



THE HINGE

Issue 10, October 2010



Open air buffet – Chestnut Festival



Guillotine test



Volcanic Ash – passengers stranded at Frankfurt

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



Blois – King of friendship



Wow what a prize! – Indian YAPs tour Europe



All hands up – International AGM Finland



Ile aux Canards –
Island of Ducks

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The International President Speaks



Matti takes off!

It's been four months since the AGM at Jyväskylä and the year is running well. As I had expected, time flies.

I have so far had the opportunity of attending three different National AGMs, namely at Jönköping in Sweden from 14th to 16th May, at Bologna in Italy from 28th to 30th May and at Wiener Neustadt in Austria from 18th to 20th June. Sadly, I was unable to attend Germany, France or Cyprus as the weekends clashed. While I understand that this cannot always be avoided, I still urge the national organising committees to check the weekends before finalising their AGM dates, if possible. My thanks to Jean-Louis Boileau for taking care of those AGMs I could not make it to. I trust he's been treated well.

The Swedish AGM in Jönköping was a very good experience. It was organised together with RT, LC and Tangent. Even though 700 people had gathered there for three happy days, each group was taken care of very well. The 41ers got their own room and facilities whenever needed. The Swedes had even reserved the terrace of the hotel for their own use where we could all sit and enjoy the snacks and drinks and of course good company. For instance, they had a 1300 Euro bottle of Champagne - the biggest I've ever seen! The meeting was held separately in the hotel nightclub and was one of the funniest and most intense I've ever attended. We, all the guests, could feel the great enthusiasm and freshness which was present all the time at all events from home parties on Friday till the big Gala evening in a vast tent built in the centre of the city. Per Wigart and his team had done a fantastic job to build the Swedish OT up again after a long period of absence from international action. Now, they have some 450 members and 34 clubs and according to the board it will be doubled in no time. I as a Finn am very happy for the success of our neighbours and was very proud of the fact that five of them made their way to Jyväskylä via Copenhagen and Turku despite the volcanic cloud which disturbed air traffic. Also the ferries were fully booked, so they had to make their way to Finland by the most difficult route. I wish the Swedish Old Tablers all the best in the years to come and trust it will be amongst the most successful National Associations under the 41 International wings.

My second visit headed for Italy and Bologna. The beautiful city of Bologna, city of towers and pavements, welcomed us with open arms and embraced us with fine weather and a very cosy event. I had never been to Bologna before but I'd read a book about the town some years ago. It was exactly as described and fulfilled all my expectations. Augusto Ferrari and the local organisers had done a great job. After the meeting we visited the Ducati factory which is the pride of Bologna just like the Ferrari in Maranello. Very interesting for a biker like me.

The earthquake project in Abruzzo Onna has been very successful and showed us all what friendship can do.

At the evening gala, Paolo Santaniello and his new board got their jewels, but sadly Bruce Morgan gave up his post as the national IRO. We have now added a new IRO to the family, namely Giuseppe Giacomelli to the side of Maurizio Vettori. Good luck to Paolo and his crew.

Finally, I landed in Austria and Wiener Neustadt, a nice little town just fifty kilometres from Vienna to the South. Austria is, as you all know, one of my all time favourites. The association seems to be in a very stable state. The events are joyful and humorous and all the parties and meetings exude a feeling of warmth. Christian Roessel carries on as the President of the Austrian 41 Association. The size of Austria is also very stable with 31 clubs and over 700 members.

After the farewell brunch on Sunday we were taken by Christian and Heinz to Vienna where we spent the afternoon and next day looking at the wonders of the capital. Schönbrunn and all the other castles, museums and the Doom were miraculous. And the Viennese cafes: wonderful.

Thanks to all the organisers. Thanks for the friendship. It's been good fun.

May the hinges of friendship never rust

Matti Hinttala
President, 41 INTERNATIONAL

Hinge Mail

Dear Rajan,

Wine and Rajan apparently improve with age. This issue is a vast improvement and the main reason is that you have motivated lots of guys to write. Keep it up.

Sorry to learn of the demise of 2 more of my predecessors as 41 International Presidents. The last 2 were Bev and Otto.

Yours in friendship

Indu Chandhok
Past President, 41 International

Hi Rajan

Kindly note I am not Bob Parton!

Yours in Continued Friendship

ANDY WAITE
International Officer, Great Britain & Ireland

On the cover of The Hinge - April 2010, Andy's photograph was inadvertently captioned with Bob's name. My profound apologies to Andy and Bob for the error.

In friendship

Rajan

I am thoroughly amused at editor Rajan Mittal's note on non-ex tablers as members of our organisation for ex-tablers, 41 International. Having studied logic in college, I see a situation where a single experience is made into a general situation. Rajan is probably using his editor's prerogative to issue comments but I wish these were based on facts, at least in his own country. During the last decade, the National Association of 41 clubs in India has been growing at a minimum of 100 new members and 12 new clubs every year. I ask - is this stagnation??? We in India have very clearly stated and supported the move that this organisation is for former tablers ONLY!!!!. Due to un-foreseen circumstances, friends of 41ers may be admitted in other countries, but certainly not in India. We have a tab of all tablers who cross 40 during a year and we try and ensure that they either form or join a 41 club. We collect a onetime life subscription of Rs7500/- [and this goes into a corpus and the interest alone is used to run our association]. This corpus today is close to 8 million Rupees and the Rs.1/2 million earned as interest is very well used to administer the association. Is this a STAGNANT situation?

The next International Vice-President from India has made the stand of our association on this matter abundantly clear and we, that is our President, our International VP elect and the council, are hurt that these remarks of our Indian editor give the wrong stand of our country on the subject of accepting non-ex-tablers. We were never in favour of this, and we will never support this attempt by countries that are having membership problems. Incidentally, the Table movement also has a healthy growth, so we have a good source for the future.

I'd be grateful if you could pass this message to our new 41 International President - I do not have his e-mail address and to all the other 41International Councillors.

Thanks and warm regards

Indu Chandhok
Past President, 41 International

I am writing as the editor for the International Magazine and hence not necessarily representing the Indian view or voicing the India Board opinion. By the by, the editor has freedom of expression like any other floor 41er and is not using any special prerogatives!

I have mailed your letter to the International President & Councillors Indu, I wish you had asked me to do so in the first place. John Bellwood, as the International President last year had gone through the contents, by the way, before printing, and found the editorial perfectly acceptable.

In friendship

Rajan

Dear Rajan,

Many compliments on the superb April 2010 edition of the "The Hinge". Congrats and keep up the good work but please try not to advertise too much for Non EX Tablers my dear friend!!!!

Yours in friendship

Bob Parton
Past Secretary, 41 International & past Editor, "The Hinge"

Dear Rajan,

As far as I'm concerned, you have been an excellent Editor of all of The Hinge while I have been International President and it saddens me that there is criticism, aggression and negativity from certain quarters. We are meant to be outward-looking, positive, and responsible, to enjoy life and to be friends; criticism and sniping will only lead to many of us not wanting to take on leading roles now or in the future.

You have my full support, my friend. You and Jogi are wonderful people.

Yours in continued friendship,

John
Immediate Past President 41 INTERNATIONAL

HYM in Brasov – October 14 – 17, 2010

A Pictorial Preview



19 years in Round Table & 41 Friendship BV



Mariage Fleuroi



Gala dinner- Ladies' African Dance



Round Table Romania - National Past Presidents



France 41 members -Visit at Tours Townhall



LeConte & FloRoi



Audience at Callu Residence-Passation de pouvoir C41

The 41 International AGM and Volcanic Ash at Jyväskylä, Finland

136 people from abroad registered for the 41 International AGM and OTSF AGM weekend closing with an equal number of domestic registrations. Everything looked fine until the volcanic ash cloud rose up to the European skies, when suddenly 60 % of European airfields were closed and no flights over central and northern Europe were allowed. Occasionally there would be a gap in the skies and a couple of flights would be allowed to fly. At the same time, all ferries between Finland and Sweden, Finland and Estonia, and Finland and Central Europe were fully booked. Now the question on everyone's mind was - how do we get to Jyväskylä?



Matti - I didn't create volcanic ash



Blessing Presidents past & present

Anyway, there are as many stories from people who could make it as there are from those who didn't. Malcolm Lockey sat in the aeroplane at the end of the runway waiting for the sounds of the engines to get louder for the take off, when suddenly there was no acceleration but they were back to the terminal. Bad luck, but there was also good luck when five Swedes starting from different parts of Sweden decided to make it: first, somehow to Copenhagen in Denmark, then a flight to Turku and finally from Turku by train to Jyväskylä. How long it took I cannot imagine but it must have been at least five times more than normal. Also Marios from Cyprus decided to make it. His Finnair flight was cancelled and he flew to Munich and was almost left out of the plane over there. Finally after 19 hours of travelling he made it to Helsinki to find that his original flight had also arrived and that too in four hours.

Anyway, during Friday 33 of all the foreign guests had arrived with a few more to arrive on Saturday morning. We were also happy to welcome, amongst others, RTI Vice-President Steve Ganado from Malta to join us and attend the events of the AGM-weekend.

The meeting was scheduled as per the invitation, but before that was the Friday night party in the heart of Jyväskylä – a good party with good food and with good old and new friends in a pub with loud music and even louder talk. After the party we were back to the hotel Laajavuori. Meanwhile Jarkko Aitolahti, our webmaster, had brought with him a microwave oven and plenty of meat pies - Jarkko is a baker in case you did not know. So his free kiosk in his room was open until 3 o'clock in the morning and the warm meat pies with mustard and ketchup were a big success with some beers too. Hope he managed to sleep a couple of hours.

In the morning we headed to the vast meeting auditorium which waited for the delegates to arrive. With no quorum at 9 o'clock, the meeting had to be adjourned for one hour according to the rules and started again with those present. Participants from Austria, Finland, Sweden, Norway, GB&I, Romania, Switzerland and Cyprus were present. So the new board was announced with Matti Hinttala as President, Jean-Louis Boileau as Vice-President, John Bellwood as Immediate Past President, Denis Beck as Secretary and last but not least David Illingworth as Treasurer. The minutes of the meeting can be read from the web pages www.41international.net and, from what I've heard, some of the decisions taken raised some questions amongst those who could not make it to the meeting. These matters will surely be discussed afterwards.

The National AGM was held on Saturday afternoon, so we could also take part in that. It was a very good idea for the organisers to have organised the meetings one after the other, so unlike what normally happens, we had enough time to also attend the national AGM. Organisers of future AGMs or HYMs - please keep this in mind and if possible do the same, as it is always very important for the International President to be able to join at least the opening of the National AGM.



Double the show of hands!



Hands up – again!



John & Helen - we applaud our new found freedom

Tom Hietanen became the President and Mikko Kosonen the Vice-President of the national organisation OTSF Suomi-Finland.

At the evening gala the jewels were changed both internationally and nationally, the banners were exchanged and the feeling throughout the evening was very warm and homelike. It's a pity that those who could not make it missed all the good fun.

Thank you to the organisers for a job well done. Sorry for the volcanic cloud and all the problems it caused but there's little we can do when nature's fury overturns the best of plans. Hopefully the losses for the organisers were not too high.

May the hinges of friendship never rust

Matti Hinttala
President, 41 INTERNATIONAL

Tongue in Cheek - South Africa calling

Our incoming president, Arthur van der Schyff attended ARTSA and, after a very long wait, was permitted to address the gathering. He got a standing ovation because by the time he got to speak he was dying to go for a pee and made an extremely short speech.

Arthur confessed to not being able to handle the pace of the youngsters. Some of us can't keep up with Arthur so it is just as well we were not there. ARTSA had over 200 overseas guests. Impressive. The meeting and the banquet were, you may be glad to hear, of a very high standard. They haven't gone to the dogs yet!

Gordon McKelvie is the newly inducted president. I was asked to say he is a hell of a nice guy. A strange fellow, "Woof", from PE sometimes known as Johan Lindeque, also from PE, is the vice president. Arthur says he met some guys whom he thinks also said Woof is a hell of a nice guy, but he is not sure because by then he was finding the pace difficult to handle.

Phil Bragg didn't get to the 41ers International in Norway (*it's actually Finland!* - Ed) because of a volcano. Amazing what lengths some people can go to keep out South Africans, but Helsinki is a bit far so maybe they haven't heard how nice we are nowadays. Matti Hinttala sends his regards Phil. Nothing personal you understand!

114 new 41ers passed out of the kids club and we welcome them into our prestigious, worldwide organisation.

Some sad news. Many Bushvelders, and particularly the Tzaneen and Pietersburg 41ers will have heard of Neal du Soutey's long and courageous battle with cancer. He has left us now, but we will remember him for his infectious giggle and that sparkle of humour and mischief in those twinkling eyes. We extend our sincere sympathy to Carol and the 4 children. He is at peace now. God bless.

Orrie Baragwanath
Conference Convener, National Conference 2010, South Africa



Tangent GB – moving towards TANGENT INTERNATIONAL



Karen Durie, Jan Mulqueen, Jan Dowling, Gill Preston, Terrie Hewitt, June Boden - Tangent National Executive who joined 41Club National President Malcolm and his Council for their June Council weekend.

Firstly I would like to introduce myself to our international friends: Gill Preston, Tangent GB National President 2010-2011. I was very disappointed to have to cancel my plans, like so many others, to join 41Club International at your NAGM in Finland, but the volcanic ash won in the end. Because of this I felt it important to write this article so that Tangent GB's news can circulate amongst you.

Our Association has been in existence for over 60 years but has been a National Association for 40 years; we are in fact celebrating this anniversary in September 2010 and the other Presidents of our Round Table Family will be present (Round Table, 41 Club and Ladies Circle). We have close links with our Round Table Family of the 4 clubs which are important to all of our Associations. We have regular meetings to exchange ideas and keep each other up to date with what is happening in our respective Associations. Our link with 41 Club is very strong, working together whenever and however we can. We have our national AGMs on the same day and in the same place which means we can all enjoy the "friendship and fun" of a National Conference weekend.

Tangent GB has no open membership although clubs do have discretionary membership. You are eligible for Tangent if you have been a past member of Ladies Circle or are the wife or partner of a past Round Tabler but this does vary slightly within different Tangent countries.

At our National AGM this year our membership voted in favour of Tangent GB strengthening and developing international links. Jan Mulqueen, our International Officer and Immediate Past President, has been working towards this objective.

We have had for many years, Tangent clubs in Holland, Spain, Gibraltar, Belgium and France who are affiliated to Tangent GB. This affiliation has allowed us to be International without the cost or need of an International Board, whilst still maintaining the friendships made in our younger days. Tangent Associations are also in Denmark, Sweden, Norway, India and Germany. Working with other Tangent countries, we are looking to form TANGENT INTERNATIONAL. The intention is to have an International page on the web sites giving full details of each country's programmes, the costs involved and contact details. Any Tangent member will be able to access the information by following the links from www.tangent-clubs.org, with email and telephone communication. We know this at the moment is the way forward. Any Tangent member worldwide is welcome at our national AGM, which is part of the 41 Club conference weekend. Please see the website for details of costs, venue etc. You can also view photos from previous AGM weekends.

Ladies Circle and Ladies Circle International have the support of all Tangent members which ever country they are in. Any past Circler is welcome at the LCI conference which this year both Jan and I will be attending.

I know that many of your wives and partners read this magazine. If they would like any further information about Tangent please contact us at the above email address, as we would be happy to hear from them.

Gill Preston, Tangent National President, GB & I
President@tangent-clubs.org

Jan Mulqueen, Tangent Immediate Past President, International Officer, GB & I
past-president@tangent-clubs.org

CHARTER WEEKEND OF CAP D'AGDE INTERNATIONAL 270 41 CLUB

1st MAY 2010

The Charter ceremony of Cap D'Agde was attended by about 40 people including the ladies. The dress code was Hawaiian shirts and gongs – ideal for the glorious weather. This was a very relaxed weekend with people who are by now good friends. This new Club is truly international, with four Brits, a Dane, three French and an Italian as members. They have a very varied programme, as can be seen on their website <http://www.41clubcapdagde.fr/index.html>. Most events are inexpensive, involve a kitty or whip-round, and are often outdoors.

Andrew and Debbie Robinson home hosted me and over the weekend we enjoyed oysters, foie gras, champagne, guinea fowl, fine cheese and plenty of wine and beer. All good things must come to an end, so we reluctantly packed our bags and made our way to Montpellier for the flight home to a cold and rainy Leeds/Bradford airport.

Andy Waite, International Officer



Enjoying 'un Apéro' with the ladies



Eight of the nine members with their Charter and banners



LUNCH IN FULL FLOW!



Driving a speedboat to the consternation of Tim Churchman, the owner!



THE GONG SHOW! L - R Montpellier 41 President, International Webmaster Renato, Past President 41 France Francois, Andy Waite and Chairman Andrew Robinson



With Francois Yrard, Past National President 41 France and Chairman Andrew Robinson – enjoying Pastis and La Tielle Sétôis – A pastry with Octopus, Tomato and Saffron unique to Francois' town of Sete.

Kia ora, Greetings, Hello from New Zealand

Hopefully you are all now enjoying warmer weather with spring in the air. We of course are now into autumn and soon it will cool down a bit, thank goodness for our temperate climate! We have been watching with concern and interest your long and cold winter and hope you have all managed to keep safe, warm and dry.

We have to say sorry that we are unable to attend the International AGM but once again our good friends and Consuls have agreed to continue to speak for us; we have them on remote control with electric collars on them in case they misbehave!!!!

41 Club here in New Zealand continues to enjoy its existence although we do appear to be ageing ever so slightly with very few new members joining. I can hear you all saying that our wonderful Club will disappear and yes we have thought over and discussed this very sad future. However, we have had such a wonderful time and so much special fellowship that only having been Round Tablers can bring, that to bring in members that have not had this enlightenment would do us no service at all.

There are many other clubs here in New Zealand that we could join for other friendships but 41 Club to us is sacrosanct.

You ask what about Round Table, where has it gone?

My personal belief and that of many of 41ers is that the introduction of "7 Day Trading", the extra pressures it placed on young people with both partners working and the increased speed of life style here in New Zealand has made it very difficult to recruit new members for Round Table and try as we have, numbers have dwindled down to a fraction of what they once were.

From what I have heard this would appear to be the case in several other countries as well.

41 Club New Zealand still has around 400 members with 17 Clubs and contacts spread throughout the land, including Australia.

We have a great relationship with Apex 40 in Australia and a large group of them are planning to come over for our 2011 AGM and tour the South Island while here.

There is a small group going to New Caledonia for the 20th anniversary of Club 41 Noumea in July and some of their members are coming back to our to our AGM in Upper Hutt.

We may be at the end of the earth but you are all welcome here.

May the hinges of friendship never rust

Derek Johns, IRO & Tours Officer, New Zealand

April 2010

NEW ZEALAND 41 CLUB CONVENTION - JUNE 2010



Ooh la la Noumea Moulin Rouge



French 41 Banner Exchange



AGM June 2010 - Blockhouse



2010 National Executive

The New Zealand 2010 41 Club Convention was held in Upper Hutt in Wellington over the weekend of 4 - 6 June 2010. A wonderful weekend had by all who attended and a great credit to Upper Hutt 41 Club who hosted the event. It was wonderful to have 41 Club representations from France and New Caledonia and also from Australia APEX 40, notably Australian National President Bob Ireland. The Australian APEX 40 Association are holding their National AGM in New Zealand in 2011 (a first) at the New Zealand 41 Convention in Nelson - it is anticipated that a number of Australian APEX 40 club members and partners will make the trip to New Zealand for a great convention.

A trip to the Wairarapa by train was made on a glorious Autumnal day for a visit to the local version of Stonehenge (a little different to the British version - the Kiwi version is a little younger and very well maintained). It was a very interesting place to visit and get an insight into the way in which the henge changes as the year progresses through the various phases. On completion a lovely lunch was held at a local vineyard. After a few stop offs (including for some a visit to a local pub - duly noted by the Sheriff...), the group returned to Upper Hutt for the formal dinner where Bob Ireland, the APEX 40 National President addressed the floor.

On Sunday, the New Zealand 41 National AGM was held at the Upper Hutt Clubhouse, "The Blockhouse", a 150 year old historical military redoubt. Greetings had been received from a number of parties - including 41 Club International President Matti Hinttala which was very well received and also former International 41 Presidents Dieter Straka and John Bellwood. It was wonderful to have representation from France, New Caledonia and Australia at the AGM and many banners were exchanged.

The weather changed to rain, for once the forecast proved to be accurate. As a result the plans for Sunday afternoon were altered and a number of activities were undertaken including a wine tasting (golf was cancelled). The New Caledonian contingent aptly noted the weather was indeed only fit for frogs...!! Fancy dress evening was held on Sunday evening (the theme was "Over the Top") and there were many well thought through costumes and acts. The evening was enhanced (stuck for words here...) with a visit from the New Caledonian alternative Moulin Rouge Troupe who dazzled all present with their rendition of the "Can Can". Our friends from Noumea left with a fond farewell "Old Lang Syne" and later with an impromptu haka.

It has been wonderful to have seen the 41ers from Noumea here at the NZ 41 Convention over the past two years and it fair to say that there will be plenty of fun to follow in the future. We are certainly anticipating having a wonderful convention in 2011 in Nelson with the large influx from APEX 40.

Chris White, 41er - Wellington, New Zealand



Stonehenge Aotearoa



French and New Caledonian

The Chestnut Festival

A Wonderful Ritual

Insiders know it very well – in the Alps each November, the cattle are driven down from the high meadows into the stables before the winter sets in.

Not so the worldwide 41er – at the beginning of November, this time for the thirtieth year, they will pass the Alps, following their instincts, to stop in Meran/Merano, the capital of South Tyrol! A place where God completed the Genesis (nothing will be better after...he said). And because it is so nice, he named it twice: "Meran/Merano"!

Pampered by the girls and boys, the young and the elderly from Club 41 Merano 12, namely Randolph, Paolo, Helmut, Jakob, Ruggero amongst others and – most importantly - the ladies (not always behind the boys fortunately), about 70 guests from all parts of Europe, celebrate friendship. Just friendship.

Anything else? Nothing of importance, no conference, no board meetings, no banner exchange, no speeches, no presidents and fortunately no IROs, nothing at all.

You will be surprised – frankly speaking – "nothing" is the core of the festival. Adopting, adapting, and improving - just friendship, networking at its best. Casualness, with the exception of a small programme – magnificent hiking in different forms of difficulties alongside – and up and down - small paths crossing the vineyards, the dark blue sky, the white tops of the surrounding mountains, the golden leaves on the ground of the valleys. Amidst the castle complexes, old palaces, villas, vineyards and their estates.

On the way we stop for a well prepared buffet in the open air, with great wines from the slopes which we had passed. And in the evening – meetings in old spectacular inns, best cooking, best wines – with sweet and hot chestnuts, the great Tyrolean specialty! Fortunately you can rely on the shuttle service later in the night. For friendship in 41 there is only one anchorage – the Chestnut-Festival in November each year.

The next event, the thirtieth, will take place from 4th to 7th November 2010 – it starts on Thursday with "Italian Dinner", and will be continued till Sunday. A bus will take us to Verona, to visit the famous Olive Festival.

How to book? – ask Randolph Riedlinger, email: Randolph@riedlinger.eu. He knows everything. And even more.

Hans-Dieter Gesch, OTD – IRO



Just look



A spectacular view -
It could not get better



Lunch time



What a spread!



Randolph holds his audience

The "Golden Stomach" celebrates its First Summer-Meeting

I guess there is nobody who knows "Golden Stomach" - with the exception of all the IROs – worldwide!

Duccio Arrighi, formerly IRO Club 41 Italia, had the idea – we must admire him for that. What the hell (he didn't say of course) the IROs, who represent their association for several years at a time, have mostly known each other very well for an even longer time. While travelling from one country to another, they meet together for a couple of AGMs every year – not only representing their association but also adapting, adopting and improving friendship at its best!

Why, Duccio asked simply, don't we extend this friendship for regular meetings, occasionally for the AGMs and also once a year outside the official events.

To become a member one needs a special induction ceremony. The one or the other of us remembers the ceremony at the front of the stage, with the candidate kneeling, singing (at least we call it singing) and handing over some pins and a banner, accompanied of course with lots of hugs and kisses. Fascinating: Every member is proud of being one – and wears the pin with pride.

It goes without saying that every member is a part of the Golden Stomach for a lifetime – and each has his own number. It's only natural, of course that Duccio is our number 1, my number is 3 – you can't imagine how proud I am!

There are very few rules, better: open agreements – the ladies are always part of the meeting (they bring glamour, glory and honour) and we don't discuss political questions. We just maintain friendship for a lifetime – for better or for worse times!

In June this year we started the First Summer-Meeting in Bavaria, South East Germany, at Elke's and my home. Bavaria is famous for its white and blue sky, beer gardens, roasted pig leg, boating over the lake Chiemsee and visiting the famous castle (King Ludwig II!) on the island of Herren-Chiemsee – a great combination of good eating, drinking, enjoying culture and celebrating friendship at its best! Next year the last weekend is in Switzerland. Accordingly our slogan is: May Your Stomach Never Rust. (Don't ask the meaning of "Golden Stomach" - it is as it is, ok?)

Hans-Dieter GS III
OTD-IRO 05 - 11

Welcome to the International AGM
& 50th Anniversary of Club 41 Français
June 2 – 5 at Toulouse, France



TOULOUSE
(FRANCE)
DU 2 AU 5 JUIN 2011



www.toulouse2011.fr



Tabling Rush Hour: AGMs at Bologna Italy, Brive la gaillarde France and Wiener Neustadt Austria

May – June is the time where you hardly have a moment to pack your suitcase relaxed and at leisure. Well at least the Swiss clock to be gifted at the AGMs, some booze, the tuxedo and some other clothes are easy to remember and quickly packed. And really, I was the luckiest guy by having such a beautiful and charming lady driver, who got me safely to these places.

AGM Bologna Italy: “Viva Bella Italy” was truly the slogan in Bologna. Not only is this the most beautiful city but the Italians with Augusto Ferrari also did a wonderful job in organizing this AGM. On Friday evening, International and British tabling celebrities gathered, probably to solve all the problems at the highest level. For some hungry participants the evening ended in a late spaghetti festival, nicely accompanied with Italian wines.



Matti, Elisabetta and Augusto



Very important Ducati



Looking around the city

Wearing sunglasses on Saturday morning proved advisable, if only to hide the tired eyes. The AGM was held in a wonderful setting with all the speeches, presentations and the so called “Muppet Show”. Later we got the opportunity to enjoy sightseeing. Bologna as you know is a town of towers, even if some of them are leaning. At the banner exchange, the Italian IRO Bruce referred to my family name “Blessing” and connected it to a “holy halo” ... veeeeeery funny. Augusto in return received the Swiss clock and so we gradually started with a wonderful aperitif, followed by a fantastic gala evening. A nice picture taken of the French connection and we congratulate the new National Board into office. Shake it, take it and dance till late.

We finish the brunch with a firm promise of Richard and his wife from RTBI to join the Swiss AGM, and travel home, keeping wonderful memories.



Brive la gaillarde France: I have a little stopover at Clermont Ferrand and travel with another Blessing, I mean, my youngest son. He surely has met quite a few of you on other events and feels very comfortable and happy at our events. The French AGM as usual is a huge event. For me personally this is a highlight every year, since it awakens all those memories that I have from my extensive activities in Table Ronde Française. All the old friends from Versailles were there, so the air was rich with stories, laughter and some wine of course. The official AGM, huge and great as usual, was followed by a visit to town, where Soraya followed her favourite sport. Selma the baby of Holger, our German president also participated in the excursion.

What a prestigious banner exchange, lots of international guests and of course the usual Swiss clock. And hopp, the presentation of the National Board and National Committee of a huge country necessarily results in a huge national team. It is wonderful to see that merger between Club 41 and Agora in France, “Four Clubs one vision” at its best. After the official part we believe we are in Moulin Rouge and then of course there is dancing until early morning. Vive la grande Nation, vive la France.

Wiener Neustadt Austria: Austria also attracts a lot of people from abroad. A welcome party in the traditional Austrian way. Our newly elected International Secretary Dani has been offered his crown and friendship and fellowship captured the entire scene. Saturday morning opened with the official AGM - its smooth conduct proved that the National President Christian had planned and organised the meeting wisely and efficiently. Despite the fact that decisions were taken on many resolutions, the meeting concluded on time without any extension or disappointment. The beautiful town of Wiener Neustadt was captured in many pictures with the highlight of the visit being the school of officers "Theresianische Militärakademie".

The banner exchange turned out to be a true fashion show. The winner on the catwalk was the German team mixing the traditional Bavarian Lederhosen with a tuxedo, a circus dress and even jeans. The gala dinner showed us first the historic background of Wiener Neustadt with a knightly accolade of the new national board. Good food, nice wine and good music, all you need to make the friends take off into a tremendous Gala Dinner. Brunch with goulash - again a wonderful AGM that will enrich our memories has passed.

Werner Blessing, Swiss PePe



Wasn't it fun?



Too small for Christian



Austria vs. Italy



Still having fun



Oldies row dance

European Volcanic Experience

I have often met people who have asked me questions, more out of curiosity, on what 'Round Table' is all about. I have talked about this great organisation that we are all part of - the socializing that we do, the charitable acts that we have performed, the worldwide network of friends that we have established and all the travelling that we have done as a part of the tabling fraternity. Despite this, many have felt that it is just a group of people that are part of an organisation, just having fun. Most don't realize how deep is the ethos of tabling and how much it means to the people who are part of this group and the culture that is the essence of tabling.

I would like to share a recent experience of mine in Europe, which is a very compelling reason why Tablers are a unique fraternity whose members are one of the most selfless, fun loving and dependable friends that one can find in any place.

On 13th April, I travelled to Europe – Milan to be precise - to attend the International Furniture Fair, which has an attendance of more than 400,000 people from across the world. Usually all hotels in Milan are sold out because of the fair. I had a return flight back to India, via Frankfurt on the 17th. On the 15th, I heard the news that there had been a volcanic eruption in Iceland and the ash from this volcano was spreading all across Europe and hence was posing a big problem for high flying aircrafts. Immediately, the entire airspace all over Europe was shut down and all the flights were grounded. I was hoping that it would ease by the 17th, but it was not to be. I had a hotel reservation till the 17th, on the morning of which I checked and headed towards the airport to take my chances there.



There was complete chaos at Milan airport. I was told that all flights had been cancelled indefinitely, and nobody knew when the airports would open again and the flights would resume. I saw passengers standing totally lost, mothers with their children worried about what to do next. I didn't have a hotel room and because of the furniture fair, hundreds of thousands of people were stranded in Milan, many with no hotel rooms. The earliest flight that was supposed to take off was on the 20th (provided the airports opened across Europe), but there was no clarity on my reservation. I immediately decided that the best option for me was to somehow get to Frankfurt and take my chances to get a seat on the first available flight to India. Then I found out that there were no seats available on

a single train or bus headed towards N. Europe. They were completely sold out. I even tried to rent a self driven car to get to Frankfurt, but all Car Rental agencies were doing roaring business during this chaos and didn't have a single car available. Taxis were having a field day by charging upwards of 1700 Euros per person on a one-way trip to Frankfurt, which was completely ridiculous. In this situation, I stood there completely lost for ideas and had absolutely no idea how long I would be stranded in Europe as the airline (Lufthansa) threw all sorts of dates for a flight for me. They didn't offer any accommodation or food. To compound my problems, my Schengen Visa was valid only till 21st April.

At this stage, I called up my Round Table friend in India – Anil Kesavan and casually spoke about my problem to him. He in turn informed Gopal Chopra, who wasted no time in flashing an SOS on the E-groups of Round Table and the 41ers of India, informing everybody about my predicament. In less than an hour, I was getting calls from all over India from Tablers, friends and relations of Tablers and 41ers in India & Italy, offering help. From a complete no hope situation, I was swamped with help from all corners and I was suddenly in a strange situation and a dilemma where I had to decide whose hospitality I could enjoy during this period of distress. The help and kindness was beyond comparison. Pradeep, our President of the 41ers Club, was continuously in touch with me, to offer all help possible.

Meanwhile, another 41er from the South of France (Emmanuel Krutten) got to know about this through Anil Chikkara (Club 116) and insisted on driving down from Nice to Milan to pick me up and take me back to his house, a further 60 kms away from Nice, and put me up till this problem was resolved. Let me add that it was a good 4½ hour drive in one direction and he still insisted on not taking no for an answer. I agreed to his offer, but insisted that I would take a train from Milan to Nice and that he could instead meet me there, which he did. Meanwhile Lufthansa confirmed the return ticket for the 24th from Frankfurt, which was the earliest possible. Still, I was relieved as I finally had a confirmed date, though a bit late.



From this point onwards, I had a great time in France, visiting Nice, Sant Tropez, Toulon, Cannes, etc thanks to Emmanuel. He and his family were amazing hosts and spared nothing to make my stay comfortable. He even had a few of his friends come over and we had some great barbecue parties too. For some time, I even forgot that I was actually stranded on a

different continent. Two days later, (on the 22nd) I took a train and went 800 kms to the North of France (and then headed towards Frankfurt) and met up with another 41er – Pierre Frank, who was a past President of Round Table France. Even though it was a weekday, and he was extremely busy with various business activities, he still took time off to spend time with me. On 23rd I went along with Pierre to Luxembourg and he then drove me all the way to Frankfurt, just to drop me at the airport – a full 560 kms both ways. He requested me to call him, if there was any further trouble and, should I need his help, he would be available. Thankfully, I didn't have to trouble Pierre any further. All I can say, is that I was virtually floored by the warmth and friendship extended by various wonderful people who briefly touched my life to make my entire experience turn from a disaster, to a pleasant and memorable experience.



I cannot give a better example but share my own experience to show the power of tabling and how it helps to be a part of this wonderful worldwide organisation that we are all part of. Over 83,000 flights were grounded and millions of passengers worldwide were affected like me, but at least, thanks to Round Table, and the wonderful people that I met, my experience was pleasant and also something to be cherished. At the Frankfurt airport, I did have some trouble with my expired Visa at Passport control, but after I explained my reason (it was obvious), a bit of documentation and 30 minutes with the police, along with 100s of other passengers with similar problems, I was allowed to leave Frankfurt airport for India. As I proceeded to board the aircraft, I noticed 100s of people still sleeping in the hallways of the airport (for many days) on beds provided by the airport authorities, waiting for their turn to get back home. I was just grateful that I was not part of that crowd thanks to Round Table and the 41ers group, which helped me get friends across continents, who will never allow their friends and families to be in trouble when they are around.



Many people have always wondered what tabling is all about and whether it is worth joining this organisation. I sincerely feel that young people should join and be a part of this worldwide group and benefit from the friendship and cultural mix that it brings into our life. During our travels and busy schedule, we are sure to find some time where we can meet new friends in the far corners of this world. But most importantly and be rest assured, in times of need never hesitate to call a Tabler anywhere in the world as he will help and give you the comfort, security and experience of a family away from home, without expecting anything in return. That is the power of Round Table. I can definitely vouch for that.

Nithya (C.K. Nithyanand)
Naughty Forty – Club 116, Bangalore

NOUMEA 41 ANNIVERSARY - SOUTH PACIFIC CELEBRATION JULY 2010

Hi, Salut and Bon Jour,

Club 41 Francais - Noumea 195 in New Caledonia (our nearest 41 Club neighbours) celebrated their 20th Anniversary 8-15 July 2010. All I can say is what a wonderful week it was, with fantastic hospitality in a stunning part of the world (for now, technically a part of France).

New Zealand 41 Club was represented by me (Chris White) and 20th Anniversary Special 41 Meeting Lane (from Wellington and Perth respectively). Additionally four couples travelled from France to represent the French 41 Club. It was wonderful to see that Orleans - the French Club who were Noumea's sponsor club were represented for the week.

Daniel and Yvette Pihour represented the French 41 Club Executive during the celebrations. Daniel is a former National President of Francais 41 and is a permanent member of the National Council who oversees that the ethics and values of the French association are maintained.



20th Anniversary Special 41 Meeting



Bastille Night

I was kindly hosted by Patrick and Cathy in their lovely home atop a small mountain with beautiful views across Noumea and beyond.

A number of functions occurred during the week in and around Noumea, a very beautiful South Pacific location. It was certainly lovely to experience temperatures in the mid 20s - nearly double those being experienced in New Zealand at the same time in mid winter (a mere 1700 kilometres away).

Celebrations commenced with a welcome drink at the Noumea 41 Clubrooms. The 41 Club and Round Table own their clubhouse and it proved to be a great venue during the visit. It was also great to see the Noumea Round Tablers and their wives involved during the week. They, like the 41ers, are very keen to form a bond with New Zealand.

Lunch was held at a local cafe on Friday and that evening, Noumea 41 held their "Storming of the Bastille" evening on Ile aux Canards (Island of Ducks) - a small island venue with dinner and dancing in plenty which concluded with fireworks - a fantastic night out in a wonderful venue. Ile aux Canards is a small island which is popular with day trippers - about 600 metres from the mainland and as a night time venue is very popular.

On Saturday morning we met for brunch at a local cafe - a few sore heads about after a wonderful evening the night before. In the afternoon, we attended the Special Meeting for the 20th Anniversary of Noumea 41 and the reading of the draft Pacific charter for the Noumea and New Zealand 41 clubs. The intention for that is that once every two years there should be a meeting between Noumea, New Zealand and Australia (which could be held in conjunction with an AGM or other event). My suggestion was that some consideration be given to involving APEX 40, given the close ties that have existed over many years between Round Table New Zealand and APEX in Australia. This suggestion was well received and needs to be subject to some further consideration.

Many banners were exchanged between the various clubs represented at the meeting. I was very pleased to be able to present a beautiful carving of a koru (a fern - which represents new growth and friendship) made from an old totara post to Noumea 41 from New Zealand 41 Association. This carving had special significance as it was hand made by Derek Johns, the New Zealand 41 Club's International Relations Officer. The carving was very well received by the Noumea Club and will be prominently displayed in the clubhouse. Derek's other fitting in the Noumea Club "Tina" was modelled - particularly by Tom and the French visitors (ooh la la...). From Kaukau 41 Club, it was wonderful to be able to present our first club banner - very apt given the nature of the occasion.

On Sunday, we boarded the Bayou (a large catamaran) for a day trip to a small island and out to the reef entrance for lunch on a floating cafe near a large coral outcrop. The swimming was spectacular as



All hands on deck!



Koru Carving



Pascal and Jeff



Daniel and Tina

you'll see from the photos attached. It was amazing to hear that the locals can go camping on the offshore islands at no charge - a bit of a Robinson Crusoe experience. I can certainly say that a long weekend spent camping, a few red wines and nothing to do but enjoy the beach or go snorkelling on coral really appeals. A very good reason to return to New Caledonia!!

We had a spare day on Monday - a great time for a walk around Noumea for me and in the evening we had a meal in a local restaurant. We enjoyed a wonderful meal in a private room and the party trick for the evening was hanging tea spoons from our noses (a very amusing evening).

On Tuesday, a group of us travelled to Yate to the south of Noumea. We had a very interesting drive around the south of the island and we stopped to see the Yate Dam (or barrage as it is known locally). For lunch we were treated to a bougna (the Kanak equivalent of what is known as a hangi in New Zealand). The bougna was cooked in flax baskets with banana leaves wrapping the food. The bougna itself contained chicken and vegetables cooked in coconut milk - very nice and quite a different taste to a hangi. On the way back to Noumea, a stop was made to view a large nickel smelter that is in the final stages of commissioning. New Caledonia has 20% of the world's nickel reserves (something like 500 years worth of mining).



Bougna



Yate Village

On Wednesday, Tom and I were kindly hosted by Pascal and Olivia for a beautiful lunch at their seaside home. In the evening we had our farewell dinner at the 41 clubrooms. At around 10:30pm we had a visit from the local police - someone had complained about noise but they left with a smile (maybe it helps having a judge in the club) and the evening wound up a little after 11pm. A wonderful finale evening!!

Early the following morning sadly it was time to head back to reality and a 2 1/2 hour flight back to Auckland, where thankfully the weather was reasonably warm.

The relationship between our two associations has strengthened as a result of the contact we have had in the past few years. Noumea 41 must be commended for taking the initiative in making the effort to visit New Zealand last year. I know there are others in the New Zealand 41 Association who intend to visit the 41ers in Noumea and I can tell you that you will certainly be made most welcome. All I can say is GO (you won't be disappointed). The bonus (as a result of the trip to Noumea) is that the Round Table clubs are now also in contact as the New Caledonia clubs expressed their desire to get to know their Kiwi cousins.

In closing, here's an ancient Maori proverb:

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

He tangata! He tangata! He tangata!

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is people! It is people! It is people!

Pour notre amis en Noumea - merci beaucoup pour votre fantastique hospitalité!!

Chris White, 41er - Wellington, New Zealand

Indian YAPS in Europe

“...those will be the best memories...”

I left Bangalore with so many questions in my head: “I haven’t met my co-travellers before. Will I last 30 days away from home? How will I get around with this heavy suitcase of mine?”!! The first encounter with fellow YAPs was at Doha airport, to catch our connecting flight. We recognised each other easily having connected on Facebook....and voila!, we all finally meet, start talking, getting familiar and set out on a journey which was just the first step leading to an experience we hadn’t expected at all!

Our first stop Austria! Happy to touch ground - we were greeted with warm smiles and pleasant weather. Vienna or Wien as it’s called was the first step to experiencing the European culture, new people. Vienna, Salzburg, St. Veit, amongst the hills - Tamsweg (a place we absolutely loved!), home of Mozart, people who touch your heart, churches, museums, rain, universities, awesome cold cafe (or cold coffee) in a cosy bistro while it rained outside! More rain, trams, local cuisines/specialities, hot chocolate, shopping! Tempting candy stores, snuggled in a cafe with the sound of church bells in the background. We were just overwhelmed: meeting new people every day, sharing a bond with our hosts was just plain exciting. It all made us forget we were miles away from home. People who met us, found it hard to believe, 6 girls who had just met for the first time a couple of days earlier at the airport!?! (Actually we could hardly believe it ourselves! Who’s to blame them!)?

Our journey continued, music concert, dinners, sight-seeing, making friends, travelling, cooking Indian meals, a short encounter with snow! By this time we had experienced most of Europe’s weather, sunshine, rain, cold, wind, fog, snow! And not to forget the warmth of every host who met us, hosted us at their home, and went all out to give us the best - more than we could ever ask for!

Then the next week Germany! Munich, Memmingen, Ulm, Karlsruhe, Landau - everyday a new experience - a new high! Climbing the tallest church tower with 768 steps, eating the world famous crepes, black forest, dancing all night, open air concert, breaking a bed!!!, bicycle ride in the vineyards, the young team of novice Indian cooks. A spectacular car museum, fairytale castle, the adrenaline rush at the public viewing of the FIFA, the ever so full beer mugs, the pretzels, waving flags, cheering Fussball (soccer) fans, blowing of the vuvuzela, everyone on the streets to celebrate the gala! New friends made, like carrying home a memories parade! The singing and walking on the streets...those will be the best memories!!!



By the time we reached France, the weather had gotten stable, we were used to the stores (yes! sale time everywhere!) Chalon, Reims, Ardenne, Paris, Lille - the towns just had a homely feel. The Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Champs Elysee, pictures at every step we took, amazing stories in every nook! Popping of the sparkling bottles, flutes (glasses), cheese platters at every meal, Champagne over water; just gave a celebration feel! Neighbourhood meet, ducks walking by your feet, hot air balloons in the sky, being part of a French wedding almost made me cry. It just got over too soon! Where did the days go by? It was time to say goodbye to our extended families there, (who I am sure would have heaved a sigh of relief!)

We kept it going at the Duty free shopping, there was just no stopping, the flight we kept waiting, to which we ran panting! When the time came near to part, we did so with a heavy heart!

It's difficult to summarize an epic of 30 DAYS in a few words but...what started with being formal, polite, sceptical interactions turned into a riot; calling each other nicknames, pulling each other's legs, song singing, a noisy bunch of girls with a special bond! opened up a Pandora's box, a book full of memories, experiences and the friendships we shared, will continue in the years to come...this is just the beginning....)

A special Thank you to all our Hosts who graciously hosted us, the convenors who made it possible, everyone involved in making this memorable trip work out so great, our parents (who packed off their bundles of joy to Europe for 30 days and enjoyed their party - just kidding!!!:) I know we were missed at home for 30 days), and apologies to all, for the strain on your ears!

Devika Bhaskar, Indian YAP



Suggest to all that both incoming and outgoing YAPS wear the 41 tee shirt and 41 cap on arrival. It helps to identify the YAP at the airport / railway station / bus stand / public place.

It also adds to the membership / exposure of 41 / table and helps the sales of the Supply house of each country.

In friendship

Rajan

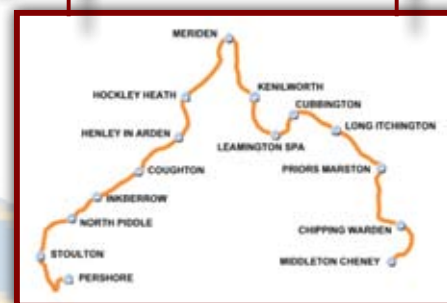


European YAPS in Hyderabad on the North tour of India

41 Club Millennium Way walk

President Malcolm, National President, GB walked the Millennium Way between 28th June and 10th July this year in aid of his chosen charity, 'The Ocean Youth Trust'.

The MILLENNIUM WAY is a 100 mile long distance footpath, cutting across the centre of England. Devised and promoted by 41 Club, the Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs, having some 20,000 members in Great Britain and Ireland. The organisation seeks to support the initiatives of Round Table and to contribute in its own right towards the community. Our support for the MILLENNIUM WAY is intended to benefit the public by offering an interesting and enjoyable walk that encourages the pleasurable pastime of walking. The MILLENNIUM WAY uses public footpaths to traverse three counties attempting to avoid roads and focus on exploring and enjoying the delights of the English countryside.



National President Malcolm receives an illuminated certificate from Mayor of Pershore Chris Parsons and MP for West Worcestershire Harriett Baldwin after completing the 100 mile MILLENNIUM WAY.

We are just back from completing the 100 Millennium Way which I walked with Hugh Milward, our National Sales Officer, to raise the profile of our Association and 'The Ocean Youth Trust' - my Presidential Charity.

Without doubt, Hugh and I experienced 41 Club at its very best. The help, friendship, hospitality, encouragement, generosity and banter, not only made the walk possible [certainly for me as I managed to get a huge and very painful blister on the first day of the walk and would have packed up had it not been for everyone around me] but also made the walk a lot of fun! 41 Club is alive and well - of that there is no doubt.

Someone said to me - 'it's just like old times...we are actually doing something!' The term 'still Tabling' fits us very well indeed!

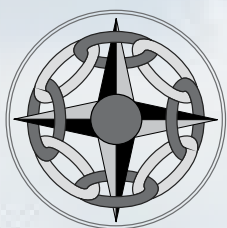
My deepest thanks to everyone who made this walk possible. From Chris and Ralph who managed the entire project to those who welcomed us into their homes and gave us a bed for the night, to the many clubs who entertained us in the evening and to those who took a day off to walk with us - even from as far away as Hornchurch - you have given Hugh and myself an experience to remember for the rest of our lives.

And a special thanks to Pershore 41 Club who arranged the spectacular welcome at the end of the journey with Champagne, the MP and Mayor of the town as well as a young lady who kindly bathed my feet [bless her] and lunch and brass bands! Your kindness reduced me to tears [as I think the picture shows]!

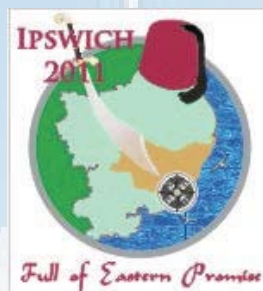
If your club would like to sponsor me for the walk - £1 for every mile - it will be gratefully received and will go a long way toward the £80,000 I hope we can raise together this year for OYT.

Thanks again to so many people for a truly memorable 2 weeks.

Malcolm Lockey
National President, GB



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41 International Calendar - October 2010 – April 2012

October 2010			
1st	Round Table International	AGM	Dubai, UAE
1st- 3rd	Belgium	AGM	GEEL
7th - 10th	Past Presidents Meeting	PPM 101010	Rimini, Italy
10th	Norway	AGM	Hamar
16th	41 International	HYM	Brasov, Romania
16th	Romania	AGM	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			
9th	Mauritius	AGM	Port Louis
16th	Great Britain	AGM	Ipswich
May 2011			
21st	Germany	AGM	Coburg
June 2011			
4th	Sweden	AGM	Sundvall
4th	41 International / France	AGM	Toulouse
4th	France	AGM	Toulouse
5th	New Zealand	AGM	Nelson
18th	Austria	AGM	Ried/Innkreis
October 2011			
13th - 16th	41 International	HYM	Castiglioncello, Italy
April 2012			
16th	Denmark	AGM	Brædstrup
21	41 International	AGM	Chennai, India
28	Great Britain	AGM	Jersey

Musings of a Past International President

I am sorry to learn of the demise of 2 more of my predecessors as 41 International Presidents. The last 2 were Be and Otto.

My thoughts go back to the 1990 Half Yearly meeting in Cape Town. I was the VP and while presenting my budget, suggested that instead of a fee per club, we change the system to charge per member. I also suggested a onetime fee for members. With close to 40,000 members, a fee of just 10 pounds could give us a substantial corpus. Bob Ramsay made out my suggestion in the form of a white paper and endorsed the idea. However the UK delegation, which had 28,000 members with Frank Baker as their representative, misunderstood the idea and remarked that the Indian VP obviously did not have the resources to be an International President and was trying to raise funds. He refused to understand that the beneficiary would be after 3 years. I met him several times thereafter and he was very understanding.

At the farewell brunch in Trieste, after I took over as 41 International President, Frank Baker along with the other British delegates asked me throw out the French Association from 41 International because they still accepted non-tablers. They refused to realise that I did not have such powers. They replied that they were leaving 41International. Everyone was shocked and fully appreciated my predicament. Only the previous day the French had agreed to revamp their rules and agreed that a non-tabler would not be their representative on the International Board. Also that we would be known as an organisation of ex-tablers and the new 41 International Treasurer was Guy Mercier from France. Eihnhart then went to UK and mustered support to re-join, which they did a few years later. My regret is that I never went to Berlin, in spite of an invitation. And the most memorable was our Mass tour of Norway. He was great fun and always an optimist and Anneliese was always by his side.

Indu Chandhok
Past President, 41 International

The Last Word

I have settled down to my job as the Editor. No jitters and no butterflies in the stomach as D day arrives. The contributions come in, with a wee bit of prodding via emails and lo and behold (or is it bingo), a deluge. At times, I am a little lax and let regular contributors (read - John B) get away scot free. I will get after him when I am in a spot – a rain check taken on JB.

I went through the old copies of The Hinge via www.41international.net, to see how Bob Parton was handling the contents and to see whether they should be witty, wacky, wicked, women centric, wishy washy and to see what the past was. But the wife said – do not dwell on nostalgia. Bob has done a great job – but we have to move forward. By the by, you must get on to this site and discover the treasure the site has.

I finally decided that as long as it generates a wee bit of interest and is found wonderful by the 41ers, it is well worth it.

Dear 41ers – clichéd as it may sound, I need your feedback for the path to be taken. The last date for acceptance for the issue of The Hinge, June 2011 is 1st March 2011. Am I holding a gun to your head? Yes, I am. If you want to be a celebrity by being seen printed in The Hinge – meet the deadline. Don't say I did not warn you.

Going back to the obsession with w above, you may well ask why? - Because I like my whiskey and thereafter I believe that I am a whiz kid.

Keep writing.

May the hinges of friendship never rust

Rajan



41 INTERNATIONAL

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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.



Sea Snake – keep your distance!



Andy's thrill – Tim's terror!!

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Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Poland,
Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Uganda, United Arab Emirates

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