



THE HINGE

Issue 8 October 2009

41 support when
the earth shook Italy



YAPS
what are they yapping about?



'Coronation' of
International President
John Bellwood

The Magazine for 41 INTERNATIONAL
International Association of Former Members of Round Table
"May the Hinges of Friendship Never Rust"



Here comes
the
half-yearly!

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Message from the 41 International President



Over 200 of us attended Royal Forest of Dean/Gloucester/Cheltenham for the 33rd Annual General Meeting of 41 INTERNATIONAL. On your behalf, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Forest of Dean 41 Club who arranged the AGM & Conference for 41 Club Great Britain & Ireland. In particular I would like to mention Dave Green the Convenor & Dick Stanley the Registration Officer for their excellent organisation & hard work (I think that they actually enjoyed it as have all members of Forest of Dean 41 Club who were involved).

We said farewell to Past President Dieter Straka (Austria) & welcomed Matti Hinttala (Finland) as Vice-President. Jean-Louis Boileau (France) follows Matti Hinttala as Vice-President next year & then, I believe, that India will be nominating N S Krishna Kumar ('KK') as India hosts the Presidency in 2012/2013 after France.

We have a new Treasurer in David Illingworth (now of Cyprus), a new Editor in Rajan Mittal (India) & a new webmaster in Gunnar Stumpf (Germany). Our sincere gratitude goes to Renato Bonfini who has been Mr International Website for more than 10 years; & to Bob Parton who assumed the post of Editor some three years ago when the International Magazine 'Courier' had been absent for a time. Bob Parton created a magazine of which 41 INTERNATIONAL has been justly proud. My thanks go to the 'three musketeers' - Ha De Gesch, Bruce Morgan & Bob Parton - for arranging my coronation at the Thistle Hotel Cheltenham on Saturday 25th April 2009. All those who witnessed the splendid occasion will probably agree with me that the three of them seemed almost natural in their chosen outfits.

I am pleased to say that 41 Club continues to expand. I am aware that new Clubs are being started in Rabat (Morocco), Melita (Malta), Iceland, Sri Lanka, Uganda & Rome. These are the ones which I know about - I am sure that there are others. Randolph Riedlinger (Italy), our International Extension Officer, is keeping an eye on developments.

There are four other matters which I would like to mention in this report. The Young Ambassadors Exchange ('YAP') programme continues to give young people, who are members of a 41 Club family, an insight into the culture & way of living of another country. Germany, Belgium, India & South Africa are particularly active in this programme. The Strategic Working Group was born at the International AGM in Merano under the leadership of Past President Beat Berger to examine & secure the future of 41 INTERNATIONAL. We expect to receive an interim report at the Half-Yearly Meeting in October 2009. France have proposed a new fees & voting structure for the Member Associations of 41 INTERNATIONAL which I have asked David Illingworth & Bob Parton to look at, reporting to the Board in the near future. The Board will then be making its recommendations to the Half-Yearly Meeting. Randolph & I met with Round Table International, Ladies Circle International & Agora Club International at the RTI AGM in Netherlands recently, under the umbrella of a 'four clubs one vision' synopsis created by George Psaras, the RTI President. Tangent, who represent most of the former members of Ladies Circle, were not invited as they were perceived to be 'not international'. Council will have to decide at the Half-Yearly Meeting whether a meeting with the other three international Associations gives added impetus to our international relations.

The 41 Clubs of Germany, New Zealand, Italy, Cyprus, France, Romania, India, South Africa & Belgium together with Round Table International have all warmly welcomed me to their AGMs since I took over as International President. Vice-President Matti, standing in for me, has been welcomed at Denmark, Norway & Austria. Thank you all for your kindness & generous hospitality (Helen also says a big thank you on the occasions when she accompanied me) & I have to say that the friendship, camaraderie, humour & laughter were superb, all for the benefit of 41 Club & 41 INTERNATIONAL. Thank you very much.

We are all gathering together in Sursee, Switzerland for the Half-Yearly Meeting at the end of October & I look forward to seeing many of you again then. Werner Blessing & his team are organising an exciting weekend, which includes the Half-Yearly Meeting of 41 INTERNATIONAL, the Annual General Meeting of Club 41 Suisse and the Charter of Club 41 Lucerne number 112.

Take care, & please continue to appreciate the friendships made in Round Table & 41 Club. May the hinges of friendship never rust.

John Bellwood
President of 41 INTERNATIONAL 2009-2010





Humour

I Love this Doctor

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, & that's it... don't waste them on exercise.

Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

Q: Should I cut down on meat & eat more fruits & vegetables?

A: You must grasp logistical efficiencies. What does a cow eat? Hay & corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient mechanism of delivering vegetables to your system. Need grain? Eat chicken. Beef is also a good source of field grass (green leafy vegetable).

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body & you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: Aren't fried foods bad for you?

A: YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!!! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they're permeated in it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy? HELLO-O! Cocoa beans!! Another vegetable!!! It's the best feel-good food around!

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

Q: Is getting in-shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! 'Round' is a shape!

Well, I hope this has cleared up any misconceptions you may have had about food & diets.

And remember: 'Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive & well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways - Chardonnay in one hand - chocolate in the other - body thoroughly used up, totally worn out & screaming 'WOO HOO, What a Ride' AND.....

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition & health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

1. The Japanese eat very little fat...& suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat... & suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
3. The Chinese drink very little red wine...& suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine...& suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
5. The Germans drink a lot of beer & eat lots of sausages & fats...& suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION

Eat & drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently what kills you.

Contributed by
Bob Parton
Secretary, 41 International

Hinge Mail

Thanks to the organizers, who have done a marvellous job organizing the International AGM of 41 Clubs in Cheltenham.

THE CONDITIONS WERE EXCELLENT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS ... COUPLED WITH A FINE SENSE OF HUMOUR:

... RTBI punished France, forcing them to sit right next to Switzerland,
... TRF replied with the presentation of the message of the Queen,
... UK-meat importers used pork meat, imported directly from Mexico, for the breakfast sausages,
... Le Ministère de Santé Française launched a warning to all who had eaten the "Full English Breakfast" at the Thistle Hotel in Cheltenham.

YIF
Werner Blessing
President 2008/09, Switzerland

The Last Issue of The Hinge (The Hingette) was an Information Binge.
It was a great treat reading about the new team of office bearers. Very well presented, we felt, me & the lady, as if we were meeting them in our own drawing room.
Great job done. Keep the info rolling in & the HINGES shall never rust.

Regards
Tony
41 Club 3, India

Having been responsible as editor for the first 7 issues of The Hinge it is with great pleasure that I can send these few words of greetings to Rajan. I wish him all of the best of success in his endeavours with the coming issues. It is good for Club 41 that we are able to have this variety & I am sure that Rajan will be able to build on the good start that we have made with this magazine

Bob Parton.

Charter of 2nd Club 41 in Malta of Club 41 Melita

Date: Thursday 29th October to Sunday 1st November 2009

Venue Hotel: Corinthia Marina, St. Julians

Programme: to be held in conjunction with the AGM of Round Table Malta except for Charter of new Club on Saturday morning.

Price of Programme: € 230 inclusive of all events organized.

NOTE: This particular week marks a first for Malta in that during the same weekend, Round Table Malta & Ladies Circle Malta will also hold their AGM. Furthermore, Round Table Malta is also organizing a Euro Dive-Week starting on Monday 26th October. So there is a lot to do & see in Malta during that week. Further details of the programme can be viewed via the following link: http://www.roundtablemalta.com/?Malta_Dive_Week or <http://maltadiveweek.roundtablemalta.com/diveweek/Welcome.html>

Further Details from the Club Chairman Andre or Club IRO Alex

There is already quite a lot of interest shown & we already have 15 confirmed Club 41ers from UK attending our Charter:

One final detail: We are looking for a club to be our Mother club. & also clubs to be able to do twinning with.....

Should there be any more issues or clarification or just more information required, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thanks for now & hope to see many come & support us.....

Yours in fellowship,
Alex Abela



Visit by H.R.H. John Bellwood & "Kiwi" Helen



A rather late report on the doings of our beloved leader, 41 Club International President & wife on their visit "Down Under" to New Zealand.

As the IRO for New Zealand I seem to have access to snippets of information about all sorts of people and events world wide. It came to pass that there was a new International President who was crowned at his induction. I have seen, as many of you have also his pictures and souvenir program from the Coronation.

What you might not have seen is the "Pretender" also dressed in the Royal Garb practising for his turn. This worthy gentleman apparently was so dismayed by his audacious actions that he has now turned to religion & has become the

"Penitent" & I believe he has lately been in retreat on an island in Cyprus, or at least that is what he would have me believe! May well have been a 41 International board meeting.

However I digress, I was writing about H.R.H. & his visit!! John & I had been communicating for 2 years about them coming here & it was with great delight that we learned they would be here for our AGM in Blenheim.

Imagine traveling so far for such delight, decadence & debauchery!!!!

They arrived on the 21st May and spent time catching up with friends, family & future in-laws. Woops that should be now in-laws, I believe the wedding was just a few days ago, another Kiwi into the fold. Looks like a Kiwi take over John! I invited John to come along to the Christchurch 41 Club meeting & pass judgement on our act for AGM which we put on for the members who were not able to attend AGM.

This of course was a cunning plan to help us win the prize because we thought he would be one of the judges & maybe we would be able to bribe him. As you can see he must have been quite desperate for funds as the notes he can be seen uplifting from my hat were actually Russian Roubles that I had hiding in my desk for years wondering "what the hell will I ever do with these, where will I ever find some mug to accept them". Job done!!! We found out later that John & Helen weren't being judges but putting on an act themselves with Gordon & Elaine MacNab who also came to the AGM.

Helen unfortunately had other plans for that night so Tina (my better half) & I picked John up on our way in our little truck with our props on the back & squeezed John in between us. Lots of fun had of course and our Chairman, (ex pat bloody Brit) Ralph Lloyd presented John with a Christchurch Banner. We never have had a banner before so in desperation I had made one up on paper which John seemed to think was fairly special.

