

ASSOCIATION OF 41 CLUB NEW ZEALAND
PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2006

In reviewing the year as President, personally it has been a year that has run hot and cold. Because the position has a relatively low profile within our organization the duties are certainly not onerous, and apart from dealing with correspondence and ensuring the arrangements for the next convention are on track, there is not a huge responsibility for the incumbent.

However, taking a lead from the International body I believe we need to have regular structured executive meetings with a half yearly meeting of the executive arranged around a weekend involving a 41 Club activity. This weekend could be held after the half yearly meeting of the International body so that items from that meeting could be discussed.

Having just returned from attending the A.G.M. and convention of 41 International held in Dortmund, Germany over the weekend of 20th May, my impressions are that we are part of a growing and enthusiastic organisation which is thriving and exploring ways of supporting Round Table throughout the world. Round Table in Great Britain and Ireland is reaping the rewards of this support with a net gain of 1100 members over the past year. This forging of a partnership between Round Table and 41 Club has many advantages for both bodies particularly in membership.

Many associations at the A.G.M. reported the chartering of new 41 Clubs throughout their organizations. In fact, I believe there have been eight new Old Table clubs chartered in Germany over the past year. There was also considerable debate over the question of allowing non ex tablers to join 41 Club. The consensus among all associations except France was emphatically against any relaxation of the rule that only ex tablers are eligible to join. The only concession came from Great Britain and Ireland where they have the criteria of an honorary member for one year who may not be an ex tabler.

All this is tangible evidence that 41 Clubs internationally are thriving and here in New Zealand we need to take inspiration from this activity and look to rekindle the enthusiasm throughout the country for 41 Club, and ultimately to stimulate a resurgence in tables and membership of Round Table New Zealand.

We are fortunate to have with us for the next two weeks and particularly at this conference, Dr Uwe Kerstan, President of 41 International. Uwe is very highly regarded throughout the 41 Club world and has twice served as President of Old Table Germany, which has a membership of around 4000. Also at this conference we have as our guest, Robert Stack, President of Round Table New Zealand, and Bernard and Ulrike Bein very old friends of ours from WOCO days, all the way from Champagne in France. I wish to welcome all four and thank you for making the effort to join us.

My thanks on your behalf to Jeff Horne, Secretary/Treasurer, for the huge effort he has put into the position this year. An area of our administration that causes a few headaches is the transition between executives from one year to the next, meaning that it can be several months before the new executive can really feel that they can get on with it. Jeff has produced the new directory and spent countless hours chasing up subscriptions and membership lists from our clubs. He has expressed frustration at the apathy he has received from some clubs and we need to turn that apathy around if we are to fulfill the potential that I believe we can achieve, as a vibrant organization upholding the ideals of 41 Club and indeed Round Table.

Also on your behalf I wish to wholeheartedly thank the Christchurch 41 Club and members of the Convention Committee which was enthusiastically led by Keiren Kortegast, and ably assisted by Ralph Lloyd and the rest of the team. I am confident that you will all enjoy a memorable weekend in the garden city of Christchurch.

Thanks for the opportunity of being your President, Jan and I had a very enjoyable time in Dortmund representing you at the A.G.M. and I take this opportunity of wishing my successor, Les Mockford and Lyn all the best for the coming year.

GRAEME BICKLEY
PRESIDENT