

July
2018

Newsletter



Presidential
handover
2018-19



Rotary Calvia

INTERNATIONAL



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Presidential Handover Dinner

Changing of the Guard!

Well, not quite! But we had a great evening on 6 July, saying 'Thank You' to Saskia for her year as President and welcoming Nidya Melone as President for the coming year.

This year's Handover Dinner, when the formal transfer from one President to another takes place, was in our usual haunt of the Hotel Bendinat. And the setting was no less spectacular at night than it is on Monday Lunchtimes.

Nearly thirty members and guests joined Nidya and Saskia to enjoy the splendid food and hospitality of the Hotel and to hear from both of them; one to tell us of the highlights of her year and the other of her plans for the future.

Our Master at Arms, Geoff Moore, introduced the Guests, including Eva Serra and Dolina Reynolds, from Calvia Town Hall, whose support for our principal events, The Walk and the Inter Schools Debating Competition has been invaluable.

Saskia then presented Karl Homberg with the Club's first Honorary Membership in recognition of his long standing and hands on contribution to the Club and Rotary in the Balears – ill health prevented him from contributing in recent years.

Karl thanked the Officers and members for this recognition and for those who did not know him he said he was known as 'The Chocolate Man' and to prove it he produced two boxes of very fine chocolates which we enjoyed later with coffee!

The formal handover began with Jan Siegl reading the Object of Rotary – to encourage service and

cont'd



Presidential Handover Dinner cont'd

develop acquaintance; foster high ethical standards, the ideal of service and the advancement of international goodwill and peace through the ideal of service.

President Saskia said her theme had been “Let’s make a difference” and she felt that the Club had done so over the year, through social activities and fellowship in terms of fundraising through events and supporting Charities and developing relations with other Clubs on the Island – ‘travelling alone one can travel faster but travelling together enables you to go further’.

Saskia paid tribute to all those involved in all of the Clubs activities - The Walk, Jazz Night, Beach cleaning, etc. But she singled out two events which personally marked her year in office. Taking the orchestra from Agora Portals to the music festival in her home town (organised by the Rotary Club) and financially supporting Toni at WCMS where he won a silver medal. Saskia expressed her gratitude for all the hard work and support of the Board.

President Saskia and Geoff then invited Nidya to take the Oath. Afterwards, our new President expressed her pride at being asked to take on the office, though she would lead with some trepidation following in the footsteps of Saskia and Kate.

It was her aim to promote the interests of the Club and Rotary International and looked forward to working with all members and asked for their support with the number of events which will take place over her year.

She thanked the hotel and its staff for their usual hospitality and Kate, for organising the background music, provided on acoustic guitars throughout the evening.

Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable handover!

byline: Mike Knight





Honorary Members

As part of the presidential handover dinner it was appropriate the club should install their first honorary member - Karl Homberg

Karl is known to some members as 'The Chocolate Man' on account of his delightful habit ensuring the club has a wonderful box of the very best chocolates to hand around at important occasions.

Karl did not fail us this time - he brought TWO boxes. Thank you, Karl - much appreciated.



This year marks the 25th anniversary of RC Calvía International and it's appropriate to remember our founder, Peter Nicolas who until recently was in the Fontana clinic in Palma due to ill health.

A resident there for some years, Peter was visited by some of the RC Calvía International members who knew him in the years way back in 1993 when the club was founded.

A recent board meeting approved honorary membership for Peter and a certificate was prepared. Regretfully on 14th July, Peter passed away before we could get it signed and presented.

Seen here on the left with the original members of the club and with a signed card, received as president, from the Spanish royal family with congratulations for being the first English-speaking club in Spain.



Personal Message from Kate Mentink

“Our Rotary Club of Calvia has come of age! October 2018 will be the 25th Anniversary of the official Founding of our Club.

It had taken quite some time! Neither Madrid nor Chicago made it easy to register the first English speaking Club in Spain. But with the invaluable support of Rotarian Antonio Ques, it eventually happened, OCTOBER 1993.

They started as an elegant group of gentlemen, and it was only in 1999 the Club had its first “lady member”, Sue Worthington. Sue took the Club to new heights as President in 2001 and is now our current Treasurer.

The Club has developed and matured through the years - along with the inevitable “ups and downs” - which we have survived. It is now a truly international Club with members of nine different nationalities and it’s become an established part of the social structure of the municipality of Calvia.

Over the years, RC Calvia International has organized an enormous variety of social events, raising large amounts of funds which were donated to the various local Charities, dedicated to supporting the young, the elderly, and the less fortunate of our society, not to mention the “hands on” work done by members. If Rotary is about Fellowship and Charity, that’s the Rotary Club of Calvia.

The 25th Anniversary is very special, and it would be an honour to be able to thank our Founder and First President, Peter Nicholas, for his tireless efforts to get RC CALVIA established.

Regretfully Peter recently passed away. Our condolences to his family and our grateful thanks to him for a club well founded.”



On the 19th of May, on behalf of the RC Calvia International, Kate received a certificate from the British Embassy in Madrid “In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the local community in Spain.”

Mexico comes to Raixa

A group of eight Mexican & USA students visited Mallorca for two weeks recently on a Rotary sponsored trip. RC Mallorca has been organizing this exchange for five years giving students from abroad the opportunity to know more about the life of Junípero Serra.

All Rotary Clubs of Mallorca are involved as it is impossible for one club to organize all activities during the two weeks of their stay. For their part some RC Calvià International members took them on a trip to Raixa, a finca in the Soller foothills. They sure seemed to enjoy their trip and even wrote an article about it (in Spanish). Below is my 'loose' translation. (Editor).

Today was an excellent day, we met the members of the Rotary Club Calvià Internacional, who accompanied us all day: most if not everyone spoke in English and that was excellent since we understood each other perfectly from the start.

The three drivers Peter, Werner and Mirella came to the hostel for us, we had a quick coffee and the road trip started, some of us had to go in a convertible sports car and the view was incredible. The others were waiting for us in Raixa, coordinated by Saskia.

We arrived at the Raixa estate, invited by the Consell de Mallorca and the RC Mallorca to a guided tour, and from the first second the tour guide treated us wonderfully in an instant we became friends and had an incredible time learning or learning many new things. Raixa is a possession of Arab origin located at the foot of the Sierra de Tramontana, within the municipality of Buñola.

It has one of the most important gardens on the island. In times of Arab domination, Araixa was the name by which the valley was known, which already had a farmhouse, which passed through the hands of different families that have expanded it to acquire the current aspect. In the year 1229 the king Jaime I of Aragon conquers the island of Majorca and makes a distribution of his earth between his collaborators.

Raixa was given to the Count of Ampurias Ponce IV on May 11, 1234.

The most representative family, which owned it most centuries and made the most significant changes in Raixa was the Despuig family, counts of Montenegro and Montoro. In 1993 Raixa was declared an Asset of Cultural Interest due to its high historical and artistic value. In 2002, the "posseió" was acquired by the National Parks Foundation and the Consell de Mallorca

It is an incredible place full of huge gardens and to be able to take care of them and to maintain them they have a gigantic water reserve of approximately 7 meters deep, so that the water of the reserve is kept clean have fish that are in charge of eating the algae.

After walking and sunbathing while we were learning we went to eat all together at Celler "Sa Premsa" which has actually become one of our favorite restaurants in Palma as it has many typical Mallorcan dishes.

Finally we attended the College of Dentists and we handed out a pennant and all our thanks to the representative of the lecturer, from 7 in the afternoon was free and we spent knowing more of Palma.



A Poem from Gerdi

CRACKED CANVAS

“On the surface, there was always a realistically impeccable world, but underneath, behind the backdrop’s cracked canvas, lurked something different, something mysterious or abstract.”

Part 2, Chapter 20 Milan Kundera *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*

If you walk along corridors too long, you must use crutches - you must forget which doorway opens on space. You must forget that doorways open. When you reach out, if you find hands to hold you, you must forget that they’re attached to those who recreate you in their image, who feed you knowledge of their knowledge of what’s best.

Should you remember how once in blue expanse you whirled around, head thrown far back, to drink the sky - forget it. Your arms stretched out, the sky showed through your fingers and if another hand met yours, it was in dance. You knew no borders then, no intersections, and when you breathed, your mind was clear for the air to flow through. The architecture of empty space was freedom. But, you must forget.

The time has come when you must trace the scars which cross your body like patches of sewn leather - once your flesh, now just a metaphor for spirit. You’re only a cracked canvas for the sketches of hands around you, a scroll for the religious, a parchment where cartographers chart their maps.

maria grech ganado
(from ‘Cracked Canvas’ 2005)



Schools Debates

Inter School Debating Competition 2019/19 Organised by Rotary Club Calvia International

Someone asked the other day why Rotary Club Calvia International was involved in this activity? The answer is, because the Schools want us to organise it – in their words “there is no one else on the island which is independent of us and which has the motivation to help us develop the skills necessary to improve our public speaking (presentational and representational) skills.” So, a slightly different example of Service above Self.

Anyway, Kate Mentink, Jan Siegl and Mike Knight have been holding meetings with all of the Schools who took part last year, the Judges and some other International/National Schools to a) learn lessons from the last two years of Competition and b) respond to requests for information on the Competition from newcomers.

The result is that even more Schools want to take part next year. The Competition is gaining a reputation as a worthwhile project for the Schools (and of course we are able to promote to Students/Teachers/Parents and the Community the aims of Rotary International). The Schools want the Competition to be seen as a serious/strict event which tests the skills of the Students in a controlled environment. The Judges want the criteria they use better defined and, in more detail, – in order to give helpful feedback to successful and unsuccessful teams.

So, while Jan is off, traipsing across Mainland

Spain, France and the UK, poor Kate and Mike will be sitting with wet towels around their heads working out a revised set of rules, then annotating them, and an amended marking system, a timetable to cope with more schools, and above all a list of Motions for Debate which challenges the Students. Enjoy your European Tour Jan! Not true, of course. Jan will be contributing as much as ever from other parts of Europe, iPad and iPhone permitting.



Seriously, a Team effort so far has produced a Rotary Club Calvia International product which has enhanced the Club’s reputation. We and the President want that to continue – the Town Hall Calvia and Palma Pictures have already committed to sponsoring next year’s event.

So, the Club is seen as doing a lot of positive things both within Calvia and across the Island. And AGE Concern have come

forward and volunteered a prize for the Best Debater overall. Apparently, the age group involved in the Competition is one which relates well to the elderly and this, says AGE Concern, is a way of recognising that.

As and when the Rules, timetable etc are developed we will keep you in touch – not least so that members can come along to the debates themselves. Believe us, you won’t be disappointed.

The RCCI Debate Competition Team

Associate Membership



Welcome to the Club!

Rotarian Eric Wilsdon of Sutton Coldfield in UK is the latest person to join RC Calvía International as an Associate Member.

Eric and his wife have been very regular visitors to our club whenever they are in Mallorca and it is our great pleasure to formally welcome them into the RC Calvía International fold.

Requests to the Editor

While on an reconnoitring visit of Finca Galatzo the enditor, as a member of the 2018 Walk Committee, had a very firm request from one of the inhabitants to be included in this month's newsletter.

Please meet Juanita of Finca Galatzo, Capdella.



Dates for Your Diary

7.10.18 Annual Walk – The Galatzo Challenge -New venue, New format – in Finca Galatzo followed by Barbecue and Family Fun Afternoon in Restaurante Sa Vinya in Es Capdella village.

7.11.18 JAZZ NIGHT, Hotel Saratoga, Palma.

18.1.19 Rotary Club Uelsen – Coevorden Music Night. Weekend International Visit.

16.5.19 – 19.5.19 District 2203 Conference, Marbella.

1.6.19 - 5.6.19 Rotary International International Convention, Hamburg, Germany.



RC Calvía International

Regular Info

Our club meets every Monday at 13.30h for 14.00h at **Hotel Bendinat**

VISITORS are always welcome especially visiting Rotarians and their families.

Please contact us if you would like to attend a meeting. We ask to be advised at least 24 hours beforehand so that the dining arrangements can be confirmed with the hotel. Thank you.

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