



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
RC Stuttgart

Minutes of the functionary meeting

Gaschurn, March 30th, 2019

Small contact club meeting

1. Participants Rotary Contact-Clubs: 17

(1) Lyon: 3

Michel Tcheng, Pierre Mouton, Thierry Riba

(2) Lausanne: 2

André Berdoz, Michel Guth

(3) Torino-Dora: 4

Luigi Boschetti, Massimo Pisaroni,
Roberto Carcaterra, Carlo Boggetto

(4) Stuttgart: 5

Jörg Glaser-Gallion, Jürgen Prockl, Martin Konermann
Dittmar Hagedorn, Tyll Weber-Carstanjen

(5) Barcelona-Diagonal: 3

Fernando Plaza, Marga Fargas, Alex Benavente

2. Agenda had been sent to all contact-club members (20.3.2019) by Jürgen Prockl including preparatory papers:

- (1) Decision on spontaneous topics or contributions applied for
- (2) Exchange of views on RC de Lyon's wish to include RC Edinburgh in CC-Circle
- (3) Introductory presentation to the project 'European Viewpoints' by RC Torino Dora and RC Stuttgart
- (4) Presentation of RC Stuttgart's 'CC-service project'
- (5) First information on the CC-session in Freiburg (D) from 27.-29.9.19.
- (6) Miscellaneous: RI Convention in Hamburg**



3. Key results

(1) Decision on spontaneous topics or contributions applied for

There were no additions to the proposed agenda.

(2) Exchange of views on RC de Lyon's wish to include RC Edinburgh in CC-Circle

The request of the RC de Lyon was discussed in all the clubs. All clubs have completed their opinion.

Michel Tcheng (Lyon) summarized the pros arguments as follows:

- a. Edinburgh is the world's 5th oldest club outside the US, founded in 1912 - a notable tradition!
- b. It has about 150 members and thus represents a strength similar to Lyon.
- c. RC Edinburgh has a person who brings out outstanding competence in generating global grants. Lyon works successfully for many years with him in this regard. A good basis for getting more 'independent' from Global Grants.
- d. Especially in these turbulent Brexit times, Rotary's role is also to strengthen ties with (Great?) Britain. If Brexit came, Scotland would be one good option with its majority vote for staying in the EU. (Remark Jörg GG: England could be another option because of its need to stay connected with EU.)
- e. Another club is good for the community of cc.
- f. Edinburgh has a long-standing expectation concerning its participation at the cc network.

The clubs of Lausanne, Torino-Dora and Barcelona-Diagonal support the request of Lyon.

Stuttgart expressed its skepticism on the grounds that - despite all the positive appraisal of the arguments put forward, which are basically shared by Stuttgart - the great benefit of the contact club circle (CCC) is the high intensity of personal contacts and such occasions like the winter meeting which – with 'only' 45 participants lives friendship very individually, whereas widely attended events risk superficiality. It, herefore, has to be underlined, that Stuttgart



sees it also as a precondition for further 'cc-growth' to find convincing structural elements, avoiding this..

The subsequent detailed discussion, in which the arguments were exchanged pro and contra, brought further arguments:

- a. RC Edinburgh already has 6 partner clubs, how can the club spend time and attention on the cc?
- b. There are various platforms (including country meetings) at Rotary International for the desire to engage in international dialogue between clubs. The cc - platform can serve for it only to a limited extent.
- c. The cost of travelling to or from Edinburgh is considerable. How will this affect the quality of contact with a new member Edinburgh?
- d. Many cc-members attended the 100th anniversary event (2012) in Edinburgh and were very fond of the Edinburgh club.
- e. It's time for a decision! Linda & Co have been with our cc for many years and are now looking for a decision.

Finally, the following decision was made:

1. In principle, the admission of RC Edinburgh should be considered positively. The rules are to be applied, which were also used in the last recordings - RC Torino-Dora and RC Barcelona-Diagonal.
2. The following next steps should now be taken:
 - a. All contact clubs should be given the opportunity to experience personally the ambition of the RC Edinburgh as a whole to participate in the cc. So far, only a few of the cc-clubs did so far (Lyon, Barcelona).
 - b. The RC Edinburgh should therefore invite the cc to a long weekend, which should offer the opportunity to meet many members of the RC Edinburgh and learn about their attitude concerning joining the cc. This weekend should be timely, for example in November 2019.
 - c. In case this "personal meeting" leads to a positive result, RC Edinburgh should be able to participate **as a guest member** at all events of the cc **for another two years** (especially at the small and large contact club meeting).



- d. Afterwards (=> end of 2021) today's contact clubs make the decision on how to evaluate the experience gained in the two years and whether RC Edinburgh should be included as the 6th contact club.
- e. RC Edinburgh will be invited to attend the Contact Meeting in Freiburg (September 2019) with a small delegation of functionnaires and their partners (max. 20 persons).
- f. In the near future, this way to proceed should be explained to RC Edinburgh by a cc-delegation. For this purpose, delegates from all cc (1 to maximum 2 representatives per cc) should take part in a regular meeting of the RC Edinburgh (always Thursday) and present the way to proceed.

Michel Tcheng is to agree with RC Edinburgh until April 10, 2019, suitable appointment options and send them to all cc. (May is not a month to visit Edinburgh!) The contact clubs nominate one or a maximum of two from their clubs to Michel Tcheng in the following days. Then the appointment will be fixed by Michel Tcheng.

(3) Introduction into Project 'European Viewpoints' (EV) by RC Torino Dora and RC Stuttgart

Basic idea of this initiative is to create an informational exchange on differing views on important European issues, aiming at making the respective view comprehensible to the others. Certainly, everyone is aware that there is a range of opinions in each club that can't be merged into a "national stance" of the club. Yet it is worthwhile highlighting pronounced views that matter.

The Italian-German initiative has contrasted the views on a 'Vision of Europe'. Many teleconferences as well as an intensive workshop and further individual work were necessary to get to the current status of the results. The 'questionnaires' filled out in Turin and Stuttgart were a good mean to determine this first choice. The idea is to include a corresponding slide-presentation in the upcoming CC-session in Freiburg. Based on that, decisions on the further inclusion of CCs and discussions of adaptations necessary could be taken.



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Barcelona wants to participate at the questionnaire. Turin will support Barcelona in translating into Spanish as well as Turin will provide Lausanne with a French version. Lyon has already sent the surveys of 80 participants to Turin.

Lausanne should attend, this is the wish of all other contact clubs. Switzerland does not belong to the EU, but clearly to Europe. The outlook on the EU of Switzerland is very welcome. Swiss suggestions to develop the survey are welcomed.

(4) Presentation of RC Stuttgart's 'CC-service project'

Jürgen Prockl explained the proposed project of Sabab Lou, in addition to the prep material being sent and distributed in the meeting and underlines the sustainability approach of this project. This as well as the possibility to follow a project and its outcome over a longer term is – in principle – favoured by RC Stuttgart.

The contact clubs had some questions. The conclusion was to follow-up on this project even it is no global Grant. Final decision will be in September meeting.

(5) First information on the CC-session in Freiburg (D) (Sept.)

The location of Freiburg reduces the travel-time of Lausanne, Lyon and Torino by at least 2,5 hours per trip.

Calculatory disadvantage is that instead of the home-dinners, which are paid by the hosts, a dinner takes place in Freiburg, which is at the expense of the community. This requires a participation fee of € 250 per person, instead of the planned € 200 in case of taking place in Stuttgart.

For Friday, a golf tournament is planned. Corresponding hotel reservations are provided (Thursday => Friday).

The hotel of the cc meeting is located outside of Freiburg center (about 8 KM). The advantage of the hotel is that the participants have the opportunity to meet in person and to experience a family atmosphere.



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(6) Miscellaneous: RI Convention in Hamburg

All clubs will be present in Hamburg. Each club reports to Jürgen Prockl by e-mail (procklix@t-online.de) its participants and which (evening) dates are in no way possible for a meeting of the contact club participants.

RC/ Jörg Glaser-Gallion, 03.04.2019