

AGORA CLUB INTERNATIONAL

REPORT OF THE 13th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN BRUGES

OCTOBER 2 – 4 2009

It was bound to be a historical meeting.
The stars were in our favour: lovely weather and what a great turnout!

Friday afternoon October 2

The white-green Agora's of Roeselare-Houtland and Bruges are waiting for the participants in the Novotel right in the centre of Bruges. For many it is a pleasant reunion, for others a first acquaintance.

Around half past seven everybody goes down to the B-IN for a fabulous welcome party. Spirits are high straight away.

Eight different nationalities, including a Belgian delegation of course, are having aperitifs, talking, eating, laughing and dancing galore!

With such a welcome party the weekend is sure to be in the bag.

The last lingerers leave around one o'clock, not too late, because there's a big day ahead of them tomorrow.



Saturday morning October 3

We are meeting in the Novotel lobby for "coffee, tea and cake".

Slightly before ten the 130 participants take a seat in the beautifully decorated 'Gruuthuse' room for the 13th Annual General Meeting.

The guests are welcomed: the Immediate Past-President of the 41 Club International, representatives of the national boards of the Ladies' Circle, Round Table and 41 Clubs, and of course a great number of participants of the Tangent Club Germany.



The eight participating Agora countries are welcomed as well: France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Estonia, Romania, Switzerland and South-Africa.

The meeting starts off somewhat tumultuously, but soon the well-organized protocol of the international Vice-President Daniëlle Gardin kicks in.

The meeting runs smoothly: annual reports are read out, the financial situation is discussed and the budget for 2010 is voted on. It is voted that next year's International Meeting will take place in Tallinn, Estonia.



So yes, it has been a historic A.G.M., because Tangent Germany is officially accepted into the Agora Club International after an exciting, secret vote.



Daniëlle lets us know that A.C. Lusaka (Zambia) will receive it's charter in the spring.

The new board is chosen:



President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Imm Past-President

Daniëlle Gardin (Belgium)
Nikkie Grewar (South-Africa)
Veerle De Jonge (Belgium)
Nicole Rüeger (Switzerland)
Dominique du Peloux (France)

The lottery prize (a paid-up participation in next year's conference in Tallinn) is won by an Agora from Italy.

The entire proceeds of the lottery are donated to the reconstruction of the meeting place for young people in Nonna in the area of Abruzzo (Italy), which was destroyed by the heavy earthquakes of May 11. This project is led by Club Italy.

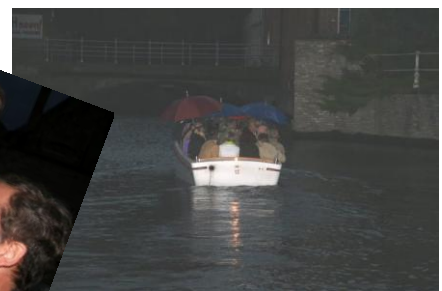
The sales of the stunning pin that Daniëlle had made with her year slogan "Together we are one" are donated to the same project.



During lunch we stayed and talked nineteen to the dozen about this eventful A.G.M.!

The foreign guests set out to visit the city of Bruges. The others rested a bit and prepared for the evening party.

At quarter past seven we set off on a boat trip on the canals of "Bruges by Night"! Champagne was flowing lavishly!



The weekend ends with a tasty dinner in the exquisite surroundings of Restaurant 'The Sixties'.
Nothing but smiling happy faces!

Sunday morning October 4

At ten we meet at the Novotel for a Farewell breakfast.

Bye bye, Agora's! See you all next year in Tallinn!

Anne-Marie Delsaerd
National President A.C. Belgium 2009-2010

