



Chartered 1993 | Club No 29806  
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PRESIDENT : JENNY IBBOTSON

## COMMENT: HOW SIMON'S TOWN BEGAN (Jamie Hart)

I was interested to read Vanessa's account of how Prince Albert got its name and thought that you may find a brief history of Simon's Town interesting. The similarity is that it's also a small place but for various reasons, is known internationally.

In the latter part of the 17th century, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) used Table Bay as their main victualling point for water and provisions and from these roots grew Cape Town. Although the port flourished, Table Bay was unsuitable for shipping during the winter months when the prevailing wind changes from south east to north westerly. These sailing ships, which were en route to the Dutch territories in what is now Indonesia, were designed for sailing downwind or with wind from the beam, or side, and were very susceptible to strong head winds. When the winter gales blew, ships at anchor, complete with cargo, were blown onto the shore in the Salt River area.

An initial survey, done in 1671 to determine whether there was a safe anchorage in False Bay, was seemingly conducted from the Fish Hoek area. In 1687, however, the commander of the Cape, one Simon van der Stel, improved on the survey and found a more sheltered bay with a good sandy bottom that provided better anchorage. He called it Simon's Bay, ensuring his name lived on!

Various reports had been written about the suitability of the anchorage in winter but a series of severe storms, particularly in 1722 and 1728, resulted in many boats being blown onshore from their Table Bay anchorages and a great loss of life and cargo ensued. The directors of the VOC discussed what could be done and in 1741 finally issued a directive that in the winter months, initially from the 15th May to the 15th August, Simon's Bay must be used as the preferred anchorage. This was reinforced when Baron van Imhoff, as the governor, started building a hospital, quarters for sailors and a powder magazine to service the anchorage. Thus began the village known as Simon's Town and many of these original buildings still exist.

The British arrived and in 1795 invaded the colony at Muizenberg before turning around at Retreat. Thus Simon's Town was taken over by the British forces for a while but after the second invasion of the colony in 1806 established themselves as the new colonial power. The naval base in Cape Town was closed and all the facilities transferred to the new, more protected base in Simon's Town.

Because of the Cape's strategic importance as a shipping route, Simon's Town became an invaluable base for the Royal Navy over two World Wars, particularly due to the dangers to Allied shipping in the

Mediterranean. Many of the dockyard's facilities were built during this period but in 1957, the Royal Navy handed over all the facilities to the South African Navy, in what is known as The Simon's Town Agreement.

The rest is down to history, but one comment that comes to mind is that of Margaret Thatcher when she declared war against Argentina during the Falklands crisis. She said, "Oh for a base in Simon's Town!" British boats and troops fighting the Falklands war had to be sent from the UK instead of using South Africa as a fuelling point! How much simpler it would have been if they were able to use Simon's Town!

## MINUTES of the MEETING on ZOOM 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021 18h30

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*Scribe: Anthony Galloway*

By the light of the silvery moon, and by the power of Zoom technology, we connected with a worldwide audience.

Sergeant Shân called the meeting to order with due gravitas. She asked Wendy Goddard to light the peace candle and share some wisdom — both tasks were completed with aplomb.

The baton was then passed to President Jenny, who welcomed first Tom Gump (combination of Tom Hanks and Forrest Gump!) before going on to welcome guests from other countries and then guests from other South African Rotary Clubs. This was done too speedily to be recorded, and it is not known whether Jenny remembered to welcome the Rotary Club of Newlands members. However, this is not of any consequence as Newrots are noted for their legendary tolerance and forgiveness, not to mention loyalty to their President.

President Jenny described this international meeting as a "special moment", and this minute-taker is certain that he is not the only member present who felt goosebumps at being part of such a historic occasion. One can only commiserate with those members who weren't able to attend and hope that they recover from their intense FOMO soon!

Heidi shared the Four-Way Test, followed by Richard Burnett with the Grace and Toast.

Melinda reluctantly parted with the Just Desserts Spoon, presenting it to President Jenny. Facial expressions of fierce disappointment were observed on some other members, but President Jenny wisely ignored those and accepted the JDS with suitable grace and admirable speed, which prevented any further discussion. What's done is done.

Geraldine did an excellent job of introducing our speaker for the evening: Tom Gump from Minnesota (the city most recently famous for the death of George Floyd). Tom is currently DG for District 5950 and is a global leader in the field of increasing membership.

Tom suggested that an informal, conversational tone be adopted for his input, and Ian Pursch filled the role of Question Master, giving Tom the platform to customise his input to the needs and interests of his audience. Tom covered such a lot of content that the following summary of key points appears to be the best way of keeping these minutes as concise as possible:

i) On the subject of increasing membership, one of Tom's key themes was: Different clubs have different needs.

His club has 83 members, and they had 31 new members join in his year as Club President. How?

Tom's recipe for success is a) making Membership the No 1 Key Priority at the club, b) having a clear membership strategy, and c) making sure that every member understands that they need to be an active part of the membership drive in the club — Be One, Bring One!

ii) Where to find them? Start with your wider community — “where we live”. Instead of giving them information about Rotary, get them to ask you for information that is relevant and important to them.

iii) Be prepared to answer questions like “Why Join?” and “Why Stay?” Engage them in the club’s dynamics, get them involved. Have a New Member Orientation programme, and make it a 2-way conversation — keep getting them to tell you what’s important to them. And remember: “Right now, somewhere in the world, a Rotarian is helping somebody!”

iv) It’s not about writing cheques. Everyone loves to be able to make a contribution; to serve. That’s more important to new members than raising money.

We must be welcoming. An idea: Tom takes a photo of a new member, puts it in a frame, then puts the framed picture on a different table at each meeting so that the new member meets different people, and all the existing members get a chance to meet and interact with him/her.

v) Amazing stat: Last year Rotary brought in record numbers of new members worldwide. In the same year a new world record was established: 1,3 million members had left Rotary.

vi) Tom’s “3 Ways to Grow”: 1. Get New Members. 2. Retain the members we have. 3. Start new clubs.

vii) Cause-related, or Special Focus Clubs, have been very successful, eg. Eco-Clubs, End Human Trafficking Clubs, Veteran Clubs, Passport Clubs, Corporate Clubs. Later Geraldine added an idea that Tom loved: ECD Clubs! And Tom added that in this time of virtual meetings, your members don’t have to live in the same community, town, or even country!

viii) There is a concern that new clubs will poach members from existing clubs. Tom’s stat’s show that 88% of members of new clubs are new Rotarians. Poaching is not a major concern and should not deter us from starting new clubs.

ix) What about new Clubs paying no fees to Rotary for the 1st year. Keep the barriers to entry as low as possible. Change the number of meetings. Change the timing of meetings. Don’t be afraid to try new ideas, and regularly conduct surveys to gauge the changing preferences of members. Remember: Millenials want to make an impact! Determine what will work best for YOUR club.

x) Often clubs need to change their culture in order to adapt and grow. At Tom’s club they engaged and paid for a professional expert in Change and Diversity to guide this process. Tom’s 2IC Lloyd Campbell, a Black man, endorsed the value of this approach. Lloyd made some powerful comments about covert, and overt, racism he encountered, but also testified to the real change that has taken place and the benefits that have come from that. It takes time, a collective willingness, a club-wide engagement, and some constructive guidance/facilitation to make this change.

xi) Appealing to young people: follow Tom’s “Hello Pizza Strategy” — the Holy Trinity pizza consists of a) Pepperoni, b) Sausage and c) Mushroom fillings. Attract young people by a) having a clear focus/strategy for recruiting younger members, b) Have a cause that they can commit to, and c) involve them in a service project, fast!

At the end of Tom’s inspiring input, Jeremy gave an equally inspiring thanks — a fitting appreciation of Tom’s contribution to a memorable meeting.

Sergeant Shan handed over to President Jenny for her slot, and not to be outdone she started off by thanking Tom and telling him that he had committed an act of arson. (You “set us on fire”!)

She thanked the 19 Newrots who did us all proud at the DisCon last Saturday, and congratulated Janey and Shan on 25 years of service to Rotary.

Congratulations too to the winners of prizes: Vocational Award: Jeannine. ECD: Geraldine. Online: Vanessa

Very unfairly we did not win Project of the Year. This was clearly due to the DG feeling the need to “spread it around”. We understand.

Thanks to all Newrots presenters — they did us proud!

Sergeant Shan then closed the meeting, but a few hardened warriors spend another half an hour with Tom. What a wonderful human being!

## NEWS from NEULANDS

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>, interest in visiting speaker DG Tom Gump (D5950, Minnesota) drew members from across Rotary world and scribe, Anthony Galloway, has done a great job in his notes on Tom’s talk, above.

If there is an unexpected spike in Rotary membership in the Rotary year ahead, it may be that Tom’s inspirational talks across the world have had a multiplier effect on RIPE Mehta’s encouragement to members that “Each One, Bring One”.



*In a Zoom meeting spanning 11 time zones, US Rotarians from California, Minnesota, Arkansas, Kansas, Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts on 3 May 2021 joined fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors from South Africa, Namibia, the UK, Norway, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Malaysia and the Philippines to hear D5950 DG Tom Gump’s talk on Innovation in Growing Rotary Membership.*

In another collaborative effort, this one closer to home, John Winship reports on the recent Ramp building and Mobility awareness project on the West Coast in the two documents attached. The project involved RC Newlands in association with Coca-Cola PenBev, the Rotary Clubs of Kirstenbosch and Upington and E-Club of Greater Cape Town, and Steam Team.



Of another project much closer to home – just down the road, actually, in Tokai - Richard Burnett writes:

“The iZinto store room at Securistore is filling up with recyclable goods offered from many sources.

These items will not only inspire creativity for the ECD children involved but save the planet from more useless landfill. It is a win-win project.

Keep it up Carole and Anya.”

## NEWS from the ROTARY WORLD

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Guess which Newrot will be one of three panellists soon to be heard online in the fifth of RI's fascinating *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* webinars?

You don't know?

You want a clue?

You want clues?!!

Oh, alright then.

1 He was *Howzat!*'s first freelance journo and writes under the pseudonym "Wobblies Ink";

2 He has just marked six months in Rotary.

Gottit? Of course you did.

Jeremy will join assistive technology expert, Dr Maria de Mello (United Arab Emirates) and Disability Rights Activist, Mark Wafer (Canada), in discussion on *Building a Welcoming Community for People with Disabilities*. Everyone who registers will receive access to a recording. Register [here](#), why don't you?

And watch *Howzat!* for more on the webinar.



## CORRESPONDENCE

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PP Bev Freislich from RC Cape of Good Hope, writes:

*Dear President Jenny and ALL the members of the RC Newlands,*

*Thank you so much for inviting me to take part in tonight's meeting which I found so totally motivating.*

*Such a wonderful idea and incentive, which we need to capitalise on, and I am so excited and filled with ideas.*

*Please pass on my thanks to all the Newlands RC members. We have always had a great relationship with you and tonight it was cemented in a very special way.*

*Just LOVE Tom Gump!!!!*

*My thanks and gratitude, on behalf of our Club and President Koos Burger.*

*Bev*

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

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### MAY – YOUTH

- 10 Discussion: Membership Matters
- 17 Ordinary Meeting: *Brett Agiotis, M Soc Sci Candidate. University of Cape Town, Environmental and Geographical Sciences*
- 19 Board Meeting
- 24 Business Meeting
- 31 Ordinary Meeting: *Marilyn Lilley & Jan Arkart - Exploration activities and impacts in the Kavango Basin in Namibia and Botswana.*

### JUNE – ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS

- 7 Partners Meeting: *Adele Pudney and partner, Aimee: [Equine-assisted therapy programs](#)*
- 21 Ordinary Meeting: *Kim Whittaker, Ubuntu Beds*
- 28 President Geraldine Nicol's *Induction Dinner*



<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>		
<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>		
<b>JOINED ROTARY</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2016	Anthony Galloway
<b>JUST DESSERTS SPOON</b>	All at Newlands, c/o President Jenny	

## UMPIRES and SCORERS

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	10 May 2021 <i>Committee Meetings</i>	17 May <i>Ordinary</i>	24 May 2021 <i>Business</i>
Sergeant	Graham Lowden	Lew Botha	John Winship
Four-Way Test / Object	Michelle Roos	Tony van der Lith	Richard House
Grace and Loyal Toast	Brian Pickup	Pieter van Aswegen	Jamie Hart
Peace Candle and Quote	Vanessa Rousseau	John Stephenson	Michael Walwyn
Minutes	Melinda Stapleton	Jeannine Ibbotson	Heidi Andersson
Intro speaker		Johan Beukman	
Thank speaker		Chris Beech	
Comment	Jeremy Opperman	Ian Pursch	Tony Davidson

- *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

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**President**  
Jenny Ibbotson



**Past President**  
Terry Lancaster



**President Elect / ECD**  
Geraldine Nicol



**Secretary**  
Janey Ball



**Treasurer**  
Peter Ennis



**Club Services**  
Heidi Andersson



**Community Services**  
Wybe Meinesz



**CSI**  
Graham Finlayson



**Entrepreneurship**  
John Stephenson



**Environmental Sustainability**  
Tony Davidson



**Foundation**  
Mike Walwyn



**International Service**  
Shân Biesman-Simons



**Membership**  
Jeannine Ibbotson



**Public Image**  
Shelley Finch



**Public Image**  
Vanessa Rousseau



**Vocational Service**  
Jeremy Opperman



**Youth Service**  
Wendy Goddard

## AND the LAST WORD .....

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That's all folks.

See you on the moro.....