



# Bulletin

## Rotary Club of Beijing

President: Kevin Fong

### Weekly Meeting

10th February 2009

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

613 / 143

Kempinski Hotel, Beijing

People's Republic of China

Editor: Grace Zhou assisted by Rtn. Gilbert

Pictures: Rtn. Gilbert

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### Opening

President Elect Henry Wang opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to our guests and fellow members.

Rtn. Curt Bergstrom led the Four Way Test in both Chinese and English.

Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert welcomed visiting Rotarians:

Ms. Annie Chan, from RC of Vieux Montreal, Canada

Ms. Helen Boyle, from RC of Northwick Park, Landon

And visiting guests:

Ms. Ilse Mann, guest of Rtn. Niels-Uwe Behrens

Ms. Charlene Chuang, guest of Rtn. Serge Kioes

Ms. Julia Feng, guest of Rtn. Peter Humphrey

Ms. Amanda Chan, guest of Rtn. Annie Chan

Mr. Walter Jansen, guest of Rtn. Norbert Stöhr

Ms. Margaret Ward, guest of Rtn. Alan Babington-Smith (speaker)

Mr. Brian Griffin, guest of Rtn. Charles Lagrange

Mr. Guillaume Rougier-Brierre, guest of Rtn. Raphael Goué

Mr. Stefan Hubeli, guest of Rtn. David Van Meerendonk

Mr. Cindy Burkhardt guest of Rtn. Josephine Ng

Ms. Rita Carvalho, guest of Rtn. Gilbert

### Happy Money

During the meeting, Sergeant-at-Arms Gilbert raised RMB 3,400

## Attendance

Attendance rate was 48%

## Banner Exchange

Banners were exchanged with the following Clubs:

Rotary Club of Vieux Montreal, Canada

Rotary Club of Harrow England (received c/o Rtn. Ruby Chang)

## Reports & Announcements

Club Secretary John Barnes who chaired the recent February Board meeting reported on the motions and decisions made by the Board at the meeting. His report covered Club Admin, Secretary, Membership, Financial, Rotary Foundation and Club service projects. CS John also reported that the Board had approved a proposal for two new members and that their details will be passed to all members for consideration in due course.

Foundation Director Rtn. Regula reminded members that the one-way GSE team will be arriving in Beijing on March 28, 2009, and that they will be staying for two weeks. The team comprises four members and a team leader and they will be accommodated in a hotel. Rtn. Regula made an appeal for help from members to assist in arranging vocational visits.

Ball Chair Rtn. Arne reported that the Ball preparations were progressing well and wished to thank all members of the Ball Committee for their hard work. The Ball Committee comprises fourteen members who are working on various tasks grouped under three sub-committees. Rtn. Arne encouraged members to show their support for the Ball by donating items for the auction or raffle and by buying tickets. Rtn. Arne also reported that ticket selling had commenced and that six tables have been reserved so far. Anyone wishing to reserve a table or tickets should contact Club Administrator, Grace Zhou.

Ball Sponsorship coordinator Rtn. Einar encouraged members to help in looking for potential sponsors through their personal and business networks.

China Rotary Assembly Coordinator Rtn. Josephine announced that the China Rotary Assembly will be held in Beijing on March 14. Further details will be sent to members via email. All enquiries should be directed to Rtn. Josephine.

Rtn. Christoph Mueller announced that the Board has approved 7,500 RMB for the Luku Lake project for assisting three English teachers' with their living costs. Rtn. Christoph thanked Rtn. Rita Yang and Rtn. Steve Ting for their generous contribution and donations to this project.

## Speaker's Program

Speaker's program coordinator, Rtn. Alan introduced today's speaker, Mrs. Margaret Ward. Mrs. Ward is the Technical Adviser to the Baoji Xinxing Aid for Street Kids in Shaanxi Province, western China.

In 2002 Margaret Ward joined the renowned international agency Medicines Sans Frontières (MSF). Between 2002 and 2004 she worked on MSF emergency assignments in some of Africa's most troubled locations, including Uganda, Sierra Leone and the Sudan.

Mrs. Ward works with a team of Chinese professionals dedicated to help China's growing population of homeless and runaway children. Xinxing (New Star) is the first NGO of its kind in China. Mrs. Ward joined the project in January 2005 as Field coordinator for MSF, who established the project.

Mrs. Ward gave a moving presentation on what she called the "Left Behind Children" (LBC) in China. These are children whose families can no longer support them, or who have fled their parental home because of physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Her presentation was a rare insight to the plight of Children Left Behind and of the challenges facing organization such as Xinxing in reaching LBC children and young adults. Her speech, supported by shocking stories, statistics and pictures, didn't fail to touch the heart of everyone present.

Rtn. Curt Bergstrom thanked Mrs. Ward for her touching presentation.

## **Conclusion**

President Elect Henry Wang closed the meeting with a toast to the visiting clubs, Rotary International, our sister Clubs - the Rotary Club of Copenhagen, the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, Rotary Club of Great Neck, the Rotary Club of Shanghai, the Rotary Club of Del Mar and Interact Club of Dulwich College Beijing.

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Rtn. Gilbert, PR Director and webmaster.