

EAST CLIFF ROTARY CLUB BOURNEMOUTH
PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Year 2013-2014
GRAHAM ROGERS

It seems a long time (and it is!!) since I became President in July 2013 and maybe it seems so long because we achieved so much. We tend to forget how hard we work and what differences we make to the lives of people less advantaged than us, and need to reflect and celebrate such achievements.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of every member both as individuals and as members of our International, ComVoc, and Road Race Teams. I would also like to thank members of Club Council who were very supportive during my year and made my life a lot easier by organising events so successfully.

I chose five good causes to support for my year – The Scouts (local groups); The Prostate Cancer Research Centre; Bournemouth Food Bank (The Trussel Trust); Bo Children’s Hospital, Sierra Leone; and the Salvation Army BH1 Project in Boscombe. The challenge for the year was not only to find ways of helping these groups in a practical way but also to raise the funds to enable this to happen. We aimed to raise £8,500, including any grants we could apply for from Rotary Foundation and by the end of the Rotary year, we had raised almost £15,000!! See below.

Here are some of the activities we participated in and successes achieved:

- The Club website was moved to the RIBI format and transformed by our Hon Sec. We now have a website to be proud of, showing all our activities as they happen; our full calendar of meetings and events; Club reports and records; and members’ details.
- We presented Progress Awards, book tokens for £25, to three deserving youngsters at Tregonwell Academy;
- We supported the Somerford Waterman’s Park Festival in Christchurch, where the community association put on a fun day for disadvantaged families;
- At Bournemouth Family Festival in Meyrick Park, several members flipped and served burgers to the thousands of visitors and helped raise money for the Lewis Manning Hospice and Rotary Charities;
- An Ethnic Evening at Abduls in Boscombe raised more than £100 for Foundation and Bo Children’s Hospital. Abdul donated £30 and also a coupon for a free meal for four. This was raffled along with the fine wine in October.
- Our Annual Skittles at Frampton Arms at Moreton by train, ploughman’s, chips and beer enjoyed by all and overall winner Geoff;
- We gave a holiday at Naish Holiday Park to a family referred to us by The Salvation Army.
- Andrew Dawson joined in the Air and Prayer Rally, using an old Mondeo he purchased for less than £300, driving from Canford to Loch Lomond, escaping a ticket for being caught doing 95mph and helped to raise £43,000 for Julia’s House.
- 12 members and partners attended Rotary District 1110 Conference in Plymouth;
- Ladies Night on 31 Oct, a Night at the Dogs, raised £110, and Mike Crockett presented £750 cheques to each of his presidential year charities: Bournemouth Food Bank; Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired; Salvation Army BH1 Project; and Julia’s House.

- The six bottles of fine wine donated by our colleagues from Caen were raffled raising £315.00.
- Great Club Christmas Party at Best Western Royale with good food, good music from Rewind and excellent company. The raffle raised £245 towards Rotary Foundation.
- In April, Club members, families and friends went to Brockenhurst College training restaurant for a fundraising dinner to support a young lady volunteer to go to Ecuador to help build a school. Several Club members were persuaded to endure the heat of the kitchen to cook the meal under the direction of the executive chef and his assistant. They produced an outstanding meal and we raised £800.
- A large group of members went slot car racing in Ringwood, high speed car racing fun without the danger!

We organised many other major events and raised funds for a variety of good causes.

Rotary District Grant Applications

Grant applications were made and approved in August and the money received:

- £1,000 to be matched, for a new servery at BH1 Project. This is now under way, designed by Rotarian Keith Randall. (Project completed and the servery inaugurated on 30 July 2014).
- £1,000 to be matched, towards a new climbing tower at Christchurch Scouts Braggers Wood camp site. Designs are being prepared and safety issues resolved.
- £1,500 to be matched for Bo Children’s Hospital – see below.

Philippines Disaster

- Club members donated £1100 to the Philippines Disaster which we doubled from club funds to £2200. By donating £1,286 to Water Survival Boxes through the BigGive website, it was made up to £2,893.50 through a benefactor. We bought two Shelter Boxes at £1,180 and sent the remaining £324 to Water Survival Boxes. Overall, the £1,100 given by members became £4,397 towards the Philippines relief effort.

Bo Children’s Hospital

- During the year, East Cliff Rotary paid the salary of about £1700 for a specialist children's nurse, Mrs Martha Hoilma Sandi.

Peter Jones and Graham Rogers planned to visit Sierra Leone in October 2014 to deliver Staff Training at the hospital. The Club has been awarded a District Grant of £1,500 which the Club will match, to cover most of the cost. (PS 12/09/14 – The Ebola crisis has put this project on hold and we are seeking alternatives)

We are also investigating sourcing a vehicle for the hospital to use for transporting patients.

Scouts - Woodland Trust Trees

- Three applications were made for 400 trees for each of the Scout camp sites at Bransgore, Bournemouth and Dorchester. The applications were successful; the trees were delivered and have been planted.

Road Race – Easter Saturday Success

- Good weather helped more than 300 runners on the Quarter marathon and 35 on the Fun Run making this the most successful for some time. Well done for all the hard work by so many people. Special thanks to Keith Loveless and his team. Looks like a surplus of about £3000 for our good causes.

Cherry Trees Nursery Presentation

- Several of us visited Cherry Trees Nursery in Northbourne on 1 April 2014 to present them with a cheque for £100 towards replacing one of their polytunnels, which had been destroyed in the winter gales. Cherry Trees is a successful social enterprise, part of the Sheltered Work Opportunities Project, set up to provide sheltered work rehabilitation, in a supportive but realistic working environment, for people with severe and enduring mental illness. They were delighted with our visit and the cheque and made us feel very welcome.

Graham's Snowdon Challenge

- A big Thank You to all of you who sponsored my climb on 17 May. The Snowdon 500 Challenge is organised by friends of the Prostate Cancer Research Centre and this year's climb was in glorious weather. Climbing the Pyg Track from Pen Y Pass to the summit took 3hrs 40min, making it just in time to meet Cath with only a 30 minute slot before her return train. The walk down seemed much longer as the aches and pains set in, arriving in Llanberis after 3 hours.

The views were magnificent, and well worth the effort, and we raised about £1800 to be shared between the Prostate Cancer Research Centre and our other 2013-14 good causes.

Jumelage

- This year it was East Cliff's turn to visit our friends in Caen and 17 members and wives travelled to Caen on Friday 20 June to be greeted with enthusiasm by our hosts. On Saturday, we were treated to a boat trip to discover the beautiful and relatively unknown Cotentin marshes in the south east of the Cherbourg peninsular. This was indeed a voyage of discovery, for many of us seeing storks for the first time and in their nests on top of telephone poles! We had an excellent lunch on the river bank in a typical French country restaurant.

In the evening, we were treated to a fine meal at the golf club. Speeches from both Presidents reiterated the friendship between the two clubs and Graham expounded the value of the corkscrew! *"Here's to the corkscrew, a key to unlock the storehouse of wit; the treasury of laughter; the front door of fellowship; and the gate of pleasant folly!"* Gifts were also exchanged; East Cliff receiving a book describing the events of the liberation of France starting on the night of 5 June 1944, and Caen Cote du Nacre Club were presented with a glass bowl decorated with poppies.

President's Night – 14 June 2014

- A Great Night had by all. Excellent food, company, music (and weather!) made it a perfect event. Would not have happened without Alan T's organising skills (how did he arrange the weather?) so would like to offer big thanks to him and all who contributed to making it such a success. And, of course, to everyone who came and enjoyed themselves. Thanks for your support and friendship and company.
- The raffle raised £360 towards President's Charities which, with sponsorship for Graham's challenge, totals more than £2000. Well done everyone, that's every member and partners and family, all of you have supported these projects this year.

A new Paul Harris Fellow – Keith Loveless

- Congratulations to Keith Loveless, who was awarded a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship on President's Night. He has selflessly led the Road Race team for several years and has developed the race into a major event in the local sporting calendar. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Keith and his team, there will be sufficient funds available from the 2014 Road Race to make substantial contributions to this year's nominated charities.

A brilliant year for everyone concerned. The club is energetic and forward looking and always delivers on its promises. We had a great year of fun and fellowship and succeeded in helping all the good causes we set out to help plus several others. In all, we raised approximately £15,000 towards supporting them.

We look forward to another great year Rotary Year in 2014-15 under the stewardship of President Alan Turle, President Elect Andrew Dawson and President Nominee Chris Potter; and of course our faithful and hardworking executive team with Hon Sec Paul Hodgkinson and Hon Treasurer Bob Anderton.

Thank you all

Yours in Rotary



Graham Rogers

Immediate Past President (2013-14)