

Up-to-date Updates

President Iain welcomed 24 members and one guest who was prospective member Steven Jackson. 19 apologies were received.

Notices:

Gary Blenkinsopp: there have been three requests for assistance from The Hit Squad for which boards are now circulating – please contact Gary asap:

- 1) “Shovelling Muck” - 4 Rotarians to move well-rotted (not smelly) manure in DL3 on Wednesday 9th September 10am-12pm. A donation to the charity account will be made as thanks;
- 2) St. Teresa’s Hospice Duck Race – Saturday 26th September at 2:00pm. 6 marshals requested to assist;
- 3) 4 Rotarians needed on Saturday October 3rd, 1-3pm at Richmond Town Hall to assist with setting-up and tidying after the ceremony for Harriet Bradshaw’s wedding – Jane has offered a donation as thanks.

Maire Kennan: reported that International Committee had asked for a club JustGiving page for our donations for Nepal. Club Council members present (a quorum) approved this be done with funds donated equally to

[SHELTERBOX NEPAL](#) and [AQUABOX](#);

Mike Daynes: promoted the RYLA Celebration Dinner on Wednesday 28th September at The Fed in Gateshead from 6:30pm. Tickets £24;

Jeff Mann: promoted Darlington Lecture Association’s event on Monday (7th) at Carmel College – all about Tan Hill Inn, England’s highest pub.

The President reflected on his week which included International Committee on Tuesday, the very enjoyable President’s Cup Golf evening on Wednesday (see overleaf) and then Community Service on Thursday. He was pleased to report no urgent health news from Walid. Bonus Ball winners were Kate Culverhouse and Sue Chapman.

Secretary Jane: confirmed Youth and Membership Development meetings this week (see overleaf for date and time) and that next week will be a lunchtime meeting when there will be a discussion led by the Membership Development Team entitled, “What’s Growing Rotary Got To Do With Me?”

With no guest speaker the President asked Committee Chairs to give a brief update of their work - first up was Maire Kennan, Chair of International Committee who had already spoken about the discussion they had held about an appropriate response to the emergency in Nepal. She then outlined the following:

- Meet every 2 months on the 1st Tuesday – next meeting in November;
- Desks for Vingujini School - £30 each – ideal alternative gift for Christmas - contact Peter Phillips;
- World Polio Day – October 24th – there will be tulips (Keith Gunning’s above) and crocuses as well as a stall in the Cornmill.

Gary Blenkinsopp, Chair of Community Service covered a lot of ground! Great news: Rachel Stocker has volunteered to become secretary, thank you Rachel.

Gary gave updates including around £5,700 raised for the NSPCC from the Charity Golf Day.

Continued overleaf....



Coming Soon

September

Friday 11th (Central Hall)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Membership team, “What’s Growing Rotary Got To Do With Me?”

Friday 18th (Soft Play)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: Alan Cowie, “Do I Really Need a Property Survey?”

Wednesday 23rd

18:30 RYLA Presentation Evening

At The Fed, Gateshead - £24

Friday 25th (Central Hall)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speakers: Josie Bell & Cheryl Ellis from the NSPCC

October

Friday 2nd (Venue TBC)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: High Sheriff of Durham Arnab Basu

Friday 9th (Venue TBC)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speakers: Tracey Wright & Sophie Snowdon, Great North Air Ambulance

Friday 16th (Venue TBC)

07:15 Breakfast Meeting

Speaker: TBA

Friday 23rd (Venue TBC)

12:15 Lunchtime Meeting

Speaker: TBA

Week of Friday 30th

Scatter Week

Organised by Nigel Little

No meeting on Friday 30th October

Members will be asked for preference of days/times to visit another club

Board to circulate.



Up-to-date Updates... continued

Despite not being a fundraiser the BBQ raffle had raised £329. He reported on Quoits, Hit Squad, 10k Run and defibrillators (see previous reports for all these). Upcoming events: Duck Race (right), Xmas Tree Tagging from November 25th, Reverse Advent Calendar boxes for Care Leavers and Xmas Magic Concert on 16th December.

Steve Rose, Chair of Club Service, went through a number of activities that are coming up and are all covered in Weekly Reports. He confirmed that we still don't have a date for a return to "normal" from The Dolphin Centre. Steve is stepping down as Chair of Club Service in June - any volunteers?

Nigel Little, Chair of Youth Committee, went through some of the highlights coming up including:

- Interact in QE6 and Polam Hall. A new person to fill liaison role for Polam is being sought. QE6 have an Open Day soon where we have a stand to recruit for Interact, RYLA and GreenPower;
- Rotakids ("Junior Rotary"): Abbey School have decided to pause their club this year so only 3 clubs remain – Nigel contacting Polam;
- GreenPower managed by President Iain – see previous reports;
- Austin Brooks Youth: Nigel delighted that Pauline Culley and Sue Richmond have taken on organising the fabulous event starting with contacting the schools.

Finally, Sue Campbell gave a summary of the work of the PR & Marketing Group which included all aspects of our media and social media presence. Also covered were the breakfast meetings to attract new members and a new business card with a QR code for all members to hand out to people wanting know more about Rotary (details next week).

The President thanked the Committee Chairs before toasting "Rotary & Peace the world over."

Dolphin Centre

Breakfasts continue in Soft Play.

Lunches in Central Hall

No news of a completion date – current arrangements continue until further notice.

Love a duck or two



The poor little duckies were cast adrift and nobody knew where to find them. Fortunately, Tony Marshall tracked them down to Bill Carter's garage and here they are all fit and ready to float for the upcoming St.

Teresa's Hospice Duck Race.

Saturday 26th September

Board circulating for marshals – contact Gary Blenkinsiopp

Golf Round-Up from Ian Lyle



President's Cup

The Rotary President's Cup was played on Wednesday at Barnard Castle Golf Club. 14 Rotarians and guests played through the rain. President Iain was on hand to present the main prizes following the meal. The winner this year was Charles McCain with Paul Robinson as Runner-up. Mike Hall won for the guests and Vickie Wilson was runner-up.

Ron Hall Trophy

Also presented was the Ron Hall Trophy for 2025/26 - Andrew Wilson was the winner with Ian Lyle as the runner up. For the guests: Sandy Anderson won with Roger James as Runner Up.



2026-2027 Season

Tee times now being booked for the various rounds of the Ron Hall Trophy on the second Wednesday from October to March – all welcome.

Committee Meetings

6pm, Dolphin Centre Function Room or as stated

Sept. 8th: Youth Service

2nd Tuesday bimonthly
The Mowden Pub

Sept. 9th: Membership Group

4:30pm - 22 Glenfield Road

Sept. 17th: Club Service

3rd Thursday bimonthly

Sept. 22nd: PR & Marketing Group

4.30pm – 22 Glenfield Road

Sept. 23rd: Club Council

4th Wednesday monthly

October 1st: Community Service

1st Thursday monthly (not August)
The Mowden Pub

October 6th: International Service

1st Tuesday bimonthly

Club Information

Website: [click here](#)

Weekly Reports: [click here](#)

Club Diary: [click here](#)

Facebook: [click here](#)

X: @darlrotary

LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary

DARLINGTON ROTARY EVENT HUB

Club events are booked by clicking [EVENT HUB](#) or using this QR code. Events are either "Members Only" or "Public" and can easily be found by scrolling through.

