

Tai Post 大報

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (Nov 2014 Issue)

President's Message

Natalie Kwok



7 Nov 2014 was a special day. It was the 19th solar term out of 24, namely 立冬 (Start of Winter), signifying the commencement of winter season and so crops should be harvest and stored up.



Trees covered with rime in Jilin, Jilin province in November 2013

This was an imperative festival in ancient times. Before this day, the ancient emperor would take a shower and only veggie meal. On that day, the emperor together with his officials will celebrate the coming of winter in suburbs.

In the northern part of China, people will celebrate this day by eating dumping, as recognised by the saying that "Eat dumplings on Start of Winter Day, or else yours will be frostbitten".

To prepare for the impending cold winter and to strengthen our body, on this Day people in southern China will eat high-nutritious food such as chicken, duck, beef, mutton, and fish, which are usually stewed with the Chinese medicines.

The above tradition is the distillation of the wisdom of ancient people in learning how to live in harmony with nature. In Rotary Club of Tai Po, we also have our way of treasuring our own tradition - on 15 Nov 2014 we will be celebrating the birthday of our Charter President Donald.

There were great events in our club and the district last month and early this month. On 3 Nov 2014 we had the 9-club joint meeting, the speaker was Miss Janet Wong, JP, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Commission, HKSAR. Her topic was the aim and responsibility of the Innovation and Technology Commission. We were proud to be the only club to have two new members inducted, Mr. Eric Chiang and Mr Jason Lo, and have them pinned by DG Belinda.

Let's give a round of applause to Membership Chair PP Dennis, the proposer Caren and PDG Kenneth, and all those who helped in this exercise.



On 1 November 2014, 15 members and spouses from our club attended the Rotary Club of NT annual ball. It was a great fun!



Below are some other important events which occurred recently:

- 27 Oct 2014, RC HK Harbour club visit; we also invited Mr Duncan Pescod GBS JP to share the topic of West Kowloon Cultural District Development



- 21 Oct 2014 District Vocational Service Seminar; speaker Mr David Sun Tak-kei, BBS JP, Director of Audit, HKAR, Topic: The importance of audit in our Society

- 18 Oct 2014, Rotary District 3450 Badminton tournament – David and Sally won the double 2nd runner-up; Hurray!

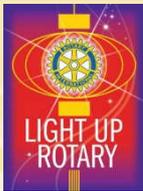


- CM and PP Ron as speakers of our club meetings on 20 Oct and 13 Oct respectively;



- 6 Oct 2014 our 1st Club Assembly

Last but not least, 8 Dec 2014 will be our AGM. Please do come and vote for the officers for the next term.



There are clocks in different parts of my home. A chiming one in the living room, at least one alarm clock in each bedroom, digital clock in bathrooms, timer-clock in the kitchen and, quite a number of old, unused clocks in the store cupboard. But all clocks and indeed all our watches show a slight discrepancies. Mostly, the clocks are put forward to different extents by my mum to ensure we are not late for appointments.



Keeping to the time is a habit learned from early days. In the past when communication is much less convenient, when there is no way to reach the person with whom you have an appointment, the only recourse is to turn up and turn up on time. With the emergence of mobile phones, this habit seems to have changed and people tend to take 'being late' as a norm. Messages showing "on the way"; "coming late in 3 min"; "sorry, still stuck in traffic" etc. flash across mobile phone when time is up or past.

Being late is tolerated but certainly not welcomed. Of course, "no-show" is even much worse. Not too long ago, it was passed around in the internet a photo showing a full table of Kaiseki-ryoir (traditional multi-course Japanese dinner). It was said that 4 Hong Kong visitors had made reservation on the internet with the Japanese ryokan for room plus 2 meals - dinner and breakfast- for 4 persons. However, they failed to turn up and no cancellation of booking was made. So the ryokan owner went on to prepare the full dinner for the 4 of them and laid them out nicely on the table.



The owner waited and waited all night. Of course, no one turned up. Upon realizing what happened to the poor owner, other visitors took the photo and spread the word on the net. Due to the dishonorable behaviour, the 4 had caused not only a loss to the ryokan owner, a total waste of food and resources; but more importantly it ruins the reputation of Hong Kong people.

An Appointment Missed by You... is an Appointment Missed by Two.

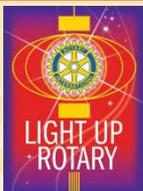
No wonder more and more Japanese Hotels or ryokans require payment of deposit upon reservation. In the past, they mostly count on your words: once you made reservation, you will come and pay as arranged. The Japanese people honour their words (can check with Tsubaki san on this☺) and expect us to do the same. "No-show" is pretty lowly and that is why ryokans did not take deposits. But maybe the owners have learnt a lesson or two from delinquent Hong Kong visitors. In recent years, they not only require deposit, some even request full payment at the outset. Maybe this is their way to avoid unnecessary losses.



Normally, I stick to my words. My friends also know that I stick to the time. I still recall the occasion when I called the first meeting for District Conference Committee in 2009. Even the then Governor, Ada, who I dare say is not the most punctual type, arrived at the meeting on time for fear of being reprimanded by humble little me. But alas, I was detained in the office for something unexpected and not only was I the last to arrive, I was half an hour late! That was the one time I shall never ever forget.

Since I am on the subject of District Conference, you will be glad to note that this year's District Conference is chaired by our very own PP Wilson – not the most "on time" of Rotarians but definitely the most industrious and helpful. Not late this time, he has already started the DC ball rolling with plans and preparation. For the time being, mark your diaries for 25th and 26th April 2015 and I am sure very soon you will be hearing from PP Wilson on the details.





Rotarians' vision to serve are truly international and not limited to our own community. Let's take a look at how a club in Georgia, USA teamed up with a club in Shanghai to provide medical services to needy in China.

RESTORING VISION TO HUNDREDS IN CHINA

By Ryan Hyland *Rotary News* 29-OCT-2014

Seeing an elderly Tibetan woman weep with joy when cataract surgery restored her vision after 10 years is the kind of moment Dave Razo will never tire of.

For several summers Razo, a member of the Rotary Club of Warner Robins, Georgia, USA, traveled to rural northwest China with a team from Georgia-based nonprofit Gansu Inc., to provide free sight-restoring cataract surgery to some of the country's poorest residents. In 2012, after 22 years and 6,000 successful procedures, Gansu's founder, ophthalmologist William Conrad, retired and discontinued the organization's operations.



But Razo didn't want the effort to end. He had seen how life-changing the surgery could be, not only for the patients but for their families and their community.

"When you see the face of someone who regains their sight for the first time in years, you can't help but share their overwhelming happiness and gratification," says Razo, who is a retired U.S. Air Force pilot. "There was so much good work done by Dr. Conrad and his organization that I felt I could continue his legacy through Rotary." Cataract, a clouding of the lens of the eye, is responsible for an estimated 2.5 million cases of blindness in China, nearly half of the country's blind population. In rural areas, blindness can be a death sentence for villagers who must walk dangerous mountain trails to obtain food and water.

Nearly half of China's population lives in rural areas, without access to the same health care as urban residents. With its huge population of older people, China is likely to face a growing backlog of people in need of cataract surgery, Razo says. "Chinese families in these regions are close knit, and three or four generations often live together. So giving sight to a patriarch or matriarch has a multiplier effect for the family and the community," he says.

RAZO TURNS TO ROTARY TO CONTINUE THE PROJECT

During one of his missions with Gansu, Razo had met Frank Yih of the Rotary Club of Shanghai. Yih, who is chair of the non-profit HuaQiao Foundation which provides in-country logistical support for international charities, arranged housing for team members during their last two visits to China. When Gansu closed its doors, Razo's Rotary club and the Shanghai club partnered to fund cataract surgery for 400 people at two hospitals in the northeast provinces of Shandong, Gansu, and Qinghai, as well as remote areas closer to Shanghai.



The clubs raised a total of \$46,000, including \$21,000 in matching funds from The Rotary Foundation. The surgeries, each of which cost about \$110 and took about two hours, were completed in June. The Shanghai club collaborated with Vision in Practice, an organization that provides surgical training, consultation, and assistance to eye care institutions and professionals, to oversee the procedures and assist hospital staff. Yih says the grant project has introduced a low-cost, high-quality cataract surgery model into the Chinese health care system, and he hopes his club can help expand the effort.

"If this type of surgery and outreach can be integrated nationwide, millions of elders in the rural villages can enjoy the benefit of regaining their vision through affordable operations," says Yih. "This will ease the burden of our country's health care dramatically."

France seems a popular destination for an Autumn trip. It attracted **Natalie and Lawso**; **Claire and her parents** and also **Wilson and Wanda** in the months of September and October. They visited different parts of France, with Natalie focusing on vineyards and winery; Claire on less-travelled places and Wilson taking in the vineyards in both France and Italy. Let's look and see if there is a common thread amongst the 3 different itineraries; or were they very different from each other?

Bon Appétit - The delicate food

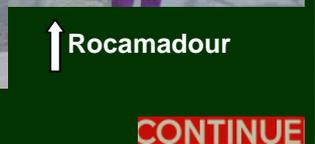
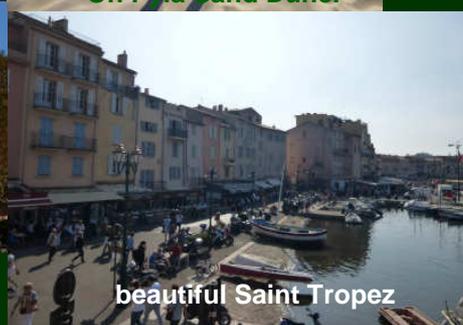
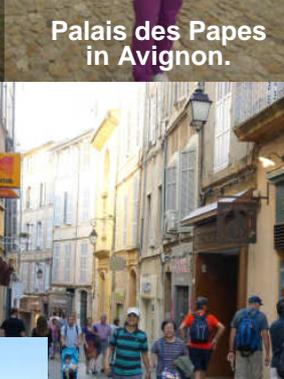
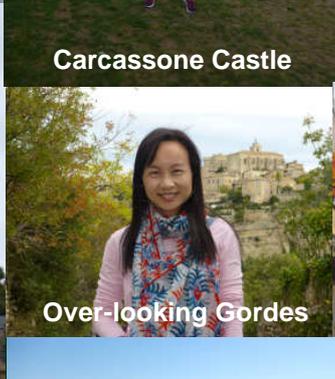


Delicious



CONTINUE

Bon Voyage – The Scenic Places



CONTINUE

Bon Vin - The Vineyards

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Chateau Smith Havt Lafite Grand Cru Classe



Chateau Pavie, St. Emilion



Chateau LaTour-Martillac



Chateau Pavie, St. Emilion-spoilt on choices



↑ Chateau Pavie, St. Emilion-inside



Saint-Sulpice-de-Faleyrens



Chateau Smith Havt Lafite



Chateau Carbonnieu



Chateau Smith Havt Lafite Cellar



Chateau Pichon-Longueville Baron-wine barrel



near Bordeaux France



At L'Auberge de l'ill.



← At Domaine Du Pegau-vintage bottle.



At Domaine Du Pegau.



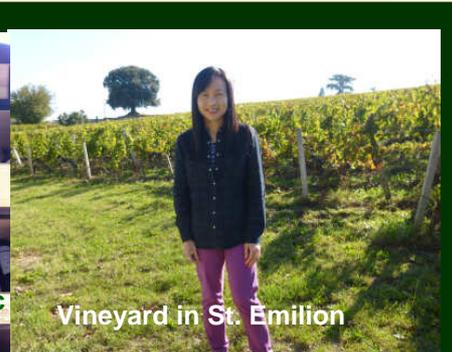
The grapes



Alsace resling grand cru vineyard



Wine tasting in Franc Mayne, St. Emilion



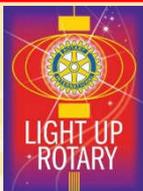
Vineyard in St. Emilion



vineyard in Bordeaux



With the Wine barrels



District Badminton Tournament

18.10.2014 • Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre



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On 18 October 2014 (Saturday) the Rotary District Badminton Tournament took place at Cheung Sha Wan Sports Centre. A total of 57 teams from 17 clubs participated. Our club was represented by David and Sally and they won the 2nd Runners up in the Mixed Doubles matches.



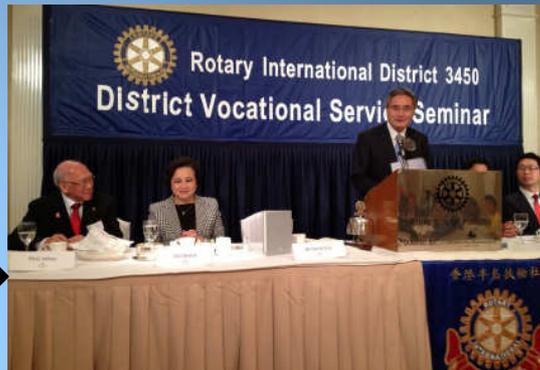
21.10.2014 District Vocational Seminar

Speaker : David Sun jp, Director of Audit

Topic : "How and Why auditing is important to our society?"



← Director of Audit David Sun JP addressed the audience. →



DG Belinda welcomed keynote speaker. →

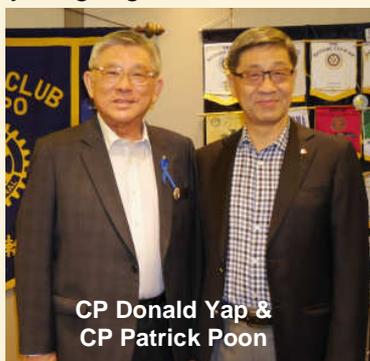


← RCTP members attended the yearly event.

Visit from Rotary Club of Hong Kong Harbour

Peter Lam

Our good tradition of mutual club visits between RC Hong Kong Harbour (HKH) and our club continued on 27th October when several members of RC HKH visited us this time after our last visit to them in June. Led by IPP Dora Liu, their members included CP Patrick Poon, DS/PP Samuel Chung, PP Grace Yen, PP Douglas Hsia, PE Ricky Chan and two of their young new members Webster Ng and Mark Tong. We were delighted that DG Belinda and Daniel also attended despite her very busy schedule so DG was well excused for arriving late and she purposely stayed "low profile" and did not give a long talk as this was her "unofficial" visit. Many thanks to our CP Donald Yap and Rotaryanne Anne who not only attended but invited a powerful speaker Mr. Duncan Pescod, GBS, JP for the evening. Mr. Pescod is currently the CEO of the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority and he was the former Permanent Secretary for Transport & Housing and has served in various bureau and government departments. We all enjoyed the interesting talk about West Kowloon development and were glad to hear that there are key development focusing not only on commercial, business use but for promotion of art, music and culture that are important social aspects we must not neglect for our the good of the younger generation and a balanced modern society.



CP Donald Yap & CP Patrick Poon



PE Vikky & PP Douglas



Head table (without DG Belinda who arrived later).



IPP Dora introducing her members



Key note speech by Mr. Duncan Pescod and vote of thanks by Secretary Roger



Lucky draw gift (steamer) from Annie to guest of Natalie



We were glad to see PP Charles Chan and few potential new members.

Taiwan Visitors

Un-official Dinner with visitors from Rotary Club of Taipei

on 29th October 2014
with PP Furniture (David
Lin) and PP Story (Koji
Lee) at Sichuan Paradise



RCTP members reciprocated the hospitality of members from Rotary Club of Taipei Diamond by treating their PE Bingo, incoming secretary Vivia and Rotarians Queeny, Jeffrey and a few others to lunch on 9th November 2014 at Royal Garden Hotel.



Rotary Club of Central 6th Anniversary Party

Date: 9th November, 2014 (SUNDAY)
 Venue: Grappa's Cellar, Jardine House Downstairs
 Dress Code: Black & Red Chicago musical style.



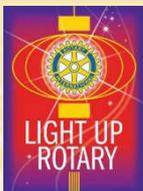
CHICAGO



Rotary Club of New Territories 45th Anniversary Ball

01.11.2014 ~ Hyatt Regency - Shatin





Joint Clubs Meeting

03.11.2014

Claire Mak



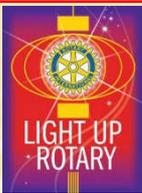
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Joint Meetings are not the sort of meetings I'd easily look forward to. Despite the oft-promoted 'heavy-weight' speaker, rekindling friendship with fellow Rotarians from other clubs, presence of District dignitaries etc. ... very often, such meetings dwindled into the same routine announcements, own club chatting and boring speeches. However, the joint meeting on 3rd November presented a welcomed change. For one, the speaker, Commissioner Janet Wong JP was a smooth speaker and her topic touches on the current and timely subject of "The aim and responsibility of the Innovation and Technology Commission." She brought home some of the current problems faced by young designers/developers and how the Commission can render assistance. The other reason is we have two new members being inducted by DG Belinda. We welcomed Eric Chiang and Jason Lo to our RCTP family. Even DG Belinda praised the arrangements of minimal formality, giving her a chance to actually eat and the whole evening being enjoyable.

Rotary Club of Shatin deserves due appreciation for all the arrangements made including invitation and introduction of amiable speaker Janet Wong JP by PP Tony Kan and also PP Wendy Lee for being the capable MC of the evening. The clubs to this joint meeting include Rotary Clubs of New Territories, Tsuen Wan, Channel Islands, Shatin, Tolo Harbour, Tai Po, HK Sunrise, Kwun Tong and HK Harbour. Though not part of the host clubs, Rotary Club of Kwai Chung was represented by President Frank Lu and PP Alexis Suen.

RCTP accounted for the 34 numbers of all those present. Of course, Eric's wife Elaine and Jason's wife Vivian were invited to witness the joyous occasion of their husbands being inducted to RCTP. To commemorate the occasion, Eric even gave out a tin of his famous cookies to everyone present. Soon after the induction and while we of RCTP were toasting and cheering, CP Donald imparted a few tips to the newly added members about 'Kwai Sheung' club (季常會), no doubt to the comfort of their lovely young wives!





New Members

Chiang, Yau Ming Eric 蔣佑明

Family

Wong, Wing Yan Elaine (wife)
Chiang, Hiu Yau 悠悠 (daughter)

Date of Birth

24 September

Education

1982-1993 Pui Ching Primary School and Pui Ching Middle School
1993-1996 Champlain College, Montreal
1996-2000 McGill University BComm MIS

Career

2000-2003 Hinode Japanese Restaurant
2003- now Tsuen Wan Eggette
2001- now Gu Fah Bakery

Awards

2011 - 13 "The best 10 employer" from Hong Kong Hospital Authority
2013 "The best SME service honor" from Hong Kong Association for Customer Service Excellence

Serving the Community

From 2011, Gu Fah Bakery participates in the patient re-training program, providing volunteers, equipment, food materials and lecture materials to help the chronic patients' re-entry to the society

Interest and Skills

Reading, listening to music and watching movies, studying history
Cooking and bakery techniques
Designing poster, giving speeches



Classification
Bakery Retailer

Membership Team
4

Induction
3 November 2014

Lo Chung Wang Jason 盧仲宏

Family:

Vivien Chung (wife)
Chloe Lo (daughter)

Date of Birth

25th October

Education

Hong Kong Baptist University B.B.A. (Hon) – Marketing
Shun Lee Catholic Secondary School H.K.A.L.
Kwun Tong Maryknoll College

Current Post

Business Director, DIGGO Universal Limited

Voluntary Service

Fung Ying Seen Koon 21st session Committee Member
- Public Promotion and Relationship
- IT department

Classification

Eco Home Decor & Furnishing

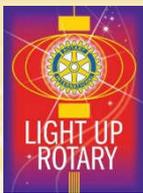
Membership Team

3

Induction

3 November 2014





The Scariest Party Ever

Francis Au



Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (Nov 2014 Issue)

The first ever District Halloween party was held on no other day, 31 Oct 2014. He he he he It was quite an exceptional SCARY party for so many reasons.

1. Our PP Man did a GREAT JOB!!! He was "The Ghost" that scared everyone including DG Belinda. She kept trying to get away from him, but had no clue who he was. Well done PP Man!!! Scary
2. Alcohol consumption in this party was extremely low. Only 6 bottles were consumed by 54 people. Scary
3. There were 54 people joining the party. KCC staff told me there were 70. Where were the other 16?????? Scary
4. Peter Pang finally became Peter PAN!!!! He got his costume shipped from US just in time. Scary



One thing not so scary though. Rotary Club of Tai Po shows our biggest support to District again with 13 members and spouses joining the party. The biggest club in the party on the night.



There were 3 games and loads of lucky draw throughout the night. The scariest thing is all games were won by the HEAD TABLE!!! Scary!!!!!! One of the game is actually won by our very own PDG Kenneth!!! Yeah!!!

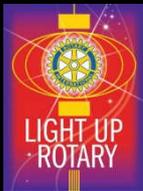
Among all the lucky draw prizes. The most scary one was created by PP May Tang. It was "一見發財" Lei See!!!! Scary???? The most scary part is the prizes donor's name was written on all these "一見發財" envelopes. Scary????



The scariest of all is Most of you were not there!!!! Where were you??? Where were you???? Where were you? Were you ok????????

Happy Halloween!!! Wish to see you all next year!!! WOW!!!!





RAC TAI PO "SCREAM FACTORY" HALLOWEEN PARTY

Stanley SIU, Club Service Director, RAC Tai Po



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Halloween, also known as "Allhalloween", "All Hallows' Eve", or "All Saints' Eve", is a yearly celebration observed in Western countries on 31 October, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It originated from ancient pagan festival celebrated by Celtic people over 2,000 years ago when the Celts believed that the dead could walk among the living that day. While we did not intend to conjure any zombies or cast Voodoo magic spell, RAC Tai Po called for the "Scream Factory" Halloween Party as our first Club Service event of the year.

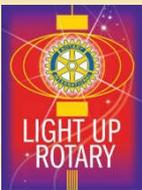


About 100 members and friends of RAC Tai Po flocked into Flat 61 Bar, Causeway Bay on 31 October 2014 for a chilled evening. Dressed in scary costumes, the boys and girls enjoyed endless fun in groups with spooky factory theme and a series of traditional Halloween games. The party would never be completed without alcohol, so we fuelled it with free flow of drinks and beer pong tournament. Trick or treat? The winners after all got the treat, and of course, losers had to learn how to enjoy tricks. Pots full of mud and worms (well, jelly candy in Oreo..) were served for the group ranking the lowest in the end as late night dessert. In addition, awards were given to the prettiest and scariest (or somewhat lousiest) costumes of the night to honour the creative minds. Last but not least, we were pleased to have PP Louis TANG, PP Peter LAM and Rtn. KF TAM with us for this crazy and fun night.



What we got after the night, other than melted makeup and daylong hangover, was something much more meaningful. Net proceeds of this "Scream Factory" party will be used for supporting our "Design Your Dreams" project, a community service initiative for the under-privileged teenagers to learn fundamental design skills with a 4-day interior design course. We look forward to seeing you in our up-coming events!





Regular Meetings

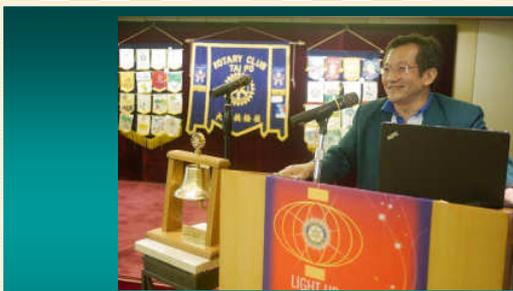
20 October 2014



Pres. Natalie congratulated all the October birthday boys and girls: Ron, Jacky, Charles and Sincere.



Young Eric Haenel (2nd from right) who is good friend of Alaric (2nd from left) introduced us to his home town Dobel, his life there and did the exchange of banners on behalf of his father (CP Jens Haenel) for Rotary Club of Dobel – Middle Saxony.



PP Ron was the speaker of the encompassing topic "My Way" and led us through his childhood, the Scottish and US experiences, his PHD studies, turning his childhood sweetheart to wife and raising the lovely family of 3 sons.



Frankie's raffle gift of a German Crystal dish was won by Pres. Natalie who of course volunteered to give red box for her good luck.



Guests who came to hear out PP Ron include from left, Rtnn. Joan and Alice, Wesley and (then) potential new member Jason Lo.

10 November 2014



The Guests have it! It was PP David who won the unique set of mint PRC currency collection from PP Wilson.



PP David Loie resurrected his topic "Love and Hate and the Shanghai Way" and this time he spoke of them "In the Thick of Things".

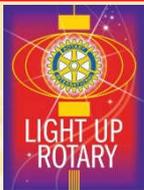


Major Donor recognition Thank you PP Jacky and PDG Anthony.



Members came for the Shanghainese love and hate.





Upcoming Events

October Winners (100% attendance):



FRANCIS AU,
CAREN CHAN,
ANTHONY HUNG,
NATALIE KWOK,
PETER LAM,
WILSON LAM,
PING LEUNG,
DENNIS LO,
CLAIRE MAK,
MAN MO LEUNG,
ROGER SO,
VIKKY TAM,
LOUIS TANG,
JIMMY WAI,
KENNETH WONG,
FRANKIE WU

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Venue</u>
22 NOV (SAT)	1:30 p.m.	“Build Our Loving Villages “ Home visit & health check for the elderly	Tam Shui Hang Village Office (擔水坑村公所); Loi Tung (East) Village Welfare Society (萊洞東村居民福利會)
24 NOV (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: PP K L Cheng Hong Kong Jockey Club Topic: “Future of Horse Racing in China”	Function Room, the Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
26 NOV (WED)	3:00 p.m.	District Poverty Alleviation Launch Ceremony	B2, Regal Hong Kong Hotel, Causeway Bay
26 NOV (WED)	4:20 p.m.	Installation ceremony of Interact Club of Tsung Tsin Christian Academy	School Auditorium, TTCA, 8 Lai Hong Street, Cheung Sha Wan
30 NOV (SUN)	8:00 a.m.	Rotary Happy Run 2014	Shatin Sports Ground
01 DEC (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Joint Meeting with RC SoHo HK Speaker: Angel Tong	Function Room, the Royal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
08 DEC (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Annual General Meeting	Function Room, the Roayal Garden, Mody Road, TSTE
14 DEC (SUN)	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Party	Al Pasha, K11, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

% of attendance of regular meetings (inclusive of make ups)

Average attendance: 70.10%

- 6th October 70.80%
- 13th October 68.00%
- 20th October 77.00%
- 27th October 64.60%

In October

Sasha Chu
Sally Luk
Patrick Yung



Happy Birthday Nov

- 18th Donald Yap
- 25th Pearl Dang
- 26th Sally Luk
- 28th David Loie

Chief Editor :
Claire Mak
The Editorial Board :
Peter Lam,
Ronald Chung & Francis Au

Got something to say?
Write in to clairemakrctaiipo@gmail.com
Tai Post reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.



On 14 December 2014 Sunday
At Al Pasha
Shop 401, K11, 28 Hanoi Road, Tsim Sha Tsui
From 7 pm
With Xinjiang Food, Belly dance, Wines, Presents ... and ... Great fellowship!!!

