Rotary Club of Oban

COUNCIL MINUTES	Thursday 18TH June 2026		6:30pm

		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. Apologies: Ex-Officio Ciorsti Baxter (ADG)
2	**CLUB BUSINESS**	
2.1	**Minutes & matters arising**	14th Minutes - Proposed: Peter Seconded: Alex
2.2	**President's update – Steph Lowe**	Congratulations to Alan Hoar and all those that contributed to another successful am-am. The weather certainly did add to the day but it didn't hinder the success of the day either. Thanks also to all those who gave prizes for the raffle and a big thankyou to Ciorsti and her "mini muggers" who were mainly responsible for the raffle raising in excess of £1900! Thanks also to those Rotarians who came along to the Young Speaker Competition held recently at the Royal Hotel. It was another entertaining evening with another bumper entry. The winner was Evan Campbell who spoke on the subject "Let's talk about war". Thanks to the judges for giving their time, Ciorsti for compering the evening and the Royal for providing the room and the refreshments.
2.3	**Treasurer's update – Ronnie Forbes**	**Budget 2026/27 – AGM approved subject to additional £15 on members' subs for Club contribution to Rotary Foundation. Council discussed this change on last year's policy which was to reduce subs to as low as possible to help recruitment.** **Agreed 2026/27 subs would therefore be £145 comprising contributions of £111 to RIBI, £19 to District and £15 for Foundation.** <u>Charities</u> Last report end April 15098.87 HIMDF - 535.00 End May 14563.87 Ringfenced: OLDS B/F -2419.90 Dec OLDS from Club -500.00 Dec FEIS - 500.00 Timing? St Columba's -1470.00 Timing? TLA -2317.75 pre 12/10 Summer Sensations - 200.00 23/7/26 Available 7156.22

		Club End May 469.51 No change since last report Meals Last report end April 1369.82 From members 1517.10 Bank charges - 14.90 End May 2872.02 Sports Last report end Apr 606.88 Member pickleball receipts 33.20 Atlantis courts - 33.60 Dunblane golf course - 185.00 End May 421.48 **Noted relatively large Charities Account balance. Ideas discussed for allocating to good causes included: Adventure Oban; Hope Kitchen and partners; a Rotary bench for the Marie Curie Field of Hope in Dunbeg; Oban Otters. Council members to identify and encourage organisations who could benefit to apply. Council did not believe the funding form was a major barrier but agreed that it would henceforth not be required for requests of up to £250.** **Dot requested consideration of Club match-funding for an open garden fundraiser for Oban RNLI.**
2.4	**Secretary's update – Sarah Jones**	**End-year Rotary business and prep for 2026/27** **Council agreed proposed move to issuing monthly calendar and newsletter from 1 July instead of weekly agenda**
3	**FUNDING REQUESTS**	
3.1	**Fiona Colquhoun, Hebridean Pursuits Outdoor Learning**	Support for 2026 Summer Sensations event which will be held on 6 & 7 August. Form requested. **Minded to agree once detail received.**
3.2	**Oban Otters swimming club**	Plan for Rotary Council members to meet leader with a view to discussing some longer term funding support.
3.3	**Rockfield Primary P7 trip May 2027**	Application form now received**. Council minded to support – amount for discussion at July Council meeting**.
3.4	**Appin Skiff Coastal Rowing Club**	Request for support for purchase of new lightweight oars @£1,700. Application form awaited.
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.**
5	**COMMITTEE UPDATES (full list for completeness)**	
5.1	**Membership - President Steph Lowe**	**Membership will be 24 going into 2026/27. Council reviewed the debate so far and decided to introduce the following changes from 1st July – the new Rotary year.**

		• **Retain current Club Lunch format on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month** • **Replace them with an informal pay-as-you-go Fellowship Lunch on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - also at the Royal Hotel. Non-members welcome.** • **In months with 5 Tuesdays consider making one lunch explicitly for partners too.** **This would all be on a trial basis and all subject to agreement with the hotel. President and Secretary to meet manager asap. Initial discussions had already revealed that declining attendance at Club lunches serving a choice of menu was bordering on not being worthwhile for the hotel.** **The President had made progress on formalising the relationship with Oban High School.** **Council agreed to hold an event – ideas tbc - for all our sponsors during 2026/27 to say thank you, promote what we do and entice corporate memberships. The Oban Times could also be invited.** **Dot requested promotion of the option of Direct Membership for members who had recently resigned from the Club.**
5.2	**Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter**	The C&V Committee met on Thursday 11 June mainly to discuss the route previously proposed for the **Classic Car Rally** in Oban next year. There is a requirement to review the route due to some concerns regarding safety, this is being done on Wednesday 24 June and an update and route decision will be made thereafter. The process of advertising and setting up the website can then begin in earnest. **The Raft race** is being held on Sunday 12 July and we would appreciate support from members to facilitate stewarding and support the registration at the event trailer. Charities Day is being held on Saturday 18 July and again support will be required. **Council agreed to a modest amount to fund purchase of suitable props for Charities Day.** The Duck Race will be held on Saturday 1 August and Duck selling will begin the week before, that's Friday 24 July. **The poster competition would be judged on 29th June by Alan and Sarah.** **Council noted the report.**
5.3	**Foundation & International - Ken Moncrieff & David Finlayson**	Nothing to report
5.4	**Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton**	Bowling now moved to 10am Wednesdays. Pickellball Fridays.
5.5	**Youth Services – Dot Dahl**	**Noted the success of the Young Speakers competition and thanked the President for his leading role. 5 schools participated and there were 18 entries.**

		Challenge Enterprise October 2026 – does Club want to sponsor participants this year? District speaker invited to 21st July lunch. Dot to invite relevant OHS teacher to attend. Council minded to sponsor 2 participants probably @ £200 – 300 each. **Young Musicians competition postponed to the Autumn due to lack of applicants for 23rd June.** **2026/27 Youth competitions – details shared with Peter as new Youth convenor.** **Ciorsti was considering participants who could benefit from the Outward Bound Summer Camp Golden Tickets.** **Selection for the Oban and Lochaber Rotary Teams & Leaders programme for October 2026 was in hand.**
5.6	**PR & Reputation – Alex Burton**	**In the last 28 days, on Facebook we had a whopping 39,433 views. We also added five new followers for a total of 185. On Instagram we had 362 views, added 8 followers for a total of 183. This traction was for posts announcing the AmAm, encouraging additional teams to reach out, a recognition of the young speakers competition, the AmAm, and announcing the Young Musicians Competition. We have entered the busy season and are getting the word out. While tracking followers, we are also reaching people who haven't added us yet, so the reach is wider than we think. For example, on Instagram the reel on the AmAm was viewed by 16 followers and 149 non followers. The posts were viewed by 117 followers and 80 non followers. In addition to social media we had great coverage from the Oban Times for the AmAm, big thanks to Alan Hoar for making it possible.** **In the next little bit another post for the Young Musicians will go up [now postponed], as well as promotion for the Raft Race. Thank you for the engagement from members of the club, this helps to spread the word.** **Council thanked Alex for generating additional engagement.** **Date tba for a meeting of 2 – 3 Council members with the Oban Times.**
5.7	**Am-Am – Alan Hoar**	**A full report will be circulated once the final fund-raising total including sponsors' contributions has been confirmed. Council agreed another excellent event which looks to be, once again, our largest fund-raiser.**
5.8	**OLDS – David Mudie**	**VP Eddie shared feedback from Dave:** **The Rotary club inherited a surplus of approx £6000 when it took over the management in about 2017. Since then, that has been reduced to an amount that will leave enough to cover the following year until now. The annual cost is about £2500/3000 depending on numbers.**

		The current balance of funds is £2900 including £500 from Rotary. We were expecting, and had been promised, £1000 from Bid4oban which now looks unlikely. **We are anticipating £1900 from the AM AM raffle and I have lodged a request to Scottish Sea Farms for £1250. If that is successful we should be able to go on to 2027 with confidence.** **The OLDS committee comprises Ciorsti, Peter T, Graham MacQueen, Iain MacIntyre and me. Douglas Small was a very useful member and I would hope to replace him.** **Council noted the satisfactory funding position and agreed to nominate a Rotarian to join the Committee to replace Douglas Small.**
5.9	**Laurinburg Students Exchange**	Laurinburg Exchange students to attend Rotary lunch on 23rd June. President and Treasurer to sit on next selection panel. **Discussion on whereabouts of the 'Oban Welcomes Laurinburg' banner.**
5.10	**Club Service – Eddie Thornton**	Nothing to report
5.11	**Safeguarding**	
5.12	**Inventory Controller – Iain MacKinnon**	Draft available – requires more content. For discussion when we have more time. **Golf Club have offered new on-site container to store Am-Am and other materials. Need to transfer stuff we want to keep and record on inventory.**
6	**SPEAKERS UPDATE Co-ordinator - Peter Tosh**	• Presidential handover, announcement of 2026/27 subs and new lunch schedule etc. – 30th June • Laurinburg Exchange students' lunch – 23rd June • Dot to invite Oban Nature Network - Rosy Thomson possibly for 4 August. • Request sent to Catriona Petit – Hope Kitchen Service Manager • Invited Challenge Enterprise to speak to us – confirmed for 21st July • HIDMF – Caroline may return to discuss Rotary longer term support • Ciorsti to ask Mark McQueen to speak to Club.
7	**DISTRICT UPDATE**	
8	**ATTENDANCE REPORT for weekly lunch/dinner Ronnie Neill – Attendance Officer**	Month: May 2026, No of Meetings: 4, Attendance Rate: 65.0% Members with 100% Attendance over the month: Lachie Beaton, Alex Burton, Davie Finlayson, Steph Lowe, Ken Moncrieff, Roger Parry, Jack Tollan
9	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**	
10	**NEXT MEETING:**	**Proposed date Thursday 23rd July 6:30pm**