

## **Past & Present Rotarian Fellowship Club**

( ENGLISH CONVERSATION LUNCHEON CLUB )

BERGERAC , DORDOGNE - FRANCE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Hotel Kyriad Bergerac on Wednesday 8th July 2015

Royston Watkins being one of the formation team who had been communicating with all interested parties, chaired the meeting.

It was stressed that at this moment in time, we are not affiliated with Rotary International . We are not able to call upon their services , use the name " Rotary " in any capacity nor use the Rotary International emblem. Thus the Club is to be known as ;  
Past and Present Rotarians Fellowship Club. ( An English conversation luncheon Club )

The AGENDA took the form of 5 headings:

**REASON. INSPIRATION . APPLICATION . PLAN "B". FUTURE.**

REASON : Was twofold ; During another all male club " ladies luncheon " held twice a year, one lady was heard to say "What a shame we do not meet more often " At that same time, several of the male members , who had past close relationships with Rotary had been discussing the possibility of forming an English Rotary Fellowship Club. there seemed to be a niche for such an idea, with several past International Rotarians living in the area, having holiday homes or visiting the area, not wishing to join a local Club or attend meetings , due to language differences , associated commitments, and evening meetings being some of the reasons. It was agreed that we should look into the possibility of bringing about a Club for any International Rotarians or like minded groups whether they be local French , local ex-pats, those in particular moving into the area and those just visiting.

INSPIRATION : Whilst Royston and Beryl were on holiday in Spain several years ago, they read in a local paper that there was an English Speaking Rotary Fellowship Club near by in Calpe, who invited visiting Rotarians to join them at their luncheon meetings, which they did and still keep in touch with friends from the Club. The inspiration came from their style of activities, which is not the norm, of a Rotary Club.

( Details of the Calle Club and its constitution were given to all those attending the meeting )

Copies are available on request.

APPLICATION : ERIC who has some very close relationship with Chicago and Switzerland Rotary head offices, looked into the possibility of forming a Fellowship Club and obtained the relevant application forms . We fully complied with the listed requirements other than having an active member on the team. We made contact and met with the past, present and future District Governors covering our district 1740 , who we felt we had their support, who directed us to the Bergerac Rotary Club, after several attempts for meetings were made, to no avail. In addition after several telephone calls and e-mails by Eric, Chicago and Switzerland offices Informed us, we did not meet their requirements (although we had met all as listed ) They stated we were just an ex-pat group !!!! If we had wanted to follow that route instead of alliance with Rotary International , we would not have made our approach. So !!! on to;

PLAN " B " : Having already created interest in the local, national and several overseas Rotary Clubs we decided to go it alone with the intention of fulfilling our aims , so we called our Club; " Past and Present Rotarians Fellowship Club " adding that we were an English Conversation Luncheon Club.

Our main approach through free media web sites and word of mouth brought about quite a number of interested persons, some of whom were with us at our inaugural meeting, others giving apologies but looking to join us for our next meeting.

FUTURE: Having covered all the ramifications that took place to bring about such a meeting, we went into discussion and question time.

Whilst the original concept viewed two meetings a month , one on the 2nd and 4th week of each month, it was agreed by all to start off with one per month and having initially taken into consideration days of local Rotary Club meetings, the 2nd Wednesday of each month was agreed. It was also agreed that the main luncheon meeting venue, was to be the Hotel Kyriad (An agreed price with the hotel to be 20 € p.p. Inclusive 3 courses and carafes of wine. )

The official registration of the Club would have to be carried out and it was agreed by all that this should take effect within the next 6 months

The constitution of the Club would be similar to that, as handed out (Calpe Fellowship) to those at the meeting but changes to suit our requirements, as suggestions coming from members.

Fees ????? A suggestion at this point in time of 20€ per person annual membership but left open for further discussion, as too early to forecast. On this subject a question was posed: Would there also be a joining fee. ? No !!

Would the club be involved in charitable work ? Not directly but if any member wanted to offer their personal time to assist other members , then it was their choice. Members having the opportunity to use the Club as a poster board for local information, events etc

Another point put forward was the inclusion of other social events to broaden the interest and active participation.

In conclusion, those attending the meeting were asked to circulate details of the Club and if possible encourage others to attend our next meeting

