



THE HINGE

Issue 9, April 2010

Santa Claus-Mos Craciun



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



41er Vikings have fun at the Humour Festival



Camels line up in Morocco

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a village off the Face of The Earth

The Last Word

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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

SWOG

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 internalise 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.

Werner Blessing reporting from Estonia

Tallinn No.1, Estonia celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Landing at Tallinn Airport I couldn't trust my eyes, heaps of snow everywhere and yet everything running as if things were quite normal. Note, that at the same time almost all planes in France stayed on the ground. Before diving into "Tabling at its best", there was some business to be done, together with the first National President of RT Estonia, Vaho Klaamann.

Apart from meetings with CEOs and owners of the big IT companies, we even met the Minister of Economics of Estonia...wait and see. The evening programme was to get some hot food and cold drinks, coupled with culture, RT memories and lots of fun. Saturday was the most important day, starting with the banner exchange. Many Nations' celebrities were present and lots of exciting gifts were handed over. It is amazing how inventively a Tabler's spirit can tick, when it comes around to presenting gifts and delivering the appropriate speeches.

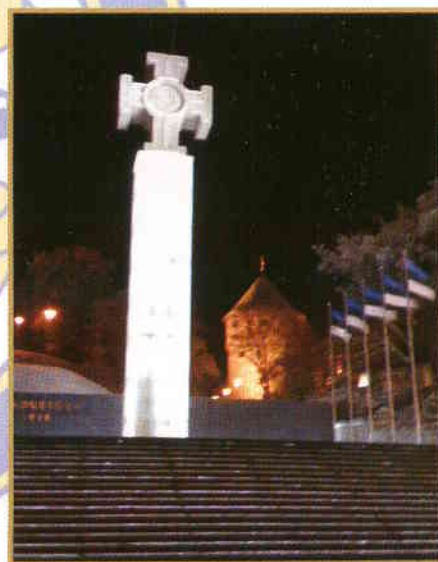
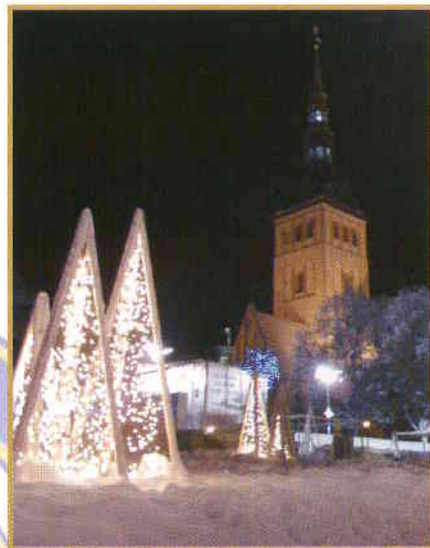


Also a lot of money was paid into the service project of Estonian Round Tables. Great and thanks in the name of RTE.

After a little beauty sleep and dressing up, we got into the grand hall at the Sokos Hotel for the Gala Dinner. Over 300

Tablers and friends with ladies were present. A country with 1.3 M. inhabitants, 13 tables and so many participants; count and compare that with your own country! Amongst the many special guests was Roy Chalfont, Norwich 1, who was a friend of Louis Marchesi. Visitors were there from Finland as initiators, from Germany, as visitors since foundation, from Israel, from Latvia with very special relations and of course from Switzerland.

Towards the end of the Gala Diner, we got involved in a very exciting Table discussion about Tartu and Parnu coming close to forming a new Club 41. I thought we could start a competition as to who is faster. After all, it will be the 3rd Estonian Club 41, entitling Estonia to Membership of Club 41 International, a "big deal".



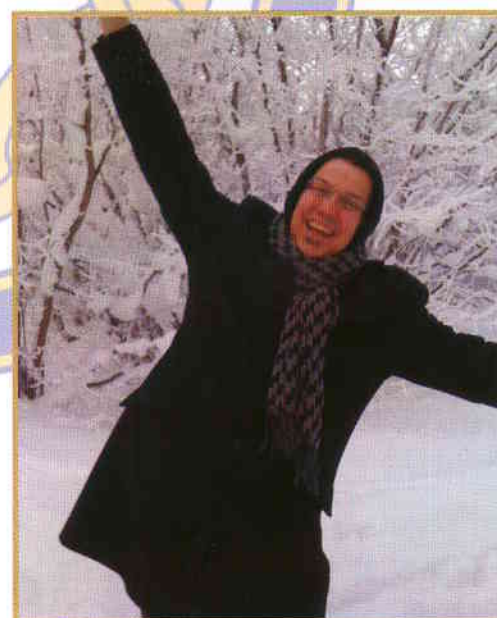
Surely the discussion had to carry on at the bar, after the official event. Unnoticed, the competition changed from Club formation to drinks! The rounds got bigger and faster and sure, some "Finnish white wine" got into the game. By then we were on all sorts of topics, basically solving all the problems of the entire world, but please do not ask me for the spoken details after 03:00 a.m.

Sunday morning started rough; probably the last glass was rotten? But a nice walk through the park at -17°C quickly blew off any remainders of the bar.

On taking off from Tallinn, I was in for my final surprise, when I saw the Baltic Sea frozen at the border.

Tallinn will enter into the wonderful list of memories of our International Club 41 Life. Further pics on www.agm-2009.ch on "photos old AGMs".

Werner Blessing
Nat.PePe CH



Charter Meeting of Club 41-1 Rabat, Morocco, November 12 - 15th 2009

In 2008 a group of old Tablers decided to continue their friendship adventure by launching the foundation of a new club in Rabat, the capital city of the Kingdom of Morocco. It was the start of the new club 41-1 Rabat. Very quickly, we received the support of our friends from Casablanca 41-4 for the start of a new chapter. As with all new clubs, a charter ceremony has its own specificity and this one was very special because it marked the first steps towards recognition of Club 41 Morocco as a National Association in 41 International.

So, as soon as the dates of the charter meeting were known, we received a lot of support from 41ers all over the world and we did not expect that this very late announcement of the meeting would attract such a large number of foreign guests. It was our first surprise! More than 120 forty oners, Tablers and ladies came from so many countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Gibraltar, France, Italy, Mauritius, Senegal, Switzerland and UK in addition to members of the international board. As a convener of this charter meeting, I cannot say that it was a hard task, but thanks to my very experienced friends we tried to offer the best that we could in a very short time.

This week end was very special for the great family of Round Table, because we had three events to celebrate at the same time - the twinning of Round Table Casablanca 4 with Round Table Nancy, France and the charter meeting of Ladies Circle Rabat 5 in addition to our charter meeting. It was a unique celebration week in Morocco for our movement. As a convener I had the pleasure to welcome to my place on Thursday evening, almost all foreign delegations (see below the Casablanca pre-tour organized by Casablanca). It was a nice opportunity to meet new friends from several cultures.

Friday morning was booked for a city visit; all the guests present in Rabat visited the main monuments of Rabat, the Oudaya citadel with its Moorish coffee shop where you can drink a very special green tea with fresh mint. The visit of the old town was also an opportunity to have a look at the bazaars in the Consul Street (local souk). Several handicrafts - products in wood, copper, silver, and ceramics were available;

for those who know how to bargain, they made some good deals there! After the lunch in a restaurant, most guests asked to come back again to the souk in order to look for items to buy. It was not so easy due the wide choice they had! Others preferred to try a hamam (local bath) or play golf in the beautiful Dar Essalam golf course of Rabat.

Friday night was a Disco theme party in a discotheque (the biggest one in Morocco) in the neighborhood of Rabat. A DJ with a wide range of 80s' songs led the party with great success.



Saturday morning was the big day, the moment for our club to be created officially. At the podium we had Soufiane, the President of our Club, the godfathers (Hammadi from Casablanca 41-4 and Hervé Lelon from Larochelle Antioche in France, as well as John Jeuffrain the National President of Club 41 France). Nasri from Casablanca 41-4 acted as Master of Ceremony of the charter meeting. During this meeting we had a few strong moments such as the presentation of the charter, our banner, some speeches with a lot of emotion and real friendship from our guests and last but not least the presentation of the members of the new club.



At the end of the ceremony and the banner exchange all the guests went to Salé, the twin city of Rabat, to have lunch in a traditional Moroccan house where everyone had the opportunity to admire the workmanship in decorating the place - a splendid patio - with wood and ceramics. The gala dinner took place in Palace Congress of Rabat and we enjoyed a famous singer who led the party by singing famous English, French and Arabic songs.

Finally, the Sunday brunch at Zoubir's house was the moment to say goodbye to everybody. It was a moment filled with sadness and emotion but everybody promised that this was the first step of a long friendship adventure. It was time for a group to join the airport and for the post tour team to start a new exciting trip around Morocco.

The Casablanca pre-tour hosted friends from 41 club La Rochelle, Meaux and St Emillion as well as Tablers from Alençon and Nancy. We were no less than 120 people including 41 and Round Table Morocco, so many that we organized welcome parties in two separate houses. The parties were full of wholehearted friendship. We shared and discussed and ate and drink drank drunk up to the early hours of the second day. Everyone gathered the following morning at 11 to visit the Hassan II mosque which has on display the most beautiful handcrafted decorations.

A long lasting memory of beautiful Morocco.

8

Mohamed Aref Hassani
Charter meeting Convener

Morocco

Andy Waite & Jean-Louis Boileau visit an orphanage and hospital baby unit at Meknes

It all started with an e-mail from Jean-Louis Boileau, International Vice-President Elect, to the effect that the Moroccan 41ers were disappointed that no-one from GB&I could attend the re-chartering of Club 41 No 1 in Rabat, Morocco, in mid-November. So off I set at very short notice to Casablanca with banners from President Richard and International President John.

The Charter Ceremony was great, I addressed the meeting in French which went down very well, and there were many wonderful functions and sightseeing, as you see below in Casablanca with the ladies from St Emilion. It was worth the effort and expense to see David Illingworth doing his impression of an electrocuted octopus on the dance floor!

But this is not another travel article.

Let me explain.

I was staying in a hotel with Jean-Louis Boileau and a party from St Emilion - about 20 in total. Rather than go sightseeing they kindly let me join them on a trip to an orphanage and hospital baby unit in Meknes, two hours away, which they sponsored; we were shown around the orphanage and witnessed a cheque presentation for €40,000, which they had raised by auctioning some very special St Emilion wine. The hospital baby ward was one of the most moving things I have ever seen - 30 tiny babies abandoned at birth, happy and smiling and receiving the best of care. We then had a terrific lunch and a winery tour (the restaurant and winery are owned by the son of the founder of the orphanage).

Their website is www.fondationritazniber.com

Andy Waite
International Officer

I love the way the light hits the puddings and the cook's head



€40,000 cheque presentation. The two lads at each end were in the first group of abandoned babies



Jean-Louis and Pascale in the baby wing of the hospital



This needs no caption

Jean-Louis Boileau looking every inch the schoolmaster



Praying for help?

London Lunching

Round Table and 41 Club meeting venue in London

"We have been meeting on the second Wednesday of each month at The Lamb in Leadenhall Market, London for 24 years." SO WHAT!!

The concept of an informal lunch meeting was started by Dennis Smith of Catford & Lewisham Round Table in the early 1980's when they met at The Green Man. We have met at various venues since, viz The Bouncing Banker near Cannon Street and then briefly at the Arbitrage in Throgmorton Street. Finally it was agreed to find a venue which was central and which would attract visitors. The Lamb, Leadenhall Market was chosen and the first meeting was held there on 12 March 1986. There were 25 of us. We have been meeting there ever since.

What are the rules? There aren't any. Anyone who is either a Tabler, 41er or guest or Ladies Circler can attend. We also look forward to meeting travellers from overseas as well as those on business from around RTBI. We meet in the basement bar from 1230hrs onwards and stay until the last one leaves! The aim is to attend as often as you can and to stay as long as you can. This is what makes us unique!

Since 1986, over 3,256 have attended. The most to attend was 64 and the least was 1 - yes 1! Over this period the average attendance has been 11. This is good if you look at attendances in general. In case you are wondering how I know these statistics, we have an attendance register which we all sign.

I nearly forgot, despite being informal we have our own ties and badges.

I only have one question for all of you. Have you been for one of our meetings? If not, give us a try. We would like to see you there, either on a regular basis or for a fleeting visit if you are passing by.

If you have any questions please contact Bernie Skivington (+44 7775 541767), Patrick Dewsnap (+44 7932 772629), Andrew Livingston (+44 7734 036981) or myself Dave Leon (+44 7710 422705).

It is important to let other people know and the best way is by word of mouth. So please discuss this at your next meeting and pop in whenever you can.

Dave Leon
Honorary Informal Secretary,
Archivist and Statistician!



Any answers?

- If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
- If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
- How come abbreviated is such a long word?
- Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
- Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
- Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?



Agora & Tangent Germany Unite



Dear Friends,

What we have been discussing for two years at our meetings of "4 Clubs - 1 Vision" internationally finally became reality! It was the great wish of Ladies' Circle and Round Table International to re-unite all Past-Circlers whether they are called Tangent or Agora, because only in that way does our motto "4 Clubs - 1 Vision" make sense! During our International AGM held in Bruges on the 3rd of October 2009, our Councillors decided to open up our association towards all Past Circlers - Tangent and Agora members - but what is the most important, by retaining their own identity.

Therefore they voted in favour of Tangent Club Germany, who will become our first Tangent member country.

We are so glad that our Club members realised that all Past Circlers should be able to continue the friendship they have experienced in Ladies' Circle International.

This logo unites two ladies, one has a dress in the shape of an "A" for Agora and the other one's dress is a "T" for Tangent - my motto of the year is:

"Together we are ONE"

We really hope that other Tangent countries will have the same vision as Tangent Germany and that we will be able to grow more and more towards each other in future.

This AGM is a milestone in the history of Agora Club International but also in the history of Ladies' Circle, as from that day forward all Past Circlers will have the opportunity to continue to meet on an international level.



This idea was formed during the LCI Conference in Bangalore as one of the objectives and wishes of their Councillors and floor members.

As actual International President of Agora Club and as Past LCI President, I am so glad that the first step has been taken to re-unite what has been divided for over 20 years.

I want to thank all National Boards of LC, RT and 41-clubs all over the world who have supported me in this matter. And whether your country has a Tangent or Agora Club it really doesn't matter, what is most important is that although our

name is different we all have the same goal - to enjoy life after Circling.

I am so proud that so many countries realise that "4 clubs-1 Vision" is uniting the 4 associations with the same roots, the same rules and experiencing the same friendship. The sons and daughters of 41ers, Tangent and Agora Members are the future of LC & RT.

In the near future we might even have the ambition to have a joined service project! Isn't it true that all these associations are already supporting the earthquake hit area in Abruzzo, Italy? Isn't it amazing: the strength of almost 160,000 members!

So my friends, if we work together at all levels of our associations, be it local, national or international, we will realise that we can only gain by working together.

Yours in International Friendship,

Daniëlle Gardin
President Agora Club International 2009-2010
"Together we are ONE"

International HYM in Brasov, Romania - October 2010 - an Invitation

We are absolutely delighted to organise for you the HYM INTERNATIONAL 41 CLUB and the Annual General Meeting of ROMANIAN 41 CLUB and thus welcome a large number of 41ers from all over the world.

The HYM 41 International PROGRAMME & AGM ROMANIAN 41 CLUBS - October 15th - 17th 2010

Conference Hotel: ARO PALACE BRASOV www.aro-palace.ro/ and the other Hotels from the same chain

Our region, BRASOV, our clubs and all their members have combined their entire energies and commitment to ensure that this AGM will be a huge success. We shall not miss the opportunity to explore with you our beautiful city and its splendid setting, our traditional TRANSYLVANIAN restaurants as well as art and history museums.

Registration starts on Thursday, 14th October 2010 at ARO PALACE HOTEL.
Dinner at hotel ARO PALACE not included in the participation fee.

Gaiety, high-spirits and cordiality will accompany us during the Friday evening at Restaurantul Cetatii. Besides this we will enjoy classical music, dances and songs and a very special atmosphere.



Aro Palace Hotel, Brasov



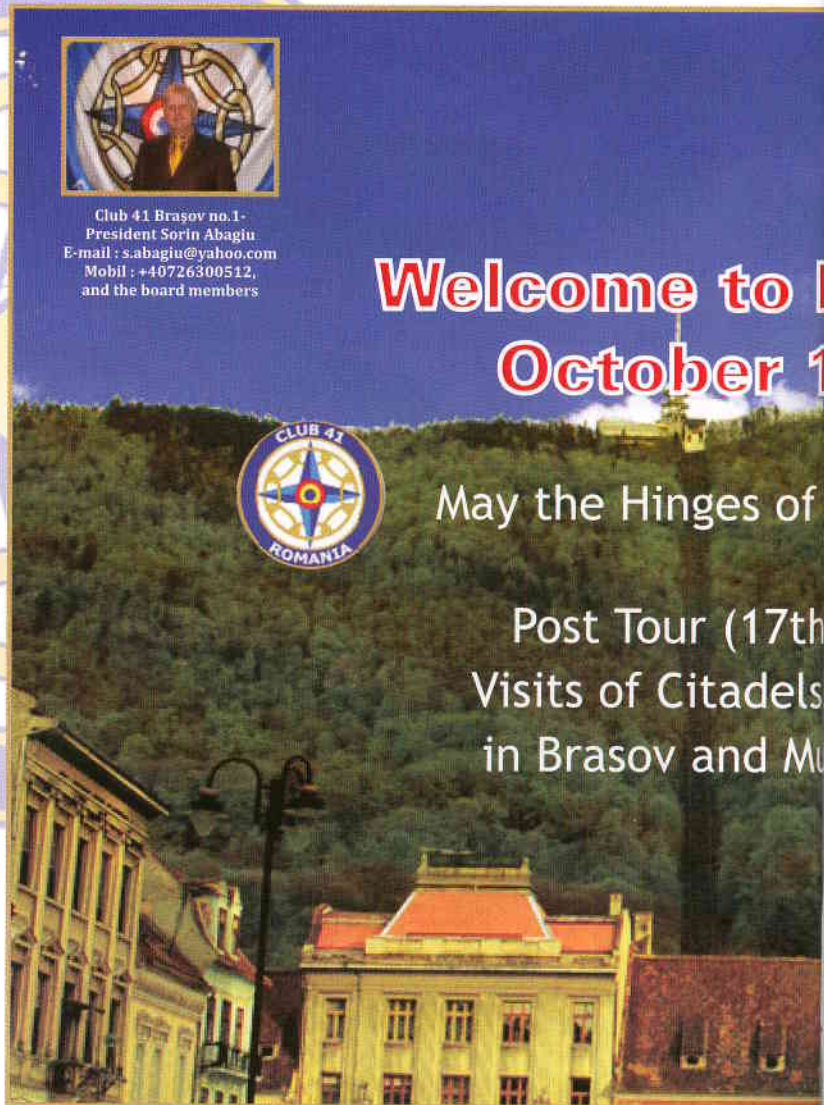
Club 41 Brasov no.1 -
President Sorin Abagiu
E-mail : s.abagiu@yahoo.com
Mobil : +40726300512,
and the board members



Welcome to Brasov October 15th - 17th

May the Hinges of History

Post Tour (17th October)
Visits of Citadel
in Brasov and Maramures



The official AGM ROMANIAN 41CLUB & HYM INTERNATIONAL 41 CLUB will be held the next day in the morning, followed by the IROs' Meeting and the customary banner exchange, both in the afternoon.

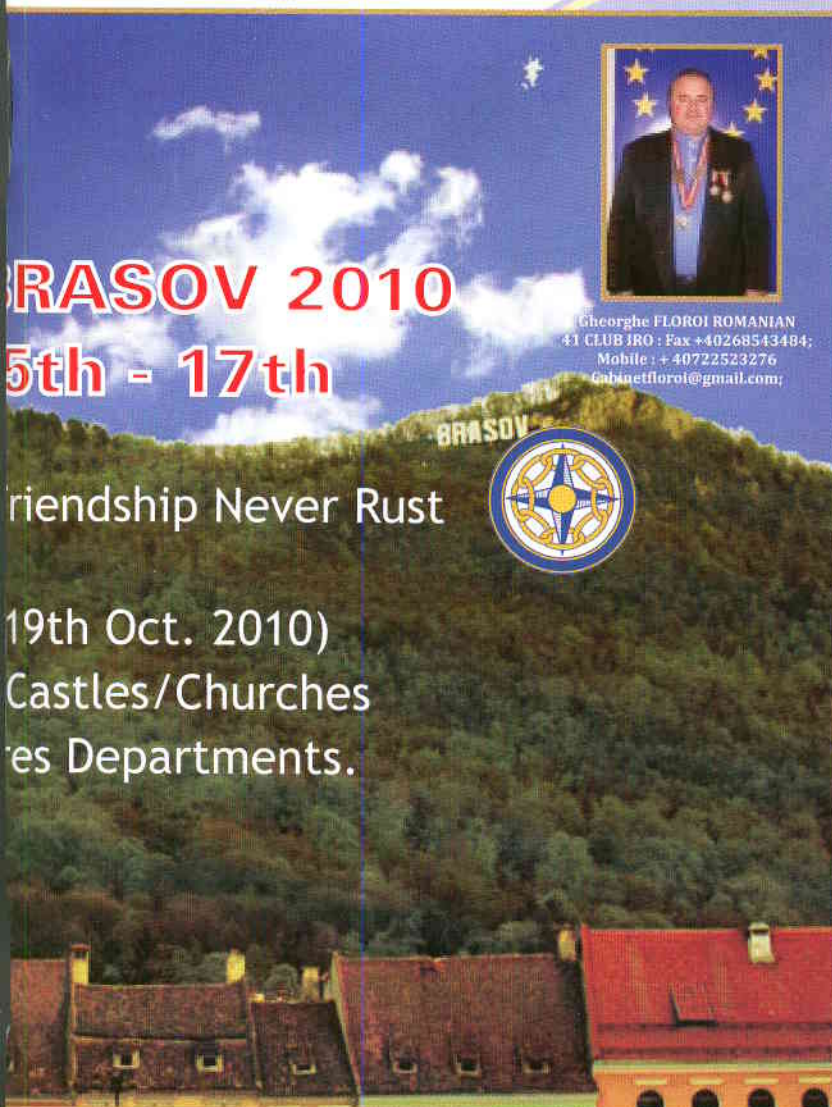
A light-hearted evening then awaits you with many surprises during the **Saturday gala evening** at the ARO-PALACE RESTAURANT.

Farewell brunch on Sunday 2010 October 17th at 10 o'clock.

We shall be putting all our enthusiasm into the organisation of this convention to convince you of the sense of hospitality of "The Brasov - Kronstadt 41members".

Come and join us!

Conference Officers/team Management

A promotional poster for the Brasov 2010 event. The background is a scenic view of Brasov, Romania, featuring a green hill with the word 'BRASOV' on it, and a red-roofed building in the foreground. The sky is blue with white clouds. In the top right corner, there is a portrait of Gheorghe Floroi Romanian, a man in a suit with several medals. Below the portrait, his contact information is listed: 'Gheorghe FLOROI ROMANIAN', '41 CLUB IRO : Fax +40268543484;', 'Mobile : + 40722523276', and 'Cabinetfloroi@gmail.com;'. The text 'BRASOV 2010' is written in large red letters, followed by '5th - 17th' in white. Below this, the phrase 'Friendship Never Rust' is written in white. At the bottom, the dates '19th Oct. 2010)' and 'Castles/Churches' are visible, along with 'es Departments.'.

BRASOV 2010
5th - 17th

Friendship Never Rust

19th Oct. 2010)
Castles/Churches
es Departments.

Gheorghe FLOROI ROMANIAN
41 CLUB IRO : Fax +40268543484;
Mobile : + 40722523276
Cabinetfloroi@gmail.com;



Ancient City Hall - Today

Friendship In India

After a fantastic and friendly AGM in Calcutta, we left on Sunday morning for a post tour organized by Viji and his 41 friends.

We, Josiane and I, left with Hans Dieter (HaDe) Gesch and his son Sébastien, Past President International, Randolph Riedlinger and seven Indian Past Presidents accompanied by their wives. Our destination was Bishnupur, a town with 65,000 inhabitants, located in Bengal.

After a 150 kilometre bus ride on winding roads, in the middle of trucks, people on foot, bicycles, cars etc., we arrived at our destination. We went through a very green countryside, with a lot of fields of rice, forests and, from time to time, little villages.

After a debriefing at the hotel, we went round the town. Bishnupur is well known for its numerous temples which are marvellously lit at night. The temples are built mostly of bricks and at times, of laterite. The architecture is modelled on the pattern of Bengali huts built of bamboo and mud with thatched roofs.

Then we had a very simple dinner with our friends, a nice evening and went to bed early because we had planned lots of things for the next day.

The next morning, we left the hotel by rickshaw, in Indian file. We visited three temples and the Porte du Fort. We had seen two of them illuminated the night before.

Our guide spoke Bengali; all that he said was translated into English by Sameer (41 New Delhi, Famex Convenor). Most of the Past Presidents conversed in English because there are several languages and cultures in India that it was the best way for them to communicate.

In the morning, we visited a sari factory, where all the saris are hand made. The weavers have to work seven days to create one sari. Our wives made their choice, whereas I went to a primary school nearby. All the children wear a uniform, orange and white. In the afternoon, HaDe, Sameer, Josiane and I visited another temple, located right in the middle of a wonderful park.

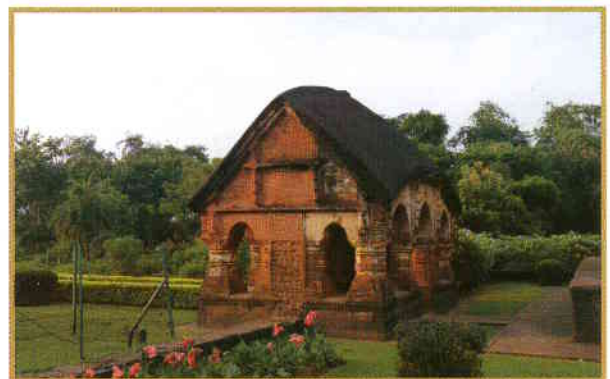
Coming back to the hotel, we had an unexpected meeting with Sameer and HaDe, about Famex. It was a very interesting meeting, during which Sameer told us that the Indians were looking forward to hosting us in different towns in India.

On Tuesday morning, we left for Bankura. The trip was planned by bus, but as we didn't get any permission, we travelled by four by four. The traffic is terrible on a very busy road, with crammed buses, overloaded trucks, frequented by children going to school, lots of bicycles, farmers going to the fields and from time to time cows, goats and other animals.

Owing to a strike on the road, we had to take a diversion and were compelled to drive all through the country of Bengal. What a delight and what a chance we had to discover this fantastic country, which is very green and very luxuriant (fields, rice fields, brooks with fishes), and to drive through pleasant little villages where we had the opportunity to mix with the local population.

After a few kilometres, we arrived in a village where one can find terracotta folk toys like the Bankura horse. We had a typical Indian lunch in a hotel located in the open country, before visiting a huge dam reservoir.

The trip back was very tiring but the evening very convivial. We had a cold and warm buffet made with country products, similar to the other meals, impromptu and unexpected evening drinks and then a friendly cosy evening with Indian, German and French songs.



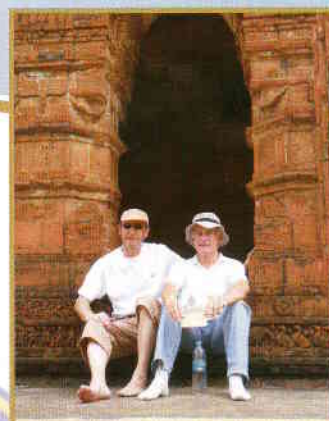
On Wednesday morning, we got up very early and left for Calcutta by bus. When driving back, everybody was singing songs and above all moved by the welcome we had had. Viji was worried in case we should be late, and so he invited us at his home for an unexpected lunch.

After saying goodbye to everybody, we drove to the airport for our flight to Delhi, where Harsh Sehgal waited for us so that we could carry on with our journey.

What fantastic days we spent, thanks to the friendship of the members of 41 India. Thanks for giving us the chance to discover this fantastic country, which wouldn't have happened without you to guide us. Everybody is prepared to go back there. For sure, Josiane and I will.

Thanks to you dear friends,
Yours in continued friendship.

Denis Beck
National IRO Club 41 France



Around the World in 12 Stops - International President 2009-10 attends AGMs & more

Germany: Making the front page of the local newspaper, having been mistaken for US President Bill Clinton. Travelling to the welcome party by boat and deciding to walk home for safety reasons - no, not on water.

New Zealand: The fancy dress competition (just like GB). Opting out of being a judge and dressing up as pilots with swimming goggles and shower caps to give effect. Seeing where England will win the Rugby World Cup.

Italy: An amazing stilted cabaret and the presentation of money for Onna to Celso Cioni. Visiting the earthquake site at Onna.

Cyprus: Presenting a Union Jack apron to my friend Theoklis only to find the apron was for a child when he put it on. Meeting again Archbishop Makarios.

France: Addressing the AGM in French and receiving a standing ovation. Conclusion: my French friends had understood not a word and were pleased that I had finished speaking.

Round Table International: Happy that I left on schedule before the Gala Dinner - I could not keep up with those young (and not so young) lads.

Romania: Being banished from the bus bound for the Ukraine because I am married to someone with a New Zealand passport and no European passport. Breakfast consisted of beer, whisky and other comforting potions. Bitten by mosquitoes, softening me up for India and Africa.

India: Being dropped off at a hotel on the other side of Kolkata to the conference hotel. Witnessing a constitutional Rules dispute at the AGM: excellent discussion plus discipline were mixed with the usual Round Table banter. Intermittent interruptions to the electricity supply until some more rupees were found for the meter.

South Africa: Giraffes, zebras, deer wandering through the AGM venue. Meeting up with the YAPs. Seeing where England will win the Soccer World Cup.

Belgium: Seeing again some of the YAPs. Confirming that the range of beers available in Belgium is excellent. Being charmed (irresistibly?) by Danielle Gardin. Who?

Switzerland: Having to be smuggled into the National AGM (during a break in the International HYM) so that I could cheer them up.

Melita, Malta: The Annual European Convention of the International Lesbian and Gay Association held in the same hotel was a revelation. The Naughty Nurse at the Charter Ceremony certainly 'tickled my fancy' - and the fancy of the members of Shirley Late Knights 41 Club (Great Britain), who attended the Charter.

John Bellwood
President

Over "HIS" Dead Body

a Tribute to Einhart Melzer

I cannot remember precisely when I met Einhart Melzer for the first time; the difference in our ages meant that he had already left Round Table before I had even heard of it.

Although I made a number of visits to Sennestadt and Flensburg during my time with the juniors, he was already establishing himself as a figurehead amongst the seniors and applying himself to the leadership of OTD.

It was after I took on the role of Toastmaster at The Association Annual Conference in 1984 that he made himself known to me. Initially he was attracted by the uniform, but subsequently, year on year, he would talk to me about the way events were organised, so as to ensure that everything ran smoothly and efficiently, particularly at Gala Dinners. On a number of occasions he enquired if I would travel to Germany to carry out similar tasks, but I never took him up on it.

In due course of time I was elected Vice President of The Association and became involved with him in his role as Special Ambassador of 41 International. Immediately following the 1991 AGM in Trieste we had resigned our membership due to disagreements over member countries' acceptance of Non Ex-Tablers.

My predecessor had already met with Einhart to discuss the way forward before I was sent to the 1993 HYM in Cyprus to move this along. I had already broken the ice with the representatives of Club 41 Français and had received a verbal assurance that, providing we accepted the status quo, the practice would be discontinued.

On that basis, I went as President to the 1994 AGM in Hamburg

to confirm the reunification. No doubt Einhart had had many other meetings with other interested parties, but he gained much praise for the way everything had been handled and for the end result. It was a shame that others did not honour their word.

Whilst all this was going on it came to my notice that, although Einhart had been awarded a Life Honorary Membership by The Association in 1975, he had never been presented with his collar and I had the honour to correct this during the Hamburg weekend.

Another year or so on and we found ourselves working together again.

During the 20 years since 1975 the Rules of 41 International had been added to and amended to suit current circumstances, but not always properly documented or collated. I was asked to bring these up to date, but only agreed to do so provided I could call upon Einhart's memory to help me pull things together. Very little has changed since we completed that project together.



And so we come to 1997 and, as 41 International President, I enjoyed a most memorable visit to Berlin. The Melzers had not yet moved to Mariendorf and space in their apartment was at a premium, but Frances and I were well hosted with skill and precision. A visit to Anneliese's weekend house and garden was a must, in addition to the Olympic Stadium and a number of historic and public buildings. Einhart was at pains to show us how the city was being put back together again.

It was during this visit that I found out that Einhart couldn't drive, at least not from behind the wheel anyway, as he considered he could do it perfectly adequately from the passenger seat - much to Anneliese's annoyance

The main purpose and indeed our invitation had been to travel through Eastern Germany and to take part in the charter ceremony of Schwerin Old Tablers, an event I was proud to attend.



Einhart Melzer had a reputation for doing things correctly and in accordance with established traditions. He and I were appalled at the disgraceful behaviour by certain delegates to the 2002 AGM in Brasov and disappointed by the way decisions were massaged subsequently to satisfy the perpetrators. He could see no justification for what went on. There was no doubt that his enthusiasm for 41 International started to drain away from that time.

Subsequently he began to lose faith in The Association also, when it started to talk seriously about open membership.

'How can you be a member of an Ex-Tablers' organisation if you were never in Round Table? It doesn't make sense!

How can you be

an Old Etonian if you never went to Eton?

These were the questions he asked.

As I visited him for the last time at the cemetery in Krugenbergstrasse I remembered the conversation we had when I spoke to him after the 2009 AGM in Southport.

He asked again 'IS THE ASSOCIATION SERIOUS?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY WILL CHANGE THE RULES IN 2010?

I sincerely hope the decision, if and when it comes, does not make Einhart Melzer "Turn in his Grave".

**Alan Reynolds &
Wickford 41 Club - The Association
Algarve 41 Club - Portugal
Brasov 41 Club - Romania**



Between Dreams & Reality

A Journey through Morocco, Post Charter Rabat - Nov '09

A long time ago Randolph asked me to organize a Post Tour after the Morocco Charter at Rabat. Being in love with Soraya, who grew up in Casablanca, of course I know quite a bit of this country and it was indeed my greatest pleasure to share the beautiful sights and sides of Morocco with Tabler Friends. Between "Dreams & Reality Tour" brought us through Meknes, Fes, Ifrane, Midelt, Erfoud, Merzouga, Tinghir, Todra Canyons, Ouarzazate, Ait Benhaddou Kasbah, over the Tizin Tichka back into Marrakech.

Some twenty participants from seven different Nationalities participated and had got to know each other perfectly well after the Charter at Rabat. A quick visit to the mausoleum in Rabat and off went the tour in the direction of Meknes. While visiting the town and strolling around in the Souk, we saw many strange sights, more or less similar to other Arab cities.

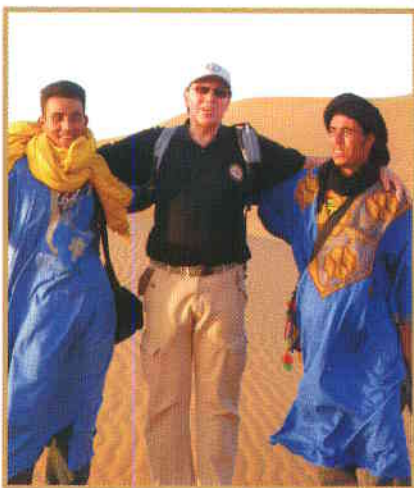
Here we noticed the comfortable bus as well as the perfect hotel arrangements. The hotel check in was rather late but food was good, except that the guys had been drinking too much, and we ran out of wine or, according to the locals, the stock was not high enough. Next morning, the visit to the town started quite leisurely with a nice group photo. We took off our shoes, saw a mosque inside and started the first round of heavy negotiating, before buying.

The first shock came then, when we visited the old town Fes at the tanner's quarters. You could not believe it; they work with the leather as if it was happening some thousand years ago. Pigeon droppings with water and lots of manual manoeuvring would take off the hair, followed by many other baths of rinsing, colouring, softening, what have you; unbelievable. All enrobe by the breathtaking odours, it was a challenge to keep the breakfast down. By then we noticed that there were some professional photographers in the group, finally completing between 2000 to 5000 photos taken during this week. The tanner's impression slowed down the price negotiations for a while; we were calling the purchases "local servicing".

But soon the many offers and the Moroccan general sport of wheeling and dealing was back on the agenda. Of course, only after trying whether it fits, as a good treasurer would do.

The Souk again in the evening, some snaky shaky and we survived yet another day. Got up early to drive through "little Switzerland", at least by the looks of Ifrane, and some surroundings up and down the "col du Zad".

Then through the stone desert into rocky mountains, and an unusual flag.



Further down the road through some greenery, a change of transport, hop on to your 4x4 and some boy's game, either way. Walk up the dunes like Bedouins and hold the sun or not, it'll disappear anyway, but find it again with the early birds for rising next day. My photos and reporting are a bit sketchy at this point, since I was captured by the magic of the so called "tourista"; in other words, I spent the night in the toilet.

The day thereafter, back on the swing, and in the middle of the films "Lawrence of Arabia; Kundun and Gladiator", breathtaking Kasbah Ait Benhaddou, Ouarzazate.

Coming close to the "fête de mouton", of course we had done our own one in the méchoui way, Tichn Tichka at its best and there we arrived in Marrakech Djama El Fna. Two days of culture, palaces and shopping again.

Cornel, I guess, saw a beautiful Moroccan girl and kissed a traffic sign with his forehead, forgivingly healed by the ladies of our group. All in all it was amazing how, within a 30-minute drive, we could see a country change its landscape so quickly and so often. The Moroccan culture ranges from buzzing city-life to old style "Shepherds, on the rocks". Simply, A FASCINATING COUNTRY. (for further pics. www.agm-2009.ch "photos old AGMs")

**Werner Blessing,
Nat-PePe-CH**



41ing In Romania - A Pictorial View

Picture Perfect



Black Church - Biserica Neagra



Castel Bran aka Dracula Castle

Humour Festival - Anniversary of Club 41 no. 3, Brasov "Where there's no humour, there's nothing!!!"



The Golden Stomach



Santaclaus (IRO!) visits Tablers' Children & 41ers



41 International Calendar 2010-11 & beyond!

April 2010			
10th	Denmark	AGM	Brande
10th	Indian Ocean	AGM	Mauritius
17th	Great Britain	AGM	Scarborough
22nd - 25th	41 International / Finland	AGM	Jyväskylä
May 2010			
7th - 13th	Sweden	Sweden Masstour	www.rts.org/vikingtour
15th	Sweden	AGM	Jönköping
29th	Italy	AGM	Bologna
29th	Germany	AGM	Zweibrücken
29th	Norway	AGM	Hamar
June 2010			
5th	France	AGM	Brive
6th	New Zealand	AGM	Wellington
19th	Austria	AGM	Wiener Neustadt
19th	Cyprus	AGM	Nicosia
September 2010			
11th	South Africa	AGM	Polokwane
18th	Zambia	AGM	?
25th	India	AGM	Kochi
October 2010			
1st	Round Table International	AGM	Dubai
1st - 3rd	Belgium	AGM	GEEL
7th - 10th	Past Presidents mtg	PPM 101010	Rimini
16th	Romania	AGM	Brasov
16th	41 International/Romania	HYM	Brasov
30th	Switzerland	AGM	Zürich
November 2010			
4th - 7th	Merano	Chestnut Fest	Meran/Merano Italy
5th - 7th	Belgium	41 Gold Cruise	41 Gold Cruise 2010
March 2011			
26th	Finland	AGM	Raasepori
April 2011			
16th	Great Britain	AGM	Ipswich
May 2011			
21st	Germany	AGM	Coburg
June 2011			
4th	41 International / France	AGM	Toulouse
5th	New Zealand	AGM	Nelson
18th	Austria	AGM	Ried/Innkreis
October 2011			
?	41 International	HYM	Italy
April 2012			
?	Great Britain	AGM	Jersey
?	41 International	AGM	Chennai

Earthquake of 5.9 Magnitude Removes a village off the Face of The Earth.

Onna re-visited ten months on!



Our mission was one of joy. It was to see the unfolding of a dream that Giulia Carnevale, a young architectural student from Rome, had had. She and many other students were terribly crushed to death in a devastating earthquake in Aquila on April the 6th at 3.00 am.

Miraculously her laptop was found in good condition within the crushed wreck of her car, under the rubble that used to be the beautiful historical city of Aquila. Upon opening it up they found her ideas and designs, and these have been adopted to

build a new Youth Centre and also a new school nursery in the village of Onna, where 41 young people died out of a population of about 300. These buildings will now be an everlasting tribute to this young woman.

The old Church Bell from the 18th century was found intact under the rubble of the Church and now hangs, for me tragically, in a small belfry just in front of Giulia's Youth Centre.

Blue skies and brilliant sunshine were to accompany the 41 INTERNATIONAL President John Bellwood and the 41 INTERNATIONAL Secretary Bob Parton on their privileged journey to the little village of Onna only a few kilometres away from L'Aquila in Abruzzo, Italy. We were greeted and hosted supremely by our ever friendly 41 Members from the 41 Club Teramo and well known members from the National Italian Board. This was to be the inauguration of the Youth Centre which 41 Italy and 41 International together with Ladies Circle and Agora Italy had donated to the people of Onna.

On receiving the terrible news about the earthquake, the members of the nearby 41 clubs in Ascoli Piceno and Teramo set about a program of sensitisation in order to collect donations to help the sufferers in this devastated area. With a joint effort and in the true spirit of 41 International, these clubs together with Ladies Circle Club, Club 41 and Agora Club began a successful appeal to collect sponsorships from all over the world for this needy cause.

Compliments must go to all who have helped with this project, above all to the strength of Giulia's father who directed most of the construction of both the School and the Youth centre. This has been achieved with great success, despite the emotional pressures, that he must have had to live through. Giulia parents, despite their own personal tragedy, devoted so much time and effort to enable so many other people to enjoy their lives better even though their daughter did not live to fulfil her ideas.



Clearance work has not yet been completed, particularly in the middle of the village, and much of the destruction can still be seen, but to the west of the old Village, the Red Cross has built emergency houses where life is beginning to reform itself. However, looking into the eyes of the inhabitants of the village today, you can still sense the pain and wounds that are still visible. Nobody smiles; they are just there, and by the grace of God, still alive.

All service facilities like Water, Electricity and the infrastructure are good. Fortunately the Motorways and also the Railway network were not damaged so that emergency services, even from as far away as Rome were available soon after the earthquake had happened. The pictures of the new housing estate that has been built just outside of the village illustrate the work and technical building progress that has been made. These flats are floating on a plate and are sprung on metal pillars so that any future earthquake should at least secure these building to their foundations.

The Mayor of Aquila also gave much assistance and insisted upon an uncomplicated approach to the legislative matters. Not the least was the German Ambassador in Italy, Michael Steiner, who has promised much help from his country. Ex Tabler Celso Cioni presented the Italian 41 President, Augusto Ferrari with the virtual cheques received from the German and Austrian Associations on the occasion of their AGMs last June. I cannot end here, without mentioning the names of a few others who have done so much for the realisation of this project. Amongst the 41 Italian Members I can think of are Diego Giacoboni, Augusto Ferrari, Carlo Bertoli, Paolo Pisani, Maurizio Vettori, Duccio Arrighi, Paolo Bonagura and Bruce Morgan, and of course, the local Onna Round Tabler Celso Cioni.

Thank you 41 Italia for your efforts, this is a new side of 41 International that I would like to see more of. It is remarkable what can be realised with the help of our other sister clubs. Bruce Morgan wrote to 41 INTERNATIONAL and said to us simply "be proud". Dear Bruce, dear 41 Members of 41 Club Italia, we are indeed proud of what you have realised with this project.



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Bob Parton
Secretary 41 INTERNATIONAL
Bruce Morgan
IRO 41 Club Italia

The Last Word

Okay, okay, I know my last few "The Last Word" (2 to be precise!) have had frivolous, off the cuff, chatty writing that came to me in a stupor. In spite of that I have been appreciated. Not that I have cajoled, extracted it out of 41ers and their ilk. It's been spontaneous, straight from the heart. I have been stopped - in my tracks sometimes! - and been told that the Hinge was a delight. However, the mind tells me this time to write something meaningful, profound. (I am not showing off my knowledge of the language please, in case you thought so!)

So here goes.

I have a few suggestions. The first one is that the Hinge be a quarterly, instead of a half-yearly. (What fun is it to be doing IT only twice a year?!) It will keep the Editor's and your - the contributing floor 41ers'/IROs' - adrenalin flowing. This of course is with budget permitting. By the by, why don't we have more 41ers asking for individual copies instead of free loading via the website or borrowing your Association President's copy? This is your commitment to the 41 cause. (My cause, if you please!)

Back to business after these digressions.

This time, I have received much more response in terms of contributions to the Hinge. Great - thank you, merci, danke (you see I'm trying other languages too, besides English). Let me not whine for that reason. However, to the non contributors, please tell me why you don't write, communicate.

Tabling and subsequently, 41 is all about communication, networking, and so all the more reason to do it. Am I being very preachy? Shall we leave it to John & Matti? Done.

You have taken all my points, suggestions, I hope. Please write, communicate and speak up. (Am I working towards being the Intl. President in 2020, you may well ask).

On Agora and Tangent and vision 4, I have my views. All are working towards the same end. They can co-exist or merge. There is not too much to be made out of a matter like this.

Similarly on non ex-Tablers joining the 41 movement - all social service organisations are seeing dwindling numbers. Most youngsters are pursuing lucre, Mammon, lifestyles. About time we pull up our bootstraps, realise the reality on the ground and allow friends of ex Tablers or 41ers to join the movement, if we do not want to die a slow death. Rules, conflicts and standoffs will not help us and our new generations have a better world.

Let us Adopt, Adapt, Improve so that the Hinges of Friendship Never Rust.

Rajan Mittal





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Objects

- (a) to encompass all Associations consisting of clubs of Ex-Tablers.
- (b) to maintain at international level the contacts between those clubs.
- c) to maintain at the same international level the bonds of friendship which unite all Ex-Tablers.

London Lunching at the Lamb



Einhard Melzer in the Good Old Days



Full Members

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany,
Great Britain, India, Indian Ocean, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand,
Norway, Romania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda, Zambia

41 Club contacts in Australia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Gibraltar, Hungary,
Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria,
Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, United Arab Emirates

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