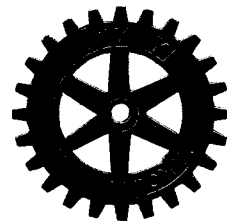


Tung Feng



VOL. 49 No.6

22nd Aug 2001



What Happened Last Week

President Stephen opened the meeting and introduced Rtn Pedro Ching from the Rotary club of Hong Kong Island West. Rtn Rudy then introduced his guest Heron Chan, PP JL introduced his assistants, Carmen and Cherrie. Two special guests from the Interact council Clarence Liu and Tsang Che Ho both presented details of the Joint Interact Council Bazaar with a "SPLASH" theme. The event will be held on August 19th from 10am till 6pm at Kowloon park piazza. All profit will be donated to the Children's Cancer Foundation. Pres. Stephen Welcomed back Lewis from Australia and his own visit to Shanghai.

The following announcements were made:

Uncle Peter will be back in Hong Kong on the 22nd Aug.

The last board meeting was adjourned due to an insufficient quorum.

The deadline for the DG nominating committee is this Friday. The HKIE nomination is PP Tim Lui, proposed by Rudy Law and seconded by Chris Howe.

The Victoria Park School for the deaf have asked for a donation, PPHubert has very kindly agreed to donate HK\$ 12,000. Pres. Stephen extended a special thanks to Hubert on behalf of the Club.

The Rotary Foundation Seminar is due to be held on Saturday 8th Sept 10am to 3pm, all Rotarians are welcome.

The District Vocational Service Meeting will be on October 30th, 12.30 to 2pm at the Hong Kong Hotel.

There will be a District Swimming Gala in Sept in Ma On Shan at a cost of HK\$1,400 per club, this is a family event and all are welcome.

Sgt. at Arms Rtn Lawrence reported 19 members in attendance with HK\$950 Red Box collection.

The speaker for our meeting was our very own PPJL who told us of his very interesting trip to western China with the Financial Secretary Donald Tsang.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST

香港東區扶輪社週報

Club 4350

District 3450

Chartered on 6 April, 1954 by Charter President
PDG (Uncle) John Yuen

HKSAR Delegation to Western Region: 10-19 May 2001

The mission has three key objectives:

1. To enable Hong Kong's business sector to get a better understanding of the business opportunities and the market potential arising from the development of the western region;
2. To introduce Hong Kong's advantages, foster closer links with the western region community, promote exchanges and co-operation on a mutually beneficial basis.
3. To enable Hong Kong people and the business sector to understand better the Mainland's vast resources as well as its overall development potential.

JL also showed us many photographs of him with Presidents, Politicians and beautiful dancers. More information can be found on the Government and TDC web site.

Pres. Stephen thanked PPJL, proposed a toast to RI and HKIWI and closed the meeting.

Rotary Information

"We're on our way," RI president says of Rotary's growth

During a tour of seven Rotary districts in the southern United States in his first month as RI president, Richard D. King has been mobilizing and motivating Rotarians to do all they can to realize Rotary's Global Quest, an ambitious campaign for every club across the world to bring in a new member every month and to increase net membership by at least five new Rotarians per club in 2001-02.

"We're on our way!" President King told a fired-up audience during a luncheon at the North Charleston Convention Center, Charleston, South Carolina, on 24 July. "The early numbers from the first half of July are promising." At the event, attended by 500 South Carolina Rotarians from the 74 clubs in District 7770, the RI president encouraged Rotary clubs to target especially young professionals and business people as potential new members.

Rotary's Global Quest for membership off to flying start

In just the first two weeks of the 2001-02 Rotary year, the 25 Rotary International districts reporting the biggest growth stated that their clubs had added more than 4,000 new members. Ken Boyd, chairman of the RI Membership Executive Steering Committee, said that the initial reports — while not yet official — bode well for Rotary's Global Quest for one new member per club every month.

"The Rotary world is on fire with excitement for Rotary's Global Quest," Boyd exclaimed. "Districts are reporting success and enthusiasm for an increase in members to help attain the humanitarian ideals of Rotary. So far we've heard from about 15 percent of Rotary's 530 districts. When we've heard from all of them, I anticipate a huge increase."

This enthusiasm is just what Rotarians need to make August, officially designated as Rotary's Membership and Extension Month, a resounding success. Though membership development and the extension of Rotary are year-round endeavors, in August, each club pays special attention to devising ways to retain existing members and recruiting new ones.

Rotarians, Clintons help raise funds for Sierra Leone war victims

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife, U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, attended a 22 July picnic sponsored by six New York Rotary clubs and several non-governmental organizations to help raise money for children maimed in the civil war in Sierra Leone. In a decade of armed conflict, more than 20,000 civilians have been maimed by the Revolutionary United Front rebels, who have gained notoriety for attacks on civilians in a violent bid to control Sierra Leone's lucrative diamond-mining industry.

Featuring African dance and music, an auction of paintings and other valuables, and a "Wizard of Oz" theme, the event, held at Camp St. Edward, Staten Island, New York, attracted more than 1,000 participants and helped raise some US\$60,000. The funds will be administered by Gift of Limbs, a project aimed at assisting some of the victims of the Sierra Leone civil war.

Texas Rotarian delivers water system to his Sudanese birthplace

For longer than recorded history, villagers living along the west bank of the Nile River have collected drinking water in clay pots directly from the river's banks. To quench one's thirst was to take the necessary risk of contracting a water-borne disease.

Rotarian Awad Abdelgadir, who grew up in the small Nubian village of Kolomiseed (also called Az-Zawrat) in northern Sudan and emigrated to Austin, Texas, USA, thirteen years ago, knows this way of life well — and how much Kolomiseed needed an underground water pump to deliver safe water.

Thanks to the help of its native son and Rotary, the pump — just completed within the past month — is now a source of clean drinking water for the village, with a tank holding enough water for 3,000 residents from Kolomiseed and neighboring communities.

Abdelgadir's Rotary Club of South Austin raised US\$18,000, an amount matched by The Rotary Foundation. An additional \$6,000, raised by ECHO, a local non-profit partner, was added to a total budget of \$42,000. The Rotary Club of Khartoum, Sudan, oversaw the implementation of this project, which came together in less than a month. "This water project will save lives," Abdelgadir said.

LAUGH FOR THE WEEK

She was an attractive barmaid so Bill slapped ten dollars on the bar and said, "I bet I can keep an eye on this drink while I go to the bathroom." The barmaid knew the bathroom was around the corner so she accepted the bet. Bill took his glass eye out and placed it beside the glass and went to the bathroom. She was shocked that she lost the bet.

He opens his shirt and shows them the grey hair on his chest and they accept that as proof.

He goes home to his wife, shows her the cheque, and explains to her how he got it.

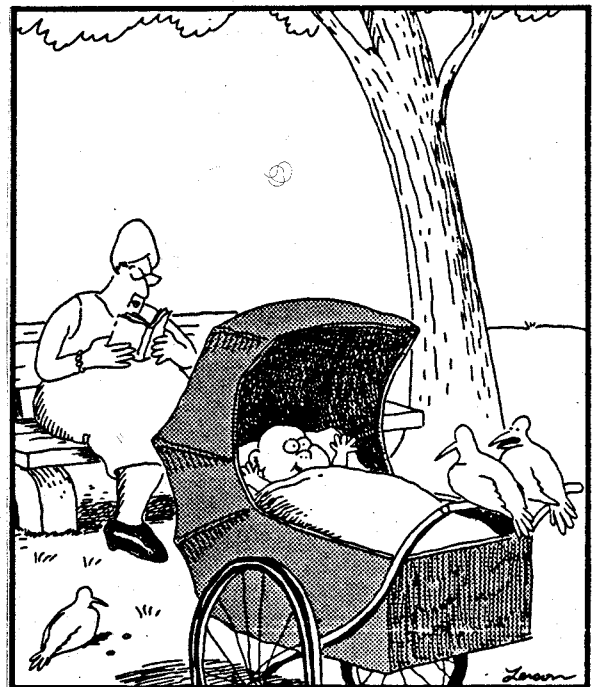
She replies, "Well, get back down there, pull down your pants, and see if you can get disability!"

When he returned, Bill said to her, "I bet I can bite my own ear." The barmaid knew that was impossible, so she accepted the bet. Bill then took out his false teeth and nipped his ear. Again, she was shocked at how he tricked her.

"Okay," he said, "I'll give you a chance to win your money back. I bet I can make love to you so tenderly, that you won't feel a thing." Now, that was one thing she knew well, so she accepted the bet. They went out the back and, during the event, she cried out, "I can feel you."

"Oh, well," said Bill, "You win some, you lose some!"

An old man goes into the Social Security Office and fills out an application. Too old to have a birth certificate, he is asked to prove he is old enough.



"It's still hungry ... and I've been stuffing worms into it all day."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2001 - 2002

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PP John Kwok

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Jason Chiu

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**ROTARY CLUB OF HONG KONG ISLAND EAST MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY, 12:30 p.m. AT
EXCELSIOR HOTEL, CAUSEWAY BAY**

22 August, 2001

ALL MEMBERS OF HKIE

Last week, you read a statement from President Stephen in which he reported that four Directors withdrew from the Board meeting in protest at the continued representation of the PP Council. This is an issue that simmered in the Club last year and it has, unfortunately, arisen again this year. Until President Stephen's statement in the Tung Feng last week, the issue has been confined to Board members, but now I feel that I must explain my position openly.

My opposition is based on these issues:

1. From the variety of statements I have been able to gather from Council members, I believe PP Council was established some time in the past to annually select a VP and provide advice to the Board. This may have been helpful in the past but it is now an obsolete notion.
 - On the first issue, the selection of a suitable VP should be made by those who know all members very well. If one looks at the attendance record, it will be apparent that the worst attendees are the PPs, many of whom have chosen to seek exemption from attendance and are never, or rarely, seen at Club meetings anymore. It is irresponsible for the Club to leave the important task of selecting a suitable VP in the hands of those who have distanced themselves from fellowship and Club affairs. My proposal is for the Board each year to set up a selection committee composed of regular attendees, whether they are PPs or not, to select our VP.
 - On the second issue, occasionally the Board, in making decisions in administering the Club, needs some expert advice. Already, PDG Uncle Peter, the most experienced Rotarian in our Club (and probably in the District), has been co-opted by Boards over the years to attend Board meetings for this purpose. He is an excellent choice. But, we do not need Board meetings stuffed with advisors. The PP Council, which is out of touch with Club affairs and personnel for the reasons stated above, is hardly suitable for giving advice, and is now redundant.
2. There are some very basic principles that should be observed in the functioning of any voluntary group like a Rotary Club, and they are the principles of openness, access and inclusion. The PP Council is the antithesis of this:
 - First, most Club members never hear of its meetings, who attends, or what is discussed. It is a very closed and opaque group to which most Club members have no input.
 - Second, it insists on a privileged position of access to the decision-making body (the Board) by sending along a representative to give 'advice.' From the outside, members could be excused from thinking that their opinions do not carry the same weight of the PP Council which has official representation on the Board.
 - Third, it excludes the majority of Rotarians from membership and its deliberations (Even I, as a PP, have never been invited to its meetings – I have recently heard, because I am not a PP of this Club.)

3. All Rotary Clubs in the world are expected to observe the Rotary rules for the administration of Rotary Clubs. These are contained in the Manual of Procedure and Club by-laws. In all of the years that Rotary has been in existence, no rules have been promulgated setting up groups like the PP Council within Clubs (which speaks for itself). Rotary expects Clubs to be run by their Boards alone - which begs the question, why does HKIE, alone in the world of Rotary, require a PP Council to guide it, particularly when this particular Council is so out of touch with Club affairs?

PP Stephen's solution of having the PP Council Representative on the Board "officially as a Rotarian and unofficially as PP Council Representative" is curious and contradictory, to say the least. It doesn't address the objections to PP Council explained above.

My position is this:

- I have no objection to a group of PPs meeting unofficially to discuss whatever they like about the Club; and if they have a point of view about an issue of importance to them, to send their representative to the Board in his personal capacity as a Rotarian to present their ideas. This is legal and fits within the rules of Rotary. BUT, it should be clearly understood that their emissary has not been personally invited by the Board. He is present in a personal capacity and is very welcome under those circumstances, like any other Club member. (In fact, this was the decision taken at the Board of 2000-2001, which makes it so surprising that the policy was reversed this year to continue the controversy.)
- The Club should make clear its position vis-à-vis the PP Council, to all members by discontinuing this charade of giving the PP Council official status within the Club, by deleting all reference to it being "official" or "unofficial" on the Board and removing all reference to it in Club literature, i.e., the Club letterhead and bulletin.

If these conditions are met, our Club can return to operating harmoniously under very democratic procedures and all members will be unequivocally confident that their opinions are valued and just as important as those of any other member or group within the Club.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that my protest against the PP Council is not directed against individual members caught up in this issue – it is not personal. I like and respect all of them very much as friends and fellow members of our Club. My concern is only with the support they give to a body that has long outlived its usefulness.

PP Rob Fielding



Rtn Tony joining PP Hubert & PP George.



PP Edwin and visiting PP Pedro Ching (HK Island West) grace the head table.



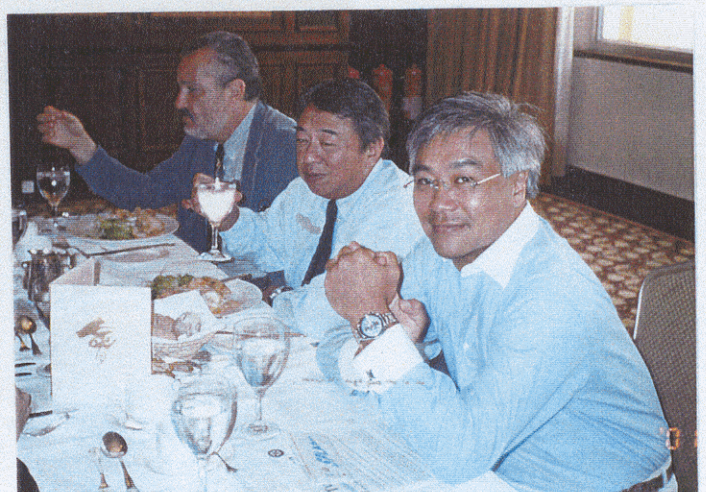
Rtn Thomas Ling enjoying the company of Rtn Lewis Fung and PP David Li.



VP Chris entertaining Rudy's guest – Heron Chan and PP Rob.



Rtn Francis, SAA Laurence and Rtn Jason.



Rtn Ates, PP Andrew and Rtn Samuel.



Pres. Stephen welcoming the visiting Rotarian and Guests.



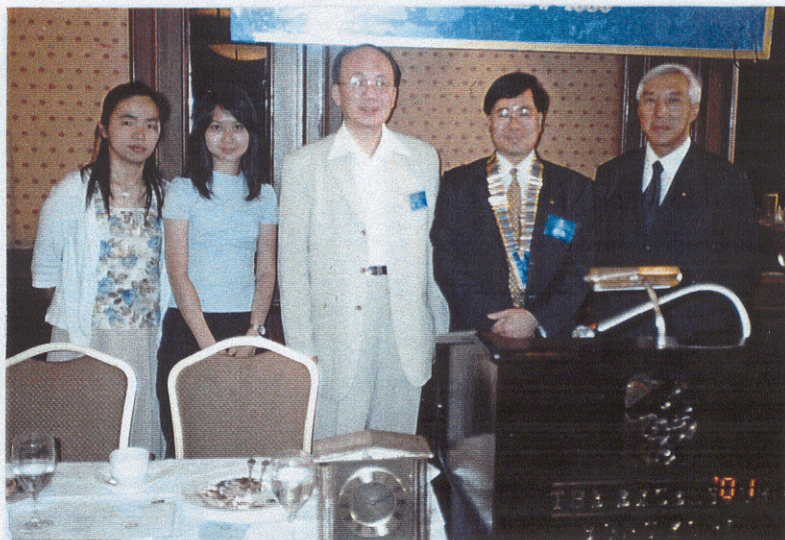
PP John Luk, speaking on his "West Side Story" a recent trip to China with HKSAR delegation.



Two charming guests of PP John Luk.



Two Interactor representatives promoting The Aug 19 Charity Bazaar in Kowloon Park.



Group Photo of August 15, 2001