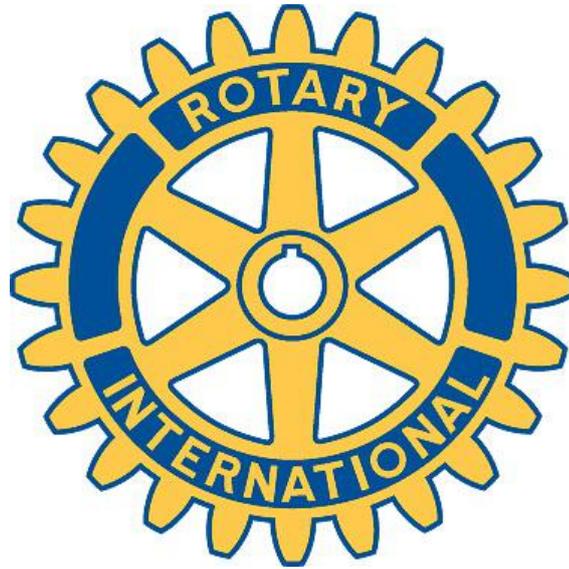


March 2020



Bramhall & Woodford Rotary Club

1st January to 31st March

PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS – March 2020

This has to have been the most astonishing period we have ever known. We started the year with 9 members from the closing Hazel Grove Rotary club choosing to continue in Rotary but with us. I believe they have been made welcome and are enjoying their new Rotary home - even if it is, and I quote one of them, "rather more frenetic".

When life was "normal" we had committee meetings, heard from BHS about their Borneo trip, about Ashok's voluntary work in India and Uganda, attended Youth Speaks, the Float Quiz, presented a cheque to Bloodbikes, heard about the charity MODE, had a "pie lunch", had a middle eastern meal at Shaam, learnt how to play the markets, enjoyed a CHADS theatre night, and learnt about Rob from his "this is me" talk.

Then came the "new normal" as Covid-19 went on the rampage and we were nearly all confined to our homes. We cancelled President's Night, the Spring Fashion Show and the Duck Race and Family Fun Day. For the foreseeable future we cancelled all our meetings at The Ladybridge Club and council meetings at Sunrise. In the world outside just about everything was cancelled as well - no sport, no pubs, no restaurants, no cinema and loads more businesses closed. Many workers have to work from home. Schools closed. The elderly and especially the most vulnerable have priority in the supermarkets. Local support groups have sprung from nowhere and we, as a club, will be calling lonely folk by telephone to provide some "company". Essential workers continue to keep the country going, especially the NHS, the food supply chain, the utilities and so much more in this highly interconnected world.

The main electronic communication systems - the Internet and fixed and mobile phones, have not broken and we held a council meeting and our last two club meetings using ZOOM software.

Phew! I think the term "frenetic" was spot on. As I write there are nearly 700,000 confirmed cases around the world with 32,000 deaths and in the UK nearly 20,000 cases and 1,250 deaths. And we all know it is going to get much worse.

But at the same time some good things are happening. Communities are coming together, people are volunteering, there is more kindness and less hate. We are getting better at seeing what really matters. We are making a huge combined effort to try to save many thousands of lives. When it is over we will look back in wonder at what was achieved and at what speed. Maybe there will be more people who will understand what Rotarians have always understood .

Until then we must do what is needed. We must stay in touch with each other, our families and friends, and find new ways to meet and to serve.

Michael
29.3.2020

Jan 8th – Committees

President Michael opened the proceedings by inviting us all to have a few moments silence as a mark of respect and sympathy for Steve Littlewood's family. Their daughter in law Natalie died just before Christmas after being taken ill only two weeks earlier. She leaves her husband Ian (Steve and Lyndsey's son) with a 3 month old baby and a three year old daughter Maisie. Michael continued by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2020, Especially the new members joining us from the recently closed Hazel Grove Club-; Ron Pace, Tony Johnson, Ari Tsalikis, Roger Atkins, John Massey and George Ayres. All experienced Rotarians, there will not be a formal induction ceremony, new badges were given, and it is hoped that we would all soon get to know each other and strengthen the club with our enhanced diversity. It was also good to welcome Harvey back after his long illness. The format of the evening was to have committee night with the added twist of an EGM. As we still did not have a willing candidate for next years President. We were requested to use the meal and coffee break to twist an arm and find someone. Bob Preece thanked Jackie and her team for the excellent food provided during the year. Presents were given as a token of our appreciation. Thank you to Bob Preece and David Rose who provided wine for each table to enjoy



Committees Community Service Satish deputised for Bruce Bissel. Satish has contacted Bramhall High School and asked the head, Janet Kennedy, if the pupils would come and tell us about their Trip to Borneo. Bob Preece will follow this up. Youth Speaks, rehearsal is on 22nd January at 6.30pm and the actual Youth Speaks

is on 27th January. Ways and Means Woodford Garden Centre collection realised £1,800. Maggie was debating whether to arrange a fashion show at the Deanwater. She was also considering the possibility of having a tented circus on Duck Race Day 17th May, possibly charging £3 admission per child. Harry said 14 members were going to visit Sofia Social Committee A suggestion was made to have a quiz night with buffet on 29th January. Possible visit to Chads on 6th March. - Title of Play not yet known. February 19th meal at Sharma in Bramhall village, partners invited. Dennis has organised a 3 - 4mile walk -; The date: Friday 17th January Starting point: outside the Navigation Inn, Buxworth, SK23 7 NE This area is called the Buxworth canal basin, which is obvious when you get there! Car parking: a large free car parking area is outside the pub Start time: we will leave the car park at 10.30am prompt Route: over the ridge to Whaley Bridge, then to Todd Brook reservoir to see the damage caused by the massive leak last year and the ongoing repair work, then by canal towpath back to Buxworth. About 3.5 to 4 miles in total. Footwear: walking shoes/boots advisable as there may be a few, short muddy section. Please let Dennis know if you intend going.

Neil

Apologies- a very important omission

All the arm twisting was successful and Harry was persuaded to become President next year. Well done Harry! Neil

Jan 15th – Bramhall High School report on Borneo Trip

The meeting opened with Michael presenting Harry with his Vice President chain of office. (Actually a gold coloured ribbon rather than a series of metallic links).

Before the meal started there were a few brief announcements. John Meeus said he now had a seating plan for the theatre visit to Chads on March 6th. Ticket price £10, please let him know how many you require.

Pete Daniel said that Winston had taken part in a pantomime in Wilmslow and he had received a cheque for £100 which he would like to go to a dog charity. It was agreed that this should be Hearing Dogs.

Satish reminded everyone that the Youth Speaks competition would be on Monday 27 January at 6.30pm at the Deanwater. He asked that as many as possible should go to support the Bramhall High School team.

After the meal, Sarah saved the day, or should it be evening, by dashing home for a laptop which was needed for the presentation.



Janet Humphrey the Safeguarding teacher talked through the slide show of the school's expedition to Borneo. 27 students and three staff went on the month long adventure. The first two days were fun by the seaside and several people qualified for their PADI diving certificate. However, the community work then started seven days a week in very hot conditions. Their first task was beach clearing and it was amazing how much plastic they collected. Morale dipped because of the enormity of the problem. They then had to mix tons of concrete at a school on one of the islands which had no clean water so it all had to be brought in in plastic containers. There were lots of special needs children and in the evenings the pupils interacted with the locals who were mad keen on football. Everyone had to drink seven to eight litres of water a day and this was an essential requirement because of the heat. One pupil couldn't face drinking that quantity and soon became very ill. Another task was to make eco bricks using cement and shredded plastic. They then had a trip into the jungle where the conditions were primitive to say the least. Summer Lomax, one of the pupils, described the facilities particularly with regard to showers and toilet. In one of short videos we saw Summer doing back flips and the students attired in local costume dancing Borneo style. In another area, they were tasked with planting lots of trees to replace those damaged by storms. In the course of the month, it was noticeable that the pupils had become young adults and had learnt the benefits of team work. The area visited had a very simple culture which made the pupils realise how very privileged they were in Bramhall. As a result of the success of this trip, they are now planning a new trip to Tanzania. In conclusion Janet thanked B&W for their generous financial support.

Ron



Jan 22nd – Ashok's work in India and Uganda

Another well attended meeting with 26 members & 3 wives namely Pam Malabon, Denise Popat and Janet Mehta. Vice President Harry welcomed our first Rotarian visitor Prof. Amal Elsis, Paediatric Cardiologist from Cairo, Egypt. After Bob Preece had read out the names of those unable to make to club due to holidays or being unwell, meal was served.

After an appetising feast, Prof. Amal Elsis gave a 5 minute presentation on raising funds to help families in Egypt who have children with Congenital Cardiac Septal Defects and require assistance. Prof. Amal Elsis had already succeeded in raising \$66,000 under Phase 1 which had rectified defects in children residing in north of Luxor. Phase 2 Rotary Global Grant will be aiming to raise \$96,000 and contributors to date were Clubs from Austria, Cairo, Canada, Germany & USA. She would keep us updated through Tony Johnson.



This was followed by an excellent pp presentation by our Rotarian Ashok on his Charitable Dental work in Uganda & India over last 13 years. He & his wife Denise have travelled to Uganda in first 2 weeks in August & in February to Gujrat, India. Most of his Dental work incorporates dental extractions in children due to dental caries and poor mouth hygiene. Mouth hygiene advice over last 5 years had begun to pay divideneds. Ashok's Dental work is supported by Indo-African Charitable Trust set up Mr Vasant Lakhani who resides in Vancouver, Canada. He like other Indians had to flea Uganda in 1972 under Mr Idi Amin's orders and lot came to Britain and others to Canada, USA, Australia and India respectively. The Charitable Medical Camps (Incorporating Medical, Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Eyes, Infectious Diseases, HIV, Dental) have been set up in townships of Jinja, Lugazi, Saroti, Lira and Gulu in Uganda. At some sites they have been in grounds of local hospital. Denise and Ashok fly on 30 January to Gujrat in India for another Dental camp. Ashok has

circulated a 10 minute video to all members of his trip in August 2019. During these Camps and visiting schools Ashok & Denise hand out tooth brushes and tooth pastes to the children in addition to advising them on mouth hygiene. Both speakers were thanked by Vice –President Harry. This was followed by Maggie informing members of new B&W Rotary garments like fleeces, sweatshirts, polo shirts and hats that could be worn when attending Rotary business or public functions. An email is to be sent to members to this effect and those interested could get in touch with her.

Ian, our publicist extra-ordinary and Facebook wizkid, reminded members of DUCK RACE which is to be held on Sunday 17 May in Bramhall Park and he has succeeded in raising sponsorship from the following

Prestbury Travel-----	£500
Leighton Snow (Estate Agents)-----	£500
Vernon Building Society-----	£500
Redrow Homes-----	£1,000

He was keen to get support for Duck Race from Local Area Committee on 30 January. Harry agreed to co-ordinate members to attend. Ian also reminded members if anyone had any bright ideas in raising funds or helping him to get in touch with him.

Satish reminded members of BHS Intermediate Team Presentation at Wilmslow District Heat on Monday 27 January at 6.30pm at The Deanwater, Wilmslow Road, Woodford, Bramhall SK7 1RJ. He requested those coming to be there by 6.10pm in order to find good seats.

Satish



Jan 27th – Youth Speaks (heats at Deanwater)

Oh my goodness! Who would have thought that a group of fifteen, sixteen, seventeen year olds would be able to speak with such bravery, such confidence and such passion when faced with a room full of Rotarians, teachers and parents.



Every one of the 18 students taking part in Monday's Youth Speaks Competition deserves a huge round of applause.

Six teams, each consisting of a chairman, a speaker and vote of thanks giver, spoke to the assembled crowd in The Deanwater Hotel. The evening was hosted by Wilmslow Dean Rotary Club though they were easily outnumbered by the ten representatives from Bramhall and Woodford who gathered in the audience to support the team of speakers from Bramhall High School which was sponsored by our club. The event was superbly organised with everything running smoothly and efficiently on a tight schedule.



We listened to presentations from 3 intermediate groups and 3 senior groups covering a range of highly emotive subjects such as Climate Change, The Impact of Meat Production on our Planet, Autism, the use of Fiction as an escape from today's pressures, Positive thinking and The Power of Performance.

It was clear that all the topics had been well researched and discussed by the members of each group and equally clear that these were subjects close to their hearts.

Each speaker was asked one question relating to their talk by a 'member of the audience', actually a Rotary plant. This I think was one of the more difficult parts of the presentation but all six speakers managed a thoughtful answer.

Nazgol Mahmoud Alavi was the speaker for Bramhall High, supported by Lara Purvis and Evie Golding. All three contributed to an amazing presentation which outlined all the major reasons why we should eat less meat to help our ailing planet. The girls did an absolutely brilliant job, making their points clear in a very relaxed and friendly way despite having had little time to prepare according to their teacher.

Before the results of the competition were announced, one of the judges gave us all a few tips on what to do and what not to do when speaking to an audience. Make eye contact with people around the room, change the level of your voice to keep it interesting and add impact, Don't hold your notes with both hands as gestures are really important for emphasis. As you can see I was busy making notes so you never know you might see the difference. Hopefully the teams will have taken the advice on board and be ready to raise the standard even higher next year.

The winning teams in both categories were Alderley Edge School for Girls with Bramhall High being runner up in the intermediate category and Wilmslow High School in the Senior category.

I for one felt proud of our team and hope they go on to even better things next year.

Maggie.



Jan 29th – Float Quiz

Wow, I don't recall seeing that many people at any of our meetings before. Bob P said he was expecting 60 people and that's a close enough number for me.

Teams from 8 of the Charities involved with the Float plus several teams of Rotarians gathered for the quiz, set by Andrew I believe.

Harry had to stand in for Michael who was still suffering man flu. Harry welcomed everyone and then handed over to Sarah as quiz master; assisted by Denise. It was judged beforehand that Rotarians must not win, no worries we all trundled along the bottom.

Our team managed a reasonable score for the first round; a picture round showing 28 TV soaps; round 2 and world records next and we did OK. The music round was pathetic for our team. Famous quotes followed. The buffet meal at about 8.45 was excellent and although many people went for refills there were still a few sandwiches left. During the meal we had the chance to identify countries within Europe and put football club names into a story. As I was born in the town, I should have spotted the cow and Huddersfield bit. Finally, Food and Drink and questions on 2020. An excellent range of subjects so well-done Andrew. Also well done to Sarah and Denise for organising the evening.



Sue took great pleasure in announcing that each charity would receive £525 for the Float collection which is a super result so well-done all.

Results – Rotarians stuck to instructions and one team managed the wooden spoon; I'll not name them to protect their standing in the community. Winners were The Mill (well-done), 2nd were 4th Bramhall Scouts followed by Woodford Cricket Club.

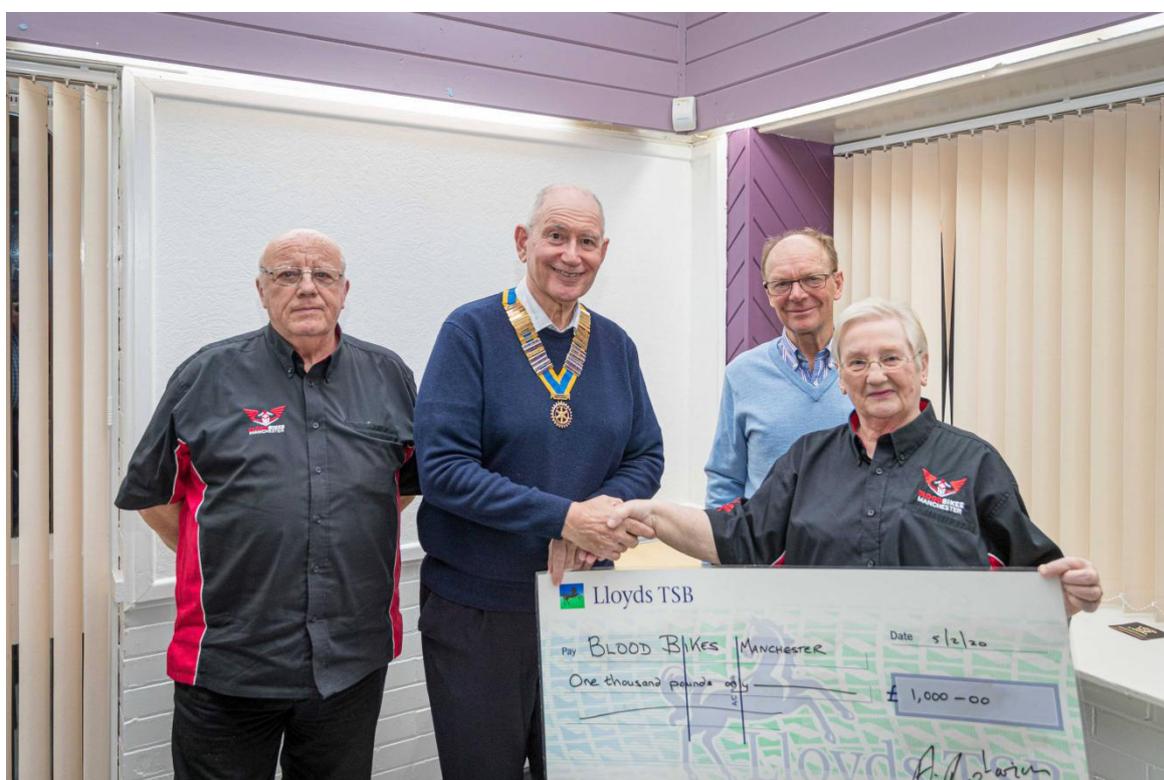
Throughout the evening the atmosphere was great, and everyone enjoyed the evening, we finished shortly after 10pm.
Well-done to Denise, Andrew and Sarah.

Reporter John Sykes



Feb 5th – Committees

The evening started with a blatant case of bribery. In exchange for writing the bulletin this volunteer author was allowed to be first to follow top table for food. In brief announcements Sue asked for everyone to complete the charity gift aid forms as soon as possible. John Meeus circulated the Chads Theatre list about a 100 tickets sold so far and 40 to go. Chris (the pie man) said at least 30 would be making the trip to Prestbury. President Michael announced that the next social event would feature middle East cuisine at Shaam. Harry had been in touch with the Council regarding risk assessment for the river in the park. It was admitted that in the case of flood conditions it was possible that there could be sewage in the water but it would also mean that the flow would be too strong for Scouts and ducks to be in the water at that time. He was preparing a new Facebook page and would be taking photos of the new members to complete the Rogues Gallery. After the meal, there was a presentation of £1000 check to Blood Bikes.



Alan Redfern said the scheme had now be running for eight years and they had completed 280 jobs in the last year. They also partnered the North West Air Ambulance and Organ Transplant Scheme. Donor breast milk for premature babies also featured highly in their tasks as 75% of this special milk in the UK was moved by Blood Bikes and it was estimated that they were saving the NHS £750,000 a year. It costs £45,000 per year to run the Manchester Branch.

Secretary John had nothing to report, Treasurer Sue said there was £2000 in the general account and £3700 in the charity account. Maggie said the posters were ready for the Fashion Show and they were hoping to attract 100 people. She made an appeal for raffle prizes. The Duck Race would bring some changes which included repositioning the stage, a display of classic cars down the drive, and courtesy of Wendy Sykes a Mother's Union tent for young mums to have privacy for breast feeding and attending to young children.

Bob Preece said the programme was full until May and hoped that we could have several evenings following then for the new members to introduce themselves. Bruce said that Bramhall High School wanted to enter Youth Speaks again next year and he hoped that we could get Hazel Grove and Cheadle Hulme schools to join in as well. A Motor Neurone club at Brookside would be the beneficiary for profits from the Fashion Show. Harry said there was now a full itinerary for the week trip to Bulgaria. Lend with Care was going well. Furooka would visit us on 2nd April. Ian reminded everyone that the deadline for publication for the Duck Race on 17th May, was first week in March. He would like more members to share Facebook. Denise reminded everyone of the next three social events, 19th February Shaam, 6th March CHADS, 20th March Presidents Night (cost to be about £29) and she would like replies by 7th February as she was then going to be away for several weeks. Under any other business Harry appealed for “stuffers” at Walthew House and the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Ron



Feb 12th – Susan McCormack – Mode

These notes have been prepared by a recently exiled member from far off Bullock Smithy, so apologies in advance for any mistakes. A complaint first. Being a greedy lot on our table I put my hand up to write the notes this week, under the impression that we would go first for the meal. The President did not tell us that this only applied to the main meal and we would be last for the pudding! Be more precise Mr President in the future before you issue more bribes!

Our guest this evening was Susan McCormack from MODE.

Apologies were received from members who mainly were in places we all wish we were, with the exception of those at work. We were reminded that on Saturday coming there is the Pie Lunch in Prestbury 37 will be there. Guidance on getting there has been circulated.

Shaam next week . 28 (possibly 2 more) Members were asked to send their choice of menu as soon as possible.

Thanks have been received from a number of organisations who received a share of the float proceeds.

Sue brought with her an alternative to the clips on our name badges. Costing £1 the magnet replaces the clip or safety pin. A question? Would the magnet affect the working of a pacemaker?

Membership of committees for new members was confirmed. The next walk will be on 21st February and will be led by Ron. Meet at the Rams Head in Disley . The walk will take approximately 2 hours, and for those who wish lunch can be taken at the Rams Head.

Gift Aid – a reminder that we need more forms returned. On another 'must do ' is to let Maggie know how many tickets/places you require for the Fashion Show (see the club website for all the details).

At the last club Council it was agreed to give the pediatrician consultant from Egypt who attended the club two weeks ago a grant of £500. At the same time the Council agreed to sponsor 4 children from BHS to enable them to attend an 'outdoor' week by donating £250 per child

The next item was the presentation by Susan. MODE has a shop in the precinct in Bramhall. Susan explained her childhood experiences spending a lot of time at what is now called Treetops in Marple. Given the challenges many children with mental health problems MODE was stabled in 2014 and has grown rapidly since then. They have premises in Lower Bredbury and work closely with a number of construction companies, especially supporting ex-servicemen who face mental health challenges and cannot get back to a normal life without counseling support and guidance. Alcoholism is a real challenge for some who have trauma in their lives Sue gave a few examples of the life experiences of some of the young adults and ex-servicemen.

They are currently work with Stockport Academy and Stockport School, where they work with 77 children and in total provided 1755 counseling sessions.

There was some confusion about MODE's total budget.

It was lovely to hear about Susan's personal journey including success at a higher education level, and determination to put back into the community some of the support which was not available to her in her early life.

Robert (Bob)Lewis



Feb 19th – Shaam Restaurant

Our social night this month was a meal at the newly opened Shaam restaurant. A total of twenty seven people, including members, spouses and family came along to sample the Lebanese style cuisine. Michael had organized a fixed price meal which consisted of a huge variety of starters, many of which I had never heard of but were very tasty. This was followed by a variety of mains including kebabs, sea bass, moussaka, salad and pitta bread. All agreed that it was a very varied and tasty meal and being able to take your own wine made the evening, at a cost of £20, good value for money.

Bob Preece

Feb 26th – How to make a small fortune on the stock market

Last night 29 brave Rotarians and guests faced the tail end of hurricanes, flooding, rain and publicity about coronavirus to gather for our usual club meeting – maybe they were all hoping to hear how they could make lots of money by ‘trading’ but more about that later. There was the usual excellent fare and seconds all round, making us all even rounder. It was announced, to great applause, that the MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Manchester Charity would be the recipients of our Duck Race this year. Bob S especially looked delighted and wore his MND T-shirt with pride. Michael said that he was still £14 short from unpaid bills from our Shaam Restaurant evening. The £20 per head did not include coffee or pudding so if anyone had these extras and ‘forgot’ to pay please own up and let Michael know as soon as possible – he promises not to announce your name!!

Our guests for the evening were welcomed and included Ian Bradley on a scatter night from RC of Wilmslow Dean, Diana Ayres partner to George, and Victoria Jones, fundraiser, from North West Air Ambulance. Lots of photos were taken of Michael presenting Victoria with a large cheque for £1,000 as a donation from our club. Victoria expressed much appreciation and explained that the organisation was totally reliant on charitable money for their life-saving work.

Harry announced that Walthew House were to hold their annual ten pin bowling competition on Wednesday morning March 18th. He is trying to get together a B&W team for the event and all volunteers would be most welcome. Apparently the partially sighted teams are so good they are not allowed to win so we could be in with a chance. Ian Bradley invited all present to attend RC of Wilmslow Dean’s ‘not the Beaujolais lunch’ on Saturday March 7th . This should be a good event and will include five wines from France.

As I was penning the bulletin I noticed a few Rotarians were wearing their very colourful Rotary hoodies, purple, pale blue and red and Maggie distributed other orders for Rotary badged clothing. Soon we should be an even more colourful and lively club which is great news for those who are not so keen on formality. Sue agreed to order more magnetic catches to replace the awkward clip and pins on the back of the Rotary name badges, which are impractical on loose clothing .



Now to hear about trading where we all hoped we could learn how to get rich. John Thewlis introduced Rotarian Pete Daniels who is a highly distinguished builder, dog trainer (Winston's Dad) and who has a secret side of dabbling round foreign exchange. Pete explained that he first became interested in trading when he was around 18 years old and spent many hours analysing the Financial Times in Manchester Library. Over the years family commitments left little time to pursue this hobby but about five years ago he rekindled his interest. Pete joined a club in Manchester with like-minded people and his trading expertise and interest grew. He explained that if you have savings or a pension your money will be involved in trading. The rules of trading seemed very complex but the basis was about support and resistance, risk to reward. There are subtle differences between commodities and currencies but essentially to be able to trade you need a clear strategy and a trading plan is critical. Although impressed with Peter's expertise and wide knowledge the explanation about trading became quite technical and your bulletin writer became highly confused. It all sounded very complicated and certainly not for the faint hearted, and it obliterated all our thoughts of getting rich quickly! In summary, trading is about probability and requires years of experience to be successful. I only had a few minutes to understand before writing the bulletin so failed miserably. However, it was good fun listening to Pete and his talk prompted lots of questions.

Sue Preece

Mar 4th – Committees

Our President is normally level-headed, so his surprise order for food started with the tallest person- would he/she own up! As predicted the smallest member Sweet Sue went first for puddings. There were 21 present and John T read out the usual excuses. Unfortunately Neil has had a set back and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Ian, our in-house banker and bullion dealer, told our new members about his passion to value gold, silver, jewellery and foreign currency. One has the choice to keep or donate.

John M had a free KLM biscuit experience on Cheadle Hulme Station to win a prize a free 1st class flight to anywhere in the world (not much choice left with C-virus about). He also asked for help to collect M&S food boxes for the theatre night.

Sue sold £1 badge magnets (not to put on the fridge).

Coffee and committees began at 8.25pm with the following reports.

John S (sec) NTR. Sue (treasurer) General account about£1K-we might need a reserve in case of meeting cancellations. Charity account is about £2,400 after donations to Blood Bikes, the Egyptian cardiology project and B/H High School Bushcraft course for children unable to afford the Borneo trip.

Maggie (W's& M's) brought up the dreaded Cvirus discussion for contingency plans if the Duck Race is cancelled or postponed. (as far as I know Ducks are immune to this virus). The feeling was to continue as usual. She has persuaded every school in the area to allow car parking in addition to 3 duck buses.

The main charity is MNDA, Manchester Hopefully Barclays will sponsor 2 staff at £1K each. Also we can sell tickets at the bank. One of the Hill's grandchild said there should be healthy food for the kids. Maggie will be on the lookout for pots! Finally 50 tickets have been sold for the Fashion Show and we need vouchers and prizes for the raffle. Perhaps our new members have contacts eg. H. Grove Inner Wheel.

John T Club Services was pleased there was a little credit for a change. Rob Sweeting will give his job talk next week.

Satish Community hopes to involve 3 local schools including Stockport Grammar to enter the next Youth Speaks. This committee are looking at loneliness and how to help these people.

Apparently there is a bench outside Bramhall Post Office, an opportunity for meeting them. I think one Rotarian sat on it and nothing happened –that's Rotary!

Harry International said Lend with Care continues as usual, the Sofia trip is OK. He reminded the club that we have one team for the annual –try to beat the Walthew House visual impaired team at Parrs' Wood Bowling alley on March 18th.

Michael acting for Social was concerned that 6 members had not responded to President Night. Please come forward very soon.

PR Ian, the Duck Race press release is imminent and the posters are ready. He needs to know a charity for Scarecrow event by July.

AOB was minimal and the final toast was made at 9.20pm.

David Rose

Mar 11th – Rob Sweeting - This is me

The meeting started on time at 7.30pm. Michael decided that this week the table with the guest on should go first with the desert being In reverse order but his table going first.

Jackie provided (as always) a good meal of Chillie, Lasagna, & Salmon with all the necessary attachments & a good desert.

Apologies were read by John T. Our guest Yvonne Salmons was introduced who came to look us over . Known to a number of us. Bob & Sue are in Tenerife, Satish is attending Janet, Neil is not attending to protect Himself. Bruce we do not know where he is. Neither Kate as Harry did not know.Dev & Stephen we know why!

Michael then asked for any reports to be given . Harry was first up . Gardeners looked at the park on Saturday. Walthew Cup bowling mentioned for next Wednesday . Explanations were given & Pam agreed to be a bowler with Ian & Michael. Bob S advised if needed he would be prepared to come .Harry is going to the Area Committee with the task to trying to get extra money for the Duck Festival. Michael said he would support Harry if he could ! John Meeus then stood up to advise all the plastic from the Theatre night would not be taken by a number of tips . We all agreed with him but it is very difficult grading plastic. Michael agreed to consider the matter at Council but we have handled this issue before.The concern is that the new people at the tip are reclaiming a lot less than previously.

After the meal coffee was served with Harry helping Rob get ready for his talk.

The second part of the meeting was a very well presented talk on the business life of Rob Sweeting.



In summary (because it is hoped to produce a fuller version in due course) Rob attained a PhD in physics studying Masers. Then Rob switched to

Accountancy with PWC & worked with many big companies(BobS as an underwriter at Royal Insurance worked with similar companies). Then Rob joined Manchester

Business School until his retirement. Rob was interested in what makes innovation successful. He compared & contrasted several companies some failed some were successful. Questions were then asked.

AOB .Maggie advised 65 Tickets had been sold . More were expected to .come from the shops. Michael advised the next event was the President's Night & he looked for a good evening.

The evening closed with the normal . Rotary Peace the World over !

Bob Stevenson (additional notes follow)

Additional Notes for Bulletin for Wednesday 11 March: Rob Sweeting's Talk

Rob explained that the 1960s were very formative years for him when many scientific and technology influences were in play including the US mission to the Moon and Harold Wilson's memorable "white heat of technology" speech. He read physics at undergraduate level and also obtained a PhD in physics. Subsequently he was advised to embark either law or accounting as qualifications to enter the world of business. He qualified as a Chartered Accountant and obtained post qualification experience with Price Waterhouse (laterPWC) in their Manchester office. This involved work as an auditor in major manufacturing companies in the engineering, textile and pottery sectors. However the demise of these large scale companies accelerated during the 1970s. There were isolated examples of companies that were growing and developing to meet the new challenges.

In the late 1970s Rob joined a recently formed multi-disciplinary team at the newly created British Aerospace There he engaged in a number of projects across the whole business and visited most of the UK sites, both civil and military aircraft. An opportunity arose for him to join the academic staff in the Department of Management Sciences at UMIST (which later merged with Manchester Business School in Manchester University). There he was able to draw on his previous experience to undertake research and teach both undergraduate and postgraduate course in the finance and accounting area.

Rob was involved with a number of multidisciplinary projects in the area of new business development and innovation. These included: how large mature businesses developed internal new, entrepreneurial businesses, how new technology business parks were developing with comparison to those in Silicon Valley in California and Boston in Massachusetts USA and how the newly developed Venture Capital industry in the USA was transferring to the UK. Rob was also involved in projects examining the adoption of new management techniques and practices that were proliferating, including ABC, TQM, BPR and so on (an "acronym soup" as it was called!).

Rob was also engaged in a range of external activities including being on the Manchester Society of Chartered Accountants main committee for many years (he is a past President) and a member of the Manchester Commonwealth Games Legacy Committee.

For the latter part of his career, Rob joined what is now Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) Business School as Head of Accounting and Finance. Again using his experience and networks, he widened and deepened the connections of the division with industry and the accounting profession.

Mar 18th – First ever Zoom meeting

We had our first ever meeting “virtual” meeting via Zoom teleconferencing software.

22 members joined in using smart phones, tablets and laptop or desktop computers, or landline telephones for voice only participation.

We discussed how we might find ways to raise money for MNDA Manchester given the cancellation of the Spring fashion show and the likely cancellation of the Duck Race. Ian will explore how we might do a Facebook campaign to get public donations. Robert Cryer suggested that the wartime Manley ventilator, which was easy to manufacture and was entirely mechanical, might be of help in the current crisis. We had updates on Sid and Sally (in Wales) and Harvey. Neil Loveland was in the meeting and doing well with his chemotherapy.

As a test of the possibility of having a speaker at future meetings, Michael showed a presentation on Rotary membership around the world and how it was changing. In summary the 1.2 million Rotarians total has been stable over the last 5 years, but this reflects growth in Asia and decline elsewhere.

Although there were teething problems such as microphone feedback and a bit of chaos due to us all being new to this and not having understood ways of behaviour, the overwhelming feeling was that we should learn, improve and continue with virtual meetings.

Michael

Mar 25th – Zoom meeting with special guest Tony Burch

The meeting started at 6 o'clock.

A total of 23 members joined the zoom call – several resplendent in black tie or sparkly evening attire to 'commemorate' our missed President's Night and Fashion Show.



Our special guest was Tony Burch – a former BW Rotary member – who is now in the Whitchurch Club in Shropshire. This is an active Rotary group of 46 members of which Tony is the Community Service Chair.

Whitchurch has a particularly impressive Christmas Day project where the Club delivers free cooked festive lunches to over 130 local people in their own homes. This tradition was started over 40 years ago. The project runs separately to 'meals on wheels'. The Rotary meal recipients are nominated by the public.

Several current BW members shared happy memories of Tony's time in our Club and said how good it was to see him 😊

Then it was on to 'business'...

Michael announced the Club was partnering with the local Facebook group Helping Hands Bramhall (and the just starting-up Helping Hands Woodford) to make calls to those who were isolated and lonely during the current Coronavirus crisis. He would follow up with an email to ask for volunteers.

Michael then made two proposals to the membership

i) To, as necessary, donate small amounts of money, up to £500 a go, in a hurry, to local good causes affected by the Coronavirus. This would be decided by a special

committee of Michael, Harry, Maggie, Bob and Sue Preece. Any three agreeing is enough. Carried unanimously

ii) ii) Since we only have £1,100 in the charity account we should be allowed to reduce the reserves of £1000 for a future Dragons' Den and £1,500 for the Xmas float repair/renovation if necessary. Carried unanimously

We concluded the meeting with the final toast at just before quarter to seven.

Sarah



Tony Burch (right) with another former member, Sid Davies, in April 2019