



Dear Tablers,



President's Report
Round Table Switzerland Visit
Locarno 24-26 April 2009

It is this time of year!

A new Round Table Adventure

AGM here AGM there AGM everywhere! Very difficult to chose but I was honored to accept an official invitation from Round Table Switzerland to attend their AGM in Locarno in the south of Switzerland.

Do we have any Tables in Cyprus?

My new Round Table adventure started not when I landed in Zurich but rather just before I left the gate to board the plane in Larnaca airport. I was walking hastily to the gate when I heard a lively voice calling over and over again: excuse me! Hello! Hello!... The



insistence of the call made me stop and turn and I saw a man running towards me. Are you a Tabler the man asked? I said I am. It was evident from my RTI vest and RTI rain coat. As it happened the young man was a French Tabler and air craft pilot who was in Cyprus for work. I did not catch his name and I am not sure if I even told him mine. Are there any Tables in Cyprus the Tabler asked, with some misbelieve I have to say? A bit surprised I replied: Of course we do! Round Table has 8 clubs in Cyprus I said. Really the Tabler replied. Next time you are in Cyprus make sure to get in touch I urged him. He replied positively but now I was running late. However I was able to give him my Round Table card, banner and of course pin. I am waiting to hear for this young Tabler from Round Table France. I also asked him to relay my best wishes to Pascal and Gerald. I am sure the Tabler was wondering how on earth I knew Pascal and Gerald!

I hope that this incidence will give incentive to all of us to have with us the RTI Directory when we travel or check the RTI website before or during travel to another country.

It was a very nice encounter and I felt encouraged by this incident. The Cyprus Airways plane landed on time in Zurich airport and I soon met my 'driver' to Locarno. As the whole of the Swiss national board was very busy with the preparations of the AGM a beautiful friend of the National Shop keeper Patrick was recruited to drive me to the AGM site a 3 hour drive from Zurich airport. I therefore take this opportunity to thank Rubina for her company and her driving skills which safely brought me to Locarno and the Hotel Palma on the Lake (Palma Au Lag) where most of the international guests were staying. It was a great location right on the Lake Maggiore.

The Welcome Party

The welcome event was a great place to meet new and old friends. I was particularly happy to meet Richard Heldman as together we worked for the charter of the first and second Table in Istanbul. Let's see if this encounter will spark the charter of the 3rd club ... The welcome party was very well prepared but the most important aspect of it was that it was prepared by Tablers and their spouses or girlfriends. In fact this was the most important thing I noticed during the whole event. The local Tablers of Locarno were involved in the process and of course I could also see the hand of the 41ers working in the background and discreetly helping with their wisdom and experience the Tablers.

The Show

I was a bit disappointed with the show presented but mistakes do happen from time to time and that's what makes Round Table events interesting and memorable. For details of the show please refer to the RT Netherlands President Henk Jan... I am sure he will be able to give you more information than I will ever will.



The AGM

The AGM the next days started exactly (and I mean exactly) at 9am and even I was a few seconds late. I attended the full proceedings even though I did not fully understand everything I was contend to follow the general principle of the proceedings. I was particularly proud to see the various activities of the Swiss Association but also its Tables. Certainly there

was a good mix of fun, fellowship and community service events. This in fact was my message to the AGM which also reflected the vision set by the RTI board starting from last year.

In my speech I underlined the structure of Round Table which is an organization that gives fund, fellowship, opportunities for personal development, for networking and ultimately friends for life. But that it is also an organization that gives back to society through local, national and international community service projects. That gave me the opportunity to present the RTI Board's initiative to assist RT Italy in materializing its Rebuilding Hope Project in L'Aquila where as you all know is suffering the consequences of a devastating earthquake. I also had the opportunity to present a few photos from the earthquake site. In closing I urged the Swiss association to continue working in all aspects of Tabling life.



It was great event that culminated in the election of the new Swiss National Board which I am sure that under the President Mathias leadership will take another step in making Round Table in Switzerland an even better organization for its members and the society.

Now it was time for some relaxation and this was provided again by the local Tablers and their friends and spouses before a "train" stopped right in the front of the AGM venue to takes us all for a short tour in the city and at the Banner lunch.

The international banner exchange however took place just before the gala dinner in a wonderful location outside Locarno. The banner exchange gave me the opportunity to wish Oliver the Swiss IRO a great retirement in Club 41 (or Old Tablers) and I informed him that I will see him there on the 16th of August immediately after the Round Table World Meeting to take place in the Netherlands from the 12 to 16 of August 2009 in the fine city of Alkmaar (www.rti2009.com). The now past President of RT

Swiss is the new IRO of the association so Marco I will see you around.

International Guests



The AGM was also attend by RT Austria (always great to see Harry and his gang), RT Romania (Elian keep up the great work, great to meet you), RT Germany (Joachim you are part of the future of RT), RT Italy (Gabriele I will not support the abolition of the song... but it was great to see you), and RT France (Gerald and Sofi great to see you again. Thank you for the copy of the RT France Magazine.) Of course Henk Jan was there as well. You all know who he is!

Young Tablers

The most enjoyable part of the visit was that I had the opportunity to speak to the young Tablers of RT Switzerland and was able to relay to them the Round Table Vision. Most importantly I listen to what they had to say! I was very impressed by a young Tabler coming from Luzern. Certainly National Board material!

Great Unexpected Experiences

Early next day I started the trip to Geneva by train. I was not looking forward to the long train ride but little did I know



that the train ride was through the Alps. The views were fantastic especially since me the Nyon Tablers from RT 20 had the opportunity to ride a new type of panoramic train. Round Table is also about great experiences!

Next stop Round Table Africa Meeting in Dubai!

Yours in Table
George M Psaras
President

Locarno is the capital of the Locarno district, located on the northern tip of Lake Maggiore in the Swiss canton of Ticino, close to Ascona at the foot of the Alps. It has a population of about 15,000 (60'000 for the urban area including Ascona). The official language of Locarno is Italian.