



ललित धारा

RI District 3292

Club No. 23126

Chartered: 29 August 1985

President & Editor: Bijaya Mallapaty

President Elect & Assistant Editor: Chandralekha Kayastha

Secretary: Bishwa Bandhu Sharma

Issue No. 1181

Date: 6 Mangsir 2073 / 21 Nov. 2016

Today's Programme: 4th Club Assembly

Forthcoming Programme:

28 Nov: Heifer Nepal Presentation – Global Grant Project Progress
5 Dec: Business Meeting and Election of Club Officers/Directors

Congratulatory Events

Birthdays:

Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha – 22 Nov.
Rtn. Dr. Nabal Pajiyar – 23 Nov.

Wedding Anniversaries: NIL

Minutes of Meetings No. 1533

Date: 29 Kartik 2073 / 14 Nov. 2016

1. President Rtn. Bijaya Mallapaty called the meeting no. 1533 to order with 15 seconds of 'Silent Invocation' for peace and happiness.
2. Guests welcomed by the President: Guest Speaker Mr. Robin Marston, Mrs. Wendy Marston, Mr. Mike, Mr. Pragyan Bajracharya, Mr. Ved Vyas Singh, Mr. Jhari Lal Mandal, and Inner Wheel District Chairman Mrs. Bijaya L. Shrestha.
3. The last meeting minutes were reviewed and adopted.
4. 'Happy News' Contributions:
 - Rtn. Lochan Gyawali - for 'Happy Birthday' in absentia (ha.ba).
 - For winning wonderfully in Rota Quiz with 115 points at the Zonal Level by the RCP Team led by Rtn. Chandralekha Kayastha with membership of Rtns. Nirmal Pradhanang, Gabriele Mallapaty and Padam L. Maharjan (stand-by): Rtns. Matsyendra L. Kayastha (also judge of Rota Quiz) & Chandralekha Kayastha (NRs. 500), Ganesh R. Shrestha (also timekeeper of Rota Quiz), Bijaya Mallapaty (NRs. 500), Gabriele Mallapaty, Nirmal K. Pradhanang (NRs. 500), Padam L. Maharjan, Dr. Nabal Pajiyar (also for having a friend in today's meeting), and Kamala Maharjan (Total NRs. 2,300).
 - Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha – for 'Happy Return' from Mt. Abu, Rajasthan, India.
 - Rtn. Dr. Prakash R. Regmi – for attending the conference of Asia Pacific Society of Cardiology as an invited speaker on Rheumatic Heart Disease, and the WHO Convention in New Delhi on Tobacco Control (NRs. 1,000).
5. Rotary News/Information:
 - Health Status of Rtn. Kamalmani Dixit was provided – He has been moved from the Norvic to the B&B Hospital where further examination and care continues. The RCP family wishes him a quick recovery.
 - District TRF Seminar was attended by the President, plus as a resource person by Rtn. Siba B. Rajbhandary from the RCP.
 - Reminder: RCP's first Birthday Fellowship on Saturday, 19 Nov. at 'Bu Keba' Restaurant, Bakhundole. (Coordinator: Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha supported by Rtn. Ganesh R. Shrestha).
 - Reminder: Trip to Okhaldhunga and Solu: 23 to 27 Nov. (Coordinator: Rtn. Dr. Prakash R. Regmi).
 - Trip to Mirge, Dolakha has been confirmed for 3 to 5 December. (Coordinator: Rtn Nirmal K. Pradhanang)
6. Salutation: By PP Rtn. Jeevan K. Shrestha - RC of Colombo West, Sri Lanka; Chartered: 1961; Members: 95. District: 3220, Clubs: 65, and Members: 1793.
7. Please see below for a summary of today's Talk Programme given by Mr. Robin Marston.
8. Before the closure of the meeting by the President, the Secretary announced: contribution of NRs. 7,000 (NRs. 3,200 for attendance and NRs. 3,800 for Sunshine Fund including NRs. 50 for a phone call, and a top-up of NRs. 50 by the President); attendance: 23 members, 7 guests (including 1 spouse), and 9 make-ups.

Rotary Q & A presented by Rtn. Mahendra Thapa

Questions

Abbreviation 'ROTEX' stands for:

Abbreviation 'RAM' stands for:

Answers

Association of returned Rotary Exchange Students

Rotarians against Malaria

Talk Programme by Mr. Robin Marston – Perspective on 'Tourism' in Nepal with his 38 years of residency experience in Nepal

Rtn. Kedar B. Shrestha introduced Mr. Robin Marston who retired in 1977 as a Major in the British Army. He drove overland with wife Wendy from UK to Nepal in 1978 to join Mountain Travel Nepal (Nepal's first trekking Agency founded by Col. Jimmy Roberts in 1964). Mountain Travel was part of the Tiger Tops group of companies. He served there as the GM and Managing Director during 1978-1990. In 1981, he left Mountain Travel to take over as Managing Director of the Summit Hotel, Kopundole and Summit Trekking Nepal where he worked until 2003. Mr. and Mrs. Robin and Wendy Marston currently occupy themselves with travel writing, golf, Nepal tourism and charity/social works.

Mr. Robin Marston presented his talk programme with the help of a power point presentation, which was full of data and beautiful pictures. A select few milestone dates from his long list are noted below:

- 1950 – 1st Expedition to Annapurna
- 1951 – Opening of Nepal to Tourism
- 1953 - Accent to Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay
- 1958 - Start of RNAC
- 1962 - Tiger Tops and start of Wildlife Tourism
- 1965 – Hotel Annapurna
- 1966 – Hotel Soaltee
- 1980 - RCP PP Prasai & Dr. Dolf Noordijk founded the Summit Hotel
- 1985 - Nepal/Tibet 'Kodari' road opened
- 1996 - Tourist arrivals topped 600,000 followed by a slump during the Maoist movement.
- 2001 - Royal Massacre
- 2006 - Peace Accord
- 2015 - Tourist arrival peak at 800,000, but dropped following the Earthquake and the Blockade
- 2016 - Slow growth in Tourism

Mr. Marston talked about good potentials for tourism growth in Nepal, while flagging some major issues that will impact this growth. Prime among them are – condition of Tribhuvan Int'l Airport, sustained culture of Kathmandu valley, air safety, road conditions, product improvements for trekking and wildlife tourism, and investment in middle level hotels. While Nepal is now listed as the 5th best destination in the 'Lonely Planet', it should be noted that it is mentioned with a remark for 'budget conscious' tourists. Therefore, for an increase in revenue in the tourism sector, there is a lot to be done on 'Quality' issues.

Following his presentation, a Q/A session allowed RCP members to get his views on several issues. Mr. Marston noted the need to increase the average number of days of stay by tourists. While religious tourism to 'Pashupati' is doing well, Lumbini could attract more if better packages are developed to expand on 'day tourism' from India.

On behalf of the RCP family, Rtn. Dr. Bishwa B. Sharma gave a 'Vote of Thanks' to Mr. Robin Marston for a very interesting perspective on the history of tourism in Nepal and its directions, and President Bijaya Mallapaty presented him a copy each of 'Lalitdhara Souvenir' and 'Rotary Ka Kura' as a 'Token of Appreciation'.



May the Laugh Bug Bite You 😊😊😊😊😊

The food at the sandwich shop I frequent is good, but any deviation from the norm throws the staff. I once told a clerk that I wanted only half a sandwich. His reply: "What am I going to do with the other half?" A week later, when I told another clerk the same thing, she responded, "Do you want the top or the bottom?"