

NEWSLETTER



RC Calvià International

Jan-2018

Volume 1, Issue 1



RC Calvià International President Saskia Porta

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Welcome to our NEWSLETTER

For quite some time now, RC Calvía International has been distinct to most other Rotary clubs worldwide by publishing minutes of its regular weekly meetings.

This happened because we have so many visitors from overseas who liked to keep in touch and up to date with our news. We're delighted by their interest but the work and time involved is difficult to sustain.

Equally, repetitive content of weekly minutes is somewhat dull and

uninteresting especially to 'external' readers – the approval of previous week's minutes, toasts to guests etc.

Proposed by our Sergeant at Arms Geoff Moore and supported by John Legate, was a monthly newsletter.

In both cases their previous clubs in UK had used this idea and it worked well.

So please accept a very warm welcome to this our very first RC Calvía International newsletter.



NEW WINTER VENUE – Hotel Albatros

New management and a change of policy have caused us to seek a new winter venue for our weekly meetings.

This has not been easy. Mallorca seems to be regressing to old times of the 70' and 80's when everything shut down for the winter.

However dedicated Calvia safaris in the wilds of Calvía's hinterlands by dedicated members in full survival kit has come upon the oasis known as the Hotel Albatros.

We hope you like it. [Full details below.](#)

Our first meeting at the new venue will be Monday, 8th January 2018 at 13.30h.

This will be preceded by our regular monthly board meeting at 12.00h which all RC Calvía International members are welcome to attend.

Click [HERE](#) for full details

- ✓ [how to get there](#)
- ✓ [where to park](#)

Help Needed

Filling a monthly newsletter with interesting material is not a simple task. The [editor](#) needs your help – and, even better, your contributions.

To my knowledge none of us are journalists so not to worry if you feel you cannot write a story. Everybody can .



Editor: Peter de Pradines

Farewell Sta. P.

RC Calvía International has been using the Hotel Golf in Santa Ponsa for quite some years. It is with a little sadness some members will wish it adieu.

However life moves on and the new hotel management regretfully had policies which could not fit in with our needs.

So our thanks to all the staff there and we wish them well in 2018.

From our President

Dear members and friends of our Rotary Club of Calvià International, another year over and a new one just began.

During the last six months, we did so many things together, both on a professional Rotary and on a friendly fellowship level.

In **July**, the Rotary year started with the usual Handover at OD Portals, followed by a very nice, sunny and fun lunch at John's place in Esporles in **August**. The same month we followed Rosa's invitation to her place in Palma where she explained her impressive art work to us followed by some delicious finger food.

In **September**, we came together at Saloua's place in Palma where we could enjoy her professional cooking abilities and her exquisite French-Tunisian cuisine. The same month we received our District Governor and we are quite confident that this year we are going to comply with all requirements for the official citation of our club.

In the month of **October**, we visited the new Congress Palace in Palma and started the interschool debate again which is very well accepted by many schools in the Calvià area. Of course, the same month we had our famous Charity Walk and the combined poster competition which both were also very well attended by a lot of pupils.

In **November**, we had a very interesting Away Day and we hope that a lot of ideas coming out of this event will be carried out in the future. The same month Saloua invented our most popular Rotary member, our Ted!

If you haven't done so far, please like his Facebook page "Ted's Travels for Kids" and take a Ted with you wherever you go, take pictures of him and upload them to his Facebook page in order to make Ted travel along the whole world and raise awareness.

In the month of **December**, we started several Christmas activities like the stall at the Santa Ponsa Christmas fair and a collection of donations in several bars, restaurants and supermarkets.

Three new members were inducted into our club, and some of our ladies finished this Rotary year joining a professional photo shooting for the calendar "Women in Rotary".

Many thanks to all our members and friends who made all of the above activities possible.

Also thanks to every single member and friend of our club because you are all the reason why our club meetings are always full of joy and friendship.

This year in **January** we will be joining the Rotary Music Night in Uelsen, Germany, where we are sending a music band of Ágora Portals International School on behalf of our club and where we will have the opportunity to meet other Rotarians from different countries.

We will introduce a new form of associate membership for people who are regular visitors but members of another Rotary Club or for those who cannot make it to our regular meetings because of professional obligations.

For those last ones, there will also be a separated "5 cents per appointment challenge", so that we can give those people the opportunity to be integrated and a part of the Rotary family although they cannot commit to regular membership due to lack of time.

In **February** will we host the final of the interschool debates which is going to be a great success. The same month will take place the District Assembly in Palma.

In **March**, we will be cleaning a Calvià beach together with the Association Ondine in order to have a "hands on" activity. Another "hands on" activity will be the planting of trees which is going to be a long-term project combined with raising awareness of the Rotary name.

In **May/June** we are invited to the District Conference in Ceuta and we will have another spectacular and joyful Jazz Night.

All the best for this coming year to all of you! May it be full of health, joy and happiness!

Saskia

Santa's Travels

Santa and the rest of us had an enjoyable and very worthwhile few days.

Our activities started at the Santa Ponsa Christmas Fayre where our wheel of fortune came into its own and by 4pm the team had run out of all gifts, including teddy bears!

Santa was not allowed to dress up because the organisers had already made an agreement with the radio station. However, Santa came in to his own for three very successful appearances in the Portals Nous area.

The first outing was a lunchtime walk around the shops and bars and Santa and his team were made very welcome by the mainly expatriate community.

The second outing was in the evening, and we were equally well received, particularly in a couple of the bars which were then very busy.

The third and final outing was our traditional static Santa outside Nice Price, where once again we were made very welcome.

It seems clear that The Rotary Club of Calvia International is becoming well-known in the community and we had a number of very nice conversations.

Santa would like to acknowledge and thank all his little helpers who were an invaluable support. See you all again next year!

Santa John



Santa John with happy supporters

Ted's Travels

Our club secretary couldn't make it to this year's Presidents & Secretaries annual meeting. So, Ted was kind enough to go in his place.

As may be seen, Ted enjoyed a convivial evening being provided with a liberal glass of the club secretary's recommended meeting-medicine.

What is not so well known is Ted had a hidden microphone in his Santa-hat so as to record all the proceedings of the meeting - as usual.



School's Debating Competition

RC Calvia International is, once again, organising and running an Inter School Debating Competition. The aim is to provide a number of Schools with the opportunity to compete against each other in a competition designed to encourage the learning and development of Research, Team Working and Presentation Skills.

It also introduces the Schools to Rotary International and its objective of Service above Self.

In 2017/18, we have 6 Schools involved, divided into two Groups. The top two Teams in each group will compete in a Final for the top 4 places.

The Schools involved are Agora, Portals, The Academy, Marraxti, Bellver College, Marivent, BIC, Magaluf, San Cayetano, Palma and Queens, Genova.

Each School puts forward a Team of three to compete against a team of three from one of the other Schools. They are given two weeks' notice of the motion they are to debate. The Home Team have to debate for the motion

and the away Team against. So far, we have had debates on Euthanasia, Pollution and Social Media. The debates are judged by a panel of 3 independent individuals – some of whom are Rotarians - who not only have to determine the winning Team but the Best Debater in each debate.

Past President Kate Mentink and Rotarian Mike Knight are organising the Competition and Rotarians Kathy Simmonds, Jan Seigl, Sue Worthington and John Legate have been Judges along with Judges from a number of backgrounds on the Island.

The standard has been very high. The Judges have been impressed by the amount of research that everyone has done, the arguments that have been marshalled and deployed both for and against the Motions as well as the presentation skills displayed.

We are just over halfway through the competition and with the Finals taking place in February we have a lot of interesting debates still to come.



“a competition designed to encourage the learning and development of research, team working and presentation skills”

Christmas Lunch



Departures

Regretfully we are losing two of our members due to personal reasons and health, Raimundo Clar and Karen-Anne Mercer. We wish them both well and hope things will improve for them very soon.

Arrivals

December 2017 was a fantastic month for new members.

At Christmas lunch we inducted Ralf and Ulla Jansen together with Gertrude Edtstadtler-Pietsch.

A very warm and truly heartfelt welcome to you all. We are delighted by your decision to join our club and to become Rotarians.

What they don't know yet, is I shall be asking them to do a short introduction piece in the upcoming newsletters – so watch this space!



Induction Three New Members

& Returns

Even more welcome news arrived in December. Previously long-established members of our club, Santiago Cheillada and Ingvar Bedrot are both hoping to join us again early in the New Year.



Son Espases Children Visit

RC Calvia International member Saloua Sfar and Joyron President Ron Hawes got together to help make the sick children hospitalised in Son Espases over Christmas just a little bit brighter.

They organised and collected donated gifts which were allocated by age group and gender. Then, in full Santa and Mother Christmas regalia, they set off with bulging sacks to the children's wards in Son Espases hospital, Palma. This short but wonderful story continues in Saloua's own words.

As we arrived at the Hospital the nurses welcomed very warmly. Ron from Joyron Foundation was father Christmas and I was there as a mother Christmas. We were both greeted in every room we entered with such huge smiles on the faces of both the children and their parents.

We gave gifts to children from the age of just one month old

right up to young adults. The hospital staff were very nice with us and very helpful.

I will never forget the absolute joy on those children faces. After visiting everybody in both regular wards of the children's rooms we were asked if we had the courage to go to the special resident area where four children live all year round.

It was so nice to see the parent's faces being happy that somebody was thinking about the children at what should be a most magic time of the year for them - not a time to ill in hospital.

I definitely look forward to doing this again next year. Any extra help from others would always be much appreciated - especially by those wonderful children.

Many thanks to Saloua and Ron for your work and input.

Huge kudos to you both.



“I will never forget the absolute joy on those children faces”

Rotary Music Night Uelsen

RC Calvià International is maintaining a great cooperation and on-going friendly relationship with the Rotary Club Uelsen which is one of the few cross-border clubs worldwide located on the border between Germany and the Netherlands.

The main fundraising event of the Rotary Club Uelsen is a yearly Music Night raising a huge amount of money for charity. It is held each year on the third Friday in January.

Over 300 musicians play for free at about 20 locations (town hall, churches, schools, restaurants, pubs, banks etc.). Tickets are sold for 12 Euros allowing access to all performances.

The first event was held in 2009, so in 2018 the club will be celebrating the 10th anniversary.

There's always a wide variety of musicians, from classical to pop, from young to old, from the Netherlands, Germany and beyond. Recently, even some refugees gave a concert.

Attracting over 2,000 visitors, vastly swelling the village of Uelsen. With its wintery atmosphere and fire baskets to warm everyone, it's the highlight of the community.

Since the start, more than 170,000 Euros has been raised for these charitable activities:

- Language courses for refugees in Germany and the Netherlands
- School project in Ghana
- Hospice work
- Music education for children in need and others



Take it away Geoff...

So Come and Join Us in 2018

- **Rotary Music Night in Uelsen** (Germany, Dutch border, organized by cross-border RC Uelsen) on January, Friday 19th - fun, great concerts and possibility to meet Rotarians from all over the world
- **Please book you own flights** to Cologne, Düsseldorf or Dortmund and organize a car to drive to Uelsen or just organize your own travel arrangements
- **Accommodation available** at the hotel the local Rotary Club meets (between 60 and 73,50 € per night) - just write to me Geoff Frosell at geofffrosell@hotmail.com
- **Itinerary:** Arriving on Thursday 18th or Friday 19th and leaving on Sunday 21st
- **Activities planned** by RC Uelsen for Saturday 20th, possibility to meet Rotarians and people from all over the world
- **RC Calvià International** sending a school band from Ágora Portals on behalf of our club

Hotel Albatros

our new winter venue

Overlooking the ocean, this upscale adults-only hotel is 12 km from both the Gothic Palma Cathedral and the Ferrocarril de Sóller railway station.

Modern rooms and suites offer free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs and minibars; some have balconies. Upgraded rooms and suites feature a range of amenities,

including Nespresso machines, ocean views and terraces with whirlpool tubs.

There's an informal buffet eatery with terrace seating, plus a sophisticated restaurant, a plush lounge and a rooftop bar. Other amenities include 2 outdoor pools, a hot tub and a luxe spa with a

sauna and a gym, as well as beach access, kayaks and bike rentals.

Barceló Illetas Albatros is 7 km from central Palma de Mallorca. The Bendinat Golf Course is only 1.2 km away and Puerto Portals is a 5-minute drive away

Address & Numbers

Street Address

Passeig Illetes, 15, Mallorca, 07181
Illetas, Islas Baleares

PHONE:

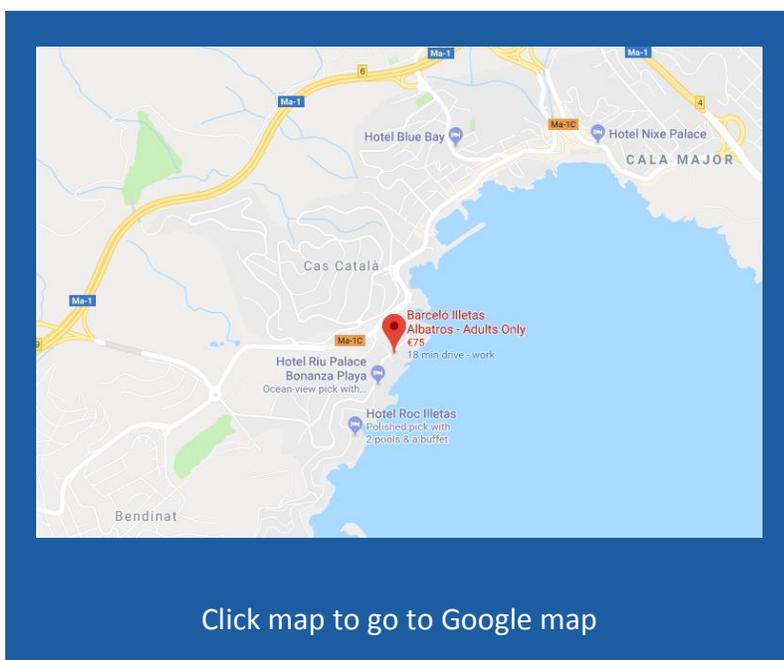
971 40 22 11

FAX:

(708) 555-0102

E-MAIL:

illetasalbatros@barcelo.com



Parking

Parking in Illetas is notoriously tricky. However, we are fortunate that there are three possible place to park.

1. Immediately adjacent to the left hotel is a fairly small public parking – free if you're lucky to find a space.
2. Opposite the hotel they have their own private park which is extensive but reception will make a small charge for its use.
3. Closer to the Illetas-Palma main road close to the petrol station there is a municipal car park which is free. Access to this is by walking through the Hotel Albatros private car park

RC Calvía International Regular Information

Our club meets every Monday at 13.30h for 14.00h at:

- ✓ Hotel Albatros in Illetas Jan & Feb 2018
- ✓ Hotel Bendinat for the summer 2018 (from Monday, March 5th)

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.

Sergeant at Arms Geoff Moore can be contacted on:
geoffmoorecaracol@gmail.com

Club secretary Peter de Pradines can be contacted on:
peterdep@gmail.com

Our website is at:

www.rotarycalvia.org

And Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/rotarycalvia

*dates
for
your
diary*

- ✓ 18.01.18 12.00h Board Meeting Hotel Albatross Illetas
- ✓ 18.01.18 13.30h Regular Meeting Hotel Albatross Illetas
- ✓ 18.01.18 – 21.01.18 Visit to RC Uelsen Music Festival
- ✓ 21.02.18 Debating Competition Final Sala Palma Nova
- ✓ 23.02.18 – 24.02.18 District Assembly and PETS Palma
- ✓ 24.05.18 – 27.05.18 District Conference in Ceuta