

Presidents Report 2019-2020

During the Rotary year 2019-2020, the Marbella-Guadalmina Rotary Club faced a time of great challenges and new projects. I was committed to lead the Club according to the wishes of both District and our membership. One of the District's requests was to form new Clubs and to this end a priority was to found a new international Rotary Club in Nerja. By locating local Rotarians in the area, and bringing them together our Club succeeded in the foundation of a new Axarquia-Nerja Club.

The months between September and March were filled with Club meetings, fundraising events, fellowship, and service projects to the local and international community. We bought a hydraulic bed and 2 wheelchairs for Aspandem, mattress covers for "Ciudad de los Niños", training materials for Fundatul, food for Hogar Betaña and school materials for children in Medellin, Columbia.



On 12th September we were visited by the District Governor who congratulated us on our team spirit and achievements. We were presented with a Rotary Azulejo especially for our Club.



On the 8th November we enjoyed an extraordinary Club meeting aboard the cruise ship "Azamara Pursuit" where we were treated to an afternoon of hospitality from the ship's captain in Malaga port. In addition, our Events team organised a car rally, a beach party, a charity walk, a wonderful Christmas party and a return of the slap up Bangers and Mash dinner!



In line with Rotary International guidelines we needed to add environmental projects to our list of activities particularly to the problem of waste plastic. We organised events to clean up plastic from areas littered with bottles and packets and looked at the ways that both as a Club and individuals we could reduce plastic waste.



On the 28th February our Club was awarded the Medal of the city of Marbella by the Town Hall for our contribution to the city, in a very public televised event.

During the spring some of our members decided to form a brand new East Marbella Rotary Club. This very much pleased District and RC Marbella- Guadalmina are delighted to be responsible for the formation of two new International Rotary Clubs during 2019-20.

In March 2020 the country was thrown into lockdown due to Covid-19. This provided us with new challenges in how to keep the Club motivated in fellowship and to continue service to our community. Our brilliant communications team was able to move the whole Club to a virtual platform in a single week and by the next meeting we were already a functional online Club. The challenge now was to decide what to do next. Our long term plans for events and projects had to change to provide immediate aid to those most vulnerable in our communities. We changed our way of voting for funds so that that we could immediately make payments into local projects.

During the lockdown we supported over a dozen charities. We provided Indian meals to the staff in Marbella hospital on Easter Sunday, we fed over 1000 families and helped to buy a van for Collective Calling, who continue to distribute food to families in need on the Costa.



Despite the adversities of the Covid crisis, we can be proud as a Club to have risen to the challenges and excelled in our achievements. Rotary International awarded us a Platinum Rotary Citation, the most significant award a Rotary Club can achieve.



Mark Shurey
Past President 2019-20. RC Marbella-Guadalmina

