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Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland: Your Association

With over 1,750 clubs across the isles,
there is a place for you in Rotary.

We are for communities. We want to help
projects locally and internationally.

The support offered to districts,
clubs and Rotarians across Rotary
International in Great Britain and
Ireland is among the best in the
entire Rotary world.

The Association Explained

What is Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland?



Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland is an administrative territorial unit of Rotary International (RI), charged with the administration of 48,000 Rotarians, in approx. 1,750 clubs in 25 districts across Great Britain and Ireland. For nearly 100 years we have been a distinctive, effective and historic part of RI with our own constitution designed to work in harmony with RI, but with important differences to ensure a democratic and inclusive Rotary environment.

Our administrative territorial unit is unique in the Rotary world, although there are other areas and countries who would like to replicate the arrangements and some who partially achieve this. Rotarians, districts and clubs in Great Britain and Ireland can carry out service in ways which best suit our culture, our history and our traditions but importantly it must also be remembered that we are a part of, not apart from, RI.

Accountability



Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland have a right of financial and performance accountability, with Rotarians and clubs having a direct influence in setting district levies and the Rotary subscription. Our Officers, including the Honorary Treasurer, can be questioned at the annual Business Meeting and District Officers at the District Council meeting or the District Conference. We have the opportunity at all Rotary meetings to question our elected Officers on their performance or on their activities.

This is not the case in other parts of the Rotary world. Elsewhere, district levies are set, and most decisions taken by the District Governor alone. The only input that Rotarians have into district business is a short session at the District Conference. District Councils do not exist elsewhere in the world; they are the sole preserve of Rotary here in Great Britain and Ireland.

Our Constitution allows each Rotary club to democratically elect its own district leadership team. Without our Constitution, District Council meetings, and therefore debate, would cease. There is no requirement under the RI Constitution to elect district leaders or hold quarterly District Council meetings. Without District Council meetings business would move to the annual District Conference.

Communication



Rotary across Great Britain and Ireland, including its Service Committees, has the potential to have fuller and better communications with districts and clubs. There is an extensive communication system, ranging from the Support Centre's fortnightly communication, to the electronic *Service News*, which provides instant information to Rotarians and clubs. The existence of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland enables the production of publications in vernacular English and also allows the adjustment of materials to suit the customs and culture of our clubs. As in all Rotary regions we produce a professional magazine and our *Rotary* magazine is an RI approved bi-monthly publication, funded from Rotarians' subscriptions, representing tremendous value for both cost and content.

Rotary Service Support



Within Great Britain and Ireland we have our own administrative headquarters, known as the Rotary Support Centre, with a staff of 19 who support the requirements of Rotarians, districts and clubs throughout Great Britain and Ireland. The General Council gives instructions to the General Secretary, who manages the Support Centre team. In the rest of the Rotary world, staff support is provided from One Rotary Centre, Evanston, Illinois, USA, or from the seven Rotary offices around the world. If our Rotary Support Centre didn't exist, we may then be served from the Zurich office, which handles enquiries from about 40 different countries in many different languages and currencies. Although an experienced team operates from the Zurich office, this could lead to communication difficulties, delays and increased costs to Rotarians needing support and advice. Our team is totally committed, with a depth of local Rotary knowledge and of course, operate in the same time zone.

Insurance Cover



The Rotary subscription in Great Britain and Ireland includes Public Liability cover, regalia cover, libel cover, legal expenses cover and Trustee Indemnity cover. It covers the cost of personal accident insurance for Rotarians, helpers and those involved in Rotary events. Rotaract and Interact (youth divisions of Rotary) are also included in the Rotary insurance. This is some of the most comprehensive insurance in the Rotary world and clubs here have £20 million Public Liability cover for events. Before local authorities and others hire out venues for Rotary events, there is usually a requirement for at least £10-15 million cover. Without Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, Rotarians would have to buy insurance either as a club or district, hence in smaller units, which would be considerably more expensive, thereby increasing the cost to club members.

Rotary Committee Structure



Rotary committees comprise of experienced district specialists. Rotarians, districts and clubs can look to them for advice and support. This structure aids the flow, development and promotion of ideas, best practice and service projects specifically tailored to our community needs, culture and traditional practices. This structure enables rapid, coordinated responses to major disasters or projects, both locally and overseas. Generally speaking, these centres of excellence do not exist in the rest of the Rotary world. Our Rotary staff and specialists formulate guidance and policy to assist clubs in responding to the changing world, such as legislation and EU policy supporting Vulnerable Persons Safeguarding, Health & Safety guidelines, Equality & Diversity and Data Protection.

Financial Assistance to Districts



Each district in Great Britain and Ireland receives a District Grant designed to defray some of the administration costs of the district, the travel costs of the District Governor and to even out the costs of running districts with varying topographies. This provides for the basic minimum level of expenditure necessary to run the district organisation (Grants are based on the size of the district and the number of clubs and Rotarians within it). Direct financial grants to districts currently amount to, on average, approximately £6 Rotarian, and are drawn from the collective subscription income.

Youth Awards and Competitions



Unique to Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, grants are currently made to Rotaract, Interact, the Rotary districts' Youth Exchange Association and the Link Weekend for ambassadorial students. Competitions such as Youth Speaks, Young Citizen, Young Musician, Young Chef and so forth cost around £30,000 per annum, and without our territorial structure and system would need either to be funded by clubs or districts, or be cancelled all together.

The Rotary Assembly



Our Rotary Assemblies are one of the most significant differences between Great Britain and Ireland and the rest of the world. The Leadership Assembly provides training, motivation and inspiration for District Officers and leaders to enable them to train, motivate, inspire and support Rotarians and clubs within districts. The Regional Assemblies give the opportunity to incoming committee Chairs and other interested Rotarians from Rotary districts to receive guidance and help in the implementation of their action plans. In addition, they provide an opportunity to discuss problem areas, share best practice and disseminate latest policy and guidance, while promoting fellowship and mutual support.

In the rest of the Rotary world this is largely left to the personal programme of the District Governor Elect. Very few other zones in the wider Rotary world provide similar training, those that do charge additional funding from individual Rotarians or clubs, in addition to their RI dues.

The cost of the Assemblies and training for our leadership teams is funded from our dues. There is no doubt that many other areas of the Rotary world would wish to replicate these events, in particular our Leadership Assembly.

Rotarians, districts and clubs are greatly assisted by the cascade of information, guidance and training from the Rotary Assemblies which, when combined with the support available from our staff team and Service Committees, puts the Rotarians, clubs and districts within Great Britain and Ireland at an enormous advantage with the service and programmes they undertake.

General Council



There are considerable benefits to the 25 District Governors and the Officers working together to provide a platform to share ideas, best practices and to discuss any problems. General Council provides a platform for increasing PR and boosting the goals of Rotary in these isles. Without our territorial system and structure, District Governors and District Officers would receive less training, and would not have the advantage of working together, sharing ideas and providing mutual support before and during their term of office as Rotary Leaders.

Tax Benefits



Gift Aid is available for donations by individuals who pay UK tax, and the basic rate of tax can be reclaimed on contributions to The Rotary Foundation of the United Kingdom (RFUK). RFUK is serviced by Support Centre staff, operates from the Rotary Support Centre based in Alcester and has administered the 'recovery' of £1,215,826.85 (between 1/7/01 and 31/7/16) in Gift Aid, which has been given directly to The Rotary Foundation. In addition, by utilising RFUK, considerable savings can be made in US\$ exchange rates and banking costs.

The existence of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland as an Unincorporated Association allows recovery of VAT as well as "national" discussions with HMRC tax inspectors. Without our administrative territory, Club Secretaries would be sent subscription statements by RI and Club Treasurers would need to pay direct to RI the half yearly subscriptions in US\$, or at the monthly RI exchange rate if in pound sterling or euros.



Subscription:	£52
Insurance cover:	Included
Magazine:	Included
Council on Legislation:	Included
Total:	£52

Subscription:	\$56
Insurance cover:	Extra cost*
Magazine:	\$24
Council on Legislation:	\$1.50
Total:	\$81.50 + insurance



*varies by country

The GBP equivalent of memberships in the rest of the world is £65.40 + insurance cover

In almost the entire world, we find that the amount paid by districts and clubs is higher than in Great Britain and Ireland. It is also true that many parts of the world are moving to the use of multi-district training sessions, President Elect Training Seminars and conferences as well as multi-district meetings, which, in some ways, reflects what we have been doing for nearly 100 years.

To the club Rotarian, without Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland there would be an inevitable rise in subscriptions*, as mentioned above, but it is not simply a matter of an increase in the subscriptions. The reality is that the ability to access support be it from the Rotary committees or Support Centre would be taken away, without cost benefit to any Rotarian.

*The amount of any increase would depend on how much of what is currently paid by Rotary is continued by the district.