

Business meeting

Date: Monday 2nd March 2026

Venue: Leighton Buzzard Golf Club

<u>Present:</u>	Martin A; Steve B; Mike B; Jenni; Tony; Robin; Dave; Avis; Henry; Gary; Dai; Malcolm; Nick; Alex; Dick; Martin K; Alan; Steve L; Simon; Tom; Syd; Peter P; Richard; Chris; Mike R; Pascale; Kuldip; Mike S; Ian; Ed; Giles; Colin; Andrew
<u>Apologies</u>	Peter B; Jenni (LOA); Frazer (LOA); Ros (LOA); Onye (LOA) ; Norbert (LOA); Heather; Mike W.
<u>Guests</u>	
<u>Minutes of last meeting and Club Updates</u>	Birthdays in March Tom Nicols Mar 1 Martin Kennedy Mar 21 Richard Ramsbotham mar 26 The last set of Business Meeting minutes were approved as being accurate proposed by Steve B, Seconded by Ian.
<u>Presidents opening comments</u>	The meeting was opened by our president who was transported in a Sedan Chair, built by Dave E, Ian Henry and Mike S. The president and Dave explained that this chair is a template for use of the Carnival Committee in an endeavour to encourage more floats in the Carnival, and if the Committee likes it we will build three more and offer the Committee the template for future use. Brief discussion ensued and it was confirmed in response to a question from Alex that any liability for injuries caused to persons carried in the chair would be on the Carnival Committee and not the club. On this basis the concept was approved by the club unanimously.
<u>Youth, Community & International</u>	Pascale summarised her report, as circulated, 32 teams, a good show and thanks to all who helped, also to Sarah for the food. The finance committee will discuss grant donations from the surplus at their next meeting, to come to the club to consider at April business meeting. Steve Bigrave said to get more entries in 2027 each member should take responsibility for getting one table to enter The next YCI event is the citizens tea party 11 th April, volunteers needed and if anyone knows people who may wish to come please pass details to Gary, Henry or Pascale. Crocuses in the park are looking good and a sign will be erected in time for MDF. Lantern parade to go ahead again this year, subject to discussion, club and budget approval, probably on Christmas Eve; to be reviewed post MDF Gary reported that the Technology Tournament is proceeding 13 th March in Luton, we'll be supporting and judging vacancies are available to anyone interested who is willing to undertake a short training course
<u>Treasurer:</u>	- Accounts have been circulated and are in a healthy situation. - Mike R spoke about the cash in the charity account which looks good to an extent because it includes advance receipts in relation to MDF and in relation to the Defibrillator project for The Martins, The Martins Drive and Bossington Lane - Gary reported on club account, we paid RIBI subs in Jan, and also district subs so all up to date
<u>Committee Updates:</u>	Finance: Mike B reported on finance, largely as in his written report. Quiz donations are to be discussed by finance but in general terms of the profit is expected that £1000 will go to the Defibrillator project, £400 to Cedars School

(who donated use of the Raven Theatre space free) and balance to the nominated Charity, Ollie's fund, the £400 for the School was unanimously approved by the club.

It was proposed and agreed that we donate £250 to support the Technology Tournament running costs

Mike R has prepared financial projections for MDF, which were approved by the club as a budget

Following the talk to the club by Matt Cove from the Spinal Injuries Association it was agreed to consider a donation to them to tie in with their Christmas Pledge Appeal – this is better for them as it will attract “Match Funding” to double it or better in effect.

The PICT committee has a proposal for the club which has a financial aspect to be discussed later in the meeting

Tom: reported on the Nepal project. The club needs to sign a memorandum of understanding for the project to proceed which puts certain obligations on the club, these were discussed and agreed at the club board meeting in February (see the minutes of that).

Tom also has presented on the project to Bedford De Parys Rotary which to date has not been fruitful.

Social; Richard summarised future meetings as follows

Mike R has kindly offered (at the meeting!) to arrange a meal at Axe and Compass for those not in Malta, AW to arrange finances if needed

We have a speaker from the repair café 16th March, not meeting Monday 23rd March as we are at the Funky Snake magic show previous Friday the 20th March, show starts 8 pm and premises open 7 pm for a pre show drink
30th March is the mayors charity dinner at the golf club – please book on web site and encourage friends and family to come as well.

May Day Fayre: Dick reported that the February meeting went well, - thanks to the 16 Rotarians who attended and discussions as per the notes circulated.

The next meeting will be 26th March.

Ian Dave and Dick met the town council to discuss refuse arrangements and Henry with the support of Mike R will prepare a rota – please sign up on the web site.

Gary mentioned that content for the MDF programme is welcomed from local groups, and advertising opportunities are still available, as are stalls.

Membership & FOR: Henry has now arranged for 3 people to be formal “Friends of Rotary” – including someone from MK Watling Rotary club !

Yes We Can Dick reported that the issues with Otters swimming club moving to the new pool in Eggington area have now been resolved and it is a good enough time and good value charges to be made by Everyone Active for the new pool. Also Everyone Active are donating £2k to Otters and YWC will be Everyone Active's “community champion” for 2027, which should result in some money coming in.

Cut off date to book for mayors dinner is 20th March.

Neighbourhood Defibrillator

The Defib cabinet was displayed and workings in relation to use and electricity requirements were explained; insurance will be available via the Salvation Army at £30 a year.

Chris explained that of the 45 houses in the area, 33 have contributed towards the cost – some elderly people were not asked to contribute, but were members of the local WhatsApp group for this project

	PICT: this committee met at Henry's to discuss enhancing the club's public image by getting different club clothing and moving away from the red, which particularly in relation to baseball hats is associated with Donald Trump. With the recommendation and support of finance committee we are to get a new blue T shirt/polo shirt and a new blue cap each with the current rotary style logo and badge, cost to club funds of this of up to £600. <i>(Subsequently put on hold by the President - see his WhatsApp message 13/3.)</i> There was detailed and considered discussion on this topic and it was agreed by a majority of 19 for going with the blue shirts, 6 for keeping red shirts and 7 abstentions that we go with the blue colour, red shirts still being used for example for working parties at the storage unit in Richards Premises.
<u>A.O.B.</u>	• Tom raised the use of the microphone for speaking at meetings and it was agreed that we will henceforth use it for all speaking at meetings to address club members – it's clearer and a necessary courtesy to members with hearing issues • Robin referred to Mencap/friends within who now meet at the rugby club and need transport there for 13 or 14 people from 7 pm to 9 pm once a week and does anyone know a minibus service that can help – their budget is £100 per week – Syd said he may know someone and Buzzer Bus was discussed • The meeting finished at 9.59 pm.
<u>D.O.N.M.</u>	• Next business meeting Monday 13th April 2026 – sit down at 7.30.