



RI DISTRICT 1200
DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2014 ROTARY FELLOWSHIP MONTH



RIBI Five Year membership Plan and Redistricting

Following the District Council meeting I promised you that I would keep you up to date about any changes regarding redistricting within or restructuring of RIBI in the foreseeable future. At the General Council meeting on Monday 19th May 2014, among a number of key issues, the question of redistricting within RIBI was discussed and debated in working groups involving District Governors and District Governors Elect.

A stark analysis showed that the most imperative issue facing Rotary, as well as elsewhere in the Rotary world, was membership and its impact on future membership within Districts. The tide of clubs' declining and clubs closing must be stemmed. To address this issue we must concentrate on getting new clubs (which will operate in new ways with younger working Rotarians) as well as helping to increase numbers in existing clubs and giving District support to those which are working successfully and well. Membership in District 1200 has shown significant increase and my sincere gratitude goes to so many clubs whose members have drawn in new members to meet my challenge for a net increase of at least three members during 2013/2014.

I hope that the new District structure, as described by District Governor Nominee Bob Acland at the Council in March, will provide the momentum to address this and other issues in supporting our clubs over the next five years, helping the District to grow and progress even more successfully.

For your information, after due debate and consideration the following outcomes were agreed. Those Districts already in the process of redistricting will complete the process for the start of the Rotary year 2015. That is 1170 and 1290 will combine; 1140 and 1250 will combine; and clubs within 1050 will move to three surrounding Districts related to their geographical proximity. Five other Districts are in further discussions to ultimately reduce to three within the next three years. Rotary in Scotland has agreed to re-visit the question with their clubs as to whether they should remain as three Districts or reduce to two Districts. Should these changes come to pass then further redistricting will be future proofing those smaller districts against the possible impact of potential declining membership.

In the south-west, **Districts 1100, 1110 and 1200 will remain unchanged.** The challenge in each of them is to grow their membership to strengthen them even more. If at any time in the future it is deemed necessary, this issue can be revisited if our Rotarian numbers require it, and/or it is the desire of the majority of clubs to do so.

Celebrating the Spirit of Youth

We have planned a day of celebration of all that has been achieved by the Young People in District 1200 who have been involved in a range of youth opportunities sponsored and supported by many of our clubs on **Saturday 5th July 2014.** This will be held at the WPA Headquarters, Rivergate House, Blackbrook Park, Taunton, just off junction 25 of the M5. The goal is to have every club represented at this event with ideally the chairmen of Youth Service and at least one other present along with the young people, their families and teachers from their schools to celebrate all their achievements.

District Youth Service Chairman Roger Andrews (Minehead & the Quantocks) has circulated all clubs and I would be most grateful if you would kindly give this important day your full support

District Handover

District Handover will take place on **Sunday 29th June 2014** at the National Sailing Academy. This will be a lunchtime event and at which District 20 Inner Wheel Chairman Rita Jolliffe will also be handing over to Chairman Elect Linda Quinn. Full details have been forwarded to all clubs by John Butler (Chelwood Bridge) via District Secretary Chris James to book places at this event. This is always a most enjoyable social occasion which will launch the Rotary Year 2014/2015 for District Governor Elect Judy Barnard-Jones (Dorchester Casterbridge) and the Inner Wheel Year for Linda Quinn.

Events in May

In addition to splendid visits to clubs and a number of most enjoyable Presidents' Nights, I had fun at the Lyme Regis Golf Day and Weymouth's Fayre in the Square. My warmest congratulations go to both clubs for providing fun and pleasure as well as raising funds for a number of worthwhile causes. They raised the profile of Rotary in their communities, they showed the work that Rotary does and exemplified that vital part Rotary life, fellowship, throughout these events.

District Governor's Diary

June 1	RI Convention Sydney Australia opens	June 20	To London
June 1	Plenary sessions and breakout groups	June 22	Shakespeare in the Garden at Thatchers Cider (Wrington Vale)
June 2	Plenary sessions and breakout groups	June 25	Bath West's President's Lunch
June 2	Dinner with Michael McQueen	June 26	Junior Youth Speaks(Wrington Vale)
June 3	Plenary sessions and breakout groups	June 27	Sedgemoor's President's Night
June 4	Final plenary – convention closes	June 28	GSE Team Re-union
June 5	To Brisbane – visiting my daughter	June 29	District Handover
June 15	To Wollongong – visiting Peter Abba		

Thank you

I wish to say a very big thank you to every Rotarian in every club in our District for their unstinting hard work and generous support throughout my year as District Governor. It is you that have made my year so memorable and I have enjoyed working with you all and seeing the wonderful work that you do for your local communities, and for communities across the globe.

I also wish to say a very big thank you to each and every one of the District teams, to the service chairmen, to the members of the Executive and particularly to those who take over the baton of District Governor in the coming years. Rotary is the number one voluntary service organisation and Rotarians are remarkable and often unsung heroes. I am proud to be one and I am proud of every Rotarian in District 1200. Keep up the good work and continue in the future to Engage Rotary Change Lives in all that you do.

Finally thank you for the honour and privilege of being your District Governor and for making the role such a rewarding one. I know that you will continue to sustain that fun and fellowship at the heart of Rotary and head into 2014/2015 to help Judy 'Light up Rotary' with dazzling success.

Brian Kirkup
(DG RI District 1200)