



## EUROTARY 87

13<sup>th</sup> Assembly: 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September 2004

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Assembly co-ordinator: Rtn Clive Cain CBE

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Assembly President: Rtn Chris Starkey

The President for the year, Chris Starkey, welcomed all those present from the Rotary Clubs of Albrighton and District, Burntwood and District, Etwall and Hilton, Ferney-Voltaire, Golfe de Fos Sur Mer, Gordes, Kolback, Pau Bearn, Stafford Castle, Thame Witchert and The Wreake Valley (apologies had been received from Goteborg-Save).

President Chris Starkey then chaired the Assembly, which dealt with the following items:

#### **Item 1: Minutes of the last AGM**

Jan Barklund from Kolback Rotary Club presented the Notes from the 2003 Assembly, copies of which were made available to all present. The Notes were adopted without dissent.

#### **Item 2: Update on the Eurotary 87 support for Hope and Homes**

Peter Dalton of The Wreake Valley Rotary Club explained the current position on Eurotary 87 support for Hope and Homes, including an adjustment that had been necessitated because of a change of circumstances in the funding of the Eurotary 87 project in Romania. He also advised the Assembly that he would be calling in the pledges from those Clubs that had yet to pay within the next few weeks. The adjustment was endorsed without dissent.

#### **Item 3: Proposal for Eurotary 87's next international humanitarian involvement in 2005 and beyond**

Gabriel Minder of Ferney-Voltaire Rotary Club, WHO-liaison and Board Member for Europe of IECFR, the International Eye-Care Fellowship of Rotarians, with the endorsement of Belleville-les-deux-Fleuves Rotary Club, and on behalf of Burntwood and District Rotary Club (in accordance with Statute 7.3.1) explained the background to his proposal that Eurotary 87 should contribute towards the European 'missing link' to the Rotary International project to fund 100,000 cataract operations amongst the poor of India (within the frame of the worldwide Vision 2020 plan of the UN/WHO and of IAPB, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness). The 'missing link' is created because Zone 22, which encompasses the whole width of Canada, Alaska and Siberia and is co-ordinated from Calgary, Canada, leaves the funding from Europe to be dealt with by others. The Calgary co-ordinated project (in conjunction with Rotarians from India) will try and fund 80,000 cataract operations in Rotarian's Centennial Year (a cataract operation in India costs no more than \$20).

Under the leadership of Guilford Rotary Club (in District 1250 in Surrey, UK), Europe has already secured the funding for 6,000 cataract operations – including 300 operations funded through the \$6,000 raised by Ferney-Voltaire Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Belleville-les-deux-Fleuves (which is a Eurotary 87 Club). Two Districts of Portugal also intend to contribute. The Rotary Foundation, via its Avoidable Blindness 'Donor-Advised' Fund (Frank Devlyn's AB-DAF) is expected to contribute a matching amount.

Gabriel Minder said that it would be nice if Eurotary 87 members could combine to pledge a modest \$6,000 (or an average of \$500 per Club present at the 2004 Assembly) to fund 300 cataract operations in India within the worldwide Rotarian project. If Eurotary 87 Clubs could pledge more, the Rotary International target for the number of cataract operations would be that much closer. He also suggested each Club should approach two neighbouring Clubs in

order to teach the combined amount of \$300, since what matters is to get a large number of Clubs to contribute together, possibly from two different Districts.

During the question and answer session the control mechanism to ensure all the funding went towards cataract operations was queried. It was confirmed that Guilford Rotary Club had covered this need, in that they had a member who was Doctor and an eye specialist who would visit India to check that the funding was being used as intended. The proposal was adopted without dissent.

Addendum to Item 3: After the meeting Gabriel Minder received a pledge from The Wreake Valley Rotary Club. He asked if other Clubs intending to pledge money could ideally announce their intentions before 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004 (World Sight Day) via email ([ggminder@bluewin.ch](mailto:ggminder@bluewin.ch)), otherwise before 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2005 for the current 2004/05 year, or at the latest at the Eurotary 87 Assembly in September 2005 for the 2005/06 year.

#### **Item 4: Eurotary 87 Assembly communications**

Clive Cain of the Rotary Club of Burntwood and District explained that contacting the 122 Eurotary Clubs had proved a difficult and time-consuming problem. The problem started over a year ago with an attempt to get early bookings for golf (which unfortunately failed to obtain a single advance booking for the golf at this year's Assembly). The problem continued with The formal Letter of Invitation to the 2004 Eurotary Assembly, which was sent out in early March 2004 to the Club Secretaries of 120 Of the 122 Eurotary Clubs (the 2 Clubs that did not have email or postal addresses in the International Directory had to be ignored). Of the 86 emails, only 16 received confirmation of receipt and 52 generated a 'failed delivery' because the address given in the Directory was not recognised. In early April, the 52 failed emails were replaced by 52 further Letters of Invitation which were sent by post to the Club Secretaries, giving a total of 88 Clubs that were sent a Letter of Invitation by post. Although the Letter of Invitation gave a deadline for reservations of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2004, very few completed Reservation Forms were received by that date and numerous further emails had to be sent chasing reservations.

The result of all this correspondence had been that:

1. Only 13 Clubs made reservations for the Assembly.
2. A further 8 Clubs advised that they would not be attending.
3. 98 Clubs failed to respond to emails and letters in any way.
4. 2 Clubs could not be contacted because their postal and email addresses were unknown.

Clive Cain suggested that there appeared to be a three-fold problem that Eurotary 87 Clubs need to urgently address, namely:

1. Maintaining a list of up-to-date email addresses of those Clubs that have shown an interest in attending Eurotary 87 Assemblies. This is essential because people's email addresses change much more frequently than their postal addresses.
2. Establishing and maintaining a list of correct email and postal addresses for all 122 Eurotary 87 Clubs so that successive Eurotary 87 Assembly Co-ordinators can be sure their letters and emails are actually reaching all 122 Eurotary 87 Clubs. This year's experience has demonstrated very clearly that the International Directory cannot be relied upon to provide accurate email addresses.
3. Persuading the vast number of disinterested Eurotary 87 Clubs, who ignored all forms of correspondence, to become interested in the concept of an annual Eurotary 87 Assembly and to want to send representatives to the Assemblies.

The Rotary Club of Burntwood and District proposed that after this year's Assembly they set up a Eurotary website linked to their existing Club website. The Eurotary website could contain the following:

1. A list of accurate and up-to-date email and postal addresses for all 122 Eurotary Clubs. These would be obtained via the relevant District Governors or from this year's correspondence and would be tested by sending an explanatory email to the Clubs, which asked each to respond by a given date. There would be an obligation for each Club to regularly check its addresses and notify the Webmaster of any changes.
2. A report on this year's Assembly.
3. A list of this year's delegates, including their wives or partners.
4. A copy of this year's AGM agenda.
5. The minutes of this year's AGM.
6. Photographs from this year's Assembly.
7. A bulletin Board where Eurotary Clubs could lodge important information and where Eurotary Clubs would know they could find information about the next Assembly.
8. Hyperlinks to all existing Eurotary Club websites to ease access.

The Rotary Club of Burntwood and District was convinced that such a website would greatly simplify the job of the Eurotary Co-ordinators of future Assemblies and asked the Assembly to approve their proposal.

After discussion the proposal was approved without dissent.

#### **Item 5: 2005 Eurotary 87 Assembly**

Jean Viste of Golfe de Fos Sur Mer Rotary Club gave an excellent presentation of the proposed programme for the 2005 Assembly that they would be hosting, including photographs of the area and of the proposed hotel, along with an explanation of the proposed events. The dates of the Assembly were agreed as Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

#### **Item 6: Hosting the 2006 Eurotary 87 Assembly**

The Korsor Nor Rotary Club proposal was handed out for consideration and a speaker from Thame Witchert Rotary Club presented their proposal, which had originally been offered at the previous Assembly in Kolback.

Korsor Nor Rotary Club proposed that the 2006 Assembly be held in Korsor immediately before the Rotary International Convention that is to be held in Copenhagen from the afternoon of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Their proposal would therefore move the Assembly to the evening of Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> and the morning of Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2006. Although their proposal demanded a radical change for the Assembly from September to June, they saw this as a very special opportunity for Eurotary 87 Clubs to participate in the Convention and they offered to organise accommodation in Korsor and transport to Copenhagen.

After discussion Thame Witchert Rotary Club generously offered to change the year of their proposal to 2007 so that the Korsor Nor proposal was unopposed. The Assembly accepted both the Korsor Nor proposal for 2006 and the Thame Witchert proposal for 2007. Peter Dalton of Wreake Valley Rotary Club undertook to notify Korsor Nor Rotary Club of the decision.

#### **Item 7: Any Other Business**

President Chris Starkey exchanged banners with William Bradford of Pau Bearn Rotary Club, Jean Viste of Golfe de Fos Sur Mer Rotary Club, Mai Thorell of Kolback Rotary Club, Einar Thrap-Olsen of Gordes Rotary Club and Rod Bristow of Stafford Castle Rotary Club.

On behalf of the Eurotary Clubs attending the Assembly, Peter Dalton of The Wreake Valley Rotary Club proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Starkey and his team of organisers from the Rotary Club of Burntwood and District for a highly successful and enjoyable Assembly.

**Item 8: *Transferring the Presidency of Eurotary 87 to the 2005 host Club***

President Chris Starkey of Burntwood and District formally handed over the Eurotary 87 Presidency to Jean Viste, the President of Golfe de Fos Sur Mer Rotary Club who will host the 2005 Assembly. The 2004 Assembly was then closed.