

## John Kenny, Grangemouth, Scotland

President-elect, Rotary International, 2008-09  
Vice Chair, 2008 (Los Angeles) Convention Committee, 2007-08  
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation, 2000-04  
Chair, Executive Committee, Rotary International, 1996-97  
Director, Rotary International, 1995-97  
President, Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, 1992-93  
Vice president, RIBI, 1991-92  
District governor, 1984-85

John is a past dean of his local law faculty, a judge, and a notary. He is active in the Scout Movement and earned the Scouting Medal of Merit for helping to form new scout groups in Eastern Europe. John was appointed deputy lieutenant of his district by Queen Elizabeth II. An elder of the Church of Scotland, he has served as session clerk and presbytery elder. He is a past president of both the Forth Valley Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Scottish Junior Chambers of Commerce. He is also past general legal counsel of Jaycees International. A Rotarian since 1970, John has been president and vice president of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. He has served RI as director, executive committee chair, Rotary Foundation trustee, institute moderator, district governor, convention vice chair and group leader, president's representative, and committee member and chair. He's been a delegate, member at large, and parliamentarian at several Councils on Legislation. John is a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation and a Bequest Society member, and has received the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He has been married to June since 1965.



"What's the score?" A common enough question posed by most persons at one time or another. But when John Kenny, about to be installed as President of Rotary International, poses it when he is sitting in RI's headquarters in Chicago he is thinking only of one thing - *"How did Falkirk Football Club fare on Saturday?"*

For John is a life-long supporter of the Bairns - and therein lies the key to his progress through Rotary's ranks. He has his feet on the ground. He is an ordinary guy, albeit a very experienced and able lawyer, now retired, who has undertaken with great acceptance as he has done for many years, a series of successively demanding offices in Rotary - President of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, District Governor, RIBI President, Rotary Trustee and Director, and now a few weeks away from Rotary's highest office.

I first made John's acquaintance at Falkirk High School nigh on 60 years ago. He was several years senior to me but over the years, through his work as a lawyer and mine as a journalist, we met from time to time in the courts then, happily, I was appointed editor of the local newspaper in Grangemouth whose offices happened to be directly below John's. So we got to know each other even better, so much so that I was the very first person to be sponsored by John in Rotary way back in 1977. I know him very well.

I know him as extremely hard-working. You must know that too. As highly motivated. That's hardly news either. Dedicated, committed, and so on.

There cannot be a corner of District 1020 with which John is not acquainted. Or RIBI either. And a fair bit of Rotary International's world-wide spread.

Many a time as I worked to meet my newspaper's inexorable deadline I, perforce, had to work late. Often when others had completed their day's work.

Then I would be aware of lights on directly above my office. John too was working late, doing what he had to do.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow put it this way:

*"The heights by great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight,  
But they, while their companions slept,  
Were toiling upward in the night."*

John Kenny will do his club, his district and his country proud. What's the score? His year as RI President hasn't begun but I can tell you now!

Colin Mailer,  
Past President,  
Rotary Club of Grangemouth