



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: Aah I Remember (Glynis Menné-Hart)

It's a while since I was a traveller, and likely to be an even longer stretch to my next trip, so let me reminisce about the last one. RFE to Sweden. May 2019.

What remains with all of us who were treated to this wonderful adventure, is the joyous singing, which happens everywhere.

On the last of our three nights with each host, was a "final dinner". The first of these was held in the museum in a town called Karlshamn. We were greeted with a welcome glass of Champagne and ushered into a wood-lined room where a long table seating everyone was set up beautifully, under the stares from portraits adorning the walls. The atmosphere was formal, with one Rotarian dressed in top hat and tails, recounting the history of a well-known Swedish hero. Our hosts had obviously gone to a lot of trouble in setting the scene, and we were treated to a splendid buffet of herrings, salmon in various guises, salads and so on. The wine flowed freely and the meal finished with a memorable almond cake dessert.



And then, with the nod of someone's head, our hosts stepped back and burst into song, whilst leaping and jumping around the table, imitating frogs, changing direction from time to time! It was a little unexpected, but it was carefree and their enjoyment was palpable!

On another occasion, Jamie and I were alone with our hosts, having returned from a cocktail party at the University. We were dead beat, but were ushered into the dining room, where they had set up the table for a meal of herrings. So the four of us settled down to their home-made kirsch and there, next to the fork, was laid out a song sheet. So between herrings and kirsch, the four of us heartily burst into song, them in Swedish and us in the English translation, that didn't fit the tune! But it was joyous and fun and left one feeling connected.

And so, perhaps that's what we should all be doing now, whilst we are all at home.

Singing our hearts out to the wonderful world out there!

MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING (16TH March 2020)

Scribe: Corinne Hudson

The evening was opened by Sergeant Jenny.

The **Stirrer's Spoon** remains with Henry. The **Wine Raffle** was won by Ian / Lew / Pieter / Andy / Glynis and finally ended up with Melinda, who was present.

Some discussion did ensue about billing on the Wine Raffle. Graham L explained very succinctly that members were ONLY charged the R5 entry fee IF they attend a meeting. Therefore, it's NOT a Wine Swindle. Should the Club elect to charge members R5/week, irrespective of whether they attend a meeting or not, Graham L made it clear he'll no longer drive the Wine Raffle, because it would again devolve into a Wine Swindle.

President Terry then immediately dispensed with the usual meeting order (perhaps it was the small group of only three tables, plus the uniquely combined 'General Meeting / Board Meeting' ambience.)

He addressed some Club matters he's concerned about, which stimulated general discussion.

1. The **dearth of publicity** about our amazing RCN projects and events in local newspapers / press and social media is a big concern to many members. We just don't seem to be adequately featured unless it is a PenBev event. When there is coverage, it can seem a little 'last minute.dot.com'. General consensus was that, as a Club, we need and deserve to have our incredible projects and community efforts well publicised so that we can attract vibrant new membership.
2. **Community Services** gave feedback on Lew's Pres Challenge of a Pool Filter for Hope House, a sanctuary for Adults with Schizophrenia in Woodstock. Cost = R5K.
3. **Meals Discussion:** Pub meals cost R75 – but, they only serve less than 10, and they include chips, which don't scale up with quantity, or lend themselves to quantity / quality catering. Our meal cost is R95/meal. Everyone is enjoying the meals. **Point for ponder?** Are our low meeting attendance numbers because members are avoiding R95 meal costs x 4 per month?
4. **Treasurer Peter E:** The Agterskot from Cycle Tour Trust is GONE. Loads of Club costs were covered by this. We now need to think carefully & cleverly how we will pay for these things, also considering that there are a couple of people in the Club who are adamant that funds raised through "working at events" may not be used for Club costs. The knock on effect is that membership fees could thus be set to increase, making new membership less accessible, especially for younger, less established folk.
5. **Vocational Services:** Jeannine complimented on her excellent work on this portfolio. Plan is to include companies who offer bursaries. Mention made of RC Hout Bay who do not award bursaries, but who have contracted with individuals / companies who provide bursaries. RC Hout Bay's Vocational committee have forged alliances with the bursars & they monitor & have oversight over the bursary recipients. RC Hout Bay have expressed their willingness to share their experiences with RCN.
6. **Foundation: Mike W** reported that the 2 Langa Global Grants are coming up for final reports. Anthony G must report on Leap & the Langa ECD Project must report by mid year. Michael Sonke's study is continuing, despite UCT being closed. His personal domestic situation needs monitoring given current circumstances.
7. **CSI Projects: Graham F** reported that –
 - The Masi Library Memo of Agreement is nearly ready & the funds have arrived.
 - Masikane opening has had to be delayed because of the Corona Virus.
 - Nolothando has gotten their additional furniture from surplus funds.
 - Philisa Abafazi Bethu is progressing and the lease over the land in Steenburg is signed.

Then, it was 7 pm and the **Grace & the loyal toast** was done by Mike W & supper was served – it was delicious.

The scribe has totally forgotten at which point the **4 Way Test** was done – and by whom. There was some debate whether it should be the Objects of Rotary. Nobody was sure, it seems, what kind of meeting we were having.

Post Supper Spots:

- **President Terry** – again
 - Ian P has been in 2 week isolation since his return from the UK
 - Rochelle is the convenor of the CT Marathon – which has been sold! Chris & Janet Whelan have now stood back and the new Race Convenor is Renee Jordaan, who contacted RCN on Thursday

- and is delighted to have RCN on board. This presents an opportunity for RCN to negotiate our fees.
- Rochelle is in need of a 2-i-C for the CT Marathon. (*Scribe's comment – with Renee at the helm, the job has just become WAY easier.*)
 - There have many event cancellations: Masikane opening / RYLA camp at month end / Melkbos District conference / POETS – waiting for details / June President's inductions – TBA
 - Jenny Howard has resigned from RCN. She will remain as an AG and will either join the E-Club of Hermanus. Terry has sent her a note.
 - There are no volunteers for the Club Secretary position. Janey will stand in until the end of this Rotary year.
 - Thank goodness for the timing of the race vs Corona. We have lost Stellenbosch & Agterskot. Had the Cycle Tour been just 2 weeks later, the race would not have happened & the impact on Club funds would have been severe.
 - **Andrew P**
 - Expressed his regret that Jenny H has left RCN.
 - Cycle Tour 2020 & RCN workforce / contribution kept going so efficiently because of step-up of Chris B. We are a very special club.
 - **Melinda S**
 - All speakers cancelled for March
 - **Vanessa R**
 - Vocational Services not yet ready for evening in April

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

1. Very strong opinions
2. Think carefully about next few months
3. Consider actions carefully between now and end of April
4. Options:
 - A – meetings at WPCC every week
 - B – meet less every month
 - C – meet on line
 - D – both actual + virtual meetings
5. Is WPCC going to stay open? (This was before the 6 pm liquor curfew was announced.)
6. Rochelle: Many measures being put in place. She won't attend meetings, could be a 'spreader'. We need a "bulletin" to broadcast news.
7. Graham L: Lots of info out there. Must make decisions for ourselves. Virus has approx 2-month bell curve. Flattening the curve should take 6 months. Suggests leaving it up to individual Rotarians. Need to put a notice of intent on our website.
8. Graham F: Have a duty to ourselves + larger community. He also referred to Flattening the Curve thru Social Distancing + not travelling & not socialising. Thus far, only 7000 have died. Way more people die from murder, car accidents, etc. (*21/3/2020 scribe update Graham are you reconsidering that opinion yet?*)
9. Melinda: Must consider Club staff.
10. Terry: Close for 2 weeks. If WPCC closes, then we will close.
11. Corinne H: We must decide for ourselves, as a Club. Not decide based on WPCC's choices.
12. Jenny I: Committees can continue to meet – we must meet virtually / on line. We still have a way to go to mitigate this crisis.
13. Andrew P: When COVID-19 gets into townships, what will happen.
14. Terry: We must meet on 30th March to decide the way forward.
15. Nora: We are all (except Rochelle) in the vulnerable category.
16. Richard H: Pandemic has not started yet. Potentially, could take months (if curve flattened.) If it hits in weeks, is going to be devastating, with massive humanitarian crisis potential – there are not enough respirators of beds.

FUTURE FIXTURES

MARCH: WATER and SANITATION MONTH

- 25 Board Meeting (Online)
30 Ordinary Meeting (Probably online)

APRIL: MATERNAL and CHILD HEALTH MONTH

- 6 Partners' Meeting
13 No Meeting (Family Day)
15 Board Meeting
20 Business Meeting
27 No Meeting (Freedom Day)

MAY: YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

- 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
8 Ordinary Meeting
15 Ordinary Meeting
17 Board Meeting
22 Business Meeting
29 Ordinary Meeting

UMPIRES and SCORERS

	23 March 2020 <i>Meeting Cancelled</i>	30 March 2020 <i>Ordinary: (Online?)</i>	6 April 2020 <i>Partners</i>
Sergeant		Geraldine Nicol	Ian Pursch
Four-Way Test		Graham Finlayson	Glynis Menné-Hart
Grace and Loyal Toast		John Winship	Jamie Hart
Attendance		Andrew Peile	Lew Botha
Fellowship		Tinus de Jongh	Michael Walwyn
Minutes		Vanessa Rousseau	Melinda Stapleton
Intro speaker		Richard House	
Thank speaker		Andy Ismay	
Comment	Peter Ennis	Jana Forrester	Pieter van Aswegen



BIRTHDAYS	23 March	Jamie Hart
	26 March	John Stephenson
	27 March	Andy Ismay
WOODEN SPOON		Chris Beech

OFFICE BEARERS

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

QUOTE of the WEEK

“Who are you? Who are we? The history of disaster demonstrates that most of us are social animals, hungry for connection as well as for purpose and meaning. It also suggests that, if this is who we are, then everyday life in most places is a disaster that disruptions sometimes give us a chance to change. They are a crack in the walls that ordinarily hem us in, and what floods in can be enormously destructive – or creative. Hierarchies and institutions are inadequate to these circumstances; they are often what fails in such crises. Civil society is what succeeds not only in an emotional demonstration of altruism and mutual aid but also in a practical mustering of creativity and resources to meet the challenge.”

- Rebecca Solnit, [“A Paradise Built in Hell”](#) -

AND the LAST WORD

