Rotary Club of Oban

COUNCIL MINUTES	Thursday 1st October 2026		6:30pm

		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:** Ciorsti, Peter
2		**OFFICERS REPORTS**
2.1	**Minutes & matters arising**	27th August - Proposed: Alan Seconded: Alex
2.2	**President's update – Eddie Thornton**	At the beginning of this month I had the pleasure of attending the Senior Prizegiving at Oban High and presenting the Endeavour Award on behalf of the Club. The evening before the prizegiving I discovered that the recipient was my oldest grandson Ryan. He was chosen by the High School and not by the Club! I, along with Alan presented the first prize from the Duck Race to Fiona's Ark at Barcaldine. The actual winner was Oban Port Users who kindly nominated Fiona's Ark to receive the money. Alex was also present and took some photographs for publicity purposes. Disappointingly we received the resignation from the club of Ken Moncrieff. Ken was a former president and a long term member. He did not give any real reason for his resignation but I think it has been self evident for some time that Ken had not been happy with the way the club was moving forward and some recent decisions of the council. I acknowledged Ken's resignation and advised him of my disappointment and thanked him for his previous service to the club and to the local community. I am sad to note that Terry Macnair, also a former president and long term member recently passed away. A celebration of his life will be held on Monday and I intend to be present and I anticipate some other members will also wish to attend.
2.3	**Treasurer's update – Ronnie Forbes**	Please see separate attachment. **Council noted the report** **Agreed decision to allocate portion of Am-Am silent auction and raffle fund-raising to OLDS (£1900)**
2.4	**Secretary's update – Sarah Jones**	Good discussion with Oban Otters – see funding application. Researched and ordered mini-projector Added more detail to significant list of Club events including Young People's events and competitions (see Annex)
3		**FUNDING REQUESTS**
3.1	**Rotary Christmas Toybox Appeal**	**Agreed instead to donate £1,000 to HomeStart Lorn to buy toys for c100 children.**
3.2	**Oban Otters**	**Agreed to meet a portion of the request by donating £2,350 as 50% cost (shared with Dunoon) of required training for additional swimming coaches and venue hire.**

3.3	Oban and Lorn Rotary Teams and Leaders Programme 2027	**Agreed to support programme for 2027 - Loch Eil has provisionally booked TLA for 11 to 16 October 2027 – and pay the deposit of £872.**
3.4	Oban Festive Lights Appeal	**Agreed to donate £1512.96 requested (quote provided) to replace festive lights in Combie Street which are broken or past their best.**
3.5	Golf Club	**Agreed donation of £1,000 to Glencruitten Golf Club - Youth Section. And to purchase new Tee Caddies. Oban Rotary logo stickers would also be purchased from Print Mhor for the Caddies. £516.30 in total.**
4	**NEW ITEM**	**FUNDING STRATEGY**
	Funding sub-committee	Please see President's note of extra Council meeting on 10 September – Annex 2. **Approved new council sub-committee for dealing with reactive applications and to recommend proactive funding strategy. All recommendations to be approved by full Council. Subject to review as to whether this improves consideration and efficiency.**
5		**CORRESPONDENCE**
5.1	Thank you from donation recipients	Thanks received from Oban Mod, Oxygen Oban, Inline roller hockey, Shelterbox (Nepal), Rockfield Primary and the Pink Ladies and Appin Skiff Club.
6		**COMMITTEE/EVENT REPORTS**
6.1	Membership - President, Eddie Thornton	Please see President's note of extra Council meeting on 10 September. **Lachie had applied for District funding for membership recruitment activity including a thank-you-to-our-sponsors event.**
6.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	Sarah: Santa Dash (20th December) street collection approved by the Council. Awaiting street procession licence before further planning. Carol concert – 13th December 2026. Lachie leading. St Conan's Christmas Tree Festival 2026 **– agreed to participate again.**
6.3	Foundation & International - David Finlayson	**Enquiries being made about lighting up McCaig's Tower in purple to mark World End-Polio-Now Day on 24th October**.
6.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	**Annual Bonspiel participation if a team could be mustered. Potential social visit to Oban and Lorn Rugby Club on 24th October.**
6.5	Youth Services – Peter Tosh	The Rotary Young Musician of the Year is now scheduled for Wednesday 28th October at 6.30 pm. at Oban High School OHS has agreed to run the competition on our behalf and it is being led by Georgina Pryde-Firmin (Georgie) who has participated in YM in two of her previous Schools in conjunction with the Rotary The competition will be Juniors S1 - S3 Seniors S4 -S5 with there being a prize for both and as winner which is likely to be a senior going forward to the next heat. Georgie has at the moment 18 contestants 12 Junior 6 Senior They will all play just one piece which is within the guidelines required by the competition. I did suggest we could have a Trophy/Quaich for the winner or do we know if there is an existing trophy for this event?

		Steph agreed to review suitability of trophies stored in his garage. I also introduced myself to [new Head] David Mitchell and explained the competition to him and he will put it in their monthly newsletter also he will attend the event. - Peter Arrangements are underway for this year's Christmas Card competition, liaising with Steph and Logan (in anticipation of the latter taking it on next year). The invitation letter and competition details were sent to schools last Wednesday. - Alan Progress with Oban High School relationship List of all current and potential Young People's events (now attached) **Ronnie had attended an OHS focus group with partners. Agreed to support Teams and Leaders Programme 2027 (see above).**
6.6	**PR & Reputation – Alex Burton**	In the last month posts for the Young Musicians Competition, an Environment post highlighting iNaturalist, and a post promoting Adventure Oban. Instagram had 110 views and 2 new followers. Facebook had 6080 views and 4 new followers. A trip to Fiona's Ark was made to present the big check from the Super Duck winners. An article for the Oban Times **(confirmed 8th October edition)** and post for the socials are in the works. Another environment post is also pending.
67	**Am-Am – Alan Hoar**	See above – donation to Golf Club.
6.8	**OLDS – David Mudie**	Monday 7th December 2026
6.9	**Laurinburg Students Exchange**	**OHS Laurinburg committee were enthusiastic about the students participating in an outdoor weekend at Loch Eil possibly on the opening weekend. We will continue the discussion with OHS and extend to Laurinburg (school + Rotary) after the half-term break. Availability of the Centre and course costs (especially for the USA students who cannot access the UK bursary offsets) are the current issues.**
6.10	**Safeguarding**	Nothing specific to report
6.11	**Storage and inventory**	**President to find out status of rumoured new storage container at the golf club.**
7	**CLUB EXPENDITURE**	**ITEMS FOR POSSIBLE PURCHASE**
		Publicity banners for various events – condition and cost of any necessary replacements under review by Alan. Mini-projector for speaker's presentations purchased @ £132
8	**SPEAKERS UPDATE**	Mark McQueen – 6th Oct Oxygen Oban – 3rd Nov Restore, Catriona Petit – 17th Nov Oban charity FAIR – date tbc
9	**DISTRICT UPDATE**	Invitation received to nominate District Governor candidates for 2029/30 term.
10	**ATTENDANCE REPORT - Ronnie Neill – Attendance Officer**	

11	**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**	Preparations for Charter Dinner on 20/11 in hand. Christmas Lunch with partners – provisionally 15th December.
12	**NEXT MEETING:**	**Thursday 29th October 6:30pm.**

ANNEX

DRAFT WORK-IN-PROGRESS

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	10 – 16 October	Oban and Lochaber Rotary Teams and Leaders Outward Bound course	Alan, Ronnie, Ciorsti
October/November		Thank you/recruitment event for sponsors??	Eddie
November/December		Christmas Card competition	Steph and Logan
November		Charter Dinner	Eddie
December		OLDS Christmas Lunch	Dave
December	13 December 2026	Children's Carol Concert	
????		Endeavour Award	

Rotary Community support activity

November	13 November	Winter Festival Opening Parade	
November	TBA	Winter Woods stewarding	
November	28 November	Reindeer Parade and Rotary Christmas card competition winners	

Rotary Young People's events – current and potential

Event/ competition	Information	Dates and deadlines	Rotary lead	Contact
Oban and Lorn Teams and Leaders Award Programme	Takes place: 12 – 16 October 2026 Selection for 2027…		Ciorsti Ronnie	
District Challenge Enterprise	Takes place: Friday 30 October – Sunday 1 November 2026	Applications deadline 9 October 2026	Peter	

Laurinburg Students Exchange	12 students selected in September of the preceding year with Rotary involvement. Decision needed on offering Outward Bound input. Decision needed on format of engagement with with Rotary members.	Laurinburg -> Oban June 2027 Oban -> Laurinburg October 2026	Steph	
Schools Christmas Card competition			Steph	
Schools Duck Race Poster competition	Alan and Sarah have letters to schools on record.		Alan	
All Rotary young people's competitions at a glance, including:	https://rotarygbi.org/members/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Outline-of-2026-27-Rotary-Youth-Competitions-FINAL-v1.pdf	Non- face-to-face competitions : Deadline for Club ->District winners to national finals 30th April		
Young Artist	https://www.rotarygbi.org/projects/young-people/competitions/rotary-young-artist/			
Young Photographer	2026-26-Rotary-Young-Photographer-Information-Pack-v.1.pdf			
Young Writer	2026-27-Rotary-Young-Writer-Information-Pack-v.1.pdf			
Young Environmentalist	2026-27-Rotary-Young-Environmentalist-Pack-v1.pdf			
Young Musician	https://www.rotarygbi.org/media/2026/05/2026-27-Rotary-Young-Musician-Information-v1.0.pdf	Club -> District winners to National face-to-face competitions final: Saturday 24 April 2027	Peter	
Young Chef	2026-27-Rotary-Young-Chef-Information-Pack-v.1.pdf			
Young Citizen	2026-27-Rotary-Young-Citizen-Award-Information-v.1.pdf			
Youth Speaks - presentation	District decides to run. Not national			
Youth Speaks - debate	District decides to run. Not national			
Young Speaker	Club only???			

Annex 2 - Council Meeting 10 September

Present - Eddie Thornton, Steph Lowe, Peter Tosh, Lachie Beaton and Alex Burton

Apologies - Sarah Jones, Alan Hoar, Ronnie Forbes and Ciorsti Baxter

The President thanked those in attendance and also those Council members who could not attend but had contributed by email.

Membership

It was agreed that Lachie would apply to District for the offered grants in relation to all three categories. That there would be two social events for sponsors in the hope this might attract interest in membership. These would be held in early November, possibly one mid week and the other at the weekend. Venue possibly Sadie Hall and perhaps budgeting for 50 people at each event. Lachie would also take on the initial organisation of these social events but on the basis that at a later stage the other Council members would require to become involved.

As the Lions club does not seem to be currently operational there appears to be little point in seeking some form of cooperation with them. Insofar as the Inner Wheel is concerned the Council members whose wives are in the IW pointed out that it is primarily a social club with very little by way of fundraising activities. However it was felt that some ladies within the IW would be willing to assist at certain rotary events and it was agreed that the president would contact the president of the IW to see if there was any possibility of assistance should the Rotary club require this.

Funding Strategy and Decision Management

It was agreed that it would be worthwhile having a trial of a sub committee considering all funding applications and reporting a recommendation to the Council with considered reasons for the full Council's decision. This sub committee will consist of the president, SVP and treasurer and this sub committee should start as soon as practicable.

The consensus was that it was important that whilst the council should decide upon funding decisions, taking account of certain parameters ie non payment of wages, it was essential that the council had a flexibility and discretion.

Whilst deciding upon funding applications it was important for the council to consider the financial position of the applicant ie cash in hand and financial reserves including investments but also not losing sight of the role of the applicant in the community and the importance of that role. In certain situations the benefits of the latter could exceed the former.

The general view was that it would not be appropriate to nominate certain groups/charities for our main fundraisers ie the Am Am and the Duck Race but it would be well worth considering this for the somewhat smaller events such as the Raft Race and the proposed Santa Dash.

It was also felt sensible for the Council to try and take a more proactive attitude towards funding grants and such as Homestart, Restore and Crossroads were mentioned.

Constitution

It was agreed that this issue did not require urgent attention but was something to consider at a later date by the Council.

Meeting closed.