

Update 2

Firstly let me say thank you to John Shorter for the great addition to the club page about our trip and I hope you have all found it useful.

Against all the odds Rotary in Nepal is growing rapidly and yesterday I was lucky enough to attend a Charter presentation for a club just down the road in Panauti. This club was sponsored by "my" club in Dhulikhel and many of the founding members came from the club in Banepa. It is the 97th club of district 3292 and has 30 members.

Firstly let me say time is a very loose concept over here and so the ceremony did not start on schedule. There was a running order of 28 points that covered both sides of an A4 sheet and no haste to rattle through it! There was a good turn out from all three clubs mentioned above. Many of the women wore royal blue saris fringed in gold with the Rotary wheel on. Dhulikhel recently had the honour of hosting the district conference and this is the uniform that all 50 of the lady members that attended had acquired for the occasion. They looked very striking.

Having never been to a actual charter ceremony I have no idea how it compares to back home.

They lit a candle and handed over certificates, flowers and garlands and thanked LOTS of people. The members took the oath and various people spoke. I am sorry if I sound vague however much of it was in Nepali and I just clapped at the right moments. Brochures were handed out and I will be bringing one home if anyone would like to see it. I also intend to swap banners with the club later in my stay (it seemed they had enough going on that night!)

One of the guests who spoke was the district governor Rtn Keshav Kunwar and he said some very interesting things (in English) below are some of the points he made- What is key to rotary right now is quality members with devotion and dedication. All round the world we need youth and women (who doesn't?). Members who develop and challenge the club.

Let us not make rotary glamorous and let's be professional and concentrate more on service projects.

Being a volunteer does not mean you work to your own agenda, everyone has a role to play, rotary is so vast there is a role for everyone.

- district governors are wise the world over it would seem.

The whole ceremony lasted 3 hours and was briefly interrupted by a dog running into the hall, down the aisle and onto the podium, eventually exiting stage left with much coercing! Many people took calls during that time, even guests on the podium and there was lots of selfies being taken and people catching up with facebook!

It all seemed very strange compared to any meetings we have in the UK but ended with food and beer so maybe not that different after all!

Regards to everyone back home.

Paula