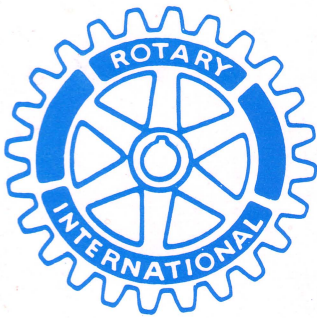


# Service **AND** Fellowship

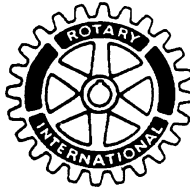
**Gaborone  
Rotary Club**



**25**  
*Year*

**The First Twenty-five Years of the  
Rotary Club of Gaborone**

**Mike Lakin**



## THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

Is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster.

- **FIRST**

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

- **SECOND**

High ethical standards in business and professions: the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

- **THIRD**

The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;

- **FOURTH**

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

## **Foreword**

It is a privilege and a delight to be asked to submit this foreword for “**Service and Fellowship**”, the record of the history, achievements and personalities of the Rotary Club of Gaborone.

Although the Club is new to the Rotary District 9250, we were very pleased when they joined the other countries of the District (Swaziland, Mozambique and the Northern, North Western, Mpumulanga and part of Gauteng Provinces of South Africa) on 1 July 1996.

We were even more pleased when this bonding was cemented by the election of a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Gaborone, Reg Loo, as the District Governor of D 9250 for the Rotary Year 1997/1998.

As revealed in these pages the Rotarians of this Club have rendered a service to the communities of Gaborone, Botswana and, indeed, the world and have exemplified the concept of Service above Self. These pages will illuminate both the deeds and personalities that have made the world a better place.

Furthermore, this service has clearly been rendered with a light touch and with the joy of achievement in the company of like-minded people.

The achievements of the Rotary Club of Gaborone during the past twenty-five years augur well for the next quarter of a century and those that will follow them.

The Rotary Theme for this year is **Build the Future with Action and Vision**. I truly believe that the Rotarians of Gaborone have manifestly been so doing for twenty-five years.

Mark Doyle  
District Governor D 9250  
1996/1997

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## **A brief recent History of Botswana and its economy**

The Republic of Botswana gained independence from Britain on 30 September 1966 and entered statehood in the midst of a devastating drought as one of the poorest countries in the world. Botswana is about the size of France or Texas and is bounded on the south and east by South Africa, to the west and north by Namibia, to the north east by Zimbabwe and shares a tiny border with Zambia to the north. Botswana sits in the southern African plateau at an average of 1000 metres, straddling the Tropic of Capricorn.

Only some 3% of the country is considered suitable for arable farming, with some 85% of the country covered by Kalahari sands resulting in a generally flat and featureless thirstland with no permanent surface water. However, this grassland savannah provides excellent grazing to both wildlife and domestic stock if properly managed. The whole exception to the thirstland concept is the vast 15000 square kilometre Okavango Delta where the third largest river, by volume, in southern Africa spills out into a vast inland sea of vegetation and bio-diversity, never to reach the ocean. This "jewel of the Kalahari" and the surrounding savannah support the largest remaining diverse herds of plains game in Africa.

During the colonial rush of the 19th century the land that was first called Bechuanaland and eventually Botswana, was considered of little importance, valuable only as a pawn for northern expansion of the British to the mineral riches of central southern Africa and the dream of a Cape to Cairo swath of territory and as a means to thwart Boer encroachment from the southeast and German expansion from the west. Both to counter these perceived threats and as a result of pleas to Queen Victoria by the chiefs of the area, a British "Protectorate" was declared in 1885.

In 1966, Botswana had only some 450 thousand people, giving it the second lowest population density, after Outer Mongolia, in the world. But it did have some 2 million cattle, largely grazing on open rangeland. By 1996 the human population had grown to over 1.5 million people, giving Botswana one of the highest growth rates in the world, though this growth rate appears to have declined slightly recently due to the acceptance of family planning. At Independence, over 95% of the population was rural, existing off livestock rearing and limited arable farming, both of which were constantly battling against regular, cyclical drought periods. Migrant labour to the mines and industries of South Africa was institutionalised by the colonial government as Hut Tax had to be paid in cash and migrant labour was the only mass means of realising cash.

In the mid 1960's conventional wisdom was that Botswana would remain poor and dependent on a British grant to even balance its recurrent budget for the indefinite future. Mineral discoveries transformed the nation. First there was copper-nickel at Selebi-Phikwe. More importantly, though at the time it was completely

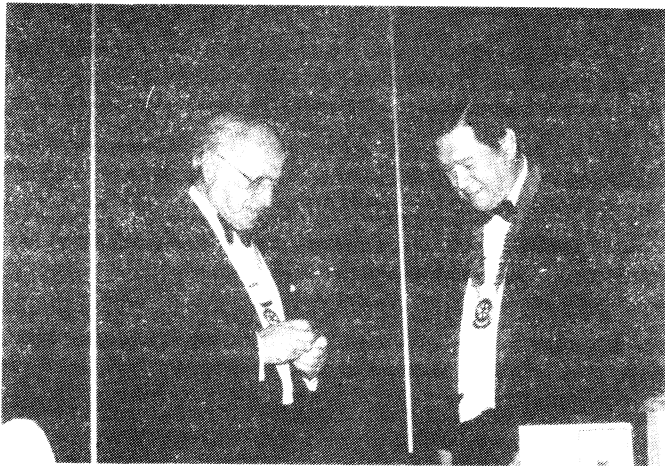
misjudged by the government and its advisors, was the discovery of the exceedingly large and rich kimberlite diamond pipe at Orapa by De Beers. While the copper-nickel mine has never been able to re-pay its debts, Orapa, and subsequently Jwaneng, are the two lowest cost diamond producers in the world and jointly have a very high average grade. Today, by value, Botswana is the second largest producer, supplying 25% of the world market through its joint venture company, Debswana, with De Beers Centenary. Indicative of the vital importance of this joint venture to both parties and the world diamond market are the facts that the Botswana Government has two Directors on the main De Beers Board and hold over 50% of the publicly traded shares of De Beers.

Many countries have squandered the proceeds from a mineral bonanza. Botswana has not. Starting from a situation of only three secondary schools and two government hospitals in 1965, Botswana has constructed a social service infrastructure that has resulted in 85% of children now completing 10 years of education; 90% of the population being within 15 kilometres of a health facility and 85% of the population having access to a safe water supply. Urban settlement now includes 27% of the population and the general levels of service infrastructure are considered the best on the African continent. In 1966 there were only 12 kilometres of tarred road in the country. Currently there are 4800 kilometres of tarred roads and about the same for engineered gravel or earth roads. On all of the composite indicators constructed by various international organisations, Botswana ranks at or near the top for Africa and many other developing areas.

The above successes over the last thirty years have not been achieved by an authoritarian regime through a command economy as has been the case with many of the South East Asian "tiger" economies. Quite the contrary. Botswana has been a vigorous, practising democracy since the free and fair elections at Independence. Fully contested elections have been held every five years since. There has been a continuously functioning system of sub national government since 1965 comprising four types of local authorities reflecting a "checks and balances" approach also found at the national level. Pluralism is increasing with six of fifteen local authorities being governed by "opposition" parties. While the result of the 1994 elections only gave the opposition less than a third of the seats in the National Assembly, many seats were very closely contested.

Botswana prides itself on being a non-racial (as contrasted with a "multi-racial") state. The development of civil society institutions, including Rotary, is robust and expanding. Hints of corruption and a lack of transparency did arise in the early 1990's but there was a strong, society driven revulsion at this trend and the issues are being addressed forthrightly. Human rights are enshrined in the Constitution. By fully independent, international assessment, Botswana has had an unblemished record in the sphere of human rights. In terms of gender issues Botswana is currently ranked as the second best in Africa, though much remains to be done in this regard.

Botswana was called an island of rationality in a sea of destruction and racism during the '60's, '70's and '80's. Given the current peace, Botswana must now adjust to a new era and forthcoming century of increased competition, increased population and the need for a more productive and modern workforce and society based on sustainable human development that strikes an appropriate balance between people, resources and the environment in which they must co-exist, both in the present and the future.



*History in the making*

## Introduction

### Rotary at Work

It is February 22nd, 1989 in PG Industries' boardroom in extension six (industrial area) Gaborone. It's nearly lunch time as I sit alone, having arrived early to talk business other than "Rotary Walk", and admiring the spread of snacks, cokes and coffee laid out on the boardroom table when the familiar tall form of fellow Rotarian Dick Bellamy walked in and slumped in the chair which was rightly his at the top of the impressive table. Rubbing his hand over his face in general and his tired eyes in particular he exclaimed: "You know my friend Lakin — its the same every year" in his deep and likeable North Country accent which had been with him for over fifty years. Before he could go on I interjected with a Dylan Thomas quote which followed those very words: "but this year it's different" I 'sang' in a Welsh accent I inherited but didn't often use having been away from the slate and coal for over thirty years.

"You're right Boyo" he said mimicking my sing song Cambrian — "this year the **President of Botswana** is walking!"

The PG boardroom slowly filled with fellow Rotarians — all dedicated to make this the sixth Rotary Walk of Gaborone the best ever in fellowship and financial gain. So almost as expected the business I had to discuss with Dick was to be shelved to at least after the Walk meeting.

Bill Phillips came in mumbling about why we couldn't or shouldn't support Cheshire Homes. John Roberts an American diplomat showed face and President of the Club. David Mathews Principal of Maru-a-Pula School stopped in and immediately remarked on the wonderful spread of sandwiches that stood before us. We were joined by John Ballard another principal — of the Polytech, and stalwart Rotarian Colin Dixon-Warren Government Chief Quantity Surveyor. "Sorry I'm late" said Barry Evans who wasn't, as he walked in — he just said that because he thought he was last, but he wasn't last either because hobbling in close behind him was Barry Eustace not a Rotarian but an invitee, because he was the force behind the Cheshire Homes Rehabilitation Centre, which was gunning for the main proceeds from the 1989 Rotary Walk.

This was the Rotary Club of Gaborone in action in typical fashion — two single shields or one big one, marketing, a date to suit the President, posters, the side-line money raiser — the Raffle, these and other items came up under the Chairmanship of Big Richard who managed to clear the boardroom of committee members, coffee and snacks by 1.50pm.

Dick Bellamy had convened the Walk two years earlier and continually used his "Post Mortem" notes regarding previous experience but this year's walk was to be



special. In 1985 the Walk raised fifteen thousand Pula\*. In 1986 - P15000: 1987 - P21000 and 1988 - P30000.'

The same venue was used for many more meetings before the Walk held in May, and at least once after that Convenor Dick and his worthy Treasurer Rod Wyer were able to announce that "this year's Walk had made approximately Two hundred and forty thousand Pula, ten percent of which was earmarked for Rotary Foundation and half of the remainder to Cheshire Homes, Gaborone. All the effort and enthusiasm had paid off and the participation of President Masire made it a real financial winner.

At that point in time the Rotary Club of Gaborone had been in action for seventeen years and although the 1989 Sponsored Walk was a fundraising triumph the



## Masire walks for the needy

By Marx Garekwe

Hundreds of people joined the President, Dr Quett Masire, in the Rotary Club 20 kilometre charity walk on Saturday morning.

The President took three hours 38 minutes to finish the walk.

The sponsored walk, organised by the Gaborone Rotary Club and the Cheshire Foundation of Botswana, raised P279 000 which will be distributed to a number of charitable organisations to help the needy and handicapped people.

According to the coordinator of the walk, Mr Richard Bellamy, over 1 621 people took part in the walk.

After getting to the finishing point where he was thronged by hundreds of people who wanted his autograph, the President thanked them for turning out in big numbers.

"It is a momentous occasion when we come together like this and do a piece of work for the help of other people who may not be as privileged as we are to be in good health and to be able to do things for themselves," he said.

He said it is an encouragement to charitable organisations to see

people

coming in such big numbers to support their events.

"What has encouraged me all the more is that in team-crowd we have six blind people from Pudulogo Rehabilitation Centre," he said.

He said this was a source of encouragement for other physically handicapped people who might think their future doomed because of the disability.

It is a sign of self-reliance for people to support events like this walk, he said, adding: "Unless we are self-reliant we cannot achieve much."

The President who was still looking fit for another 20 kilometres, told participants of the walk to turn out in good numbers again next year.

"Go and do exercises so that next year we can take a longer walk," he said, adding that that way sponsor will give more money.

He thanked the Rotary Club for their work of helping charitable organisations.

He received a cheque for P25 000 from the Kalahari Management Trust and another one for P50 000 from Debswana, for the sponsored walk.

He also expressed gratitude to non-governmental organisations for contributing towards the walk, saying. Their material and human resources are given in a voluntary spirit.

Thanking Dr Masire, the president of Rotary Club, Mr David Matthews, said Botswana is a unique country with a very special president.

The walk was a fantastic success because it raised the record amount ever raised by the Rotary Club in its fund raising activities of this nature in Botswana, he said.

Mr Matthews said the money raised will be distributed in the most possible advantageous way to charitable organisations.

He also thanked walkers for having supported the Club in their endeavours.

Everyone who walked today carried the same message the President has given to us he said.

Also thanking the President was the Chairman of Cheshire Foundation of Botswana Mr William Lee, who said it was a memorable and special day

for the President to have

taken part in the walk.

He read the President a note of thanks from the founder of his organisation. Mr Lee Cheshire, in London.

"This is truly a magnificent gesture and to my knowledge has never been done by a Head of State anywhere in the world before," reads the letter.

Cheshire Foundation of Botswana is one beneficiary of the proceeds of the walk.

Other organisations to benefit from this include Ramotswa School for the Deaf, the Deborah Rutief Memorial Hospital in Mochudi, Pudulogong Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind, also in Mochudi, and Rankoromane Camphill in Otse.

The walk which took place in the north west to the north eastern side of the City divided into ten check points.

The fastest walker took one hour 15 minutes to finish

**BOPA**

*President Masire's charity walk makes headlines for Gaborone Rotary*

*'Pula is the currency (since 1976) of Botswana, equivalent today (1997) to 1.25 Rand, and about 5.80 to the Pound Sterling. In Setswana "Pula" means rain and is therefore the national salute of Botswana for more reasons than one!*

Club had been carrying out many lower profile and less ambitious projects and, as we shall discuss later, the raising of funds has been one of its main activities. Spending on the Community has also played a varied and vigorous part as regards the commitment of the members.

Similar enthusiasm must have been shown way back in 1971 when two men happened to meet and chat at the Queen's Birthday celebrations held at Westminster House, the home of the British High Commissioner.

Dr Xavier De Iriarte and Ray Wastell had presumably been Rotarians somewhere before, and their social discussion on that bright 21st April resolved they should further explore the possibility of forming a Rotary Club in Gaborone. Contact was made with Rotary International and Abe Galaun, Past President of the Rotary Club of Lusaka, was nominated by the District Governor of District 225 to look into the matter and Abe visited Gaborone in July 1971. Information available to us is that a decision was taken on that visit to form the Club and it was to be sponsored and extended to by the Rotary Club of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

The Charter of the Club was granted on the 16th January 1972 and the Charter Dinner was held at the President Hotel on the 26th May 1972.

## **The Present Publication**

My present Rotary friends have been "pulling my leg" for two years at least saying that this "History" will never be finalised. I can state firmly now that though their comments are typically Rotarian (in that they are almost critical but also friendly) they are correct!. In researching the contents of this document every time I have made new discoveries I have made new contacts who in turn give me new contacts and therefore new discoveries, and to date what I've opted to do, especially with the twenty-fifth anniversary looming upon us, is to produce this factual yet incomplete review of the Club's background whilst making ongoing research as a base for a future more concise work on the History of the first 25 years.

## **Acknowledgements**

In the meantime I must acknowledge those who have helped so far. PDG Abe Galaun, who I happened to know and served with in my time in Zambia on the Agricultural Society of Zambia but I was not even a Round Tabler let alone a Rotarian then! Abe has provided lots of information through letters to me and Past Secretary Peter Hare and through personal contact at various 9210 District conferences. DG Elect at the time of writing, Reg Loo helped sift through old records and minutes as did PP Irwin Tellis. Chris Sharp was consulted on the history of Botswana and the Rotary connection, and Polio Plus. I must include PP Andy Flanagan for his input on the DRMH project and thanks are due to Mrs Lesley McCrory the Founder President of the Inner Wheel of Gaborone for submitting the

section on the Ladies' involvement. By no means last, long standing friend and former Round Table colleague and present DG Mark Doyle.

I would like to acknowledge Rotarian and Attorney Edward Fashole — Luke II for allowing me to use the words “illustrious” and “hear hear”!

Mrs Joyce Wesson has done all the hard work as regards typing and setting of the original discourse and her advice on the whole concept has been helpful.

The Revered Rotarian Derek Jones and his team have done a splendid job in getting the publishing done well and on time. A special note of thanks to Dolly Koogane.

Club Services Chairman 1996-97 Rtn Barry Evans who also happens to be very involved with the 25th Anniversary has shown patience and help in putting this work together, and long standing friend Rtn Bob Matthews has helped in “auditing” the text to make sure the “bottom line” is acceptable to all concerned including Directors and Shareholders ie the executives — past and present, and the Readers.

To all these and others who have shown interest in this project and patience in my involvement including my colleagues at work and home in general, and my dear wife Elsie in particular, I say a big thank you for bearing with me and for their help and patience.

There are a few other Rotarians who have encouraged me to write this publication — too many to list here but I thank them. Not least of these there is my good friend, fellow 41-er and current President of the Club, John McCrory. John coerced, bludgeoned and cajoled me to get the work finished, so all I can say is without John's help and persuasion my job would have been easier, but the result far less satisfactory! I'm sure we are all grateful to John — he has had a great term of office as President in the Club's twenty-fifth year.

I dedicate my efforts in compiling this little publication to ALL past presidents of the Rotary Club of Gaborone — their input, their achievements and their inspiration in acquiring the respect and following of their individual Rotary members who have played a vital part in the success story of the Club's first twenty five years.

## **The world around us — 1971-72**

The seeds sown by Rtn Westall and Iriarte obviously germinated as the Charter of the new Rotary Club followed within 8 months, and the Charter Dinner just over one year after their first discussion. I feel it appropriate now, in order to slot into the reader's mind as regards time what were the happenings going on in the country, the region and the international community etc at the time of the formation of the Rotary club of Gaborone — in late 1971 and early 1972. Hopefully by these reminders the reader will relate to the period when this illustrious club was undergoing its apprenticeship.

It could be said that the April 1971 meeting between the two founders was the essence of the history of the Club indeed it was the beginning of another era: in May 1971 the first heavy ungainly shape of the American Boeing 747 jet liner — the jumbo jet, landed in London — the purchase of it by British Airways marked the coming of the Jumbo Jet era.

The day before Rotarians Westall and Iriarte met, the IRA claimed it caused the explosion which sank a royal Navy launch in Baltimore harbour; the day after their meeting at the Westminster House garden party, President Vorster of South Africa announced his government would allow mixed race sport at international level. On the very day of the founders meeting Haitian dictator Dr Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier died.

The fashions of the day overseas included hot pants, and in May 1971 Mick Jagger married Bianca in St Tropez in the French Riviera. Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar opened on Broadway.

Later in 1971 on the international and diplomatic scene, Austrian Kurt Waldheim succeeded U Thant as UN Secretary General and in North Africa in May 1971 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced that he had defeated an attempted coup to overthrow him. Closer to home Prime Minister Milton Obote was ousted by Idi Amin Dada in Uganda, and the Congo was renamed Zaire.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) lost its United Nations seat, and the People's Republic of China was admitted; meanwhile on 31 July 1971 very far from home, James Irwin and David Scott of Apollo 15 fame became the first to drive on the moon in the famed "moon buggy".

The jazz legend Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong died aged 71 on the 6 July, and four days before another legend — tennis' surprise of the year Evonne Goolagong a 19 year old half-aboriginal had beaten Margaret Court in straight sets at the Wimbledon Women's Singles final.

In the same formation year — 1971-2 other events which may jog the reader's memory included increased confrontation in Northern Ireland aimed at disunity of the United Kingdom, meanwhile the Commons voted to join the European Eco-

nomic Union. Mrs Gandhi had her time cut out dealing with the border problems between India and Pakistan and close to home Rhodesian Prime Minister, Ian Smith signed an agreement with British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home to pave the way to legal independence.

Charter was granted to the Rotary Club of Gaborone on 16 January 1972. In that month fire raged on the liner Queen Elizabeth by then a floating university — in Hong Kong Harbour, the ship, a former symbol of Britain's maritime glory and the pride of the Cunard fleet. King Frederick IX of Denmark died, Moscow recognised Bangladesh as a separate nation and the world's first kidney and pancreatic tissue transplant took place in London.

As prospective Rotarians of the new Club of Gaborone members approached their celebration dinner they were plied with news of disaster and confrontation from various international destinations, Ulster had suffered their "Bloody Sunday" on 30th January, President Nixon of USA authorised increased armaments be sent to North Vietnam, and an assassination attempt on the life of segregationist Governor of Alabama, George Wallace took place on 16 May in Maryland. On happier notes a couple, John Fairfax and girlfriend Sylvia Cook, landed safe and well on Hayman Island off Australia's Queensland coast having rowed across the Pacific from San Francisco!

Any Scotsmen attending the Charter Dinner on 26 May would have been in good spirits knowing that two nights earlier Glasgow Rangers had achieved their first major European honour by beating Moscow Dynamo in the Cup Winners' Cup.

When the Rotary Club of Gaborone celebrated its Charter its first President was Xavier De Iriarte, a doctor. At that time the Rotary movement was already 67 years old having been formed in February 1905 in Chicago, Illinois. Rotary had been in Africa for 51 years — the first African Club — Johannesburg had been chartered in April 1921.

In the Rotary year 1971-2 there were 15890 Clubs existing worldwide with 706,372 members. The President of Rotary International was Ernest G Breitholtz from Kalmar, Sweden and his theme was GOOD WILL BEGINS WITH YOU. The Annual Rotary International conference held two weeks after Gaborone's charter was in Houston, Texas and there were 13,287 registrants. (Houston would have been a good place for a conference as I understood from a personal communication some years back that the Rotary Club of Houston has the biggest membership in the world - over 800; though I have no knowledge of their number in 1972 — and regrettably no knowledge of whether or not our club was represented there).

In the Rotary year 1971-72 Rotary Foundation contributions were US\$3,454,837 and some 315 Foundation Projects were funded worldwide. According to the "Historical Review of Rotary" there were two new countries added to the World of Rotary in 1971-72 — Botswana and New Hebrides (Port Villa). One other historic

event mentioned is the fact that in the year of our Charter the Council on Legislation constituted for the first time the legislative body of Rotary International.

GENERAL MOTORS AUTHORISED OPEL AND ISUZU DEALERS  
also BEDFORD & CHEVROLET SERVICE & SPARES



2nd August, 1983.

## **NOTWANE MOTORS (Pty)Ltd.**

P O BOX 684 SHOWGROUNDS MACHEL DRIVE GABORONE BOTSWANA TELEPHONE 52391/2

S. H. Youthed Esq.,  
Gaborone.

Dear Syd,

I know you are a member of Rotary and wonder if you would like to have your people consider a proposition on the following lines.

During the month of, say, December 1983, we will donate to Rotary the sum of P25.00 for each new vehicle we sell plus an addition of P25.00 if the customer is introduced to us by a member of Rotary.

The donation made to Rotary would be used by them for a purpose of their choice.

Yours faithfully,

C.M. Armstrong.

DIRECTORS C. M. ARMSTRONG (Managing) B. P. BAGWASI S. T. KETLOGETSWE S. H. YOUTHED M.B.E.

*This letter illustrated a novel proposal concerning fund-raising in 1983.*

## Early days — A positive Approach

P.D.G. Abe Galaun in recent correspondence to me states that with the formation of the Gaborone Club a new country was added to Rotary International — the 150th. The new Rotary Club was placed in District 225 and the District Governor of District 220 in 1971 was Richard Howie of Lusaka — the same club as Abe. The request to investigate the possibility of starting a Rotary Club in Gaborone came from the Bulawayo Club who were presumably then in the other district, (225)

Abe, who became District Governor himself many years later — 1987 — by which time we were part of District 921, recalls the great enthusiasm and cooperation received from its Charter members having presided at luncheon meetings when it was a “club in formation”. Quite a way to come for lunch! — but that is illustrative of Abe’s dedication.

Even Abe cannot confirm which Rotary Club was our actual sponsor club and my attempts to query Bulawayo on the matter have so far not been fruitful. We do know that it was not Mafikeng nor Lusaka, two prominent clubs at the time.

The first minutes of Board Meetings were dated 17 May 1972 — only nine days before the Charter Dinner. There had obviously been board meetings before this — there are indeed four or five blank pages before the 17 May in the “Guard”

*Most instrumental in the formation of Gaborone Rotary Club was Abe Galaun (centre) Reg Loo was a charter member. Fifteen years later as it happened, Abe was DG when Reg was President - in 1987.*



Book.

Those present should have included four Directors — ie each Committee Chairman, the Secretary, Treasurer and Past and Vice-Presidents who make up the Board of a Rotary Club. Actually present were Ray Wastell, Dr Noah Setidisho,

Derek Wilde, Allan Bridgeland and present by invitation was one Peter Allen.

**“Excuses** for non-attendance received from Dr Iriarte” - Interesting minute-taking stating “excuses” rather than “apologies” from the Founder President!

The minutes of this meeting referred to the upcoming Charter Dinner:

“A. It was agreed that no hotel bills should be presented to official guests. Rtn Allen advised that there might well be a refund of part of the hotel bills later from District”.

*(It would be interesting to know the cost per head for the Charter Dinner)*

“B. All speeches were to be concise, cogent and clean”

*(Nothing’s changed!)*

The official guests were to include Bishop Murphy (of the Roman Catholic Church) District Governor Bobby Ross, Eddie White President of the Rotary Club of Bulawayo, J Havers QC and Mrs Havers, the President of Lions and the Chair-man of Round Table.

Even at this very early meeting in the Club’s history Rotary was involved in service to the Community: from the same Board minutes:

“Proposed by Rtn. Derek Wilde and seconded by Rtn Ray Wastell that a Braille typewriter costing some 99 Rand should be purchased as soon as possible from Rotary funds and presented to the Blind School at Mochudi: carried unanimously”

President Iriarte was in office for only a month after the Charter Dinner and a minute at the next Board meeting on 13 June states:

“It was agreed that President’s Night should be held in the September room of the President Hotel on 29 June (1972). This would be combined with Ladies Night and Induction Night”.

Ray Wastell was to be the new President.

There are several familiar names cropping up in the minutes of those times — the most famous of all at present being Reg Loo - which makes him a founder member. It is fitting therefore that Reg after 25 years is the incoming Governor of our District. Other names readers will know are those of Rtn Julian Nganunu, Dr J K Matthews, Senoelo Sejo, and Dr David Sebina; David Magang, and a little later Cuthbert Motsepe and Deane Yates. The late Richard Makwade was also prominent in Rotary records in those early days.

In closing this chapter on those early beginnings I quote from the Board minutes of 30 August 1972:

### **“Matters arising**

It was agreed that the Braille typewriter should be presented to the Mochudi



Hospital on Thursday, 21st September. The Secretary was to write to Dr Teichler and Mr Bodiba inviting them to attend the luncheon in order to receive the gift.

- 3.1 Luncheon on 21st September. It was agreed that this would be a Rotary Anns Luncheon and that in future when there were five Thursdays in the month the fifth would be a Rotary Anns luncheon.
- 3.2 The Secretary was asked to approach Rotarian Brian Bailey to enquire as to whether he would be responsible for the welfare of Rotarians when ill or on extended leave of absence etc."

The Rotary Club of Gaborone was on the right track by the end of 1972. Fellowship was plentiful with all the dinners etc, and service to the community already in place. The Rotary Ladies were already being involved and Rotarians' welfare considered and there were obviously funds in the Rotary Charity account. Having set things in the right direction the club was in for a busy and bright future. Next we look at the Clubs involvement with the Community over the years.

## **Service to the community**

Any Rotary Club serving the Community involves two main divisions:

1. The raising of cash and resources from the general public.
2. The expending of effort, sometimes expertise but mainly cash, to deserving causes locally and in the vicinity.

The three committees involved are International Services - who coordinate raising of funds and resources from abroad but also perform functions locally such as the annual International Lunch (or sometimes Dinner) during February which is recognised worldwide as International Understanding month — more of this committee and its historical function later.

The other two committees are Community Service and Vocational Service who both contribute to fund raising and channel out and monitor funds to specific community projects. Some public functions held combine the two activities by offering some recreational or social interest and raising funds at the same time: examples being the Rotary Sponsored Walk, the Wine Tasting Evening(s) and the Golf Day.

No doubt the purchase of the Braille Typewriter to Mochudi Blind School mentioned earlier was the first physical community service project undertaken by the Club — in 1972, and until the next few years the Community Services Committee were involved in Road Safety and the Red Cross Rehabilitation Centre. In July 1976 the combined Community/Vocational Services Committee acquired a film projector to present to the Lobatse Mental Hospital. A minute of the same joint Committee of 15 February states that “Tony Schussel reported that he was supplying a film weekly and this was being shown at the prison every Saturday”.

Tony, had proposed a pram race as a fund raiser at that Committee's meeting the previous month — interestingly held at the home of Rotarian Dave (and Jean) Moir. In the same set of minutes a report on the club holding a successful Christmas party at Mochudi Blind School appeared and whilst the party had been held on 6 February! Dr Moffat had requested two Braille machines amongst other items and one was subsequently purchased and presented to him during a visit by the Orange Grove Rotary Club. “Tony Schussel provided the soft drinks” says the minute — and twenty years later now PP Tony is still arranging the procurement of subsidised booze for the Club!

A priority in a newly formed Rotary Club must be the raising of funds for use in Community and Vocational projects. Even before the Charter Dinner the Community Services Committee had minuted a proposal “that a Rotary Flag Day be held to raise funds for Rotary activities, and that the aid of senior school students be requested for this”. By 1974 the idea of selling Rotary Christmas cards became an issue (price 10 cents each including envelope!) and from other minutes there was evidently some sort of “draw” made to raise funds, the proceeds of which were

given to Dr Merriweather for use at the Scottish Livingstone Mission Hospital at Molepolole. The Carols by Candlelight service of December 1974 raised R83.66.

By the next Christmas Rotarians had become involved in the local pantomime. On 10 March 1976 Rtn Nash reported that "the project had been completed and the final accounting showed a profit of R48.00!

The Club has joined hands on and off with the theatrical scene over the years. Another fund raising event was held at the Moth Hall on 28 August 1979 when the Rotary Club of Gaborone "bought out" the first night of "Barefoot in the Park". The President and Lady Khama were invited as guests and about R190.00 was raised for community funds. The sub-committee was chaired by none other than Rtn Peter Raftery.

A bridge evening had been talked about at the Community Committee's meeting for some months before it happened at the President Hotel on 8 May 1980 to raise funds and in August that year another new fundraising idea was the running of a bar at the Gaborone Trade Fair. A great deal of time and effort was put in for months before as evidenced in the minutes — all the finer details had been taken care of by the July meeting, and then at the Community Service Committee a minute headed "Gaborone Trade Fair" simply stated: "The fair had been cancelled". Rotarians must have been disappointed and disheartened but this was no threat to their enthusiasm and approach to Service to the Community. Their fundraising and fund spending has continued to be remarkable and still is to the present day.

On the vocational side of service to the community, Rtn Deane Yates, Headmaster of Maru-a-Pula school was Chairman of "Vocational" in the early days and by December 1972 he and his committee had identified several projects including consideration of forming an Interact Club: a Rotary sponsored club for young people dedicated to service and international understanding; membership being open to students at secondary school level.

It would seem from the minutes that Vocational combined with Community Services in 1975 until at least June 1982. Then under the newly-inducted President John Rollason in August 1982 a separate report from Vocational Services Committee appears in the Board minutes. It said that career guidance forms were given to all members for completion as "a pilot project": The second big project of the committee was to be a hands-on involvement with youth: "and it is expected that painting at Mochudi Blind School is the first on the list". A careers manual was progressing and a careers convention was being planned for December (1972). There was mention in the November Board meeting of a "Keep your Town Tidy" campaign but no reference was made in subsequent meetings that year. Two Rotarians involved in Vocational in 1982 were Bill Phillips and Ted Sawdye, and towards the end of that Rotary year the name of David Mathews was prominent.

Service to the community in recent years has included the Wine Tasting — nowadays spread over two evenings and is a favourite event on the social calendar,

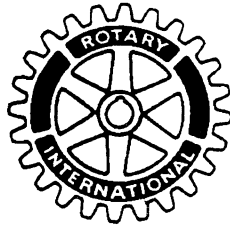
and the proceeds generated provide a regular injection into the Club's charity fund. There is a one-line reference to a Board minute in June 1981 but it seems the first Wine Tasting function of any merit was held at the Holiday Inn just after the opening of the new Conference Centre. The Innkeeper Rodney Crouch had been club President two years earlier and was on the sub-committee along with Clive Sheppard, Trevor Courtney and Andy Van der Schyff. Stellenbosch Farmers Winery were the sponsors and because of the success of that first event they proposed that the Wine Tasting should become an annual event. Stuart White a non-Rotarian was the Auctioneer on that first occasion, the entrance fee was P10,00 per head and the "finger" supper P4,00 per head!

No doubt the proceeds were to be allocated to the Youth Centre which was planned at the time. Rotarian Irwin Tellis today a Past President was busy collecting in the money.

## **The Rotary Sponsored Walk**

By all accounts the first sponsored walk was on 21 May 1983 though 30 April had been proposed originally. We have no idea how much was raised by the walk in the early days but we do know that in 1989, referred to in the Introductory chapter, Richard Bellamy reported to the July International meeting chaired by Rtn Stewart Niell that "to date P200,000.00 had been banked in the Walk account". This was the biggest ever boost to funds raised by local participation, and of course subsequent years have yielded much less amounts but with new ideas and approaches and the great enthusiasm from the school children the Walk is a standard fun and fundraising event.

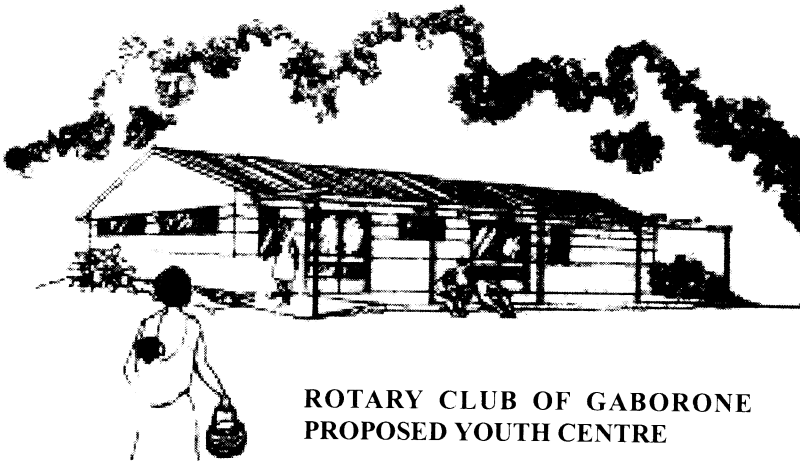
Richard Bellamy followed PP Moses Moremong as President in the Rotary year 1990-91 and was, like Moses, granted a Paul Harris Fellowship. Regrettably PP Richard died in October 1993 during Mike Lakin's year — and it was a great shock and loss to the Club. The following year the Walk was called the Richard Bellamy Memorial Walk and it was convened jointly by the Rotary Club of Gaborone and the new Rotary Club of Gaborone, Tirelo. Mrs Ann Bellamy came up from South Africa to attend and present the prizes.



**ROTARY CLUB OF GABORONE**

# **SPONSORED WALK**

## **21 MAY 1993**



**ROTARY CLUB OF GABORONE  
PROPOSED YOUTH CENTRE**

*The program for the first sponsored walk-1983. The 1997 walk will therefore be the fifteenth annual event. The youth centre for which the 1983 funds were raised still exists.*



THE STATE PRESIDENT  
REFERENCE NO:PPO.23/9 I (48)

GABORONE  
29th April, 1993

The Chairman  
Rotary Walk Committee  
Rotary Clubs of Gaborone and Tirelo  
P/Bag BR 27  
GABORONE

Dear Sir,

TENTH ANNUAL ROTARY WORK  
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Rotary Clubs of Gaborone and Tirelo are two of the leading clubs in Botswana whose work for the community deserves recognition.

Since 1984 the 20 Km Rotary Walk has become an event which many hundreds of people enjoyed and, of course, is an excellent way of raising funds for charity as well as keeping fit and having fun.

Many of the associations which benefit from the proceeds of the event depend almost entirely upon the financial support which can be generated through the endeavours of people from Botswana who participate.

I would like to urge as many as possible to take part and to give as generously as possible in the certain knowledge that the money raised will be put to very good cause and especially help that section of our community which is less privileged than ourselves.

Yours faithfully,

Q.K.J. Masire

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

*H.E. President has always supported Rotary and the walk. He walked in 1989. His appeal letter goes to all prospective donors and sponsors.*

## Polio Plus

[PP Tony Schussel was Polio Plus coordinator for several years from the inception of the project until Rtn Chris Sharp took over in 1992. Chris was invited to tell us the story of Rotary Foundation's most expensive, expansive and ambitious world project]

In 1988 the then 160 member countries of the World Health Assembly set the goal of eradicating polio worldwide by the year 2000, with formal certification of this by 2005, Rotary International's centenary year. Rotary International's partners in global eradication in the public sector include WHO, UNICEF and the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC). Major donor governments include Australia, Canada, Japan and the United States. Direct Rotary involvement in eradication initiatives had started almost a decade earlier in 1979 when Rotary clubs in Manila, Philippines funded immunisation drives.

To date Rotary International has raised over US\$300 million worldwide with a target of US\$400 million by 2005. The Americas were certified polio free in 1994. By 1996 150 countries worldwide were polio free. Even with this achieved, the WHO estimates that polio still cripples 100,000 children each year. For this reason, polio eradication efforts through the Rotary PolioPlus initiative remains, internationally, the premier community service of local Rotary Clubs.

In 1987 Rotary Foundation provided Botswana with an initial grant of US\$285,000 for immunisation and related activities for the next five years. In 1991 this amount was topped up with an additional US\$85,000. In 1996 Rotary Foundation provided a further US\$140,000 for the National Immunisation Days (NIDs) for that year. In 1997 Botswana has received yet another US\$50,000 to continue the NIDS, so successfully done in 1996. On a per capita basis and as a result of very diligent and effective use of funds, Botswana has received more funding than any other country in sub-Saharan Africa.

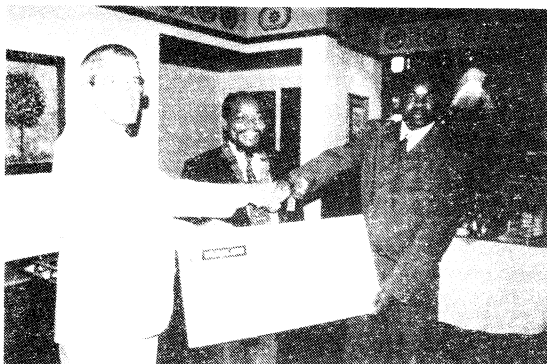
In terms of impact the results of immunisation, both campaigns and routine efforts, as well as surveillance, social mobilisation and technical support/management have been both impressive and heartening. Botswana has not had a confirmed polio case since 1988 nor a suspected case since 1991. The 1996 NIDs campaign resulted in 98% of eligible children being vaccinated. Unique amongst sub-Saharan African states, Botswana has set a target, in conjunction with WHO, of declaring itself free of polio by the end of 1997. While this is a step short of a declaration of eradication and the further step of certification of eradication, nonetheless, Botswana remains in the forefront of polio eradication.

These tremendous achievements have been made possible by a dedicated and institutionalised long term partnership between the Ministry of Health as national planners and managers, the local authorities as the primary implementors, WHO and UNICEF as facilitators and advisors and Rotary International through

the Rotary Clubs of Botswana, led by the Rotary Club of Gaborone, as primary funding sources and the providers of abundant, willing and committed human resources when called upon to participate.

*Polio plus national co-ordinator, Chris Sharp, presenting a cheque for social mobilisation to Simon Madema of the expanded programme on immunisation. Botswana has received more funding than any other sub Saharan country:- due to diligent effective use of funds.*

*Looking on is President Bright Bagwasi of the Rotary Club of Gaborone.*



*Dignitaries and doctors administering polio vaccine at Good Hope in the South*

*Remote areas were covered by the inoculation campaign — this site was somewhere near Maun.*





## **Service to the club**

Every Rotary Club has a committee which deals with the *internal* workings: CLUB SERVICE.

The Club Secretary and the Treasurer look after the administration and financial aspects of the Club and are therefore automatically on this committee. Membership and Development, Publicity including the internal Newsletter or Bulletin, are also the responsibility of the club services committee and the Immediate Past and the Vice President usually handle those items. "Club" also co-ordinate the internal fellowship events eg Induction Dinner, Progressive dinners, quiz evenings etc.

The very first job in the new Rotary club in 1972 was the arranging of the Charter Dinner. The President Hotel function rooms were booked for Friday 26 May and various dignitaries were invited including the President of Botswana and his First Lady, Mr and Mrs Harry Oppenheimer and the DG's of Districts 220 and 225. New badges for members were ordered, as were the President's regalia and a bell — traditionally used to call order at Rotary meetings.

The first mention of official recognition by the Registrar of Societies was in a Board minute of 15 January 1975 when Rtn Brian Hunt (later a President) undertook to deal with this. Three months later President Peter Allen "confirmed that the Club is now registered".

Club service also co-ordinate the programme for lunch meetings which in the old days were held on Thursdays. (Committee meetings were to start promptly at 5.15pm!) Guest speakers are a feature of lunches and over the years "Club" have co-ordinated, with assistance from other committees various interesting speakers of note. Mr Hugh Murray-Hudson was the speaker at the first DG's visit and a minute of Club after the event went on to say: "but in future the DG himself should speak"! The new club was to live and LEARN!

The Hon M P K Nwako was the guest speaker at the Induction Dinner of 28 July 1974. Another well known Gaborone personality is Dr Pearl Mashalaba who addressed Rotary on "Family Planning" on 15 September 1980.

Rotarian Peter Allen, a founder member was club service chairman in the first full Rotary year. Peter became Club President in 1974-75 and in his penultimate year in Botswana, 1982, he was busy instigating the Rotary Walk.

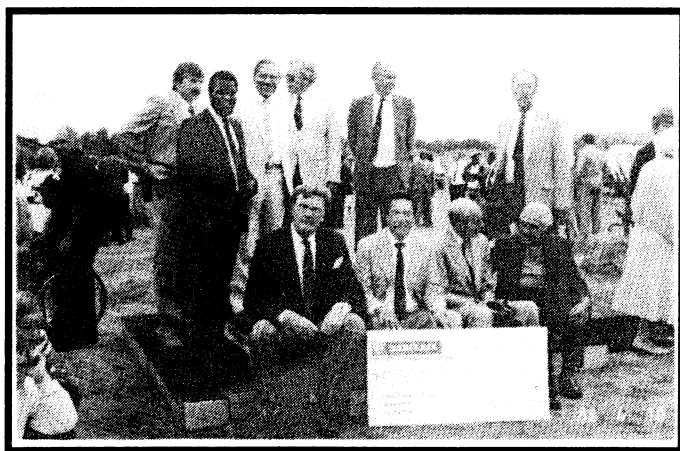
The first Club Bulletin was produced in Peter's Club service year — a minute in the "Club" meeting of 14 November 1972 stated that "Congratulations are to be conveyed to Rtn Arthur Baylis for his very fine effort" PP Ray Wastell took over the Bulletin the following year and by 1 March 1974 the Rev Brian Bailey was Editor. Our Club's Bulletin won the District Trophy for Best Newsletter in the Rotary year 1992-93.

The early days were busy with social events as membership increased in 1974

## Various images of Rotary



*Old days: Rotarians Malcolm Hodgson (bending) George Holling and Andy Raffle indulging in the hands - on approach*



*Late 80's: Handing over a cheque for P10000.00, Rotary was the first service club to donate locally to Chesaire homes. Front row seated L to R Rotarians Dick Bellamy Reg Loo, Lord Cheshire and V. Rev. Rtn Dick Norburn (Anglican Dean of Gaborone).*

*Back row standing: Gavin Richards chairman, Cheshire Homes (now a Rotarian) Rotarians Moses Moremong, Dr Yash Gureja, David Mathews, Hugh Brown and aloof, John Roberts/ Moremong, Matthews, Bellamy, Loo and Norburn had been, or became Club Presidents.*



*In May '93 Pres Mike Lakin (centre of the table) convened an all Botswana Rotary Conference all five clubs' Presidents were together in one room for the first time. L to R: Presidents Raju (Lobatse) Bob Doeser (Francistown) Lakin (Gaborone), Ray Sinclair (Tirelo) DGR Tony Schussel is on right. Selebe Phikwe's President was not in picture*



*1993 Kitwe District Conference (9210) the terrible trio from Botswana with the stolen Rotary wheel — L to R Pres Mike Lakin (Gaborone), Pres-elect Neil Garden (Gaborone), Pres-elect Leif Bekker (Gaborone Tirelo). The next day the trio fined all Zambian Rotarians Kwacha one thousand each (about one pound) for lack of security!*

there were 30 members.

The minutes tell us of an Old Tyme Music Hall evening ((02.10.74), a Progressive Dinner (14.01.75), a Golf day with Rotary, Lions and Round Table (14.01.75).

The “my job” talks by members - in the absence of outside speakers, were put in place in July 1975.

In financial terms we are told that all things are relative but it is interesting to note costs in 75-76: A raffle ticket: 10c; cost of four-course lunch: R4.00; fines were minimum 20c and maximum 50c.

In 1976-77 there were again 30 members in the club and social events included a Halloween night and Rtn (later PP) Andy Raffle organised a cricket match with Lions, and the Induction Dinner cost R10.00 per person. Golf on 5 September 1977 was 50t for nine holes! (The currency of Botswana was changed from Rand/cents to Pula/thebe in August 1976).

In 1976 a mannequin show organised by the club raised P600, and in the same Rotary year there was a film premiere and a pentathlon with Round Table and Lions at the Gaborone Club.

Invitations for Prince Phillip to speak during the Queen's visit and for Dr Chris Barnard were minuted, but there is no written evidence that either eventually did.

Club Services organised the 10th anniversary of the Club — His Excellency the President Khama had accepted our invitation and the Mochudi Blind singers would perform; and around the time, mid-1982, there was a Bridge evening, a Dixieland evening held at the YWCA an auction of paintings and rugs, an inter-service club sports day and a Gala night with Capital Players. This hectic social pace was still going in 1985-86 when there was a service clubs reunion recorded in the minutes, and the first “Pass the Port” function (03.12.85). A complete “Rotary Basic Library” was obtained with a view to passing it around especially to new Rotarians and the forthcoming calendar for early 1987 advised members of a Trivial Pursuits Evening to be organised by Rotarian Martin Horwitz on 5 February.

In the last ten years membership has generally increased though as always in a situation where expatriates are particularly transient some losses are suffered. The highest number recorded was in the early nineties when there were 60. Presently (1997) membership stands at 50.

The writing of minutes of Board, Committees etc, is a necessary and sometimes an arduous task but can have its lighter moments. So keen was Secretary Alan Bridgeland in December 1972 that the Board minute book contains two completely separate sets of minutes — dated the same, the contents more or less the same, but recorded in different order, and in completely different print. It is significant that there were no minutes for the following month as one wonders which set would have been approved!

The minutes for Board of 24 July 1974 were handwritten in a scrawl not much

better than the Writer of this publication, ie almost unreadable however the Agenda for the same meeting pasted in behind was perfectly typed!

Excerpts from the International Services meeting of 11 February 1980 are as follows:

“Minutes of Last Meeting

There being no minutes from the previous meeting due to the lack of a quorum these were quickly read and unanimously approved.

Matters Arising

These are mainly of historical interest and with the passage of time have effectively been brought to a conclusion by being treated with rare disdain and determined neglect”.

In discussing the proposal to invite the clubs of Hillbrow and Roodepoort Rtn Keith Good reported that a letter was on its way from Roodepoort. The scribe therefore wrote: “This matter was ably dealt with by postponing excessively zealous action until the letter arrives”.

The Treasurer is a most important Rotarian on the Board and in Club services. As far as records are available the Club's finances have always been run in an exemplary manner. However there was a flutter in the financial heart of the Club in 1982 when a special meeting to discuss club funds was called. After various suggestions and ideas the state of affairs was rectified by the end of that Rotary year.

The present club banner is rather attractive and certainly desirable to outsiders (See back cover). The design was changed some years ago and PP now DGN Reg Loo found one of the original banners — see illustration on front cover. On 17 September 1980 the board approved the purchase of 300 banners at P1.95 each.

Directional/Road signs advertising meetings at the airport, Tlokweng and Pioneer Gate borders, plus the Holiday Inn, President Hotel and the Gaborone hotel were discussed by the Board on 15 January 1975 “at a cost of approximately R110”. By the April meeting the signs had been made. At the latter meeting the Secretary announced that the Club “has its own P O Box number - 1010, Gaborone”.

## **International Service**

[Many of the activities of the International Committee have been overlapped into other chapters. Past President Irwin has however kindly submitted a chronological synopsis of events: as minuted:]

### **Extracts of minutes of international service committee meetings**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| “13.08.73 | First meeting of International Service Committee  |
| 13.01.75  | Rotary Club of Sandton offers assistance on proposed projects                           |
| 14.04.75  | Communication with 18 Districts in Australia/New Zealand re Mobile Eye Clinic           |
| 14.04.75  | Gift of Botswana agate sent to Rotary Club of Columbia                                  |
| 14.04.75  | Rotary Club of Alberton sends gift of 7kgs of Braille paper for Mochudi Blind School    |
| 21.07.76  | Visitors Brochure issued (Events, Clubs, Schools, Map, Doctors, Embassies etc)          |
| 21.07.76  | Stamp exchange with other Clubs started   |
| 20.09.76  | Rotary Club of Burbank California twinned <sup>1</sup>                                  |
| 24.01.77  | Rotary Club of Johannesburg South sends gifts for Red Cross                             |
| 24.01.77  | Visit of Rotary Club of Orange Grove itinerary planned                                  |
| 05.09.77  | Rtn Peter Raftery (ex Br High Com) asks Club to run Book stall at British High Com Fete |
| 06.02.78  | Book on Botswana sent to Port Shepstone Club for inclusion in library                   |
| 09.10.78  | Rotary Interact Club formation proposed   |
| 09.10.78  | 5000 spectacle frames available for donation, Club to find recipients                   |
| 08.04.80  | Pamphlet “Facts on Botswana” to be handed out to Clubs giving us assistance             |
| 08.07.80  | International evening proposed - UK USA Nigeria Sweden Russia China invitees            |
| 11.05.81  | Exchange student hosted for 1 week  |
| 05.08.81  | Dissatisfaction expressed over length of Committee meetings                             |

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<sup>1</sup>*Obviously this association was never kept up*

- 08.07.82      Sympathy to Host left with 34 chicken legs, 24 sausage rolls, 14 samoosas etc
- 12.01.83      Venue of next meeting ends with "BEWARE OF THE DOG"
- 15.02.83      International Evening shows more than P100 profit
- 06.12.83      Tourism leaflets to be sent with all correspondence
- 07.02.84      International Evening held at Maru-a-Pula School
- 06.03.84      Radio Transceivers for Bots Amateur Radio Society shipped from US
- 03.04.84      Transceivers handed over by US Embassy
- 05.11.84      1985/86 Foundation Scholarship awarded to Bots student."

Minutes and other records of International between 1984 and the early 1990's are not easily found these days. However we can say that by 1992 International were involved in Rotary Exchange Students - Melody Blackbeard of Serowe went to Sweden for a year, and two or three years later Bernard Tarr went to Argentina with a bonus week in Brazil for a short term youth exchange. We received a reciprocal student from Argentina.

The Medical and Dental Association of Botswana in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Gaborone have sponsored visits from Doctors sent through the Rotary Club of Berea, Durban who came to Botswana for several days updating local medics on various matters in the health improvement field.

Rotarian Neil Garden, now Past President, was very active in the "International" scene in 1991-92 when in addition to the items mentioned above Neil was instrumental in obtaining cash and kind for the Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital project in Mochudi - see separate submission.

The International Services Committee are also the organisers of the "International dinner" — originally called "Diplomatic" and a "lunch". In 1992 the guest speaker was Dr Allen Boesak who spoke on "World Understanding and Peace".

There have been so many clubs over the world with whom the Rotary Club of Gaborone have been in contact — far too many to list. One of the most recent advances in International understanding is the production of a Toasting card sent round at lunch meetings for all Rotarians present to sign. The wording can be seen in the illustration.

## ***The Rotary Club of Gaborone***

The Rotary Club of Gaborone was chartered in May 1972 and will celebrate its Silver Jubilee in 1997.

The club has flourished alongside the dynamic development and progress of the nation. A Pula 1.6 million project has recently been commissioned to relocate and refurbish medical buildings of the Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital in Mochudi - a village 40 kms north of Gaborone. This project is the largest ever undertaken by any service organisation in Botswana.

Other ongoing projects include environmental programmes, driver education, business and school competitions, health (polio vaccination, blood donation), rehabilitation of street children, support to SOS Childrens' Village, the education and rehabilitation of the handicapped and annual medical and dental update sessions.

Funds are raised through the annual Rotary Walk, the Rotary Golf Day and the Rotary Wine Tasting evening, which are now regular and popular features of the city's social calendar.

**Our club averages 50 members and today we toasted your Club and members present have signed overleaf. In the name of international understanding and fellowship we salute you and send you warm greetings.**

With Rotary Regards

PRESIDENT

DATE

*Our Toasting card*

*International understanding is promoted by International Services Committee by sending out salutation cards to clubs all over the world.*



## **Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital Project**

[No doubt the biggest and most important project carried out by the Rotary Club of Gaborone was the DRMH project at Mochudi. It was given such emphasis in the Club's activities that after Polio Plus was completed and therefore withdrawn from being recognised as a fifth Avenue of Service with separate Committee and Chairman, DRMH took its place. The Chairman of that Committee was for the latter years PP Andy Flanagan. Andy was invited for the purposes of this publication to write this chapter.]

In August 1887 Deborah Jaconda Retief came to Mochudi from The Cape to teach at the Dutch Reformed Mission School which had been founded in 1877 by a missionary named Brink.

In February 1895 a very serious outbreak of smallpox occurred in Mochudi, and the village was sealed off from the surrounding countryside. Chief Linchwe provided transport for the missionaries to leave, but Deborah and another missionary teacher, Mary Murray, stayed and went around the village nursing the sick for the next six months. This courageous and compassionate service was much appreciated in the village and Deborah became known as "Aunt Borrie".

By July the smallpox epidemic was over and 4000 people attended a service of Thanksgiving at the Kgotla called by Chief Linchwe.

Deborah continued to work in Mochudi and saw the first nurse appointed to open a clinic in 1924. She also welcomed the first doctor to be appointed to Mochudi by the mission Dr Gerhard Malan, who arrived in 1927. Deborah Retief retired in 1930 and went on leave intending to return to Mochudi. However she fell ill and died in April 1931.

During this period Dr Malan had been collecting funds to build a hospital. The hospital was opened on 28 September 1932 and was named in memory of Deborah.

Apart from serving the Kgatleng District it provides specialist Eye and Gynaecological services to the southern part of Botswana. Last year the hospital served 50000 outpatients, performed 3300 surgical operations and 1300 deliveries in the maternity unit. The hospital has 130 beds but needs 200.

The hospital is pretty much like "the house that Jack built". It has grown in a hotch potch sort of way to meet demands over time and was built as and when money was available. Because the hospital was built into the side of a rocky hill, various parts of the hospital are connected by sloping cement paths. Patients are transported along these paths on trolleys, an unpleasant and hazardous journey, indeed it is not unknown for patients to slide off the trolleys. Some of the slopes are astonishingly steep.

The ability of the missions to support the hospital has declined over the last few decades. Although the government of Botswana now gives support to the hospi-

tal, this does not include support for capital expenditure and it is not sufficient to enable it to equip itself to standards now considered essential in a developing country.

The hospital remains a church institution and is therefore a non-government organisation. It is administered by a board. Recent developments at the hospital have been somewhat haphazard and have frequently depended on the wishes of donors rather than on a systematic development plan.

It became apparent that this piecemeal approach to the problems of the hospital is not only inadequate but is also in some aspects counter-productive.

It became clear that a more rational and logical planning format to progressively develop the Hospital was required and to achieve this the Rotary Club of Gaborone undertook to make the DRMH their main fundraising project. A committee was formed and immediately established a Brochure (copies available). Lady Khama was also approached and agreed to act as Patron of the project and gave her full support throughout. The brochure prioritised the Hospital's need in stages.



*DRMH refurbishing project opening 3 June 1995 — Dr A. Hogewoning, hospital superintendant (left), P.P. Andy Flanagan project committee chairman, and Lady Khama patron.*

The first priority stage one was the construction of an Operating Theatre/X Ray and new Delivery Unit and the rehabilitation of an existing ward into a Maternity Ward. The funding of P1.4 million Pula for this stage was achieved in 1994. Through various donations as follows:

Directly via Rotary	P385,000
Gaborone Ladies Circle	P30,000
Rotary via Hospital and word and deed	P800,000
Rotary via Hospital and Sonnevach Holland	P600,000
	<b>P1,815,000</b>

The above works were complete in February 1995. Stage two, the refurbishment of two existing buildings into a male and female ward was completed in May 1995.

Stage one and two were officially opened by Lady Khama on Saturday 3 June 1995.

Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital Committee members have been involved in coordinating and managing the re-development of the hospital, as well as fund raising using the brochure that has been produced. To date Rotary Club members have donated professional skills to establish, and cost, the "redevelopment plan".

The main source of our local funding emanated from a corporate Cocktail Party which was Rtn John Murphy's idea. This raised locally P270,000 and enabled Dr Hogewoning to raise a further one million Pula in Holland. For this unique effort Rtn John Murphy was presented the Paul Harris award.

We have also been establishing contacts with Rotary Clubs in other countries and obtained various matching grants for the supply of equipment and funding for building construction works.

For their input from the inception of the project in 1992 to its completion in 1996 Past President Andy Flanagan and Rtn Stewart Neill were also awarded Paul Harris Awards in July 1996.

This was an ambitious project but the benefits are equally great. A poor rural population that relies on the hospital has received better medical care. Lives have been saved, babies born and diseases cured. The special Eye and Gynaecological services provided by the hospital reach a wider community and benefit people from all over Botswana.

This Committee was dissolved at the end of 1994/5 Rotary year as the Board of Directors felt that it had monopolised our fund raising activities for many years. It was agreed that Andy Flanagan would continue to monitor the Hospital's future requirements and maintain contact with our own club and clubs in the district and internationally. The Hospital is constantly in need of further funds and hospital equipment virtually of any nature. However a prioritised list is available should any Club feel they could assist in any way whatsoever.

## **Relationships with other clubs**

### **Interact/Rotaract**

Nothing really serious was said or done about youth branches of Rotary until July 1981 when brand new club President Bjorn Batt pointed out at his first Board meeting: “service to youth should be regarded as Rotary’s 5th Avenue of service, the object is to instil the Rotary ideals of service into young people”. A sub committee was formed.

By September the sub committee had met and recommended the Club concentrate on Interact — “awaiting more information from Rotary International, Maru-a-Pula School and Gaborone Secondary School”. Only by June 1982 had contact been made and the minute on 16th states: “It was decided to start up with some joint projects before a formal organisation is set up.”

Minutes between 1983 and early 1994 are sparse and no more can be reported factually until 1994 when a Rotaract Club — the first in Botswana was chartered at their usual venue the University of Botswana by the visiting District Governor — see Charter programme. The club flourishes today having carried out various worthy projects and frequently their members attend the meetings of Rotary Gaborone and Gaborone Tirelo Club.



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## ROTARACT CLUB OF GABORONE

University of Botswana . P/Bag 0022 . Gaborone . Botswana . Southern Africa

*Real Happiness is in Helping others*

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**Charter programme:** 19 February 1994

**Time:** 12.00 HRS

**Master of ceremonies:** Rotarian Moses Moremong

**Invocation:** The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service.

**Introduction of guests:** P.P. Richard Malikongwa

**Welcome remarks by:** Rotaract President Moraki Mokgosana

Keynote address by the District Governor

Presentation of charter certificate by the District Governor

Vote of thanks by Rotary club of Gaborone

**President:** Neil Garden

**Refreshments \*\*\*\*\* Refreshments \*\*\*\*\* Refreshments**

**LONG**

**LIVE**

**ROTARACT**

**Thank you for sharing this memorable occasion with us**

*The charter programme of the first Rotaract club in Botswana*

## **Rotary extension**

Part of Membership development is to pursue any possibility to “extend” to a new club.

In referring to Selebe Phikwe on 18th March 1981. “The secretary was instructed to now write to Rotary International informing them that the chance of forming this new club was extremely poor”. (The secretary was George Holling.)

Under a similar heading: “New Rotary club”, a minute was recorded at the August Board meeting stating:

“Rtn. Andy Raffle made mention of the fact that he would be bringing Mike Morley a schoolmaster from Francistown to the Friday meeting and stated that Mike would be leaving Round Table and would be willing and able to look into the question of forming Rotary Club in Francistown. The Board Noted with enthusiasm the possibility of establishing a Francistown Rotary Club”.

Selebe Phikwe was eventually chartered — sponsored by Gaborone in 1983. In turn Selebe Phikwe sponsored a new Rotary Club in Francistown in 1988. The founder President of the latter is a stalwart member in our Club and has been for some time — P.P. Dick Jamieson.

Gaborone extended to Lobatse under Extension Officer PP Klaus Fischer also in 1988 and “Tirelo” — the Setswana word for service, was also sponsored by Gaborone in 1989-90. There are no foreseeable extensions of the movement in Botswana at present though Maun, and Central District — Serowe, Palapye, Mahalapye combined, have been discussed. A Kasane / Victoria Falls Club originally thought of by past Gaborone Rotarian Geoff Williams is also not, in Geoff’s own opinion, feasible at present.

## **Other service clubs**

As early as May 1972 the Community Services Committee under Chairman Derek Wilde proposed “that a monthly meeting be called to which various Associations ie Lions, Round Table, Red Cross, Moths and ourselves to try and obviate a clash of activities being held on the same date, and to discuss possible joint projects, which could be too large for one Association”. Although “monthly” would prove to be ambitious, certain liaisons have proved that a healthy relationship exists between service organisations but official meetings have been erratic over the years. Having had a close relationship with “Table”, Mike Lakin started the Service Club’s liaison meetings bi-monthly when he became Rotary President in 1992 and the system worked for some time but for it to carry on regularly it is Mike’s opinion that each club should appoint an official representative to the body and that meetings would attract more interest if held on a more informal and social basis even though the basic purpose was business of a common nature.

The first reference in our club's minutes to the Carols By Candlelight service with combined service clubs being involved was a proposal by the then President Peter Allen at the Community Service meeting in July 1974. We can be proud of the fact this popular annual public event is still held usually on the Sunday before Christmas, and over the years at various venues including the National Stadium! The children enjoy it - not only for the singing of popular carols and hymns and readings from the scriptures but it gives them a chance to *give* to the less fortunate: Father Christmas appears at the end of the service and gathers in gifts, and cash for more presents, which are distributed on Christmas day to people - especially children in hospitals around the City and beyond.

(The story is recalled one year, when Rotarian Bill Phillips was stopped at a road block on his way home. He emerged from his car in his Father Christmas uniform to be greeted by army officers in various states of disbelief, amazement and curiosity until they realised the occasion and were able to indulge in the mirth and merriment that comes with the spirit of Christmas!)

## Rotary the world over

The title of this chapter quotes the words of the Club President's final toast at Rotary meetings when all members and visiting Rotarians stand and raise their cups or glasses. Significant is the fact that we need reminding at the end of each meeting that we belong to a fellowship of 1,206,112 people worldwide in 28134 clubs and in 155 countries — like-mindedly dedicated to the Objects of Rotary. (Figures courtesy 'Rotary in Africa', March 1997).

### **Rotary International and Rotary Foundation**

The first Rotary Club was formed in Chicago, Illinois, USA in 1905 by a lawyer, Paul Harris. The Club's name was derived from the practice of rotating meetings among members' businesses. By 1909 the Rotary idea had spread to other cities in the United States and by 1910-11 the first convention was held in Chicago (National Association of Rotary Clubs) and Paul Harris became the first President. The same year Rotary went international with the formation of a club in Winnipeg, Canada and the next year the movement had spread to England and Northern and Southern Ireland. Scotland followed in 1912-13. The Rotary mottoes

"Service above self" and "He profits Most who Serves Best" were formulated in 1911-12. By then international, the Association changed its name to the International Association of Rotary Clubs. In 1912-13 the magazine "The Rotarian" came into being (previously called "The National Rotarian") and the emblem embodying the great wheel was adopted. Also in that year Glasgow, the first Rotary Club in Scotland (and hosts to this year's International Conference) was chartered. The name of the worldwide body was changed in 1921-22 to Rotary International.

In 1916-17 World President Arch Klumpf proposed the establishment of an endowment fund which was the forerunner of the Rotary Foundation.

In 1997 therefore one could say Rotary is 92 years old and Rotary Foundation is 81.

In a nutshell: today Rotary International is the governing body having seventeen Directors from around the world. It is the central engine room based in Evanston, Illinois with several regional satellites administering. Our regional office is in Zurich, Switzerland. Rotary Foundation is gov-



*Paul P. Harris, 1868-1947,  
Founder of Rotary*



governed by a Board of Trustees and today there are many varied programmes supporting needy people throughout the world administered by "Foundation".

## District

For administrative convenience Rotary International is divided into Districts - at present 518 worldwide, each one looked after by a District Governor. For convenience and manageability a district should have at least 40 clubs and 1200 members. This has proved difficult at times in our region in the past, with massive geographical areas to cover (compared to the situation in developed countries) and districting has sometimes been a controversial subject.

The Rotary Club of Gaborone - the first in Botswana - a new territory to Rotary at the time, and the size of France, was placed in then District 225 for geographical convenience. However this turned out to be against political advantage at the time and so within a short time after Charter (1974) we were affiliated to District 220, which in those days included Zambia, Kenya, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania. Gaborone remained in that district for a decade, then, being a victim of an entire shake-up were transferred into 921 (eventually designated 9210 under the new computerised system). District 921(0) covered Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Comores and Mayotte and we understand that it was in terms of geographical land area, the second biggest District in the Rotary world; and if there were any other problems, one was the fact that part of the District was French speaking and part English. For Rotary International re-districting must have been a real headache because no country was really satisfied with the status quo in the early 90's. However by 1996 there seemed to be a compromise and we were advised that we should join 9250 — in a way, that could be construed as the same district we started in 1972! Except that Zimbabwe was transferred to our previous district — 9210.

The general feeling is that the Botswana clubs will be more comfortable and "wanted" in the new District especially in these days of the New South Africa with easier access to district functions. Such is life in a region with vast distances and

*RI, District and club meet Pres Masire 1997. L to R Guido Giachetti Pres RC of Gaborone Tirelo; District Governor D9250 Mark Doyle; Pres Sir Ketumile Masire; Past Rotary International Director and now Foundation Trustee Tony Serrano; DGN D9210 Reg Loo; Pres Rotary Club of Gaborone John McCrory.*



different languages. (It has been said that now we do not have to learn French but we must brush up on our Afrikaans and with Maputo (x2) in our district - Portuguese!)

When all is said and done the common language of Rotary is International Fellowship which can be forthcoming in sign language if necessary. Re-districting should not be looked upon in geographical or even financial terms at the expense of the fourth Object of Rotary.

The good news is that almost as if deliberately part of our celebrations of our 25th Anniversary our remaining Founder member, Past President and District Governor's Representative at present, Reg Loo, was nominated, indeed later elected as our District Governor for 1997-98.

It would seem that the Rotary Club of Gaborone can be proud of their achievements in their first twenty five years existence. Actual statistics are not available but we can estimate that the club has seen at least 500 Rotarians come and (sadly) go and credit is due to all those whatever the length or quality of their commitment. It was pointed out recently that in membership terms our Rotary Club is the second largest club in the District. In this Writer's opinion such is the spirit within this illustrious Rotary Club of Gaborone that the QUALITY emulates the QUANTITY — HERE'S TO THE NEXT 25 YEARS.

## Involvement of the ladies

[The Ladies in the form of Rotary wives, Anns and soon to be Inner Wheel members have always played a prominent part in our Rotary affairs. Mrs Lesley McCrory sums up their involvement over the years]

At the Rotary Board Meeting of 21 August 1974, President Peter Allen was requested to ask his wife Ada to call a meeting of other Rotary wives with a view to forming a 'Rotary Anns' group. Although Ada was apparently not too keen on this idea, at the following month's Board Meeting on 18 September, it was noted that the meeting had in fact taken place.

Since that time the Rotary wives, affectionately known as 'Anns' have worked to support and help the Gaborone Rotary Club in whatever way they could. In the past they have done those things that ladies are very good at — baked for cake sales, made foods for various Rotary functions and so on. Important as those things are, intelligent, dynamic women soon look for other outlets for their creative



*Rotary Anns, now inner wheel, have Keitheng at S.O.S. village as their adopted child until she is sixteen years old. The smile says "Thank you" to the ladies on her birthday*

energies and before long the Rotary wives had developed their own projects. One of those which always is rewarding is the Camphill Children's Christmas party (complete with Rotarian Santa) for which they both fund-raise and bake in order that all the children there have a memorable time. As well, the ladies have an "adopted daughter" Keitheng at the SOS Children's Village whom they support. This project was instigated by late PP Richard Bellamy's wife, Ann. Other ongoing projects in the past have been the Old Naledi Day Care Centre oranges scheme

and the Pudulogong Blind Centre Christmas Party.

As the ladies became more committed to the ideals of "Service", so their aspirations to develop projects in their own right grew. They were involved in the early

*The Anns here, now to be inner wheel international members, supporting Rotarians in the DRMH project handing P15 000 to Dr Hogewoning - the proceeds from their second successful airlines evening at Gaborone Sun 1995. They raised even more at the 1997 event held in April.*



development of the Hospice Movement in Gaborone, and money raised at a "Hawaiian Evening" went to this project. A successful 'Murder on Safari' and lamb spit roast in November 1996 raised much needed funds for their charity account. A very worthwhile project was the organisation of the distribution of 200 manual sewing machines donated to us by Virum Rotary in Denmark to various self help and charitable organisations throughout Botswana, to help them to become more self-sufficient.

However, perhaps the most ambitious and profitable projects to date have been the three International Airlines Evenings organised in 1992, 1995 and 1997. The ladies worked tirelessly and raised in the region of P50 000 at these three popular and enjoyable functions. The money thus raised has purchased a replacement air radio for Botswana Flying Mission, equipment for the premature baby unit at Deborah Retief Memorial Hospital, and further building works at Sekolo Sa Anne-Stine Centre for the Handicapped at Molepolole. They are to be congratulated for their dedication and love.

As they look to the future, the Gaborone Rotary wives have made the momentous decision to become a more formal and constitutional body in their own right, and have become part of International Inner Wheel. Their Charter was granted in April and a Gala Induction Dinner is planned for mid 1997.

## **On to 2000 and beyond**

It is only several years to the end of the century and millennium. Taking “stock” on 31 December 1999 what could we say about our Rotary Club which by then will be 28 years old? Progress? Achievement? We have to consider the past to plan the future — sure! but will the chiming of the clock at midnight on 31 December 1999 really change our lives? Example: The Rotary Park idea for Gaborone was first minuted on 9 February 1981 — we’re still not a great deal nearer the final manifestation in 1997.

Each Rotarian is a volunteer and the amount put in varies between individuals but often the big problem is waiting for the bureaucratic wheels to turn. We can raise money, we can hope to spend it, but some times it takes — TIME. As long as the Objects of Rotary are upheld by its members meanwhile supplemented in every day life by the philosophy of the 4-way test, what more should be happening? It’s a matter of conjecture and opinion but this writer cannot see many drastic changes in Rotary here, in the District, Region or worldwide. Certainly new themes inspired from “the top” will be considered and even implemented. For instance it is reasonable to suspect that Rotary International — the Administration/Executive arm, and Rotary Foundation the fundraising and expending department (exactly parallel to Administration and Charity at Club level) will advocate emphasis in coming years on conservation of the environment — and that’s a big commitment we are already into (Preserve Planet Earth)<sup>1</sup> but secondly an up and coming concern is a subject now popularly known as “Population and Development” (There is already a Rotary Fellowship bearing this title — is the idea to prove that the decrease of the former will increase the latter)? This concern will affect the developing countries and continents particularly our region — as one statistic will illustrate — “the population of Europe will only double in 600 years but that of Africa in 25!” At the same time food resources are dwindling — the “green revolution” is on a decline. Rotary is concerned about Health, Hunger and Humanity and it is this Writer’s opinion that in years — at most decades to come, priority will have to be given to survival — especially in the less opulent countries and regions.

It must be stated that Batswana should be more involved in the 21st century in the continuance of community service work. The club has a proud record of the number of nationalities who have been represented as members — in the year there were sixty members there were 22 different nationalities represented! Perhaps the Rotaract club that already exist and possibly future Rotaract and/or Interact clubs, will serve as a training ground for future Rotarians. Expatriates, who seem to have dominated the membership to date, are not forever, so the message

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<sup>1</sup>*Rotary Gaborone donated the borehole pump at Nogotsaa in the Chobe Game Park to help sustain a water flow into into the waterhole.*

must be that “Botswana needs Rotary and Rotary needs Batswana”!

## **About the writer**

Past President Mike Lakin is by now well known as a writer of history and technical subjects close to his own situation. The editor of various service club magazines — “Gabble” the bulletin of Gaborone Round Table 26, AORTA — the Ancillary Organ of Round Table Africa and eventually in 1992-3 the Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Gaborone which won the District 9210 Bulletin prize. As the writer of various histories (including that of Gaborone Round Table 26’s first ten years) and various technical documents in his own field, Mike felt the necessity to document the history of the “Place We Live In — Gaborone” in our Rotary Year Book which he co-produced four years ago.

“Service and Fellowship” is his latest achievement “I’m so pleased to have completed it at all” says Mike — “the fact that it is on time for the 25th Anniversary is a bonus”!

## **Appendix I**

### **Presidents of the Rotary of Gaborone**

1972 -	Xavier De Iriarte
1972 - 73	Ray Wastell
1973 - 74	Noah Setidisho
1974 - 75	Peter Allan
1975 - 76	Brian Hunt
1976 - 77	Sverker Skans
1977 - 78	Mike Baugh
1978 - 79	Tony Chester
1979 - 80	Andy Raffle
1980 - 81	Rodney Crouch
1981 - 82	Bjorn Batt
1982 - 83	John Rollason
1983 -	Peter Hollands
1984 - 85	Chris Adams
1985 - 86	Reg Glew
1986 - 87	Dick Norburn
1987 - 88	Reg Loo
1988 - 89	David Mathews
1989 - 90	Moses Moremong

1990 - 91	Richard Bellamy
1991 - 92	Tony Schussel
1992 - 93	Mike Lakin
1993 - 94	Neil Garden
1994 - 95	Irwin Tellis
1995 - 96	Bright Bagwasi
1996 - 97	John McCrory
Pres-elect	Brian Jacques



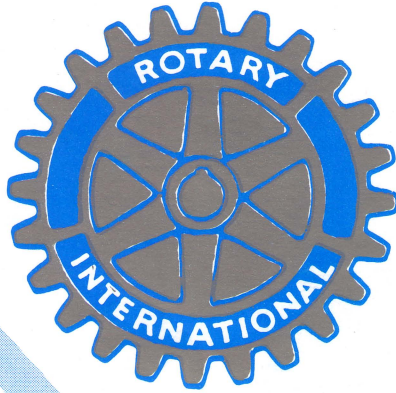
# THE FOUR-WAY TEST



of things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

# GABORONE



AFRICA



GABORONE

**Botswana**

