



# Stevenage Grange Rotary Club

## Minutes and notes arising from the Clubs EGM of 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

### A. Minutes of the EGM, called to constitute the formation of a ROI Committee

1. Resolutions 1 – 4 were passed as proposed, save that the ROI Liaison Officer will be referred to as the ROI Officer
2. Resolution 5.i) was amended to acknowledge that Ophthalmos Limited, could be taken over or have a name change. The role of and relationship of the Committee with the Club was also amended. The new composite Resolution was approved in the following terms:
  5. i) To market the ophthalmoscope, manufactured by Ophthalmos Limited, or successor, to the Rotary network, and manage donations of funds provided by Rotary Clubs for distribution, through such charitable bodies as may be recommended by the Committee to the Club, from time to time.
3. Resolution 5.ii) was approved as proposed.

### B. Matters arising in consequence of the EGM

1. **ROI Officer.** Ray Turner proposed and David Stewart seconded the proposal that Ian Begg be the ROI Officer for the remainder of the current and the next Rotary year.
2. **Committee Members:** In addition to Officers Ian Begg (ROIO), Ted Coles (Auditor), and Ray Turner (President-Elect), David Stewart and Gordon Ewan were duly nominated to join the Committee as Ordinary Members. *(The President & Secretary are ex-officio members of all Committees, and may therefore attend)*

### C. Update and discussion

Ian Begg provided an update on progress since the Club launch on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The update has since been reproduced on the Members Area of the Web site. David Stewart responded to a request to 'man' the Exhibition stand at the RIBI Conference in Belfast. David would confirm his availability. Ian's update was noted.

Phil Stock, however, indicated some concern that the Club appeared to be getting itself into a position of spending time and money promoting a commercial product, for no return, and that the Club should extricate itself from this position. Alan Mulley expressed concern at the pricing structure of the product, suggesting that the manufacturer should be getting sufficient return on investment to fund our Rotary promotion costs. Other members contributed to the debate.

Members agreed that this was never intended to be a fund raising exercise. Indeed the Club has voted some £3,000 to support the start-up process.

It was noted that the Committee would generate an initial surplus of funds on the first 1,000 units purchased by Rotary Clubs or Rotarians, as, on advice, it has been decided for simplicity to have a common pricing structure for the Rotary model. Ophthalmos have agreed to this.

The Club is precluded by RI rules from making a profit and the surplus will need to be re-invested in the Initiative. A number of options remain open for the Club to determine. These include:

1. Funding expenses not covered by sponsorship
2. Purchasing additional units for donation to developing countries

Russell Ball asked that the Club make it clear to potential donors how any surplus on the first 1,000 is to be applied.

The Club were also advised that Ophthalmos would consider making a per item contribution to the Club's Charity Account, once it had achieved 5,000 unit sales of the Rotary product.

Ray Turner advised the Club that he is undertaking a review of Ophthalmos's costings, budgets and financing and will advise the Club on completion of the review

**Summary of debate.** Whilst fully acknowledging the legitimacy of Phil Stock's personal concerns, most members of the Club appeared to acknowledge that the Club entertained the Initiative on humanitarian grounds i.e. to encourage the Rotary movement at large to support the VISION 2020 campaign of helping to eradicate unnecessary blindness by the year 2020, as well as helping to create awareness of Rotary at all levels.

The Club agreed to give further consideration to the issues raised once Ray Turner had completed his financial appraisal.

The meeting concluded at 10.30pm

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