

		Notes/Discussion/Decision																						
1	WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:	Your Council members are: Steph Lowe, Sarah Jones, Ronnie Forbes, Peter Tosh, Eddie Thornton, Alan Hoar, Alex Burton, Dot Dahl, Tommy McQuade. Apologies: Ronnie Forbes, Ciorsti Baxter ADG																						
2	CLUB BUSINESS																							
2.1	Minutes & matters arising	11 th March Minutes - Proposed: Alan Hoar Seconded: Dot Dahl																						
2.2	President’s update – Steph Lowe	<p>Firstly, an apology for not producing a Presidents report last month, unfortunately I got caught up in Mr Trumps Iranian "excursion" and had an extra week in Sydney whilst alternate flight arrangements avoiding the Middle East, were put in place.</p> <p>The first quarter of 2026 has seen a lot of behind the scenes activity as we start to put into place plans for the various activities coming up, the Oban & Lochaber Rotary Teams & Leaders award 2026 is planned for October, the Duck race for the 1st August, the raft race is our responsibility this year and takes place on the 12th July, the Young Speakers Competition is planned for 4th June, and the am-am will take place on 7th June.</p> <p>One successful event already held, was the End Polio now concert held at the Corran Halls in February which raised £1,125.00, thanks to all those involved in organising the evening, and thanks also to all those that took part and helped on the night.</p> <p>The Council have been looking at the problem of dwindling membership, and to this end a discussion with Rotary members will take place at the lunchtime meeting on the 7th April where all contributions will be heard and considered. This is an issue we need to address for the future of the club.</p>																						
2.3	Treasurer’s update – Ronnie Forbes	<p>Charities</p> <table><tr><td>Last report end Feb</td><td>17010.63</td></tr><tr><td>Concert</td><td>840.00</td></tr><tr><td>PSYV pickleball evening</td><td>22.40</td></tr><tr><td>End polio now</td><td>1125.00</td></tr><tr><td>Marie Curie -</td><td>540.00</td></tr><tr><td>Oban Otters -</td><td>184.36</td></tr><tr><td>End March</td><td>15978.87</td></tr></table> <p>Ringfenced:</p> <table><tr><td>OLDS -</td><td>2419.90</td></tr><tr><td>FEIS -</td><td>500.00</td></tr><tr><td>St Columba’s -</td><td>1470.00</td></tr><tr><td>TLA -</td><td>2317.75</td></tr></table>	Last report end Feb	17010.63	Concert	840.00	PSYV pickleball evening	22.40	End polio now	1125.00	Marie Curie -	540.00	Oban Otters -	184.36	End March	15978.87	OLDS -	2419.90	FEIS -	500.00	St Columba’s -	1470.00	TLA -	2317.75
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		<p>Available 9271.22</p> <p>Club</p> <p>Last report end Feb 795.49</p> <p>Regalia and badges - 140.00</p> <p>Website - 35.98</p> <p>Banners Pennants- 150.00</p> <p>End March 469.51</p> <p>Meals</p> <p>Last report end Feb 1575.22</p> <p>From members & guests 1620.45</p> <p>Bank charges - 7.70</p> <p>End March 3187.97</p> <p>Sports</p> <p>Last report end Feb 606.48</p> <p>From members 44.80</p> <p>To Atlantis - 44.80</p> <p>End March 606.48</p> <p>Council agreed to purchase two new pull up banners. Alan to arrange.</p>
2.4	Secretary's update – Sarah Jones	<p>Update on Club's potential support for CHAS Appeal: Individual clubs were doing their own thing – so no appetite for a District wide approach. CHAS had provided info on the support provided to families in the NHS Highland area. Council therefore agreed to donate £500.</p> <p>Purchased new pin badges and pennants.</p> <p>Drafted Club inventory of assets and documentation (see item 5.12)</p> <p>An updated Club constitution in line with the 2025 RIBI standard version was in draft. Sarah to check the existence of previous Club-specific versions.</p> <p>Post-meeting note: Applied for a stall at Charities Day on 18th July at the Rockfield – run by Oban Communities Trust (taking over from the Lions)</p>
3	FUNDING REQUESTS	
3.1	Oban Saints Football Club – David MacLennan	Request for donations towards £1,100 cost of commemorative water bottles for P4 – 7 players at their Annual Football Festival. 800 children attending over 2 days at Mossfield stadium 25/26th April 2026. Council agreed £500.
3.2	Oban Otters – follow up	Follow up to Club provision of emergency funding for travel to swimming competition on 17 th March. Ronnie and Sarah to meet group leader to discuss longer term support for Oban Otters.
3.3	The Fisherman's Mission	Requested support for their sponsored Digital Detox between 29/03 and 04/04 – too late to do anything meaningful. Do we want to donate instead? Council agreed to wait for new local rep to be appointed.

4	CORRESPONDENCE	
4.1	Idee einer internationalen Club - Partnerschaft	Proposed partnership with the Rotary Club Hückeswagen – Radevormwald. Still under consideration – as there are certain stipulations about international partnerships.
4.4	WithYou – Drugs and Alcohol addiction support	Contact details passed to Ken Oxland to explore whether St John’s Cathedral facilities might be suitable for their use.
4.5	Marie Curie	Thanks for Club’s donation and enquiry about Rotary collecting for 4 hours one day in April. Previous collection cancelled. Council agreed we would rather support collection in partnership with MC volunteers rather than undertake it ourselves.
4.6	Oban Link Club & Hope Kitchen questionnaire	Questionnaire about proposed men’s, women’s and walking groups to improve mental health and support suicide prevention. Council agreed this was a welcome initiative to replace the Argyll Well-being Hub walks. Agreed to approach Catriona Petit, Hope Kitchen Service Manager as a potential speaker.
5	COMMITTEE UPDATES (full list for completeness)	
5.1	Membership - President Steph Lowe	<p>The Rotary Club of Oban - Securing Our future – follow up to discussion with members on 7th April.</p> <p>Council reflected on the honest and open discussion with the 13 members present at Tuesday’s lunch. Given the consensus that the Club’s future was precarious, Council agreed to propose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to two sit down meals per month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays – allowing alternative approaches to be trialled in the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month. • These meetings would continue to serve as a forum for Council to consult and report on business and to invite guest speakers. • Moving to one evening dinner in the 1st week of summer months (instead of winter) to make it easier for members to attend. • Further consultation with members (at the 14th April meeting and/or by email response) on the timing/location/description of meetings in the 2nd and 4th weeks to be assessed against whether they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support Rotary fellowship ○ Help with practical service to the community (i.e. organising our fundraisers and activities) ○ Would be attractive to invite partner organisations/potential new members
5.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	<p>Oban Raft Race – Council approved Club organisation and responsibility for the race on 12 July.</p> <p>Provisional date for Duck Race – Saturday 1 August.</p>
5.3	Foundation & International -	Oban Distillery/Diageo replied to commend Concert fundraising – after their donation of whisky to the raffle.

	Ken Moncrieff & David Finlayson	
5.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	
5.5	Youth Services – Dot Dahl	<p>Plans were being laid for a Young Musician Competition local heat in June, but this is proving to be problematic. It's a very busy time for the High Schools, although that was the timing suggested by the staff. Late October is another possibility.</p> <p>Oban & Lochaber Team Leaders Award: The young people from Oban/Mull have now completed their community project.</p> <p>Their plan was to provide a soup and sandwich lunch (with musical entertainment) for individual community members who may have limited opportunity to access social events. The event would be free of charge but encourage donations to support a local, charitable, community cafe.</p> <p>They tested their plan last Saturday with a limited (friendly) group of attendees. Whilst this small event was successful, enjoyable and realised £100 in donations for 'Hope Kitchen' it also proved to be a valuable learning experience for the group. In short, they realised that they lacked sufficient resources to upscale the event to meet their original ambition.</p> <p>This was a really positive outcome for the group, on a number of levels, and certainly met our remit for the brief. However, they concluded that to try and deliver the original plan would not be possible. This was, in no way, considered to be a failure by either the young people or Ciorsti and Ronnie.</p> <p>Ryan, who was a key leader in the project, and a fellow team member are now agreeing a date with our Secretary [28th April agreed] to share their whole experience with our Rotary Club. I'm certain that their testimony will help reinforce the value of our partnership for our members.</p>
5.6	PR & Reputation – Alex Burton	<p>Since the last council meeting. I have attempted to get the piece for the Foundation Concert in the Oban Times, unsuccessfully. On Facebook we had 4728 views, down 81% from the previous month. We maintain 174 followers. On Instagram we have had 90 views and added 4 new followers. One post about the visit from CHAS was shared to both sites.</p> <p>Council agreed with Alex - to seek an in-person meeting of 2 – 3 Council members with the Oban Times to develop a new relationship with the current editor.</p> <p>Stop Press! Concert article now published.</p>
5.7	Am-Am – Alan Hoar	<p>Planning continues for this year's AmAm. Letters to main sponsors, hole sponsors and entry forms for regular participants have now been delivered. As of 03 April, £800 sponsorship has been received. We have yet to identify a 'yellow ball' sponsor. Police Scotland Youth Volunteers have confirmed their availability to support the event and act as ball spotters. We have now</p>

		received their standard 'tasking' proforma which will be completed and returned as planning progresses. A meeting of the AmAm committee, including Malcolm Cullen, will be arranged shortly to address outstanding issues. Possible combined AmAm committee meeting with visit to inventory the storeroom.
5.8	OLDS – David Mudie	Council confirmed they would like to invite a representative from OLDS to a future Council meeting to discuss funding.
5.9	Laurinburg Students Exchange	Ken Oxland and Council members met Oban High School students for coffee & cake on 20 th March. Agreed to ask Ken to give a presentation to the Club on the history and arrangements for the Laurinburg Exchange before the next lunch with the current cohort on 23rd June. Discussion of ideas that emerged to embed Rotary/OHS relationship: Agreed Secretary to write to the Head Teacher setting out considerable current Rotary support for a range of projects and awards for students and the existing points of liaison. The aim would be to raise awareness of the totality of our existing involvement, explore ways to help develop more disadvantaged children and formalise the relationship with the school in a flexible Rotary membership.
5.10	Club Service – Eddie Thornton	Nothing to report.
5.11	Safeguarding	Agreed to ask Ciorsti to be the Club's Safeguarding Officer
5.12	Inventory Controller – Iain MacKinnon	Draft to be circulated soon(!)– needs additional content please.
6	SPEAKERS UPDATE Co-ordinator - Peter Tosh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adventure Oban – Emily Austin and Dave Bleazard - 21st April (plus Dumbarton visitors) Oban & Lochaber Rotary Teams and Leaders Award 2025 speakers – Ryan & Victoria – 28th April District Environmental Lead – Debs Carmichael – 5th May Ken Oxland re Laurinburg – tba Laurinburg Exchange students' lunch – 23rd June Pending a date – Drugs and alcohol charity WithYou
7	DISTRICT UPDATE	
8	ATTENDANCE REPORT for weekly lunch/dinner	Month: March 2026 No of Meetings: 5 Attendance Rate: 57.9% <hr/> Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Lachie Beaton, Davie Finlayson, Ronnie Forbes, Eddie Thornton
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10	NEXT MEETING:	Thursday 14th May 6:30pm