

The District Assembly 1971

This marked the end for District 2 and the end of our links with the clubs of the Western Scotland. Glasgow and the west created a new district - 123 while the south east formed the new District 102.

Incoming District Governor Bill Caird JP of Musselburgh addressed the assembly and placed some importance on the history of Rotary by referring to eminent Rotarian of the past such as Sir Harry Lauder and quoting extensively from Paul Harris first article for 'The Rotarian' magazine in 1911. Bill ended his address by quoting Harris- "May we never, in time to come, depart from the safe course of rational toleration and humane consideration of the convictions of others".

Sadly, Bill died on Boxing Day 2002. PDG Bill would without any doubt have been a supporter and indeed member of Rotary's Global History Fellowship. Why? Because he had an interest and a passion for Rotary's past.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

IN
GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND
District No. 102

Report of
DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
held at Falkirk
on 30th June, 1971



GOVERNORS SHAKE HANDS



There's a friendly handclasp for newly installed District Governor William Caird, J.P., from Immediate Past District Governor Robert Murray, P.D.G. David Findlay took this photograph immediately after Bob passed the chain of office to Bill at the District Assembly in Falkirk.

District Assembly, Falkirk 30th June, 1971

A record attendance of nearly 250 Rotarians, representing practically every club in District 102, were present when District Governor Bob Murray presided over the last Assembly to be held in the District before it divides to form two entirely new Districts, one in the west and one in the east. After extending a welcome to those attending Governor Bob introduced Rotary Fellow Jim Deas freshly returned from his year's study in the United States.

In a brief speech Jim thanked those present for the opportunity given to him to further his studies in America. It had been a tremendous experience for him and he would ever be grateful to Rotary for having given him the chance to participate in what was the greatest International Scholarship in existence.

Governor Bob then went on to make a short review of his year in office. Although he was now retiring from the position of District Governor and would have more leisure after a very busy year he would not find life monotonous as

he intended to take his share in supporting the incoming District Governor.

Our new Governor, Provost Caird to give him his full title, was a popular choice. He had been elected by the unanimous wish of the District Council and was a man of many parts. He had been very active in all his Rotary life and had participated in many sports. He exuded real Rotary fellowship but most of all he was an excellent administrator. In this he was a "natural," after all he was a reigning Provost. Bob then said "On behalf of District 102 I invest you

with this chain of office and wish you a very successful and enjoyable year as District Governor."

Tremendous Impact

Taking the chair District Governor Bill thanked the members for the great honour they had done him and promised to try to follow the example set by Bob. He had indeed been a most outstanding District Governor. In his year he had given dedicated service. His impact on District 102 and elsewhere in R.I.B.I. had been tremendous.

In the year which had just ended our District had been top in R.I.B.I. for progress made. Moreover under Bob the foundation of the two new Districts had been well set. His immense knowledge of Rotary had contributed enormously to the efficiency of District 102. Both Bob and his wife Joey had been

continuously on the go throughout the year and deserved great praise for their untiring efforts. It would be a colossal task to follow after such a leader. One could but try.

Bill said it was his next most pleasant duty to present Bob with his jewel of past office "While you have little need of a badge Past District Governor Bob, I hope you will wear it with pleasant memories of your year as Governor of District 102."

After expressing his thanks Bob then presented Kenneth Dow with his Past District Secretary's badge and acknowledged all the work he had done on behalf of the District during the year. He also thanked the members of the team who had given him such loyal support.

District Governor Bill then addressed the meeting.

GOVERNOR BILL'S ADDRESS

Standing here, in front of all of you, the focus of your kind attention, I feel humbly grateful to be one of you. I am a rank and file Rotarian. Just as you, willing to serve and further Rotary to the best of my ability, even though my office and your office demand more of us during the year ahead than what is normally required of a Rotarian.

There are occasions when the English language is inadequate to express what one feels and this is one of them. It has been my undeserved lot to hold other offices, but I can assure you that I prize none more than the honour which I have received today. I am fully conscious of the responsibilities and the dignity attached to this position, but I assure you that Ruth and I shall give you of our best. I have received and appreciated the many letters and messages from Rotarians, which gives me the assurance that I shall have a strong team of workers by my side this coming year. We are all needed. Everyone of us, everyone of us is important to fulfil the programme ahead.

You are all aware that at the bottom of every boat, there is a small plug for the drainage of spill water. If that little plug is missing the boat will fill with water and sink. You, my fellow Rotarians are just as necessary as that little plug, if our Rotary ship is to reach its

destination and if our challenge for the year is to be fulfilled, and that we put goodwill to work in all our avenues of service, in such a manner that our year will be a rewarding one.

Deeper and Broader

You bring with you to this Assembly, your concept of Rotary. Will your concept be the same when you leave? We hope that you will have a deeper and broader look at Rotary to make Rotary Service more effective in your club. The aims and objects of Rotary never change, only the presentation because of its unique manner in rotation of office-bearers. It has been said that at the Assembly we bring our Rotary tools to be polished, I trust that today we will be able to do that.

We shall try to give you new ideas and refreshing thoughts. An international service organisation, like ours, will be rated in history according to its merits, let us continue step by step, year by year making the object of Rotary more active and more constructive. Let us show that we are qualified to use the name Rotarian. It is not the number of members that counts, it is our work, our devotedness that have any meaning. Let us during the year ahead, make Rotary International more meaningful.