



# HOWZAT!



The Rotary Club of Newlands  
*The Club that Appeals*

PRESIDENT JENNY IBBOTSON



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

## COMMENT: THE IMPACT of COVID (Graham Finlayson)

If you are like me, you are suffering 'Covid-19-News-Fatigue' from some months back. Nonetheless, I would like to offer my understanding from news over the last 12 months – a layman's guide - and how this has impacted in some small measure. Please forgive me if this is old hat.

We are 12 months down the line, from when it all started for me. We watched the news anxiously in an attempt to ascertain how the Pandemic will turn out and when we can go back to some normality in our daily lives? At the time, I was in line to be contracted to develop a record of a large sprawling hotel in the Seychelles, with the concomitant dreams of sipping Pina Colodas under palm trees for a month. Our first-born loves dogs, so for the first 'Hard Lockdown' she decided to foster a rescue dog from an animal rescue centre, 'just for 3 weeks'. Cindy has been a 'foster-fail' and is now well ensconced after nearly 12 months. And, dreams of the Seychelles? They came to a sudden halt. My initial thought from news available at the time was that it could be over within 6 months, but that has all changed in the last 3 months with the Covid-19 'Second Wave'.

The pattern of the Covid-19 Pandemic is now increasingly following that of the Spanish Flu of 1917 to 1919 when the 1918 Second Wave enacted the worst death toll – anywhere from 50 to 100 million lives were lost over those 3 years, worldwide. Comparatively, today, it is estimated just over 2 million lives have been lost to Covid-19. Unlike then, we now have the advantage of new technologies to develop vaccines for flu and corona viruses. We all carry natural anti-bodies for the Spanish Flu, developed through 'herd-immunity'. Flu viruses have avian origins. Corona viruses have reptilian or bat origins. No doubt, we are all coming to the realisation that the vaccines are the most advantageous answer to gaining some normality back in our lives and preventing increasing number of deaths.

Over the recent months, I am sure you and your families, like us, have experienced direct or close incidents of Covid-19 positive cases. Fellow Rotarians, family members, close friends, work associates and others beyond these circles, have all had to endure anxious moments having positive results and ill health. Two of the contractors we work with on the CSI projects have been badly affected by illness and shut downs affecting a number of workers' earnings. And this is happening regionally, nationally and worldwide. And, it appears the Covid-19 virus affects everyone differently; there is no predictable ill-health patterns – some get it mildly and others severely.

For the latest on the delivery of vaccines to SA [see this article](#) in the Daily Maverick.

The latest additional concerns about the Covid-19 virus are the new mutations uncovered here in SA, in the UK and in Brazil. Are the newly developed vaccines effective against these mutations? Virologists and epidemiologists talk about 'slides and shifts' in the mutations. 'Slides' are minor changes, where 'shifts' are substantial changes in a virus. You may not be aware of the flu pandemics of 1957 and 1968 when 'shifts' occurred in the common flu virus, when, it is estimated, 2,5 million and 3,0 million deaths occurred worldwide respectively. Flu viruses mutate relatively quickly, hence the flu-jab is best advised every year. Corona viruses mutate slowly, which potentially offers Covid vaccines a good chance of stopping the current Pandemic if enough numbers of the World's population are vaccinated.

The status of vaccines is much more complex than one reads in the media. Yes, 39 million have been already vaccinated in the 'developed world' against 25 million in the rest of the 'developing world'. All the high-tech (RNA) vaccines which require high-tech delivery logistics with concomitant costs have been launched to market, which they need to do to recover their development costs before the cheaper vaccines push them off the shelf. Many of the cheaper and easier delivery vaccines have yet to be approved for use. This includes Johnson & Johnson vaccine and about six others that are being developed in India. My guess is that the SA government has been waiting for these latter vaccines to come to market, in the hope of keeping costs to a minimum. The one low-cost vaccine that has obtained approval, is the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccine referred to in the article above.

For an interesting history of vaccines to prevent the plague, there is a good read [in this article from the BBC](#), which plays out largely in India.

There are all sorts of stories and rumours circulating that vaccines have bad side-effects and/or have micro-chips inserted, etc. I have heard this first-hand from folk I have encountered during casual talk in the public domain. The 'anti-vaxxers' and the other anti-scientific lobbyists do not convince. I sincerely hope we can all be vaccinated sooner rather than later without it becoming too politicised and with nil ill-effects, for the benefit of us

all. If there is one incentive to be vaccinated, it is that airlines are now starting to require you to have a Covid-19 vaccine certificate before you can travel. It can be anticipated that this will become more and more common, for all types of gatherings and travel, much like routine travel vaccinations requirements for diseases such as yellow fever and typhoid. Here's looking forward to a brighter and more balanced world in the near future.

## MINUTES of the MEETING on ZOOM (25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2020; 19h00)

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*Scribe: Henry Campbell*

Sergeant Jeanine opened the meeting.

President Jenny welcomed DG Carl-Heinz, AG Lizelle and Menno de Wet and Richard House who has been on medical leave.

Bill said the Four-Way test. Lew said Grace and the Loyal Toast. Peace candle was lit by Brian who quoted Desmond Tutu; 'If you want to have peace don't talk to your friends, talk to your enemies.'

Speaker of the evening, DG Carl-Heinz was born and raised in Bavaria where he farmed rabbits as a young boy. He excelled in sport and did a doctorate in Law. He married Caroline and was MD of a large company operating in the field of environmental science. In the year 2005 he immigrated to South Africa, settled in Somerset-West and was a founder member of the Rotary club of Helderberg Sunrise.

As a District Executive they wished to:

- Act in a supporting role to the clubs
- Encourage clubs to look after their members-Covid has taught us this!
- Develop satellite clubs along the N7, N1 and N2 routes
- Urge, that as the world is changing, individuals in Clubs should embrace change and develop new Club models
- Persuade Clubs to do strategic planning once a year
- Advise Clubs to choose members carefully. At the global level we are gaining 150,000 members a year, but we are also losing the same number of members during a year. Many members leave within two years as they are not involved in Club activities.
- Market the affairs of Rotary. Research shows that Rotarians globally do some 45 million voluntary hours of work in a Rotary year. This is equivalent to some 800 million US dollars. We should, 'do good and talk about it'. Partner with the younger generation and use social media to promote Rotary.
- Urge Clubs to support Foundation. This year 9 global grant projects to the value of some R10 million will be implemented in our District. Failure to invest in Foundation will lead to fewer opportunities in the future.
- Motivate Clubs to donate to Polio Plus as the disease has not been eradicated.

Questions:

- A decision on whether RI Convention in Taipei will happen is still pending.
- RI may offer their Polio Plus network to participate in the post vaccine Covid- world.

President Jenny thanked Carl-Heinz for his visit.

Spots:

- President Jenny passed the Just Desert Spoon on to Nora for the efficient and timely preparation of the Board meeting minutes.
- Mike reported on the progress of the LEAP global grant. He also urged that the early planning for dealing with container arrivals should be conveyed to the District. Ian advised that a further container of books would be arriving later this year.
- AG Lizelle congratulated the Club on being efficient and productive.

In her closing slot, President Jenny congratulated Andy and Liz, and Terry and Jenny on their anniversaries. She advised that Anne Wright from Hermanus would be next-in-line to be District Governor.

## NEWSLANDS ROTARY NEWS

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Following his visit on Monday, DG Carl-Heinz wrote to President Jenny, as below:



President Jenny Ibbotson

Rotary Club Newlands

26 January 2021

### Club Visit on 25 January 2021

Dear President Jenny and Members of Rotary Club Newlands

Many thanks for such a warm welcome at your club's meeting yesterday; I really enjoyed visiting your club, albeit it was in an online format.

Your Board-members have given me a comprehensive overview on your projects. I really want to salute you for what has been done and for what you are intent to do this year and look forward to get the presentation, as it was information overflow to some extent.

You are a role model and have raised the hurdle high for other clubs in the District in so many ways:

- Compliments that your status with SARS is up to date.
- Many members, like Geraldine, Shelley, Lew and Mike, to name a few, serve on various committees at District level.
- You have a five-years-plan which you want to discuss with your members.
- With your projects you lead the way for others to follow you, be it that you change your food security project into a food garden one, in order to make it sustainable, or the Langa-project which has given you much exposure in the media already.
- Your entrepreneurship project makes a contribution to fight underemployment in South Africa and paves the way for young entrepreneurs to run their businesses more effectively; thank you for the dedication of your members to act as mentors.
- Your idea with the "president's challenge", where members can propose an award per year for beneficiaries in need is brilliant.
- I want to salute you on your club's "corporate social investments"-projects, where you are spending more than one million Rand every year.
- With your vocational project you are sponsoring seven bursary students.

I look forward to visiting your club in person, as promised, once this is again possible.

Please take care of your members, as they matter the most.

Warm regards and please stay healthy

## NEWS FROM THE ROTARY WORLD

Congratulations to Past President Anne Wright of the Rotary Club of Hermanus who, on Saturday 23 January 2021, was confirmed by the District Governor Nominating Committee as District Governor Nominee for the Rotary year 2023/2024.

Past President Ann meets all the requirements as laid down in the Rotary International Bylaws and carries the unanimous endorsement of the Rotary Club of Hermanus.

From further afield comes the sad but unsurprising news that the RI Annual Convention due to be held in Taipei from 12 to 16 June will now be held online. This will be a huge disappointment for the many Rotarians from District 3481 whose Host Organising Committee (HOC) will have worked on the event for years.



DGN Ann Wright

For those not familiar with the RI Convention, it is a worldwide event held each May or June to stimulate, inspire and inform all Rotarians at an international level. It is also the annual meeting to conduct the business of the association with planning usually beginning about four or five years in advance.

The RI board determines a general location and invites cities to make proposals. The conventions are truly international events which 20,000 to 40,000 Rotarians and guests attend. All members should plan to participate in a Rotary International convention to discover the real internationality of Rotary. It is an experience you'll never forget.

## RCN FUTURE FIXTURES *(Online, for now.)*

### *FEBRUARY – PEACE and CONFLICT RESOLUTION / PREVENTION*

- 1 Partners Meeting *Speaker: Kevin Chaplin, The Amy Foundation*
- 8 Ordinary Meeting
- 15 Ordinary Meeting *Godfrey Mokaeane, Breadline Africa: Social Impact Investing*
- 22 Business Meeting

 <b>BIRTHDAYS</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> February	Mike Walwyn
		Sharon Zazeraj
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February	Pieter van Aswegen
	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Roy and Sharon Zazeraj
<b>JOINED ROTARY</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> February	Wybe and Avrill Meinesz
	5 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	Nora See
<b>JUST DESSERTS SPOON</b>		Nora See

## UMPIRES and SCORERS

	1 February 2021 <i>Partners</i>	8 February 2021 <i>Ordinary</i>	15 February 2021 <i>Ordinary</i>
Sergeant	Michael Walwyn	Jamie Hart	Richard Burnett
Four-Way Test / Object	Wybe Meinesz	Wendy Goddard	Brian Pickup
Grace and Loyal Toast	Johan Beukman	John Stephenson	Melinda Stapleton
Peace Candle and Quote	Graham Lowden	Johan Taljaard	Bill Holland
Minutes	Ian Pursch	Shân Biesman-Simons	Pieter van Aswegen
Intro speaker	Shân Biesman-Simons	Glynis Menné-Hart	Terry Lancaster
Thank speaker	Nora See	Jeannine Ibbotson	Tony Davidson
Comment	Jeremy Opperman	Peter Ennis	Lew Botha

- *If you cannot make this duty, please arrange a substitute and let the Sergeant know.*
- *Peace Candle duty includes lighting a candle and providing a quote.*
- *Comment is due on the date above. Publication is the Monday following. Usually. Please submit a text file and, if you have pics, please attach these.*

## CLUB OFFICE BEARERS



**President**  
Jenny Ibbotson



**Past President**  
Terry Lancaster



**Treasurer**  
Peter Ennis



**Secretary**  
Janey Ball



**Environment Chair**  
Tony Davidson



**ECD Project**  
Geraldine Nicol



**Vocational Service**  
Jeannine Ibbotson



**Foundation Chair**  
Mike Walwyn



**Club Services**  
Heidi Andersson



**Youth Service**  
Wendy Goddard



**International Service**  
Shân Biesman-Simons



**Entrepreneurship**  
John Stephenson



**Community Services**  
Wybe Meinesz



Vanessa Rosseau



Graham Finlayson



Shelley Finch

----- Membership & Publicity Cluster -----



## AND the LAST WORD .....

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The Ed can't quite get over that, for some light relief this week, she's been listening to Boney M but, really, why wouldn't you when something like this comes along. [Click](#), why don't you?

See you on the moro....

