



What else do I need to know?

We aim to be a friendly and relaxed Club but some policies and procedures help the smooth running of the Club and seek to respect the wishes of the majority.

Attendance

Hopefully you will be able to attend many meetings. On occasions when you are unavailable, out of courtesy you should notify the Club Secretary on a special phone number by 12 noon on the Monday prior to the meeting.

If you are going to be away for a prolonged period you should register your absence with the Club Secretary.

Dress Code

Rotarians customarily wear "business dress" for meetings i.e. a suit or jacket and tie for men and its equivalent for women.

Badges & Regalia

Rotary lapel badges are worn at all meetings and indeed you should wear your lapel badge whenever possible to indicate your membership and identify yourself to other Rotarians.

Officers (President and President Elect) wear their insignia at all RCoS meetings.

All club members wear a name badge at meetings, this is particularly helpful to the newer members.

Your Sponsor

All new members will have a Club sponsor. It is your sponsor's responsibility to ensure that your introduction to RCoS membership goes as smoothly as possible.

If you are unsure about anything in the early weeks of your membership your sponsor will be there to help you.

What does it cost?

Annual membership fee is currently £136 this includes a contribution to Rotary charities of £55. There is also a joining fee of £25.

Your lunch at the Hagley Golf and Country Club is currently £11.50 for 2 courses and coffee. This is paid on the day or in advance through the purchase of tickets.

There is also a raffle at each lunch with tickets currently costing £1.00.

All other costs are associated with optional or occasional activities. Some are run at cost as a social event for members, others seek to raise funds for our chosen charities.

What's Next?

We follow a standard procedure for all new members which includes:

- inviting potential members to a lunch meeting to get to know us
- completion of an application form
- holding an Information Meeting to tell the applicant about the Club and to get to know them better
- consideration of the application form by Club Council
- official introduction and welcome as a new member

If you have any questions about becoming a member please contact Mike Billingham who is Secretary of our Membership Development Committee on 01384 378149

Rotary Club of Stourbridge

Becoming a Rotarian

- **What is Rotary?**
- **Why is Rotary special?**
- **The Rotary Club of Stourbridge**
- **What does being a member entail?**
- **What else do I need to know?**
- **What does it cost?**
- **What's next?**

Service above Self

What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide network of inspired men and women who translate their passions into relevant social causes, to change lives in communities.

Rotary was formed in Chicago in 1905 and the world-wide headquarters, Rotary International (RI), remain based in the USA. Rotary is now represented on every continent.

- There are 34,000 Clubs across the world with 1.2 million members.
- There are 1,850 Clubs in Great Britain and Ireland with 53,000 members. These Clubs are organised into 29 Districts.
- All Rotary Clubs in Britain and Ireland (RIBI) are affiliated through RIBI to RI.
- Each Club elects a President and other Officers on an annual basis.

Why is Rotary Special?

- Our members enjoy regular social and fund-raising activities.
- Each year the Stourbridge Club raises over £15,000 from a range of activities in the community, this in turn is donated to local, national and international charities.
- Our activities provide purpose, satisfaction and enjoyment.
- Rotary provides opportunities for members to give something, however small, back to society.
- Rotarians are part of a worldwide organisation involved in major international charitable projects e.g. the eradication of Polio throughout the world.

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge (RCoS) was chartered in 1922 and currently has around 70 members. It is one of 70 clubs in Rotary District 1060, mainly centred on the West Midlands.

We meet most Wednesdays, 1215 for 1245, at the Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Details of our weekly meetings, including speaker and the menu, can be found on our club website at www.stourbridgerotary.org

The RCoS governing body is the Club Council which meets once a month. It has 16 members which include the Club Officers and Committee Chairmen.

Club Members normally serve on one or more of the following working groups (Service Committees)

- **Community Service** – supports local charities and organisations such as Mary Stevens Hospice
- **International Service/Foundation** — supports charitable activity overseas. Foundation is Rotary's own charity which is a major contributor to the campaign to eradicate polio
- **New Generations/Youth Opportunities** — works with local schools and colleges and supports the Interact club at Old Swinford Hospital
- **Club Service** — this Committee consists of the Officers responsible for the smooth running of the Club including organisation of meetings, promotion of the Club, the website etc.

These Service Committees meet once every one or two months with the meetings usually being held at 5:45 in the evening at the Old Edwardian Club in Market St. Stourbridge.

What does being a member entail?

Meetings

Regular attendance at weekly meetings is key to:

- enjoying Fellowship and getting involved
- knowing what's going on
- influencing the direction of RCoS

You should try to attend as many meetings as possible and come to at least half.

As a Rotarian you are entitled to visit and indeed are welcomed at any Rotary Club throughout the world and this is an excellent way of experiencing Rotary in the UK and overseas. Attendance at such meetings counts as attendance at one's own club.

Service Activities

“Service above Self” is the essence of Rotary

- Members normally participate in several committees over a period of time.
- Initially you chose a preference from New Generations / Youth Opportunities, Community Service or International Service/Foundation.

Social Activities

- The club organises various social functions e.g. theatre visits, skittles evenings, day visits to places of interest etc. Members are encouraged to participate in as many as possible.
- Occasional Evening Meetings when partners and friends are invited and there is less Rotary business and more opportunity to socialise.
- Members are also encouraged to invite friends to the lunch-time meeting.