



HOWZAT!



The Rotary Club of Newlands

The Club that Appeals



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Apologies before 10:00 on a Monday to Heidi Andersson, please.

COMMENT: The Coronavirus Scenarios (Clem Sunter) (via Tony Davidson)

In a book published in 2015 entitled *Flagwatching*, I wrote about how important it was to identify the flags changing the world as we know it. One of the flags was the increasing likelihood of a global pandemic due to higher rates of international travel and the growing concentration of people in megacities. Likewise, the transmission of viruses across different species was a major concern as was the appearance of multi-drug resistant varieties of bacteria.

I ended up by quoting Louis Pasteur, the remarkable 19th century French microbiologist, who in a moment of pessimism said: "It is the microbes who will have the last word."

The coronavirus, alternatively called COVID-19, is now spreading so quickly around the world that, despite the containment measures taken by China where the virus originated, it now exists on every continent other than Antarctica. How significant a threat it poses to humankind in general has to be explored in scenarios.

Much Ado About Nothing

The first one I have named "Much Ado About Nothing". Even though the estimated number of people infected worldwide by the coronavirus is approaching 100 000 as we speak and there have been 3 000 deaths, a scenario put forward by some US medical experts is that the media have gone overboard in exaggerating the magnitude of the disease.

According to this narrative, it will evolve into a normal seasonal outbreak of flu, albeit of a new kind, and after a while it will be quietly forgotten. Currently about 32 million Americans catch flu annually of whom 32 000 or 0.1% die as a consequence. The coronavirus, which has a fatality rate of somewhere between 1 and 2% if one allows for undetected infections, will increase the annual number of flu cases and deaths but not to the point of hurting the country's vibrant economy. The majority of people will recover and probably develop an immunity to this particular strain.

An alternative argument put forward to support the validity of this scenario is that the last two outbreaks of severe respiratory syndrome this century, SARS and MERS, disappeared overnight. If the coronavirus does the same, people will wonder why they got so alarmed. My response is that the figures for the coronavirus in terms of cases and deaths are already well ahead of its two predecessors and make such an outcome increasingly unlikely. It also has a much wider international footprint.

The Camel's Straw

The second scenario I call "The Camel's Straw". It is where the new virus has such a disruptive effect on the global economy that we head into a recession and a second collapse of the financial markets in this century. The theme of this scenario is that the central banks around the world have since 2008 created such a huge mountain of debt among governments, companies and individual consumers that a small shock can break the camel's back. The epidemic does not have to be a huge one for this to happen.

In support of this scenario is the economic impact we are already witnessing in China, Italy, South Korea, Iran and other countries hit by the virus. It has also had a devastating effect on supply chains and tourism. Many events involving the gathering of large numbers of people in the same spot have been cancelled. The official statistics do not yet reflect these adversities; and obviously the key uncertainty for the markets is how long the negative conditions caused by the spread of the virus will persist.

Hence, we are seeing record volatility in the stock market indices from one day to the next with the first one driven by fear and the second by greed. For online traders, it must be paradise as every buyer requires a seller with the opposite scenario in mind.

Spain Again

The third scenario is the nightmare one: "Spain Again" in which national health systems are put under intolerable pressure to handle the number of cases cropping up. It is where we have a repeat of the Spanish flu which occurred just over one hundred years ago. It killed around 50 to 100 million people and reduced the world's population by 3 to 5%.

The argument against this scenario is that the medical community today is far more advanced and knowledgeable than the one which fought the Spanish flu and by this time next year an effective vaccine should be available. Governments are better prepared too. On the other side of the equation is that we live in a much more interconnected world which facilitates transmission; and viruses can mutate into a more lethal form as the Spanish flu demonstrated.

As each day passes, the flags indicating the viability of each of these three scenarios will rise and fall. A fox is a person who keeps ahead of the game by being open-minded and objective as the evidence one way or the other flows in. Equally, foxes are individuals who are prepared to adapt their personal behavior in light of the challenges posed by the scenarios and at the same time protect their loved ones.

Foxy companies will continuously review their strategy and tactics and have a radar system evaluating the impact that the virus is having on their markets and supply chains. They will do their best to take the risks out of play. They will keep the health of their employees uppermost in their minds and minimize the chances of the virus invading their workforce.

Finally, foxy politicians and foxy nations will lay aside their differences and attempt to present a united front against the future spread of the virus. Maybe this virus will help us realize we all live on the same planet and to avoid COVID-19 having the last word, we need to create a shared destiny.

Clem Sunter
2nd March 2020

MINUTES of the PARTNERS' MEETING (2nd March 2020)

Scribe: Richard House

Sergeant Richard Burnett opened the Ordinary Meeting and invited President Terry to welcome the guests. These included the guest speaker, Marlene Silbert, as well as Rotarians that had recently returned from foreign travels.

The Four-Way Test was recited by Tinus de Jongh and the Grace and Toast by Wybe Meinesz.

In the absence of Graham Lowden there was no wine swindle.

There was no movement of the wooden spoon by the holder Chris Beech who advised that he was waiting until the Cycle Tour was over.

Chris Beech then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Marlene Silbert, from The Holocaust Centre, the Jewish Museum and the Interfaith Intercultural Youth Programme.

Marlene spoke of her time as an anti-apartheid activist and how she has strived to create a place where we can live in of peace and harmony. She described how we lived in a conscious state of difference with little if any contact with each other and how skin colour and religion can have a powerful interaction.

Jana Forrester thanked the speaker, adding how Marlene's stories had touched the lives of so many and that we need to learn to respect difference.

Wendy Goddard advised that for those interested, there would be a Jewish Literary Festival at the Holocaust Centre on the 15th of March.

Dinner was served and afterwards Sergeant Richard requested spots:

- Chris Beech: Chris advised that he would not be at the VOC on race day as he would be Sector Marshal for Sector 1, and Jenny Howard would at VOC in his place.
 - He reminded those who needed to collect equipment for race day that the Quartermaster would be open from 10:00 – 14:00 on Saturday.
 - He requested that equipment is returned in the state that it was supplied.
 - Sector Managers were reminded that marshal numbers should be submitted to him by Tuesday, as shortages of marshals needed to be managed.
 - Registration of marshals would continue until Saturday evening.
 - Marshal time sheets should be signed and returned to Chris asap after the race
 - If there were any queries, please contact Chris or ask VOC for direction if needed on Sunday
 - Sweeps were requested to return all blankets to Constantia
 - Wished all involved in the race well and hoped they 'broke a leg'!
- Pieter van Aswegen: Issued Avis uniforms and requested that Refreshment Station managers ensured that bike repairers wore the uniform as Avis was a sponsor.
- Brian Pickup: Has a magnificent tiler/paver. Let him know if he is needed.

President Terry's Slot:

- Remembered that he had forgotten to welcome partners!
- Had received an email from Rochelle, who is now convenor for the Cape Town Marathon, requesting for someone to work with her this year and take over next year.
- Thanked Chris and Jeannine for doing incredibly well after taking over the Cycle Tour at short notice
- In addition to the Cycle Tour war stories, Tony Davidson will give a presentation next week on the Corona Virus
- Reminded members the importance of securing events for our funding going forward.

Sergeant Richard then advised members of duties for next week's meeting (see Howzat) and Happy Rand's were collected.

Sergeant Richard then closed the meeting at 20:00.

IN the NEWS

Continuing last week's story of Otto James' and Patricia Bladbeen's graduation at !Khwa ttu, here are their delightful reports on their February excursion to Cape Town. Otto wrote:

My excursion was dated by Mr Richard Barnett with Ri Vermooten that me and my colleague are going to meet the Rotary Club that is sponsoring us on the 10th of February.

We were picked up at !Khwa ttu at 9am in the morning by Richard with his VW car. I was sitting in the front with him and my colleague was in the back seat. We drove out of !Khwa ttu and that was the start of our trip. On our way we chatted about the landscape, the road and when it was built, the horse farming, nuclear station, golf estates and the buildings and the road when it was built. On our way we were chatting about the history of South Africa. That was a bit challenging for me but I was on the right page with Richard.

We drove via Blouberg, Melkbosstrand, Robben Island, and there was a lot of kite skiing at the seaside because of its strong and steady wind. On our way we decided to drive into the city and we drove to the dock and Richard showed us one of his ships and we entered inside it and it was amazing. It was my first time to climb on a ship. We drove via district six and to the office where Richard is working, we went to his office we had coffee while we were waiting for Chippy to come and greeted everyone who is there. While waiting for Chippy to collect us for our quick tour we were on our laptops and checking on them to see whether there were any faults on the laptops, but they were good. I chose HP and my colleague chose Samsung. It was nice. Then we went out with Richard and he was showing us what they were doing – wine storage and furniture storage too.

When Chippy arrived she took us and we drove with her car and she was showing us the city hall and how Cape Town looks like, we drove via My City Bus station and saw Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela pictures on the wall and then we saw the university of Cape Town and Chippy explained to us the history of the university and we went to the National Botanical Garden. It was the most amazing tour I have ever had in my life. Seeing plants that I have never seen before. It was fun and South Africa is beautiful with its landscape.

We went to the Groot Constantia and it was amazing. I saw the Indian Ocean from a far distance and how it looks amazed me. Chippy told me that the farm is a wine producing estate and people are drawn to the farm by its rich history, beautiful setting, fantastic food and the wines. I saw the historical houses and the way they are built.

We went back to the car and drove to Simons Town and by distance I could see the Military Seals Ships and the landscape and also the train trails. When we arrived we went straight to the penguins and they were amazing and I saw Noah's Ark. We had a fun time until our time was up and now it was time for the Rotary Club meeting. When we arrived after a long drive, I was asking myself what I am going to say to the people. First we had cool drinks before the meeting could start. It was a very nice big building, different people in it. When it was time for the meeting I felt innocent and scared but in mind and in my heart I said, You can do it boy – be a club member for just a few minutes. And it worked out. The way the meeting was and also the dinner we had with them, it was a great time and a very nice meeting and it was the best time for me in my life and I will not forget it. Cheers !Khwa ttu for the great time, a toast in the name of San Spirit Shared!

And Patricia added:

It was the best excursion for me. I was a bit nervous that morning before Richard Burnett, one of the Rotaries came to fetch us. When Richard arrived I calmed down because he is one of the kindest people I have ever met and I knew from that moment it will be a wonderful day for me and my colleague.

On our way to Cape Town Richard and Otto talked unstoppable and I used that opportunity to just listen to what they were telling each other. Before we went to his office he showed us some places like Robin Island, Sea Rescue and he also took us to his boat where he explained us about their trips and how the boat works, he took us to have look inside his boat. From there we went to his office where we got our laptops as a surprise and we sat in his office with our laptops just to check if the laptops are working.

While we sat in his office he told us that his wife will come to show us more places in Cape Town, before his wife came he took us through the building where he is working to show us the different wines and explain us everything. It was a huge place we almost got lost between that many boxes. After that his wife came with some sandwiches for us to eat for lunch before we go on our trip.

She took us through Cape Town, she showed us the place where Mandela was released, the Community Hall, District six, etc. We drove around the Table mountain, we saw the Melkbosstrand, Bloubergstrand, Kirstenbosch (National Botanical Garden), Groot Constantia, the best of all we went to Simon's Town to look at the penguins (wow that was great) and there we ate ice cream like tourists and many more places we just drove around looking at some places from inside the car. She also gave us some time to get out of the car to take some pictures, because the time was not on our side so we had to check quickly and go on so that we can see more places as possible.

A few minutes to six we arrived at the Club where the meeting will take place. There we met the rest of the Rotary people and we also met a lady who told us that she was here at !Khwa ttu and how she has enjoyed it here (she was not part of the Rotaries). A few minutes past six the meeting has started and then we had our dinner and after that the meeting continued and at that time me and Otto had to do a speech each of us to tell the people about us and we also thanked them for everything. After that meeting we had a quick dessert before we came back to !Khwa ttu. It was a "Great Experience".

Thank you!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date
14 & 15 March 2020



LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS
Roccover Beethoven

ROTARY CLUB OF WYNBERG PRESENTS

RICHARD COCK
JORDAN BROOKS
ROCCO DE VILLIERS

Rotary  **Club of Cape of Good Hope**



13th DRAGON BOAT REGATTA

Imperial Yacht Club Promenade Road – Zandvlei, Lakeside

Saturday 21 March 2020
@ 09h00 – 15h00





FUTURE FIXTURES

MARCH: WATER and SANITATION MONTH

- 9 Ordinary Meeting: War Stories
Speaker: Dr Tony Davidson, Coronavirus
- 16 Ordinary Meeting
Speaker: Carine Brown, West Coast Music Academy
- 18 Board Meeting
- 20 Masikane (11h00)
- 23 Business Meeting
- 26-29 RYLA
- 28 D9350 Membership Workshop (Kelvin Grove)
- 30 Ordinary Meeting
Speaker: Melanie Vermaak (Acting Deputy Principal) TVET False Bay

APRIL: MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH MONTH

- 6 Partners' Meeting and Vocational Evening
- 13 No Meeting (Family Day)
- 15 Board Meeting
- 20 Business Meeting

- 27 No Meeting (Freedom Day)
- 30 District 9350 POETS (Melkbosstrand Country Club)

MAY: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

- 1 District 9350 Assembly (Melkbosstrand High School)
- 1-2 District 9350 Conference (Melkbosstrand High School)
- 4 Partners' Meeting and Youth Evening
- 11 Ordinary Meeting : Feedback on India Friendship Exchange
- 18 Ordinary Meeting
- 20 Board Meeting
- 25 Business Meeting

JUNE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

- 1 Partners' Meeting
- 6-10 [Rotary International Convention](#) (Hawaii)
- 8 Ordinary Meeting
- 15 Ordinary Meeting
- 17 Board Meeting
- 22 Business Meeting
- 29 Ordinary Meeting

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	9 March 2020 <i>Ordinary / War Stories</i>	16 March 2020 <i>Ordinary</i>	23 March 2020 <i>Business</i>
Sergeant	Graham Finlayson	Jenny Ibbotson	Shân Biesman-Simons
Four-Way Test	Heidi Andersson	Pieter van Aswegen	Wybe Meinesz
Grace and Loyal Toast	Brian Pickup	Michael Walwyn	Wendy Goddard
Attendance	Andy Ismay	Lew Botha	Johan Beukman
Fellowship	Geraldine Nicol	Tony van der Lith	Chris Beech
Minutes	Jeannine Ibbotson	John Stephenson	Graham Lowden
Intro speaker		Janey Ball	
Thank speaker		Jana Forrester	
Comment	Tony Davidson	Glynis Menné	Peter Ennis



BIRTHDAYS	Not one.	
ANNIVERSARIES	Not one. Neither.	
WOODEN SPOON	Chris Beech	

OFFICE BEARERS

President	Terry Lancaster	Environment	Tony Davidson
President-Elect	Jenny Ibbotson	International Service	Jenny Ibbotson
Past President	Jenny Howard	Membership	Graham Finlayson
Sorta Secretary	Janey Ball	New Generations	Vanessa Rousseau
Treasurer	Peter Ennis	Public Image	Shelley Finch
Club Services	Heidi Anderson	Rotary Foundation	Mike Walwyn
Community Service	Corinne Hudson	Vocational Service	Jeannine Ibbotson
Entrepreneurial	John Stephenson		

QUOTE of the WEEK

*“Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime.
Teach a man to cycle and he will realize fishing is stupid and boring”
- Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu -*

AND the LAST WORD

