

THE FELLOWSHIP ADVANCER
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Issue #3, March, 2009



D. K. LEE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Abraham I. Gordon,

Have you ever had lunch with Paul Harris? I bet you have.

Rotarian Paul founded his Rotary Club on the simple idea that it is good to share fellowship with others who, like him, were lonely in a crowded city. That cornerstone of fellowship became the glue which kept his fellow Rotarians together and which acted as the spark to start doing some community projects. *What a person cannot do effectively alone, he can do together with like minded people.* How better to describe Rotary?

Our many Rotary Fellowships operate in the same way. What we may not be able to do within our individual Rotary Clubs we can do together where we have a common interest, in our Rotary Fellowships. All Fellowships meet internationally at the annual Rotary International Convention, this year in Birmingham, England. But they also meet in various way throughout the year. Our Amateur Radio operators communicate regularly on the Ham Radio bands, the Flying Rotarians have regional fly-ins for Rotarians to share fellowship, the Computer Fellowship is in constant communication by way of the computer and even conducts computer interviews. Each Fellowship shares their Rotary common spirit in unique ways.

If the Fellowship you belong to is very active, call your leader and say “thanks.” If your Fellowship is not very active, call your leader and offer to assist in making it more active. If there is an interest for which there is no Fellowship, offer to start that Fellowship. Most important, be active in your Fellowship so that you and our fellow Rotarians will be able to have the greatest enjoyment from Rotary.

Rotary International makes minimal demands of our many Groups. Our real expectation is that you will meet with other Rotarians who share your common interests and together make your overall Rotary experience more meaningful.

Past R. I. President Hugh Archer had as his theme, “*Enjoy Rotary!*” What better way is there to do this than through our many Rotary Fellowships.

Each time you participate in a Fellowship activity is it as if you were sharing lunch with Paul Harris. *Bon Appetite!*

NOTE: Fellowship articles for the volume # 4 the Advancer must be received by July 17, 2009. This will provide the Fellowships time to submit timely news from the Convention.

THE FELLOWSHIP ADVANCER – OUR GLOBAL NEWSLETTER

In a Rotary International Fellowship Meeting Committee in Evanston in Jan. 2008, your Committee looked at all 90+ Fellowships and terminated those who were defunct or asked to be terminated. That done, the Committee then turned to what we could do to provide the active Fellowships and new Fellowships with assistance for the “growth of the Family of Rotary” in many ways. One of the tangible active suggestions was an agreement to publish a quarterly Fellowship Committee newsletter.

We worked on format, layout, content and distribution issues in our first two issues and appreciated the feedback.

This is the third issue of the “ADVANCER”.

The premise is for the Fellowships to provide quarterly reports about their activities which we will publish. Copy should be no more than 200 words.

As this is done by the Editor, please provide your information electronically in “Word” or “Open Office” format. While we encourage pictures, please provide them in “jpeg” format. We will not be able to return them. We reserve the right to print them or not, as space allows.

The first issue was all in English, the second issue had two languages, and this issue has information in 5 languages. We do not intend to translate the copy which is provided by a Fellowship. Those will be printed as provided. (please note, that in the English language, many of some words are spelled differently in different countries. We will leave the spelling as submitted.)

As this project has no budget, we needed to find a no cost way to get your information to the “Family of Rotary”. We suggest that each Fellowship send the “Advancer” electronic copies to their respective memberships. The Rotary International Fellowship Committee has its list of Districts who have already appointed Fellowship Chairs and we will send the Advancer to them. Those Chairs are encouraged to forward the “Advancer” to each of their respective District Clubs. Our Committee hopes that the remaining Districts will appoint their Chairs so we can include their Club members.

PDG Cam King, Vice Chair and Editor R.I. Fellowship Committee

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL 2008 – 2009 FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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FELLOWSHIP - GLOBAL NETWORKING GROUPS – CHAIRPERSONS and SUBMITTED QUARTERLY REPORTs

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BRIDGE PLAYING - <www.ifbpr.org> **Enrico Carozzi** <carozzie@libero.it>

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CHESS <www3.sympatico.ca/brian.clark> **Edgar Calvelo** <ecalvelo@sbcglobal.net>

COMPUTER USERS - <www.icufr.org> **Stella Russell** <stella.russell@btconnect.com>

At the end of January ICUFR held the latest Question and Answer Session with Past RI President, Cliff Dochterman. Other discussions held last year with IPRIP Wilf Wilkinson, RIVP Mike McGovern, and Foundation Trustees Louis Piconi and Catherine Jones, are still archived for all to see on the ICUFR Forum.

Just go to www2.icufr.org (Yes there is a "2"), register if you haven't already done so, and when you receive an email confirming your registration, Log-in with the Name and password you used, then Open the Q&A Folder on your left, and you will see not only Cliff's session, but the four earlier ones as well.

While you are there check out some of the other topics:

Friends and Fun is always active, a place to chill out for a few moments and escape the pressures of the day.

Internet and Website Help often comes up with useful bits of advice on ironing out those niggling problems with hardware and software that we all have from time to time.

Fellowships section is a recent addition where other fellowships who may not have a forum of their own are invited to have their own topics.

Rotary Topics speaks for itself. Recent subjects discussed there concern Foundation and the Internet and your Club.

Anyone whether registered or not can view all the Topics, but to join in with any discussions or pose your own questions you need to register first.

If you haven't already visited the International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians, we invite you to do so.

CONVENTION GOERS - <www.conventiongoers.org> **Frank Devlyn** <devlynf@delvyn.com.mx>

CRICKET <www.rotarycricket.org/> **Michael Jackson** <Mike@oldenterprise.co.uk> **T**

CURLING – **John Young** <bettyc@globalnet.co.uk>

CYCLING - <www.cyclingtoserveuscanada.com/> **George Keller** <keller.georges@wanadoo.fr>

DOLL LOVERS - <www.rotarydlf.org> **Deepak Agrawal** <info@banglesindia.com>

The Doll Lovers Fellowship extends the hand of friendship to all those Rotary Clubs, Rotarians or their partners who like the idea of bringing the world closer together through the media of ethnic dolls.

This fellowship is an extension of the Rotary 3060 Dolls Museum (RDM). Please visit our websites <http://www.rotary3060dolls.org/home.asp> and <http://www.rotarydlf.org/new/index.htm> to learn more and enjoy a unique experience. The DLF primarily caters for those individual Rotarians and their partners within the 534 Rotary Clubs from 319 Rotary districts worldwide whose club has already kindly contributed at least one ethnic doll for displaying in this wonderful museum. Also for all those of us who feel just that little bit more passion about dolls which can be used to convey the different regions, cultures & traditions around our Rotary world. There are still 214 Rotary districts and about 73 countries within our Rotary world that this museum and the DLF does not cover. We would like to ask you to consider helping to rectify these omissions.

There are two forms of Membership:

- .. Club Membership - Any Rotary Club can become a partner club
- .. Individual Membership - Rotarians, partners and all forms of friends of Rotary

After reading all of this and visiting both websites we sincerely hope that you will consider becoming a member or member club of the DLF and RDM project.

The link with the Rotary Dolls Museum (RDM)

A Millennium Literacy Project

The Rotary Dolls Museum is located in the city of Rajkot in the State of Gujarat, North West India. This unique museum aims to give an overview of the culture and traditions of the world at large through seeing and learning from ethnic dolls. Experience to date has shown that this project is also being able to support Rajkot's schools with History, Geography, Art, Hairdressing and Dressmaking lessons. The children of Rajkot can "visit our world" and learn about its people and cultures without leaving their city boundaries.

Each doll received is housed in one of the purpose built unique glass showcases. Some of these cases have slanted sides and all are at child height. The different shapes of the cases represent the way children stand or pose. A mirrored background allows the child to see both the front and the rear of the dolls. Children can often be seen trying to make the same expression as the dolls' faces in the mirrored

background.

Rotarian Nimit Kamdar created the interior design for the museum, which is stunning. The Indian Institute of Interior Design placed it in the top five designs for the year 2005. The dolls are displayed surrounded by many models and various things, which give a truer feeling of the doll being in the region of the country it represents. All of the showcases have plaques displaying details of the Rotary Club, Region and Country for each doll. Audio back-up support in local and foreign languages is available within consoles adjacent to each of the showcases.

A lot of this would not have been possible without support from both Mr Jyotindra Mehta of the Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank and Mr Kalpak Maniar of the Shri Arvindbhai Maniar Jankalyan Trust who when approached liked the ideas and accepted the Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown's plans. It demonstrates Rotary's credibility, when two Indian non-government organisations agree to join hands with a Rotary Club to enable a dream for a Rotary project to become a reality.

Literacy continues to be one of Rotary International's emphases for all of us. The RDM and DLF are continuing a literacy project that is appropriate to the local community and all the children living in the area. Through the website, it can now be enjoyed and used by the rest of the world.

We invite you to join this wonderful international project. For most of us, it started with sending a doll representing just a small part of our exciting Rotary world. Rtn John Wood DLF Vice Chairman, The Rotary Club of Somerset Levels D1200

DRUG ABUSE, Prevention of - David Tong <david_tong@pkfsingapore.com>

EDITORS and PUBLISHERS - <www.ifreps.com> Madhumita Bishnu <m_bishu@yahoo.com>

"We have posted our PEN newsletters of January, February in our website which is www.ifreps.com.

We are getting good responses for our international bulletin competition.

We have been awarded with a booth # 851 at the House of Friendship and we have a workshop on Tuesday, June 20, 2009 between 3:30pm to 5pm. Topic 'Networking tools for a better bulletin'

I am extremely thankful to our team of members for their excellent work for our fellowship

EGYPTOLOGY – William F. Vartorella <thebes@juno.com>

ENVIRONMENT - <environment-rotary-fellowship.org/> Marco G. Kappenberger <kappenberger@gmail.com>

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Rotarians for the Environment !

The Environment Fellowship of Rotarians invites all interested Rotarians, their spouses, and Rotaractors to its Annual Meeting to be held at the Rotary International Convention in Birmingham/UK on Sunday June 21st 2009, 8.30-9.30am, in the National Exhibition Centre, Gallery Hospitality Suites #17-18. See you there !

¡ Bienvenidos a la Reunión Anual de los Rotarios por el Medio Ambiente !

La Agrupación Rotaria por el Medio Ambiente celebra su Reunión Anual en la Convención de Rotary

Internacional en la ciudad de Birmingham. Rotarios, sus esposos/as, y Rotaractianos quienes se interesan por el Medio Ambiente seran los bienvenidos el Domingo 21 de Junio 2009 desde las 8.30 hasta las 9.30 de la mañana, en el National Exhibition Centre, Gallery Hospitality Suites #17-18.

Nos alegramos de darles la bienvenida allí.

Bienvenus a la Réunion Annuelle des Rotariens pour l'Environnement !

A la Convention 2009 de Rotary International qui aura lieu a Birmingham au Royaume Uni, vous, Rotriens, vos épouses/époux, et tout Rotaractien, êtes chaleureusement les bienvenus a participer a la Réunion Anuelle des Rotariens pour l'Enviornnement qui tiendra lieu le Dimanche 21 Juin 2009 de 8.30 à 9.30 du matin dans les Gallery Hospitality Suites Nr.17+18 du National Exhibition Centre.

Au grand plaisir de nous y rencontrer !

Seien Sie ganz herzlich willkommen zum Jahrestreffen der Rotarier für die Umwelt !

Am Anfang des ersten Tages der Rotary International Convention 2009, welche in Birmingham/England stattfinden wird, sind Sie, Rotarier, Ehegatten, und Rotaracter, ganz herzlich zum Jahrestreffen der Rotarier für die Umwelt eingeladen. Kommen sie in die Gallery Hospitality Suites Nr. 17+18 des National Exhibition Centre, wo wir Sie am Sonntag den 21 Juni 2009 8.30-9.30 morgens erwarten.

Danke für Ihr Kommen !

Siate calorosamente benvenuti alla Riunione Annuale dei Rotariani per l'Ambiente !

All'inizio della Convenzione 2009 del Rotary Internazionale a Birmingham/Inghlterra, Domenica 21 giugno alle 8.30-8.30 del mattino, nelle sale Nr. 17+18 delle Gallery Hospitality Suites del National Exhibition Centre, v'aspettiamo per l'incontro dei Rotariani per l'Ambiente. Sono benvenuti tutti i Rotariani, le/i loro consirti, e tutti del Rotaract.

Ci vediamo, ed Arrivederci a Birmignham !

ESPERANTO - <<http://resperanto.monsite.wanadoo.fr>> **Marc Levin** <marc.j.levin@wanadoo.fr>

FINE ARTS and ANTIQUES – <http://agrupacionbaa.wordpress.com>> **Xavier Barrera Fontenla**
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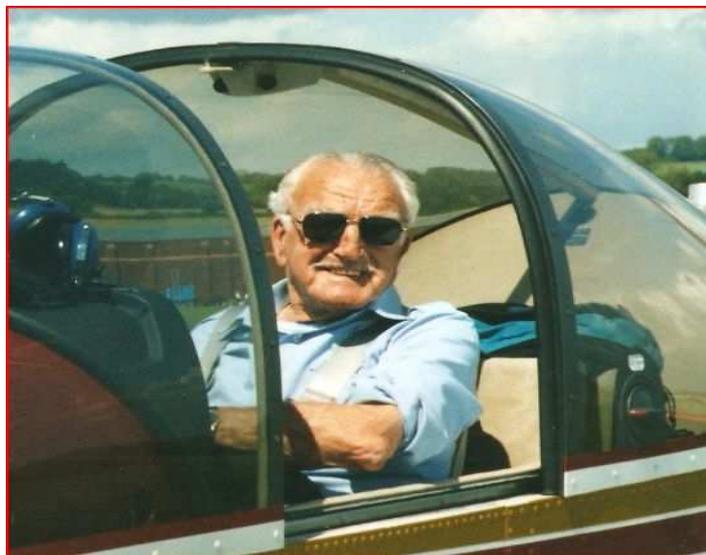
Go to website for news letter

Walking into the Guinness Book of World Records

UK International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians member Tom Lackey is no ordinary 88 year

old. After being widowed at 79, he started flying, then aerobatic flying, then WING-WALKING for charity! He completed his 18th walk last year. Tom entered the Guinness Book of World Records by becoming the oldest man to complete a loop-the-loop whilst strapped to the wings of an aircraft.

Tom's wife died in 2000 and to escape from his grief he took up flying. With his instructor he was soon performing aerobatics.. This wasn't enough for Tom, and when his instructor suggested wingwalking. Tom rose to the challenge. This is no the typical hobby of your average 88-year-old but Tom Lackey is a very special individual and wing walks despite having had a stroke and walking with two sticks. Tom laughs: "I can fly a plane and drive a car easier than I can walk".



He is a regular performer on the 'wingwalker circuit' and has raised thousands of pounds by dedicating each of his walks to a charity. His Rotary Club - Solihull St Apege - has recognised his efforts by awarding him a Paul Harris Fellowship. Tom Lackey is clearly an inspiration to us all.

IFFR Events at the Birmingham Convention

The IFFR Convention Dinner on Sunday 21 June 2009 is a great opportunity for members and guests to get together at the start of the Convention. The dinner is being held at the National Motor Cycle Museum which is close to the Convention Centre where the RI events will be taking place. At 7pm we start with a drinks reception amongst the classic motorcycle collection before enjoying a four course dinner.

A Fly About takes place from Thursday 25 June until Saturday 4 July 2009. For those flying, the departure will be from Coventry Airport and between the three centres of York, Gloucester/Cheltenham and Cambridge. There will also be day fly outs to the Lake District/Scotland, Cornwall/Lands End and East Anglia. For every participant we will provide a place in a coach, both for those not flying and for those who may decide the weather is below their minimum on any particular day.

Overall numbers for the fly round are limited to 90 and with the advantageous Euro and Dollar exchange rates, bookings are way ahead of recent years. So to avoid disappointment book without delay.

For a 12-page brochure covering these IFFR events send an e-mail to iff2009@spokes.biz with "Subscribe" in the subject line.

FOOTBALL - <www.footballfellowship.com/> **Neils Colov** <dragone@loxinfo.co.th>

GO, Playing Rotarians – Min Sheng Yang <knife@e-ms.com.tw>

GOLFING - <www.golfing-rotarians.com> Fred Rashcke <franschke@millsshirley.com>

GOURMETS – Wilbur Walrond <rotarygourmet@shaw.ca>

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LATIN CULTURE - <www.rotarioslatinos.org> **Marcelo Frangiosa** <mfrangiosa@gmail.com>

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LICENSE PLATE COLLECTORS **Marcus B. Crotts** <mcrotts@crottsandsaunders.com>

LITERACY PROVIDERS <www.literacyproviders.org> **P. C. Thomas** <pcthomasgsis@gmail.com>

MAGNA GRAECIA - <www.ifrmg.org> **Angelandrea Casale** <angelandreacasale@virgilio.it>

MARATHON <<http://marathon-rotary.org>> **Christophe Cruzel** <christophe.cruzel@total.com>

The IMFR (International Marathon Fellowship of Rotarians) is a fellowship for all Rotarians interested

in long-distance running, especially in marathons. Members come from many different countries, namely Europe (France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, etc.), but also from Australia, Brazil, the U.S.A, and Canada.

The first event was the 2005 marathon in Paris, France which commemorated the Rotarian Centennial. Since then members meet annually to participate in an international marathon.

In 2006 Rotarians ran the Berlin Marathon in Germany. In the following year the event took place in Amsterdam, Holland whereas New York, U.S.A. was the location of last year's marathon. Fund-raising for projects generally accompanies these events. In 2008 the money raised was donated to the PolioPlus-Campaign of Rotary International.

A highlight this year will be the marathon in Medoc, France. Taking place in September, the event will feature excellent wine and food. In addition to the culinary attractions visitors can look forward to colourful outfits.

In the future, the IMFR plans to participate in the marathons held in Florence, Italy (2010) and in Australia (2011).

Pictures are far more expressive than words, so take a look at our great photo gallery. Here you'll find hundreds of photos taken in New York in 2008:

<http://rotary-run.de/index.php?NodeID=7&SourceID=13&LayerMenuID=5>

MILITARY PERSONNEL Robert Golosov <nailnsix@aol.com>

MOTORCYCLING <www.ifmr.org> Jacques Grimm <jacquesgrimm@orange.fr>

World Secretary's Annual Report 2008

After founding two new Chapters in Central America and Russia the IFMR growing up to 16. Chapters. Chapter AGS (Austria Germany Switzerland) is nine years old and attracts 309 members. The Chapter organised fourteen tours, including three international meetings in Europe and Africa.

Secretary GB&I reports: Chapter GB&I is fifteen years old and attracts 68 Rotarian riders to membership in 2008. Most enjoy the warming influence of a pillion passenger behind them for the four or five weekend UK tours we enjoy. In most years we also tour in mainland Europe and members have visited Australia, New Zealand, the United States and India to sample the challenges of riding different machines in different surroundings. But it's the riding that counts. That morning when you know you have miles (kilometres) ahead of you, the tarmac beckons, the machine responds to the starter with that special growl and awaits your foot upon the gear shift, your hand upon the throttle, your instruction to pursue the far horizon. The wind noise rises, your instruments agree the speed you are instinctively aware of and your smile widens. Motorcycling is the elixir of life. No confinement to tin boxes, no getting frustrated by miles of standing traffic. The sounds and scents of the country sides, the pleasure of the freedom of the wilder roads and routes and most of all, the knowledge that you are in benign

control of machinery designed to provide the greatest fun in achieving the distances between A and B. In motorcycling as in Rotary there are no barriers to membership. It doesn't matter what you ride, just ride. You can enjoy club group rides, fund raising rides, long distance rides, solo rides, races, trials, navigation trials, off road experiences, international tours and all under the banner of the INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF MOTORCYCLING ROTARIANS. Try it, you won't be disappointed.

So if you are a biker, join our Fellowship and if there is no Chapter in your region, talk to other riders and found a new Chapter. All Chapters are separate and have his own constitution and use the international Guidelines. For further questions contact secretary@ifmr.org . Cornelius Neufert (World Secretary IFMR)

MUSICIANS <www.ifmr.org> Susan DuPree <chair@ifmr.org>

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PHYSICIANS <www.rotariandoctors.com/< Himansu K. Basu <hbasu@aol.com

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|
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ROTARY GLOBAL HISTORY <www.rghf.org> Joseph Louis Kagle Jr. <president@rghf.org>

ROTARY HERITAGE and HISTORY <www.historyfellowship.org> **Fredrick J. Otto**
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Why Scouting?

About the International Fellowship of scouting Rotarians

At the Rotary International Convention held in Mexico City in 1991, several Rotarians who were also Scouters met and discussed how to provide an outlet for both interests through a fellowship group within Rotary International. It was felt that because of these dual interests and involvement, there should be many opportunities for past and present Scouters to further the Scouting/Rotary ideals and relationships at local, regional, national and international levels.

Thus was born the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR). Numbering over 1,000 members worldwide at the present time, IFSR promotes the Rotary Motto of "Service Above Self". After approval was received from Rotary International, IFSR joined the over 90 different Fellowships and Action Groups sanctioned by Rotary International in which active Rotarians may share their interests and hobbies.

Like original Scouting, the first such group was located in the British Isles (RIBI) and is now throughout the Rotary and Scouting worlds. Canada, Eastern Russia (RI District 5010), the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean were formed into the Inter-American Region. The IFSR is structured along the lines of the World Organization of Scout Movement, which has six district regions or areas for administrative purposes – European, Eurasian, African, Australian, Interamerican and Asian.

The IFSR is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promote the Scouting Movement Internationally. This Fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

Who Are We?

The International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR) is one of more than ninety Rotary Fellowship and Action Groups established to bring together Rotarians with similar interests from around the world. It is made up of Rotarians who are or were Scouters or members of the Worldwide Scouting Movement.

Aim

The aim of IFSR is to develop a strong association internationally between Rotarians and associates who are, or have been, active members and/or supporters of the Scout Movement including national organizations that are members of the World Organization of Scout Movements (WOSM) or the World Association of Girl Guide and Girl Scouts. (WAGGGS).

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SINGLES <rsfinternational.org> **Marlene Daniels** <MDBbottano@aol.com>

SKIING <www.isfski.org> **Don H. Goering** <donaldgski@aol.com>

Happy 35th Birthday to the International Fellowship of Skiers!

The International Fellowship of Skiers (ISFR) recently celebrated its 35th birthday when it held its annual week of fun and fellowship at **Crested Butte, Colorado** in February 2009.

It was a week of excellent snow, tremendous skiing, and other activities that the Fellowship is renowned for, including home hospitality with members of the local Rotary Club, a joint Rotary meeting, receptions, excellent dining at the local restaurants, snowmobiling, and other activities for the non-skiers.

But this is a Fellowship with a difference! It was all started in 1974 by two Rotarians from suburban Chicago, Brian Andersen and Davis Boyd. They loved skiing and following skiing trips with their families, the Fellowship evolved and eventually included international participants.

The International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians (ISFR) was chartered in 1974, and now has 343 members in 27 countries. What makes this Fellowship organization different is its Foundation that was set up in memory of Davis Boyd, who succumbed to cancer in 1996.

The Davis Boyd Memorial Foundation was chartered to raise money in support of adaptive ski programmes, plus provides scholarships for the training of adaptive ski instructors.

Each year at our annual ski meeting we raise money at the closing gala dinner through silent and live auctions (includes a dessert auction), which is a great way to raise money and have some fun also! We also raise funds during our week's skiing through sponsorship of our "peak to valley" skiing.

Once the funds are collected, we inquire from the local venue of our meeting as to how we can donate some of the money back into the local Rotary Club's support of adaptive ski programme. In Crested Butte we had a superb presentation of the Crested Butte Adaptive Sports Programme, and we were very privileged to meet some of the participants of the "Wounded Warriors" programme.

Now that you know what ISFR is, why not join us and share the great fellowship through skiing and also put something back into a very worthy cause! We will be promoting our next meeting at the booth at the RI Convention in Birmingham – **Park City, Utah, 30 January to 6 February 2010**, which promises to be another great week - and if you join at the Convention and get our special ISFR lapel pin, you will be invited to our informal social at the Hotel Metropole, just a short walk from the Convention Centre, where we will be holding an informal get-together around 4.00pm in the bar area.

See you there!

Margaret Hutchinson & Henry Blowey, Booth Chairpersons



"

TENNIS <www.itfr.org> **Marco Marinaro** <marinaro.salerno@rotary2100.it>

TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN BIRMINGHAM

As you know, the 100th Rotary Convention is being held in Birmingham in June 2009. To mark this unique event, the ITFR are organizing a half-day tournament on June 22nd.

This will be held at the Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society which was founded in 1860. Originally founded as an Archery Society, lawn tennis began to be played there between 1873 and 1875 and it is the oldest surviving tennis club in England and therefore in the world! The Archery, as it is known, is set in beautiful surroundings and has 6 grass courts, 4 shale courts and 3 floodlit artificial grass courts. For more information see www.ealts.net

The tournament will provide the opportunity for all Rotarians, Rotaractors and their spouses who are interested in tennis to play at this exceptional club and to raise funds for the Polio Plus Program.

If you are already a member of ITFR and are coming to the convention, details of the tournament will soon be on the ITFR website. If you haven't joined ITFR – what are you waiting for? There is no membership fee and you will be welcomed by 658 members from 57 countries.

In the House of Fellowship ITFR will have a booth where you can find out more information. If you are not attending the convention, please look on our website: www.itfr.org

Fortunately for ITFR, the convention coincides with the Wimbledon Championships and a package has

has been arranged for ITFR members to include a stay in London and entrance to the Championships. Hopefully the English summer weather will be kind and there will be no rain! But if the rain clouds put in an appearance, ITFR members will be amongst the first to see the new Centre Court cover in operation!

To quote our chairman, Marco Marinaro:

Tennis is a sport that combines perfectly the action and the spirit of Rotary..... Rotary friendship serving humanity through tennis: this is ITFR!.....Score an ace with Rotary... for a winning service!

See you in Birmingham!

David Jones

UK Tour Director

Tennis and Rotary: a perfect combination for friendship and solidarity in the world.

The Rotarian international fellowship of tennis.

In March 2005 the Board of Rotary International formally recognized as a Rotarian fellowship the ITFR International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians. The fellowship of tennis came from the extraordinary intuition of Tomislav Maravic and Mladen Novakovic (Rotarians from Zagreb) and soon met over 50 members from different countries.

Fellowships are a powerful tool for Rotarian international and local action to build relations of friendship and solidarity in the sharing of interests, professional or recreational. Above all tennis for those who practice, practiced and follow it with passion, allows an immediate meeting, especially if supported by their common membership of the Rotarian association.

The ITFR, through its founders and all the Rotarian friends who in recent years have remarkably increased the shareholders (the ITFR currently has over 600 members from 54 countries from all continents), lives always with great enthusiasm and wide Rotarian spirit the several occasions of meeting held annually throughout the world (for more info: www.itfr.org).

We cannot forget the world championships in 2005 in Croatia (in Rovinj) and in 2006 in Sri Lanka (Colombo) and then in Italy in 2007 (Salerno) and Spain (Barcelona) in 2008, the latest with the moral patronage of ITF (International Tennis Federation), Tennis Europe (European Federation of Tennis), ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals), PTR (Professional Tennis Registry). And moreover the tournaments in Croatia (Zagreb, Bol, Pozega), Italy (Galatina, Genoa, Salerno, Torino, and finally Rome, where a friendly and vintage tournament "White & Wood" ("in white with wood rackets") took place in the Club of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Bulgaria, England, Spain, Turkey, Brazil, Sri Lanka, USA. In Rome (September 2008) the book by Beppe Russotto "Italian Rackets" (in Italian)was presented, it is the second book sponsored by ITFR, after the splendid book by the same author "Tennis in the postcard" (in Italian and English, acquired by the museum library of Wimbledon) the funds were collected for an important Rotarian humanitarian project in Uganda ("Africa Project", the RC Salerno, for more info: www.rotarytennis.org).

The action of fellowships can really become unique because it is able to coagulate through the sharing of even a Rotarian passions incredible energies to build relations of friendship and support for important initiatives and humanitarian solidarity.

For this reason, in April 2008, the International President of RI Wilf Wilkinson, together with the President of RF wrote to the chairs of Rotarian fellowships, defined the family of Rotary, to ask them to contribute for the years 2008/2010 to raise funds for the final eradication of polio. An important contribution to the most important project in the history of RI to win the challenge launched by the Gates Foundation with the payment of 100 million U.S. dollars.

Our Fellowship has immediately joined the call of President Wilkinson (with the approval of the strategic plan 2008/2010 in the Board meeting in Barcelona in September 2008); in fact the funds raised with the Spanish championship for the Program Polio Plus. It will be the same in the next world championship, held in Vienna (Austria) August 24-30 2009. It has been decided that in the coming events and tournaments our fundraising will be geared to this aim: the final eradication of a disease so terrible. Make dreams real!

The opportunities of meeting in Italy and in the world are really so many and they give the opportunity to those who have been though with regret "hang the racket to the nail" to play again. Therefore we bring to notice the next meeting between those of the first half of 2009, Montecarlo and Rome, but especially Wimbledon. In fact, in the special coincidence of dates and places with Convention no. 100 of Rotary International, which will be held in Birmingham 21-24 June 2009 (where the fellowship will as always with its own booth in the "House of Friendship"), it has been organized a package that provides be the transfer from Birmingham to London for four days including a day in the temple of the tennis world: the mythical Centre Court of Wimbledon!

Finally, we must point out the first edition of the prize "The Best ITFR Award." This prize will be awarded annually to a player in professional activities with the votes of ITFR members. The criteria for selection of candidates are three: performances, sportsmanship, "service". The prize is the synthesis between sports and fair play combined with the commitment and solidarity in favor of the others, at the service of peace and humanity in the Rotarian spirit. For the year 2008, the nomination submitted by the Board was unanimously accepted by members who have proclaimed winner Roger Federer. The prize will be awarded during the 2009 season at one of the most important tournaments of the circuit in agreement with the Swiss champion.

The passion for tennis and its perfect combination with the ideals of Rotarian friendship lived in the service, let me say (as I did in the presence of the Rotarian authorities at the official opening of the World Championships in Barcelona, and in particular to the District Governor Xavier Mateu 2202, the Past Director RI Julio Sorjs, and Past District Governor of the original District 2210) that "Rotary in friendship, is fellowship! Fellowship is Rotary "!

No distinction of paths and goals, but perfect synergy and sharing in the service of humanity! So, how is it possible to summarize the work and objectives of the tennis fellowship? Rotarian friendship at the service of humanity through the tennis, this is ITFR! And here it's our official motto:

Score an ace with Rotary ... for a winning Service!

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The Fellowship was started when it was still at the stage of a pilot project as IVCG (International Vocational Contact Group). It was the year 1993. Only years later, when the IVCG pilot projects became regular on the basis of a review by the RI Board, it was renamed RRVF (Rotary Recreational and Vocational Fellowship). The name was recently changed again into Vocational and Recreational Voluntary Fellowship.

When it started, the rules were much less rigid. It needed only about seven members from different Rotary Clubs and at least three countries represented, with the approval from just one DG and registration from RI. No constitution, bylaws etc were specified. So the fellowship started with just about 7 members, with the representation of India, the Netherlands and Belgium. The last was the

result of the notice during the EFQM annual convention in 1991 (?) held at Brussels.

The membership kept increasing, especially after RI started advertising the RRVF activities through The Rotarian magazine as well as regional magazines started keeping a page for the application to RRVFs.

The Chairman published quarterly newsletters called TQM RRVF. Membership went up to around 200 plus and from more than about 20 countries, but there was no feedback from members. There was no membership fee.

In order to enable greater fellowship among members, it was published a questionnaire in one of the newsletters which members could fill up and return. Less than 10 members responded. Similarly, there was no reaction when nominations were invited for the position of chairman of the fellowship.

In order to see whether the large number of members can be limited to only the serious ones, nominal membership fee was proposed. It was made in three slabs: \$ 10 per annum for Australia, North America and Europe; Indian Rupees 100 for India; \$ 5 for all other areas. Member Representatives were authorised, one for Europe and one for the US, to collect the subscription as well as to distribute copies of the Newsletter. Less than 20 members subscribed.

The silver lining in the cloud was the very successful formation of the Italian Chapter and its activities. Meanwhile, the Chairman Rot. Ram Ramamurthy retired from his regular employment and relocated.

Many changes were brought about by RI in the rules for RRVF - like requirement of constitution, by-laws for Fellowships. RI now requires many reports. The RI secretariat personnel looking after Fellowships is changed and more active. RI committee require to report the fellowship activities and send copies of the newsletters.

According to this new approach the Chairman Ramamurthy decided to give up his position and asked the Italian section Coordinator Rtn. Pietro Freschi to take him over.

The new Chairman found the Fellowship as a convoy with two velocity:

- the international section completely unactive in spite of the effort spent in trying to develop some activity
- the Italian section with its 34 members full of enthusiasm and producing papers of various titles to introduce Quality to Rotarians.

After having published the “quality in the Club, for a Rotary of quality” and distributed hundreds of copies, the 35 Italian members (two more in the 2002) have approached the theme of quality in the schools. The guide aims to give the basic knowledge to the Rotarians who want to approach any local Authority related with any type of instruction: how to improve the level of the standards, to meet the clients (students, parents, teachers) expectatives, to measure the expected levels.

All the Italian Rotary Clubs, have had the opportunity to challenge for “the best quality Club” having followed the basic rules included in the Rotary Procedure Manual and checked through the parameters listed in the publication mentioned above.

The award was given officially in June 2002 during the D 2040 Convention and similarly in the following editions. Now the seven edition is in progress.

The members have also defined the “quality in the health system” and the new approach is to consider and take care of ill people considering their point of view. The pamphlet will be lunched during a particular convention with the political presence of the Regional Governor and the highest personality in the medical field.

Quality in turism, quality in education was the next challenge. A pamphlet regarding Privacy in

respect to the Club members has also been done.

Officially several members are located in various part of the world but unfortunately no activity is registered in such Countries in spite of all the efforts of the International Bridge.

A web site has been developed and regularly updated.

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ITHF continues to flourish and we are looking forward to reunion with many of our members from near and far at the Birmingham Convention. As usual we will have a booth at the Convention as a central meeting place for our members and for other Rotarians seeking membership of a friendly fellowship with over 2,000 members in 60 countries, all happy to meet and break bread with fellow members.

There are many benefits of membership of ITHF, not the least of which is to join with fellow members on a Tour to the World Convention. Two bus loads this year, leaving from London on June 6, travelling through England, Ireland and Scotland, and arriving in Birmingham on June 19 in time for the Convention.

During the Convention we hold our AGM over breakfast, normally attended by some 150 members, a fun occasion with a few minutes of serious business.

Other events are held at locations around the world from time to time for local members to get together for fun and frivolity. A huge amount of information is available for our members, including full details and photos of our members, in our on line directory. Members are free to contact other members where ever they travel, for cultural exchange and to get local information.

Check our website, www.ithf.org, for more information, including how to join this fabulous fellowship, or contact our administrator, Jim Andrews – jandrews@ithf.org or telephone + 1 931 528 1810 or fax + 1 931 372 8358

ITHF aims to "Make Dreams Real".

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