



RIO Club's long standing association with the Java St Andrew's Society

The RIO Club is now celebrating its 20th anniversary and is more than pleased that our association with the Java St Andrew's Society spans the same period. The Java St Andrew's Society is the strongest of the British 'loyal' societies with a proud heritage going back nearly a century.

Two decades ago the association with RIO was initially encouraged by two of its founding members, Dr Robert Park and Dr Scott Younger, both of whom had then just completed terms as Chieftains of the Society. At that time I had just founded the RIO Club and quickly saw a way to foster my own deeply-felt Scottish upbringing and gladly came on board to support the Society's events with all the pageant associated with Scottish culture. Since personally I have always believed in karma and what goes around comes around I was instantly attracted to the society's charity-linked events and was equally eager to ensure that RIO supported such venues, this indeed is one reason why the RIO Club has continued to actively support these since 1995.

Support in the 1990s was initially for the Society's Highland Gathering and particularly for its linked Scotland-in-Concert, a wonderful pageant of the pipes and drums of Scottish heritage as evinced by bands from several countries and dancing and singing and other entertainment from Scotland and Indonesia, making Scotland-in-Concert a truly cross-cultural event. As time passed the clubs bond with the society grew and RIO extended its support to both the annual St Andrew's Day Ball, held in late November, and the yearly celebration of the Burns Supper, held at the end of January to mark Scotland's famous bard's birthday.

Looking back in 2004, RIO brought Miss Scotland out to both Thailand and Indonesia to help raise funds for the tsunami and suggested that why not have her also grace the Highland Gathering weekend, this became an annual occurrence. The RIO club's connection with the Miss Scotland brand was strong since RIO had been working with the Miss World organization over the period 2003-2010. Unfortunately, due to the well publicized financial crisis RIO felt compelled to reduce their level of sponsorship during 2008, hence no longer covered the additional costs required to fly these beautiful ambassadors of Scotland to Asia.

The continued growth and success of the RIO Club over the years has meant that we could deepen our support for the Java St Andrew Society, culminating this year in the signing of a three year guarantee of sponsorship not only to celebrate our twenty anniversary, but equally important to commemorate the twenty year association with the Society.

This signalled what has already become a significantly increased commitment to the society and RIO's association with the society, this years signed agreement has pledged a 3-year sponsorship agreement to support the next three Balls and Burns suppers and any Scotland in concert venue. The agreement started with our sponsorship of the November's 2014 Ball and the January 2015 Burns Supper, through providing a signature malt whisky to each table and providing the main prizes for the charity raffles to the value of 6,000 pounds at the November Ball and 5,000 at the recently held Burns Supper. Congratulations to the respective lucky winners were Melinda Schultz and Vanessa

McSweeney. Importantly half of the moneys won will in keeping with both the society's goal and RIO's -go to the charity of the winner's choice.

Looking forward I am delighted to be involved as a significant sponsor to the Java St Andrew Society and was pleased, on this 20th anniversary occasion, to be able to strengthen the RIO Club's level of support for the Society and its charity focus.

William Gray
The RIO Club