

Perspectives

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER





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Thank
You!



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As this year draws to a close, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your support and warm hospitality during my year. Special thanks must go out to my Assistant Governors and my District Team who have done a tremendous job in supporting me throughout the year.

This year has been an incredible journey for me; one that is difficult to describe in words. It has deepened my love and understanding of Rotary and made me appreciate even more how great our District really is. The memories of this year will last for a lifetime.

Although every year the leadership may change, the value and spirit of Rotary remain the same. Rotary is much bigger than any one individual. We are here to serve our communities and to make lives better. Our main goal is to build stronger, better and more vibrant clubs as we continue to uphold the Object of Rotary and the Four Way Test.

Our support of the Rotary Foundation is paramount to the global family of Rotary. By contributing, we play our part in supporting Rotary's worldwide programs.

I wish you all every success for the coming year and I look forward to seeing the continued growth of our District.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Milton Inniss".

Milton Inniss

District Governor 2015 – 2016

District 7030



Basseterre, St. Kitts – On a cool Saturday morning, May 14, 2016, members of the Rotary Club of Liamuiga and the Association of Sports and Cultural Clubs of Caribbean Port Authorities (ASCCCPA) partnered to plant coconut palm trees along the Bay Road.

From as early as 6 a.m. members of the clubs could be seen with working gloves and shovels in hand canvassing the area spanning from the Basseterre Fisheries Complex to Port Zante. At the end of the exercise, 21 new coconut palm trees would be planted.

"The Rotary Club of Liamuiga initially planted palm trees along the boulevard several years ago but over the years, due to storms and other natural disasters we lost over 20 trees," said Tuffida Stewart, President of the Rotary Club of Liamuiga. "Today, we are overjoyed

to be able to plant new trees with the assistance of the Association of Sports and Cultural Clubs of Caribbean Port Authorities (ASCCCPA) delegates, who are here for their Annual Whitsuntide Games."

The clubs also express special thanks to KM Services from whom the coconut palms were sourced and who also dug all the holes and provided invaluable consultation on the entire project.

The Rotary Club of Liamuiga also installed signs along the seawall and are currently researching the installation of an irrigation system for the trees.

The trees will be maintained by the St. Christopher Air and Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA) Sports Club and the Parks and Beaches Unit.



Arriving from Martinique on Sunday afternoon, my trip to Guadeloupe started the last leg of the official visits. I was met by DGND Dominique, AG Frank and President Maurice of the Rotary Club of Pointe-à-Pitre. After a mid-afternoon lunch, we then proceeded to President Maurice's home for some excellent fellowship. The statutory board meetings were structured around lunch and dinner. For the Marie Galante visit, we had to catch the ferry. I had the privilege of sitting in the cockpit on the journey over, as the President of the Club is the captain of the ferry. During my vis-

it I met with the Rotaractors and after our meeting we had dinner in the city. Also, I met with the newly formed Interact Club, a wonderfully vibrant club. A highlight of the visit was a tour of the Memorial ACTe, a cultural centre dedicated to the memory and history of the slave trade. The centre is of modern architecture that houses an incredible audio-visual display. It is to be seen!! The final joint event was held here, where I also pinned the board and members of the Interact Club.



Memorial ACTe



Meeting with Interact Club of Guadeloupe



Memorial ACTe



Kids waiting for Santa Claus



President Maurice with Santa Claus

Highlighted Projects

Sickle Cell Anemia Project – ***Pointe-à-Pitre Jarry***

CAREST website – ***Pointe-à-Pitre Jarry***

Illiteracy project – computers in libraries – ***Basse Terre***

Art Gallery – ***Basse Terre***

Telethon for renovations of rooms & playrooms in paediatric ward – ***Pointe-à-Pitre***

Rotarire – comedy festival raising money for kids with disability to go to summer camp – ***Pointe-à-Pitre***

Thirty kids to France to study art – ***Marie Galante***

Marché gourmande – ***Marie Galante***

Visit and lunch with 40 handicapped adults – ***Pointe-à-Pitre Est***

Association Rotarienne des Bibliothèques Scolaires – providing books to towns - ***Pointe-à-Pitre Est***

Récréafruit – free fresh fruit to local schools – ***Grande Terre Pointe des Chateaux***

Floating devices to help old people and disabled to bathe – ***Grande Terre Pointe des Chateaux***

Beach cleanup with 120 people including volunteers from local village, students, local companies – ***Pointe-à-Pitre Fleur d'Épée***

Dîner Grand Coeur – dinner for the handicapped and outcasts – ***Pointe-à-Pitre Fleur d'Épée***

Working with ALLODYS – organization for dyslexia in Guadeloupe – ***Basse Terre Fort Saint Charles***

Ordilexis – software to help children to read – ***Basse Terre Fort Saint Charles***

Arriving from Guadeloupe on the Sunday evening, I was met by AG Konrad. The next morning, we visited the Babonneau Water Tank project completed a couple of years ago. We visited a farmer close to the Babonneau area who was farming various vegetables and fruit.

Similarly, we visited a lady close to the Castries areas, who in addition to the fruit and vegetables was also raising chickens and rabbits. Both of these are microfinance projects. We also visited a

house that was entirely re-built by the Rotarians & Rotaractors for a single mother and her children.

That afternoon, we paid a courtesy call on the Governor General, Dame Pearlette Louisy. Later that day, I met with the Rotaractors and Interactors of St. Lucia, for a fun-filled meeting, followed by refreshment. Later that evening, there was a tour of Gros Islet.

The meetings with the boards of the 2 clubs were held the next day and there was a joint lunch meeting. After the meetings were



Babonneau Water Tank



One of the small farming properties



Government House St. Lucia

over, we had a visit to the Mobile Youth Clinic bus, a project of the Rotary Club of St. Lucia. That evening, we had a fellowship event, where I met Rotarians from both clubs.

I left the following afternoon, which brought to the end 6 months of official visits.

Highlighted Projects

Anti-drug youth camp – held over a weekend and includes sporting activities, career guidance and guest speakers – **St. Lucia**

Mobile soup kitchen – **St. Lucia**

Microfinance to small farmers – **Gros Islet**

Mobile Dental Unit moving from school to school – **Gros Islet**



The "Chess in Schools" project started as the idea of Past President Raymond Aaron of the Rotary Club of Point Fortin in Trinidad, West Indies (District 7030). It is spearheaded by himself and project co-coordinator Rtn. Jo-Anne Sewlal and assisted by committee member Tessa Solomon.

Some benefits of introducing chess in schools include helping students with fundamental subjects like Mathematics and English. It also helps children recognize patterns. Chess also builds crucial social skills such as, respecting authority, rules and each other. It also cultivates sportsmanship as there is always a loser, but loss should be accepted with grace. Another crucial benefit in face of our changing economy is that chess is a very inexpensive sport in all that is needed is a chess set to play.

Initially it was suggested that the project target primary schools rather than secondary schools, for the purpose that in secondary schools there are competing interests such as football, cricket and extra lessons. However, it was later discussed that the programme target secondary school students in forms 1 to 3. This is with the hope that by the time they reach the higher forms where more emphasis is placed on studying for CXC and CAPE exams, they would play chess at a recreational rather than competitively. So they would still be involved in the game.

Implementation of the project was made possible through significant collaboration with Mr David Martin, founder of the Grants Memorial Presbyterian School Chess Club (GMPSCC). Mr Martin has many years of experience teaching students from age five up to the age of 18. With a membership of over 100 members, the GMPSCC has had members who have gone on to achieve great scholastic achievements including two students that placed first in the SEA (Secondary Entrance Assessment) examinations. His numerous positions include holding Executive positions in one of the two chess bodies in the country, the Trinidad and Tobago Chess Foundation (TTCF). There are two major chess bodies in Trinidad and Tobago; the Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association (TTCA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Chess Foundation (TTCF). Although the latter is larger and recognized as the governing national chess body, they do not specialise in training children, hence our choice to collaborate with the TTCF.

This project was launched at a special meeting on Tuesday 26th January, where Mr Martin delivered a talk on the benefits of implementing chess in schools and the success of his students both at the sport and academically. This project was designed to be run as a pilot project and targeted mainly the primary schools in the central Point Fortin area. In attendance at the meeting were the principals and representatives of the Egypt Government School, Point Fortin Anglican School, Point Fortin Seventh Day Adventist School, Point Fortin Roman Catholic School, Guapo Government School and the Holy Name Convent Secondary School. Also in attendance were the presidents of the respective Parent-Teachers Associations.

The project consists of a 16-week training programme which started with an "Introduction to Chess" on the 27th February. The programme structure includes two classes, one for students

and a separate one for trainers who will go on to teach the programme

after the initial 16-week session. The trainers include Edison Raphael and Carlyle Singh (TTCF) and David Martin (GMPSCC).

The project moved quite rapidly with the founding of the Point Fortin Chess Club (PFCC) on 12th March. On Saturday 16th April, the Point Fortin Chess Club (PFCC) held its first ever In-house tournament. It was led by the very capable facilitators Carlyle Singh, Edison Raphael and David Martin. Out of the estimated 40 students, 32 participated in the tournament. There were four categories; boys, girls, adults and Rotaracters. In his closing remarks, Edison Raphael (President of TTCF) commended the parents as some stayed with their children to learn the game, which is an uncommon approach in many areas of the country. Even though many parents worked on a weekend, many make the effort to come on their weekends off. He also commented on the fact that he was also pleased to see girls participated in the tournament, since chess is mainly viewed as a male dominated sport. The PFCC hopes to take some of its students to its first "out of town" tournament on 14th May in San Fernando. The project will end with an open tournament in July where anyone with an interest and knows how to play chess will be invited.

The committee also recently concluded a successful session at the "House of Friendship" at the District Conference in Barbados, which took place from 22nd to 23rd April. Here they interacted with members of Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Trinidad and Tobago as well as in other countries.

We have also had a warm and encouraging reception by the media and have been featured by chess enthusiast and columnist David Martin in his column "Double Rooks" published in the Trinidad Guardian Newspaper. The project was also featured in a special edition of the "Chessarian" which is the Official World Bulletin of the International Chess Fellowship of Rotarians. The project was also featured in the Newsday Newspaper as part of the Point Fortin Borough Day supplement, highlighting activities taking place in the community.

This project has also allowed for collaboration between junior arms of Rotary International. Members of the Rotaract Club of Point Fortin with some members volunteering as trainers. The project also hopes to involve members of the newly formed Interact Club in Holy Name Convent (which also serves at the location for the Point Fortin Chess Club) as trainers, thus involving members of all ages.

It is the aim of our committee to use the project at Point Fortin as a pilot and extend it to other Rotary Clubs in the country, making it a nationwide and hopefully a Caribbean-wide initiative through Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in the other islands. We welcome any suggestions or collaborations that would help make this project a success.

Jo-Anne Nina Sewlal

Contact:
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starting the game with a handshake



Adults/ Rotaracters game



Adults/ Rotaracters game

"Chess in Schools" Project

Rotary Club
of Point Fortin,
Trinidad



one of the winners of the boys category



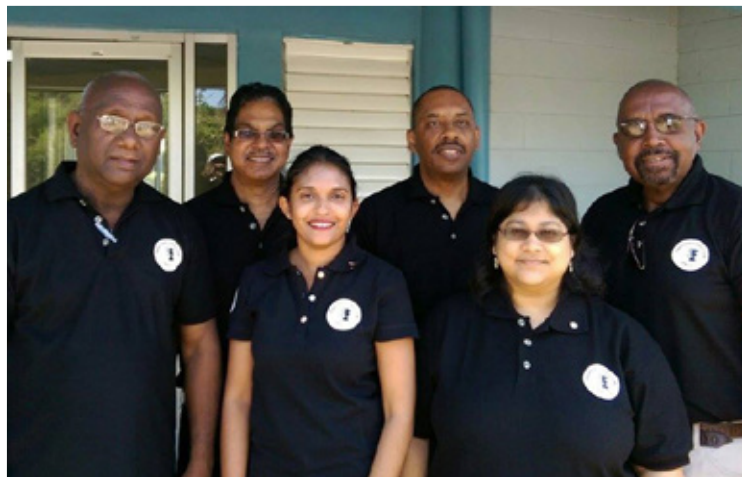
Adults/ Rotaracters game



one of the winners of the adults category



Rotaracter Shedron Collins presented with winning medal for the Rotaract/Trainer category by project coordinator Dr. Jo-Anne Sewlal



Trainers and facilitators of the "Chess in Schools" project (Left to right) Carlyle Singh (TTCF), David Martin (GMPSCC), Jo-Anne Sewal (Project Co-coordinator), Edison Raphael (TTCF) Tessa Solomon (committee member) and Raymond Aaron (Project Coordinator)



Raymond Aaron (Project Coordinator) presenting a student with a prize of a Training chess set for successfully completing a puzzle. Prize supplied by TTCF



Mother and son playing chess



We want to hear from you

As an international organisation part of Rotary's success comes from the ability of Clubs to join together to strengthen efforts and share ideas.

We are anxious to share what clubs are doing in our District. Send us articles on your club projects.