

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

ROTA FLOAT

July 2013

Special Maiden Issue




Vespucci
Scuola
Classe Amerigo Vespucci

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1893-1964

<http://www.marina.difesa.it/uominimezzi/navi/Pagine/Vespucci.aspx>



INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

My dear Fellow Commodores and Mariners,

Let me first of all thank Clint and Bev for the precious work they have done for our Fellowship, but not only as IC and IC's First Mate but for all the long years spent in the IYFR and those long, very long ones in which both of them have fully carried the not always light burden of the Fellowship. We all must remind that if we now have a perfectly working web site, if we now have a complete control of the Regalia, if the total of all the IYFORIANS has grown from less than 2500 units of ten years ago to the plus 3100, the merit must be ascribed to their dedication. All our consideration, thanks and appreciation goes to them and to their Staff that has cooperated in carrying our great Fellowship.



It is undoubtedly a great honor for me to be the first Italian to reach the International Commodoreship and with Laura I desire to thank you all to have given us this magnificent opportunity to serve and I am looking forward to be able not to be less than your expectations.

As the front page picture shows, not always the sea is calm, all of us knows it and accept it as part of what a good sailor has sometimes to face. Let us say that there has been a different sight as to arrive to the same point: have an aware Fellowship enlarged to all of the Members, not only the lucky ones that go easily into internet and can speak English as their mother language.

"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of the Rotary will have to be rewritten again and again. Rotary needs a department for constructing criticism. Something comparable to the research department of great business. If Rotary is to realize its proper destiny, it must be evolutionary at all times, revolutionary on occasions." This is what Paul Harris said during the 1930 RI Convention in Chicago.

And this is exactly what happened, not without even fierce discussions, this last year, but I do not want to tease you once more with this story that has been at least eleven months longer than any of us would have desired. If you want, you can find the explanation to all of it in the famed "Introduction to the GR proposed changes" that the most curious ones of you will find annexed to this Rotafloat issue, the first of the "new administration".

When in 2007 Bryan came to La Spezia, Italy, to charter my Italy NW Fleet, none of us would ever imagine that an Italian could sometimes become International Commodore and I apologize with the European Officers, senior to me in IYFR, that might but did not had the chance to enter in the EC as I eventually did only one year and half after discovering IYFR. I say again that it is a great honor both for Italy and for me; my Region will try at her best to help me and the whole IB in this difficult and demanding service.



INTERNATIONAL COMMODORE'S MESSAGE

Commodore's Message Cont'd

Frankly the last four years have not been easy to me and to Laura, starting with the language: I confess that I can understand only 60% if you speak at a normal speed and do not use idiomatic expressions, I can find and guess another 20%, but the rest, believe me, is a pitch black night. I know that my English is basic and sometimes rude and, again, apologize: please consider that I learnt most of it in 18 months going through the US Navy Flight Program in Pensacola Florida where I gained my US Navy Wings of gold in 1967, almost half a century ago. Most luckily Laura is not limited only to English but being able to make herself understood also in French and in Spanish, she is my preferred interpreter since she can also speak those languages I never learned at a satisfactory level.

But now the new EC and all the new IB Staff have finally took off and we are all climbing to a safe altitude or, if you prefer: preparations to get underway are over, we casted off and are in the open seas. Please get acquainted and accustomed with the new International Bridge & Staff whose short presentation, is also reported in this issue. As you can see they come from every Area and since I am not a yes-man, I have chosen those that will be free to criticize my wrong decisions and possibly hold me before I can take one: I do love and trust each of them and I assure you that we will make a good Crew.

Where are we going? Easy: the old track is ok, some minor adjustments will be necessary as to include in our site also the NES (Not English Speaking) Fellow Mariners (that believe it or not are the great majority of us) as Rotary has been doing since many years.

IYFR Grants will continue and we will see for how long we can maintain them prior to eventually raise the pro-capita annual dues, or reduce the amount of the annual Grants so that this most commendable action can be sustainable in the years to come. You will be deciding and indicating the right action to take.

And, for sure, we will continue to have fun, sailing alone or in company, in smooth and rough waters, possibly getting together to rejoice of our fellowship.

As you might know, I have had several Commands in my first life as a Naval Aviator and Naval Line Officer and I am proud to report that all of them have been successful and even more proud to remember that the recurrent term used by my Officers and Crews to define those long periods under my Command, was "*sereno*" which means placid.

Now that I am getting old, I consider this one as my last Command, even though it is a most peculiar one: while the others were absolute, Master and Commander type, this one is not: I feel much as a "*primus inter pares*" who has the honor to lead this great Crew that is IYFR. Most of us have been serving in the Rotary for so many years, some have just joined and they are our future; there is only one thing we can do, all together: keep serving while having fun in our Fellowship.

Full speed ahead my dear fellow Commodores and Crews, stay on course and speed and all of us, together, will have a serene and rewarding navigation!



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)



**International Vice Commodore, Area 3 Commodore,
Sydney Convention Manager, Rotafloat Editor and Publisher:
Jesus 'Jun' Avecilla (PHILIPPINES)**

In 2009 President Jun Avecilla of RC Cubao West founded the Cubao West Fleet and became its Charter Commodore. The following year he formed four more fleets making the Philippines an IYFR Region and therefore became its first Regional Commodore. And, in that short period he was subsequently and un subsequently and unanimously elected as International Rear Commodore in December 2010. The

Philippine Region has now grown to 7 Fleets. An avid and passionate sailor he actively promotes sailing in the erstwhile American naval base in Subic Bay, Zambales, Philippines. An AG for International Service in the lone RI District 3780, Quezon City, he encompasses and balances Rotary fellowship with service flair and determined concern for the environment. As a serious and committed advocate for the preservation, conservation, protection of marine life, its varied biodiversity and marine habitats... he is consistently in the forefront in the cleaning seacoasts, waterways and water tributaries which likewise is the guiding mission of the IYFR Mariners of the Philippine Fleet.



**International Rear Commodore, Area 1 Commodore,
Sao Paulo Convention Manager: Guillermo Arteta (ARGENTINA)**

Guillermo was born into a family in Argentina which owned department stores. First he studied economics and law, becoming a lawyer and Doctor in Economics. After 18 months in Europe, building up his skills in English and French languages, he returned to Buenos Aires and worked in the family business for 12 years. He was then a Director of the Stock Exchange of Buenos Aires, a private bank and other companies. He is now retired.

At the age of 28, Guillermo joined the Rotary Club of Buenos Aires, holding nearly all positions. He led a Group Study Exchange team to England in 1977 and has held various district appointments. He was approached in 2000 by IC Joe Philips about forming an IYFR Fleet in Argentina. This was chartered during the subsequent convention in Buenos Aires taking the name Rio de la Plata Fleet. He was its first FC. He chartered a second Fleet in 2009 in Brazil's most populous city Sao Paulo.

Guillermo is married to Monica Renaud and they have four children and a grandchild. Apart from sailing a special interest in English and French literature.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)



Chief of Staff: Luigi Norsa (ITALY)

Graduated in chemistry at the Genoa University in 1977, I spent my career in the communication and marketing in international corporations and in the major international corporate and public affairs consultancies, specializing in disaster management and risk communication until I started in 1999 the first and sole Italian issue and crisis management consultancy, developing a particular experience in the shipping industry. I have also written some books on the crisis management and I am Professor of Issue and Crisis Communication at the IULM University of Milan. In other words, my job is to solve big mess, when I don't create it... Being born on the seaside in Rapallo, I started sailing on a 420 with Annarita, that became later my wife. I joined in 1990 the Circolo Nautico Rapallo, of which I've been for long time secretary. With my family and some friends we were sailing, renting locally sailboats, in Greece, Turkey, Southern Italy, Tunisia and Baleares, until in 1993 when I acquired my first sailing boat - a Flash 21 - followed in 2000. by a Bavaria 36. I like, every time I can, come back in Rapallo to sail, together Annarita and my daughters Micol and Yael, to Elba, Corsica or Cote d'Azur. I am member of the Rotary Club of Chiavari Tigullio and I have been a founder member of the Italy North West Fleet of IYFR in 2007, of which I have been Commodore for 2011-2013.



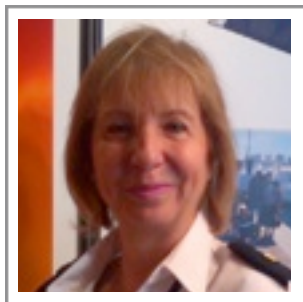
The Administrative Officer: Alberto Bagnasco (ITALY)

A Rotarian since 1976, President R.C. Genova Golfo Paradiso 1984/85. Founder President of R.C. Golfo di Genova 1999/2001. DGA (District 2030) 1998/99, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2008. District Fellowships Committee President of District 2030: 2011/12, District 2031 & 2032: 2012/13, 2013/14 I.Y.F.R. Founder Fleet Vice Commodore of Italy North West Fleet 2007 & I.Y.F.R. Fleet Commodore 2009-2010

Commodore 2009-2010. Alberto Bagnasco was born on November 11, 1942 in Lavagna (Genoa – Italy). He is married to Marina Cais di Pierlas with one daughter (two grand children) and one son. As a Civil Engineer and Director of a Major International Construction Company, he worked as a Project Manager for Civil and Maritime Construction in Italy. He was the Secretary General of the STA-I (Sail Training Association - Italian) until 2009. Italian Yacht Club Member and part of the Bridge for 22 Years holding positions of Director of the Marina and Treasurer. Member of the Race Committee Y.C.I. for the for the safety at sea and ashore logistics at the national and international regattas of the Olympic classes. Alberto is currently an administrator of a Real Estate Company.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)



Public Relations Officer: Selda Gerson (TURKEY)

As a Past Club President and active District Officer/, she is also a retired architect and currently an optician.



Legal Officer: Rodney Davis (GB&I)

I am a retired lawyer, having worked in the City of London as a partner in one of the big U.K. solicitors' practices. I am currently a non-executive Director of a Property Company based in Bristol (a former client).

I am a member of the Rotary Club of Henley Bridge and was President last year. I am a member of the Thames Fleet and was Hon. Secretary of IYFR in GB&I for six years. I am currently GB&I Vice Commodore.



IYFR GRANTS: BRYAN SKINNER

"My boating days began in the 1960's when I learned to sail on a clinker built boat on the Solent. I then started a yearly event of taking my children and their friends on the Norfolk Broads for a cruising and sailing holiday. I finally purchased my own cruiser 20 years ago, and as I had been a Rotarian since 1974, I joined IYFR,

and was first a founder member of the Suffolk Fleet. As my boat on the Broads I later transferred to the Broads Fleet. I have been President of my own Rotary Club of Hertford, and also Commodore of the Broads Fleet. During the year I was Commodore, I was proposed to the GB&I Bridge as Rear Commodore, and I have climbed the ladder until I took over as a Commodore GB&I in July 2002. I have travelled extensively since taking office, and have attended numerous conventions. I had the great pleasure of crewing for Ken Winter during the America's Cup final races, a unique and remarkable experience which I will remember all my life. It has been a great privilege for me to serve in this post, and a wonderful climax to my years in IYFR. Chris and I have three daughters and a son, and seven grandchildren.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)

Treasurer: André Gorgemans (SWITZERLAND)

André Gorgemans, a Belgian and Swiss national, completed his studies at the Institut Supérieur de Commerce in Brussels and the Boston University.

He began his career at Celanese headquarters in New York and held several finance management positions in the USA. He then joined successively Samsonite, Levi Strauss and Adidas where he held several executive positions in Finance and was the CEO in the USA between

1987 and 1991 of two Adidas divisions (Le Coq Sportif and Arena). From 1991 to the end of 2007 André officiated as the Secretary General of the WFSGI. He served as a consultant to the IOC for many Olympic Games and was instrumental as a consultant to the reorganization of AIBA. He is still active as a consultant to sports management companies. André has made several Atlantic crossings and is an avid yacht racer. He has a long record of service with Rotary.

Cashier: Riccardo Perinetto (ITALY)

Rotary Club of Torino Matteotti
District 2031
Member since 2007-10-20
Fleet: North West



Auditor and Annual Dues: Sergio Murri (ITALY)

Vice Commodore Sergio is the past president of the Chiavari Tigullio Rotary Club where he migrated from the Sarzana Lerici RC after having been the President of that Club too. He has also been District Secretary and DGA for three times. In 2007 he was, the founding Commodore of the Italy NW Fleet that is now the largest of the IYFR Fleets.

A former Naval Aviator, he served as the CO of the Italian three masted square rigged training Vessel *Amerigo Vespucci*, he now sails on anything that floats and, whenever possible, with his nephew Leo.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)

Regalia Officer: Laura Padoan (ITALY)



Here we have the real Admiral of IYFR. Born in Milan in the late forties, she frequented and graduated magna cum laude at the prestigious university " Bocconi " in Milan.

She has been an appreciated teacher for more than thirty years: she can speak also English, French and Spanish. She married Sergio almost twenty years ago and is much more than the best of sisters to Sergio's only daughter Simona (Italy NW Fleet) and a perfect grand ma for Leonardo and Lhouna that unfortunately live in Geneve most of the year. She is a splendid cook a tremendous reader and a great walker; she has travelled most of the world and has also written many guides especially about central and southern America. Waiting to meet you all.



Executive Secretary: Vincenzo Pirato (ITALY)

Born in Ginosa, TA, Italy on October, 01, 1948. Married to the director Dr. Guiseppina Scarano Asl Brindisi.

Volunteer of the Italian Committee of the United Nations World Food Programme with the appointment of Chairman for the region Puglia and member of the National Council.

The Rotary Club of Brindisi Valesio 1994. He held various positions inside the club, and State Club President in 2004/2005 and 2009/2011. He held position of Assistant to the Puglia and Basilicata District 2120 Governor in 2006/2007.



Special Assistant: Robert Eaglesham (AUSTRALIA)

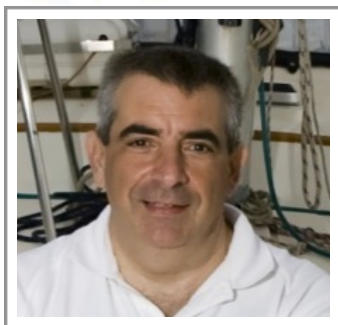
Born in Sydney, Australia. He has more than 30 years of experience with insurance brokering and is currently managing a private investment company. In a voluntary capacity, he also provides financial assistance to several widows of former clients and to elderly persons.

Robert is married to Marlene and they live on a small farm about 80 klms outside of Sydney, breeding beef cattle. They have 5 children and 11 grandchildren. Invited to join Rotary in 1981 as a Charter member of the St. George Central Rotary Club, he served with that club as a Director for over 13 years and then as President 1993-94. He also served his Rotary District for 5 years, 3 years as a Committee Chairman. He is now a member of the Rotary Club of Camden.

Robert was introduced to IYFR in 1995 joining the Australia – NSW (Sydney) Fleet. He has served as Secretary/Treasurer for several years and Fleet Commodore in 1996-97. In 1997 he was appointed Regional Commodore of New South Wales & ACT region and is still serving in that appointment. He has been appointed as a Special Assistant to the 2013-15 Intl. Bridge with responsibility for organising the 2014 Post Convention Cruise in Sydney.



INTERNATIONAL OFFICER AND STAFF 2013-2015
INTERNATIONAL STAFF 2013- 2015 IC Sergio Santi (ITALY)



Special Assistant:

Carlo d'Amore

(SPAIN)

Rotary Club of Madrid Norte

District 2201

Rotary : Member since: 2009-05-09; Rotarian in RC Madrid Norte;
Secretary 2010-2011, President 2011 – 2012 and acting President
2012-2013, PHF+1

IYFR : Founder of the Madrid Fleet, Madrid Fleet past Vice-
Commodore, Region Iberia Vice-Commodore

An Italian national born on November 30, 1957. He speaks four languages (Italian, French, Spanish and English). Married to Judyrose with five children (3 sons and 2 daughters). He lives in Madrid since 1981. He owns SY Judyrose a classic Sail Belliure 40 Sailing boat moored near Alicante, Spain.



Special Assistant:

Luigi Falanga

(ITALY)

Rotary Club of Catania

District 2110

Fleet: Sicily

Member Since: 2007-10-21



Special Assistant:

Eckhardt Fischer

(GERMANY)

Rotary Club of Kieler Förde

District 1890

Fleet: North

Member since: 2005-05-12



Special Assistant:

David Hansen

(NEW ZEALAND)

Rotary Club of Northcote

District 9910

Fleet: Northcote

Member since: 2007-02-11

Special Assistant:

Piotr Pajdowski

(POLAND)

Rotary Club Warszawa City

D-22

Fleet: Gizycko

Member since 5/5/2007



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AREA 3 Commodore Jun Avecilla (PHILIPPINES) jeajr.selmagroup@gmail.com





My dear Fellow Mariners scattered all over the World, some of you know that the process of preparing this year “PROPOSED RULES CHANGES” documents has been a long one and actually began almost one year ago when both the IRC and I started having doubts on the “PROPOSED RULES CHANGES” voting procedures that, actually, were not giving all the Mariners the same and real possibility to cast their vote. This doubt and the absolute certainty that our GR were not known to the greatest majority of our Fellow Mariners, English speaking ones comprised, led many IPCs, the other two Area Commodores, about all of the European Region Commodores and me to the conclusion that the IYFR deserved a complex of Rules that in addition and besides the incorporation of the last sixty years experiences in ruling the Fellowship were to be: SHORT, COMPREHENSIBLE, ADEQUATE to the interest of the great variety of our Mariners that goes from the simple Mariner to the International Bridge Officers, FAIR for everybody, of EASY ACCESS AND COMPLIANCE, having in mind that we are Rotarians and that we are operating in a Rotarian Fellowship environment.

Splitting the current Rules into three separate documents may not be ideal but it is the solution that the Amendment Committee, established and operating in the strictest compliance with the existing GR, found adequate to solve the said requirements and the language problem. Actually, as you know, less than 50% of the membership have English as a first language and it is quite difficult for non-English speakers to really understand something rather legalistic like the Rules and voting procedure (even an easy one) that comes in English. English may be the official language of Rotary and IYFR but surely this doesn't mean that everything everywhere has to be conducted in English. The RI web-site itself makes provision for a number of more common languages.

The almost 30 pages of the 2012 edition had become, year by year, too long and not of generalized interest for all the Fellowship and not accessible/comprehensible in any way at least by more than half if not 2/3 of the IYFR Members (language and internet access problems). So the idea of separating the basic rules from the descending procedures and regulations and the flags/regalia and uniform part, was born and, thanks to the precious, constant help and frank advice of a multitude of expert and dedicated Commodores, now they are ready to be voted following the procedure established by the EC.



Our 2013-2015 proposed Rules, are now divided in 3 separate documents that have been named:

- IYFR GENERAL RULES . 5 pages plus cover and glossary. These Rules are the very basis of our friendly Organization. They have already been translated at no cost in most of the IYFR spoken languages so that every Mariner can read them in the language he knows best. And it does not take too much time. The main and totally self- explanatory variations with the exception of the articles sequence, are outlined hereunder.
- IYFR PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS. 24 pages, Annexes comprised. This document contains, with the exclusion of the Flags and Uniforms, all the remaining and descending regulation and procedures that generation of Mariners have considered necessary to adopt for a correct IYFR management. The changed Articles sequence is the same as the GR and the P&R variations are consequential and consistent with the GR changes . It is not essential for every Mariner to know these regulations and procedures, since these are more for specialists or for those Mariners candidates to have a place in the International Bridge or in the International Staff. This is the reason why they have not be translated. IB Officers down to RCs and IB Staff Officers are supposed to know the official IYFR language that remains the English one. A careful maquillage has also been made in order to peel off those totally obsolete rules like the paper copies of ROTAFLOAT and their distribution.
- IYFR FLAGS, UNIFORMS and BOATING PRACTICE. 19 illustrated pages. This document, thanks to the color pictures/drawings, gives a totally understandable vision of the IYFR Regalia and their use and can be a valid source of information also for the non-English speaking IYFORIANS. This document is essential for the standardization of our uniforms, badges, pennants and personal burgees.

The amendments that the Rules Amendment Committee, in this case a real “Council on Legislation” who has worked on the Rules under my coordination as incoming IC (see Art 13 of the 2012 GR edition) concern :

- GR Art 6 Changes the concept of “remuneration” into the more appropriate “partial reimbursement” and introduces a definite ceiling to the IB expenses.
- GR Art 6.4.3. IC partial reimbursement for travel expenses, claimable each year is capped to 6000,00 USD
- GR Art 6.5.1. IVC partial reimbursement for travel expenses, claimable each year is capped to 2500,00 USD
- GR Art 6.6.1 IRC partial reimbursement for travel expenses, claimable each year is capped to 1500,00 USD



- GR Art 7.1. A Region can be made out of 2 Fleets
- GR Art 9. Definition of the time and circumstances for the handover of IC Insignia.
- GR Art 10.3 Redefinition of the independent Finance Committee that reviews the IYFR account
- GR Art 12.2 Area management of the Regalia
- GR Art 13 Establishes the democratic and inexpensive way in which amendments can be requested, considered, approved, proposed and voted.

The variation in the other two Documents are a direct consequence and the complement to the variations to the GENERAL RULES. All the Members who have asked to amend the PROPOSED AMENDMENTS that you have seen on our website since the end of January 2013, or were contrary to them, have been duly listened and the decision to accept or reject their amendment has been taken at the Committee majority in a real international and democratic process.

I am proud to affirm that these 3 Documents have been adopted almost at unanimity by the Members of the Committee that I have had the honor to chair and which I deeply desire to thank. It has been informally and friendly composed by all the PICs, EC, Area Commodores and the incoming Area1 Commodore, Chiefs of Staff, Legal Officers of the actual and next EC, the incoming International Treasurer, more than a dozen Region Commodores, more than a dozen Fleet Commodores and even individual Members. No actual meeting was held but hundreds of e mail and telephone calls have been exchanged involving the totality of this huge Council on Legislation.

Now that the results of the voting are out I thank everyone for the overwhelming passage of the Proposed Amendments and henceforth put his challenging chapter in our history behind us and unite as we move forward. The 3 books of the General Rules including its translation in various languages spoken by members of the Fellowship, the Procedures and Regulations and tthe Flags, Uniforms and Boating Practice will be uploaded in the IYFR website for everyone's easy reference and download.

Let the IYFR live a long and serene period and have FUN FUN FUN!

IC Sergio Santi



The Fellowship was active at Convention, having a booth in the House of Friendship manned by members in whites and attending the All Fellowships AGM to represent our point of view. Specific IYFR activities were:

The Commodore's Reception - Held outside a restaurant on the waterfront near the convention centre in the early evening, this was the opening event. It provided a chance for mariner friends to meet again and swap stories over dinner and drinks.

Dinner at Lisbon Yacht Club - This was an extra event organised by Sergio Santi and attended by over 100. The Yacht Club is in an historic location, being very close to the place from which the great navigator Vasco da Gama departed on his famous voyages of exploration. During dinner the noise levels seemed to be increasing and it was not long before the tables closest to the bar erupted in song and celebration. This quickly spread across the room. One particular tune was to later become significant on PCC. A great evening of fun and fellowship!

The Annual General Meeting - Held in a convention centre room with only one hour available there were quick reports from each Area Commodore, on the accounts, by the International Commodore, on the Rules changes voting and next year's PCC in Sydney. In summary Mariner numbers have overall held relatively constant, with some losses and some gains. In the past year new fleets were chartered in the Philippines and Monaco and new squadrons formed in Israel and south east Africa. While the final accounts are yet to be received, funds in reserve do appear to be declining more or less as expected, due to the Grants Programme. Voting in summary passed the first three proposals and failed the fourth. More information on all these items can be found elsewhere in this Rotafloat or on the web site.

The Commodore's Dinner - Over 70 attended this formal dinner to enjoy fellowship and witness the ceremonial changeover of regalia from IC Clint Collier to Sergio Santi. Also there was the stepping up of Jun Avecilla to IVC and Guillermo Arteta becoming IRC, plus introducing the new International Bridge. In all a most enjoyable evening.



PHOTO ABOVE: IC Sergio Santi (Italy), IVC Jun Avecilla (Philippines) and IRC Guillermo Arteta (Argentina) installed new heads of IYFR by outgoing IC Clint Collier (U.S.A)



Post Convention Cruise (PCC) - Immediately after Convention 36 travelled by coach to stay 4 nights in Porto. Enroute we stopped at a magnificent hotel, built in the Manueline architectural style (unique to Portugal) and enjoying a lunch that was to set the tone for a gastronomic PCC. During the PCC we twice travelled on the Douro river, one voyage taking us to the heart the Douro valley (the center of the port wine growing area) We also visited past palaces, churches and other historic buildings learning much about the Portuguese history. Included was a trip to the city considered the birth place of modern Portugal. Through all this were lunches, dinners and wine tasting that continued the gastronomic experience, accompanied in most instances by the singing of 'barrum barrum'. All this culminated in a semi-formal dinner in the Taylors' wine cellars.

One very special occasion was at a lunch when, under the mobile phone baton of conductor Jun (IVC) we were singing. By now the whole restaurant was watching and joining in. An older French man joined us and this caused us all to provide an impromptu version of the Marseillaise after which he was presented with a IYFR pin and a little Koala bear with lots of hugs. This was a spontaneous moment of Rotary in Action. He stood and thanked us with tears in his eyes and would only leave when two younger woman offered their arms to escort him. We understood he had serious health problems and later learnt that his tour group was not including him in their circle.

In summary a most enjoyable time of fun and fellowship, helped enormously by a great guide and driver. Most importantly a huge thanks is due to IPIC Clint, Bev and the International Bridge for their organisation and coordination of these IYFR events and to IC Sergio for organising the special dinner at the Lisbon Yacht Club..



ABOUT THE COVER: AMERIGO VESPUCCI



A picture of one of the last paintings that was presented by one of the main marina and naval painters of the last century Rod Claudus (1893-1964) to IC Sergio Santi when he was a commissioned Officer in the Italian Navy in January 1964 just before Rod died in April of the same year.

The Amerigo Vespucci is viewed on her starboard side under full sails in rough seas. IC Sergio had been a young Cadet on board Amerigo Vespucci in 1962 and was her Captain in 1988-89 travelling around the seas for more than 14000 miles, the very most of them under sails.