

April 2009

## The Journey Home Round Table International Vice President Reports on **Round Table Southern Africa AGM**

Round Table Southern Africa recently held their AGM at a great family resort hotel in Warmbaths or Bela Bela, approximately 2 hours north of Johannesburg.

I had the honour of representing Round Table International during the weekend at the gathering, and what a gathering it was! Some 700 people attended, of which 80 was international guests, including visitors from many of the Round Table Africa region and further afield. It was a fantastic experience, after having spent a year in the UAE, to return to a RT SA AGM and see all the usual suspects, as well as meeting many new and enthusiastic Tablers.

After a great party in the hardcore hut on Thursday evening, with maybe a few liquid refreshments and lots of laughter, the business end of the weekend started with an open Table Chairman training forum on Friday morning. As a new initiative, Tablers partners were also invited to attend, in order to learn and to give input with regards to the supportive role they play in Round Table. The forum was well attended and extremely informative, well done to VP Fabrizio and the RT SA Exec for this well presented and prepared for information session.

Saturday started with the 58<sup>th</sup> AGM, which I had the honour of opening, with many highlights of the Southern Africa Tablers year illuminated in a well structured, informative meeting. Tablers in RT SA has always followed a healthy mix of fellowship, fundraising/community services and travelling/hosting, which was once again evident from the great summary of the years activities by outgoing President Danie van Rensburg. It was really fantastic to see how Round Table in Southern Africa has embraced and implemented the new branding style introduced by RTI a few years ago.



A personal highlight for me, apart from re-connecting with friends throughout the weekend, was the induction of four new members into the great Tabling world of Round Table in Southern Africa (*see photo: **Rikus inducts Eric Moosa from Sandown No 150 at the RT SA AGM***)

Before long, it was Saturday evening, and after a graciously hosted cocktail party, the weekend was brought to a close with a lovely formal dinner and a rip-roaring party until the early hours of Sunday morning.

For those of you who have not attended an AGM weekend in Southern Africa yet, next year will be at another great resort called Hartenbos on the Garden Route, hosted by the South Cape "Buffalo" Area – start booking now! ([www.artsa2010.com](http://www.artsa2010.com)) – you will have the weekend of a lifetime!

On a slightly negative note, reports were received of some International Tablers misbehaving on the pre-AGM tour. The matter has been dealt with and I do not want to dwell on that now, but suffice to say that in past year RTI have received similar complaints about Tablers forgetting they represent this fantastic organization, when they



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travel abroad and have great fun. I'm aware that the harm to our worthy club is done by a few, but it needs the mass to establish or renew the good name and that's a waste of energy. Fellow Tablers, I'm asking you politely to remember that when you are travelling abroad, specifically when you are in the public eye, wearing the Rondel, to behave as a true Tabler and not to do anything that could compromise our good name in the public eye.

My sincere thanks to the Tablers of Round Table Southern Africa for the warm welcoming back to Tabling in Southern Africa, and congratulations to the newly inducted President of RT SA, Fabrizio Altichero – and best wishes for yet another fun Tabling year at the bottom of the great continent Africa!

**Rikus Badenhorst**  
**Round Table International**  
**Vice President**