

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOLVERHAMPTON ROTARY CLUB

ROTARY CLUB OF WOLVERHAMPTON THE BEGINNING (1921 – 1922)

1921

It was about the middle of 1921 that George Stevens accepted an invitation to attend a meeting of the Rotary Club of Birmingham. He was so impressed with what he saw and heard that after his return, he sounded out a number of his friends and colleagues and arranged a meeting at the Victoria Hotel where the feasibility of forming a similar club in Wolverhampton was discussed.

1921 September 13th

With the co-operation of the then Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, T. R. D. Davies and its President A. J. Lloyd, a meeting was held at the Chamber. It culminated in a decision to hold a further meeting to which Rotarian Gilbert Vyle of the Birmingham club was to be invited and be asked to advise on the formation of the proposed new club.

1921 November 24th

This meeting took place at Reynolds Restaurant on with the Mayor, Alderman James Thompson in the Chair. Mr Vyle spoke of the purpose of Rotary and on the procedure to be adopted during the formation of a new club, following which, it was decided to hold the first interim luncheon meeting a week from the following Monday - on DECEMBER 5th 1921

1921 December 5th

The meeting took place at 1.15pm at Reynolds Restaurant as before, again under the chairmanship of Alderman Thompson. Also present:

A. Annan,	F. Blakemore,	J. B. Hall,
F. J. Bradford,	G. E. Brown,	A. G. Jeffs,
W. E. Fisher,	V. Gosling,	R. W. Swallow,
T. E. Lewis,	C. A. Mander,	J. F. Myatt,
T. Smith,	G. Stevens,	J. G. Stockly,
T. A. Henn		

and the Interim Secretary, A. H. Granville-Barker

1922 January 24th

The Charter Meeting was held on January 24th 1922.

With an entrance fee and a subscription each of one guinea, and meetings at 1.00pm on Mondays at Reynold's Restaurant, the Club had begun its corporate existence. In the first year, James Thompson was the President, T. A. Henn Vice President (these men being Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively), J. Millington, Treasurer and A. H. Granville-Barker, Secretary. The entry in the local directory for 1922/23 states that the number of members was sixty and in addition to lunch every week, they met for dinner every quarter. The day of the meetings had already changed to Tuesday.

1922 March

The club had originally been formed under the British Association of Rotary Clubs, but in March 1922, the clubs in the association became affiliated to the International Association of Rotary Clubs and R.I.B.I. was born.