

**DRFC's Executive Report
for Rotary Foundation in D1220
Meeting on the 10th January 2023
Via Zoom at 7.00pm**



As the Foundation Support Team [the same as for 2021/22] moved into this current Rotary year, we did so with the benefit of what, as a team, we had learnt from the previous year. I said we had not accomplished all we had wished to accomplish, but a better understanding of Foundation by the members of D1220 22/23 was the goal and that philosophy still remains, and will always remain. How that *understanding* is accomplished is a “taxing” question.

[1] The first Foundation Support Team Meeting – Thursday 14th July – via Zoom

The above first formal meeting of the “FSTM” had a full turnout of all nine members. The formal meetings are always comprehensively minuted and cover all aspects of Foundation. An added element of late has been the Ukrainian situation and in particular the DRGs [Disaster Response Grants] which formed a fundamental part of the meeting

[2] 17th August Mohamed Zarroug – Zoom meeting with JEB, ML, NS and MZ

Dr Zarroug approached me late in the Rotary year of 21/22 with a view to obtaining a Global Scholars Grant. He was pointed in my direction by the Rotary Club of Nottingham. Nottingham was the place where Mohamed worked as a Junior Doctor at the University Hospital. I say *was* as in fact he recently moved back to his home in Leeds to be with his family and is now working in Leeds.

Mohamed came from the Sudan when he was nine years old and the family settled in Leeds. His intention is to study for an MA in Public Health and his first preference was to study at the University of Columbia in New York – a two year course. However the costs for that eventuality, also coupled with a lack of committed support from the RC of New York City Metro Area and Bermuda [D7230], and indeed the District itself, called for a different tack.

Over a period of time I have had many conversations with Mohamed who is a most affable young man - of thirty one years - both eloquent and articulate and on the zoom call presented himself in a very positive and competent manner. Might I say that is the view also taken by my colleagues Michael Longdon and Neil Swanwick. The story does not end there [by any means] and I move on to the next item.

[3] 18th August – D7980 Connecticut Zoom no1 – Global Scholar Dr Mohamed Zarroug

D7980	PDG Ron Webb	DRFC
	PDG Colin Gershon	Foundation Chair RC New Haven [born in South Yorkshire]
	DG Tari Marshall-Day	Supporter
D1220	John Elford Box	DRFC
	Neil Swanwick	IP DGSC

Given that D7230 where now “unavailable” Mohamed looked to a one year course for his MA in Public Health and that is at the University of Yale. In this instance the costings are much reduced and the concept of him acquiring a Global Scholars Grant seem more realistic, but certainly not set in stone. There is a Rotary Club in D7890 - New Haven - which is the closest Rotary Club to Yale, and indeed has many years of experience in its involvement in matters such as this, and its involvement with Yale.

Contact is still very much “alive” on this matter, and given Mohamed has now moved to Leeds there is a move to attempt to seek [some] involvement from D1040. See notes below on the 20th October Zoom-call

[4] The FSTM – Wednesday 24th August – Face-to-Face

At the meeting on the 14th July there was a suggestion that the “FSTM” should meet face to face and informally discuss [a] how we delivered in the last Rotary year [b] how we seem geared to deal with the coming year and [c] Foundation generally in D1220.

Those who attended were me, Roy Bright, Neil Swanwick, Chris Holmes, Michael Longdon and Ashley Gray ARRFC. A lively meeting! But what it really brought home was that [for my part] there is no reason why face to face can not now be resurrected, with zoom in reserve place.

[5] Grants Committee Meeting Thursday 8th September – Face-to-Face

Once more, to start with, an example of face to face working in that PDG Michael Longdon GSCC decided to hold the meeting at the Holiday Inn [The Derbyshire]. The outcome of that meeting is one for Michael to report on and I have no reason other than to believe he will do so at the appropriate time.

What I will say is that I take a very dim view of those Clubs who offered Michael, in e-mails, criticism of his lack of “pace” in his dealings with their Grant Applications. Twelve grants received were efficiently dealt with by Michael, and his committee [of which I am but one] and the following day Michael sent out recognition to all the Clubs relevant to applications.

After the occasion four further Grant Applications were received – beyond the final closing date – but they too were accepted, and dealt with in a positive response from Michael. He then took some time away – with poor internet connection – and endeavoured to keep the show on the road. Members need to recognise that it is not always that easy for the “back room boys or girls” to deliver at the drop of a hat. If they want to learn the “pressures” of being a District Officer; then become one!!

[6] Foundation Seminar - 1st October – Face-to-Face

Where do I start to explain, discuss, or offer a narrative for the above cancelled event? For those of you who [for whatever reason] did not see the flyer for the event, it forms part of my report.

On the 23rd of September I had absolutely no option but to cancel the event, as failure to do so would have incurred costs to the District from the Holiday Inn.

If you study the flyer you will see that there was to be a good cross section from across the “world” of Foundation, presenting a comprehensive view of Foundation, On the 23rd of September only twenty two members had registered which included the Seminar Presentation Team and two guest speakers. Outside of the list [as of 23.09.22] only fourteen members registered.

There are many questions being asked presently [within Rotary] as to what seems to be the *problem[s]* with Foundation from a members perspective, and their lack of interest or enthusiasm? I will leave it there for now and ask DG Martyn to afford me time at the meeting to “open the basis of a debate” that can be discussed at a later date. [see 2nd November]

[7] **20th of October – D7980 Connecticut Zoom no2 - Global Scholar Dr Mohamed Zarroug**

D7980 PDG Ron Webb
PDG Colin Gershon
PDG Dr Mukund Nori
D1220 John Elford Box
PDG Michael Longdon
Neil Swanwick

DRFC
Foundation Chair RC New Haven
District Peace Chair
DRFC
DGSC
IP DGSC

A one and a half hour very comprehensive zoom meeting to move the above Global Scholar Grant forward. Notwithstanding the matter of the grant, the situation has afforded two *distant* District Foundation groups to come together. That in itself is positive, and indeed there is more of a positive feel to this grant as opposed to the alternative. Below, rather than a lengthy narrative, some “bullet points”:-

- a positive move forward has been made to involve D1040,
- D7980 are fully behind the grant but emphasise that receive a significant number of such applications every year,
- they would be prepared to host Mohamed,
- and are likely to provide funding of up to \$16,667 DDF,
- D1220 have pledged \$27,000 DDF,
- if we identify DDF from other Districts to a total of \$27,000, with a TRF match of 80% this will achieve the required \$97,000,
- all of the above is subject to a competitive and interview process,
- plus various other associated elements.

The next zoom-call will take place in four to six weeks time, or thereabouts.

[8] **Foundation Zoom – Informal - 2nd November at 7.00pm – see [6] above**

A meeting consisting of some of the members from the DFST plus Martyn Bye [DG], Richard Vergette [DGE] and Ashley Gray [ARRFC]. It was what it says above “informal” with no minutes being taken. It produced a lively debate forming a variety of views; views that, overall, had been expressed in the past.

The general outcome was that it should be resurrected early in the New Year.

[9] **Foundation Dinner and Appreciation Evening – Friday 18th November 2022**

Turned out to be a very successful event which I will elaborate on at the meeting on the 8th but for the purposes of this report some photos and bullet points below:-



- my many thanks to PDG Michael Longdon for all he did in ensuring the event was a success,
- and for all his help with the Awards presentation,
- to the Hostess Restaurant in Sookholme Mansfield for an excellent meal,
- to our two [to put it mildly] very interesting and well informed speakers EMGA Tom Hunt and the ARRFC Ashley Gray – a double act that proved to be exceedingly successful from a Foundation perspective.

[10] Foundation Support Team Meeting – 8th December via Zoom at 7.00pm

The Team were joined by DG Martyn Bye and ARRFC Ashley Gray. Always a lively, and progressive event and that was the case at this meeting. Finances are “healthy” but, as in the last few years, grant application requests still seem to hover around the mid-teens.

Trying to develop enthusiasm for Foundation forever proves to be a challenge.

The DGSC PDG Michael Longdon has asked for a leave of absence resulting from health issues. However it is only a temporary request and I look forward to having Michael back onboard shortly. In the interim IP-DGSC Neil Swanwick is dealing with Michael's role.

[11] Foundation Seminar Zoom meeting on the 5th of January 2023

The above is yet to be recorded given the closing dates for reports. However the basis of the Zoom is to discuss the “resurrection” of the Seminar. A verbal report by the DRFC will be given on the night.

Interestingly the DGE Richard Vergette is [hoping] to hold a face2face District Assembly on Sunday the 5th March next in the morning. The Foundation Support Team have [unanimously] agreed to hold the Foundation at that event albeit a more condensed version.

[12] The District 1220 Foundation Web-Site

Is always available for members, and whoever else, to visit. This report forms the basis of December 2022 Foundation Newsletter which was posted on the Web-Site at the end of December.

[13] Membership feedback

Only one! since the 1st July 2021.

[14] The Ukrainian Disaster Resource Grants [DRGs]

Eight DRGs [Disaster Response Grants] had been applied for that would take us to the end of the year. Although this element falls under the “umbrella” of Foundation, it is, in this instance, under the guidance of the DG *1. This is the case within all, save for a small number, of all the twenty five Districts within RFUK/Rotary GB&I.

Eventually only six DRGs were achieved given that the TRF “pulled the shutters down” on the 26 of November 2022 as all Rotary International DRGs had been allocated. In any event District 1220 accomplished the magnificent sum of \$150,000 through the DRG project which was no small achievement.

*1 Many thanks to Martyn, whose stewardship has been superb, coupled with that of Michael Longdon and Neil Swanwick and Roy Bright.

Grant no.	Value	Purpose	Complete	Signed off
DR546	\$25000	Support of Ukrainian Displaced Persons in D1220	Yes	Yes
DR588	\$25000	Purchase of fuel for ambulances to transport and treat casualties of the Ukraine	Yes	Yes
DR639	\$25000	Support of Ukrainian Displaced Persons in D1220	Yes	Yes
DR589	\$25000	The procurement of Aquabox Filters for Ukraine	Yes	Yes
DR732	\$25000	The procurement of beds, mattresses, pillows, blankets, stoves, washing machines, water filters for basements in Ukraine	Yes	Yes
DR796	\$25000	Support of Ukrainian Displaced Persons in D1220	In progress	

Most of this report formed my report to the District Exec on the 1st of November and my subsequent report to the FSTM on the 8th December. The additional elements for tonight's meeting are items [8], [9], [10], [11] and [12].

John Elford Box - DRFC