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The Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs of  
Great Britain and Ireland

# 41 Club

## INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

A proud member of the  
Round Table Family



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# Trip Report - Bergen International AGM pre-Tour

by Colin McKenzie, National Councillor Region 1, Scotland North

Having only ever visited Norway on business trips. I decided to go on the 41 Club International AGM pre tour, as I had never had the chance to truly see the country. I landed in a very wet Bergen after a short flight from a very sunny Scotland! Straight through the quiet airport, onto a bus and then into Bergen to begin my week long visit to Norway. Initial impressions were, it was wet, very wet (and this is coming from a Scotsman!), however there is no denying the beauty of Bergen and the surrounding area, even in the rain!

The first night of the pre tour was spent in Bergen (in the Radisson Blu). There were just over 60 of us booked on the pre tour, from all over the world! Following a meet and greet introduction from our Norwegian hosts, Bjorn and Johannes (and their respective wives Rita & Borghild), we spent the evening in small groups spread throughout some of Bergen's fantastic restaurants.

An early start on Tuesday morning had the group walking through Bergen to the main train station. We boarded a very modern train and headed 2 hours North, to the mountain rail station of Myrdal, here we departed the train and headed to the one and only café to await the next train to our final destination of Flåm. The weather improved as we headed down the mountain to Flåm, where we were greeted with some amazing views of the fjords. Everyone checked into the Flåmsbrygga Hotel then we were bussed off to the view point of Stegastein, on a road which I can only describe like being in the Italian Job! The views were spectacular, aided by an awesome viewing platform! We headed back to Flåm for an evening of beer tasting provided by the owners of the micro brewery and pub attached to the hotel we were staying in! Everyone was given a sample of 5 beers along with a detailed description of each, followed by a 5 course meal (all on one platter), each course was matched to one of the beers. The night ended up in the "Aegir" Brewpub next to the hotel, which resembled the inside of a Viking hall, complete with wooden thrones and animal skin rugs!





# Trip Report - Bergen International AGM pre-Tour cont/...

by Colin McKenzie, National Councillor Region 1, Scotland North

Wednesday morning saw the weather improve, with blue sky gaps emerging in the sky. We headed to the local harbour and boarded an "all electric" tourist catamaran to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Gudvangen. The 2 hour journey through Sognefjord was something to behold, the water in the fjords was so still, and sailing on a nearly silent vessel made the experience all the more memorable. We were met with stunning views around every corner, of vertical rock faces, and high waterfalls that pored endlessly, truly sublime. Once back in Flåm we had a couple of hours to kill before boarding a ferry (another catamaran) to Balestrand.

On arrival at Balestrand we checked into the hotel for our stay that evening, the picturesque "Kviknes Hotel", it looked as though it would have been more at home in a swiss valley, especially with the snow capped mountains towering majestically behind it! The original hotel dates back to 1752, however it has gone through some updates and expansions since the Kvikne family, which owns the hotel today, took over in 1877. We were given a historic overview of the hotel by Gard and his mother, whose family own a local Cider mill (The Cider House). Both were very knowledgeable about the local area and gave us a walking tour of the village of Balestrand. During the walk we were taken to St. Olaf's Church. Built in 1897 by the Anglican Church, it looked like something out of a fairy tale story book, in fact it was notable as the inspiration for the chapel in Elsa's coronation scene in the 2013 Disney film Frozen, and you can see why. We continued our walk through the town finally ending up at Gard's family run cider house, the location of our evening dinner and cider tasting! Gard's father (a passionate cider maker) started the evening with a cider tasting which was followed by a delicious meal, made by the family.

There were a few sore heads on Thursday morning, however no time for that! The next item on the pre tour agenda was Rib Boat Safaris! We were split into 2 groups, each group then divided onto 3 high speed Rib Boats. We were all kitted out with warm oilskin suits, given a quick safety brief, then off! It was an exhilarating experience, the boats raced through the fjords and took us to various points of interest, finally racing back to the jetty near the hotel. Once all had returned from their rib experience everyone met for a final lunch, where we had time to relax and take in the views in and around the hotel.

The final part of the pre tour was a 4 hour catamaran (Express boat) journey back to Bergen. This topped of an amazing 41 Club experience. I will cherish the memories of my 4 days in Norway, along with all the awesome people who were there with me.

I would like to thank the Bergen AGM team, especially Bjorn, Johannes, Rita & Borghild for the brilliantly organised pre tour and subsequent AGM weekend!

*Colin*





# 41 INTERNATIONAL AGM - Bergen

by Andy Ventress, National I.R.O.

Having been on the pre tour we arrived back in Bergen on Thursday Night where we were able to join many friends and make new friends at the Welcome party in one of the local bars as well as catch up with the many from GB&I that had made the trip out to Bergen for the weekend of meetings and activities.

On Friday the day started by manning the stall advertising the International AGM in Stratford upon Avon which we had placed by registration. I was also able to go and represent GB&I at the Norwegian AGM that was held in the hotel, again taking our greetings and best wishes for a successful meeting.

In the evening all the members from GB&I attended the nations night party with many of us wearing t-shirts advertising the International Meeting in Stratford upon Avon.

On Saturday the International AGM was held in the hotel and President Jim and myself were the delegates for GB&I. The meeting started at 9.00am with the usual roll call and formalities before we had addresses by presidents from the Round Table family (RTI, LCI, TCI and ACI). This was followed by the International Board reports and other reports on the Young Ambassadors Program, Germany gave a presentation about the aid provided to Ukraine. After the coffee break we had a vote to accept Kenya as a member of 41 International, this was passed unanimously, the budget for the next year was voted on as well as the recommendation to take the proposal for rule changes to the next AGM.

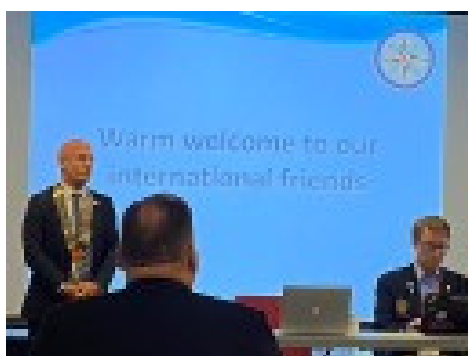
There were then two applications to hold the HYM in 2024. These were from Iceland and Switzerland and after two excellent presentations there was a vote. Congratulations go to Switzerland who will hold the HYM in 2024 in Berne 18th - 20th October 2024.

Each member nation then gave a report, after which there was a presentation by Povl about the next HYM in Odense Denmark, 8th - 11th September 2022, there will also be two pre-tours available, more information at [www.HYM2022.dk](http://www.HYM2022.dk). This was followed by our Vice president Steve and myself giving a presentation on the AGM in Stratford upon Avon 11th - 14th May 2023 with a pre-tour. There was a further presentation about the HYM in 2023 which will be held 12th - 15th October in Paphos Cyprus.

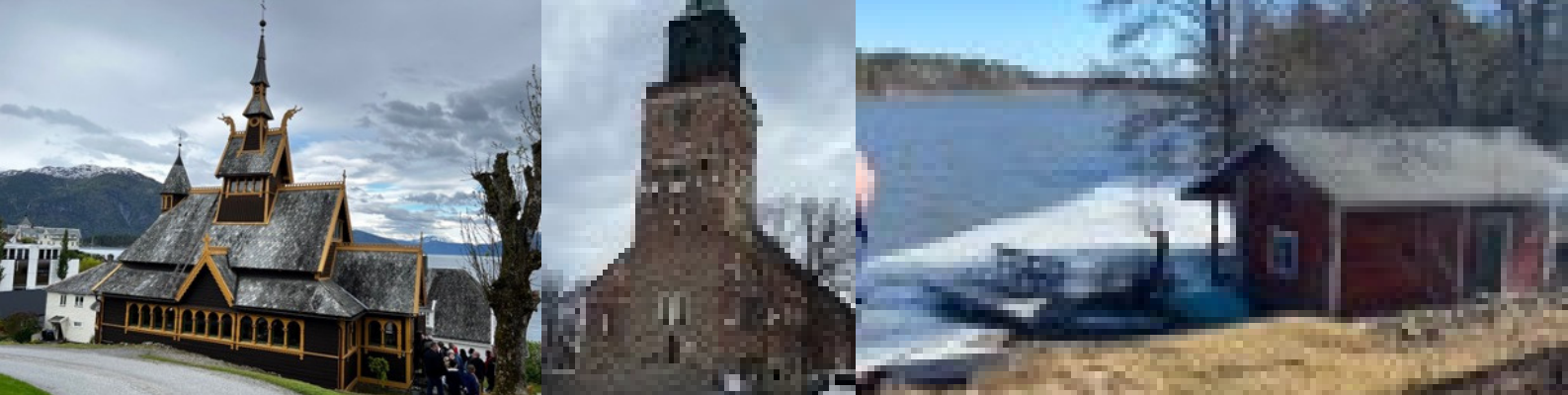
Finally, president Lucca gave a report on his year as International President before the Incoming president Tom gave a report about his program for the coming year and his theme "Make New Memories" plus information about his charity to help school children in Sri Lanka. The meeting ended in time for lunch and then a relaxing afternoon in the Bergen sun with a pint or two.

On Saturday evening the gala dinner was held after the banner exchange in the hotel. On Sunday people began their journeys home.

*Andy*







## IRO Travels

I have finally been able to travel to several AGMs to represent GB&I.

At the end of April I was able to represent the association at the Finnish AGM in Turku. We travelled on Thursday, meeting up with Esa in Amsterdam on our way to Helsinki. In Helsinki we were picked up by Nina, past TCI president and enjoyed a drive to Turku with Nina and Pontus from Norway. On Friday the International guests were taken to Petri's summer house where we enjoyed a smoke sauna and the hot tub, we all resisted the temptation to have a dip in the still partially ice-covered lake, before having a traditional lunch of smoked salmon, potatoes and salad. In the evening we attended the Stevedores welcome party at the Turku docks. After attending the AGM and taking our greetings to the members we enjoyed a walk around Turku with several stops for a drink. The Gala dinner was held in the Turku City Hall, just a short walk from our hotel. Following breakfast on Sunday we said our goodbyes at the farewell drink on one of the local bridges and made our way back to Helsinki for our flight to Birmingham via Amsterdam. During this weekend I had many discussions with board members from other associations to clarify our recently passed resolution on invited membership.

In May I went to Iceland's AGM, we travelled to Manchester to get a direct flight to Reykjavik. We were picked up by Jon, National Vice President from Keflavik airport and driven to our hotel in Reykjavik. On Friday we attended a house party. I attended the AGM on Saturday morning and took GB&I greetings. Once the main business started in Icelandic the International guests, Gail, myself and Edwin from Belgium were taken on a tour of Reykjavik and the surrounding area by Georg. In the evening, we attended the gala dinner in the same venue as the AGM. There were several home-spun entertainers, most notably the International Past President Luc with his jokes!!

During the weekend I was able to have many discussions with Edwin about the 41 Club initiative to help find members for their Round Tables. I have passed on these ideas to Jim and Peter.

We had decided to stay an extra night, a 08.00 flight after a gala dinner finish at 01.00 and leave for the airport at 05.00 did not appeal. So on Sunday we had a walk around downtown Reykjavik in the morning before catching a bus to The Blue Lagoon for 2/3 hours in the lagoon and then taking a taxi to stay at the airport hotel to catch our flight at 08.00. On the following weekend I visited the Italian AGM in Portese, Lake Garda. After an early wake up and flight to Verona I was picked up by Luca, International President and driven to the hotel. On Friday night we were able to have an outside party at a local Pizzeria. On Saturday I went to the start of the AGM before joining the trip put on for all non-delegates and international visitors to Il Vittoriale degli Italiani. The gala dinner was held in a winery, so we had a tour around the winery before the dinner and the banner exchange.

Unfortunately I had to cancel my visit to The Netherlands due to testing positive for Covid, this also meant that I had to cancel a pre-tour of The Netherlands.



# IRO Travels continued....

After a couple of weeks break in early June I have been to Austria and Morocco. The Austrian AGM was in Feldbach, a very beautiful area of the country. We flew out on the Friday and were joined by Barry Durman & Jason Thomson. On Friday evening we had a great party in a local bar meeting up with friends old and new. On Saturday we attended the AGM and after hearing International Vice President Barry talk on behalf of Tom, the international guests and non delegates were taken by tractor and trailer into the hills to be joined by the Austrian members for lunch. Following a coach journey back to Feldbach we had the banner exchange and gala dinner on a very warm evening. After a farewell brunch I was fortunate to be taken by Harry, immediate past president to a local castle and was invited to take part in a falconry display, an experience not to be forgotten. Unfortunately cancelled flights meant that we did not arrive home until Monday lunch time, having planned to arrive back on Sunday evening.

The following weekend was Morocco, we flew out on Thursday arriving late in the evening. On Friday we had a tour of Casablanca, including a visit to the Habous quarter and The Hassan II Mosque, the second largest in Africa, followed by a traditional lunch of couscous. In the evening we had a small welcome party in a restaurant with traditional entertainment. On Saturday I attended the AGM and took greetings from GB&I for a good and successful meeting. I was also asked and gave advice about the progress we have made towards putting on the International AGM in 2023, they were just beginning to start the process of organising the AGM in 2024. The gala dinner in the evening was held at one of the members homes in the garden, a very nice change, with a disco as the entertainment. I hope the neighbours did not complain. On Sunday Gail and myself went with Achim & Meike from Germany and had lunch with Abderrahmane & his wife Assia at a restaurant on the beach. The journey back was again eventful as our flight left Casablanca late and after a sprint through Charles de Gaulle airport we just managed to catch our flight to Birmingham, unfortunately our luggage did not make it across the airport in time. Over the weekend I had several discussions about 41 Club and the service that they often provide in other countries.

*Andy*

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## Ukraine Appeal Pin Badges

**We are selling a special edition pin with all the profits going to our Ukraine Appeal. Cost £5.00**

**There are 3 ways to get your pin.**

- 1. Buy a pin from your National Councillor.**
- 2. As a club buy 10 pins from Paul Sankey at National Sales, p&p will be added.**
- 3. For larger orders please contact Andy Ventress by emailing [international@41club.org](mailto:international@41club.org) to make the necessary arrangements. Pins will then be despatched when payment has been received**



# AID CONVOY FOR UKRAINE

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## **Young Ambassador Program**

**IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18 AND 25, FROM A TABLER/41CLUB FAMILY, HUNGRY TO LEARN AND GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD AROUND YOU, THEN YAP OFFERS YOU THE CHANCE TO TRAVEL AND MEET OTHER TABLERS/41CLUBS AND THEIR FAMILIES. FIND OUT HOW OTHER PEOPLE LIVE THEIR LIVES. WHICHEVER TOUR YOU CHOOSE, LEARN ABOUT YOUR HOST'S CUSTOMS, THEIR CULTURE, EXPERIENCE THEIR FOOD AND HOW THEY GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES - BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY MAKE NEW FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD.**



# 41 INTERNATIONAL Photography Competition

**Announcing the launch of the first 41 INTERNATIONAL photographic competition. The competition is open to members of the 28 national associations and entries can be made until the 14th August. Entries can be made using the link below.**

Members will then be given two weeks to vote online for their favourites. The 12 leading photographs will then be printed and displayed at the HYM in Odense where the delegates will select the top three. All photographs will be displayed anonymously.

## **RULES:**

- All entrants must be members of a recognised National Association.
- The photographs must have been taken by the member entering them.
- Entries are limited to two per entrant.
- No heavy editing is allowed, but adjusting the light level is OK..
- By entering the competition, entrants agree that photos submitted can be used by 41 INTERNATIONAL for promotional or charitable purposes.
- Submissions will not be accepted after the closing date of **14th August 2022**

**To enter go to [www.41international.net](http://www.41international.net)**

## **International HYM in Odense 8th-11th Sept 2022 (Pre-Tours 4-8th)**

### **Pretour**

We have arranged not one but two pretours, starting in Copenhagen or Billund.

Both tours will be a unique combination of "ordinary" tourist experiences and unique company visits.

As an example we will on the tour of Billund visit the Lego factory and in Copenhagen, we will visit and have an exclusive tour of the Danish parliament with a politician as a guide. You will meet quite a number of Danish Tangents and Ex-Tablers clubs in the evening, as we will visit different clubs on our way.

We start up the pretours in Copenhagen and Billund on Sunday 4th September and end in Odense Thursday 8th of September.

**There is a limited number of places.**



### **HYM 2022**

It is with great pleasure that our 2 presidents, Mette Lindekilde and Tom Albrigtsen, Tangent Denmark, and Ex-Table Denmark can welcome you to HYM2022 in Odense Denmark to a real Side by Side meeting. It has been great to meet a lot of you at many meetings around the world and to learn from your experiences from planning your events. We have taken all the best from all of them and are now offering you a great International HYM in Odense.

Furthermore, I would also like to thank and respect Odense Municipality and Mayor Peter Rahbæk Juel for the goodwill and interest they have shown.

We have used HYM2022 to advertise for International Tabling in Denmark and have involved many of our members in the work – with homeparties and the pretours.

That is why you can look forward to meet a lot of Danes at the HYM2022.

Rejoice – everyone is ready to give you a unique experience ...

More details available at [www.hym2022.dk](http://www.hym2022.dk)

**Registration now open!**



# International HYM Odense



**8 -11 September 2022- 41 International HYM - Odense, Denmark**

**2 Pretours to choose from both starting on 5th September, one from Copenhagen and one from Billund**

**More details available at [www.hym2022.dk](http://www.hym2022.dk)**

**Registration open now!**

## International Dates Update

**Below are all the International dates and information on each event that I know at this time. All this information will be posted on our website [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org) in the events calendar & updated when necessary. There may be more information available on the International Website [www.41international.net](http://www.41international.net)**

**26 - 28 August Zambia AGM, Livingstone, More information: [namakandalfred@gmail.com](mailto:namakandalfred@gmail.com)**

**2 - 4 September South Africa AGM, Cape Town, [www.41ers.co.za](http://www.41ers.co.za)**

**17 - 19 September India AGM, Cruise**

**24 September RTI WM 2022, Copenhagen Denmark**

**29 September - 1 October Romania AGM, Craiova (dates changed).  
Registration: [bctranscomn@yahoo.com](mailto:bctranscomn@yahoo.com)**

**7 - 9 October Cyprus AGM, Paphos**

**7 - 9 October Belgium AGM, Liege**

**21 - 23 October Switzerland AGM, Sarnen, [www.club41suisse.ch/agm](http://www.club41suisse.ch/agm)**

**2 November Malta AGM, Valletta**

**3 - 6 November European Capitals Meeting, ECM. Valletta, Malta  
Enquires and Registration for both events: [ecm2022malta@gmail.com](mailto:ecm2022malta@gmail.com)**

**12 November Chestnut Festival, Tirol Meran**

**For dates in 2023 and 2024 please go to the International Website  
[www.41international.net](http://www.41international.net)**



# Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery - even if it does leave the readers confused!

41 INTERNATIONAL has recently rebranded its Communique Newsletter and its Hinges magazine to 41 INTERNATIONAL News (see below) and 41 INTERNATIONAL Times. Both are available by links on the 41club.org website. We appreciate the new names cause some confusion but this newsletter you are reading is the 41 Club International Newsletter - 41 Club is the name of the Association of Ex-Round Tablers, which is Britain and Ireland (often abbreviated internationally as 41 Club GB&I).

41 INTERNATIONAL, the international body, has its own publications, and it is these which have been rebranded similar to our names - imitation is the sincerest form of flattery! We regret any confusion which might arise. but better you read of things twice than not at all! To be sure, to be sure.

*Don*

Don Mullane, National Comms & I.T. Officer

## 41 INTERNATIONAL Times

You will find links to all the 41 INTERNATIONAL publications on [www.41club.org](http://www.41club.org) including **"41 INTERNATIONAL Times"**, an online magazine for all members of 41 INTERNATIONAL. The Times aims to cover a wide range of subjects not only about 41 Club but about the whole Round Table Family plus articles about the world at large. In this edition you can not only read about the recent AGM and the new Presidents, but also the aid being given to the Ukraine, read part 1 of Bob Parton's history of 41 INTERNATIONAL and even a voyage along the Panama Canal, plus many more features.

## 41 INTERNATIONAL News is available now

The July 41 INTERNATIONAL News brings more news the latest news about 41 Club worldwide, with special articles on the Convoys to Ukraine, the YAP tour of Central Europe, the new e-Club, Club 41 Kenya our latest member, the latest Special Interest Groups and much more.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition then please send your item to [communication-manager@41international.net](mailto:communication-manager@41international.net)

