



Rotaract in Great Britain & Ireland

NEWS



April 2005

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RGBI Chairman's Report

It's just three weeks to our RGBI Conference, and I can't wait! I love the way that everyone feels so motivated after a conference, and full of enthusiasm about the things we can do in Rotaract. In the meantime, I will be attending the Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in Great Britain & Ireland and the Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland Annual Conferences on behalf of RGBI, so it'll be interesting to compare the three.

See page 2 for a details of an international service project that you can take part in at our conference...a chance for all of us to make a difference to the lives of teenagers in Eastern Europe.

The next issue of this newsletter will be a conference and training day special issue, so will appear a little later in the month than usual.

Looking forward to seeing you all at conference.

Gillian Wain

RGBI Chairman 2004/05 ☎ 01252 677536 ✉ gillian@rotaract.org.uk

RGBI Council: Meeting Dates

Sunday 1 May 2005, 4.30 pm
Ramada Plaza Hotel, Bristol
(at the RGBI Conference 2005)

[Sunday 8 May 2005 – Training Day for
incoming District Chairmen and District
Rotaract Officers at RIBI, Alcester]

12 June 2005, time TBA
Venue: The Hydro, Bowness-on-
Windermere
Handover meeting for all incoming and
outgoing DCs and DROs

RGBI Conference: Heroes and Villains 2005

29 April–2 May 2005, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Bristol

- Speakers on the Heroes & Villains theme
- Addresses from RIBI President and RGBI Chairman
- Fancy dress Heroes & Villains
- Three-legged pub crawl
- Masked gala dinner
- All proceeds to the Variety Club in Great Britain

Go to www.rgbi2005.com for

- Full details about conference
- Provisional programme
- Downloadable booking form

Conference – a weekend of fun, frolics and frivolity...so what are you waiting for...book in today!!



Come to Conference: experience fun and friendship. May the Conference be with you...

Rotary Shoebox Scheme

Rotary's Shoebox Scheme is an effective project that can be carried out on as large or as small a scale as you wish. You can also involve local community groups. And as a taster, the RGBI Conference is filling Shoeboxes for teenagers...

The first step in Rotary's Shoebox Scheme is purchasing special boxes (25 for £35, 100 for £120, 200 for £200), which arrive flat packed.

Boxes are then filled with three types of items:

- **Toys:** filled with items such as toy cars, small bouncy balls, dolls, colouring books and felt tip pens, lego (no sweets or chocolate)
- **Teenage:** filled with items such as makeup, toiletries, sportswear, football memorabilia, comb, mirror, writing material
- **Household goods:** filled with items such as hand soap, toothpaste, envelopes, biros, shampoo. By adding warm socks and gloves this box can be of great value to the elderly and can be marked to identify it as such.



You can fill the boxes yourselves or involve schools, colleges, old folks homes, friends and relatives. If you involve other groups, you can

ask the person filling the box to sellotape a £1 coin to the outer box lid to help you recover your costs of purchasing the boxes and getting the filled boxes back to the Scheme.

Boxes are marked on the top to indicate what type they are and who they are suitable for (age, boy or girl, etc). You can also include a card with the sender's details and a photograph – you might get a reply.

All contents should be good quality – remember the recipient will be opening their box with eager anticipation and this may be the first gift they have received for a long time.

Filled boxes are returned to a regional warehouse or the central warehouse in Preston. They are then distributed to Eastern Europe, including Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Croatia, Albania and Kosovo.

The Rotary Shoebox Scheme operates all year round, the boxes are distributed to known contacts and the Scheme guarantees that every Shoebox goes to a deserving child or family.

For further information about this Scheme, please see www.rotary1280.org/shoebox



RGBI 2005 Conference International Service Project

Want to take part in a simple but effective international service project? Then look no further: you and your club can help to fill 50 Shoeboxes for underprivileged teenagers.

At this year's RGBI Conference we are collecting items for teenage Shoeboxes, so please bring things along with you and hand them into a member of conference crew on your arrival.

If you can't make this year's Conference and still want to help, please pass your items onto someone who is coming, or send them to the Conference Co-ordinator at: 6 Fernley Court, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7NZ.

Suitable items for teenage shoeboxes are:

makeup, toiletries, sportswear, football memorabilia, hat, gloves, scarves, comb, mirror, writing material... anything a teenager up to the age of 18 might like to receive. Please **don't** include food items as the import of food is banned in most of the countries the scheme operates in, and remember that the items should be **good quality**.

Thanks for your help!



RGBI Website Competition 2005

The five finalists have now been selected for the RGBI Website of the Year Competition. RGBI Internet Officer Jonathan Nish reports on the nominations, finalists, and the rules for voting...let battle commence!

For the last few weeks RGBI has accepted nominations for club and district websites across Great Britain & Ireland. We had a much higher number of entries than previous years – and the quality of entrants has been very high. The entrants did well on compliance with the competition rules – however some were penalised for spelling mistakes, incorrect information, and difficult or inconsistent site navigation. The clubs that made the top five finalist slots made information easy to find and read; and placed equal emphasis on information for new and existing members.

The five finalists have been selected and we are now in the voting phase of the competition. All members of Rotaract in RGBI are encouraged to cast their votes – by ranking, in order, the five shortlisted finalists. You will be able to vote for your top four.

Finalists (listed in alphabetical order)

- Bromley (District 1120) – <http://www.rotaract.org.uk/bromley>
- Camberley (District 1140) – <http://www.rotaract.org.uk/camberley>
- Deben (District 1080) – <http://www.rotaract.org.uk/deben>
- Winchester (District 1110) – <http://www.rotaract.org.uk/winchester>
- Woking (District 1140) – <http://www.rotaract.org.uk/woking>

Voting rules

- You are only allowed one vote per person, any additional votes will be disregarded
- Only members of Rotaract clubs with Great Britain & Ireland may vote
- You will be prevented from voting for any entrants from your district (if applicable)
- As a fraud prevention measure we will store details of your IP address with each vote
- Voting closes 5 pm, Friday 22 April 2005

Enquiries, Membership and New Clubs

New clubs have started meeting in the past few weeks in Coventry, Glasgow/Paisley and Luton (St Christopher's College of Medicine). Both Porthcawl (D1150) and Erdington (D1060) have received their Certificates of Organisation, which means they can now officially charter.

Websites are, of course, a great way to attract new members, and our RGBI website is very useful at directing visitors to their nearest club. During March, the RGBI website had 3745 visitors, who viewed 18684 pages. The most popular directory search method was by county (37% of all searches). Some other interesting website statistics for March are listed below.

General keyword top hits

"Contact", "Gloucester", "Warwick"

Directory keyword top hits

"London", "Colchester", "Cardiff"

Most interesting search terms

"conference" (sic)

"form 6"

"discount rubber"

"electric fish"

"dating"

Most popular club factsheets

Westminster

Miracol

London Bridge

Colchester

Rochdale

Enquiries

Total 125

Club 74, District 4, Users 39, Events 8

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Exec Team or the Council of Rotaract in Great Britain & Ireland.
