



RI District 1040
New Generations Technology Resources Team

**2012 TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT
DEBRIEF REPORT
Meeting held on 29TH MARCH 2012**

District Attendance Statistics TT 2012

106 schools participated this year which was 11 fewer (12%) than last year but the number of students at 1112 was only 44 fewer (4%) down on last year due to schools sending more teams than last year. The number of Rotary clubs involved was similar to last year at 80% of all District clubs. All in all an excellent result statistically but more importantly the 11 TT Centres reported that they felt this was one of the most successful and enjoyable TTs we have organised.

Many congratulations to all those involved.

The date for TT2013

Recently there has been a trend of falling numbers of Advanced level entered and this year there was another fall(4%) in the number of teams competing at the Advanced level but this was compensated by a similar increase in the number of Basic teams. It seems that first year 6th formers can be behind with their course work by March and teachers feel they cannot afford to let them out for a whole day when they are in arrears with their work. We explored this situation at our meeting thinking that the date of the TT could be moved to help with this problem and looked for some guidance from the teacher's feedback forms. Unfortunately, they showed conflicting views about the best date for the TT although there was some tendency towards earlier dates such as before Feb half term. After some debate, which included considerations about bad weather, **it was concluded to fix Tuesday 5th March 2013 as the optimum date.**

Communications with schools

Similar to previous years much frustration was reported trying to get meaningful contact and commitments from schools and the problem of last minute cancellations. After some discussion it was concluded that this is likely to remain as a very challenging area for TT organisers but there are some very clear procedures that should be adopted to improve the situation as follows :-

Write a letter now to all schools notifying them of next years` date and venue. Allocate each school to an individual Rotarian so that continuous face to face contact can be made with the Heads of D&T departments to reinforce their commitment to attending and to ensure that the students selected are from the technical stream that they are familiar with the use of tools and that the teacher covers the recommended revision.

Convey the message to the schools that it is not essential for teachers to accompany the students to the event if this creates problems which could cause the teacher to pull out at the last minute. Suggest that the person bringing them to the event could be a non teaching member of staff. This would also get round the problem of the cost of supply teachers.

This year's Task

Generally the feedback indicated that the difficulty factor was about right for each age group. Gears, batteries and motors were not used this year so that the absence or otherwise of teacher revision prior to the Task made little difference to the way in which the students were able to approach the Task.

Time taken on testing and the Awards ceremony

With all the experience gained from previous TTs much improvement was reported both to the speed of testing and the time taken for the Awards ceremony. In testing the judges were disciplined in adhering to the time allocated for testing, stewards were pre preparing the students ready for testing and the compilation of results and finding the winners is now more quickly done.



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The time taken for the Awards ceremony has been greatly reduced by bringing just the winning teams in each age group to the rostrum to receive the trophy and the winners` medals. Trying to put names on winning certificates prior to the Awards ceremony has always been difficult and mistakes have been made with all the pressure. The completed certificates can be taken to the schools after the event and it gives us an opportunity to get more awareness for Rotary if we can get involved in a school`s assembly to present the certificates.

District 1040 TT Steering Group

The RIBI vs. D1040 TT Steering Group was explained and the meeting then fully supported a D1040 TT Steering Group with Bob Tunnicliffe as Chairman to supply the 2013 Task and to support to our 11 Centres.

Bob Tunnicliffe

28th April 2012