



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Club No: 17261 | Issue 7 - August 24, 2005

Minutes of Club Meeting on August 18

Visiting Rotarians were: **Phil Cozens** - Rotary Club of Swansea Bay and **Peter Rancilffe**, Director of Celtic Cultural Exchange.

Guests of Rotarians: **David Wafula** of Stanbic Bank and **Nick Hutchison** of Unga Ltd. introduced by President Elect Diamond Lalji; **Catherine Ngarachu** introduced by Rtn. Nani Croze; **Jayne Wright** of Celtic Cultural Exchange introduced by PDG Mohamed Abdulla; **Diana Miller** and **Magee Magee**, psychoanalysts from Palm Springs, California introduced by President Eric Krystall; **Marinella Donati** introduced by Rtn. Valter Donati; **Mr. Muthama** introduced by PP Manu Chandaria; **Andrew Cole** of American Education and **Caroline Akin** introduced by Rtn. Mari Nelson.

Rotarians who have been away were welcomed back: **PP Hannington Awori**, **PP Manu Chandaria**, **PP Joe Wanjui**, **PP Jonathan Campaigne**, **Rtn Ashok Shah** and **Rtn. Gopinath Bhatt**. Hannington, Manu and Joe were given an especially warm welcome as long-standing members excused attendance who have brought much lustre to the club and were encouraged to come more often.

Announcements: Rtn. Gavin McEwen once again asked for sponsors for his climb of Mount Kenya. He has already raised KSh. 20,000/- for club funds.

The **Sergeant-at-Arms** was **Rtn Kauli Mwembe** who raised KSh. 7,420/- .

The **speaker** was **Dr. K. K. Gakombe** who was introduced by Vice-President Atia Yahya. His subject was National Social Health Insurance Scheme: Is the battle over? His talk was very stimulating and informative. He was thanked by Rtn. Kauli Mwembe and presented with a figure sculpted by Jacaranda Workshop.

Errata—Errata—Errata

In last week's bulletin, we failed to mention the following guests of Rotarians:

Rtn. Elliot Munn from the Oxford Hills Rotary Club in USA, introduced by PDG Mohamed Abdalla. Rtn. Jessica Kazina had a guest by the name of **Carolyn Akinyi**.

Thanks to Kevin Mududa for pointing this out and our apologies to guests and their hosts for our omission!

Announcements from the Committees

75th Birthday Celebrations Committee

Further to our previous communication reference to preparations for activities for our 75th birthday we have received tremendous response from members and we have received sponsorship for all the feeding days at Jaram Mandir Temple. Much appreciation to PP Sudesh Walia, Rtn. Mohamed Rahemtulla, Rtn. Jessica Kazina, Rtn. Sonal Sejpal, Rtn. Hari Nathwani and Rtn. Zaf Khan who have each contributed Kshs. 3,600. Cheers guys! Since all the days have now been grabbed by the first 5 contributors Rtn. Zaf...your contribution will be channelled towards the Mbagathi Primary School feeding programme.

This also applies to anybody with further donations. We will also channel them to the Mbagathi Primary School feeding programme which, as you all know, is our main activity. Here, in conjunction with Rtn. Olivier Vetter and the Hilton Group we will feed over 1,500 students at a cost of about Kshs.118,000. Your generosity will be highly appreciated.

In regards to the feeding programme at the temple Rtn. Ashok Shah needs a minimum of 10 Rotarians on each day. Please remember that this will add to your attendance make-up. Kindly bring along your family members and friends to this very special occasion.

(See also note under 'Next Meetings' in right-hand sidebar)

Next Meetings:

Thursday, August 25, 2005

Club Meeting at Grand Regency

Sgt.-at-arms: MARI NELSON/SUDESH WALIA

Programme:

Meet and Greet Occasion and debate on subscription, chaired by Rtn. Mike Fairhead.

Thursday, September 1, 2005

Club Meeting at Grand Regency

Sgt.-at-arms: FRANCIS NJIIRI

Speaker:

Mr. Len Blazeby, Communications Coordinator of the Int. Committee of Red Cross, Nairobi on *"What should we know about the ICRC and why does it matter?"*

Mr. Blazeby is a brilliant Communicator. Nairobi serves as an important hub for many international and humanitarian organisations.

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Our 75th Birthday programme:

Please note that we are all going to forego our lunch on this day and instead contribute the Kshs.850 towards the **feeding programme**. Kindly forward your cheque or cash to Rtn. Michael Fairhead. His contacts are 0722-528931 and email is fairhead@africaonline.co.ke In addition, any other contribution should be forwarded to Mike.

In Memoriam

Rtn. Arun Patel

Please see the Eulogy for Rtn. Patel, who died recently in India, at: www.rotarynairobi.org

Attendance Update

Average for July: 68%

Aug 4, 2005 67%

Aug 11, 2005 57%

Aug 18, 2005 65%

Aug 25, 2005:

Average for August:

Cura goes bananas

by Mike Eldon

Last Thursday Evelyn and I couldn't make it to our weekly lunch. The reason is that we were out at Cura to celebrate the first harvest of the tissue culture bananas local farmers had planted a year before. By coincidence it was also the first anniversary – almost to the day – of the official opening of the Cura Rotary AIDS Orphans Home by Vice-President Moody Awori.

The bananas are transforming people's lives, bringing new-found affluence to a community that was largely composed of poor subsistence farmers – now marketing a valuable cash crop. 'Farming is moving from simply being a way of life to being a way of business,' we were told. The celebration was not a small one, with 3,000 farmers in attendance, some from as far away as Muranga and Meru. Also present were Assistant Minister for Agriculture Peter Kaindi, local MP Paul Muite, the DC, DO, Chief and other officials.

The banana project came to Cura as a result of a request to have Dr. Florence Wambugu, the CEO of Africa Harvest, be a lunch speaker at our club. A-Harvest is a continent-wide NGO supported by USAID. They partner with Du Pont's subsidiary Pioneer Hi-Breed International to introduce high-tech (but non-GM) seeds to Africa's farmers, and also to bring to bear a whole support package. This includes intensive training on all the stages from production to distribution, from planting and tending the crop to post-harvest storage and marketing.

Dr. Wambugu's presentation had then Chairman Evelyn Mungai spellbound. 'Do you think you could bring your banana project to Cura?' she asked. 'Sure,' was the answer, 'subject to funding being available.' The two kept in touch, and eventually the financing was found, enabling A-Harvest to move in. Meanwhile other components of the Cura Rotary Community Corps project were also progressing. The school was being transformed; income generating activities such as soap making were springing up; the young people were being mobilised; the environment was being improved, including through tree planting; and of course there was the construction of the homes for 150 AIDS orphans.

The banana project was introduced in an energised community, making the farmers more open to the new ideas being introduced – for higher productivity maize as well as for bananas. Adoption rates have been high, and the reward is a bumper crop. More money will be circulating in the village, with all the positive consequences that brings.

There was a whole programme of speakers at last week's event, as you can imagine. The people from A-Harvest and Pioneer were present in great number, several all the way from America. But only one speaker received ululations after she spoke. It wasn't a bad day for me to be Mr. Evelyn Mungai. ■

News on the District Website

Please log on to: www.rotary9200.org

- > Rotary News: Highlights of Actions Taken by the Board of Directors of Rotary International at June and July 2005 Board Meetings.
- > District Governor's Reminders
- > DG's Photo Album (images from his recent visit to clubs in Uganda)



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For your Diary:

Club Assemblies/Spouse Day

6th October 2005
23rd February 2006
11th May 2006

75th Birthday

8th September 2005

Annual General Meeting

8th December 2005

X-mas Lunch

15th December 2005

Meet & Greet Occasions

Last Thursday of every month

Board Meetings

Last Tuesday of every month
Venue: Grand Regency Hotel
Time: 6.00 pm



SERVICE Above Self

ROTARY CLUB OF NAIROBI

Founded Sep 11, 1930

Our Vision:

To remain the leading Rotary Club in Kenya and beyond, where dynamic members enjoy bringing great benefit to their community

Our Mission:

To implement high impact service projects in education, in health, with youth and elsewhere, while members enjoy each others' fellowship

Our values:

Commitment
Care
Humility
Friendliness
Trustworthiness
Responsiveness

Board 2005/06:

President: Eric Krystall
Email: ekrystall@africaonline.co.ke
Mobile: 0733-621597

Vice-President: Atia Yahya
President-Elect: Diamond Lalji
Secretary: Romy Madan
Treasurer: Mike Fairhead

Website: www.rotarynairobi.org