



# THE HINGE

Issue 9, April 2010

Santa Claus-Mos Craiun



Castel Bran, Romania aka Dracula Castle



Which One is Randolph?



I've the Sun in my Hands!

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

Bob Parton with an orphan  
- grandfatherly feelings?



Mmmm... this is heavenly



Camels line up in Morocco

41er Vikings have fun at the Humour Festival



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# The International President Speaks



It took some time to decide what to write for 'my page' of The Hinge. There is so much to cram in but every story must have a beginning, a middle and an ending.

The year started with the 33rd AGM of 41 INTERNATIONAL in Gloucester, Great Britain. Over 200 delegates seemed to enjoy themselves and I want to express my gratitude yet again to David Green and Dick Stanley who were the main organisers of the event.

During the AGM, we had a presentation by 41 Club Italy. Italy had recently suffered a serious earthquake in Onna near L'Aquila, which had virtually wiped out the village. Young and old people lost their lives.

While I, often accompanied by Helen, represented all members of 41 INTERNATIONAL by attending Annual General Meetings, and hopefully making all 41 Club members feel part of an International club of friends, 41 Club Italy was visiting meetings to raise money to replace [one small part of the village](#) of Onna devastated in the earthquake.

We as 41 INTERNATIONAL had raised funds following the Tsunami in the Indian Ocean. With Round Table, money was raised towards a new school building in India and I am very aware that individual Associations made their own direct contribution to the cause. Already in this calendar year we have had the devastation in Haiti and the serious mud falls following heavy rains in Madeira, with loss of life in both places. 41 Club has no representation in either Haiti or Madeira and we have left it to individuals to make their contribution in various ways to help the people of these countries. I wonder if there is anything which we can do to help soften the pain of these disasters. Perhaps it would be best to leave it to individual Associations to decide what they can do. Support can of course always be channelled through Red Cross or Disaster Emergency Funds or similar secure organisations.

New 41 Clubs have been started this 41 Club year in Kampala, Rome, Malta, Morocco, Luxembourg and we welcome them all into the 41 Club fold. There have been others and there are now moves afoot to create new National Associations in Morocco, East Africa, Malta, Eastern Europe and possibly Iberia, which might in due course wish to become Members of 41 INTERNATIONAL.

We as 41ers are blessed with the company and support of our ladies. Those who join Ladies Circle have often graduated to Tangent and Agora. Round Table International saw merit in all organisations in the Round Table family working together internationally. Perhaps each organisation has enough on its plate to devote time and money in seeking one vision for all organisations.

In spite of the world economic crisis, wherever I have visited, members of 41 Club are still living with smiles on their faces (even after paying the International fees in Euros), with dignity, with dynamism, with humour, with respect. There are so many examples of good citizenship in our Organisation.

The magnificent efforts of 41 Club Italy culminated in the erection and opening of a Young People's Hall in Onna in January this year. The whole project was well conceived, well executed, well presented and well completed. 'Be proud' they justifiably pronounced.

As our membership increases, new Clubs are formed and some regrettably close, so we have to say goodbye to some of our many friends. Past International President Bob Ramsay (Great Britain) passed away and 41 Club was especially the loser when Past International President and Life Honorary Member Einhart Melzer (Germany) also passed away. Tributes to Einhart can be found on the website of Germany, Great Britain and 41 INTERNATIONAL. I would also like to mention, if I may, Charles Littlejohn, the Secretary of the 41ers of South Africa, who passed away not long after attending the AGM in Gloucester. I hope that the two events were not connected.



My thanks go to you all for your friendship and hospitality, and for your membership and stewardship throughout the many 41 Clubs in so many countries, all based on what Louis Marchesi started in 1927. My thanks go also to Bob Parton the indefatigable International Secretary, to my predecessor Randolph Reidlinger for his support in many different places and for his extraordinary work as Extension Officer; and I wish all the very best to Matti Hinttala and Ansa in the year ahead. Rajan Mittal followed admirably in the footsteps of Bob Parton as Editor and I have enjoyed working with him. Renato Bonfini generously continued to manage the International website until Gunnar Stumpf can take full responsibility.

Yours in International friendship,

**John Bellwood**  
President, 41 INTERNATIONAL 2009-2010

\*\*\* Read more about John's visits to Associations on pg 15

# Hinge Mail

Hallo & Good Afternoon  
Dear Rajan,

Congratulations on the First Edition of the "Hinge" under your responsibility. I and all the people I spoke to had this to say: excellent! Thank you so much!

May I ask you for the deadline for contributions for the next Hinge? I would like to mail you some lines (half a page) referring the new legal form of YAP.

Yicf  
HaDe  
Hans - Dieter

OTD - IRO

Dear Rajan,

'Number eight is great' and I hope that you will allow me to make a few observations well before the next edition and help to make 'Number nine very fine'.

Many thanks.  
Yours in friendship,

John Bellwood  
41 International President

Hi Rajan,

Enjoyed reading the 8th issue of the Hinge. I can see that you are "at it".

Thanks for good coverage of Tangent India and Kolkata AGM.

Regards,  
Debashis Roy  
IPP, Assn. of 41 Clubs of India

Dear Rajan,

I have with great pleasure read the latest number of The Hinge, and what a great job you have done.  
Could you mail me the issue in a pdf-file, so I can make it public it on our website?

Best Ex-regards

**SWDG**  
Steen Wøldike Gade  
Ex-Table Danmark  
Web-master and members file

# Message from International V. P., Matti Hinttala



For those of you who do not know me yet, I am a Finnish guy and following in the footsteps of Tero Lindell, the very first Finnish President of 41 International. Naturally I'm also following in the footsteps of the great presidents prior to me. I gratefully thank both John and Randolph for helping me to internationalise the Board and the tasks of the members of the Board and consequently showing how good results can be achieved by different ways of leading the organization. We're all individuals and we all have our own special ways of achieving the results we need for the benefit of 41 INTERNATIONAL. I also have to thank my fellow Finnish Tablers OTSF Past President Pauli and his Secretary Petri who supported and pushed me in my efforts, long before

I ever knew I would reach the grand heights of the President of 41 International. Moreover the wonderful example of Past President John Hudson has inspired me in my ideals.

Our alliance (club, association) has during the last decade gone through several difficult phases like the controversy over membership in certain countries which then led to all kinds of trouble in the form of some national associations having to resign from 41 International. I sincerely hope that those times are behind us and that in the future we all can, as brothers, develop our fantastic organization both nationally and internationally, naturally not to forget our origin and the principals of RT, AA& I.

Where else is it possible to find such friendship as (I'd like to say here across the Universe) across the 41/OT/Ex-Tabler world. This is a grand organisation of people, open minded and anxious to know new people, new cultures and countries, people serving each other in the name of friendship and brotherhood.

Randolph has done a great job as the extension officer, being in contact with several countries with one or two clubs and even with countries with no clubs, to help and put up new clubs as the aim of getting new associations as members of 41 International. I think this will lead to new members in the near future. Also there's been a lot of discussion about so called affiliated clubs to 41 International. All members of 41/OT/Ex-tabler clubs in all countries across the world are welcome to the international meetings to enjoy the friendship; there is no doubt about that. If certain clubs without any association in the country would like to officially join 41 International to become an affiliated club, that could be a possibility. After his presidency, when our honoured President John Bellwood takes over as the Immediate Past President as also the post of Extension Officer from Randolph, I trust he'll find great success in no time.

Finally I would be grateful for all the help and support I can get from you, the members of 41 International. You all are 41 International and I am your humble servant to make it real. I shall visit as many countries as possible, but unfortunately all countries are not possible, due to the fact that some AGMs are coinciding, and the only way for me to divide my time is to send my representative instead. So I trust you'll treat Jean-Louis and John as you would treat me in these cases.

So just simply: Friends in 41  
May the Hinges of Friendship Never Rust

Yours in friendship  
**Matti Hinttala**  
Vice-President

## About Matti

Matti Hinttala was born on 11.12.1949 in Helsinki, so he has just reached the age of 60 but, as he says, "we all know age is just a number". He continues to live in Helsinki with his wife, Ansa. His daughter Minna lives and works in Stockholm, Sweden, while his son Mikko, who also lives in Helsinki, works in the 'family company' and is "doing his best to replace his father there". His first grandchild will be born in June "which means that from then on I will have to live together with a grandmother!!" he states.

Although Matti is educated as a mechanical engineer, he has never worked as one, but always in the 'building side' and lately (for the last 33 years!) especially with technical insulation materials. His hobbies are OT/41 'naturally', alpine skiing and sometimes even cross country skiing, motorcycling, training (which you cannot see from his figure!), reading and watching the television.



Matti's wife Ansa

Matti joined RT in 1983 and OT in 1991. He has spent several years on the board of OTSF (Old Tablers Suomi Finland), first as Secretary, then Directory Officer for 2 years, Vice President in 2003-04 and President in 2004-05, after which he spent several years as an IRO. He now takes over from John Bellwood as President, 41 International 2010-11.