

Map of the Rotary District 9320 where our GSE Team will be studying.

### **Application procedure**

Four team members are sought who must be potential leaders who are likely to progress up the managerial ladder.

Applications will be sponsored by any Rotary Club in Rotary District 1090 which broadly covers the Thames Valley and part of Middlesex. This district has 60 clubs in the area stretching from Banbury in the North, Faringdon in the West, Crowthorne in the South to Ruislip and Pinner in the East. Hence applicants must either be resident or have their place of work in this district, which covers all of Oxfordshire and Berkshire with most of Buckinghamshire and part of Middlesex.

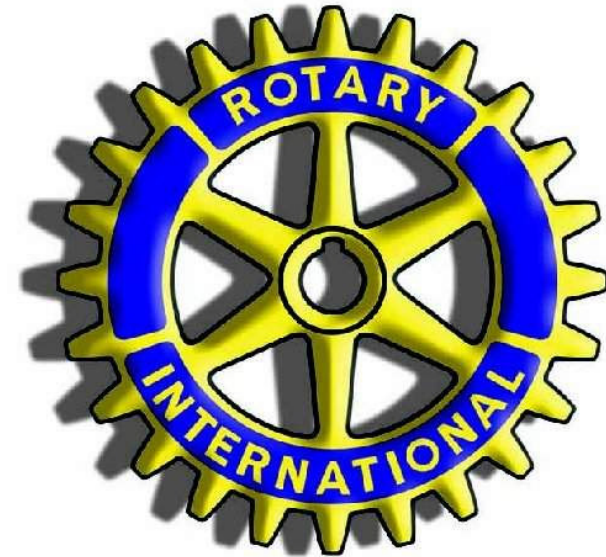
A panel of senior Rotarians will interview all potential candidates – this will take place on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2009. The deadline for the submission of completed applications is April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009.

Should details of a local club or any further information be required, please contact the Rotary District Officer who is in charge of recruitment for this GSE programme in South Africa at:

Rotarian Tom Scharff, Tel: 01628-666218 or Mobile: 0751-545-9946  
or email: [tomscharff@btinternet.com](mailto:tomscharff@btinternet.com)

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## ***Rotary Group Study Exchange Information for the employers of potential team members***



### ***GSE Team Visit to The Central Area of South Africa***

#### ***Dates:***

**27<sup>th</sup> October to  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009**

## Rotary Group Study Exchange – What is it?

Founded on an objective to develop world understanding and peace between the nations of the world, Rotary GSE provides and funds a unique opportunity for career-minded professionals in business to explore and develop their vocations, experience and leadership skills in a distant country. However this exacting programme is no holiday as revealed below.

## What are the benefits to the employer?

At no cost to either employer or employee:

1. it gives a HUGE incentive to staff.
2. it is widely recognised as the best management training that money CAN'T buy!
3. it provides an excellent opportunity to develop the presentation and interpersonal skills of top performing "up and coming" leaders in their early development.
4. it helps those destined for the top to gain valuable international experience.
5. it is good for even those companies without foreign dealings, because of the multiculturalism of Britain today!

The benefits to both individual and corporate overlap. It can be said that the personal development of the employee cannot fail to benefit the employer.

The GSE programme has become so popular, that some employers are actively encouraging their staff to take part. This applies in particular when senior management has already benefited from having been a GSE Team Member.

## Where will they be going this year?

They will be going to Rotary District 9320 in South Africa - the 50 plus clubs in this District shown bordered by the blue line on the map on the last page are spread over an area of some ninety eight thousand square miles [250,000 sq. km]. This is approximately the size of the entire United Kingdom. Whilst District 9320 is by no means the largest of all the Rotary Districts around the world, many of the distances between clubs require air transport to be completed in a reasonably short time. District 9320 covers most of the Eastern Cape, a small part of the Northern Cape, the entire Free State, and a part of the North West also the independent country Lesotho. It comprises clubs ranging in size from large ones in cities like Port Elizabeth to small ones in charming little country towns such as Colesberg.

## South Africa Quick Facts:

- Population: 48,687,000
- Area: 471,000 Square Miles.
- Leading Industries: Mining (world's largest producer of platinum, gold and chromium), automobile assembly, metalworking, machinery, textiles, iron & steel, chemicals, fertilisers, food stuffs and ship repair.

## More specific Information

Professionals of all ages may apply. In particular it has been found that candidates who are in the early stages of their careers realise the best opportunities from the experience.

Following the selection and a thorough training programme over 7 or 8 weekends of their free time, the team of four GSE participants is led by an experienced Rotarian to make this visit for a period of 4 weeks. The Rotary Clubs in the Rotary District in South Africa will have prepared an approved plan of hosting at the homes of selected Rotarians, travel throughout their district and team activities. A rigorous programme which is certainly no holiday is reviewed briefly as follows:

**Vocational visits** to meet organisations in the profession of each team member in an organised programme of study, discussion and reciprocal exchange of ideas. Representatives right up to very senior levels in these organisations inevitably welcome the team members to discuss and compare strategies and objectives in their professions.

**Cultural experiences** allow the team members to study the people, culture and institutions in these countries. This comes from the carefully organised plan of home-stays and visits to places of cultural interest and importance.

**Fellowship opportunities** encourage team members who will have been strangers initially, to work closely together and with their hosts to consider each other's problems, aims and community concerns. These foster long lasting friendships and international understanding.

**Rotarian involvement** encourages participants to address Rotary Club meetings and to examine and understand the high Rotary ideals of 'Service Above Self' thereby allowing the team members develop their public speaking abilities and self-confidence to new high standards. The opportunity also comes to witness the many humanitarian and educational projects being progressed as well as examples of how their professions are practiced in the different environment.

There are countless examples and testimonials available of the success enjoyed by past Rotary GSE Team Members. Also, there are many examples of the progression to high seniority made by GSE team members.

From our Thames Valley based District over the past 16 years, now over 80 professional men and women have benefited from this experience most often quoted after their return as "life changing". 15 of these have come from businesses in manufacturing, 9 have come from health related services, 2 very recently from the Fire Service and no less than 8 officers from the Thames Valley Police over a number of years have taken part.

Former Thames Valley Police Chief Constable, Peter Neyroud who was then a junior officer was selected as a GSE team member visiting Southern India.