

## **EAST CLIFF ROTARY – PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-2018 DAVID TRENCHARD**

East Cliff Rotary has enjoyed a year of consolidation and involvement in several initiatives and meetings. When it comes to reflecting on this period it is astonishing just how many members have been very involved in countless activities which have contributed towards our main aims of trying to improve someone's life and make a difference to those less advantaged whilst enjoying fellowship.

I would like to thank not just our club members but our spouses and the friends of Rotary who have stepped up to give practical support when they have been asked or when they saw an opportunity to assist both financially and/or with their time.

The three good causes that I selected as my charities this year were:

The Bournemouth Blind Society  
Crohns and Colitis UK  
Vasculitis UK

In addition we had earlier decided to support the rebuilding of the School in Nepal that was destroyed in the devastating earthquake and we continued with fund raising for this extremely worthwhile project. We had some support from Rotary District through Foundation and Past President Chris Potter is to be congratulated on personally raising several thousand pounds through his own efforts to add to the Rotary funds sent to Nepal. We learnt in May that the building project was complete. The school has invited Chris to a special function to thank him and our Club, I understand he intends to travel to Nepal in the Autumn, well done Chris for identifying this worthwhile project and for your leadership.

Indeed during this year we also completed our support for the development of the Children's Hospital in Bo, Sierra Leone. The Club can be very proud of the part that we played in helping Rotarians in Australia realise this dream project. Our acknowledgement again to PP Chris Potter for his efforts in assisting PP Peter Jones, these two members both travelled to Sierra Leone and put considerable efforts into fund raising and raising awareness for others to contribute in various ways.

In early May we were joined by The Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, Cllr and Mrs Laurence Williams, who helped me present the cheques to the three named charities for the funds raised from the Easter Saturday Quarter Marathon. This was impeccably organised by our Road Race Committee and supported by club members and friends to act as Marshalls and Officials on Boscombe and Southbourne Sea Front in most inhospitable conditions. Congratulations to all the runners who took part and this year we had a complete sell out of places available. We were able to donate £1600 to each

of our main charities and also to give smaller amounts to The Salvation Army in Boscombe who once again supported us with their refreshment vehicle and to The Bournemouth Sea Cadets who supplied a number of Marshalls and assisted generally.

It was good to be able to present these cheques very quickly after the event and this was only due to the efficiency of our road race committee and race organiser PP Keith Loveless. This year we obtained a supply of the Rotary District Certificates acknowledging the Social Responsibility contributions of our sponsors and supporting businesses and it was good to be able to invite representatives from these organisations to the same presentation evening to thank them personally and give them a framed reminder of their generous support.

In recent years we have modernised the way we run the club and set our meeting pattern. We have really settled down into this arrangement now. Having the seasonal summer break, two formal meetings a month and every other month an added committee evening, an extra meeting 4 times a year with our spouses plus our Christmas Party and Presidents night celebrations has meant that we are enjoying very good attendance levels as members really look forward to meeting together. The speakers that Chris Brookes has sourced this year have been excellent and we have learnt a considerable amount and enjoyed some very interesting and professional presentations from some very good speakers.

In addition to our normal meetings we have enjoyed the August trip on the train to Moreton and a ploughman's meal with a game of skittles at the Frampton Arms, we have had 5 ethnic meals at Thai, Chinese, Italian, Indian and a Hungarian restaurant.

Rotary District Councils and Group 2 meetings have all been attended by our representatives and we had Keith Randall and Chris Brookes attend the PEPS meeting as well.

We have supported The Harewood College with their participation in the PeaceJam Conference at Winchester and look forward to some of students reporting back to the club next month. I was proud to be able to attend their assemblies on behalf of Rotary and present the progress awards which the Club awarded to deserving recipients. In early June some of our members took part in interviews with students and this was much appreciated.

We donated £2000 as our part of the Rotary Group 2 initiative to fund a manager for a pilot scheme organised through Dorset MIND to assist local schools with providing specialist help to students dealing with personal psychological issues.

In February we saw many purple crocus flowers blooming as a result of planting programmes funded by our members and we fully supported the Polio Plus fund raising to continue with the Worldwide Project that we have fully supported since its inception to inoculate young children in a drive to eradicate Polio as a risk with all the issues that this disease brings to those

who have suffered. Rotary has been joined by the Gates Foundation in helping to fund this work, we will continue to support this as year by year the number of new cases falls.

Once again in June we have supported the Rotary National 'Kids Out' project with members led by PP John Maddox taking pupils with learning difficulties, supervised by the school staff, to Adventure Wonderland at Hurn. Later our friend of Rotary PP Andrew Dawson and PP Ed Abley took a group of older children from the same school to 'Go Ape' at Avon Valley Country Park.

This report has to be presented at our club Annual Assembly and I am conscious that it just a few days before the end of my term of office. This year it ends on the same night as we have arranged our Presidents night at The Chine Hotel in Boscombe. I sincerely hope that the Barbecue in the Hotel Garden with a professional Steel Band playing background music for our enjoyment will be successful. We have booked to start at 5.30pm and finish at 10pm so that children and grandchildren can be welcomed to join us. The evening concludes with the handing over of the chain of office and welcoming the new team of officers who take over on July 1st. I am sure that the arrangements will work out fine, many thanks to Keith Randall and PP Chris Wood for all their help in organising this evening which is a complete change from our normal Black Tie, formal Dinners of the past.

This year under our sports officer, VP Keith Randall, we have fielded teams for the District Rotary Boules and Skittles competitions. We have definitely improved our skittles and we seem to have navigated our way through many rounds beating our opponents and the competition is yet to reach a conclusion but we are still in the running. Good luck Keith with the game(s) to come.

I am sure all the members will agree with me that East Cliff Rotary is a great group to be part of and we do what we do because we want to do it and we want to be part of the ideals that are the very spirit of Rotary – To help make a difference!

The club has been very fortunate in having had PP Paul Hodgkinson as our Honorary Secretary for several years and on behalf of all the members we congratulate him on his service and thank him as he stands down and PP Simon Walsham takes over this role. Thanks also to Bob Anderton who has stood down as Club Treasurer and many thanks to PP Chris Wood who has stepped into this post as well as helping with various club admin tasks over the past year.

I am sure we can look forward to another great year in 2018-9 with Keith Randall at the helm as President, ably supported by Vice President Chris Brookes and President Nominee PP Peter Jones. I wish them all every success.

Thank you all

David Trenchard  
Club President 2017-18