

**COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER
2025**

6pm

		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
2	CLUB BUSINESS	
2.1	Minutes & matters arising	24 th August Minutes - Proposed: Tommy McQuade Seconded: Alan Hoar
2.2	President's update – Steph Lowe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following our major fundraisers, Sheila and I attended Dot Dahl's open garden event at her home on Saturday 30th August. It was put on in aid of funds for "End Polio Now" which, as we all know, has been one of Rotary International's major causes for many years, and the event raised in excess of £450. So well done Dot for a very pleasant afternoon of fundraising. Our attention now turns to our various events over the next month. First, we have the Raft Race on the 20th of September, where the Rotary Club have stepped in to arrange the event, following a request from the Lions Club. Many thanks to Ciorsti for taking the event on, and can I ask that members please give generously of their time so we can ensure the event is a success. One other event to remind everyone of, is the Rotary West Coast Area Meeting which is to be held on Saturday 4th October 2025 at the Royal Hotel. I encourage all members to try and attend the event, which has an afternoon session with various speakers and an informal dinner at night. It is an excellent opportunity to meet other Rotarians from our area and make lasting friendships, please try and participate.
2.3	Treasurer's update - Ronnie Forbes	Ronnie is away on holiday. Council commented on several funding commitments with payment deferred to 2026 – Treasurer to note.
2.4	Secretary's update - Sarah Jones	Calendar 2025-26 now posted on the Club website in the members' section. Steady trickle of funding requests – all now asked to complete the standard application form. Welcome increase in number of speakers and guests so far this year plus planned social events. Three End-Polio-Now Teddy Bears purchased for future fund-raising events - at least one now ear-marked for next International Committee event. Agreed to post minutes on the website in the members' section and to publicise access.

3	FUNDING REQUESTS	
3.1	Fèis Latharna/Argyll Cèilidh Trail	Request for support for 2025/26 activities comprising 5 on-going projects: Saturday classes, Easter Fèis, Argyll Cèilidh Trail, Sunday Sessions, Snare Drumming. Agreed £500 to fund van etc for the Cèilidh trail in 2026. Therefore, payment would be deferred until nearer the time.
3.2	Park Primary School	P7 class residential trip. £960 requested to lower the cost or offer to cover the full amount for those children of families who struggle to afford it. Agreed £960 and to defer payment until nearer the trip.
3.3	End Polio Now	Request from Dot for the Club charitable account to add to the £630 already raised for End Polio Now from her 31 st August event. As there is match funding by the Gates Foundation, what we can contribute becomes very worthwhile. Agreed to match fund £630 from the Club. Thanks to Dot for another good fund-raiser.
4	CORRESPONDENCE	
4.1	Scottish SPCA	Request to come to a Rotary meeting to explain their work. Secretary to reply – thanks but not worthwhile as members already familiar with SSPCA's work and Club doesn't generally donate to well-established national charities.
4.2	Georgia Rotary Student Program	Expression of interest from a pupil at Oban High School (see below).
4.3	Am-Am beneficiaries	Lovely thank you card received from friendship clubs supported with monies raised from the Am-Am.
5	COMMITTEE UPDATES (full list for completeness)	
5.1	Membership - President Steph Lowe	Membership Committee working on plans to engage sponsors. President and Secretary to meet Rotary Endeavour prize winner from Oban High School who had expressed interest in learning more about Rotary.
5.2	Community & Vocational – Ciorsti Baxter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Duck Race final amount will formally be reported by the treasurer. The Raft Race organisation is well underway with a total of 22 teams having been provided with the race documentation. Thanks to those Rotarians who have offered to assist, there will be a detailed briefing at 1200 hrs at the Event trailer which will be parked on George Street. Initial plans have commenced in regards the Annual Carol Concert.
5.3	Foundation & International - Ken Oxland & David Finlayson	Due to a clash of dates, the event at Olive Garden has been cancelled. An event will be held for International and Foundation in the new year.
5.4	Sports & Social – Lachie Beaton	Unfortunately, we have been unable to hold the Clay Pigeon Shoot because the venue at North Connel has been closed. We have a possible contact for a different club and are looking into a possible change of venue. We have 14 names, out of a possible 20, for the Afternoon Tea in the Manor House on 23 October. You need to contact Lachie soon if you want to attend.

		<p>The semi-finals of the Bowling are to be held next Tuesday, the 16th, and we will advise when the final will take place. We are looking at putting a team in for the annual Rotary Bonspiel in Perth on 18 February 2026.</p> <p>There is no update, as yet, on the proposed Curry lunch but we will let you know.</p>
5.5	Youth Services – Dot Dahl	<p>Georgia (USA) Rotary Student Programme: An expression of interest has been received from an Oban High School student. This is being followed up.</p> <p>Update: exploring options on date for initial SAT test and deadlines as may clash with when the potential candidate is in Laurinburg.</p> <p>Young Chef: Local heat to take place on October 30th at Oban High School, with judges Colin Felgate (The Olive Garden), Steph Lowe and Peter Bain (or his nominee). Many thanks to Alan Hoar for pursuing this and making all the arrangements.</p> <p>Oban and Lochaber Youth Leadership Programme: There is a potential participant from Tobermory High School - thank you to Alan for providing a very useful staff contact. Programme runs from 6th October for 5 days. One participant from Scotland's Young Police Volunteers.</p> <p>Discussion of frequency of Young Musician competition and possible Young Photographer competition.</p> <p>Discussion of Young Citizen award – Alex to publicise.</p> <p>Deadline is 6th January.</p> <p>Discussion of Christmas card competition, theme 'the night before Christmas', dates and deadlines.</p>
5.6	PR & Reputation – Alex Burton	<p>A busy few weeks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 19 had 5150 views of Rotary content on Facebook thanks to the piece in the Oban times on the Duck Race. I'm getting my bearings on how to use Facebook/Instagram to our advantage. The last month has added 20 new followers on FB and has had engagement from 1.7k. • A message came through Facebook from Cameron James Harris a former pupil at OHS who received the Rotary Endeavour award, and is interested in how he can become involved with the Rotary. His contact detail have been passed to the Secretary and President for further follow up. • On Instagram we have 14 posts and 100 followers. Many are Rotary Groups around the world. Between both platforms posts have been made for The Raft Race, GRSP Scholarship, Super Duck Prize giving, visiting Rotarians and Speaker from Guernsey, Challenge Enterprise, and the Open Garden for End Polio Now. • Thanks to the team at MacQueen Brothers, the Raft Race has had a great deal of exposure through the Oban times, Facebook and Nevis Radio. • Jack Tollan has made some changes to the Website that he would like the Council to review and approve. A demonstration will be available at the council meeting. <p>Council thanked Jack for his changes to improve the look and feel of the website and agreed to ask him to discuss in more detail. Agreed to post Council minutes in the members' section.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President's books from Ken Oxland have been shared with me so that I have pick and potentially share historical pieces via our social media. I hope to repeat this process with any other previous Presidents as well as any photos or memories other members may have. A check presentation needs to be arranged for the gift to the Golf Club. <p>Council thanked Alex for her continuing work.</p>
5.7	Am-Am – Alan Hoar	Nothing to report
5.8	OLDS – David Mudie	Reminder that the date is 1 st December 2025
5.9	Club Service – Eddie Thornton	Nothing to report
5.10	Safeguarding – Douglas Small	(District Safeguarding event online – 21st September.)
5.11	Inventory Controller – Iin MacKinnon	Date to be set to review golf club store.
6	SPEAKERS UPDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham MacQueen – 23rd September lunch – to speak about the upcoming Oban Humanitarian Fundraising Dinner for MAP – Medical Aid for Palestinians. Dot to consult Moira Newiss on an evening meeting date to speak about her work in health and nutrition. Hopefully, the first evening one on 7th October. Lorne MacLeod to be approached – by Tommy - as a possible speaker on his work in community development and land reform (as well as a potential new member of the Club). Speaker from Global Sight Solutions confirmed for 4th November.
7	DISTRICT UPDATE	West Coast Area Gathering planned for Saturday 4 October 2025.
8	ATTENDANCE REPORT	August and September will be reported together in October.
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JVP Alan proposed a three course Christmas lunch (instead of 2) on 16th December (12:15 for 12:30). Agreed to ask diners to cover additional cost.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible additional Christmas evening social to be discussed with Lachie. President Steph floated a possible Rotary contribution to public realm improvements at Pulpit Hill View. The area was currently poorly maintained and in need of fresh paving/slabs etc. Steph and Tommy to reccy and consider cost.
10	NEXT MEETING:	Thursday 16th October 6pm