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YEAR 1999-2000

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Our 46th Year of Rotary Service Chartered: 6th April, 1954 by Founding President, the late PDG (Uncle) John Yuen Our website address: http://www.rotary.org.hk/hongkong-island-east



What Happened Last Week

It was a cold and bleak day outside, but there was a warmth of fellowship in the Marina Room at the Excelsior Hotel for this meeting. It was opened on time by President Desmond who immediately called on Rtn Jason to make the introductions. In fact, there were only three visiting Rotarians to this meeting:

Gary Baldwin (Stanwood Camano, Washington State, USA) Klaus Rall (Hamburg, Germany) Paul Knight (Helston Lizard, UK)

President Desmond took the opportunity to present HKIE banners to Rtns Gary Baldwin and Klaus Rall.

He then gave a special welcome back to IPP C.Y. (sporting a dapper new hair style) who had been with his family in Australia; and to Rtn Malcolm who reported that he had spent his vacation cross-country skiing in Switzerland.

Next, there were several announcements to be made:

1. PDG Uncle Peter informed members that although there were no birthday boys present today, in fact it was a very big birthday day because it was the 95th birthday of the Rotary movement which was founded on this day in 1905. He also announced that January-February is World Understanding Month in the Rotary calendar. Uncle Peter's third report was that the RI Conference would be held on the coming weekend and he gave a detailed breakdown of the schedule over the three days. Significantly for our Club, PDG Y.K. would be the Chairman.

- 2. Rtn Jason reported that the semi-annual fee statements had been sent out to members, including the discounts due to attendances. It is hoped that members will make payment as soon as possible.
- 3. President Desmond reminded members that the District Sevens soccer tournament will be held on 26 March at the Stanley Ho Sports Centre, Sandy Bay. He also said that the new Governor's monthly newsletter was available to read and new District club meeting schedule cards were ready for members to pick up. Other announcements were that the Walkathon was still scheduled for 12 March, with Rtn Rudy in charge; and the next Board meeting would be held on Friday, 25 February, 6:30 p.m. at the Craigengower Cricket Club in Happy Valley.

With the business completed, it was Rtn Malcolm's turn to introduce the speaker, Mr. Frederick Tong Kin Sang, Director (Disability) from the Hong Kong Equal Opportunities Commission. Mr. Tong's responsibilities are focused on equal opportunities for people with disabilities.

He said that he is currently looking into the impact of the IT revolution on disabled people. The rapid spread of computer applications in the business world, in schools and in the home makes it imperative that disabled people are able to share in these benefits. At present, people with visual impairment and physical disabilities are not being catered for adequately in the new electronic and digital systems coming on line. It is his responsibility to ensure that such people are able to use these systems on an equal basis with the rest of the community. In fact, inclusion of disabled people would add many more potential customers to the business applications.

Mr. Tong's goal is to encourage companies involved in IT facilities to modify or redesign their products so that the disabled can also use them. Some suggestions would be to make websites more user friendly; better computer screens for the visually impaired; more ergonomically designed keyboards; and voice control of computer systems. Much of this is already available technology and minimal modifications would be required.

There were some very concerned questions raised with Mr. Tong by members. PDG Uncle Peter kicked off with his dissatisfaction with the discrimination against age - his immediate concern is with renewing a drivers license. PE Tajwar expressed a concern about his right as a private employer (and therefore, risk-taker) to exclude certain people with disabilities if these would prevent the maximization of their potential as employees. Rtn Bill was adamant that Tajwar would be breaking the law to discriminate in this way (So maybe Bill's factory is more user friendly for such people.).

PDG Y.K. thanked Mr. Tong for his interesting address and made the point that he wasn't aware of the applications of anti-discrimination legislation to the IT revolution.

To close the meeting, President Desmond proposed a toast to the Rotary Clubs of Stanwood Camano, Hamburg and Helston Lizard.

Rotary Information

Ravizza invites Rotarians to Shaka conference

RI President Carlo Ravizza invites Rotarians to the fourth presidential conference of this Rotary year in Dhaka, Bangladesh, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, April 7-9.

The conference will offer South Asian Rotarians and their colleagues from other countries a platform to assess ways to improve the quality of life in the 21st century. Attention will be focused on how Rotary can utilize the opportunities that exist to support development programs in the region.

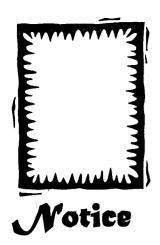
Conferees will also examine ways to increase the impact of Rotary Foundation educational programs and humanitarian grants. In addition to networking sessions, a projects fair and discussion groups, a number of forums will give participants the chance to ask questions and share their ideas with Ravizza, senior Rotary leaders and other speakers.

'Spellbound' business people raise money for literacy programs

It was an entertaining evening for the members of the Rotary Club of St Bernard Parish, Louisiana, USA, as they gathered to watch a spelling bee. The contestants fidgeted nervously. They cheered when they spelled a word correctly. They jeered other contestants. They collapsed in a heap when they erred. The only difference was that these contestants weren't kids but grown-up business people.

The Third Annual Corporate Spelling Bee, sponsored by the club, was held at Lacoste Elementary School in Chalmette on February 10 and attracted 21 teams from various St. Bernard businesses. It was a head-scratching evening as many contestants tried and failed to spell words such as forester, reins, soluble, perseverance, troupe and bailiff.

The US\$6,000 raised from the event will go to support adult literacy programs sponsored by the club.



We missed you on 16th February 2000!!!

Team 1 Chan, Hubert; Luk, John

Team 2 Chan, Kenny; Li, Francis; Ling, Alex; Lui, Tim

Team 3 Chan, Henry; Fung, Lewis; Lai, Robert; Pang, K.T.;

Wong, Sam

Team 4 Chen, Andrew; Kuang, Peter; Killis, Danny; Leung, George;

Li, David

Team 5 Ling, Thomas; Luy, Henry; Shek, Andrew; Yao, John

Team 6 Chan, Paul

21 members missing

Please makeup!!!



The manager of a large company noticed a new man one day and told him to come into his office.

"What is your name?" was the first thing the manager asked the new guy.

"John," the new guy replied.

The manager scowled, "Look ... I don't know what kind of a namby-pamby place you worked in before, but I don't call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my employees by their last name only ... Smith, Jones, Baker ... that's all. I am to be referred to only as Mr. Roberts. Now that we've got that straight, what is your last name?"

The new guy replied, "Darling. My name is John Darling."

"Okay John, the next thing-I want to tell you is ..."

You will all remember PP Jack Lau' talk last week about New Zealand .. .and how the country is overrun with sheep. Well, according to the Australians, the Kiwi men prefer sheep to women:

So, how do you when a Kiwi guy has been in your fridge?

Answer: By the love bites son the leg of lamb.



"Now calm down there, ma'am. ... Your cat's gonna be fine ... just fine."

1/3/2000





Rtn Klaus(left) and Rtn Paul Knight (right) from Helston Lizard in Cornwall(UK) entertained by our Rotarians while PP Rob keeps on trucking!

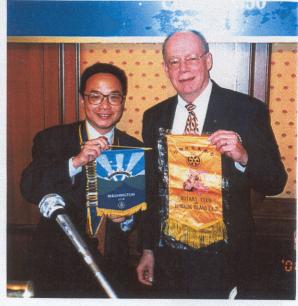
Visitors to our club, the speaker & PDG. Peter with Pres. Desmond on 23rd February,2000





Mr. Frederick Tong Kin Sang talking to us about the Equal Opportunities Commission.





Rtn. Gary Baldwin from Everett, Wash. exchanges banners with Pres. Desmond.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Rall from Hamburg, Germany exchanging banners with Pres. Desmond.



Rtn. Gary Baldwin seated at the head table with PDG. Y.K & VE Tajwar.