



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 21 September 2008

[1] Welcome

Delegates were welcomed to the meeting by Reinhard Rawe, President of the Rotary Club Langenhagen-Wedemark.

Roll Call and Banners were exchanged with attending Rotary Clubs:

RC Westerlo, Belgium	RC North Fylde, UK
RC Korsör Nor, Denmark	RC The Wreake Valley, UK
RC Albrighton & District, UK	RC Gordes, France
RC Burntwood & District, UK	RC Göteborg-Säve, Sweden
RC Etwall & Hilton, UK	RC Kolbäck, Sweden
RC Haddenham & District, UK	RC Langenhagen-Wedemark, Germany

[2] Apologies

These were received from the following Clubs:

RC Bala & Penilyn, UK	RC Stockholm Gamla Stan, Sweden
RC Golfe de Fos, France	RC Cookham Bridge, UK

No interest in participation from

RC Lauderdale, UK	RC Zandvoort, NL
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RC Langenhagen-Wedemark tried to invite other clubs chartered 1987 without any success:

RC Berlin-Spree, Germany	RC Nürnberg-Reichswald, Germany
RC Torino Sud Ovest, Italy	RC de Madrid-Serrano, Spain
RC Barcelona Diagonal, Spain	RC de Loures / Lissabon, Portugal

[3] Minutes of last meeting & matters arising

The minutes of the last AGM at Oxford on September 23rd, 2007 placed for the actual meeting were unanimously agreed.

The proposal for the actual agenda items was also accepted.

[4] Presentation of Maltahoehe Project -Visiting clubs contributions

First Rtn Gisilot von Rohr presented a report concerning the work carried out for a kiddies camp in Namibia Maltahoehe. Maltahoehe which was founded in 1906 when Namibia was a German colony. It is the first settlement right after the desert in the southern part of Namibia. In this region you will find only a dry river bed and most of the people have no permanent water. Up to today the school in Maltahoehe offered no facilities for the children who live up to 100 km away from it. The children always tried to find a place to sleep. This made learning very difficult. But to develop society education is essential. For these reasons the RC Windhoek and the Wolwedans Foundation acquired a small house for furnishing a kiddies camp for children. In this hostel our club wants to provide freezers, store table scullery, solar water heater, a back up generator and office equipment. For this support we will stake about 21.000 €. What they also need is a little money for beds etc.

From the floor, 4.150 € was contributed in donations by the following attending clubs:

RC Westerlo	RC North Fylde
RC Korsör Nor	RC The Wreake Valley
RC Burntwood	RC Gordes
RC Etwall & Hilton	RC Kolbäck
RC Haddenham & District	

On behalf of the RC Langenhagen-Wedemark the council-board thanks all contributing clubs for their support of the this year's Matching Grant "Maltahoehe".

[5] Confirmation of Host Club and Venue for 18th assembly (2009)

RC North Fylde which is based near by Blackpool / Lancashire in North West England presented a very informative video showing Blackpool (Lowood Hotel), the Lake District and The Fylde Coast and the Building where the Gala dinner starts. Rtn. Ward gave a short view to their project: Providing clean water in Kwa Zulu-Natal in South Africa. The 18th assembly will take place from the 4th to the 6th of September in 2009

The proposal is unanimously agreed. Each club gets a copy of the presentation DVD.

[6] Nominations of the 19th assembly (2010)

Rtn. van Schoonhoven from RC Westerlo / Belgium announces that his Rotary Club is ready to host Eurotary87 in 2010 in Belgium. With a few charts he showed the agenda planned: trips to castles in the surrounding area, visiting Leuven which is located centred and next to the airport. Leuven is a very young city with 40.000 inhabitants and 30.000 students. Leuven has one of the Top 10 universities in Belgium. The RC Westerlo has 46 members and has been already hosting of the Eurotary assembly in 1994. The assembly is planned to be from the 17th to the 19th of September in 2010.

The audience of Rotariens takes notice of the announcement. According to the statutes the final resolution will be passed from RC North Fylde in September 2009.

[7] Rotary image and density in European countries

This item was asked by Rtn. Einar Thrap-Olsen to put on the Agenda, keeping on the Oxford discussion last year. On request of the president of RC Langenhagen-Wedemark Einar wrote a paper which was sent to all attending clubs in advance. After a short discussion Einar offered as a result of the discussion to make a new wording of his paper, which he sent already one day after the AGM (follows as annex to the minutes).

"Rotary image and density" (Latin Europe)

As announced by LE ROTARIEN in 2005 the image of ROTARY is deplorable in France.
<http://www.rotary-francophone.org/fpdb/OCT%2005%20-%20Image%20du%20Rotary.pdf>

Following the observations at "workshop Rotary Image" during the Convention in Copenhagen 2006 it seems that there is correlation between IMAGE and DENSITY (number of Rotarians per 1000 inhabitants). The "density" is five times higher in the Scandinavian countries than in France. Rotary is not reserved to the rich but open to all. With a very high standing of life the Rotarians eat for 10 EUR in Scandinavia whereas the meals often cost 30 EUR in France. The annual cost of Rotary is lower, the average age is lower, there are more women and the image is better. Recruitment is therefore easier.

This site shows Rotary density in different countries
http://www.rotary.org/Rldocuments/en_pdf/trf_topgiving06-07.pdf

In certain countries like France the traditions of ROTARY have been suicidal. The habit to give to the ROTARY CLUB a "top-of-the-range" image with selective recruitment and luxury meals has proved to be a serious error. Total number of members is decreasing from year to year.

At the AGM of EUROTARY87 <http://www.eurotary87.eu> Sept 21th in Germany some figures were given about membership decline in Latin Europe:

Total number of Rotarians in Italy, France, Spain and Portugal: 80.000
If "density" (Rotarians per 1000 inhabitants) had been like in Northern Europe there would have been: 320.000
Number of Rotarians missing: 240.000

EUROTARY87 not only discovered this fact but also tried to find a solution over the years: 42 clubs chartered in these 4 countries 1987 have been invited but only one club was present in 2008.

This club (RC Gordes) was represented by a Swedish member (The Charter President) Several clubs like RC Barcelona Diagonal have been visited by Eurotary87-teams but in vain.

Not only Club-presidents but also Governors in these countries do not like to face the facts. The only solution seems to be to reinvent Rotary in these countries and to find a new kind of Club more adapted to modern life with another type of Presidents and Governors.

60 years ago Rotary issued 'Seven Paths to Peace'
<http://www.peace.ca/rotarysevenpathstopeace.htm>
that Rotarian Robert Stewart www.peace.ca has made available on Internet.

In the "Foreword" Robert says:

"Why should this book be any more relevant now than in 1959? Two things immediately come to mind: Rotary is now doubled in size (over 1.2 million members around the world) and we have the strong contribution of female members. We can also lever our contributions through partnerships with other like-minded organizations (eg. Lions International, YM/YWCA, religious organizations, etc., etc.). However, the most significant change in the past decade – what makes rather considerable progress possible today is what I call 'E-peace' - that ability to magnify everything one does, and the related communication and information transfer, at least ten-fold through the use of computer and Internet, around the world instantly. E-peace surely will make community and world peace more of a reality within our, and our children's generation. For example, any Rotarian can belong to a number of Rotary On The Internet (ROTI) email list servers to facilitate peace communications and action around the world. Rotary can have a central peace building website to disseminate important peace education information. Much of the moral support and information for our web site comes from these networks. This book is now available on the Internet accessible to all, after almost being lost over the past 45 years (at <http://www.peace.ca/rotarysevenpathstopeace.htm> "

RI has legislated about "E-clubs" and has also succeeded in bringing the Rotary message to countries like Russia and China that for long time were closed. New Governors were appointed for this task. Hopefully RI will also succeed in bringing the right message to Latin Europe.

September 21th 2008
Einar Thrap-Olsen"

[8] Any other business as notified in advance
No items.

[9] Handover to 2009 Host Club (North Fylde)

Rtn Reinhard Rawe on behalf of the Rotary Club Langenhagen-Wedemark formally handed the Eurotary Presidency over to the 2009 Host Club of North Fylde and this was followed by The "Ceremonial Baton" to their president which was made by Rtn. Lazenby from RC Haddenham & District and for the first time handed over in 2007.

[10] Presentation & Closing remarks by Eurotary 87 President 2009

Rtn. Ward thanked on behalf of all attending rotariens to the RC Langenhagen-Wedemark. In the end it was a wonderful weekend and everybody is looking forward to hospitality of the RC North Fylde.

President Rawe from RC Langenhagen-Wedemark is closing the meeting with the clock. Before closing he thanks everybody for participation and the financial support for the project in Maltahöhe. He wishes everybody a safe trip back home.

Roland Scholl

Herbert Abben

