

Rotary

Club Marbella-Guadalmina



MINUTES OF THE MEETING, 9 FEBRUARY AT ATALAYA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

ATTENDANCE

Total:	22
Members:	16
Visitors:	2
	Rolf Falkenberg
	Rudy Mortier
Guests:	4
	Peter Walther
	Yottie Dulverton
	Annette de Oliveira
	Caroline von Tuempling Marmot

The Meeting was run by Pretty Past President, Pamela (PPPP) and Past President, Peter (PPP)

Rolf, a regular visitor, delivered our classic Invocation.

SAA Stephen announced the number present, welcomed our guests and invited Rudy to say a few words about himself. Originally from Belgian, he lived in Estonia for 10 years and was a member of Tallinn International Rotary Club. They organise dinner events to raise money and most recently bought 200 laptops for Ukranian children with the proceeds. Other projects support the homeless with clothing and blankets in the winter, and an orphanage. He recently moved to Marbella.

Pamela announced that it was Sabine's birthday, and we raised our glasses in her absence. She reported that the Blossom run was very successful, despite there being little signs of blossoms as were a bit too early. This will now be an annual fellowship event.

Pamela also brought us the sad news of Leif Bank-Jorgensen's untimely death on 20 January. Despite the great effort made by several members to locate him over the last several weeks, we only just got this information. We knew that he had broken an arm late last year. Apparently, he was not able to get out of the bath, and after three days and nights, the police finally broke in and took him to Costa del Sol Hospital.

Born in 1935, Leif was part of the organizing committee for the 1976 Montreal Olympic Games. For 25 years he worked for a large Danish company that eventually merged with

KPMG. He was the author of many publications and a guest professor at several European universities on strategic planning issues. He advised the Government of post-independent Slovenia on how to transition its legal, financial, organisation structure and the human resources framework from a communist planned economy to a Western capitalist economy. He also served as a mentor to a Danish hospital and on the Boards of various companies.

Members were asked to recall their memories of Leif. The consensus was that despite his extremely successful career and knowledge of many subjects, he came across as humble, shy and retiring. He was a kind and charming old school gentleman with a good sense of humour, along with a keen interest in music. He also held a high rank in the Masonic Lodge in Gibraltar. Our reminiscing was followed by a minute's silence and the reading of this poem:

Those we love don't go away,
they walk beside us every day
unseen, unheard, but always near,
still loved, still missed, and
very dear. - *Unknown*

Roshini, Myrjon and Jeanne brought us up to speed on the Great Gatsby evening at Tikitano. A save-the-date poster will be sent out soon. It has been decided to peg the cost of a ticket at €125, based on the assumption that sponsorship may be difficult, and considering the recent price inflation everywhere. Myrjon will approach dental clinics for sponsorship, and Members can help by giving her the names of clinics you think that she should speak to. You can e-mail her at: **myrjonrobelet@hotmail.com**. The events team is also considering a raffle on the night. Roshini has negotiated an excellent price of €65, which includes the dinner and entertainment.

There has been a lot of discussion recently on the WhatsApp group about the recent **earthquake in Turkiye and Syria**. As aid to Syria is off the table due to sanctions, all eyes turned to Turkiye. In disasters like this the first respondents are always governments and large organisations. Our limited resources will be most effective further down the line when small, focused needs on the ground are identified. The best application of these will be to join forces with local Rotary clubs as we have done before, notably in Beirut and Poland. We could also join up with Marbella East as Labeed has contacts in the region.

One possibility mentioned is providing Shelter Boxes, and links for these are on the WhatsApp group.

Some members mentioned that we could make individual contributions. Details of organisations like Doctors of the World or Samaritan's Purse are also mentioned on the WhatsApp group.

Martin asked who is interested in the upcoming visit to Dental Mavericks in Morocco on 7-10 May. As he will be going abroad soon he requires confirmation from interested parties very soon as the price per head will be based on the number of people.

Pamela, Peter and Caroline each read out some random words ditties about Rotary (attached). We were asked to guess who had written each one, and were astonished when told they had all been written by an AI programme!

Stephen mentioned that he would send out the results of the survey on the venue taken after our trial Meeting on 25th January. They are still investigating other venues, but for now the Atalaya Golf & Country Club offers good food, great service, a cosy environment with good acoustics, and ample parking.

Peter was ready to close the meeting one minute early, but officially closed it at 1600 hrs. with our customary toast to Rotary the World, Universe and Multiverse over.

Minutes by Barbara Collins, edited by Ian Kuah