

London Bridges

Bridging the World of Rotary

August, 2009

News from the Rotary e-Club of London Centenary

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Rotary e-Club
of London Centenary

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Vacation time....lets take it easy !

It is vacation time. Great. All the problems of the world are gone from our minds. Eventually even our own Rotary Service is on vacation. This way we may have all the time in the world to do puzzles while we lay down on the sand with a nice cold beer in our hands. Thank God the world is now so far away. This month puzzle is an easy one....Spot the differences.

- Both are kids
- Both are on sand
- Both are probably wondering when they are going to eat
- Both wear light clothes due to the hot weather

Where are the differences then ?

Let's get down to real issues. Rotary is there. What about you ?



Versus



www.erotarylondon.org





Let's see what Rotary is doing

The [Bitone Center for Disadvantaged Children](#), located in Kampala, Uganda, is home to two dozen children ages 8-18. Many are orphans; others have lost their homes or been estranged from their families by disease, war, or economic hardship. The Rotary clubs of Kampala-East and Traverse Bay Sunrise, Michigan, USA, are providing support to the facility with help from a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant.



Bitone means "talents" in Luganda. The center was founded in 2004 by Lawrence "Branco" Sekalegga, who serves as its executive director and teaches the children traditional Ugandan dance, music, and theater. By connecting the children with their heritage and providing basic food, shelter, and education, the center strives to give them new hope and build their self-esteem.

Rotary clubs in Korea donated US\$500,000 to build a new medical center dedicated to improving health care for women and children in Tanzania.

The facility, set to open in 2010 at Tumbi Special Hospital in Kibaha, is expected to save up to 42 children per day and will enrich the lives of one million residents of the country's Pwani Region.

A fact-finding team of Korean Rotarians, organized by Yun, traveled in November to Tanzania, where the group visited medical facilities specializing in mother and child health care and met with top health officials, hospital management, and local Rotary club members.

Based on the team's recommendations, the Korean and Tanzanian clubs selected Tumbi hospital as the site for the new facility. The hospital is part of the [Kibaha Education Centre](#), where health officers and nurses are trained.





Let's welcome our newest members

Lyn Clarke

clarke.lyn@gmail.com

Skype: lynclarke85

Living in UK at present

Teacher of Ballet & Modern Dance

Michael Vogt

mgvogt@gmail.com

Living in Seychelles

Travel Industry – Resort Manager

Lai Wah Siu (Known as Sarah)

siusarah@hotmail.com

Living in Scotland

Aviation Engineer



The English Wikipedia has a very [straight forward decription of Rotary and its history.](#)

It may be a good read and a good suggestion to others who may be interested in this fascinating organization.

Club Meetings in August:


3rd, 10th, 24th—
ReCLC meeting at Forum

20th—Voip Meeting via Skype
20:00 BST / 21:00 CET





Ideas on the go from Rotarians

 Featured discussion

I am concerned RI Council will vote to discontinue e-Clubs. What do you think?

RI council will vote on June 30th of 2010 whether to continue allowing e-Clubs and/or whether to allow other e-Clubs to form. If we believe the web is a mechanism for growing our organization into new places and generations, I believe we should take an active stance in support of allowing e-Clubs to continue.

If they do then they will lose a great percentage of future Rotarians! Amazing that they are thinking of making such a step back! I am about to join the London Centenary eclub due to time constraints but not due to lack of interest on Rotary. I hope we can raise awareness on this. I am so angry if they vote against it, then we are doomed and Rotary will just grow old and disappear one day.

In my opinion, I see great value in connecting via the web for good thinking and discussions. I don't think it replaces the getting together, building relationships, and providing service. As much as I appreciate discussions such as this, working alongside a fellow Rotarian on a service project or breaking bread together is different. So, I am not in favor of e-Clubs as a substitute. I am in favor of any opportunity to connect Rotarians.

Technology has changed our ways of life and our changed ways of life implies new day-to-day methods of living. Our sons will definitely behave different in life because they have new tools. One could argue if these new tools are better or worst, but that is not the point. They are there and being used.

I resigned from a B&M club in the past, being the President, because members could not care less about Rotary or "service". They were RINO's (Rotary In Name Only). I also know a lot of B&M clubs where the meals are the end-purpose.

I joined an e-club because my profession obliges me to travel a lot and because I am hoping that e-Clubs, since they do not have meals, allows their members to place their attention on the really important issues.

Killing e-Clubs will turn away from Rotary a lot of dedicated Rotarians. A lot of people either because they were born within this new technology, or because they travel a lot or just because they are disabled but want to provide a service need and want an e-Club.

The concept that we must watch each other faces while chewing a nice bit of roast-beef in order to make sure Rotary's purposes are met is absolutely inappropriate and wrong.

It is a myth maintained by those who are afraid of technology and feel obsolete.

Nevertheless nobody said that old fashion B&M do not work or should be discontinued. I only say that there is no reason for e-Clubs to be banned. Why ? Don't they provide a revenue for Rotary ? Can't they provide the service for those in need, as well ?

I am able to read here all sorts of arguments why people will not join an e-Club, but I could not read one reason why they should be banned.



Rotarian's opinions

Little has been said about polio in the industrialized world — and for good reason. Polio doesn't exist here. But swine flu has reminded us that viruses care little for city limits and territorial boundaries. And polio operates like any other virus.

Last month, in his address from Cairo, President Barack Obama put polio eradication on his agenda. Moreover, he invited support from the Organization of Islamic Conference, expressing interest in working with Muslim countries on wiping out this disease. The emphasis was on "partnership."

Today, polio is endemic in four nations, all with large Muslim populations: India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. Disease isn't religious and polio certainly isn't a Muslim problem. Yet, its presence in these nations does provide the administration the chance to work collectively on an issue and, in the process, employ a bit of "soft power."



If this disease is wiped out (which it will be), it will serve as a prime example of the power of engagement where collaboration breeds results, not just rhetoric.

The effort itself is already a monumental example of partnership, bringing together five organizations (World Health Organization, Rotary International, Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF and the Gates Foundation) and thousands of volunteers from around the globe. This year, I had the chance to walk through a few of the polio-afflicted neighborhoods of India, vaccinate some children and, most of all, learn from the locals who regularly conduct these immunization rounds and listen to their stories of hope and frustration.

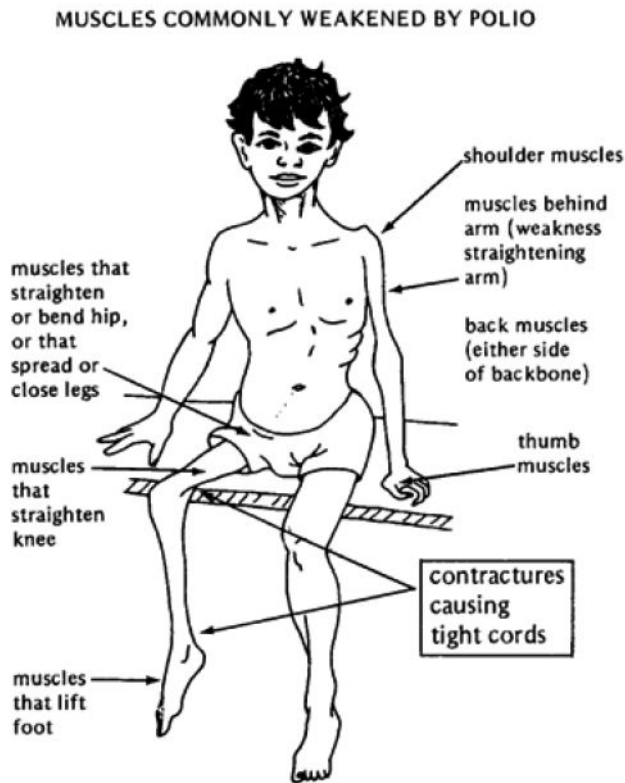
Frankly, they're a bit tired of this 20-year-long battle. So, we were there to offer a little encouragement. Arriving in Delhi, just days after witnessing Obama's inauguration and standing amid a sea of change-seeking Americans, I was excited to extend that optimism to weary health workers. In the few days I was there, meeting with members of the polio committee, talking with the heads of the various partners, pestering them with questions about the penetration of the disease, I could only do so little — a small gesture when compared with the 20-year-long effort of these individuals.

So, I decided to extend to them what Americans are best known for: energy and hope.

Polio is a crippling disease that hit in the U.S. in the 1930s and 1950s, even affecting our 32nd president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Yet, with the introduction of an oral vaccine, that threat disappeared as more and more children were inoculated. Today, in parts of India, though, the disease is alive, thriving and migrating with its carriers.



Rotarian's opinions



In earlier years, a baseless rumor had spread that the polio vaccine was a Western tool, designed to sterilize Muslim children and, thereby, decrease the Muslim population as a whole. However, our local Muslim leader assured us that that rumor was close to dead. Since it first caught fire in India, the polio committee in Delhi set up meetings at the national level, calling all ulema, maulvis, and maulanas to participate and secure their help in erasing this misconception.

Eventually, word trickled down to the city level. Though a few areas are still spotty, hesitant to expose their children to the vaccine, these efforts of engagement have largely triumphed, offering a model to other nations on how to deal with resistant populations. In fact, Saudi Arabia now requires all Hajj-bound Muslims to be vaccinated before entering Mecca.

Obama's interest in enlisting the support of the Organization of the Islamic Conference is spot-on. The OIC may not have the resources to eradicate polio, but it can speak with authority to its constituency. It's about creating a dialogue — in their language, with their leaders, in their hometown. And we can play a small part in that.

Ambassadors and dignitaries only make it so far — the major cities, the nicer venues — where they meet with other dignitaries, esteemed citizens and a selective crowd. Yet, these American Rotarians go into the nooks and crannies of a country where the roads get rugged, the scenery is a bit gritty, the heat is penetrating. They grace the pages of local newspapers for their work in the local communities; yet, they can't read the articles because they're in an exotic script.

These are lawyers, doctors, nurses, small-business owners, firefighters at home; but there, they're diplomats without the badge — they're the face of America. Not only do these Americans appear in mosques, temples and gurdawaras, honoring different faiths and traditions, exemplifying the openness of the U.S., they also help provide a public good — religious and cultural exchange and international development — all packed into one.

They leave a mark, an admirable one, one that extends a piece of the American dream to their new friends — the chance at an education or newfound health. That's the beauty of "soft power."



Rotarian's opinions

— Esha Chhabra of Moorpark is a recent Georgetown University graduate and a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to the London School of Economics. She participated in the 2009 National Immunization Day in India and will be attending the London School of Economics in the fall.

Polio blogs

To read a blog on polio Esha Chhabra of Moorpark has been keeping, log on to <http://www.intent.com/category/polio>.

It includes interviews with many leaders in polio-eradication efforts, such as Bill Gates, Rotary, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and more. Esha has also created a Youtube video, which can be viewed at <http://www.intent.com/esha/blog/leave-mark>.





Let's know each other better....

My first time I came across Rotary was way back in the 1970's, during my University time, when I was invited to a lot of Rotary meetings by one of the greatest Rotarians in Portugal, the late Antonio Jose Saraiva, Past-DG and a very good friend.

For many years I have been "around" Rotary without actually being a member to a specific club, because of my constant travelling.

I finally joined a Rotary Club by late 1990's in Portugal and later a Rotary Club in Brazil, by 2006, where I lived for about 2 years.

My experience with B&M clubs has been very, very disappointing due to the fact that the clubs, where I have been, seemed to have as a target, not the service to the communities but the meals in themselves. I know of a lot of B&M that do extraordinary things and provide superb services to those in need. It was just my bad luck, I believe.

When e-Clubs came along I thought (and still do) that they were an excellent idea. There are no meals involved and therefore all of the attention is to the club's matters and one can be present anywhere in the world.

I am not able to understand all the discussion around "To Ban or not To Ban" pilot e-clubs. They provide revenues for Rotary, they provide a place to meet for those who cannot be physically present at a B&M club and they can still provide a very good service since having members in different countries may be a clear advantage to organize Rotary Foundation Matching Grants.

Now very proudly taking care of Administration area of this e-Club and also acting as Sergeant-at-arms. I also take care of publishing this newsletter for which I always accept all suggestions and constructive criticism.

Thank you for reading.



Joao Penha-Lopes,
Portuguese living
in Portugal.

53 years old, but
looking a lot
younger (!)

Married, with 2
sons and 2 daughters spread
around the world: Danmark
(Gil/boy/28), France (Dulce/
girl/25), Brazil (Maria/girl/17)
and little Johnny-Johnny
(boy/7) still with us in Portugal.

Telecomms Chartered Engineer
and now deeply involved into
Information Flow
implementation in
organizations. Doing a PhD on
this matter.

Fluent in English, French and
Spanish.....still waiting to learn
Sanskrit.

Absolutely in love with the wife,
life, sailing, trekking and alpine
skydiving.

For years trying to investigate
about engineering archeology,
but with no great success.

Strong believer in Service with
no time for petty quarrels.

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Our Members



	Beetz, Michael	London, UK & USA
	Beguy-Knodt, Lydia	Belgium & Madagascar
	Brodehl, Axel	Bonn, Germany
	Challis, John	Strachur, Scotland
	Clarke, Lyn	Gobowen, UK
	Cumlet, Haagen P	Greve, Denmark
	Dhiri, Dr Anil	London, UK
	Engberg, Goran	Sweden
	Grund, Cynthia M	Greve, Denmark
	Kenyon-Muir, Andrea M. C.	London, UK
	Kurtzman, Ellen	Fort Worth, Texas, USA
	Martinelli, Enzo	London, UK
	Neville, Harold ^(HM)	London. UK
	Penha-Lopes, Joao	Portugal & Europe & Brazil
	Schleuter, Wolfram	Czech Republic
	Rhind, William	London, UK
	Russel, Ernie ^(HM)	London, UK
	Russell, Stella	London. UK
	Uwaechi, Francis	London, UK
	Vogt, Michael	Mahe, Seychelles
	Siu, Sarah	Sunderland, UK
	Zuliani, Federico Iussig	Udine, Italy

(HM) - Honorary Member



Paul Harris Fellows:

Beguy-Knodt, Lydia PHF+2
 Cumlet, Haagen P PHF
 Dhiri, Anil (Dr) PHF
 Grund, Cynthia M PHF
 Kurtzman, Ellen (Foundation), AKS, PHF
 Neville, Harold PHF
 Russell, Stella , PHF



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