

THE MID TOWNER



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CHANDIGARH MIDTOWN : R.I. DISTT. 3080

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Club No. 15228

PROGRAMME

Vol. XXXIII No.15 October 08, 2008

"Cooking Competition Followed by Dandia"
Anns participating in the competition to bring
Baked Dishes and / or Desserts

Friday, October 10, 2008

Time: 7.00 PM

Venue: Hotel President, Sector 26, Chandigarh

Voluntary Blood Donation - Together We Can Do It !



Mrs. Niti Sarin with her Presentation

Our guest speaker of the last Friday's meeting was Mrs. Niti Sarin, Gen. Secy. of the Blood Bank Society, Chandigarh. She talked at length about Voluntary Blood Donation & the B.B.S., how it started as a distant dream - an ideal blood service which would be easily accessible, where no replacement donors would be asked for, open round the clock and public friendly. It would be a first in the country ! It needed enormous resources and an enormous amount of commitment. The latter there was plenty of already, and when the resources began to materialise, so did the dream.

A true friend of the Voluntary Blood Donation movement, over the years Rotary Midtown has donated a centrifuge machine and a blood mobile to the B.B.S. So it seemed a natural choice to turn to Rotary for aiding the new dream project too. While the B.B.S. raised the funds for the building and furniture through donations made to it, the UT Administration subsidized the cost of the land, Rotary International, through the efforts of PRIP

Raja Saboo, agreed to provide the equipment.

And lo and behold - The Blood Centre, Sector 37 came into existence!

Every new project has its teething problems as did the Blood Centre. A service with such lofty aims - free blood for indigent patients, thalassaemic children, cancer patients, no replacement donors - is not easy to sustain without the whole - hearted support of the community. Being the only stand - alone, NGO - run service, it was looked upon with suspicion - a "money making venture" said some.

So much time and energy was wasted convincing people that this project is a service FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE.

The biggest achievement is being able to provide blood to patients without asking for replacement donors. When someone needs blood for themselves or a family member, they are under tremendous stress. The main objective of the Blood Centre is to provide blood as easily and quickly as possible.

There are times, however, when blood is not available. May to July and then December is the lean period for blood banks, as all the educational institutions are closed. Nobody is happy to organize camps in extreme weather. Unfortunately emergencies don't wait to happen - blood is needed all the time. Most people don't realise that blood banks cannot MANUFACTURE blood. They are only the LINK between the donor and the patient.



B'day Boys PP Dr. S.K. Sharma & Rtn. Dr. Col. V.K. Kapoor

Punctuality Draw winner Rtn. Arjan Singh

Their role is limited to collecting, testing & issuing blood. The number of patients benefitting from a BB is directly proportionate to the no. of donors who walk in. In Chandigarh and its neighbouring cities, 300 units of blood are needed every day to fulfill the blood requirements!

At the Blood Centre, the Minno Sambhi Free Blood Service provides blood for 21 thalassaemic children. This has been started by an NRI Dr. Mohinder Sambhi, in the memory of his wife through a huge donation to the Blood Bank Society. Cosmo, INSCOL and Chaitanya hospitals transfuse the blood free of charge.

What happens after donation ?

Blood is tested for five diseases : HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Malaria and Sexually Transmitted Diseases. Blood Grouping is done. After cross - matching it is issued to the patient.

The Cost Factor

All this involves costs which have to be borne by the patient. All BB's levy charges which may vary depending on the extent they are subsidized. These charges are for testing & NOT for blood, as is the common misconception.

At the Blood Centre, donors get a 50% discount on

these testing charges for their own and immediate family needs. Institutions holding camps get 5% blood without any charge at all. Poor patients get blood free.

Is tested blood 100% safe ?

Unfortunately not. Certain diseases have a window period, during which the infection is not picked up by the tests in the early stages.

So how does one overcome this?

You have to ensure that the source of blood is safe. Voluntary donors are the safest source of blood.

Here is where your help is needed. If we all pool in our resources, we can achieve something really remarkable. Rotary, through its vast network, can play a major role in organizing blood donation camps. If there are enough blood donors we can ensure that nobody dies because blood was not available.



Memento for the Guest Speaker

PP Rtn. T.S. Anand

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Rtn. Anil K. Khanna Visits Rotary Clubs in Abidjan

My professional assignments overseas keep me travelling intensely and therefore I am away from the club's meetings mostly. This time during my recent visit to Abidjan, in Ivory Coast, which is a French speaking country in West Africa, I decided to attend a meeting or two there, if possible.



Rtn. Anil Khanna with President & Secretary of Abidjan Club

Where there is a will, there is a way, and the very hotel where I was staying in Abidjan, was a host to almost a meeting of one or the other Rotary Clubs in the city each day of the week. I took time to attend meetings of three different clubs - Abidjan Les Preles, Abidjan Riviera & Abidjan Club. It was pretty heartening to note that there were as many as 11 clubs in Abidjan itself!

I was a bit apprehensive as to how it would be to attend meetings in French as I have no clue about this language. But I was delighted that at each meeting, I was given a warm welcome by all the members in their language and then quickly they chose a person who could speak English as well, and made sure that the person sat with me. He would translate some of the important things that were going on in the discussions and make me feel comfortable.

It was all the same very exhilarating experience. I made more friends at the end of each meeting and for

the first time, I ran out of my visiting cards that I always carry in abundance with me during my overseas visits.

At Abidjan Riviera Club, it was a fairly formal meeting in the sense that the former Governor was giving his presentation to the club - a very lengthy presentation in power point in French language, but nonetheless, I was delighted to see the name of our PRIP Raja Saboo as one of the promoters of a specific service activity.

In all, it was a very delightful experience for me attending these meetings and having a friend in each meeting trying to explain me some of the things being discussed in French, but what I observed was that Rotary clubs worldwide had similar issues, and hence I felt that our club was no different.

I hope to attend more meetings at our club which has got me so much affection from whole lot of people from another world.

- Rtn. Anil K. Khanna

R.C.C. at Khuda Ali Sher Sponsored by Our Club.

In her efforts to Make Dreams Real, Pres. Saroj had asked the Chairman RCC Committee PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra to form an RCC during her tenure.

Our Club has been associated with various projects with the Youth Club, Khuda Ali Sher for last several years. This motivated our Club to request the President of Youth Club Mr. Balwinder Sipray to form a RCC at Khuda Ali Sher.

The RCC of Khuda Ali Sher was formally handed over the RCC Certificate of Organization in our club meeting on Sept. 26, 2008 by the guest speaker of the day, Dr. Raj Bahadur, Director - Principal, GMCH.

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Dr. Raj Bahadur handing over the RCC Certificate of Organization

The certificate was handed over to the members of RCC Khuda Ali Sher - Bhupinder Singh, Gurdyal Singh Sarpanch, Gurpreet Singh Somal, Kuldeep Singh & Jasmer Singh.

RCC is a leverage of Rotary Club's ability to make a difference. Our club has taken the lead to provide organization & leadership at the grass root level of the society. Organising a RCC is a way of helping members of the community to improve their living with an impact & effectiveness that would not otherwise be possible.

- PP Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

Ishani Does Us Proud

Ishani Singal, d/o our Jt. Secy. Ritu Singal, is one among the three city teens representing the country in the first World Mind Sport Games in Beijing,

China, from Oct. 3 - 18, '08. They will be competing in the draughts event. The competition is going to be held at the same venue where Beijing Olympics were held.

Near about 3000 participants from around the world are vying for the top honours in five disciplines - bridge, normal and Chinese Chess, GO & draughts.

Many, many congratulations Ishani, on your selection amidst this tough competition. We wish you all the very best & express confidence that you will win more laurels for yourself & the country!



Kudos

To Devi Khandelia and his Son Yogesh,

Khandelia oil Mills promoted by our past president Devi Prasad Khandelia won the Mustard oil Brand of the Year 2008 award at Mumbai on 27th September 2008 at a Gala function at Mumbai. The award was given by Globoil India.



Way to go Devi and Yogesh.

Birthday Greetings

Rtn. Darshan Singh Kalsi

Rtn. Jawahar Jain

Rtn. Vinay B. Aggarwal

Rtn. Prem Anand



October 11

October 12

October 15

October 15

Punctuality Draw

Won by Rtn. Arjan Singh



Wedding Anniversary Greetings



R'ann Sushma & Rtn. Mohinder Singh October 11

R'ann Neera & Rtn. Rajeev Gupta October 12

Donations for Club Projects :

PP Rtn. Dr. S.K. Sharma



Rs. 1,100.00

Rtn. Balraj Singh

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