



A.C.H.A.F.R.¹ Newsletter #2 **Fall 2006**

Editorial:

This is the second newsletter of our world fellowship that seems to be wide-awake and kicking 3 years from its resurrection in its present state.

The functioning of our fellowship is not very easy yet as we are still confronted with the distributed nature of our membership, have still not found the perfect solution for keeping in touch with everybody and continue facing difficulties in organizing events that can provide participation for the majority of our international membership.

Therefore we will start experimenting with new formats for events as is lined out in the minutes of our G.A. in Copenhagen that are included at the end of this newsletter.

However, the success of our international Rotary Convention Rally 2006 in Denmark this year, the emergence of a prospective Chapter in Scandinavia and the results of the visit of the chairman and the treasurer to the Rotary convention in Copenhagen have given us confidence that we are moving in the right direction and increasing our world wide visibility.

Time again to ponder our recent past, consider our future and to keep you all informed.

Chairman's corner:

After standing down from the chairmanship of our Dutch Chapter (RRAFVN) last December, your chairman was in a better position to devote more time to our cherished world Fellowship and beef up our contacts with Rotary International and like minded fellowships like the Yachting, Flying and Motorcycling Rotarians.

As a result we had interesting discussions at the RI Convention in Copenhagen about the future of Fellowships within the global Rotary organization, increasing Foundation support for Fellowship charitable projects, widening membership rules and enabling easier access of fellowship members to the House of Friendship.

Of course all these wishes will have to be put into a lucid document that then can be handed out at the Salt Lake city Convention next June and then discussed in the relevant meetings.

Although only 16 teams participated, RCR'06 (Rotary Convention Rally 2006) was a great success, bringing in a sizeable amount for the charitable cause we had selected. (See story further on in this newsletter)

Future events are shaping up as well; there probability that we will even have 2 international events in 2007 is quite promising.

At our G.A. in Copenhagen we had to decide, unfortunately, that the attendance was not high enough to allow an unbiased election of a new board for the fellowship, therefore the present committee will have to stay in charge until the next General Assembly.

Therefore we are – although slightly embarrassed - ready to serve you one more term and continue to help the world Fellowship win growing acclaim as best as we can.

State of the membership:

At this moment we have three operational local automobile fellowships in Europe (Great Britain / Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands) that function to perfection on their own. Two of these have wholeheartedly registered themselves as Chapters of the world fellowship and have made provisions to include a small contribution to the ACHAFR in their dues. Our British friends are still considering the matter. A fourth chapter is in 'statu nascendi' in Scandinavia, centred in Denmark and the future will tell how successful they will be.

As it stands today we have about half a dozen members in Canada, slightly more than a dozen in Australia, about 20 in the USA, 10 in Switzerland tentatively, 3 both in Japan and Denmark, 2 in Germany and one each in India, Belgium and Sweden. To these one should add the 80 members in Holland and Italy, and – we trust – the 100 in the UK and Ireland, adding up to a total of almost 250 ‘fellows’ worldwide.

Of course the challenge is to create and keep a bond between all these individuals all over the world (which is especially difficult in the larger countries like Australia, Canada, India and the USA) and provide adequate added value for the membership fee apart from organizing periodic international events.

Fortunately modern technology can lend a helping hand in this matter as it allows us to keep in touch and exchange ideas over huge distances at minimal cost. One of our focus points is, therefore, our presence on Internet, through our website and other means.

We are at present investigating the use of the facilities of Google Apps for this purpose.

Our website:

Located at www.achafr.org and linked to the Rotary International websites, our website has been on the air since about 2 years now, and elicits reasonable response.

Apart from providing information on our goals, organization structure and our membership, the website is also a showcase for our events and those of our (prospective) chapters.

A video impression of our international ‘Concours de Voitures sans Chevaux 1894-1004’, that collected 2.500 Euros for Rotary’s final push to eradicate Polio and a report on the RRAFUK New Forest Rally generated quite some interest.

By the end of this year a similar video recording of the highlights of RCR’06 will also be available for download on our site.

The site also announces coming and new events within the realm of our fellowship.

We are still working hard to get a forum and other means of direct contact between our members all over the world on the air. As indicated above the advent of Google Apps might speed up this task.

Looking back on Copenhagen and RCR’06:



As you can derive from the picture that was taken upon our arrival at the RI Convention Centre in Copenhagen, the finish of the RCR’06 rally, the event was blessed with excellent weather, blue skies, an exceptional atmosphere of fellowship and camaraderie and an absolute lack of mechanical mishaps.

The rally took us, in three easy day long stages, from Esbjerg on the west coast of Jutland via Kolding on its east coast, Odense (the city of Hans Christian Andersen) on the island of Fyn, Roskilde (with its famous cathedral and Viking museum) to the Bella convention Centre (where the RI convention was held) near Copenhagen. The final dinner and prize giving ceremony was held in one of the oldest buildings on the harbour of Denmark’s capital.

The route took us through many of the most beautiful areas of Denmark's charming landscape, which even some of our Danish participants saw for the first time.

Everybody agreed that lodging; food and fellowship were above par.

The 16 participating teams came from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands and the USA.

The organizers are very indebted for the success of the Rally to the members of the Rotary Club of Esbjerg and the local organization committee of the Rotary Convention. Without them this venture would have become extremely difficult. Our very special thanks go to Claus Danielsen (Esbjerg) and Per Dubienko (Copenhagen) who have become our heroes and saviours in difficult times, forever.

As to the charitable goal of the event, assistance in the establishment of a lasting orphanage / professional training centre for tsunami victims in Aceh: the rally brought in 2.500 Euro (3.000+ US\$), the project will be supported by Rotary Clubs in the Netherlands and Indonesia and come to fruition by the end of next year.

After the Rally the well-known (and by now: experienced) couple of elderly 'naughty boys', chairman Maurice Elzas and treasurer Jan den Hartog, have manned the world Fellowship booth at the Copenhagen Rotary Convention and attended all meetings where the voice of the Fellowship had to be heard.

The Convention itself was exceptional in the sense that it really fostered a free exchange of ideas and was much less loaded with pomp and circumstance than previous similar meetings that these old boys have attended. Refreshing and very worth while.

It was a pity that, because of either other engagements or the high cost of participation, only very few of the Rally participants were able to attend the Convention. Rotary and ourselves should find a way to remediate this in the future!

Most rewarding experience: to be able to meet and talk to countless Rotarians from all over the world, often wearing the most wonderful original attires, like if one had known each other for years and were the best of friends.

Strangest experience: the friendly Rotarian from a developing country that wanted to become a member of our fellowship, but did not have an appropriate car. He stated that his father had an old car, and asked if he could become a member using his fathers' car. We agreed, on the condition that he would present his father with a new car.

Continuing success story: the great interest in the world Fellowship. A dozen members registered and paid in situ. Many from the States but for example, also two from Sweden and France.

Other Past Events:

Apart from RCR'06 two, also very successful, events stand out when looking back on the year that soon will be ending.

In the first place the New Forest Car Run that took place in May at Hoburn Park, near Southampton that attracted international participation from France and the Netherlands and collected a considerable sum for a local charity.

In the second place the Sixth Rotary on Wheels event on September 17th, that doubled as the RRAFV autumn rally and was held near Wageningen (east Netherlands), was a big success, with 70 participants from all over Holland and Belgium and yielding 7.000 Euros for a local charity. (For pictures of the participating cars see www.rraf.nl)

All these events clearly proved the value of fellowship and Rotary ideals for the participants and all charities involved.

Future ACHAFR Events:

Inspired by the success of RCR'06 and the positive contacts that we had at the Convention in Copenhagen and with our membership since then, we are considering two, almost simultaneous, events in the summer of 2007.

The **first** one will be in **Europe**, starting June 12 and tour the country of Luxemburg.

This will be a five-day rally tour (June 12 to June 16), covering about 60 km each day, except the 3rd, which will be a day of rest and sight seeing in the town of Luxemburg. The other days will be spent driving through the typical hilly countryside in the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western parts of the country. Participation is expected from British, French, Dutch and Belgian teams. (Contact: Jos Groen at jgroen@vbk.nl)

Second opportunity (USA): one of our members in Englewood, Colorado, USA has volunteered to organize a tour leading to the Salt Lake Convention (June 18 to June 20) this summer. This will be a three-day event in principle and its taking place

depends on the assurance of sufficient participation and assistance with the organization. (Contact: Peter Hughes at peter.hughes@ch2m.com)

To stay informed please keep an eye on our website where more details on both events and entry forms will be available soon at the EVENTS page on www.achafr.org.

As many of you already know, Rotary International British Isles (RIBI) runs its own annual conference. Our Chapter there: the UK Rotary Retro Automobile Fellowship will be holding its first Fellowship Tour for Vintage, Classic and other post 1981 interesting cars between **April 11/13,2007**. The event will start south of Birmingham and finish at the RIBI Conference Centre in Bournemouth. The scenic route will travel through the Cotswolds, Vale of Evesham and Malvern Hills before heading south via Bath to the Somerset Levels and the Hardy Country of Dorset.

It is expected that the specified route will be approximately 125 miles per day leaving adequate time to explore the local scenery en route and enjoy warm Rotary Fellowship at a comfortable 3* Country Hotel in the evening. (Contact: Colin Weeks at rotarytour@hotmail.co.uk)

Goodies:

The following are still available:

- ⇒ ACHAFR poloshirts (two sizes in white and green)
- ⇒ RcR'06 carbadges (only a few left!)
- ⇒ ACHAFR banners

And by December : ACHAFR car badges

Interested? Contact Jan den Hartog at: jgdenhartog@planet.nl , Fax: + 31 (0)84-7396837, mail address: Rijksstraatweg 144, 3223 KC Hellevoetsluis, the Netherlands.

Latest news on membership fees:

Many new members are making use of the new possibility of **life membership** to avoid hassle and forgetfulness. The dues for this form of membership have been established at **150 Euros** (or 200 USD).

If you are a member of a local (national) chapter of ACHAFR the dues are 10 Euros (12 USD) per year that are paid directly by you chapter to the ACHAFR treasury and – in general – have been included in the membership fee of your Chapter, as agreed in the Rouen AGM in 2004.

The membership fee for all others has been set to 50 Euros (60 USD) per year at the same AGM.

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR 2006 DUES YET, PLEASE DO SO AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE BY TRANSFER TO:

Bank account N° 32.95.49.316 of THE TREASURER OF THE ACHAFR. C/O J.G. DEN HARTOG-ROTARY-ACHAFR at the RABOBANK in HELLEVOETSLUIS, the Netherlands [SWIFT NUMBER / BIC CODE of the Bank RABONL2U, IBAN (International Bank Account Number) NL32RABO0329549316] MENTIONING YOUR NAME and the intended year of membership.

Minutes of the General Assembly of the Antique, Classic & Historic Automobile world Fellowship of Rotarians.

Date: June 10th 2006
Location: Rotary Convention, Bella Centre, Copenhagen
Chairman: Maurice Elzas
Members: Borge Bisgaard
Rob de Goeij
John Hamminga
Jan den Hartog
Jaap Stok
Roger White
Minutes: Ronald Hagestein

1. Opening of the assembly

Maurice, as Chairman of the ACHAFR, opens the assembly.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda of this meeting is approved with addition of the point: The organisation of future events by the ACHAFR, brought in by John Hamminga.

3. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous assembly

As there were no comments on the minutes of the last assembly, the minutes are approved and confirmed.

4. Announcements by the president

- a. Jan den Hartog and Maurice Elzas have been to the Chicago Convention, which has yielded about 10 new members. In Chicago they got the idea of organising the Rotary Convention Rally we just finished in Copenhagen. The conclusion of this event is, that we're making progress, but the increase of members goes slowly.
- b. Worldwide the ACHAFR has received positive reactions from the United States, especially during and in the aftermath of the Convention in Chicago. In Belgium the situation is steady: interest but no action. Germany shows a little progression. In Switzerland the fellowship is disappearing because the driving man (chairman and secretary) is alone and of higher age. In France everything goes very slowly, despite the Rally there in 2004 when suggestions were made for speeding things up in this area. The Italians have developed a new website.
- c. A continuing worry is to get Chapters in the air in other countries and it seems to be very hard to find a chairman in each country.

John asks if it is necessary to have a Chapter in every country. He is of the opinion that we must be wary of spending too much time in setting up new Chapters to the detriment of organising events.

Maurice answers that the members of different countries want to have a Chapter to provide local contacts and activities while being sure of keeping in contact with the International Fellowship.

Roger explains that in the United Kingdom the problem (the rather insular attitude) is not just so in the case of the fellowship, but more general as an attitude towards Rotary International on its own. That is why RIBI (Rotary International Britain and Ireland) was set up years ago. On the other hand the chapter in the U.K. is the biggest in the world (90 members). The Netherlands has about 50 members. In the Netherlands we're trying to increase membership mainly by organising more events.

5. Financial statement

Jan den Hartog reports on the sources of income of the ACHAFR. From the Dutch chapter the income is 53 members * € 10, - is € 530, -. For the other chapters the question is, which arrangements were agreed on with the members, how the contribution is arranged (10 Euro/year as member of a Chapter or 50 Euro/year directly as member of ACHAFR) and which amounts have been approved locally. Jan will ask the secretary, Hans van Dam, for the membership lists of the chapters and the individual ACHAFR members with addresses to send invoices, so he can complete the overview of the financial statements to show everyone what ACHAFR financial prospects are. The last figures show an amount of € 2.000, - on the bank account of the Fellowship. For comparison: the Dutch chapter has about € 4.500, - on its own.

Proposal is to collect the separate payment from all individual international members of ACHAFR. In the Netherlands and Italy the membership, and therefore, the contribution for the ACHAFR is automatically arranged with the membership and contribution of the chapter, comparable with the arrangement for the contribution of a Rotary Club and the membership of Rotary International.

Since last ACHAFR General Assembly in Rouen (September 2004) a lifetime membership has been created for an amount of € 150, -. The response of prospective members is positive.

The Chapters were asked to send the membership lists to Jan den Hartog. Sadly RRAF UK could not comply with this request and the Italian list is still pending.

Borge is asked for a list of members of the future Danish chapter

6. Constitution / Bylaws

In September 2004 the decision was made to appoint a Bylaws committee that would generate a proposal for a constitution for the ACHAFR. The original thought was a committee with a British chairman, an Italian member and a Dutch member. Until this moment, there were no candidates for the British role.

The discussion leads to the interim conclusion that, for lack of British Chairmanship of the Committee the Dutch might consider to take the initiative themselves.

Roger volunteers to be active on this committee from his residence in the Virgin Islands.

This is not seen as a problem because most of the discussions and proposals can be handled by e-mail.

The Assembly reacts with enthusiasm and the chairman asks Roger to become Chairman of the Bylaws Committee. Roger accepts.

The Chairman will inform the other members (Lawrie Smith on behalf of RRAF UK, Emanuela Calvino on behalf of ACHAFR Italy and Jos Groen on behalf of RRAF NL) of the new situation and request their intensive cooperation.

7. Additional point to the agenda: Membership

During the discussion about the contribution (point 5 of the agenda) a new point of agenda comes out. The question is: must a member of the ACHAFR absolutely be a Rotarian, or is it possible to allow non-Rotarians to become members or participate in rallies.

The suggestion is made by the Board (Maurice and Jan) to introduce an associate membership for non-Rotarian.

The majority of the assembly is not in favour of an associate membership and of the opinion that a Rotary Fellowship is for Rotarians only, but that a person who is not a Rotarian can participate in the events of ACHAFR by invitation. On the other hand non-Rotarians can naturally give a donation to our Fellowship. Donators can be invited to join activities and will be informed about the events. The suggestion is made to the Board to establish a minimum amount for donations to be entitled to these privileges.

Another point of interest is the question what if a member of the ACHAFR leaves Rotary? This point even holds if the person joins a past-Rotarian club. What must be included about this in our constitution? The Board and the assembly will wait for advice on this matter from the Bylaws Committee and recommends the committee to look at what other fellowships have included in their constitution for such cases.²

8. Danish Chapter

Hans Geschwendtner and Per Dubienko will be asked to create a Danish Chapter and to decide bilaterally who will be its chairman. While Borge Bisgard is the only Dane present, a decision can't be taken now. Borge is asked to speak with both Hans and Per to figure out how and when to start the Chapter and who will be the chairman.

9. Organisation of future events

During the last GA at the rally Paris<->Rouen in France, the basic agreement was to organise at least one rally every two years. The next convention in 2007 will be in Salt Lake City.

The local organising committee has asked the ACHAFR to organise an event.

The problem is that there are no members of ACXHAFR in Salt Lake City and there is only one in Denver. The answer given back to Rotary International was: we will if Rotarians in the neighbourhood of Salt Lake City or other U.S. members are willing to do the work there.

The assembly stated that it is not necessary to combine a rally with the convention.

Most participants to the rally did not visit the convention this time.

Almost 70% of the participants were Dutch (11 of the 16 teams) instead of the truly international mix the Board was hoping for.

It is difficult to organise an event in the U.S., with participation of e.g. Europeans; the transportation of the cars is an extremely expensive additional point.

The suggestion is made to start in foreign countries to end up at an event in the Netherlands. The event can then take place in the Netherlands, where manpower and expertise are available for such a venture.

The Assembly states that this is worth trying.

Everyone agrees that trying this does not mean that we abandon the other idea.

Basic rule for all the events is that they must be low budget.

Roger: once in two years is too little; every year is better. He also stated: why not concentrate in Holland.

Ronald: if the chapters from the different counties organise a rally to a specific central meeting point. This might possibly become an expensive event.

Borge: More publicity for the events like today should be made by Rotary International.

Rob: Organise only to a place with is available to drive to by car.

In all cases it is important to use local expertise.

John: proposes to organise events in such a way that no long distance transportation of cars is needed. He proposes an arrangement by which the local (ACHAFR related) Rotarians use their Classic or Antique cars to assist the fellowship by forming teams in which they are the drivers and the foreign fellowship members / participants act as their navigators during such an event. In this way no transportation of vehicles is needed, fellowship is maximised by teaming up Rotarians from different countries and greater flexibility is possible as to locations.

The Assembly reacts positively to this innovative idea and the Board proposes to investigate if it can be tried out in Salt Lake City.

10. Other matters

None

11. Closing of the assembly

With nothing else on the Agenda Maurice thanks the members that are present for their positive participation and closes the General Assembly.

Minutes: Ronald Hagestein

Copenhagen, June 10th 2006

Best season's wishes and see you in Luxemburg or Salt Lake City in June!

² At the General Assembly of the joint Fellowships at the Copenhagen convention it has transpired that quite a number of fellowships (e.g. Yachting, Flying, Scouting, Golf and Motorcycling) are seriously debating this issue and some of them have included special provisions in their constitution.