



Rotary crossroads

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Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future

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The 85th Board of the Rotary Club of Singapore



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In Focus

An Epic Year!!!

By: Honorary Member (HM) Past President (PP) Raymon Huang

Indeed. What an epic year we have had. It has been a Rotary Year Extraordinaire for the Rotary Club of Singapore (RCS).

Bravo! RCS.

Despite the disruptions, the anxieties caused by COVID-19, we overcame them with innovations and verve aplenty. Lots of experiences that never happened before popped up. Our responses had to be good, firm and fast. That we did. President Deepak, his Board, and several key members met the challenges head-on. Well-organised alternatives to existing SOPs were made, and kept the Club humming with meetings, projects, and activity. Hectic and demanding. The many lofty service peaks we have scaled bear testimony to this.

As his tenure of office as President of our Club draws to a close, I posed President Deepak a number of questions to elicit his feelings, covering many areas of experiences. He has covered his responses in words so well-said and well-put that I have not tried to re-phrase any of them (which I normally would do).

Here are the questions and his answers:

1. Raymon: Now that the end of your term as President of our Club is around the corner tell us in the big gulp of breath your feelings of relief, of accomplishment, and some of the could haves:

Pres Deepak: I am most proud of my exceptional team. A wise man once said: build a team so strong that anyone that sees it doesn't know who the leader is. For most of the Board and me, the year has been an incredible adventure. While the journey has been indeed long and hard, we relished every moment of it. We gave our best and did a lot of great things in the year. We made a difference to the Club and the Community. For most of us, this year has been our best in Rotary ever. While the best is yet to be, this year has been very enlightening and fulfilling for us.

2. Raymon: The excellent start you made in getting the club to the next level was interrupted in many ways by Covid-19. What are the real problems posed Clubwise? How did you overcome them?

Pres Deepak: Yes, we had a fantastic start. We had many achievements to celebrate by our first 100 days (with more than 100 other Rotarians, spouses and guests). But we did not rest on our laurels.



HM PP Raymon Huang



In Focus

An Epic Year!!!...contd

We formulated grand plans to take the Club to the next level and to reach new heights. We committed to executing not one, but four major projects for the year. We were confident of doing it because we were confident in our synergy and energy. Then Covid-19 struck. It knocked us down, but it did not knock us out. We pivoted and became the first Rotary Club in Singapore to move to Zoom meetings. We continued to hold weekly Club meetings, bi-monthly fellowship meetings, sister club fellowship meetings, the last Club Assembly and even our 90 years celebration on Zoom. We raised funds for the community hardest hit by Covid-19 – the migrant workers and stranded Sri Lankan students. And we continued our four Major Projects with full enthusiasm. I am so proud of the Board because of our resilience: not even Covid-19 could extinguish our spirit to serve.

3. Raymon: Looking back, do you feel members responded well and rose to the occasion in your efforts to improve attendance? Any figures?

Pres Deepak: Yes, I feel our members responded very well to our efforts to improve attendance and membership engagement. They could see we were not lazy, but instead, we were an actionable Board. They could see our extraordinary attention to every detail. We listened to all suggestions, and if they were productive, we swiftly executed and implemented them. Our meetings were meaningful, thematic, exciting and fun. The venue at the Hyatt was convenient and accessible. The food was delicious, and wine that members brought flowed at every meeting. They could experience the service and fellowship encapsulated in every event we held. They could feel the vibrancy in the Club emanating from themselves, the projects, the camaraderie, and all the Rotary spirit around. And this all showed in the numbers: on average we had 50 attendees at every meeting. Only one day in the whole year did we go to 28 (below the minimum 30). Otherwise, our meetings were ripe and well attended. We thank the Board and the members for making that happen.

4. Raymon: Among the many programs we embarked upon, which would you consider “iconic” Clubwise?

Pres Deepak: Our whole year was iconic. As Paul Harris said – whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves. Likewise, the 85th Board is recognised by the results we achieved. We did many things, and many of them were among the firsts for our Club:

- Be charged at our Installation Ceremony by PP Shahul and inducted by District Governor Jeff.
- To combine Club and Service Meetings in one night;
- To elegantly celebrate our first 100 days with more than 100 attendees;
- To embark on four Major Projects (one for each avenue of service);
- To hold a fellowship walk and service event with the elderly in one morning and two service events back to back in one weekend;



In Focus

An Epic Year!!!...contd

- To host all our meetings, fellowship events, Club Assembly online;
- To enhance the entrance requirements for new members to make it mandatory for them to attend at least three Club meetings AND one service event;
- To curate a fully participated Announcement group on WhatsApp for our members; and
- Not have outstanding dues from all members for this Rotary year.

We thank all the members, Senior Rotarians, spouses, Bernie and Ivy, for their overwhelming support and blessings. Without them, we would have achieved nothing.

5. Raymon: I am sure your successor would appreciate some advice in view of your great experience. What would you deem as worthwhile that you would pass to him?

Pres Deepak: Act with Consistency, Credibility and Continuity. That was the Rotary International theme of 1999/2000, which I followed in the best interests of the Club.

6. Raymon: Parting words for the Board?

Pres Deepak: Dear fellow Board members - It has been a great honour to serve beside you. You have indeed been my pillars this year. The journey has been amazing; I have learnt so much from you. I will forever treasure the moments, the tears, the sweat, the joy and the friendship we shared. The midnight phone calls strategising with the Core groups, the meeting of the minds over every minute detail, and the deep satisfaction of getting things done, is what every President can only dream about. So, thank you for making my Rotary dream a reality, with all my love.

There you are – straight from the President’s mouth. That he, his Board, and members have all put their shoulders to the wheel, it was as clear as a bright sunny day. That President has led by example, there is no doubt. That the Rotary has been raised to the next level. Kudos to all, but the leadership bore the brunt and these wonderful people have been good, really good.

This Rotary Year has well and truly been an epic year! Unprecedented, and remarkable.

Congratulations! President Deepak, the Board, and the Members.

Did not someone say something about “a woman behind every successful man”? First Lady Bianca played such a tremendous supportive role at all times. Three cheers for Bianca!



Summary of ISC Report at the Weekly Meeting on 10.6.2020



*ISC Director
Mamta Shahani*

International Service Committee (ISC) Director, Rtn Mamta Shahani reminisced on the plethora of projects undertaken during the year with wonderful memories of the events and fellowship, starting with the amazing Sister Club event held on 28 June 2019. She noted the exceptional support received with the Sister Clubs from President Deepak, VP/PN See Mee Lee and IPP Mark Wang which certainly brought members closer to our Sister Clubs.

Rtn Mamta noted the huge scope of projects successfully carried out in many countries such as India and in Malang, Indonesia, made possible with Global Grants (GG), including current COVID-19 projects being done with guidance from PP Dr Shahul Hameed.

To give members a flavour of the breath of projects covered by ISC, Rtn Mamta invited President Amitav Lohariwal from a close partner club, Rotary Club (RC) of Purulia, with which the Club had taken on many projects including GGs from previous years. President Amitav gave an overview of various health care projects including current projects for Covid 19 and warmly thanked the Club for its help and looked forward to continued assistance with coming projects.

Next, President Gatot Sadono from RC Malang Central gave a detailed report on the GG “Help the Children” signature project as well as the project for the Bhakti Luhur orphanage. Hon. Member Rtn Mohan Vaswani thanked President Gatot for journeying with the Club and developing the projects. HM Mohan added that he was looking forward to working on more projects such as the eye project with RC Malang Central.

Rtn Mamta invited PP Dr Yap Lip Kee who spoke of the “Freedom from Pain” project, a laparoscopy surgical camp for women’s health held in Tumutumu, Kenya which took place early in the Rotary year. PP Lip Kee advised that the project also included a vocational training workshop for two doctors and nurses, however due to the Covid 19 situation, this portion of the project would be postponed to next year.

Mamta called upon PP Keith Harrison who introduced Ms Ida Arreza from the Bolanday Foundation in Philippines, an organisation which has been supporting Covid 19 frontliners in Manila by providing them with healthy and nutritious meals. Members were shown a presentation of the organisation’s makeshift kitchen in the grounds of a Redemptorist Church from which about 30 volunteers have for the past 2.1/2 months been preparing the meals. PP Keith advised that the Club has sponsored 3,000 of the 60,000 meals prepared and delivered to the frontliners.

PP Perlita Tiro was invited to inform members of the Bicycle Project – a project of RC Sentosa which she participated in Cambodia from 7 to 10 January, in which 1,000 bicycles were donated to most deserving students from among 120 schools and additional 300 bicycles were reserved for disabled children as well.

Following this report, PDG Zamin from Rotary Club of Sontkatch in District 3040 recounted how he met with PP Dr Shahul Hameed and the assistance received in obtaining a GG approved within 1.1/2 months for provision of protective kits and masks to health caregivers to fight Covid 19. He warmly thanked members particularly President Deepak, HM Mohan, Mr Advani, PP Mansoor Hassanbhai and PP Dr Shahul.



Summary of ISC Report at the Weekly Meeting on 10.6.2020... *contd*

Rtn Mamta then spoke of the ISC Major Project and gave some background of how the Committee and team comprising PP Keith Harrison, President Deepak, VP/PN See Mee Lee, Rtns Varun Gulati and Pia Bruce, finally agreed to adopt the Bali Water Project. This Major Project would provide clean and potable water to 650 people in the Kerangasem region. She advised that with help from PP Ayu and AG Hari from RC Bali Denpasar and RC Tirta Ganga respectively, the funding has been stretched further to provide two extra tanks to reach about 750 people. Rtn Mamta advised that the project is expected to be ready by 25 June, and water filters will also be distributed when the piping has been completed.



Members were informed that there was potential to get clean water into the homes and Rtn Mamta proposed that should the Committee manage to obtain sufficient funding, it would consider this extension to the homes of the villagers. She left this thought to members for consideration.

Rtn Mamta thanked members and guests for their presentation/reports that evening. She also thanked ISC members for their support as well as President Deepak for his encouragement, and VP/PN Mee Lee for helping in identifying the project, her advice and guidance. She also thanked Board Members as well as PP Paliath Mohandas and PP Mansoor Hassanbhai for agreeing to support and guide the new team. Rtn Mamta further thanked Ishk Tolaram Foundation, HM Mohan Vaswani and PP Peter Tan for their constant support, as well as her committee team of alternate Chair, PP Keith Harrison, treasurer Andreas Duerst and secretary Varun Gulati who would be the new ISC Chair next year.



President Deepak called on PP Peter Tan who stated that it was with greatest pleasure to propose a vote of thanks to ISC Director Rtn Mamta for the way she has led good work in the name of Rotary, even before she was ISC Director, as shown by the unmatched Sister Club event last year. He added that Rtn Mamta has worked with enthusiasm and together with her team held the Club's flag high with our sister clubs and stand tall as ISC members we have served people well in keeping with Rotary's motto "Service Above Self".



INSTALLATION OF PRESIDENT DINESH SHARMA

AND THE 86TH BOARD OF ROTARY CLUB OF SINGAPORE

GUEST OF HONOUR

SHEKHAR MEHTA

RI PRESIDENT (2021-22)

DATE 27 JUNE 2020
VENUE ONLINE
TIME 6:30PM (FELLOWSHIP STARTS AT 6PM)
DRESSCODE LOUNGE SUIT/BLACK TIE
EVENING GOWN

Rotary
Club of Singapore



Rotary Opens
Opportunities



Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Online Meeting – Wednesday 17 June 2020

OPENING REMARKS AND WELCOME

President Deepak opened the 44th Club meeting with his usual promotion of the Book of Humour project on behalf of Honorary Member Rtn Rewa Mirpuri.

WELCOME & TOAST

President Deepak called on Rtn Adnan Ansari who warmly welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

Toastmaster for the evening was Rtn Daniel Beyeler who called on members to raise a toast to the Rotary Clubs around the world and to Rotary International.

RECAP OF ACTIVITIES

President Deepak noted that Rotarians were People of Action and thanked incoming ISC Director Varun Gulati for his efforts in helping the migrant workers and stranded Sri Lankan students, and added that the project was completed.

CLUB'S MAJOR PROJECT

President Deepak reiterated the four projects launched by the Service Committees, which needed support and noted that it was possibly the last opportunity for him to remind members of the following:

- Vocational Service Committee with HCSA for a Culinary Training Programme with a goal to give a cohort of students a second chance, which would offer a placement in F&B establishments.
- International Service Committee on a Water Project to make water more accessible for more than 600 Villagers in Bali, where the water source is at the bottom of steep mountain.
- Youth Service Committee's Accendo Project to bring awareness on issues around mental health.
- Community Service Committee's project with Aidha will provide foreign domestic workers with personal financial and entrepreneur skills.

He promised to give members constant updates of the projects and called on members to send in their donations if they have not done so as yet.

REMEMBERING PP CHARLES RUDD

President Deepak called on members to recognize a significant Club member, the late Past President Charles G V Rudd, who was our Club's president during Rotary year 1974-75. Upon the demise of PP Charles, his wife, Phyllis, bequeathed over S\$1.2 million to the Club. President Deepak noted that PP Charles's birthday would have been on 21st June, and he called on members to remember him for his magnanimous gift to the Club.



Charles G.V. Rudd

DEEPEST CONDOLENCES

President Deepak informed members of the demise of family members of Rotarians Dr Devakumar Nair who lost his beloved father last week as well as Director Stuart Pearce who lost his mother.

Our deepest condolences and prayers are with Rtns Devakumar and Stuart during this painful period.



Last Week

Speaker: Rtn Stuart Pearce

Vocational Service Committee (VSC) Director

Topic: Vocational Service Committee Report

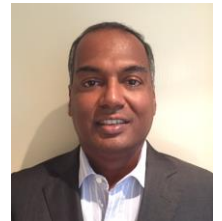
In his introduction of Director Stuart Pearce, VP Bala Venkatesan advised that VSC is very close to his heart, adding that the Committee has nurtured, despite challenging times, a suite of projects ably led by Rtn Stuart.

Rtn Stuart warmly welcome a special guest, Ms Adelene Wee, Director of HCSA, who had addressed the Club previously in August 2019. He reintroduced the theme and vision of VSC to use our vocational abilities to address the challenges faced by the community we serve. He took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank his Committee's team.



VSC Director Stuart Pearce

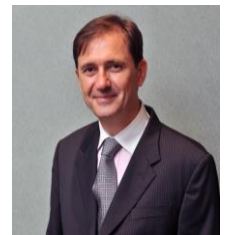
Rtn Stuart highlighted the original plan and timeline for the various projects. He gave the floor to Rtn Dr Claus Dusemund who spoke on the Junior Engineers project which first started with Glyph on 24 August and was subsequently postponed. However, Rtn Claus hoped that the future project would involve the Youth Service Committee and continue on renewable energy project using specially selected kits for different engineering causes.



VP/PN Bala Venkatesan

Rtn Stuart noted the informative vocational visit to the Patek Philippe exhibition on 12 October to understand the artisanal work of the watchmakers. Unfortunately, two other vocational visit to KrisLab at Changi and to the Raffles Hotel were cancelled, but these visits would still be available hopefully in the coming year.

A successful Friends of VSC event organised by incoming Director Dr Irina Francken was held at the Hyatt hotel on 13 November, moderated by Rtn Uttam Kripalani, which saw the Artisan of the Year winner Mr Kamal Dollar and finalists, Mr Sukri Kadola and Ms Faridah of Angklung Queen fame, as guests of the event.



PP Keith Harrison

To speak on the Entrepreneur of the Year Award (EYA), a signature Club event of 32 years, Rtn Stuart called on Award Co-Chair PP Alan Tan to say a few words. PP Alan noted that the Award process would usually start in April and completed by November, however for this year the EYA would be delayed to December or even January 2021. He added that updates and the progress of the EYA 2020 presentation would be given when known. PP Alan thanked the EYA committee members – Dir Stuart, VP/PN See Mee Lee, VP Bala Venkatesan and Rtn Joseph Chia.



Topic: Vocational Service Committee Report ... *Contd.*

Rtn Stuart spoke on the joint Committee project with Community Service Committee on the Clean Hands Training Certification held on 11 January 2020 when a large number of Rotarians, families and friends received their certification and went on to participate on 18 January in the APSN kitchen to bake pineapple tarts for fund-raising during the Chinese New Year.

Rtn Stuart called on Rtn Vishal Nanwani, the Artisan of the Year Award Chair, who showed a video of the Award and thanked members for the support given across the board who sourced for candidates for the Award. He added that the candidates have very strong arts credentials and strong commitment for service to the community as well. Rtn Vishal thanked members for the journey and hoped that the Award would continue to grow. Rtn Stuart also thanked Rtn Vishal for his efforts and enthusiasm and was looking forward to seeing the Award winner at the Installation on 27 June.

Next, Rtn Stuart tabled a Resolution to be passed as a Committee, adding that due to COVID 19 circumstances the hosting fee was not utilized and proposed that the hosting fee balance be used towards the Major Project. The Resolution was proposed by Rtn Adnan Ansari and seconded by VP/PN See Mee Lee. Rtn Stuart advised that the proposed Resolution would be placed on the VSC Chat group for 7 days for discussion and thereafter would be enacted.

Rtn Stuart then invited Ms Adelene Wee from the HCSA Academy to address the Club. She gave an overview of the four signature programmes undertaken by HCSA.



Ms Wee spoke of the cohorts sponsored by the Club who were only able to complete one week of the six week programme before the circuit breaker period came into effect. She was pleased to advise that when the circuit breaker was lifted on 8 June, all cohorts returned to continue with the programme. Ms Wee added that HCSA looked forward to placing the cohorts into jobs. She warmly thanked members for the support towards the cohorts and ensuring that they will have a future for life.

Wrapping up, Rtn Stuart warmly thanked all Board Members for their tremendous support, time and collaboration across committees, and thanked members for making VSC their home he hoped that they would continue to do so next year in support of incoming Chair Rtn Dr Chan Siew Luen. Rtn Stuart also thanked President Deepak, whom he added was a real driver for VSC with his enthusiasm and views. To conclude, Rtn Stuart showed a short video of VSC activities of the year.

To extend a vote of thanks to Rtn Stuart, President Deepak called on PP Keith Harrison who was most honoured to do so. He recalled Rtn Stuart's first meeting at SRC when he laid out his plans for VSC adding that the committee was extremely fortunate and benefitted from his efforts and that of his hardworking wife, Rtn Michelle.



Mark Your Diary

Birthday Celebrants

RC sends best wishes to Birthday celebrants this week:

Bharat Mandloi
Dr Hoon Sing Keow
Edward Loy
Brenda Lee

This Meeting

24 June 2020

**Youth Service Committee
& Final Club Meetings for
RY 2019-2020**

Next Meeting

1 July 2020

**1st Club Assembly for
Rotary Year 2020/2021**

Anniversary Celebrants

**RC sends best wishes to
Wedding Anniversary
celebrants this week:**

Asheesh & Subina Khaneja

Committee Meetings

**Service Committee Meetings
are held prior to the Weekly
Meetings.**



GIFT OF LIFE
**Children with cardiac
problems
to get help from Rotary's
District 3300 & 3310**

A full set of 3 editions - Book of Humour, Best of Humour & Bank of Humour, come in a beautifully designed box housing this set for only \$25.00

Please order a few sets of books for the Gift of Life Project, and place your orders with:
Hon. Member Rtn Rewa Mirpuri
@ tel: 6241 9157 or email:
rewamirpuri@gmail.com

Coming Rotary Events

June

Rotary Fellowships Month

27 June – Club Awards Ceremony (Artisan Award, Good Samaritan Award, Rotarian of the Year and Honorary Member Awards) and Installation of the 86th Board.

July

Rotary Fellowships Month

8 July – Continuation of 1st Club Assembly
17-19 July – Interact Leadership Training Online Camp

August

Membership and New Club Development Month

September

Basic Education and Literacy Month

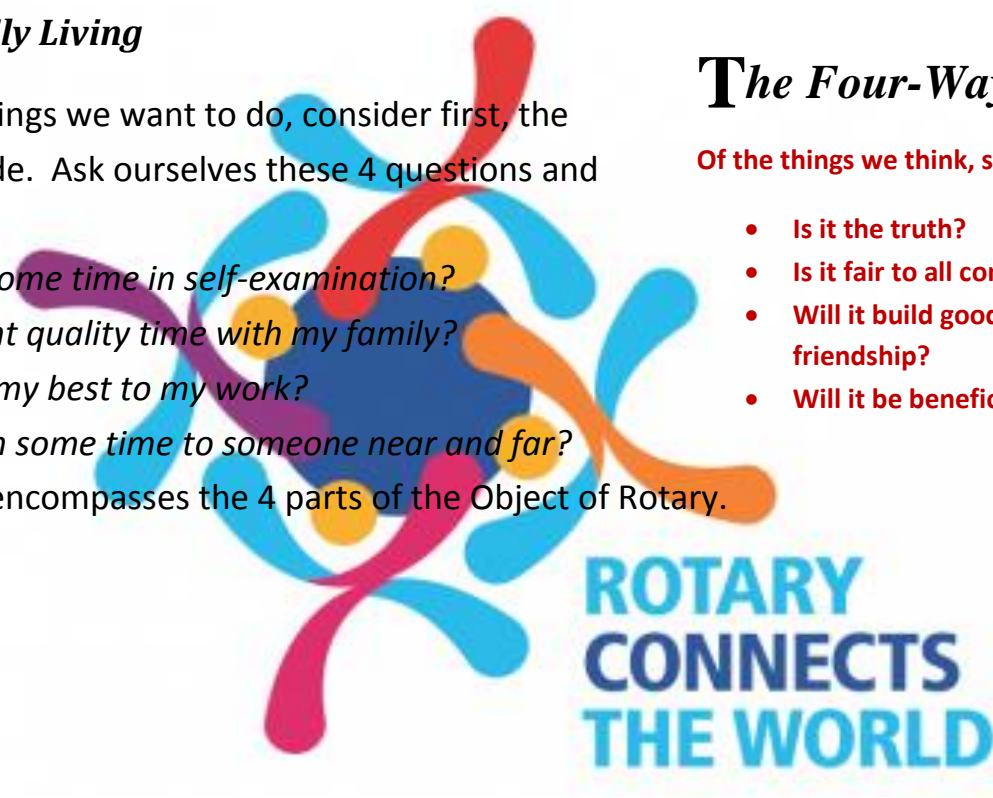


The Guide to Daily Living

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

- First:** Have I spent some time in self-examination?
- Second:** Have I spent quality time with my family?
- Third:** Have I given my best to my work?
- Fourth:** Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.



The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019/2020

President	Deepak Nagrani
Immediate Past President	Mark Wang
President Elect	Dinesh Sharma
Vice President (Community & International Service)	See Mee Lee
Vice President (Vocational & Youth Service)	Bala Venkatesan
Hon. Secretary (Administration)	Shamin Vaswani
Hon. Treasurer (Finance)	S “Mali” Malaiappan
<i>Directors</i>	
Chair, Community Service	Dr Chan Siew Luen
Chair, Vocational Service	Stuart Pearce
Chair, International Service	Mamta Shahani
Chair, New Generations Service	Ronald Wong
Director (Club Rotary Foundation)	James Lee
Director (Rotary Spirit)	Rajkumar Perumal Suppiah

