellent two course lunch (back in the V.I.P. lounge !) accompanied by good fellowship and much chat (and looks of astonishment at the size of Carol T-M's meat piebut being lady-like she didn't quite manage to eat it all.....!!!)

My thanks to the 10 Rotarians plus wives and friends who supported this event and a sincere "thank you" to Fraser's son, Tim, who was able to join us for lunch and a visit to Fraser's memorial.

Tim sent us this message" *Many thanks again for inviting me to join you at the National Memorial Arboretum to view the plaque to Dad on Rotary Ridge and also for the fellowship over lunch. As you say, it was fitting and poignant as 5th May was his birthday. "*



Club Forum and Jubilee Party

Sylvia cheered us all up by decking the room out with union jack bunting and flags to mark Her Majesty's 70 years as our Queen. She even baked a cake (I didn't know she could cook?) Captured for posterity are, tieless for the occasion, a former

member of HM armed forces, David Hill and a very relaxed senior member who was mostly focussed on the approaching waitress with his main course. After lunch a brief discussion took place regarding the seeming apathy of club members to events being organised by the Fellowship committee.

It was concluded that more advance information would be given about upcoming events and members would be approached directly for interest in them.



Club Diary

JUNE

- 14th Lunch Meeting
- 21st NGS Garden visit Waterdale
- 25th Best Foot Forward
- 27th Governing Council
- 28th ValedictoryJ

JULY

- 05th Presidential Induction
- 12th District Governor visit
- 19th
- 26th Civic Day & Induction of Mayor

AUGUST

- 03 Pitch and Putt
- 09/16/23/and 30th TBA

SEPTEMBER

- 09 Narrowboat Trip