

# Q&A

*with Robert S. Scott, Chair - The Rotary Foundation*

*by RI Director Ashok Mahajan*

**What is the future of TRF?**

I believe the future of our Foundation is very bright. The level of donations continues to rise and therefore the number of “sustainable” projects can increase in number. If the Rotary Foundation is to be relevant I am of the opinion it must get away from one of a kind so called “band-aid” projects which help at the moment but do not improve society over the long term.

**What new areas can be incorporated in the programmes of TRF to make it more relevant?**

It is my opinion that TRF has a full slate of programmes and that introduction of new ones is not called for at this time.

**Will Polio be eradicated from the face of this earth in the next 10 years?**

Undoubtedly yes, yes, yes...

**What role has India played in the promotion of Vision of TRF?**

Increasingly Indian Rotarains are becoming donors and not just receivers and this year may be on the positive side of that equation. This has an enormous affect on how the rest of the world views just what TRF can achieve. Not just receivers but givers to the benefit of those less able both from the educational and humanitarian programmes.

**Ethics and Honesty being areas of questions and criticisms, do you think TRF will be able to evolve a more transparent and a more realistic game plan?**

Yes. The number one item being discussed by the Future Vision Committee is how to simplify all aspects of TRF. When a grant procedure for

example is simple then it is much more transparent and the chance of dishonest actions greatly reduced.

**If misuse of funds of TRF given to Clubs under “grants” heading is so disturbing, do you have a blueprint which can reduce the incidence of this misuse?**

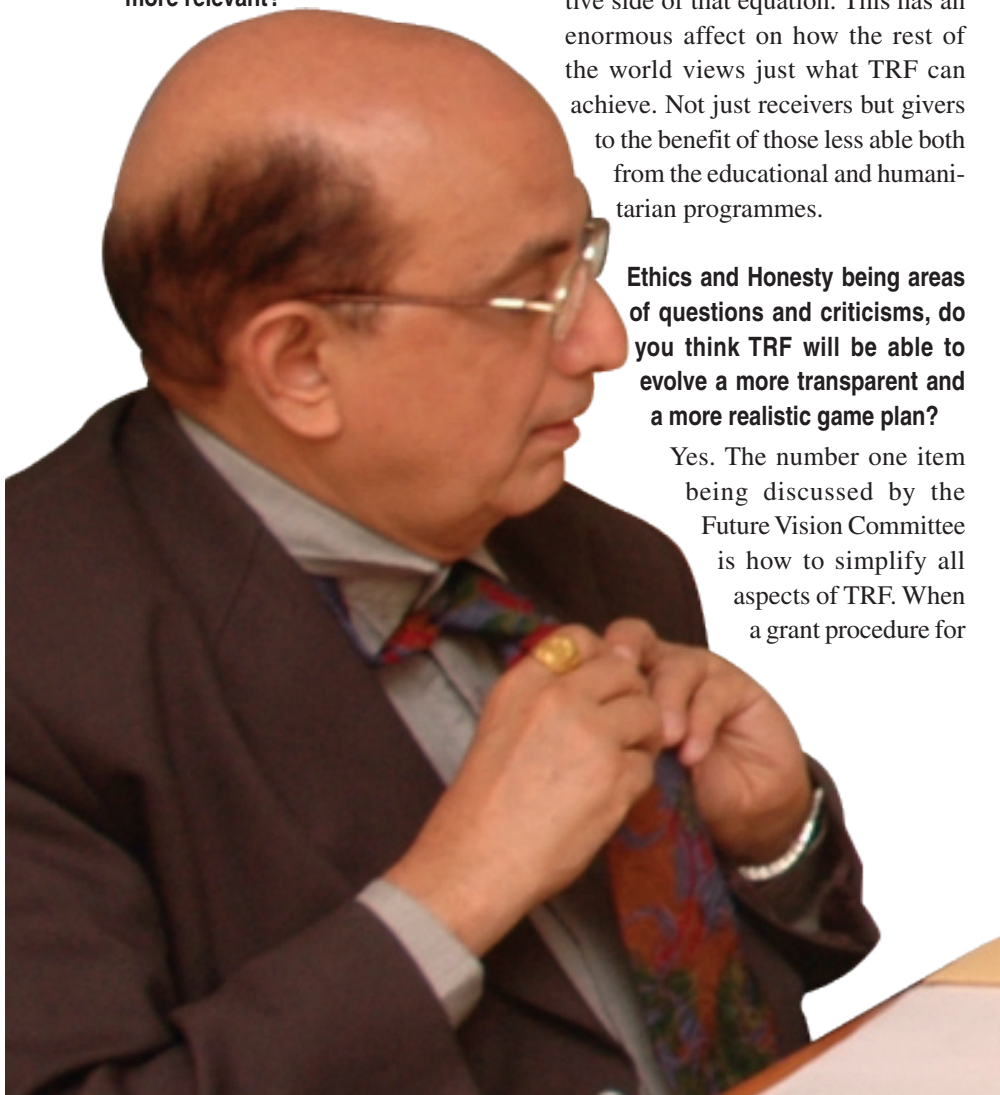
I hope and believe as the Trustees have made Stewardship such an important part of all Grants that the number of clubs and districts misusing funds will cease or at least be greatly reduced. I always ask why any Rotarian should be part of any nefarious activity when he/she ascribes to the Four Way Test?

**Should Rotary Clubs be “punished” for their dishonesty?**

Yes, as in all other aspects of society if you are dishonest then you pay the price. However there has to be a balance so that those who need help are not for too long periods without help from the local Rotary club.

**With multiple immunisation drives by Government of India promoting National Immunisation Days every year, the involvement of Rotary is decreasing. Your comments.**

Unfortunately due to the length of the time, it is correct that interest of Rotarains has waned. However, in my chairmanship of IPPC I am making along with the committee a renewed and continuous effort all year to rekindle an energetic interest and have asked every club in the world to at least have one meeting devoted entirely to PolioPlus.



**Do you believe that greater emphasis must be placed on literacy, ecology, water conservation, global warming, etc., whilst we continue to promote Polio Eradication?**

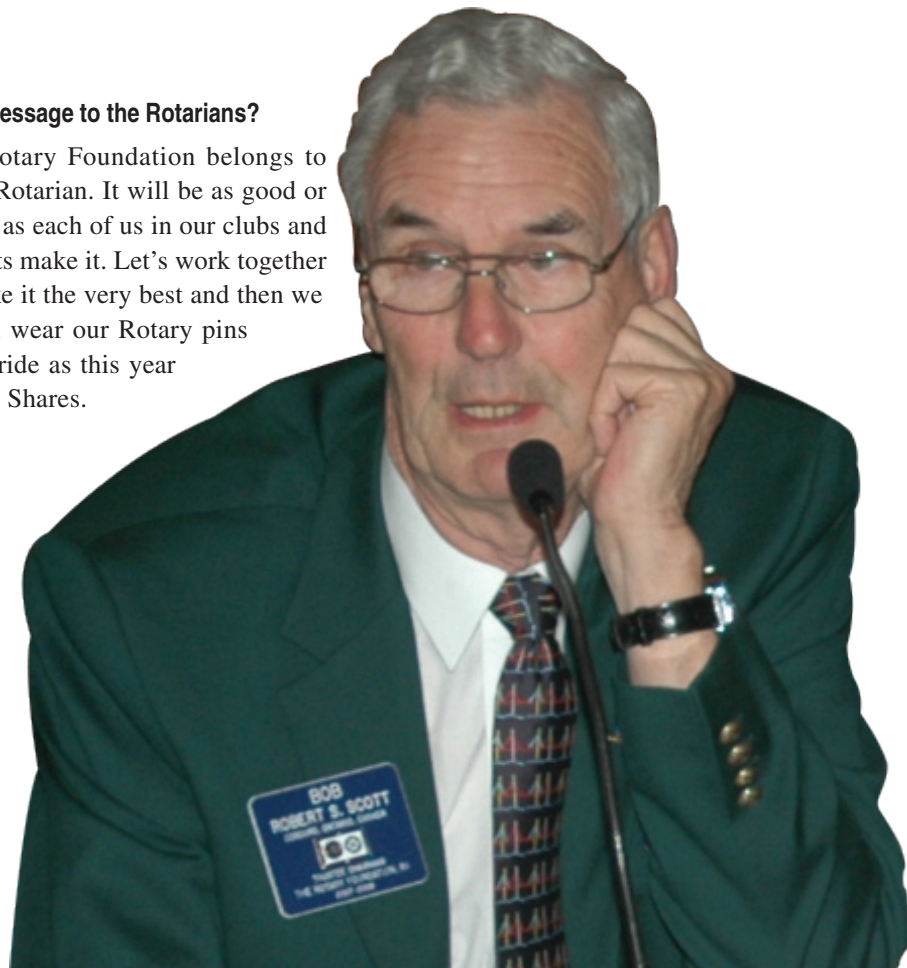
My view is that as PolioPlus is the only corporate programme for Rotary then every club and district is mandated to support the programme. All the other emphases you mention are to be supported on a voluntary basis after Polio.

**With excellent contributions being received in these last years, do you think that new “pilot projects” can be started in various countries to address other acute needs of the community?**

Once support for Polio is present then there is no harm in pilot projects but again as noted at the beginning in my view we have enough programmes for a Foundation our size. Let’s do what we can well rather than a hundred programmes badly.

**Your message to the Rotarians?**

The Rotary Foundation belongs to every Rotarian. It will be as good or as bad as each of us in our clubs and districts make it. Let’s work together to make it the very best and then we can all wear our Rotary pins with pride as this year Rotary Shares.



## The Rotary Foundation Depends on you

Dear Club Presidents,

Why have we reached a nearly Polio Free World? Why are there so many communities that thrive because somebody helped them to live better? Why have major wars disappeared though conflicts await their resolution? Why a person-to-person contact or a one-to-one dialogue is possible today more than ever before? These and many other success stories depend on the Rotary Foundation and its programmes.

Nothing comes cheap. Every success story has a price. If Rotary wants to do all that it professes to accomplish, we have to pay a price – a relatively cheap price of contributing towards TRF. For all the gigantic plans we have in mind \$100 (Rs.4100) is cheap and one can contribute in multiples to make it easy for TRF to reach its goal.

In our Club there are members who have contributed hardly anything to TRF or have contributed something but not in the recent past. These members must be motivated to see the light of success stories of TRF and it is not only your duty but your commitment to promote TRF and ensure a handsome contribution from your Club

members. We must also explore the possibility of requesting non-Rotarians, men and women of our community who are interested in promoting Peace and a healthier world. It is possible that there may be a Rotarian or two who can be enthused to become a major donor.

It is not too difficult to enroll a Benefactor of life policy yielding \$1000 or at maturity may need only a few thousands per year for its policy premium. There are some innovative ways in which you can induce more members of your Club to become partners in the business of promotion of Peace and World understanding.

I urge you to ensure a better contribution from you and your Club to TRF to make it a force to reckon. The key to success is in your hands. Please unlock the doors, open them wide towards a truly remarkable vista of selfless service. The Rotary Foundation depends on you.

Thank you.

*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan  
RI Director 2007–2009*