

## The Rotary Club of Bournemouth?

A Rotarian, who is a member of the Bournemouth club, has approached you. They believe that you might make a good Rotarian. A definition of Rotary is set out on the back. The purpose of this leaflet is to answer some basic questions in order to help you decide if you would like to take further the idea of joining.

### Who are the members?

Some fifty-five business and professional men and women drawn from the local community who represent nearly forty professions and occupations.

### What actually happens?

We normally meet every Monday for lunch at the Belvedere Hotel at the top of Bath Hill. The meeting usually lasts for between an hour and an hour and a quarter. There is a speaker on a topic of business, charitable or social interest once a month.

At the other meetings we may discuss matters of club or Rotary business, sometimes we break up into committees, and sometimes meetings are designated as fellowship meetings when the conversation at the table is allowed to follow its own course for a little longer.

Meetings are cheerful occasions that provide the chance to exchange business ideas as well as to have a good chat.

### What are the charitable activities?

Broadly, they can be split into three areas, namely community, international and educational.

The club is fortunate in that it has endowments that fund some of this activity but for the rest it engages in fund raising from time to time. Some contributions are in the form of direct help.

Members are invited to make Gift Aid contributions to the club's own charity.

We have helped the following local charities recently:

*Barnados  
The Prince's Trust  
Kid's Out, Paultons Park  
Leven House  
Young Mums' Group at Henry Brown Centre  
Elmrise Breakfast Club  
Pets as Therapy  
Chest Help  
CP Sport Development Day  
Life Education Centres, Dorset  
Victoria School  
Langside School  
Bournemouth Scouts (Jubilee Centre, Butcher's Coppice)  
Town Centre Youth Project  
CODA Fiddle Orchestra  
Youth Cancer Trust  
Julia's House  
Dorset Mind (Oakmead School)  
Boscombe Voluntary Lifeguard Unit  
Age Concern  
Help and Care*

And international charities:

*Niger Famine Crisis Appeal (including Bournemouth street collection)  
Pakistan Earthquake Shelter Box Appeal  
Shoe Boxes (sent to Tanzania and Montenegro)  
Africa Mercy Project (floating ophthalmic operating theatre)  
A Million in Africa – Shelter Box Appeal  
Shelter Boxes (sent to various countries)  
A Ferndown student teaching in Namibia*

In addition, we have entertained local language school students, maintained links with certain clubs in Europe and continued our support of Rotary Foundation about which some information is contained in the paragraph overleaf headed What is Rotary?

### Is there a social programme?

Most certainly. Some meetings are designated as family occasions, we meet in the evening from time to time and we have an annual barbeque. There is a sports (golf and snooker) programme with other clubs. Attendance at Rotary conferences and visits to and from our European linked clubs contain a high element of social activity. We have a lot of fun.

### What is the time commitment?

Members are expected to attend at least 50% of the meetings. Attending another club, which you can do anywhere in the world, can make up an attendance.

## How do I join?

Interested? Want to take the idea of membership further? Please tell the member who approached you. He or she will become your proposer and if you have not already been invited to attend a meeting then they will do so. Your proposer will give you an application form that you should hand back to them when complete.

In due course you will be invited to an information meeting when you will be given more detail, the chance to ask questions, and generally discuss Rotary including what is involved in being a Rotarian. Then you will be asked to confirm that you would like to proceed. An election procedure is followed that includes the circulation of your name and occupation to the club members before going to the club council for formal election.

You will be received into membership in the course of a club meeting.

**Name and contact details of proposer:**

## What is Rotary?

Rotary club members are business and professional leaders who do voluntary work in their communities and promote world understanding and peace. Rotary's 31,000 clubs in more than 165 countries and regions encourage high ethical standards and carry out humanitarian projects to address such issues as poverty, health, hunger, education and the environment.

Through more than US\$95 million in Rotary Foundation grants each year, Rotary clubs support community projects at home and abroad. Known as the world's largest provider of international educational scholarships, the Rotary Foundation funds more than 1000 students annually to study overseas and act as cultural ambassadors. Rotary has partnerships with eight prestigious universities around the world to educate mid-career professionals in peace and conflict resolution.

PolioPlus is Rotary's flagship programme. Rotary club members have contributed US\$600 million and countless volunteer hours to help immunise over two billion children against polio. Spearheading partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative include the World Health Organisation, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

Founded in Chicago in 1905 as the world's first volunteer service organisation, Rotary quickly expanded around the globe. Clubs meet weekly for fellowship and to discuss local and global topics. Clubs are non-religious. Non-governmental, and open to every race, culture and creed.



# Joining the Rotary Club of Bournemouth