



ROTARY CLUB OF WYNBERG

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ROTARY WORLD UNDERSTANDING MONTH



EDITORIAL

Submitted by Dave Barnard (taken from Time Magazine)

There's no one place a virus goes to die — but that doesn't make its demise any less a public health victory. Throughout human history, viral diseases have had their way with us, and for just as long, we have hunted them down and done our best to wipe them out. In the developed world, vaccines have made once-common scourges such as measles, rubella, mumps and whooping cough rare to the point of near-extinction. Only once, however, has any virus been flushed from its last redoubts in both the body and the wild and effectively vaccinated out of existence. That virus was smallpox, which ceased to exist outside high-security labs in 1977. Since that day, humanity has been free to put the vaccines against the disease — and the terror its periodic outbreaks would cause — on the shelf forever.

Now we are tantalizingly close to another such epic moment. This time the disease in the medical cross hairs is [polio](#), and there's no minimizing the progress made against it. Just 25 years ago, polio was endemic to 125 countries and would paralyze or kill up to 350,000 people — the overwhelming majority of them children — each year. Now the disease has been run to ground in just three countries: [Afghanistan](#), Pakistan and [Nigeria](#), and in 2012, it struck only 215 people worldwide. Thanks to aggressive global vaccination programs led by Rotary International, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, and, most recently, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the year just beginning could be the disease's last.

But polio still has strong-armed friends. On January 1, as the rest of the world celebrated the New Year, gunmen in Pakistan shot and killed seven medical aid workers — six of them women or girls — who had been part of the anti-polio drive. Those killings followed nine others in December, as well as the shooting of a Ghanaian doctor, also conducting polio-vaccination work in Pakistan, in July. The month before that, the Pakistani Taliban blocked the planned vaccination of 161,000 children until U.S. drone strikes in the country were halted.

Polio is a notoriously slippery disease, one that relies on — indeed its very survival depends on — just the kind of holes such sabotage efforts open in the vaccine safety net. In 2003, polio was similarly near its end when clerics in Northern Nigeria halted inoculations — claiming that the vaccine contained HIV and was designed to sterilize children. Within two years, cases of polio linked to the Nigerian strain were raging across 16 countries. And since once case of paralysis can result for every 200 cases of polio infection, that means there may be 199 other carriers silently and unknowingly spreading the virus.

Using children as viral suicide bombers this way is a new — and grotesque — form of bioterrorism, and the world, for now at least, is not standing idly by. After the December killings, Pakistani officials pledged to continue with the country's plans to deploy 250,000 health care workers to vaccinate 35 million children this year. The governments of Nigeria and Afghanistan have similarly vowed to see the eradication drive through to its end, as have the U.N. and the other institutions involved in the battle. The Islamic Development Bank has put fresh money behind the push, donating \$227 million to the vaccine program in

Pakistan in particular. This is on top of the billions already provided by Rotary and the Gates Foundation alone.

All of that money could turn out to be very very well spent. One billion dollars per year over the next few years could save \$50 billion over the next 20 years in the costs of continuing to chase the disease around the globe and treat the children who are felled by it. And there is no way, of course, of putting a price tag on the suffering of those stricken children — or the importance of sparing other victims the same fate. The war with the poliovirus and its human defenders has been joined — and 2013 could be the year in which the climactic battles are fought.



MEETING OF 21 FEBRUARY 2013

Attendance

Membership	23
Present	14
Make ups	2
Apologies	9
Attendance	69%

Visitors: Sarah Yousuf, Wenke Hovstad, Val Cleveland, Mary Vivian, Paul & Trisha Scarlett
Norwegian visitors from Oddemarka: Vetle Lyngseth Holme and Mathilde Berg (students),
Monica Arnø Bartok, Katrine Jørum, Rune Heggdal (principal).

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

The loyal toast by done by the sergeant himself (being Barry) and Francois toasted the Western Club of Florida. The grace was later done by John.

PRESIDENT'S ITEMS

Pres Mike welcomed the team from Oddemarka and Sarah and partners.

Mike then proceeded to induct Paul Scarlett as an honorary member. Paul is the owner of The Palms Guest House and he and his wife, Trisha, have provided Wynberg Rotary with a home that they are proud of and enjoy so much. This was a unanimous decision by the Board to bestow this honour on Paul. Welcome Paul and we hope you will wear your badge with pride and honour.

SLOTS

Graham: Car park duties for the Community Chest Carnival – the list will be circulated during the meeting – please fill in the slots for duties.

Biffy:

Isiphiwo: Marty the magician will be back on 8 April while doing a world cruise. He has convinced/coerced the dance instructors on board to also come out to the school to teach some dancing. It looks like about 24 members of the cruise liner will be doing a day trip into Khayelitsha to visit Isiphiwo and other sights for the day. Promises to be exciting.

Club shirts: Biffy had shirts on hand to try on for sizes. Biffy had not had a chance yet to speak to Mike. Post meeting note: Club members will pay R100 a shirt and the club will subsidise the balance. Orders to Biffy. Details circulated by email.

Durban 2019 convention: Sad news in the Indaba is that the RI Board of Directors has declined to issue an invitation to District 9270 to hold the RI Convention in Durban in 2019.

Rotaract: Our birthday on Sat and they had wanted to know if we could do something. The club decided that this was too short notice to arrange anything. Rotaracts birthday falls next month. Biffy to circulate an email. Bingo on Fri 5 April – please support them. Details by email.

The Cup: While going through the “archives” from The Nek, Biffy came across a large trophy as well as the smaller one placed before Mike. This one has no description/inscription on it. What is it for? Older members informed us that it was for fellowship and promptly awarded it to Karen and Biffy for the Valentines evening function. Email circulated to club members for further info on this cup.

Mike then opened the floor to the **Oddemarka students**, Vetle and Mathilde, to tell us something about their school and environment. Vetle and Mathilde provided a high-tech interesting video presentation and then proceeded in flawless English to address us. They thanked WRC for the hospitality, drivers, hosts, and kindness and told us about visiting the schools which impressed them. Their impressions of Cape Town have been altered by this experience. They will be going back to Norway to tell their friends and school about Cape Town, South Africa and the schools they visited. They will also continue to encourage the tradition of taking the day off yearly to earn money to send out for the Norwegian Liaison Projects undertaken here. They (and we) hope that the association will long continue. Please to follow them on FaceBook (email sent in this regard).

The sergeant proceeded to tell a joke about a blond who went into a casino and used her assets to fool and mesmerize casino staff and customers.

GUEST SPEAKER

Are gave a short introduction of Glen van Harte, Director of Education, Metropole South Area.

Glen proceeded to tell us this was on purpose so that he could tell us himself about his background. Glen was so excited about addressing us that he arrived on the Monday evening only to be told the meeting was actually on the Thursday evening. Glen comes from a family of teachers in socially and economically depressed areas of Cape Town. He was initially educated by the vicious Holy Cross nuns. Then by Christian Brothers. He wanted to move far away from religion after this and decided on mechanical engineering. After this he did his practical teaching and fell in love with teaching Maths and Physical Science. He later became an advisor in the Education Dept and then the Head of Curriculum before becoming Head of the District. He has under him 211 schools, 4 500 teachers, 165 000 learners in a very wide range of areas (Simonstown, Wynberg, Mitchells Plain, Khayelitsha, etc). A large number of the areas have problems with drugs, gangs, teenage pregnancies, rape and other socio-economic problems.

Glen equated being the Director of Education as dealing with a nation at war with itself. What is the role of education? Education can't solve society's evils alone but need exciting civil society organisations like Wynberg Rotary Club which is why Glen was so excited about coming to talk to us. What the Department have to do is teach children to read, write and add. There is no mention of morals and this is where the system falls down and which teachers are not equipped to deal with and the children therefore have no role models.

Reading: teachers average 45 children per class in the more economically depressed areas. There are no reading classes in the curriculum and these need to be replaced with civil society input. English is also in most cases not the teachers home language and it is important for the children to HEAR the right language. Of the 33 000 teachers less than half speak English as their first language.

Maths: Glen's district is the highest performing district at 65%. Districts are gauged on their Grade 3 and Grade 6 literacy and numeracy ratings. (This is high as at Isiphiwo literacy rates have increased from 5% to 53% with the addition of a reading programme but maths rates after 6+ years of working in the school remain at under 5%)

Teachers need to care more. Principals are being encouraged to "adopt" all their children hoping this will create "Safe Havens" for the children. Even this is difficult when the bullets fly. Parents and communities need to buy into this though and also take ownership and this is a continuous struggle.

Glen has the dream of leaving the department in 6 years as fresh ideas are always needed. Before this he wants to achieve:

1. A school hall for each school which creates a "home" where children can come together.
2. An after school extra mural programme.
3. Develop job shadowing so that children will know where they are going to and stem the drop out rate.

JACKPOT

The jackpot stands at over R2 700 (less R1 000 for visitors and less R500 for club members). Rune's name was drawn but he only managed to find the A♦ - ag shame!! Aubrey won the attendance prize of R40.

PRESIDENT'S QUOTE

From Steve Irwin, famous conservationist from Australia: Crocodiles are easy. They try to kill and eat you. People are harder. Sometimes they pretend to be your friend first.

PROGRAMME

March 2013	Committee: van Wyk, Gowdy, Overbosch, Todd, Murphy, Klotz-Gleave
Thursday 7	AG's visit
Sunday 10	Argus Cycle Tour
Thursday 14	Normal meeting : speaker to be arranged Visit by Haugaland College, Norway.
Wednesday 20	Joint meeting at Rotaract. No meeting Thurs 21-Human Rights Day
Thursday 28	Normal meeting due to public holiday the previous week : speaker to be arranged
Friday 29	Easter Friday / start of Easter weekend / Two Oceans Marathon

April 2013

Committee: Barnard, Bird, Hovstad, Michalowsky, Wetmore

- Thursday 4** **Normal meeting: Speaker: Cathy Stagg on how to take good pictures (bring your cameras)**
- Friday 5** **Bingo at Rotaract**
- Thursday 11** **Normal meeting at Lavender Hill High School: Speaker to be arranged.**
- Thursday 18** **Joint meeting with Rotaract at Palms: Speaker: Mike Roberts (title to follow) (promises to be good)**
- Thursday 25** **Normal meeting: visit by GSE team from Japan**

DUTY ROSTER

	7 March	14 March	28 March	4 April
Sergeant	Gowdy	Overbosch	Cleveland	Gowdy
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Barnard	Bird	Van Eeden	Murphy
Minutes for Wynpress	Cleveland	Knight	Cleveland	Danckwerts
Compilation of Wynpress	Danckwerts	Cleveland	Knight	Cleveland
Door Duty	Williams	Murphy & Wetmore	Bredenkamp	Williams
Grace	Wetmore	Klotz-Gleave	Vivian	Wetmore
Loyal Toast	Murphy	Williams	Wetmore	Murphy
International Toast	Barnard	Bird	Lidgley	Barnard
Speaker Introduction	N/A	TBA	TBA	TBA
Speaker Thanks	N/A	van Wyk	Todd	N/A

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ROSTERED DATE, PLEASE SWAP WITH ANOTHER ROTARIAN AND INFORM THE DUTY SERGEANT

TAILPIECE**HEALTH MESSAGE**

As I was lying in bed pondering the problems of the world, I rapidly realized that I don't really give a rat's ass. It's the tortoise life for me!

1. If walking/cycling is good for your health, the postman would be immortal
2. A whale swims all day, only eats fish, drinks water, and is fat.
3. A rabbit runs and hops and only lives 15 years.
4. A tortoise doesn't run and does nothing, yet it lives for 450 years.

And you tell me to exercise?? I don't think so. I'm retired. Go around me!