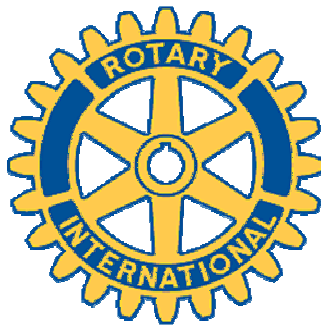


ROTARY CLUB OF BRISTOL SOUTH



RETURN TO ROTARY

**ACTION PLAN
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE CLUB**

21st MAY 2009

ACTION PLAN FOR THE FUTURE ROTARY CLUB OF BRISTOL SOUTH

CLUB ASSEMBLY Date: 21st May 2009

This action plan was approved by the membership of the Rotary Club of Bristol South at a meeting convened for that purpose on Thursday 7th May 2009.

The plan replaces a more traditional Club Assembly presentation by focusing on the way forward without specific detail, and nominating individuals to lead various actions.

As in recent years, there is no committee structure, every member being invited to speak to any subject affecting the Club at our regular meetings.

Actions fall into seven general headings.

1 - MEMBERSHIP

1.1 - Advertising

It was agreed that paying for advertising was not a viable option, but that there were several small local publications that would probably allow us to occasionally advertise the Club, such as The Pigeon, Bedminster Down and Uplands Newsletter, etc. Members proposed to lead this element were **Tolly Cobbold** and **Kevin Quartley**.

In addition, posters at the Dovecote and local doctors' surgeries and other venues where people gather were thought to have a potential at virtually nil cost. **Bob Griffiths** to produce draft posters by end of May latest. Club presidents board to be displayed at The Dovecote, who were asked to allow Club Meeting board to be displayed at entrance and a position was agreed above the start of the covered walkway.

There is a strong possibility of the Club sponsoring a new community notice board in the centre of Long Ashton which would allow us to display material on all Long Ashton notice boards.

It was proposed that **Frank Elkins** be a nominated 'point of sale' contact for prospective members.

1.2 - Mailshots

It was agreed that mailshots would be difficult to target, relatively expensive and, with such a high level of junk mail from many other sources, probably ineffective.

1.3 - Flyers

The distribution of flyers to targeted areas was considered to be a worthwhile exercise. **Bob Griffiths** produced a draft, amended by the meeting, and a copy is attached to these notes. Members proposed for flyer distribution were **John White, Jon Hucker, Roger Higgins, Tolly Cobbold** and **Kevin Quartley**, although all members would be provided with some copies for their own use. There would be a small cost for consumables which would be met from Club funds.

1.4 - Publicity

Attempts to get publicity in the local press for Club activities were considered essential. One member to be designated Press Officer to co-ordinate, and in the main produce items for submission. Member proposed was **Frank Rhodes**.

2 - MEETINGS

2.1 - Venue

It was agreed that The Dovecote was, for the present, our best option as we were not reliant on numbers, the meals were reasonable value and self-financing, occasional cancellations did not put our tenure at risk, there is adequate car parking and the present managers appear to be supportive.

This could be reviewed annually at the AGM.

It was suggested that members keep an eye open at boot sales, jumble sales etc. for a lightweight folding screen which we could leave at The Dovecote to better screen us off from the main area (and The Dovecote would probably use it for other private bookings).

2.2 - Format

It was considered that our current format of inviting every member to speak at each meeting was the right one, and that a return to the traditional Rotary committee structure would be a retrograde step only to be considered if members increase to over thirty.

It was proposed that the Final Toast be made as soon after the meal as practicable, except where there was a speaker, in case any member had to leave early.

Joint meetings with, or visits to, other Clubs to be held on a regular basis. Member proposed to coordinate and arrange was **Roger Higgins**.

2.3 - Frequency

Weekly meetings to remain, with a sensible view prevailing over attendance requirements.

2.4 - Costs

Current cost of £11 covers meals and a small gratuity (which is withheld if the service is particularly wayward).

Frank Elkins proposed that the monthly advance membership payment be increased to £12 (from the current £8) to include a weekly raffle element of £1. Members to be responsible for bringing raffle prizes – which does not have to be wine!

Jon Hucker proposed that the raffle proceeds go to the Benevolent Fund, and it was agreed, subject to the Treasurer's ratification, that he (or the treasurer for the time being) holds the proceeds in the General Fund and transfers sums into the Benevolent Fund at regular intervals.

3 - PROJECTS

3.1 – Active

It was agreed that the Club should seek more active projects.

The supermarket collections to continue with all members expected to assist.

Assistance to other clubs to be offered at their events if required – all members being asked to make every effort to participate. **Bob Griffiths** to draft a letter to the other Bristol Zone clubs offering our services.

Assistance to be offered to other organisations where manpower is required (stewarding, car parking, etc.). These organisations to be community orientated. Members proposed to co-ordinate were **Vic Ecclestone** and **Tolly Cobbold**.

3.2 Benevolent Fund

Requests for financial assistance would doubtless continue, and each application would be treated on its merits and voted on by the Club. Members to be reminded that they can put their own 'pet' charities or causes up for financial assistance from the Benevolent Fund.

It was also pointed out that the Club could use Benevolent Fund money for active projects (e.g. to purchase trees for the Club to plant), which give a greater leverage to seek potential beneficiaries, as without a purpose there is little point in continuing.

4.0 SOCIAL

4.1 - Joint Meetings

See 2.2 above

4.2 - Ladies Night

(Or Partners Night if the Club attracts a lady member.)

Whether to hold a Ladies Night was discussed, and it was considered that such an event, distinct from the Guest Nights, would be a welcome return to the Club's programme. This need not be an over ambitious large scale event at a hotel venue – simply a pure social event at a different venue to which Ladies, family and friends could be invited. (The Club's last formal Ladies night was in 1994-95 (Vic's year) at Sidmouth.)

Costs need not be excessive, and other Clubs need not be invited.

4.3 - Social Events

These have suffered in recent years, with most social events being linked to members' other significant happenings (birthdays, retirements etc.).

John White volunteered to host a catered event at home in July / August. **Bob Griffiths** said he would host an American Supper in late summer involving all the Club. A raffle to be held for Rotary Foundation at the July/August event. (See 5.4 below).

5 – ROTARY EVENTS

5.1 – District Council Meetings

It is some years since the Club sent members to all district council meetings. It was considered that we should start doing so again so that other clubs are aware of our continued existence and to keep abreast of local Rotary happenings. **John White, Jon Hucker** and **Bob Griffiths** are attending the District Assembly on May 16th in Gloucester.

All members are welcome to attend District Meetings.

5.2 – Bristol Zone Meetings

The Club has been represented at all Zone meetings this year.

It was proposed that all members attend a Zone meeting at some time in the future, and that the Club would be represented at all Zone meetings.

5.3 – District Conference

Again, it is some years since the Club had a considerable representation at District Conference. The 2010 conference is in Torquay, which is the closest of the regular venues, and it was hoped that at least 50% of the members (and partners) would feel inclined to attend.

Discussion took place on the possibility of the Club taking over a guest house of five to seven bedrooms for the weekend of the Conference to keep costs to a minimum, and having a decent representation again. If eventually agreed, it was suggested that **Roger Higgins** be co-ordinator.

5.4 – Rotary Foundation

Our annual subscription no longer includes a sum for Rotary Foundation, and it was agreed that a raffle be held at a Social Event for Rotary's own charity. (See 4.3 above).

6 – WEBSITE

It was agreed that the Club website be updated and 'freshened', and more use be made of it as a communications tool.

Bob Griffiths to update by end of May latest.

7 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed that the Club appoints an almoner to contact members who have been absent and out of touch for more than a couple of weeks to ensure their wellbeing.

The member proposed was **Terry Morley**.

These notes to be issued for consideration by all members and discussed at the Club meeting of 7th May 2009. The notes then to be amended to reflect any amendments or alterations, and form the basis of our Club Assembly on 21st May 2009.

Final arrangements to be agreed and in place for the new Rotary year commencing 1st July.