



**THE HISTORY OF ROTARY CLUB MALTA
1967 – 2007**

Compiled by Rotarian Robert von Brockdorff

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Some time in 1965/66, Anthony Miceli Farrugia was approached by Rotarians Leopoldo Rodriques from Rotary Club Messina and Peppino Ragonese di Gregorio from Rotary Club Taormina (who became District Governor in 1969/70) and was asked to set up a Rotary Club in Malta.

The prospective founder-members were Anthony Miceli Farrugia, Roger de Giorgio, Victor Mercieca, Louis E. Galea, Victor Ragonese, Philip Toledo and Victor Captur who formed a committee to steer the club forward. One evening Anthony Miceli Farrugia received a visit from Fr. (today Mgr) Charles G. Vella, who carried a letter from Archbishop Mgr. Sir Michael Gonzi advising him not to form a Rotary Club because Rotary was connected to freemasonry. However, Anthony Miceli Farrugia asked Fr. Vella to inform the Archbishop that Pope Pius XII had just addressed the Rotary International President and accompanying Rotarians who were in Rome for a general meeting. Mgr Vella was asked to show the archbishop a picture of the Rotary International President with the Pope. The Archbishop was not aware of this meeting and, after he had made his investigations, he gave his approval and that allowed for the commencement of Rotary in Malta.

Anthony Miceli Farrugia and other prospective members started to meet at the Sa Maison Hotel and on the 6th October 1967, the club was chartered. The Charter Certificate was eventually presented by the Rotary International President Luther Hodges to the founder President Anthony Miceli Farrugia at a dinner held on the 5th December 1967, at the Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana.

The Charter members who received their Rotary badges on that night were:

Maurice Agius Vadala, Salvino Busuttil, George Camilleri, Victor Captur, Joe Caruana Curran, Roger de Giorgio, Louis E Galea, Giuseppe Gatt, Fr. Maurice Grech, John Manduca, Victor Mercieca, Anthony Miceli Farrugia (President), Luka Luigi Miceli, Giuseppe Mifsud Bonnici, Albert Mizzi, Antonio Pace, John Pullicino, Victor Ragonese, Eddie Sammut, George Sammut, Philip Toledo and Maurice Zammit Tabona.

Visiting Rotarians attending the charter dinner were

Raimondo Alliata, Andrea Alloto, Harry Berger, Giacchino Consalvo Bertini, Harry Carver, Guglielmo Grassi Orsini, Francesco Guadalupi, Christian Hansen Finsbury, Max Honsell, Karl Wakefield, Giuseppe Pelligrino Milazzo, Peppino Ragonese di Gregorio, Leopoldo Rodriguez, Eugenio Siracusano and Francesco Trio.

The guests of honour at the charter dinner were Sir Maurice Dorman, the then Governor of Malta, Dr. George Borg Olivier, the Prime Minister, and Archbishop Mgr. Sir Michael Gonzi.

1. Worldwide membership

At Anthony Miceli Farrugia's hand-over dinner to John Pullicino in 1970, he quoted Rotary membership worldwide as being 666,000 in 14,000 clubs within 148 countries.

Membership in 1980 had increased to 853,000 worldwide within 18,374 clubs in 153 Countries. Membership in 2008 is now above 1,200,000 with just over 32,900 clubs within 207 Countries.



2. Club Directory

The Club Directory was first created by Rotarians John Curmi and George Sammut in 1972. The Directory was published at St. Joseph's Institute Press by Mons. Maurice Grech, also a Rotarian. The directory was produced yearly for several years thereafter, until technology took over and the directory is now available on our club's web site at www.rotary.org.mt

3. Club Newsletter

The club newsletter, giving information of the news from Rotary International, District and local club affairs was first created by PDG Chris Calascione when he was President in 1977 and this was produced on a duplicating machine. The Newsletter has been retained by most of the Presidents either monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or when a President had the time to produce it.

4. Humour

On reading old files I came across a letter dated 26 November 1974 from PDG Eddie Sammut to President Bryan Gera, who made reference to a previous evening's conversation, and translated the names of District Rotarians discussed into English.

- 🌐 Cavalliere di Lavoro Spatafora. Knight of Work-Draw your sword
- 🌐 Dott Selvaggi – Dr. Savage
- 🌐 Dott. Belassai Dr. too beautiful
- 🌐 Dott Coniglione – Dr. Rabbit Breeder
- 🌐 Ing. Capo di Casa - Engineer Head of the House
- 🌐 Cav. Grassi Orsini – Knight Fat bears
- 🌐 Pietro Venti – Peter Wind
- 🌐 Sig Carlo Piccoli - Mr. Little Charlie
- 🌐 Sig Franco Russo – Mr. Frank Red
- 🌐 Dott. Barbarossa - Dr. Red Beard
- 🌐 Ing Casapinta - Engineer House Pint
- 🌐 Dott Doppia Testa - Dott. Double Head.

5. Council decisions

For a short time, a Council Decision taken in October 1973 stated that circulars and club minutes were to be printed in Maltese. Discussions and correspondence had to be in a language most suitable for the occasion. John L Curmi was club secretary at the time and had no difficulty in carrying out his duties. Common sense prevailed a few months later, and the English language came back in its entirety

6. International Presidents in Malta

During the forty years since our club was chartered in 1967, our club has hosted three Rotary International Presidents in Malta. Luther Hodges attended the Charter Dinner when the club was formed in 1967. Cliff Dochtermann attended the 25th Anniversary Dinner of our club at the invitation of President Tony Curmi made



the year before, and John Sullivan was the host president for the evening. Richard D. King attended the Charter Meeting of Rotary Club La Valette in 2002 when our club was the sponsoring club. His attendance was on an invitation from our club president Robert von Brockdorff, who had met him at a Rotary Regional meeting in Romania a few months before.

7. District

When our club was chartered on the 6th October 1967 we were a non-districted club. Later, Rotary International recommended that we become districted. We then joined District 190 which consisted of The Rotary clubs from Naples in Italy down through Sicily to Malta. In 1977 the district number was changed to 210 for a year. In 1978 it became district 211, and then consisted of only Sicily and Malta, until 1991 when it was re-numbered to district 2110.

When our club had to select a district to join, it was initially desired that we join an English speaking one, in view of the language difficulty. Few of the Sicilian Rotarians spoke English, and most of the Maltese Rotarians were more comfortable to speaking English than Italian.

This was not feasible, and in order to be recognised and gain the same opportunities of other clubs forming part of a district, it was agreed that the club should join the Italian/Sicilian District, on PDG Eddie Sammut's recommendation.

8. Male Gender Membership

Rotary Club Malta membership is a male gender club and several attempts by the President of the year to extend membership to dual gender have always been defeated and this situations stands to date.

9. District Governors

Rotary Club Malta has been entitled until now to a District Governor every nine years, and now with the formation of two other clubs in Malta and Gozo this may change in the future. Our Club has had four District Governors so far, being Dr. Eddie Sammut in 1979/80, a highly respected Rotarian within District, whose name and memory was invoked for many years after his death when we attended District events.

Chris Calascione was Governor in 1988/89. Our district prides its self with having had a priest who became a Governor (Fr P Weber S.J) and a Governor who became a priest , i.e. Chris Calascione, was ordained a Benedictine monk in 1997.

Anthony P Coleiro was Governor in 1997/98 and Alfred M Mangion in 2006/07. Their involvement within District has enabled our club to retain very good contacts amongst the Sicilian Clubs in District. They have also been our ambassadors and the link between our club and District, and both are still very active within District.

10. District Congresses in Malta



Our club has hosted the District Congress in Malta four times during the Governorship of the four Maltese Governors.

The first was from the 21st to the 26th April 1978 at the Verdala Hotel, Rabat which was attended by over 1,000 Rotarians and their spouses.. The Italian Governor Oreste Geraci chose to have his District Congress in Malta the year when Eddie Sammut was to be elected as incoming District Governor for year 1979/80.

The second was in 1989, at the Suncrest Hotel, St. Paul's Bay, for District Governor Chris.Calascione's hand over to incoming District Governor Antonello Dato.

In 1998, at the SAS Radisson Hotel, St.Julian's, District Governor Tony Coleiro's handed over as District Governor to incoming District Governor Giuseppe Conigliaro Macca.

The fourth Congress was in 2007 at the Westin Dragonara Hotel, St. Julian's for District Governor Alfred Mangion's hand over to incoming District Governor Salvatore Salpietro

Attendance of the Sicilian Rotarians at the District Congress held in Malta has always been very good and several friendships have been made and renewed at the District Congress.

11. Comitato Inter Paese

Italia, Malta, San Marino, Albania, Switzerland, Liechtenstein

Our club has also hosted four Comitato Inter Paese fellowship reunion meetings for Rotarians from Italy, Sicily, Malta, San Marino, Albania, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

In 1988 the venue was the Suncrest Hotel, Qawra. The main Guest Speaker Carlo Marullo di Condajanni, who spoke on 'The Knights of Malta.' He later became District Governor in 2002/03. Club President was Edward Xuereb.

In 1994 the venue was the Corinthia Palace Hotel, Balzan. The guest speakers were H.E. Dr. Gunther Weiss, the EU Ambassador to Malta, Past Rotarian Professor Salvino Busuttill, and President Emeritus of Malta, Dr. Censu Tabone. The theme of their address was ' Il Ruolo Ecobomico e Politico del Paese del Mediterraneo nel Europa del 2000,' Club President was Alfred Mangion.

In 2002 the venue was the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sliema. The guest speakers were Mons. Charles Vella from Milan, President Emeritus Dr.Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, and H.E. Manfredo Incisa di Camerana, Assistant Director General of United Nation's FAO office in Rome. The topic of the meeting was ' Sei Milliard di uomini sulla terra. Quale futuro per l'umanita?' Club President was Raymond Miller.

In 2006 the meeting was held at the Corinthia San Gorg Hotel, St Julian's. Guest Speakers were Cav.Dott.Sergio Piscitello who spoke on 'il ruolo del turismo mediterraneo nello sviluppo del turismo mondiale,' Dott. Marco Solari who spoke on ' Turismo e grandi avvenimenti' and Dr.Francis Zammit Dimech, Tourism Minister of Malta, who spoke on 'Turismo e Globalizzazione'. Club President was Daniel de Petri Testaferrata.



All meetings were a huge success, and the highlight each time was the house-hosted dinner parties held at Rotarians' homes. Visiting Rotarians were always pleased to be invited to the homes of Rotarians, and this feature is unique at CIP meetings. As our members live within a short distance it makes it possible for the committee to organise such an evening to transport the guests to within a few miles from the registration hotel.

Our club has been represented at these annual meetings held in September, and usually between three to eight couples attend each year, depending on the venue and other circumstances, and have done so since before 1988. It was Chris Calascione and Colin Tabone who made the first contacts, and it was through their attendance at previous meetings that Malta was asked to host the meeting in 1988 at the Suncrest Hotel. PDG Alfred Mangion has retained the links from our club and has since encouraged others to join him. Several friendships have been made throughout the years. PDG Alfred Mangion now sits on the main committee that meets during the CIP meeting and represents the Rotary Clubs of Malta & Gozo besides being the appointed District 2110 delegate.

Improvements and amendments to the future meetings are discussed and the venues for the future meetings are decided. These are usually held in Italy and Switzerland however meetings have also been held in San Marino, Sardinia, Liechtenstein and Malta. Attendance is open to Rotarians from Italian & Swiss Italian speaking Districts including the three Maltese/Goitan Rotary clubs, and participation from the other two clubs is encouraged.

12. Community Services

When our club was first chartered, community services and fund raising events were not a priority of the club. It was then the Rotary International policy to keep a low profile on publishing of fund raising and community service events. Our club did support small projects, but mainly it was the St Theresa Home in Nigret I/o Zurrieq that was the main project the club supported. Some of the improvements were made in Wilfred Mamo's year of presidency. Water Heaters were installed in the bathrooms and the high ceiling in the dormitory was lowered with the installation of a soffit. The club used to pay for the water & electricity bills besides renovation costs for works needing attention. The members also used to donate birthday and Xmas presents to the children. Our club has retained its support to the present date.

John Curmi was the first Rotarian in 1974 to look after the needs of the home, and in the recent years Stephen Sullivan carried out the duties on behalf of the club and also in a personal capacity.

The nuns hosted Rotarians and their wives yearly during the Xmas festivities to a Fenkata (Rabbit meal) and a generous donation used to be collected from those Rotarians attending the meal, the proceeds of which were presented to the Home, over and above the monetary contribution donated during the year. The custom to hold the meal only came to an end in 2006, because the nuns found it difficult to host us any longer because of lack of staff and aging nuns..

The club was also involved in the early years in vocational training under the care of PDG Chris Calascione and past president Tony Curmi who used to rope in other Rotarians to assist. Many young men received valid information on selecting a career and how to face the future.



In 1985 when Rotary International launched the Polio Plus Campaign, needing huge amounts of money to be raised started to promote their projects, thus the policy changed and clubs started to publicise their own projects and achievements. Our club started to publicize its projects several years later.

In the early years, Rotary Club Malta membership was mainly made up of from the professions and the leaders of the business community. Members included some excellent brains namely PDG Eddie Sammut, John Pullicino (a club president), Salvino Busuttill and Antoine Cachia, as well as members connected in business circles namely Founder President Anthony Miceli Farrugia, Philip Toledo (another club president) and Louis E Galea to mention just a few. Louis E. Galea and Salvino Busuttill were always in the forefront of any discussion, and were the instigators behind the discussions held at the meetings. They encouraged discussions/debates between the members on editorial or hot topics of the day. A club member would be given a week's notice to speak on a chosen subject for ten to fifteen minutes, and this was followed by a debate in which several members participated. Guest speakers also addressed the club meetings, as is still the case today.

13. Paul Harris Awards

PDG Eddie Sammut was the first club member to be awarded a Paul Harris award by District. in 1980

Anthony Miceli Farrugia, the founder President was the first to be awarded a Paul Harris award in 1981 during the year of Bryan Gera's presidency.

Tony Curmi was the first president to grant a Paul Harris award to a non-Rotarian. The recipient was Dr. Lawrence Gonzi, who later became the Prime Minister of Malta. His award was for his work with and for people with a disability.

14. Honorary Members

During Tony Curmi's year the first two Honorary members, Anthony Miceli Farrugia and Louis E Galea, were appointed as Honorary members. The club has since appointed PDG Christopher Calascione, Victor Mercieca (a founder member) and Robin Hughes as Honorary Members.

15. Attendance at meetings

From discussions with some of the early members, attendance at meetings was already a much-discussed subject, and little has changed. However, President Ken Valenzia, emphasised the attendance rules, and the club lost a few members, to be replaced by new ones.

16. Aid to Club Secretary

For a few years up to 1977, the club engaged a paid secretary, Mrs. Christine Fenech, to assist the club secretary with clerical duties. She attended all club and council meetings and then carried out what was required, from typing letters, preparing and posting circulars, to filing duties. From 1978 to 1981, the club engaged Ms. Marian Pace to carry out the secretarial duties. She was later to become Mrs. Marian Galea, wife of Rotarian Chris Calea of Rotary Club La Valette.



17. Club Venues

The venues for club meetings since our club was chartered have been as follows:

- Sa Maison Hotel, Pieta
- The Phoenicia Hotel, Floriana
- The Casino Maltese, Valletta
- The Halland Hotel, Ta Librag
- The Malta Hilton, St.Julian's
- The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel Sliema
- Corinthia San Gorg Hotel, St.Georges, St,Julian's

18. Club Presidents

The club has had 30 different Presidents elected to the post of President from its charter up to its 40th Anniversary (some for more than one year, of course). While the list below identifies all Presidents for the period 1967/68-2008/2009 an up to date list is maintained on the club's web site at www.rotary.org.mt

Year	Presidents' Name
1967/70	Anthony Miceli Farrugia
1970/71	John Pullicino
1971/72	Antonio Pace
1972/73	Philip Toledo
1973/75	Eddie Sammut
1975/76	Victor Amato
1976/77	John Pullicino
1977/79	Christopher Calascione
1979/80	Robert Staines
1980/81	Christopher Calascione
1981/82	Bryan Gera
1982/83	Philip Zammit Briffa
1983/84	Kenneth Valenzia
1984/86	Anthony Coleiro
1986/87	Wilfred Mamo
1987/89	Edward Xuereb
1989/91	William Caruana
1991/92	Anthony Curmi
1992/93	John E.Sullivan
1993/94	Colin Tabone
1994/95	Alfred Mangion
1995/96	Neville Gatt
1996/97	Edward Xuereb
1997/98	Joseph R.Aquilina



Year	Presidents' Name
1998/99	Louis Apap Bologna
1999/2000	Stephen Sullivan
2000/01	Raymond Miller
2001/02	Robert von Brockdorff
2002/03	Alfred Mangion
2003/04	Joseph Pace
2004/05	Frank Salt
2005/06	Harry Fenech
2006/07	Daniel de Petri Testaferrata
2007/08	Joseph Farrugia
2008/09	Simon Bonello

19. Ambassadorial Scholarships

Right from its infancy, Rotary Club Malta had submitted nominations to Rotary Foundation for Ambassadorial Scholarships and in 1968 a scholarship was awarded to Anthony Serracino Inglott. For the first few years as part of an Italian District, the club was not having its nominations treated equivalently to those of the Sicilian Clubs, as the District Committee had difficulty in comparing local academic qualifications with those of Sicilian Universities, and stopped considering Maltese nominees. In 1978, President Chris Calascione arranged for Nunzio Costanzo, the District representative dealing with Ambassadorial Scholarship nominations, to visit Malta to meet him together with Remig Zammit Pace and Tony Coleiro to compare university qualifications and an agreement was reached for future nominations to be considered favourably.

Since then thirteen other nominees have been awarded a scholarship. Other participants have since been nominated to District by Rotary Club La Valette and have also been accepted. The following are the Maltese Ambassadorial Scholars nominated by our club:

Year	Ambassadorial Scholar's Name	Organisation
1968/69	Prof Anthony Serracino Inglott	Dept of Pharmacy, University of Malta
1981/82	Prof Joe Falzon	Dept.of Banking & Finance, University of Malta
1984/85	Prof Savior Chircop	Centre for Communications Technology , Univ.of Malta
1986/87	Dr Charles Briffa	Principal Subject Area Officer(Arts)-MATSEC, Univ. of Malta
1987/88	Ing Adrian Rizzo	Supervisor, Development Engineering Air Malta Company Plc
1991/92	Dr Stephen Calleya	Lecturer, Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies, Univ.of Malta
1993/94	Mr Stanley Zammit	Educational Psychologist Services, Education Division
1994/95	Ms Marguerite Rose Camilleri	Research & Information Officer, Planning Authority
1997/98	Ms Agnes Galea Curmi	Church Schools Sociology Unit, Archbishop's Curia
1999/2000	Dr Adrian Galea	Institute of Psychiatry, Maudsley Hospital, London
2000/01	Ms Christine Theuma	Social Studies to obtain PH.D in New York USA
2002/03	Dr Stephen Attard	Child Specialist- Children at Risk Scholar





Year	Ambassadorial Scholar's Name	Organisation
2003/04	Ms Christine Guillaumier	Music at McGill University, Toronto Canada
2007/08	Ms Rosalind Vella	MA. Specific Learning Difficulties

Remig Zammit Pace was the club's first officer appointed at the General Meeting of 12 December 1977 to be in charge of the Ambassadorial Scholarships, a duty he carried out for nearly twenty years. He was followed by Raymond Miller, Stephen Sullivan and Joe Scicluna.






20. Group Study Exchange

District started to accept our nominations for the Group Study Exchange participants in 1993. Several young Maltese men and women have been selected and invited to travel as guests of Rotary Districts worldwide to far away destinations so as to get a better knowledge by seeing how others live far away from Malta. Each group is made of a Group leader who is a Rotarian appointed by our District, who must be able to speak the language at the exchange destination, and four Maltese and Sicilian youths with no Rotarian direct or indirect connections and having a good knowledge of the host country's language.

The following Rotarians from our club were appointed by District as Group Leaders to accompany the group.

-  Rtn Raymond Miller who went to Arizona in 1998
-  Rtn Philip Incorvaja who went to Philadelphia in 1999

The following were the selected participants:

-  Michael Balzan went to Oklahoma, USA in 1993
-  Richard Despott went to Arizona, USA in 1998
-  Emma Mattei went to Brazil in 1998
-  Isabelle Chircop went to Philadelphia, USA in 2000
-  Franceanne Borg went to Australia in 2004

21. Matching Grants

Rotary Club Malta applied for a Matching Grant to the Rotary Foundation in 1999, during Stephen Sullivan's year, and this was the first Matching Grant application from District 2110 to the Rotary Foundation. Stephen held a successful lottery to raise most of our contribution and, with the help of Rotarian Franco Andretta, an Italian Rotarian from Monza, got seven clubs from the Monza area in Italy to join our club in raising \$20,000. It was then in Raymond Miller's year as president of our club that the application formalities were concluded and the matching grant of a further €20,000 was received.

The formalities could not be finalised without a lengthy correspondence with the suppliers and the co-operation of the Malindi Rotary club in Kenya. This was problematic because Malindi is a long distance away from Mpeketoni, in Kenya, which is where the project was carried out. Rotarian Ray Miller's dedication and perseverance won the day and all's well that ends well.



The money was used to purchase a commercial generator and medical equipment for the Maria Teresa Nuzzo Health Centre, providing medical facilities to the community in Mpeketoni, in Kenya, run by the nuns of the Maltese order of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart. The generator was put to good use, as there was no electricity service at the clinic and lamps had to be used at night. It was also used the year after installation, when a group of Maltese volunteers went to Mpeketoni to build a school and dig a well for the community. Part of the clinic was recently converted into a dental clinic, and Dutch Rotarian Dentists visit the clinic from time to time to provide their services free of charge. A contact has been retained with the Mpeketoni Clinic by Rotarian Robert von Brockdorff who raises funds to purchase pharmaceutical products for the clinic.

Since then, our club applied in 2007 for a second matching grant for the project '*Lending a hand in Africa*' under the Presidency of Joe Farrugia. Our club's contribution together with the Matching Grant received from Rotary Foundation paid for the setting up of a Community Telecentre to provide information and telecommunication services to the people living in the village of Ankober, in Ethiopia. The equipment provided consisted of computers and telecommunications equipment, a satellite dish, TV, a solar power system, a projector and screen, modems, internet access, CD Roms, software training, videos and similar IT focussed literature to the people of the village. A library was also set up.

The setting up of this Telecentre in the small village of Ankober enhances the community's access to electronic services and communication facilities, thus helping to boost levels of education and job opportunities. The services will be available to all. Our club will also pay for the running cost for the first year of operation.

The building housing the Telecentre has been provided by the Local Administration, close to their offices in the village. Rotary Club President 2007/2008 Joe Farrugia visited Ankober on taking up his presidency in July 2007, to select the cause and to make contact with the local Rotary Club of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia to supervise the works. Joe again visited the Telecentre for the official opening to ensure that our project was completed to his specifications.

22. Other major Community Services Projects

1.1 Dar il Kaptan

Our club has been involved in the setting up of Dar il-Kaptan, a leading Respite Home operating in Malta, since its inauguration on the 10th November 1991, under the auspices of the Foundation for Respite Care Services. During William Caruana's year as president, he made it the club's main project and our club has continued its support to date. Our District was also instrumental in the setting up of the Home, and District, through the Governor, makes a donation towards the Home each year during the Governor's annual visit to our Club.

William Caruana was a member of the board of management from inception up to 2006, and Frank Salt was appointed President of the board from 2005 to 2008. In 2008 Peter Cauchi accepted to replace Frank Salt and become a board member of the Foundation to retain the Rotary connection and involvement.



Until 2007, Rotarian Harry Fenech (also a Past-President of our club) spent four years working on a voluntary basis as a full time administrator of Dar i-Kaptan, and carried out his duties with great dedication and efficiency. Other Rotarians have contributed financially to assist the home meet its daily running costs, and the installation cost of air conditioning units was met by Rotarian Heribert Grunert, a most generous member of our Club.

Dar il-Kaptan offers limited residential and full day care services to over 200 persons with disability. In addition to the initial funding of Dar il Kaptan, Rotary Club Malta carried out an extensive extension of the Home in 2005, during Frank Salt's year as president of the club. The club also raised funds to pay for a new Mercedes Van to transport the residents. In 2007, a beautifully landscaped garden was created providing facilities to the residents, and our club together with other sponsors was instrumental in providing this facility.

2.1 The San Blas Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts.

The San Blas Rehabilitation Centre for Drug Addicts was set up in 1991/92 during the year of the Presidency of Tony Curmi, and is run by Caritas Malta, providing the highest levels of care and assistance to those afflicted by drugs. On relinquishing his term in Malta as German Ambassador to Malta, Dr. Godfried Pagenstart, a member of our club, donated, on behalf of the German Government, various items of woodworking machinery and tools, which were lying idle in a small room at San Blas for want of a proper workshop.

Tony Curmi approached Mgr. Victor Grech and offered our help to build a workshop to house the woodworking equipment and tools. Funds were raised, however fell short of the building cost and Vassallo Builders Group, through their Arkati Foundation, matched the balance of the cost and also carried out the building works. Rotarian Joe Ellul Vincenti provided his architectural works at no charge.

The workshop was eventually completed in October 1992 and inaugurated on the 23rd November 1992 during the Presidency of John Sullivan. A marble plaque donated by Ray Miller stands to mark the inauguration and states that the building of the workshop was a joint Arkati Foundation and Rotary Club Malta project

Rotarian Ronnie Micallef is a facilitator at the San Blas Rehabilitation Centre, and has given many years service.

3.1 Tsunami Relief Project-Sri Lanka

On Boxing Day (December 26th) 2004, Sri Lanka was one of the Indian Ocean countries that were hit by a devastating tsunami which destroyed many thousands of properties and livelihoods and killed a great number of people. Rotary Club Malta dug into its funds and many Rotarians topped up the club's donation. President Frank Salt made contact with Sri Lankan District Governor Lucky Pierris, offering our financial aid. Together with several Rotary Clubs worldwide, our funds were well used and the Rotarians of Sri Lanka, as a result of their tremendous initiative, carried out a school rebuilding programme which aimed to replace the ones destroyed or adversely affected by the tsunami. As a result some 12,000 children were able to return to school in new and modern schools. The local Rotarians supervised the works under the leadership of District Governor Lucky Pierris and the District Governor elect.



Our club was allocated a school in Pottuvil on the East coast of Sri Lanka and visiting Rotarian Joy Cooper with contacts with Rotary Club Gozo has visited the school and reported to us that a plaque has been placed with our club name appearing as the sponsors for the repair works.

4.1 Boys orphanage in South India

Rotary Club Malta ran a successful project in 2004 in Tamil Nadu in South India financing a large share of the cost of the building of a boys' home for orphans and poor children. The home is run by Fr. Joseph Rosario, who has visited Malta several times to raise funds for his homes.

During Frank Salt's year as club president funds were raised through the club to support his friend Fr. Joseph Rosario, whom Frank had known and supported for some time. The children are housed in the home during the school terms to enable them to be close by to attend the state school nearby.

The boys' home was successfully built and called St. Joseph Home. Our club also paid for the setting up of a computer centre at the home. Several of our members contribute annually towards a scheme run by Rotary Club La Valette to pay for the costs of accommodation, food, uniforms and books of the boys living in the home.

5.1 Birgu Heritage

In 2000, during Ray Miller's year of presidency, our club made contact with the mayor of Birgu Local Council to donate six plaques to be placed at prominent sites to showcase the history of important buildings in Birgu. Ray's initiative was followed by Frank Salt who took over the co-ordination of the works. Our club has since donated another six plaques and has again offered to donate another six when the wording is presented to us by President Emeritus of Malta Dr. Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, who has prepared the wording for all the plaques.

6.1 Kids of Africa

During Joe Farrugia's year of presidency, his main projects were to provide aid to African countries, besides local causes and charities. He therefore promoted assisting an orphanage in Uganda named KOA – Kids of Africa. This was started in 2003 by two Swiss friends of Rotarian Ian De Cesare and an Ugandan national, an orphanage, midway between Kampala and Entebbe. Rotarian Ian De Cesare visited the orphanage during a trip to Uganda and recommended that our club provides five solar panels for the new dormitories to produce hot water. Rotarian Michael Frendo, then Malta's Minister of Foreign Affairs, assisted our club by accessing to funds from Malta's foreign development budget, which he had initiated. Rotarian Ian De Cesare donated pyjamas to the 25 boys at the orphanage during his visit.

7.1 Life Skills opportunities - St. Patrick's School

This project is still in its infancy, and the sub-committee has just about established relations with the Head Master. It is intended from next October to provide guidance to the boys about to leave the school on how to face a new life. President Joe Farrugia donated some equipment to enable the boys to work.



23. Participation at District Events

Participation at District events had not been high for many years, except for District Governor Eddie Sammut's hand over district congress held in 1980 at Acireale, when he was accompanied by a party of sixteen persons. Attendance of members at the District Congress held in Sicily was not as easy as it is today, because there was no air service between Malta and Sicily. Members had to take the Tirrenia ferry to Syracuse and proceed to the venue by road transport. On several occasions, members also took their car to make it easier to get to their destination. Participation in numbers became regular, and was boosted from 1984 when Tony Coleiro became club president and encouraged members to accompany him to Sicily.

Some names of Rotarians who used to travel to the District Congress in the early days were PDG Eddie Sammut, PDG Christopher Calascione, PDG Tony Coleiro, Past Presidents John Pullicino, Philip Zammit Briffa, Tony Curmi, Edward Xuereb, Wilfred Mamo, J.R. Aquilina, William Caruana and Rotarian Charles Portelli.

It was Tony Coleiro who eventually encouraged us to travel in numbers when he became District Governor and our club has always been well represented since then at the District Congress and Assembly, apart from the statutory SIPE meeting for the incoming president. Tony upheld the good tradition of the Maltese Governors from the year of his governorship, providing a good link with District. Now with PDG Alfred Mangion our links have been further strengthened, as both are very well respected and sit on several of the district committees. Ever since the mid-nineties, our club has also been well represented at the annual District November Rotary Foundation seminar.

24. Sponsoring New Rotary Clubs

Rotary Club Malta was the sponsoring club of Rotary Club La Valette Malta. On the 7th April 2002, International President Richard D.King presented the Charter Certificate to the first Club President, Diana Cassar, daughter of Tony Cassar, who was a Rotarian within our club. He also presented the members with their Rotary badges at the Malta Hilton, St.Julians. This club has a dual gender membership. The founding committee was made up of Stephen Sullivan, Governor's representative, Robert von Brockdorff, Club President, PDG Tony Coleiro, David de Giovanni, Colin Tabone and Joe Scicluna. Our club paid for the setting up costs, members' badges and club banners. The president's jewel and bell were donated by the founding committee.

The bandalora was donated by the District Governor Avv. Aldo Timinieri, who attended the Charter meeting and lunch. Most of our club members and spouses and some Rotarians from our district attended the Charter meeting and lunch.

Our club also sponsored the Rotary Club of Gozo, chartered on the 24th.May 2007 by District Governor Alfred Mangion, who presented the Charter Certificate to the President Chris Said (who resigned very soon after due to pressure of work and was replaced by David Carrington). The members received their badges from District Governor Alfred Mangion, and PDG Ferdinando Testoni Blasco, District Extension President, at the Ta' Frenc Restaurant, Marsalforn, Gozo. This club has a dual gender membership.

The founding committee was made up of Frank Salt, Governor's representative, and Robert von Brockdorff, who both attended every meeting in Gozo until the club was chartered. Club President Daniel de Petri Testaferrata attended some of the club meetings. The club paid for the setting up charges together with the Rotary badges, club banners and a plaque. The president's jewel and bell were donated by Frank Salt and Robert von



Brockdorff. The Bandalora was donated by the District Governor Alfred Mangion, together with a personal gift of a majolica large plate. Seventy four Rotarians from District attending the District Congress in Malta arrived one day earlier to be present at the Charter celebrations. A representative from our club and Rotary Club La Valette were also present at the meeting and lunch.

25. Rotaract & Interact

Rotaract and Interact were first sponsored by our club on the 18th June 1979, however the charter certificate was presented by District Governor Eddie Sammut on the 16th April 1980 to the Rotaract President, Christine Apap Bologna, and Interact President Charles Borg, who later became a member of our club and has been for several years.

A buffet supper was held at the Phoenicia Hotel lounge at a cost of £M3.50 per person to mark the occasion. The founding committee was made up of Chris Calascione, Joe Demajo, Georges Camart and Tony Coleiro. Chris Calascione used to attend both clubs meetings to guide and encourage the members. Attendance of membership started to wane and unfortunately both clubs folded after a few years, even though an effort was made to rejuvenate Rotaract in 1993.

8.1 2nd Attempt on Rotaract

A second attempt to restart Rotaract was made in 1999 during President Louis Apap Bologna's year of Presidency. He was assisted by Stephen Sullivan and Chris Cassar Torreggiani. The new members started to meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the first president was Sandro Bianchi. Unfortunately there was disagreement between the members on what course for community services should be adopted and interest started to fade with members starting to resign from the club. The club was disbanded some months later.

9.1 3rd Attempt on Rotaract

The third attempt to revive Rotaract was in 2006 when it was agreed to attempt to restart the club during Daniel de Petri Testaferrata's year as president of our club. Our club played a secondary role and shared in the cost to set up the club with Rotary Club La Valette. The club is now called Rotaract Club La Valette and it is Rotary Club La Valette that is the main sponsor and provides guidance and assistance to the club.

The first president of the club was Ian Edward Stafrace, and the club has several enthusiastic members and has achieved a lot within a short time. The Charter Certificate was presented to President Ian E. Stafrace by incoming District Governor Alfred Mangion, and Carlo Sciacchitaro, Rotaract District Representative, on the 28th June 2006 at The Terrace, Westin Dragonara Hotel, St. Julian's. The club started with 20 charter members.



26. 75th Anniversary of Rotary International

A dinner was held on the 25th February 1980 to mark the 75th Anniversary of Rotary International. President Robert Staines welcomed the guests of honour, President Anton Buttigieg and Mrs. Buttigieg and Archbishop Giuseppe Mercieca, together with the club members and spouses.

President of the Republic Dr. Anton Buttigieg sent a letter to Rotary International president James Bomar Jr. to congratulate Rotary International on the celebration of its 75th.Anniversary.

27. Rotary International Centenary – 10 Italian Districts

Our Club was represented at the Rotary International Centenary Meeting held in Rome for the ten Italian Districts on the 16th & 17th March 2005. Mass was said for Rotarians and spouses at St.Peter's Basilica in the Vatican City in Rome and in the evening a dinner for over 1,000 Rotarians and spouses was held at the Complesso di Santo Spirito in Rome. The following day was a free day when the Maltese wives contributed to the Italian economy, and in the evening a Centenary Concert was held and attended at the Parco della Musica, Sala Santa Cecilia. Our group consisted of Alfred and Simone Mangion (incoming District Governor), Monica and Frank Salt, President of RC Malta, Marisa and Stephen Sullivan, Josephine and John Borg Manduca, Mary Ann and Joe Pace, Monica and Peter Cauchi, Liz and Robert von Brockdorff, Else and Robin Smith Saville, Gabrielle and William Carbonaro, Theresa and Francis Naudi, Lynne and Harry Fenech, Isabel and Francis Gera, Raymond Miller together with Angele and Vincent Cassar of Rotary Club La Valette. The majority of the group then went on to Monza for a few days, and the visit to the Autodromo in Monza was the highlight. We were shown around the VIP area and Track Facilities by a Monza Rotarian who was an official of the Track.

28. Centenary recognition of Rotary International – 2005

On the 23rd February 2005, Rotary International celebrated its centenary of the date of its formation by Paul Harris, an attorney in Chicago, Illinois, USA. In order to mark the occasion in Malta, our club five years previously had made contact with the Philatelic Bureau of Maltapost plc and asked whether they would agree to mint a first day issue to mark the Rotary Centenary. Our request was granted and a first day issue of two stamps was released on the anniversary date. The stamps consisted of a 27 cent value depicting Dar il Kaptan, the Respite Home in Malta, and a second stamp of 76cents denomination was issued depicting the Rotary logo and the words "Celebrate Rotary – 100 years". This first day issue was a limited edition and will have a collector's added value in the near future.

29. Our Club's 40th Anniversary

On the 1st December 2007 our club celebrated its 40th Charter Anniversary, and a dinner was held at the Maritime Museum at Vittoriosa to mark the occasion. President Joe Farrugia welcomed the District Governor, whose annual visit coincided with our anniversary celebration. He also welcomed three founder members: Judge Giovanni Mifsud Bonnici, Roger de Giorgio and Salvino Bussutil who were guests at the dinner. Members and spouses together with our district officers and our club members and spouses were also in attendance as were members and spouses from Rotary Club La Valette, as they were also co-hosting the Governor and his party. A new Club Bandalora was inaugurated at the dinner to mark the 40th Anniversary of the club.



30. Council Formation

From records available the following were the council members for the years shown. Some names have not been included as no records were traced.

Year	Council Members
1967/70	Anthony Miceli Farrugia, John Pullicino, Louis E. Galea
1970/71	John Pullicino (Pres), Louis E.Galea (vice Pres.), F.Amato Gauci(vice Pres.), Antonio Pace(Sec), A.Miceli Farrugia (Treas.), Victor Ragonesi, Albert Mizzi
1971/72	Antonio Pace (Pres), John Pullicino (Sec), Philip Toledo
1972/73	Philip Toledo(Pres), John Curmi (Sec), Antonio Pace, Eddie Sammut
1973/74	Eddie Sammut (Pres), John Curmi (Sec), Philip Toledo
1974/75	Eddie Sammut (Pres), Louis E.Galea (vice Pres.) John Curmi (Sec), Chris.Calascione(Treas.), Victor Amato, Brian Gera, Joseph G.Vassallo
1074/75	Eddie Sammut(Pres), Louis E. Galea (vice Pres.)John Curmi (Sec), Chris.Calascione (Treas.), Victor Amato, Brian Gera, Joseph G.Vassallo
1975/76	Victor Amato (Pres), Robert Hopcroft (Sec), Louis E. Galea (Treas), Anthony Curmi, Franco, Masini, John Pullicino, Anthony Miceli Farrugia
1976/77	John Pullicino (Pres), John Curmi (Sec), Victor Amato, Chris Calascione, Louis E. Galea
1977/78	Chris Calascione (Pres), John Curmi (Sec), Louis E Galea (Treas), John Pullicino, Franco Massini, Anthony Miceli Farrugia, J.G. Vassallo
1978/79	Chris Calascione (Pres), Robert Hopcroft (Sec), Louis E.Galea (Treas), John Pullicino, Anthony Miceli Farrugia, Tony Curmi
1979/80	Robert Staines (Pres), Albert Xuereb (Sec), A.R.Curmi (Treas), Louis E. Galea, John Bonello, Chris Calascione, Rob Hopcroft
1980/81	Chris.Calascione (Pres), Robert Staines (Treas), John Pullicino, Anthony Miceli Farrugia
1981/82	Bryan Gera(Pres), Arthur Gera (Sec), Albert H. Xuereb (Treas), Philip Zammit Briffa, Edward Abela, Chris Calascione, Anthony Miceli Farrugia, Eddie Sammut, J.R.Aquilina
1982/83	Philip Zammit Briffa (Pres), J.R. Aquilina (Sec), Albert H. Xuereb (Treas), Edward Abela, Arthur Gera, Bryan Gera, Joe Ellul Vincenti, Anthony Miceli Farrugia
1983/84	Kenneth Valenzia (Pres), Philip Zammit Briffa, Chris Calascione
1984/85	Chris Calascione(Pres), Kenneth Valenzia, Wilfred Mamo,
1985/86	Chris Calascione(Pres), Kenneth Valenzia, Wilfred Mamo
1986/87	Wilfred Mamo(Pres), Chris Calascione, Edward Xuereb
1987/88	Edward Xuereb (Pres), Wilfred Mamo (Past Pres.), Willy Caruana(Sec), F.X.Naudi (Treasurer), A. Attard, Robert von Brockdorff, Anthony Coleiro, Frank Salt, Mark Samut Tagliaferro
1988/89	Edward Xuereb(Pres), William Caruana
1989/90	William Caruana(Pres), Edward Xuereb
1990/91	Willy Caruana (Pres), Natalino Bonello (Sec), Frank Bonello (Treas.), Anthony R.Curmi, Mark Samut Tagliaferro, John Sullivan, William Harding, Edward Cachia, John Curmi, Joe Borg Olivier, Philip Zammit Briffa
1991/92	Anthony R. Curmi (Pres), Natalino Bonello (Sec), Frank Bonello (Treas), John Sullivan, William Caruana, Louis Apap Bologna, Charles Portelli, Fredrick Mifsud Bonnici, Ray Miller, Philip Zammit Briffa
1992/93	John Sullivan(Pres), Ray Miller(Sec), Victor Anastasi(Treas), Anthony R.Curmi, Colin Tabone,



Year	Council Members
	Louis Apap Bologna, Natalino Bonello, Chris Cassar Torreggiani, William Harding, Fredrick Mifsud Bonnici
1993/94	Colin Tabone(Pres), Louis Apap Bologna (Sec), Victor Anastasi (Treas), Alfred Mangion, Ray Miller, Joe G.Bonello, Chris Cassar Torreggiani, William Harding, Ronnie Micallef
1994/95	Alfred Mangion (Pres), Philip Incorvaja (Sec), Joe Muscat (Treas), Colin Tabone, Neville Gatt, Louis Apap Bologna, Tony Coleiro, Anthony Gatt, Ronnie Micallef, Edward Xuereb
1995/96	Neville Gatt(Pres), Philip Incorvaja (Sec), Charles Portelli (Treas), Edward Xuereb, Alfred Mangion, Chris Cassar Torreggiani, Ronnie Micallef, Colin Tabone, Ray Miller, Joe Muscat
1996/97	Edward Xuereb (Pres), Natalino Bonello (Sec), Anthony R.Curmi (Treas), Robert von Brockdorff, Ron Cleland, J.R.Aquilina, Tonio Ganado, William Harding, Neville Gatt
1997/98	J.R.Aquilina (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Anthony R.Curmi (Treas), Edward Xuereb, Tonio Ganado, Stephen Sullivan, Ray Miller, Robert von Brockdorff, Louis Apap Bologna, Ron Cleland
1998/99	Louis Apap Bologna (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Joe Muscat (Treas), Stephen Sullivan, J.R. Aquilina, Ray Miller, Robert von Brockdorff, Colin Tabone, Joe Pace, David Soler
1999/2000	Stephen Sullivan(Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Joe Muscat (Treas), Louis Apap Bologna, Ray Miller, Chris Cassar Torreggiani, Norbert Crockford, Francis Flynn, Joe Pace, David Soler
2000/01	Raymond Miller (Pres), Robert von Brockdorff (Sec), Herman Miceli Demajo (Treas), David de Giovanni, Chris Cassar Torreggiani, Ronnie Micallef, Joe Scicluna, William Caruana, Simon Bonello, Stephen Sullivan
2001/02	Robert von Brockdorff (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Herman Miceli Demajo (Treas), Ray Miller, Alfred Mangion, Ronnie Micallef, Colin Tabone, William Harding, Frank Salt, Louis Apap Bologna
2002/03	Alfred Mangion (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Tonio Cuschieri (Treas), Louis Apap Bologna, Robert von Brockdorff, Joe Scicluna, Frank Salt, Colin Tabone, Joe Pace, Mario Psaila Savona
2003/04	Joe Pace (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Frank Salt, Alfred Mangion, Charles Borg, Peter Cauchi, Michael Ellul Vincenti, Victor Galea, Tonio Ganado
2004/05	Frank Salt (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Tony Coleiro, Alfred Mangion, Stephen Sullivan, Robert von Brockdorff, Ray Miller, Harry Fenech, Joe Pace
2005/06	Harry Fenech (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Robert von Brockdorff, Frank Salt, Joe Farrugia, Joe Scicluna, Stephen Sullivan, Daniel de Petri Testaferrata, Michael Ellul Vincenti
2006/07	Daniel de Petri Testaferrata (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Frank Salt, Kenneth Micallef, Tonio Cuschieri, Stephen Sullivan, Harry Fenech, Joe Farrugia, Chris Vassallo Cesareo
2007/08	Joe Farrugia (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Simon Bonello, Harry Fenech, Robert von Brockdorff, John de Giorgio, Ron Cleland, Daniel de Petri Testaferrata, Frank Salt
2008/09	Simon Bonello (Pres), David de Giovanni (Sec), Francis Naudi (Treas), Harry Fenech (Resigned Feb), Joe Farrugia, John de Giorgio, Lennard Pal, Daniel de Petri Testaferrata, Frank Salt, Andrew Mamo, Ian Decesere (co-opted in Feb)

These records were compiled from meetings with Rotarians & Past Rotarians and the few files I have managed to trace however the majority of files and records have been lost or misplaced. Any omissions are therefore regretted.