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**ROTARY MONTH
&
MEMBERSHIP
EXTENSION**

ENGAGE
ROTARY



CHANGE
LIVES

EDITORIAL

From our international correspondent in La Belle, Normandie - Lina

Normandie: The Cheeses and the Politics



Pass the Morbier – yes, and some Cantal please.

Ah, the wonderful selection of cheeses that are so much part of life here in rural France and indeed in all of France. Napoleon said that no meal is complete without the platter of cheeses (actually he meant Camembert). This is taken very seriously by all French.

So perhaps I should enlighten you as to some of the favourites here...

Camembert, Neufchatel, Livarot and Pont-L'evêque to name four of the twenty from Normandie

Livarot is one of the oldest cheeses in Normandie, and at the end of the 19th century was reputed to have the highest rate of consumption. The reporters of that epoch wrote about it as "poor man's meat" due to its high nutritional value. The cheese is circled by five bands of rush leaves that prevent the cheese from collapsing during maturing. These five bands are reminiscent of the five stripes a colonel wears on his uniform; it is for this reason the cheese is known as the Colonel. Today these bands are more for show than necessity in production. In fact, industrial dairies replace the rush leaves with bands of green paper. The lovers of this cheese delight in its strong odour and full flavour, with a taste that is perfumed and slightly piquant and spicy. In the course of its maturing, Livarot is coloured reddish/orange with the natural taint of Rocou, a South American plant. This makes the rind smooth and brilliant. Depending on the length of maturing, the humid pate is a golden yellow.

Morbier is a semi soft cows milk cheese, named after the small village in Franche – Comte. It is immediately identified because of its black layer of tasteless ash, which separates horizontally in the middle.

My favourite is Cantal which is a hard cheese, and is so delicious that I must confess to being almost addicted to it.

From our property here in Normandie, we can see a very wide range of agriculture; sunflowers and wheat, fields of cows and open meadows, There are also lots of horses, as many farmers enjoy carting as a hobby (really French) and on the Chateaux nearby, they are rearing race horses.

Small scale agriculture is a part of what gives France its beauty and is part of the reason why so many people, both from abroad and within France, love to visit the French countryside. Farming in France is held in very high regard by the population as a whole because many of the city dwellers come originally from the countryside.

However, as everyone knows, farming is in a crisis across Europe and perhaps nowhere more so than in France. Here are two facts from Time magazine...

- French farmers receive 20% of Common Agriculture funding and EU aid represents more than 90% of the average French farm income.
- Most of this aid goes to large scale farmers around Paris and the centre of France and very little to the small farmers who are struggling to make ends meet.

Many farms are expected to be forced to close. Also, the cheap imports from outside Europe have caused more than a 50% fall in farm income over the last two years.

Of course the French temperament always leads to some amazing scenes – as last week and continuing, they are protesting over the low egg prices by smashing thousands of eggs on the streets and squares of Brittany.

They have pledged to keep smashing eggs every day until Sunday, after which it says the protests will become more radical!! That will be fun to watch – can you just imagine such a thing taking place anywhere else but in France.....

Pass the Morbier please and yes *une petite peu* Bourgogne Aligoté.

MEETING OF 8 August 2013

ATTENDANCE

Membership: 24
Present: 15
Make Ups: 2
Apologies: 8
Attendance: 70%

Guests: DG Vyv and Pat Deacon, AGs Gavin Schachat and Ian Pursch, Justin Schonegevel, Keela O'Driscoll, Graham Gavin, Dirk du Plessis, Anne O'Driscoll, Heinz Sieg: Rotary Club of Eggenfelden Pfarrkirchen, Germany and Honorary member of Rotary Club of Kromboom, plus 11 members and partners of Kromboom Rotary Club.

Attendance to Biffy 082 468 7504 or aecon.e@mweb.co.za.

A noisy, cheerful evening of fellowship and a joint meeting with Kromboom, which Sergeant Dave had some difficulty in bringing to order!

A period of silence was kept in deference to Rtn Alan Adams, a founder member of Kromboom who died on 7th August.

Pres Karen welcomed all to the meeting and especially DG Vyv and Pat for their 'official' visit to Wynberg and Kromboom.

SLOTS

Biffy mentioned that there will be another joint meeting shortly – Wynberg, Kromboom, Sea Point and Table Bay. Details to follow.

Graham Parkhurst reminded us of the invitation to join Kromboom at their meeting on 28th August at Kelvin Grove, to hear the world class motivational speaker and wildlife enthusiast, Lorne Sulcas. Details to follow.

MINUTES

Pres. Karen asked the Service Directors to give brief resumés of their activities to DG Vyv:

Biffy Danckwerts (Community Service)

Jackie James (New Services)

Are Hovstad (Norwegian Liaison Committee)

Pres. Gordon also described Kromboom's activities – especially their Vrygrond project: "Where Rainbows Meet".

DG Vyv said that he was deeply impressed by the number of projects described by the two clubs. He thought that a data base needs to be set up by District in order to log all the projects being undertaken within District 9350. It would serve to co-ordinate effort, possibly linking clubs involved with similar projects.

He commended a user-friendly dictionary being distributed by Kromboom. The 'Usborne Illustrated English Dictionary' needs to be in every school library.

DG VYV DEACON'S ADDRESS

DG Vyv joined the Rotary Club of Kirstenbosch in 1992, and became a Paul Harris Fellow in 2005.

He claims to have had a long relationship with Wynberg Rotary Club – he was taught English by PP Tjaart Barnard; and he taught PP Mike Schreiber Maths!

His address started (not unreasonably) with the Rotary Manual of Procedure (MOP), the definitive handbook of Rotary management. He posed the question whether the rules could be bent? The answer is yes, provided the motivation is reasonable and complies with the 4-Way Test. As an example, whatever reason caused us to join Rotary will have changed, or at least will have been modified by now. Rotary shouldn't be perceived as an inflexible organisation. New members should be mentored initially and led to become engaged in club activities. A lot remain members of Rotary, but less become true Rotarians.

DG Vyv posed another question: What have you personally done to change lives for the better? The reward in the form of satisfaction for the Rotarian is greater than that experienced by the receiver. These Rotary moments need to be shared – particularly with newer members.

DG Vyv rounded off his address with a 'slide' show of his and Pat's experiences at the last Rotary Conference in Lisbon.

He was thanked by Rod Palms from Kromboom.

JACKPOT:

With 48 cards to choose from, Dirk unluckily drew the Jack of spades, allowing the jackpot of R1035, and the 3 of hearts to be carried over to the next meeting.

Jo won the R40 second prize.

PROGRAMME

August 2013 Committee: Knight, Bredenkamp, Cleveland, Munday, Orsmond, van Eeden

15 August Lesley Gittings, Canadian Ambassadorial Scholar: Title: PERSPECTIVES FROM A YEAR IN MALAWI.

22 August Laura Heathfield, report back on Ambassadorial year & Proms hand-overs

28 August Invitation to Kromboom meeting at Kelvin Grove (see 'Slots' above).

29 August Social & JK Nickell (and wife Kat), Ambassadorial scholar from Dallas, Texas – Tenpin bowling.

September 2013 Committee: James, Danckwerts, Schreiber, Smith, Williams, Lidgley

5 September ICore event – joint meeting with Table Bay Rotary Club, Kromboom Rotary Club, Sea Point Rotary Club.


12 September Meeting at Lavender Hills High School – speaker to be announced

19 September Marina Jessop: Arizona, Ambassadorial student speaking on human trafficking.

24 September Public Holiday – Heritage Day – Braai Day

26 September Board meeting

DUTY ROSTER

DUTY	15 August	22 August	29 August	5 September ICore	12 September LHSS
Sergeant	Todd	Cleveland		Murphy	Smith
Attendance Officer	Danckwerts	Danckwerts		Danckwerts	Danckwerts
Wynpress Editorial	Howard	Jackson		James	Klotz-Gleave
Minutes for Wynpress	Danckwerts	Wetmore		Cleveland	Danckwerts
Compilation of Wynpress	Cleveland	Danckwerts		Wetmore	Cleveland
Door Duty	Hovstad	Williams		Wetmore	Gowdy
Grace	Gowdy	Hovstad		Murphy	Jackson
Loyal Toast	Bredenkamp	Gowdy		Hovstad	Vivian
International Toast	Bird	Bredenkamp		Gowdy	Hovstad
Speaker Introduction	Van Eeden	Van Wyk		TBA	TBA
Speaker Thanks	Vivian	Bird		Barnard	Bredenkamp

PRESIDENT'S QUOTES:

In recognition of National Women's History Month, Pres. Karen quoted the following:

If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more.

If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough.

- Oprah Winfrey: American TV host, actress, producer and philanthropist.

I've learned that making a 'living' is not the same thing as making a 'life'.

- Maya Angelou: American auto biographer and poet.

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something;

and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

- Helen Keller: American author, political activist and author.

TAILPIECE

A father bequeathed his 17 camels to his three sons.

When the father passed away, his sons opened up the Will.

The Will stated that the eldest son should get half the camels, while the middle son be given 1/3rd (one-third) and the youngest son be given 1/9th (one-ninth) of the 17 camels.

As it is not possible to divide 17 by 2 or by 3 or by 9, the three sons started to fight. Eventually, they decided to seek a wise man.

The wise man listened patiently about the Will.

The wise man, after some thinking, brought one camel of his own and added it to the 17. Now there were 18 camels.

Now, he started reading the deceased father's Will.

Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 camels.

1/3rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 camels.

1/9th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 camels.

Now add this up: $9 + 6 + 2 = 17$ and this leaves one camel, which the wise man took away.

Moral: The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th camel i.e. the common ground.

Once a person is able to find it, the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times to reach a solution. But the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't find it!