Rotary
Rotary Opens Opportunities

The Banner

A Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Cantonment

Volume XXXVII Issue #12 | Rotary Fellowships Month | June 2021

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Rtn. Ravi Narasimhan

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Rtn. Bharath Bail

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Rtn. Arvind Gokhale

Co-opted Director
Rtn. Cherian K. Baby

Club Trainer
Rtn. Shivdev Deshmudre

Club Co-ordinator
Rtn. Samir Gupta

Charter Nite

In the Rotary calendar June is Rotary Fellowships month. For a Rotary club what occasion is better than Charter Nite for fellowship? For our club who celebrates Charter Nite in the month of June, Charter Nite celebrations have been a very important part of our fellowship. We used to get together, listen to someone knowledgeable on Rotary matters, renew our thoughts and resolution for more committed service, honour our Charter members who are able to attend the function and adjourn for fellow sip & Dinner.

It is the second year running that we are unable to meet in person. So I have requested a few of our Charter members to write their memories on our club. These are given below. I am sure most of the members especially those who are not charter members will find it very informative & enjoyable



Our Charter President Santosh Nedungadi has written about the origins and a few little known facts. He has also written a tribute to Rtn Narayan Shetty who passed away recently. Other few members have also contributed their thoughts. Dear Sesh has written on our projects etc which is published separately as it falls in another genre .

Read on & enjoy..... Editor

Origins of the club : lesser known facts.

1. We had over four fellowship meetings, to which prospective members were invited.

   We picked 30 out of the lot, 2 were later added, without attending the fellowship meetings & they were not even inducted, though, they paid the fees.

2. The constitution & bye-laws were framed, keeping Rotary East bye-laws as a reference, but, incorporating a lot of clauses, to address the problems, we had witnessed in Rotary East. For example, qualifications for office, which I don't think any club has incorporated. This was done to avoid elections to office, which was an annual affair in East. In fact, might be interesting to add, Rotary Club of Bangalore had one of 'the most bitterly fought elections' for VP, this year,' splitting the club in two', to quote a few of their Rotarians. In our 37 years, we have managed to keep this at bay, though, we did come close to one for Secretary, maybe, 30 years ago.
3. The toasts after the Installation of new office bearers of the club we still boast of as being unique to RCBC, originated from Rotary East.
4. Some things which have stayed from inception: to name a few
   - A) Fellowship night on every 5th Thursday
   - B) Committee meeting hosted by members by rotation, followed by fellowship .
   - C) RYLA
   - D) Senior citizens club.
   - E) Compulsory contribution to service projects as part of membership obligation.
   - F) Punctuality
   - G) No mementos, no garlands, though patting each other's back has crept in.


SERVICE ABOVE SELF — HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST

This Certifies that the Rotary Club of

Bangalore Cantonment, Karnataka, India

having been duly organized and having agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of Rotary International, which agreement is evidenced by the acceptance of this certificate, is now a duly admitted member of

Rotary International

and is entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership.

In witness whereof the seal of Rotary International is hereto affixed and the signatures of its officers, being duly authorized, are subscribed hereto this **eighteenth day of June, 1984**

William E. Skelton
President, Rotary International

Secretary, Rotary International

H) Active committees.

I) Separate programs chair (in most other clubs, this is the responsibility of the President)

J) Auditing & submission of accounts, annually.

5. Our charter was received in record time from RI. The provisional club was inaugurated on 25.5.1984 & the charter was presented on 18.6.1984.

Rtn PP Santosh Nedungadi

"It the Beginning ....Rotary Cantonment

I was not aware of Rotary activities when I went to the meeting called and Chaired by Santosh Nedungadi for prospective members for RCBC. Madhukar Shetty invited me.

I was highly impressed by the professionalism displayed by Santosh . What impressed me most was the promise of a professional approach to Social work and, of course, the chance of meeting so many persons from different professions and with different backgrounds. I was lucky to be invited to join RCBC.

Charter President Santosh Nedungadi set the tone of " creative" approach to meet the Social needs by launching the Mid Day Meal Scheme and the Senior Citizens Club. Both the schemes have served the Society immensely.

RCBC over the years have carried out many meaningful Social Service Projects for which I credit Santosh Nedungadi to have shown the path.

The cases filed against BBMP and followed up vigorously, to clean up the ULSOOR LAKE and supply SAFE DRINKING WATER to Bangalore were out-of-the box Projects for Social Cause.

I remember sitting in the Karnataka High Court for many days and was glad that The Honourable High Court passed a detailed judgement for safe water for the Bangaloreans.

"SKI" - Street Kid's International - is a project I worked on for creating "In the City Courier Service" with street kids. Batas supported us fully. We rented a house and housed the Street Kids who joined us. We hired a Teacher to teach them spoken English and Maths. We paid them for the work they did out of the payments we received from the Clients.

EXPLOROTARYUM - (I should have named it EXPLORE only, but could not resist the temptation to bring ROTARY in it.) It is a project where school students learnt Scientific Subjects by experimenting themselves under guidance from experts in RHL and then in their Schools.

The most rewarding experience of being a member of RCBC is the Friends I have found. I am grateful to them for enriching my and my family's life.

The close knit Anns Group that we see today was the outcome of Santosh starting the committee Meetings at Rotarians Homes and in the earlier years had Pot Luck Dinners where many Anns participated.

Rtn PP Dip Ghosh

It was early in Feb 1984 that I got a call from Santosh Nedungadi inviting me to join the Rotary in formation and from then on till the Charter night in June , it was a series of exciting events . I was all of 35 years and ready to enjoy and make my mark in the world. Seeing new faces, making friends from varied backgrounds, visiting strange homes and awakening my social conscience was a heady mixture ; when I was willing to go beyond my professional career into becoming a more responsible citizen of the world. Not that it was entirely a challenge for I was already involved with the Round table and the Lodge. But something about the Rotary raised the bar above all others ..... whether it was the small group of like minded individuals; whether it was the discipline of the businesses and projects being conducted ; whether it was the fellowship that we participated in whole heartedly or whether it was simply the fact that we had a formidable momentum and legacy that we had inherited and were the torch bearers of ..... there was a discernible difference in the air of our association and meetings. I remember remarking to my better half , after the various get-togethers and the meetings, that the " Rotary " is very different and superior in character and substance... an opinion I have retained since !!

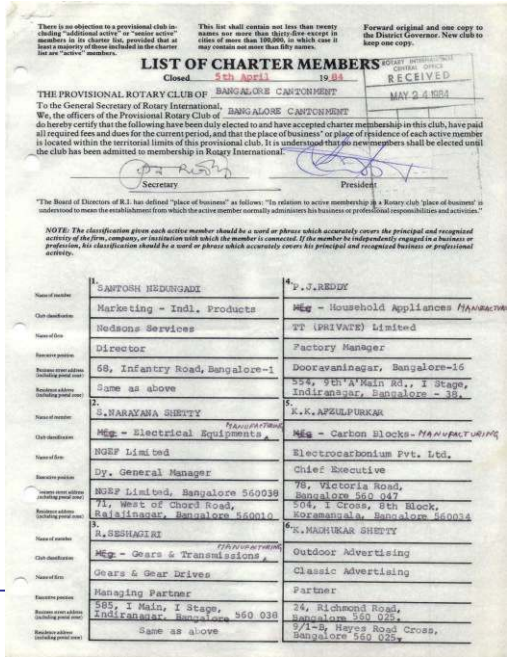
What I remember now, for the brief period I was with the Rotary Cantonment then, are .....

- the 'vote of thanks' I gave at the Charter night at the West End hotel with a glass of whiskey in my hand; if I remember right it was the then famous "Editor " - Kamat who was our Chief guest ...!!!
- the lectures to the various schools on vocational guidance --- Bishops, Baldwins, Charles etc and the icing on the cake ...my old school Clarence -- going the extra mile for them by arranging a tour to the Wendt manufacturing facilities at Hosur. My Chairman ..Ram was most supportive and gave me a free reign ....!!
- fondly remember the many fellowship sessions with Srivathsa, Nayak , JS ------- members who are no longer in RCBC.
- the many friends I was fortunate to make ; who remain in our circle even today !!
- above all, the many examples of the spirit of service and social goodness that the extra-ordinary members who

populate the organisation, make the Rotary, an outstanding institution, a rock and refuge serving tirelessly the underprivileged and the handicapped of our world.

Having been there when it all began....I am proud to get back today and bear witness to the many acts of generosity and service that the Rotary Cantonment indulges in, and cannot but marvel at the saying .... " A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step ....", a step that was initiated by Santosh and his Charter team on the 28th of June 1984 !!

Rtn TV Mohan



There is no objection to a provisional club including "additional active" or "senior active" members in its charter list, provided that at least a majority of those included in the charter list are "active" members.

This list shall contain not less than twenty names nor more than thirty-five except in cities of more than 100,000, in which case it may contain not more than fifty names.

Forward original and one copy to the District Governor. New club to keep one copy.

RECEIVED
MAY 24 1984

LIST OF CHARTER MEMBERS

Closed 5th April 19 84

THE PROVISIONAL ROTARY CLUB OF BANGALORE CANTONMENT

To the General Secretary of Rotary International:

We, the officers of the Provisional Rotary Club of BANGALORE CANTONMENT do hereby certify that the following have been duly elected to and have accepted charter membership in this club, have paid all required fees and dues for the current period, and that the place of business" or place of residence of each active member is located within the territorial limits of this provisional club. It is understood that no new members shall be elected until the club has been admitted to membership in Rotary International.

Secretary — President

"The Board of Directors of R.I. has defined "place of business" as follows: "In relation to active membership in a Rotary club 'place of business' is understood to mean the establishment from which the active member normally administers his business or professional responsibilities and activities."

NOTE: The classification given each active member should be a word or phrase which accurately covers the principal and recognized activity of the firm, company, or institution with which the member is connected. If the member be independently engaged in a business or profession, his classification should be a word or phrase which accurately covers his principal and recognized business or professional activity.

	1.	4.
Name of member	SANTOSH NEDUNGADI	P.J.REDDY
Club classification	Marketing - Indl. Products	Mfg - Household Appliances
Name of firm	Nedsons Services	TT (PRIVATE) Limited
Executive position	Director	Factory Manager
Business street address (including postal zone)	68, Infantry Road, Bangalore-1	Dooravaninagar, Bangalore-16
Residence address (including postal zone)	Same as above	554, 9th 'A' Main Rd., I Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 38.
	2.	5.
Name of member	S.NARAYANA SHETTY	K.K.APZULPURKAR
Club classification	Mfg - Electrical Equipments (MANUFACTURING)	Mfg - Carbon Blocks-MANUFACTURING
Name of firm	NGEF Limited	Electrocarbonium Pvt. Ltd.
Executive position	Dy. General Manager	Chief Executive
Business street address (including postal zone)	NGEF Limited, Bangalore 560038	78, Victoria Road, Bangalore 560 047
Residence address (including postal zone)	71, West of Chord Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010	504, I Cross, 8th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore 560034
	3.	6.
Name of member	R.SESHAGIRI	K.MADHUKAR SHETTY
Club classification	Mfg - Gears & Transmissions (MANUFACTURING)	Outdoor Advertising
Name of firm	Gears & Gear Drives	Classic Advertising
Executive position	Managing Partner	Partner
Business street address (including postal zone)	585, I Main, I Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore 560 038	24, Richmond Road, Bangalore 560 025.
Residence address (including postal zone)	Same as above	9/1-B, Hayes Road Cross, Bangalore 560 025.

MY ENTRY INTO RCBC

A request from the Banner editor to recall some sweet memories related to the charter night of RCBC , takes me back to that morning in May 1984 when Rtn S A Chandran, a founding father of RCBC, rings me up to talk about Rotary and its values. He goads me to become a member of a new vibrant club that will be coming into existence soon and persists how I will be benefitted by saying yes to his proposal. Distinctly, I recall his perseverance through his daily morning calls, until I said YES to him. Here I am today continuing with the exalted status of a CHARTER Member. I have enjoyed every moment of Rotary & membership of this club.

Did I have any reservation to join Rotary. Yes, a hesitation about how comfortable will I be amidst strangers?

Rotary pulled me out of the cocoon within which my life centred around those days. It was me, my small family, my game of tennis every day at the Bangalore Club, my factory. This is how the first few years of my working life was. I suddenly found myself entering the doors of Rotary- a distinctly strange new world- members drawn in from different walks of life what with Nedungadis, Reddys, Shettys ,Seshs, Deshpandes, Ghoshs , Lobos, Bagchis and so on . Leaders in their professions ,in their own ways .

Everybody was a stranger except one, T V Mohan. Though a stranger too, he approaches me as a saviour- saying that he & me are together in a committee and that I was the chairman of a subcommittee and he the vice chair- oh what committee, what chair/vice chair. It was all Greek and Latin to me. I felt like running away, like a small child in the kindergarten at school on its first day. But he taught me to deliver. I started enjoying Rotary from thereon.

It was then like a set of building blocks that I played with.

Everything was a learning, every activity was an opportunity. Opportunity for service, fellowship, leadership, challenge & what not. Rotary is a place where I learnt systems and how to be leader among leaders.

Today, a recall of all the years in Rotary would be to recall a lifetime of a dream that I have always been enjoying and continue to cherish.

Rtn PP V Ramachandran

Tribute to Late PP Narayan Shetty

Sacharaparari Narayana Shetty, a charter member and Past President of RCBC & one of the six core members deputed from Rotary East to form RCBC, passed away on 18th May 2021. He was a member of Rotary East from 1978- 84.



A true Rotarian, ethical to the core, always ready to help those in any distress & an individual, who served through his vocation.

Very forthright in his views & a man of very strong character,a sportsman, who loved his tennis & later golf, a stickler for rules.

He was DGM (HR) NGEF Ltd., when he joined Rotary. He rose to be Director (Personnel) of NGEF & then was deputed as Managing Director Karnataka Telecom Ltd.

Narayana Shetty took over as President from me in 1985 & it is during his tenure that our present building, was inaugurated and named Rotary House of Learning (RHL).It was appropriate as the basis on which we got use of the land from CSI was the children's library that we put up in the building.

His contribution to RCBC is significant, from the use of NGEF board room to the grounds, to fellowship& introduction of seminars as a means of raising funds. He was a great host.

In his passing I have lost a sincere friend of 43 years & a golf partner for over 30.

Our condolences to Sharath, Dr. Ajit Shetty, Anoop & their families.

A void, difficult to fill, but a life to be celebrated.

Rtn PP Santosh Nedungadi

PRESIDENT'S Message

My Rotary Year as President



My dear friends at Rotary Bangalore Cantonment,

It's a bittersweet mixture of emotions for me to write to you now. Thinking back on all that has been and all that will be, I can say this with absolute certainty - our club is special!

The Rotary Year 2020 - 2021 has arguably been one of the most challenging for all Rotary presidents across the world. Most presidents had no clue of how to begin the year on the 1st of July 2020. There was the big dilemma of whether we could hold a physical installation or not. Then, it was about how to meet every Thursday as a club, how to execute our projects without compromising on the benefits it gave to society, and more importantly - how we could bring that same sense of excitement as actual, physical fellowship while doing what we do best.

Our world had changed all of a sudden, but we are a resilient lot.

With our star fundraising opportunity - Golfity - out of the window, we had to rack our brains to look at corporate and individual donors to come to our rescue. However, you know the saying well: when the going gets tough, the tough get going.

We began with the Afforestation project which received Rs 10lacs from Digité. Our Haematology Analyser at K.I.D.W.A.I Memorial received a contribution from Bangalore Medical Systems of Rs 5lacs. Our scholarships were funded to the extent of Rs 14 lacs by from four different corporates namely Sami Labs , Von Roll , ADI Electronics &, Fokker Sasmos. Thanks to the efforts of Suri, Cherian.& Mithun. Carl Becham Lubricants India came up with a contribution of Rs 5.0 lacs for the Rotary Channapatna school thanks to the efforts of Kitoo.

Our dear Rtn NS Sridhar has contributed totally Rs 14 lacs of which Rs 6.5lacs for the Dialysis Machine was donated to the BMS Trust and balance has gone to scholarships for next year. The other angel who shared the cost of the second dialysis machine was none other than the club trainer Rtn Shivdev, along with his family.

ADC Commscope was continuing to pour for needles ,kits thanks to Dash and Revathy.

All of our members otherwise were overwhelmingly charitable and we collected close Rs 22 lacs plus when it came to feeding and fending for those in desperate need. This was witnessed not only by those associated with our club, but also across all clubs in District 3190.

There was a time in between, when I felt the burden of leadership. I was having difficulty in carrying out my responsibility at The Office of The President. But this phase was short-lived largely because of the strong guidance I received from Rtn Arvind Gokhale and Rtn Cherian Baby. As co-opted directors, they have ensured that I perform to the best of my abilities, despite extraordinary health emergencies at home. I shall forever be indebted to the kindness and strength they have shown to me.

Reinduction of Rtn Samir Gupta in the board was a responsibility I gladly took to ensure that his influence reached issues faced at all levels as Club Coordinator. His diligent work and grit makes me swell with pride to see him as President Elect for the coming year and has given me great hope. Similarly, Club Secretary. Rtn Gargi Ojha who stood by me unconditionally is also on her way to give us all remarkable direction; we definitely are eager to see her work her magic in the coming years.

This year, with all of our challenges, we have only been able to execute a reasonable number of projects. But with the undying spirit and focus of our Rotarians, I am deeply gratified with all that we have been able to achieve in the Healthcare, Education and Environment sectors apart from Covid relief. Despite unusual circumstance and an unusually tight budget, we have moved mountains.

It was a pity that we had to give up the Day and the Overnight picnics and even have an online charter night and a few other fellowship events. But we did good with what we had even successfully managed an excellent GOV. It's safe to say that our programs were our highlight. All through the year, we kept our Rotarians and Anns interested in our weekly programmes. Thanks to my Programs Core Group, headed by the energetic Rtn Swarup Sridhar under the able guidance of the club service director Ravi Kumar and the programs core group.

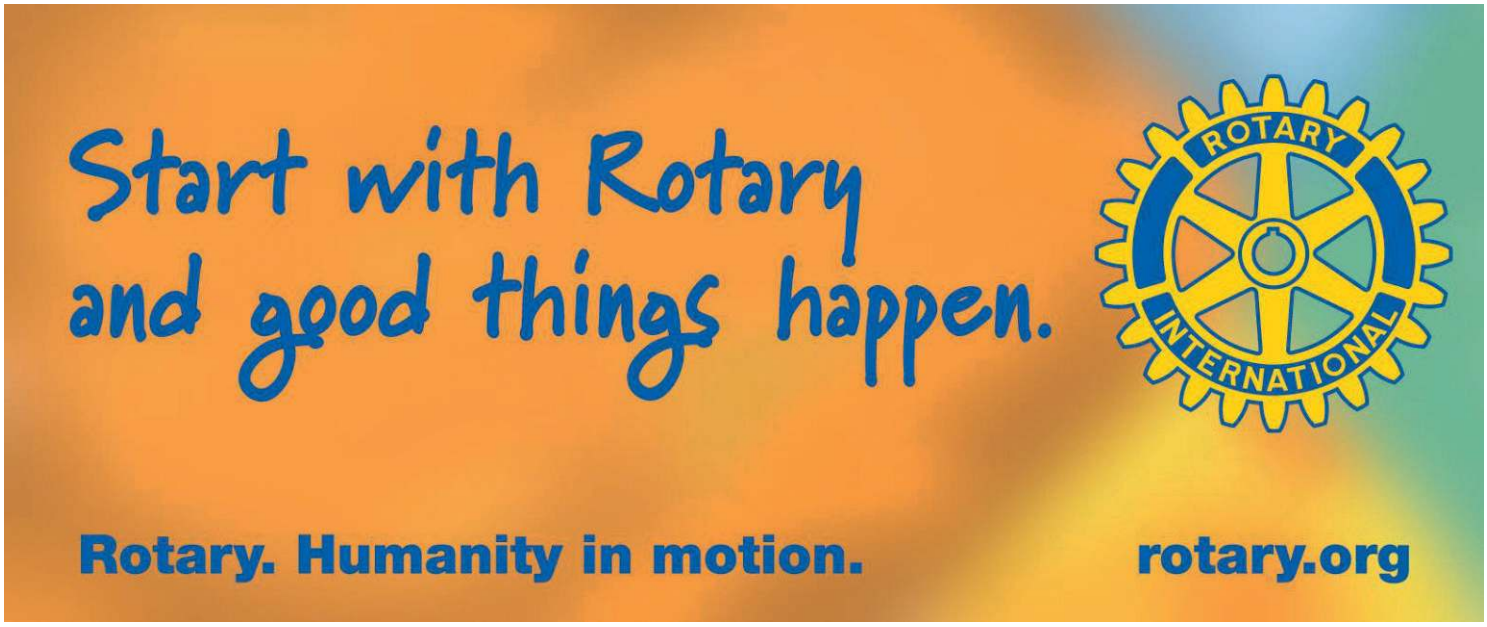
When the year unfolded, I was as clueless as anyone would be in my position to see this Rotary Year's outcome. Now in hindsight, I am proud of us. We fought battles alongside each other, we braved ourselves through an invisible enemy of humanity, we spread cheer and light in the lives of those who were lost, we took up new initiatives, we entertained and encouraged each other, we have lived well.

I must compliment all my directors who have far exceeded my expectations in acheiving their goals in their respective avenues of service.

So for the last time in the near future, as your Rotary President, I say that this has been an honour and a sincere privilege. Here's to us!

Rtn President Ravi Narasimhan

My Rotary Journey during the First Year



I shall be completing five years in Rotary in five months' time. In my life's journey of seventy-plus years, it is a small period, but during the tough phases of life, such a time frame is really significant. I have gone through many rough patches in life, two of them being awfully agonising. The first one was when I suffered a paralytic attack at the age of 42. I was airlifted from Kumbhigram (Silchar) Airforce Station first to Guwahati and then to Kolkata. For almost 72 hours I had no contact with my family and my wife did not know where I was and whether I was still breathing and kicking around! That phase lasted for about two years and culminated in my taking voluntary retirement from the Indian Air Force after few years at a young age of 46.

The second and more agonising phase of life that lasted more than a decade was my wife's Alzheimer's disease which pushed me to the brink of both physical and mental collapse. I was passing through a phase when there were no physical meetings and contacts with my large circle of friends for obvious reasons: I could not visit them, and they were not comfortable to visit our house. It was during this phase that, by a stroke of luck, I joined the Rotary and became a member of RCBC. Joining the RCBC family was a great happening. But it is rightly said that 'nothing good comes all by itself!' The Rotary journey of first year while not being a roller-coaster ride, wasn't smooth either. Let me share a few of the sweet and not-so-sweet pieces of this 'first-year journey.'

Knowing the Family members Living with my 'demented' wife for so long, I had started feeling that my memory too was going for a toss. So, I decided that every month, I would meet and memorise the names of about 15% members of the club so that within six months I would know them all. First month's scorecard was impressive. I remembered 11 names: Susheela, Gargi, Suman, Radhi, Prem, Bharat, Samy, DV, Rane, Jasbir and Saby! And then the confusion set in. Even in huge, voluminous Ramayana, there is only one Ram, but we had two: and both looking identical more so from top and behind. It took me some time to figure out who is who through an indirect route. While one laughed and giggled, the other always gave a tongue-in-cheek smile. This was easy to figure out since both 'Rams' attended almost all the meetings. However, the pair of 'Ravis' troubled me much more because they were seen once in a while and every time someone addressed 'Hi Ravi' my mental gyro used to topple because this was not the Ravi, I had met the last time. This too I sorted out by comparing them to 'Laurel-Hardy.' Then there was the confusing pair of Dip Da and Damu, and few more and last but not the least was that the man called Dash who was not listed in the Roaster but used to be there in the club off and on, was actually D Ashok! Well, to be honest it took me two years to know the small well-knit bunch of 60 odd RCBCians.

Spontaneous Help: It happened just after a few months of my joining the club. My wife, who was in professional care at the Nightingales Centre for Alzheimer's developed some complications and had to be seen by a dermatologist. However, there was no dermatologist on their panel, and I was told that she would have to be taken to a hospital for referral. Now, that would have been extremely difficult because she was totally bed-ridden and in extremely frail condition. I talked to two of my local friends for help and then as an after-thought put my problem on Club's WhatsApp group. Within hours, I got three responses. A few phone-calls and the problem was solved. One of the Rotarians arranged for the 'house-visit' by a dermatologist next morning. I realised that I had joined an excellent Club ready to help.

Sergeant-At-Arms : I was just six months old, sorry young, in RCBC when one day I got a call from Susheela who was in USA those days and was to take over as the President a few months down the line. She asked me to be the Sergeant-At Arms in next year's Board. Frankly speaking I did not have any concept of 'The Board' least of all what a 'Sergeant-At-Arms' would be doing in a peace-loving organization like Rotary!

Thinking that my Fauzi background might be of some help in whatever role I might be required to play, I agreed. At the installation, I was given a 'Danda' called a 'Baton' in Rotary parlance with a muted advice: It is for show and not use! After taking command of the post, I realised that I, as sergeant-At-Arms, was supposed to look like a 'Thanedaar (Police Station Chief)' but not to behave in that manner.

Fire-Side Parties: During my induction talk, I was informed that there would be few 'Fire-side' parties where newly inducted members are invited by the senior members where 'bonhomie' atmosphere would help them to get integrated in the club easily and smoothly. I felt very happy because in the Indian Air Force we used to have 'Pool-side' and 'River-side' parties for almost the same purpose, and now I would be adding another type of party experience to my kitty. I was invited to two 'Fire-side' parties that I accepted and attended, but alas though there was 'warmth' all around but despite my best efforts, I could not locate the 'Fire element' on any side of the house or the club where the party was held!

Loaning of Classification: I have been a teacher and trainer for more than 30 years, so when I was asked under which classification I should be listed in the Rotary, the choice of 'Training Life-Skills' seemed appropriate. So far so good. But I felt a bit perplexed and at unease when I was told that this classification is 'loaned' to me. 'Loaned' I wondered and thought as to why should it be so? No doubt, I belonged to that class and deserve that classification, but then 'Loaning' out to me a classification that I had earned over the decades through sheer sweat did not make any sense. It should have been offered or bestowed on me. Moreover, did it mean that it would be taken away from me, if and as and when, I leave Rotary since it is loaned? It seemed an illogical and incorrect way to me because as per Indian culture, once we give something to someone, we never take it back.

Governors Galore: All my life I had heard of two types of governors in our country: Governors of States and Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories. On joining Rotary, I came to know that for every Rotary District, there is a District Governor called DG who, for better and effective functioning, has many Assistant Governors (AGs) under him. A professional approach, no doubt, I told myself. As I attended few weekly meetings, I learnt about PDG. Well, it made sense, since past DGs deserved to be distinguished. But then during the last quarter of the year surfaced two more types of DGs namely DGE and DGN. Well, I didn't ask anyone as to what they meant, afraid that in asking so I might be opening a 'Pandora's box' out of which few more types might pop-out!

Good Riddance: During my 25 years in the Air Force and another 20 years in colleges as Professor, I was used to a certain form of salutation where all seniors and elders were addressed as 'Sirs.' On joining Rotary, I found that culture here was on modern corporate lines where everyone called everyone else by first name. I liked it. It was simple and informal. However, I was a bit amazed when many Rotarians started calling me Sabyji. It sounded quite odd and in fact a bit unpleasant to the ears as I was made to feel as if I was from a different mould, if not from a different caste. I kept telling people to drop 'Ji' part but somehow it continued. Then one day I requested the President for two minutes time. When granted, I went to the podium and said, 'Well gentlemen, you are free to add 'Ji' to my name but then I shall be making a note of this in my diary, and you will be charged a bottle of beer for this and all the beers so collected shall be used during the forthcoming picnic.' The announcement had the requisite effect and pretty soon I became Saby to all.

District Conference: I decided to attend 'District Conference' in Singapore during my first year in Rotary with two things in mind. First, I would easily befriend few Rotarians from my own club during five days of being together on the cruise and second, I would get to see a larger picture of the Rotary functioning. It was a sad experience on both the counts. I was the only 'Joanna' from RCBC on board. And the conference though it earned all the brownie points in show-off and the associated 'tamasha' was a big disappointment on quite a few fronts. The time-management during the three-day event was really bad. The patting and pampering of DG and PDGs repeatedly and excessively was glaringly visible and was almost sickening. The worst was financial impropriety! Yes, it was difficult to accept more so when it was pointed out by me to the Conference Chair, District Secretary and then DG during our club visit, with all of them deciding to push it under the carpet and not responding, forgetting about doing anything.

PHF 'Our club is an all 'PHF Club' and we would like to keep it that way,' was told to me before I was offered Rotary membership. I had conveyed my reluctance to go that way and there the things rested. However, after a few months of my joining the club, an opportune occasion arose and I too became a PHF, earning 'Third Fellowship' of my life. However, this one was different. The other two Fellowships were professional. In those cases, I was elected 'Fellow' of The Institution of Engineers (India) and then that of The Aeronautical Society of India based on my more than two decades of experience and contribution in each of the two fields. I had really earned those 'Fellowships.' However, this time it was different: It was simply a case of pay for it and get it, like any other commodity off the shelf! Yes, I had literally purchased it, like others before me. Obviously, it didn't add a bit to my pride as a 'Rotarian,' nor do I feel like wearing it as a prized possession. I wish I had earned it after years of real contribution as a Rotarian.

After my first year in RCBC, a lot of proverbial water has flown down the Cavery. I have experienced, enjoyed, and lived a whole lot of sweet and not-so-sweet moments, which linger in my memory. No doubt there have been far more 'Ayes' than 'Nays.' But whenever I write about all my years in RCBC, I am sure the first year's page would always be the most shining one.

Rtn Wg Cdr DP Sabharwal, Veteran

Some Major Project of the Club:

- Ulsoor lake rejuvenation: In the very first year, RCBC made headlines in many newspapers, including an Editorial in DH. Santosh started the year with a Bang and laid the path with a great leadership
- Potable drinking water demand on BWSSB through a Public interest Litigation, for which we got a verdict in our favour, when PJ was the President
- Children's library & Computer training at RHL computer Centre was useful for many of that Era. Ann Lalitha Raghupathy contributed a lot for the library
- A first of its kind matching grant of Rs. 6 lacs for micro finance through The Bridge Foundation Myrada and AL helped to close the project. Over three years this project was continued
- A courier Service for Street kids known as SKI courier (For 3 years this project was continued)
- Health clinic was set up in Laxman Rao slum with a doctor & free medicines and treated Slum Dwellers during 1990-91
- With an anonymous Donor and Myrada's full backing, 26 Shelters were built at Nelliguda
- A Rural Artisan's Product Mela was done in collaboration with NABARD and Myrada (With Al 's support)
- Consumex exhibition, our major fund-raising event grew from Strength to strength as a Major event, and since it was during Mid rotary year event, surplus amount was left for the following Year (Rtn Dip Ghosh started this)
- Project Lingarajapuram school, Channapatna School support, it is creditable for RCBC to have stopped this School from being closed and Kittoo led the school to a great level
- Ann Gita of Channapatna deserves a recognition for Voluntary service all these years Vocational training at Navjeevan Nilaya
- Exploratorium, at RHL for creativity
- Nelliguda Rural medical facility Centre Providing a Bus for Shankar Nethralaya

Core values that drive us:

- Punctuality and Discipline.
- No Garlands.
- No inner wheel, Anns' full involvement.
- No aspiration or self-projecting the image either at club level or at District level, to maintain ethical values
- No over- thanking the Rotarians, since we believed we are doing what Rotarians are expected to do
- No cheque book charity. (Covid 19 support is an example of Cantonment Rotarians and Anns involvement)
- Non-interference of the Past Presidents in the functioning of the ruling president and support only the requests

Lesser-known facts from Past and Acknowledgements

- Board Meetings conducted professionally in NGEF Board room for a few years
- All 52 Weekly meetings and 12 committee meetings of all avenues of services regularly conducted year after year
- All 12 issues of The Banner released every month. Late Rotarian Ganesh was the first Editor
- Ex. Rtn.Sankara Narayana Murthy started the Midday Snack scheme which later became Midday Scheme
- Rev Vinay Samuel coordinated the arrangement with Karnataka Central Diocese for the RHL land
- RHL building was built during Narayana Shetty's year of presidentship
- RHL name was suggested by Late Rtn Ganesh
- RHL Board room, and Computer training Centre were built in 90-91 with present Board room built with a computer center and Library
- RHL was inaugurated by PRID Dr. Cliff Dochtarman in 91-92
- Fire side meeting was regular for New Rotarians.
- Fellowship at committee meetings were exceptionally good
- Anns used to have Potluck dinners. Annual Jumble sales conducted by Anns and donated the Proceeds to BCRT
- For the Sake of Honour Award was, initiated in RCBC with Cartoonist RK Lakshman as awardee and this has become a norm now in many a Rotary club in India
- International Peace and understanding award were conceived by Late Rtn Ashok Kumar
- Ann Girija and Rtn RR Mohan contributed a lot and fine-tuned the efforts to raise funds every year for Consumex exhibition
- The Rtn. Bhicajee Motiwala rolling shield for public speaking instituted
- Ann Lalitha's efforts were particularly good for Children library in RHL
- Our club received the Best club award for several years
- RBC is the only club in RI district 3190 with a Padma Sri Awardee
- RBC is the first club to have a Senior citizen's committee with own constitution
- Ann Jyothi, Rtn. Sudhakar and Rtn Ramakant have always contributed their expertise for all constructions
- Our Anns have always been supportive wherever called for
- We have not served liquor in RHL at any time, being sandwiched between a church and a School. Even outside RHL in the cars were prohibited
- Even in committee meets some hosts opted out to serve liquor for genuine reasons

Rtn. P.P. Seshagiri



Afforestation at Ingenhalli - World Environment Day



AIDS Awareness Drive



Centenial Project - Community Centre at Nelliguda



Arogya - A Healthcare Expo to Fund our Projects



Blood Donation Camps



Blood Donation



Career Counselling Sessions



CoVid - Lending a helping hand (1)



CoVid - Lending a helping hand (2)



Buyer Seller Meet



Career Counselling Sessions



CoVid - Lending a helping hand (1)



Career Fair at Stracey Memorial School



Childrens Library at RHL



CoVid - Lending a helping hand (2)



Computer Centre



CoVid - Lending a helping hand (3)



Lingarajpuram School - Fulfilling Student Needs (8)



Desiliting Ulsoor Lake

Development of Coles Park



Dental Facility for Tribals at Gudalur



Diagnostic Eye Care Camps



Donation of Computers to Schools



Enablinging Livelyhoods - Fisheries at Nelliguda



Golfity - Funding our Projects (1)



For the Sake of Honor Awards



Family Exchange Programs



Hands-on Chemistry workshops



ExploRotariYum



Drinking Water at Nelliguda



Gift of Sight - Cornea Donation from Sri Lanka



Yogakshema - Program for Senior Citizens



Bridge Loans (Microcredit) for Self Sufficiency



Rotaract Clubs



Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Patients



Interact Clubs



Project Hope at Kidwai Hospital

Pulse Polio Immunizations



Day Care Centre at Bannikuppe Village



Lingarajpuram School - Fulfilling Student Needs (7)



Matching Grant Project at URLA, Turkey



Inauguration of Medical Center at Nelliguda



Kinderact Club



Mid-day Meals at Lingarajpuram Government School



Project VK-JOY - Job Opportunities for the Youth



MIcrocredit_Disbursement 019



Pulse Polio - A Drops of Life



MoU With Channapatna Club for the School Management (5)



Lingarajpuram School - Supporting the Education of Children

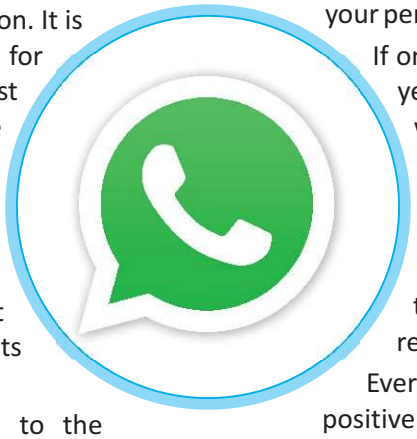
WhatsApp (Dis)Connecting People

A kid is updating his status on Twitter - "Internet was not working last night, hence spent time with family... They seem to be nice people."

A Saudi man divorced his wife after she ignored his WhatsApp messages. The husband said that his wife used to spend all her time on WhatsApp messaging platform. Due to the addiction, she even ignored her children.

WhatsApp is not a new thing in the market. Digital communications that started with email replacing snail mails and slowly move to text messaging, chats, Facebook and now to chatting apps like WhatsApp, Telegram etc. WhatsApp that started as a boon can turn into a bane, if not used carefully.

WhatsApp is quite exciting, and lot of people are hooked on to it. It has spread like wildfire with its multi-dimensional features like sharing images, videos links and emotion etc. It is now accepted as an official medium of communication. It has allowed people to come closer to each other and broken barriers of verbal communications to help connect friends, relatives, co-workers, business contacts and acquaintances. In a world, where people do not have time to meet each other, WhatsApp has allowed people to share and connect with each other regardless of time and location. It is now used by many firms and organizations for sharing of important information amongst employees and customers. Businesses are using it to enable newer channels of doing business. If used wisely, WhatsApp can help generate new business opportunities and close the existing deals faster.



Well, having seen what is good about WhatsApp, there are also some disturbing facts about WhatsApp.

The young and old are getting addicted to the messaging platform like other addictive substances. It is more of an addiction rather than convenience. The start as well as end of the day happens with WhatsApp and if people do not find any messages, they start feeling distressed and emotionally neglected.

The platform, meant to connect people, is creating unnecessary doubts in relationships. People are not using the messaging platform for connecting with friends or relatives instead they just want to check out their presence on messaging platform. With text-chatting, sharing videos and voice notes, people tend to forget to talk to each other, not even a phone call, forget about meeting them in person and having a chat over a cup of coffee.

You are so occupied with the use of WhatsApp that you are unable to differentiate between real and virtual relationships. You can easily notice that while you may be talking all the time to friends on WhatsApp, you would hardly have an interaction with your immediate family. This also points out the fact that while people have a lot of friends on WhatsApp network, there is hardly any friend available whom they can talk out their heart, face to face.

WhatsApp has made us all judgemental about other people based on their DP statuses, posts, and other forwards. You are unable to differentiate between the real and virtual life of the individual. Sometimes, people share some prank messages or videos or posts which gets unnecessary attention and people tend to overreact to it. People are now propagating fakes and gossip faster than the speed of thought.

Groups are being created at the drop of a hat and you are inducted into the group, which you cannot avoid. Most times you get posts which are irrelevant and not to be discussed in the group. These are unnecessary exposure, and some people purposefully tend to update some issues or some posts in the group. Issues which can be addressed between one to one also gets posted in groups to create unnecessary stress amongst people.

WhatsApp can never replace real life communications due to the lack of emotions. A text message can never covey the real emotion behind the message. Messages have no facial expressions or tone of voice or conversation to give us more information. Even if you use emoticons, you are likely to be misinterpreted. Your emotion-detection skills are affected by your personal characteristics.

If one texts in a group, "My wife missed our 10-year anniversary," men may think he is angry, while women may think he is sad. When it comes to detecting emotion in texts, one has to remember that your unconscious biases affect your interpretations, and so the emotions you detect may be reflective of things about you as much as they are reflective of the information in the text.

Everything in this world has two sides, one positive and one negative. The use of WhatsApp is no different. It is not a black or white app, but a grey app whose pros and cons are decided by the user himself. People are more isolated than before in the present seemingly connected world. While some make their world better by using the app, some make themselves more isolated after using this app. In all the cases, balance is the key.

To be a balanced user, you must adopt self-discipline in the use of WhatsApp. You must be extremely careful with your WhatsApp DP and status. Before posting any content, be doubly sure on the authenticity of the content. You must maintain certain disciplines while writing about someone or posting a content in the group – be it official or personal group. If certain issues or concerns that can be addressed one to one, post it to that person alone. Do not post it in the group and demoralize the person. This may spoil your relationship with the person. Use emoticons to express emotions with your message. You must not post content any time you wish unless it is critical, that the message must be passed on to the individual or a group.

WhatsApp is really connecting people; however, you need to maintain and follow certain disciplines to ensure it does not turn to disconnecting people.

Rtn Samir Gupta

A Rotary family's experience with COVID 19

From the Ann who was the patient

When I heard that the test result was positive for Covid my heart sank and my fingers were shaking, we hear so much about the mortality rate, that we never think of the recoveries.



Luckily from the day the fever started we had decided that I should self-isolate.

The first few days as I had fever, self-isolation was easy as I slept for large tracts of the day and luckily at night too. Once the fever left, the room seemed too small and confining, and I started making demands on poor Prem, who had just about time to run up and down the stairs fulfilling all my wants.

But the worst hadn't happened yet. On the night of May 1, I got the news that my father had passed away! I had just returned after spending some time with him when Covid had struck. It felt so unreal as I realized that I won't be able to go for his funeral. I couldn't sleep but was feeling tired, and after a fitfull sleep I woke up and checked online for the news of my father's obituary and when I saw his photograph, was when I cried. I still feel the sorrow in me that I wasn't there for his final departure, but have learnt to accept it.

So the only thing left for me was to bug Prem, on when I could come out of quarantine. The 20 days were hard as the only thing you could do was lying down on the bed, walk around the bed and sit on the bed. So the bed became the centre of my activity! I was able to keep my sanity because I had a cross stitch project which I had just started, so half the time I was admiring how much I had done.

Luckily my attack of Covid was not too severe, so my recovery hasn't been too bad, only feeling tired but that too less now. Please do be careful about masking and keeping a safe distance as it is an unpredictable disease and the quarantine is no joke

Ann. SUSAN KURIAN

From the Rotarian the Care giver

After her routine of spending time with her aged father, Susan returned to Bangalore. By the third day of her return, she developed mild fever accompanied with diarrhea.

We consulted a doctor, after a day and she was prescribed antibiotics and paracetamol, while simultaneously we both did the RTPCR test. The test results came out after a day and the result was positive in her case and negative for me!

We again consulted the doctor, who put her on a string of medications, while quarantining and isolating herself to the bedroom. Almost immediately the “top” maid who does the cooking and the maid who does the cleaning of the house was stopped. The house hold operations came to a standstill with the CEO incapacitated and not able to discharge her normal routine of house management, exposing me to stare at a gamut of events that I was not used to doing. Starting with making bed coffee (which was all that I was used to), to bringing up the breakfast, lunch, tea and dinner to the bedroom on time slowly became a routine.

In addition, in between these chores, I had to occasionally wash clothes in the washing machine. Not very happy using the dish washer, I used to wash the vessels after each meal, thereby ending up having breakfast at 11 a.m., lunch at 3 p.m. and dinner at 9 p.m. and finally laying my head on the pillow to sleep at about midnight!. I managed to get some sleep in the afternoon though.

I was used to a regular routine myself of doing everything other than all that I have mentioned above. During this period, I only managed to do a few of them.

After the mandatory days of quarantine, we decided to repeat the RTPCR test and this time, it came out negative. So Susan decided to come downstairs and move around the house. The days spent confined to the room was becoming unbearable for her and I had to put up with several calls from my children, one in London and the other in Bangalore, only to be told that enough is enough and advised that I should quarantine myself and let her move around the house, in order that I may experience what it is to stay confined to a room 24 hours a day for over 14 days. Seldom have I felt so rushed between jobs that I was not used to doing and the new routine took so many days for it to happen without the rush and haste. After all this when Susan started moving around, she couldn't bear to see how I had not used the vacuum cleaner to do any cleaning of the floor or any wiping. Cobwebs in several rooms that I had just not seen!

I had to tell her that she should be grateful that we were fortunate to get three meals a day sent by my mother who lives reasonably close by and sent across through her driver. Our daughter used to order food and have it sent by Dunzo or courier.

It was a totally new experience to be experienced and now I need to have my blood pressure checked etc. A new learning being that it is high time that the man of the house learns how to do the numerous works that our wives do or manage to do without getting hassled or go to town announcing what a great job they did!

Rtn PP Prem Kurian

The growing need for a Trust Manager

Dear fellow RBCians

So, another eventful, Rotary year draws to a close, ping in the middle of the second wave of this deadly pandemic. RBC, which fortunately swears by that old saw from the Bard "sweet are the uses of adversity" and as always, stepped up to the plate and provided tremendous help to the less fortunate who were badly afflicted! At a scale and order of magnitude we have not seen before!

This was of course made possible by the untiring and fearless energy of a few Rtns like Shabbir, DV and many others. Of course all this needs funds and thankfully, handsome contributions from our own Rtns, their family & friends and business contacts filled the coffers. This also included resident and non-resident donors from India and abroad, contributing to BCRT. And of course, there is also the CSR donations to add to the cornucopia. For getting continued support we have to ensure timely and accurate interactions with and reporting to the donors and often beneficiaries.



Our Trust has also grown from handling lakhs of Rupees to currently about Rupees 2 Crores!

In the meanwhile, the Government and various concerned authorities have been constantly increasing their interest in NGO's and Trusts, especially those with FCRA (which BCRT has) and have been seeking a lot more formal information on the activities and funds (inflow and usage), in prescribed formats. Thus, there is a higher need for formal Documentation at prescribed frequencies, to be in line with statutory laws. Delay in filing these or inaccuracies can lead to many questions and potentially undesirable consequences. This is in addition to the huge compliance burden added under the income tax Act over the last couple of years.

Over the past two years, we have faced a lot of challenges and it has become abundantly clear that the existing staff (while being well meaning), do not possess the necessary skills and are not able to cope with the expectations from them or requirements made on them. Members who are office bearers and others are all very competent but are volunteers and cannot spare the time required and those who have the time may not have the required IT skills having been used to secretarial assistance during their working life! It is quite evident that we need a dedicated professional to handle the various demands that are emanating from the running of BCRT. The time seems ripe for appointing a dedicated Trust Manager.

In order for the Trust to function smoothly and effectively, a lot of activities need to be undertaken, as shown below:

1. Review our current practices and to Be flexible but consistent
2. Set up Standard operating procedures for various facets of the Trust operations and processes
3. Ensure timely and accurate compliances, which have grown manifold due to digitalization. (List of compliances can be shared with anyone interested)
4. Strive for better project management where groundwork needs to be handled constantly
5. Project implementation and handling online compliances
6. Hold increased and transparent communication with Donors and beneficiaries
7. Standardize the Documentation and not leave it to only office bearers which change year on year

As can be seen, a lot of streamlining and rationalizing of the Trust functions is needed and can be done. Of course, well intentioned Rotarians gamely take up the Treasurer's role, but with a 1 or 2 year's term and possibly not having a formal financial background, they have found it difficult to handle all compliances. Our new trust deed as approved by members which is pending with IT authorities for approval contemplates a 5 year tenure for the Treasurer in view of the compliance burden.

We believe that the proposed Trust Manager, with appropriate skills and experience, can attend to all of the above under the supervision of the office bearers. Besides, the incumbent can proactively look at the financials of the Trust and stress on the need for continuous fundraising and accordingly facilitate ongoing Donor Engagement.

By the time this comes in the Banner the Board and the General Body would have considered it and the search for such a person will be earnestly on the way. Still the Editor thinks this should be put in the Banner so that all members and Anns are fully aware of the requirements.

Rtn PP D. Ashok

CoVid 2.0 - RCBC responds by providing relief to the affected under Lockdown…

The 2nd wave hit India like a tsunami … the number of Covid Positive cases rapidly increased, the casualties were high and still counting, Hospital beds were a scarcity, patients suffocating for lack of oxygen and the list of woes just added up… and this forced many States to enforce a Total lockdown to get the situation under control. This action meant many people lost their jobs, daily wage earners lost their income and situation for that segment of society was extremely grim…



There was immediately a huge rush by our Rotary District, many Rotary clubs, Corporates to import Oxygen Concentrators, Ventilators to save human lives and the Government did its bit to exempt Import duties & levies on the above products which brought some relief in saving lives… but…



RCBC felt the need to provide relief to the segment of our society who were affected by the lockdown by primarily providing cooked food and Dry Rations… This effort was Brilliantly Championed by Shabbir and D Venkatesh on the ground and were ably supported by a Covid Relief Task force consisting of Sadashiv to monitor expenses, Jasbir who efficiently managed all purchases, Karthik as Director Community Services took care of approving vouchers for release of money , Nanda meticulously maintained details of all collections and spends to provide you with details of Aid provided till date, Vinod handling the project of donating the Non Invasive Ventilators to ABV College, Bowring Hospital and finally me as the Project Anchor to inform the status of the relief operations to all you wonderful members…

An Appeal to the members for funds was wonderfully reciprocated by them and before we knew it, we quickly raised around Rs.22 lakhs… and with those funds we were able to make an impact and bring in smiles to many faces… Here I must also appreciate the spontaneous support of the President and the Board to ensure that budgets were cleared as soon as it was proposed, without being bureaucratic, helped in the relief efforts…



Special mention must be made of a few individuals who reached out to friends, family and acquaintances to bring in substantial funds… right from our Honorary member Al. Fernandes who got in Rs. 6 lakhs through an NGO and his friend, our Charter President Santosh who convinced Rotary Princeton and former member PJ Reddy to bring in close to 2 lakhs, Our president Ravi getting in contribution of over a lakh, T V Mohan spreading the message to bring in close to 2 lakhs, PP Sudhakar bringing in over 2.50 lakhs through his relatives, Rohit Karanth getting in contributions of over a lakh and fifty, and almost all members of the club chipping in with their contributions made the fund-raising experience quite memorable and successful. To me the lovely idea from Rtn Vimala to give chocolates to the children and the old touched my heart and was the icing on the cake…

Ah! One more thing… while I was writing this note, Sesh connected with us and so generously agreed to assist RCBC to supply 500 dry ration kits each having value of Rs. 750/- in partnership with Sishu Mandir and Tech Mahindra and this distribution should take place later this month at RHL to the beneficiaries who include Transgenders… For the benefit of newer members who aren't much aware of Rtn. Seshagiri, his contribution to the good of society through his NGO Sishu Mandir is phenomenal and he has been so well recognized at various platforms… An Amazing Human Being…

There was also another donation for Covid Relief… We received a consignment of 20 Non-Invasive Ventilators from BCD Microtechnique SA, Switzerland, courtesy a former member Ramesh Santhanam and present member Kitoo and to make this news even sweeter, Transsafe Logistics waived the freight cost of approximately Rs 1.50 lakhs bringing it to Bangalore courtesy Rtn S Venkatesh…

Ok, let's get to what we did and how we reached out… you must all remember unlike last time there were no passes issued this time around … and with Covid positive cases high all over, our two heroes, D Venkatesh and Shabbir not only put their health online but their personal vehicles under risk to go out and distribute rations and cooked food… really appreciate their resolve in doing good to humanity… Any amount of praise will not be good enough and it's our privilege to have them in our club…Now, here's some statistics for you all to munch on…



Since we started Covid relief 2.0 we supplied :

- Over 13,500 cooked meals benefiting 13,500 beneficiaries
- Over 2100 Dry rations benefiting 8000 beneficiaries
- Over 6000 face masks benefiting 6000 beneficiaries
- 20 Non-Invasive Ventilators to ABV College, Bowring Hospital benefiting many
- All this in addition to the 5 star chocolates….

To conclude, it was wonderful to see RCBC react positively always when help is needed and that's why I guess we are all proud to be members of this club…

Take care and stay safe…

Rtn. Bharath Bail

"500 Dry Ration kits gifted by Sishu Mandir to be distributed to 500 beneficiaries who also include Transgenders"

EDITORIAL

The month of June is dedicated to fellowships in Rotary calendar.

Apart from the regular fellowships that we would have had especially since it is the last month of the year for the office bearers before they hand over the Baton to the next team, in our club we have the added fellowships due to our Charter Nite celebrations being celebrated during June .

This year the Corona Virus Pandemic will ensure that we will have none of it. A sister club with whom we annually play a cricket match is sending a bottle of Wine & a Dinner packet to the member's homes to celebrate 40 years of their Charter as that also falls during this month.

We have already celebrated our Charter Anniversary by distributing cooked food and dry rations to the needy during the lock down. The fund collection for this was spontaneous and has come from our members, their relatives & friends! The fine motivating work done by our IPP Bharath & the great work done in the field by our Covid Warriors led by Shabbir , D Venkatesh and many others with full support from the President and Board has been detailed with eloquent words and vivid pictures in this issue of The Banner.

As mentioned earlier this month is dedicated to the Rotary Fellowships. This is different from the fellowsips and bonhomie that we enjoy together when we meet together about doing good to the society. So here is some information on them:

Rotary Fellowships are groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who join together to

- Share a common interest in worthwhile recreational activities (sports, hobbies, etc.)
- Further their vocational development through acquaintance with others of the same profession



- Make new friends around the world
- Explore new opportunities for service
- Have fun and enhance their experience in Rotary

How Rotary Fellowships Operate

- Each fellowship is operated independently of Rotary International, with its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure.
- Membership in fellowships is open to Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors.
- Fellowships must be international in nature with active members in at least three countries.
- Each fellowship elects at least three officers to oversee the group's administration.
- Fellowships are expected to facilitate communication among their members and maintain regular communication with RI.

Some Benefits of Rotary Fellowships

- Fellowships provide opportunities for Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside of their own club, district, or country.
- Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding and peace.
- Fellowships serve as an incentive for attracting new members to Rotary and retaining existing ones.

Many of our members are part of these fellowships particularly motor cycling, golf etc. There is even a Fellowship of “Rotary on Pins”. I am sure those of our readers more interested about these and not yet part of any Rotary Fellowship will do so.

The District conference which was originally planned as a grand Durbar to be held at a venue outside our R I District for which some us including me had registered, has now moved to become an online Durbar. However the enthusiasm of the lady Rotarians who were charged with organising this grand event has not diminished. They have been asking more members to register and in our club their tribe is well represented and is articulated through our systematic & energetic secretary Rtn Gargi Ojha. I am sure more of you will register for this event being held in the last weekend of June,2021.

In these Covid times with lock downs and social distancing, we are all sorely missing the fellowship of our fellow human beings, whether it is colleagues at work place, friends and relatives or fellow members of organisations like Rotary where we come together to do some good and also enjoy the company of like minded persons while doing so. All social & religious get togethers are on hold though the politicians continue with their own variety of selective get togethers under various excuses! The importance of fellowships stand out starkly during these times. Of course human ingenuity has found part solutions through various Apps like Teams, Zoom, Google- meet etc. But all will agree that this cannot substitute for the bonhomie and comradery built when people sit together and enjoy food or sip together with some nice drink!

As our President & Treasurer ably supported by President elect Samir has successfully opened the new Bank account with State Bank of India in Sansad Marg, New Delhi which was a requirement under the amended FCRA rules, it came in handy to receive some foreign Currency donations for rendering some excellent work in Covid relief activities. It appears that our club was the first among around 9 clubs in our District who have FCRA approval to have managed this well in time. We have also successfully registered with ministry of Corporate Affairs as a charitable Trust that will be receiving CSR donations. This means that we are also duty bound to ensure all compliance requirements associated with it.

The filing of applications for continuing our registration as a charitable trust eligible to claim tax exemption for its income as well as to pass on tax benefits to its donors u/s 80G of IT act has also been completed . Now we await approvals. Our new draft Trust deed is



still with the tax authorities pending their approval. They are claiming Covid lock downs as the reason for this big delay.

Our application for continuing as an FCRA registered Charitable organisation has also been successfully made. Going forward all this are associated with significantly more compliance requirements. Our past president D Ashok who is also a Trustee of BCRT has made out a strong case to have a Trust Manager in addition to our Mr Murthy. You can read about it elsewhere in this issue of the Banner.

As this is a Charter Nite month I asked our Charter President Santosh Nedungadi & a few of the Charter members who are still our members to put down their thoughts. You will find it elsewhere in this issue . I think this brings out many little known facts about our club which members will find very interesting.

Rtn Saby has written about his Rotary journey so far. This is in his first person & tongue in cheek style & makes us all chuckle. Ann Susan & Rtn Prem Kurian have shared their first hand Covid experience which you will find equally interesting. Since Susan lost her father during this time it is all the more poignant . Rtn Samir has contributed a very thought provoking Article on that App which now seems to be an extension of ourselves, "Whatsapp". Read it with all the attention it deserves.

As the Rotary year comes to an end it is time to say adieu. Our President has written his message through this Banner. I also would move out from being the Editor of this prestigious mouth piece and medium of communication of our club with this issue. While I thoroughly enjoyed being the Editor, it also had its challenges . I am extremely indebted to Rtn Samir Gupta for the full support given by him for interacting with Sri LB Jayaram of Shivdev's office to ensure the final production and lay out apart from supplying photos & cartoons and also contributing Articles. The services of Sri Jayaram was kindly made available by Rtn PP Shivdev and I am extremely thankful for that. Jayaram has been very good with the software, increasing or reducing font size, artfully changing the positioning of the captions, colour etc with inputs from Samir. Most importantly he always delivered even when some last minute changes were required. He also co-ordinated the printing for those of us who wanted a print copy. A big salute to Sri Jayaram for all his assistance. Our RHL office led by Murthy coordinated collection of print copies and delivery either in person or through speed post. Thanks to them also.

I would also like to thank Ann Beena for suffering my eccentricities and anecdotes arising out of being the Editor and including bearing the brunt of my frustrations!

I am very fortunate that I took over from a true professional in the field like Shivdev with little idea of the complexities involved in bringing this out every month as an e publication (when I was the Editor on a previous occasion it was only in print and used to be managed by Judge Press) and is equally lucky that I will be passing on the baton to our Rtn PP Bharath Bail who has a natural flair for writing in humorous way. I am sure he will take The Banner to greater heights in its journey towards the 40th year of publication.

Cherian K. Baby

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