

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF LINCOLN
APRIL BULLETIN 2023 PRESIDENT BOB BELLAMY**

03/04/2023 , SPEAKER NEIL WOODMANSEY MBE



Our speaker on Monday 3rd of April was Neil Woodmansey, a Dog Handler member of the Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Team. Neil started his career as a Sub Mariner then a Fireman but for the last 25 years has specialised in Rescue with specially trained dogs.

Neil's first dog Holly was a black Labrador which was well behaved. The current dog is a Collie called Colin, rather more lively but after 18 months training , very good at Search and Rescue.

Neil's first success with Holly was to a building collapse in Glasgow. A later disaster in Pakistan illustrated the difficulties of taking dogs overseas. Surviving a 10 hour flight both ways, and the 2 months of quarantine after the event.

The government set up 15 Fire and Rescue Service bases in the UK and one of these is at Waddington. There is a training facility there including wrecked buildings and part of a train crash.

Neil pointed out that there are some problems with dogs abroad not easily solved by training in the UK. In Haiti, as well as loose prisoners to contend with, there were tarantula spiders which could give fatal bites to dogs. Consequently, the dogs had to sleep in the tent with their handlers rather than cages outdoors. Some of the locals in Haiti were terrified of black dogs which they think are reincarnations of their ancestors.

Neil observed how successful Rotary Shelter boxes are in disaster areas and was most impressed with the tents and equipment supplied.

On one of the sites in Turkey , after two hectic days, Colin suffered a cut on one of his back legs. The Veterinary officer (a member of their team) bandaged the wound and suggested he would need 10 days to recover. Neil spent the next day without Colin, helping a local policeman to rescue two persons who were located by receipt of a text message. The next morning Colin was up and ready for work again!

Back home Neil reflected on Colin's service suggesting he has about four more years to work. A successor is already in training. He then left the room for a moment and returned with Colin on a lead, who greeted us all in doggie fashion. Needless to say photographs were taken and we thank Maureen Coffey for the one shown above, and David McKee for a heartfelt vote of thanks.

16th APRIL DISTRICT 1070 DISABILITY GAMES

We learned, very close to the event day, that 16th April was also the day of the 10k run with the resultant road closures. It affected the Archery Team because they store their equipment at the Yarborough Sports Centre and there was no access on the morning of 16th. Consequently, as the driver who collects their equipment with my trusty trailer, I had to collect their gear on the Saturday morning and keep it in my trailer overnight until the Sunday morning. On Saturday afternoon I was in the sports hall helping to mark out the three boccia courts with white tape.

We had recruited a few extra competitors for the Lincoln team this year with 14 contestants. Thankfully 5 of them were able to get to the games in their own transport so we only had 9 passengers for our drivers to collect. Thanks go to Peter Hill, David McKee, Malcolm Miller, Nigel Harrison and Barry Dean for collecting them in the morning, helping Neil Curtis with the Boccia and then taking them home in the afternoon.

Although the Boccia event was headed by Lincoln Rotary Club, we had help from experts from St Georges Academy Sleaford and Grantham Rotary Club.

The Lincoln team were supported by Audrey and myself and Margaret Miller, secretary of Lincoln Inner Wheel.



To save time, in recent years, we have organised presentation of awards when each event is complete. The picture was one of the last taken and was of the winner of the Powered Wheelchair Slalom, Joanne Brennan. This confused me because I knew Joanne had not booked to do a wheelchair event! When questioned, she told me that she had opted to enter at the last minute because there were less contestants available than expected. She had not expected to win as her battery was low.

The presenter is Simon Kalson, announcer Antoune Holmes, and Rotarians Steve Bartle and Chris Howick of Lindum Rotary Club, organisers of the wheelchair events.

We were blessed with a fine sunny day and every one seemed to enjoy it. There were members from the Leicester Clubs getting used to the arrangements as they will be running the event in the next two years at

Radcliffe near Leicester. The Lincoln team have already said they hope we can take them!

17th APRIL LUNCH, SPEAKER ANGELA BETANCUR, PEACE FELLOW

When I met Angela on her first visit to our Club I was able to tell her that the Peace Fellowships were the brainchild of the World Rotary President, Bill Huntley, a member of Alford and Mablethorpe Rotary Club, in 1994. It was eight years before Bill's dream came to fruition with the establishment of the Peace Fellowships at Universities in 6 countries and we are proud that one is at Bradford in the UK and it all began here in Lincolnshire.

Angela's career began in her home country, Columbia where she became a social worker for the care of people with mental disabilities including many victims of conflict. She was very aware of the history of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan during WW11.

She was eventually sponsored by a local Rotary Club to become a Peace Scholar and was allowed to take the course in Tokyo.

Angela embarked on a two year programme, living with a Rotary family. She was very complimentary on how she was received and looked after by Rotary in Japan.

Her studies in Tokyo included a visit to the site of Hiroshima and the Warbreak Museum. She met a survivor from the bombed city. Angela reminded us that their memorial says, "Do not allow this to happen again!"

Back home, she realised that the Peace Initiative is a community- based understanding in Columbia and that women's part in Peace Making is important. They should become instruments of peace.

A trip to Mozambique in Africa reinforced her view that Rotarians world-wide are Agents for Peace. She congratulated us on what Rotary does through the Peace Fellowship. Angela is enjoying her 2nd Masters Degree studies at Lincoln University.

Giving the Vote of Thanks, President Elect John said we need more people like Angela to inspire us and wished her every success.

24th APRIL CLUB COUNCIL ON ZOOM.

One memorable result of the pandemic has to be the use of zoom. One would imagine that with all our fantastic high tech equipment we could have fault free meetings. Not so! My record for time taken to log on is 35 minutes. Most of us have suffered problems with zoom. The first "Hybrid" meeting I recall was a District Council. We were blessed with the parts of the body not usually seen on some of those who spoke to us from the live meeting! I introduced Hybrid zoom to the early meetings we had in our Club when the effects of Covid were less threatening. I placed my trusty I-phone in a tripod on the table and pointed it at the speaker. Some of the time his or her face was visible but the sauce bottle had more frequent presence.

Our recent Council meetings have enjoyed two zooms of our secretary, one showing the top of his head, the other slightly lower!

In spite of these difficulties we still had important discussion on 24th April when the proposal we raise funds by members contribution instead of fund raising events was discussed. It was resolved that the Treasurer will write a cost plan to be discussed along with the proposal at the AGM which is planned for 15th May.

Peter Manton, Bulletin Editor