

		Notes/Discussion/Decision
1	WELCOME, ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:	Your Council members are: Eddie Thornton, Steph Lowe, Sarah Jones, Ronnie Forbes, Peter Tosh, Alan Hoar, Alex Burton, Lachie Beaton, Ciorsti Baxter (also ADG). Apologies: Alex
2		OFFICERS REPORTS
2.1	Minutes & matters arising	<p>23rd July Minutes - Proposed: Ciorsti Seconded: Lachie</p> <p><u>Matters arising:</u></p> <p>Link & Connect (Developing Potential) agreed to meet us (condition of our funding). They are meeting their professional funding bid adviser first to get a better understanding of their future position. Nominated Eddie, Alan and Ronnie to meet in due course.</p> <p>Re: appointing a speakers' coordinator. Decided instead to adopt common practice of issuing invitations to speak to organisations who have bid for or benefitted from our funding.</p>
2.2	President's update – Eddie Thornton	<p>It was my sad duty to report to the club the passing of Walter Burton on 20 July. Walter was a long-standing member of Rotary, initially with the West Linton Club of which he was president and lately with the Oban club after his move to Benderloch. Although Walter had various health issues he made full use of what was available to him and continued until very recently to take an active part and role in Rotary activities. Our thoughts and commiserations are with his niece Alex and with her family.</p> <p>I would like to thank Iain MacKinnon who did the driving for Ciorsti, Peter and myself and Ian MacInnes who also attended Walter's cremation at Cardross on 6 August and also those Rotary members who attended the celebration of Walter's life the following Monday in Oban.</p> <p>Alex responds: I want to thank all members of the Rotary Club of Oban for their support in the recent weeks. Walter really valued this community, and so do I.</p> <p>It was my pleasant duty last Tuesday to induct Logan Brown as a new member of the Club. He is keen to get involved in our activities and I have no doubt he will be a worthwhile addition to the Club's membership and to the Rotary organisation as a whole.</p> <p>Since the last Council meeting we have had the annual Duck Race and many thanks to Ciorsti and our group of members</p>

		<p>who organised what appears to have been a very successful fundraising activity. Even the weather on Saturday afternoon improved for us. Special thanks to Ronnie Forbes who excelled as Donald Duck. How did Walt Disney miss Ronnie!</p> <p>During the last few weeks we have welcomed back Mike Urwin and John Strettle who have been absent for various health reasons. Our best wishes to Mike and John.</p> <p>Ciorsti recently held a Zoom Presidents meeting for the Argyll area which was very informative. It was interesting to note as it seems membership is a recurrent issue.</p> <p>We now have Christmas to look forward to and plans are already being put together for a "Santa Dash" - this should be very interesting and possibly entertaining!</p> <p>The President added that he, Sarah, Steph and Ciorsti had that morning stewarded the Argyllshire Gathering car park without too much controversy (!) earning a relatively easy £200 for the Club.</p>																																																																		
2.3	Treasurer's update – Ronnie Forbes	<p>Charities</p> <table> <tr> <td>Last report 19/7</td><td>28,384.11</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Ducks receipts</td><td>6049.59</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Ducks prizes</td><td>- 450.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Ducks printing</td><td>- 62.40</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Charities day</td><td>35.55</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Pink Ladies</td><td>-250.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Summer Sensations</td><td>-200.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Brownies</td><td>-500.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Appin Skiff</td><td>-800.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>TLA Outward Bound</td><td>-2317.75</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Developing Potential</td><td>-2080.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>At 22/8</td><td>27809.10</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Ringfenced:</p> <table> <tr> <td>OLDS B/F</td><td>-2419.90</td><td>Dec</td></tr> <tr> <td>OLDS from Club</td><td>-500.00</td><td>Dec</td></tr> <tr> <td>St Columba's</td><td>-1470.00</td><td>Timing?</td></tr> </table> <p>Available 23419.20</p> <p>Club</p> <table> <tr> <td>Last report 19/7/26</td><td>2210.82</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Subs received</td><td>72.50</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Internal transfer</td><td>-35.55</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>District subs</td><td>-300.00</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Logan's badge</td><td>-13.75</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>At 22/8</td><td>1934.02</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Meals</p> <table> <tr> <td>Last report 19/7</td><td>1962.51</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Last report 19/7	28,384.11		Ducks receipts	6049.59		Ducks prizes	- 450.00		Ducks printing	- 62.40		Charities day	35.55		Pink Ladies	-250.00		Summer Sensations	-200.00		Brownies	-500.00		Appin Skiff	-800.00		TLA Outward Bound	-2317.75		Developing Potential	-2080.00		At 22/8	27809.10		OLDS B/F	-2419.90	Dec	OLDS from Club	-500.00	Dec	St Columba's	-1470.00	Timing?	Last report 19/7/26	2210.82		Subs received	72.50		Internal transfer	-35.55		District subs	-300.00		Logan's badge	-13.75		At 22/8	1934.02		Last report 19/7	1962.51	
Last report 19/7	28,384.11																																																																			
Ducks receipts	6049.59																																																																			
Ducks prizes	- 450.00																																																																			
Ducks printing	- 62.40																																																																			
Charities day	35.55																																																																			
Pink Ladies	-250.00																																																																			
Summer Sensations	-200.00																																																																			
Brownies	-500.00																																																																			
Appin Skiff	-800.00																																																																			
TLA Outward Bound	-2317.75																																																																			
Developing Potential	-2080.00																																																																			
At 22/8	27809.10																																																																			
OLDS B/F	-2419.90	Dec																																																																		
OLDS from Club	-500.00	Dec																																																																		
St Columba's	-1470.00	Timing?																																																																		
Last report 19/7/26	2210.82																																																																			
Subs received	72.50																																																																			
Internal transfer	-35.55																																																																			
District subs	-300.00																																																																			
Logan's badge	-13.75																																																																			
At 22/8	1934.02																																																																			
Last report 19/7	1962.51																																																																			

		<p>From members 1195.85</p> <p>Hotel -951.50</p> <p>Bank charges - 7.70</p> <p>22/8 2199.16</p> <p>Sports</p> <p>Last report 19/7 455.08</p> <p>Member pickleball receipts 33.60</p> <p>Courts -67.20</p> <p>22/8 421.48</p> <p>Council once again noted the large charitable account balance. For further discussion - see under AOB.</p>
2.4	Secretary's update – Sarah Jones	<p>New member admin completed and Club information provided. District News notified for welcome.</p> <p>Updated calendar for remainder of 2026 - attached</p> <p>Council's view is that we formally adopt a Club constitution – to agree any divergence from the Standard Club constitution. Need to set aside time to do this - at a separate meeting? There is no stand alone Club constitution – please see page 37 <i>et seq</i> of the attached latest GOVERNING DOCUMENTS in preparation. Agreed to hold separate discussion – see under AOB.</p> <p>Also for decision: does Council wish to re-structure Club organisation by event rather than committee/convenor? At the moment we have a mixture. Might also lead to Club constitutional amendments. See Annex for a draft list of 'our' events. Discuss in September? A new Club constitution could be put to members at the December SGM.</p> <p>Rotary Christmas Toy Box Appeal is an initiative made possible with the support of the charity Kids in Mind. For every £30 donation, a box of age and gender appropriate toys worth approximately £80 is provided to a child in a refuge. The launch event is on Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm. Does Council wish to nominate someone to find out how we can participate? Register to attend the live webinar by clicking HERE Agreed to seek Dot's views.</p> <p>World End Polio Day – 24th October . Campaign is “Walk a Mile to End Polio Now”. To be referred to International and Foundation Committee.</p>
3		FUNDING REQUESTS
3.1	C/f from July - Rockfield Primary P7 trip May 2027	<p>Council minded to support at July meeting – amount not specified. Council asked for more information. Now received: £22,120 in total = £553 per pupil atm depend on other fund-raising. Pupil Equity Fund supports families who cannot afford.</p> <p>Agreed two places = £1106</p>
3.2	Oban Oxygen Ltd (circulated)	<p>Supply of Face Masks for the administration of medical oxygen to replace unserviceable units - £500</p> <p>Supply and fit 3 hand dryers to aid compliance with hygiene requirements for service users - £1000</p> <p>Total requested: £1500</p> <p>Agreed £1000 for hand dryers only.</p>

3.3	Mòd Academy (circulated)	Help with funding for tutors to teach local children Gaelic and Gaelic singing as this is no longer a part of the Local Schools curricular. Agreed £1000.
3.4	Oban Inline-Roller Hockey Club (circulated)	£250 for training equipment. Agreed subject to further bona fides and details of club bank account.
3.5	Christmas Lights Appeal	Should the club contribute to the Oban Christmas Lights? Agreed in principle subject to further information and decision on an amount. Application form now issued.
3.6	Cameron Harris	Fund raising campaign “Before the Dark” to fund Cameron’s round the world Clipper experience. (Cameron is a previous Rotary Endeavour Award winner). Agreed to consider in context of partnership with the Sailing Club (see below) and their fund-raising. Steph to reply indicating support could be given through the sailing club. See also quiz night.
3.7	Shelterbox (Rotary supported charity) Nepal Flood Appeal	Council agreed in principle to donate. International Committee subsequently advised £612 – the cost of a shelter and kit.
4	NEW ITEM	FUNDING STRATEGY
		<p>Candidates for longer-term funding approach so far identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oban Otters swimming club • Link & Connect (Developing Potential) – Monday Lunch Club <p>pending meetings with them.</p> <p>Council to discuss criteria for more strategic funding decisions – may require time at separate meeting? See under AOB.</p>
5		CORRESPONDENCE
5.1	STV Appeal	Big Scottish Breakfast School Prize Draw – Steph has forward to OHS
5.2	Marie Curie	Every Step Matters walk 5 th September – to publicise with Sept calendar
6		COMMITTEE/EVENT REPORTS
6.1	Membership - President, Eddie Thornton	Need to set date to discuss format and funding for an event in the Autumn. ADG Ciorsti advised on applying for District funding. Secretary now established funding available under various headings – for further discussion and possible application - see under AOB
6.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	<p>The C&V committee have had a busy summer delivering various events.</p> <p>The Duck Race had another successful year with overall takings very similar to last year. The team are continuing to develop the Classic Car Tour for May 2027 and are currently seeking sponsorship. The President has agreed for 4 Rotarians to support the Argyllshire Gathering committee with stewarding at the disabled car park area and the Club will receive a donation of £200 from them. The Sailing Club of Oban have offered the opportunity to work in collaboration with the Club to develop a community event and discussions are ongoing with them. We are also exploring the possibility of organising a Charity Santa Dash in December. We will meet as a committee to discuss and plan the various festive events in the calendar.</p>

		<p>Sailing Club collaboration: Council heard a report of initial discussions. Joint commitments to existing and other events involving the bay and on the water could be mutually beneficial – with each organisation understanding more about each other’s skills, facilities and community activity.</p> <p>Santa Dash discussion: Agreed to explore other Rotary Club and town models to decide viability for 2026 and beyond. Part of Winter Festival but very much a Rotary event.</p> <p>Carol concert 2026: Lachie would lead with Peter to organise. Council agreed that it would be good to include an ensemble piece at the end of the concert to encourage families to stay to listen to all the performances until the end. Council also agreed to support the concert arrangements and content to evolve in future years to focus on its appeal to children and families. It was recognised that this would require further discussion with participants and contributors.</p>
6.3	Foundation & International - Ken Moncrieff & David Finlayson	Nothing to report but see Nepal disaster donation, above.
6.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	<p>Last year’s Bowling competition final won by Gordon and Lachie. President had drawn pairings and opening matches for this year’s competition. Hope to hold a pickleball competition over the winter.</p> <p>Council appointed Lachie to represent Rotary on a group at Atlantis Leisure looking at purchasing new pickleball nets.</p>
6.5	Youth Services – Peter Tosh	<p>Discussion of Oban High School relationship: Steph had been coaxing the school to formalise but new Head and start of term would delay anything concrete.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Peter would manage this year’s Young Musicians and Challenge Enterprise events – seeking the help of Alex in generating publicity and interest.</p> <p>Sarah offered to set out all the possible Rotary young people’s events with current Rotarian and school contacts.</p> <p>The Oban and Lochaber Teams and Leaders Course in October was well subscribed.</p>
6.6	PR & Reputation – Alex Burton	<p>In the past month the three new post were posted to the socials related to the Duck Race. Views on Instagram were 127, and we gained 5 new followers. The breakdown was 64.6% followers and 35.4% non-followers. On Facebook the content was viewed 27,127 times and we gained 10 followers. The viewership was 93% non-followers and 7% followers.</p> <p>A post for the super Duck winner should be arranged soon.</p>
6.7	Am-Am – Alan Hoar	Nothing to update at this stage.
6.8	OLDS – David Mudie	Monday 7 th December 2026
6.9	Laurinburg Students Exchange	Interviews for selection for 2027 due next week with Rotary involvement.
6.10	Safeguarding	Nothing specific to report
6.11	Storage and inventory	For decision: paying for storage; re-locating items and completing a Club inventory

7	CLUB EXPENDITURE	ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE
		<p>Possible items:</p> <p>Storage space – still being researched with the golf club</p> <p>New PVC banners for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the bridge at the Duck Race launch ○ Corran Halls roundabout <p>Signage for the gazebo</p> <p>Alan agreed to review condition and provide costs for any replacements or preferably repairs. Costs could be met from the charity account as direct costs of fund-raising activity.</p> <p>Mini-projector for speaker's presentations – agreed up to £150.</p>
8	SPEAKERS UPDATE	<p>Rosy Thomson - 1st September.</p> <p>Mark MacQueen – date tbc</p> <p>Oxygen Oban – date tbc</p>
9	DISTRICT UPDATE	<p>To note District calendar and when Club votes are required.</p> <p>The District Council meeting and AGM of the District Charity was held online on Saturday 22 August.</p> <p>In respect of the District Charity the accounts were approved and an annual report is available on the District website, in addition trustees, office bearers and the appointment of an independent examiner were approved.</p> <p>The District Council meeting was held thereafter and the DG introduced the development of a Membership and Finance Strategy in order to secure a consistent long term strategy. A realistic appraisal of the District is ongoing and the DG will continue to provide updates to Council.</p> <p>Planning has started for the President Elect training for next year and the intention is to invite other potential Club leaders to the event which will be run in conjunction with the District Assembly. A training needs analysis is ongoing and input is requested prior to 31 August.</p> <p>The District Conference is being held at the Alona Hotel, Strathclyde Park from Friday 13 to Saturday 15 November 2026. The DG is keen to welcome people who have not attended the Conference previously and therefore a delegate rate of £45 has been introduced for those members. The standard delegate rate is £70 with a day rate of £40.</p> <p>A quiz and meal is offered on Friday night at £21, with a Dinner Dance on Saturday night at £39. The hotel has also offered very reasonable rates for accommodation.</p> <p>Registration is now open to members. Ciorsti and Steph may attend.</p> <p>The International Convention is being held in Barcelona with an early bird rate of 595\$ available until 21 September.</p> <p>The next District Council meeting is 28 November at 1000 hrs online.</p> <p>Ciorsti requested better Club engagement with District especially at meetings when votes were required.</p> <p>She agreed to indicate when important District business was coming up to support President's involvement and Council discussion of any impending votes. Alternative was to mandate Ciorsti to vote on behalf of the Club.</p> <p>Secretary would continue to liaise with District on Club admin matters.</p>

10	ATTENDANCE REPORT for weekly lunch/dinner Ronnie Neill – Attendance Officer	<p>Month: July 2026 No of Meetings: 4 (including 2 informal lunches) Attendance Rate: 54.3%</p> <p>With the new informal lunch format where actual attendance is not recorded, these figures are based on apologies received for these meetings</p> <p>Should we drop this – given changes in rules, our move to informal lunches and our volunteering activity? Agreed to consider in context of Club constitution discussion.</p>
11	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	<p>Membership and recruitment, Club constitution, funding strategy and decision-management all required more fundamental discussion than time allowed this evening.</p> <p>President proposed an additional Council meeting to discuss these specific matters on 10th September.</p>
12	NEXT MEETING:	Thursday 1st October 6:30pm.

ANNEX

DRAFT – HELP WITH THIS PLEASE

Rotary Club of Oban – events

Month	Date in 2026/27	Event	Current lead(s)???
Spring		Classic Car Tour	Graham, Ciorsti, Jack
June		Am-Am Golf Tournament	Alan this year
June		Laurinburg /Oban High School Exchange	Steph, Ronnie
July		Duck Race	Alan, Ciorsti, Sarah
July		Raft Race	Ciorsti
July		Charities Day	Sarah this year
October		Oban and Lochaber Rotary Teams and Leaders Outward Bound course	Alan, Ronnie, Ciorsti
October/November		Thank you/recruitment event for sponsors??	Eddie
October/ November		District Enterprise Challenge??	Peter
November/December		Christmas Card competition	Steph?
November		Charter Dinner	Eddie
December		OLDS Christmas Lunch	Dave
December		Children's Carol Service	
		Young Environmentalist	
		Young Musician	
		Young Speaker	
		Young Photographer etc etc	
????		Endeavour Award	

Rotary Community support activity

November		Winter Festival Opening Parade	
November		Winter Woods stewarding	
November		Reindeer Parade and Rotary Christmas card competition winners	