RI President Bhichai Rattakul says:

"Scouting taught me a great deal"

Like most of Rotary’s leaders, international president Bhichai Rattakul has close ties to scouting. When he stepped into an Austin Texas ballroom where he would be speaking later that evening, a color guard from Boy Scout Troop 30 was rehearsing. Instinctively, Bhichai went immediately to their uniformed adult scout leader and introduced himself as a Scout from Thailand.

Following his inspiring address to a sold-out gathering of Texas Rotarians, our global leader presented PHF medallions to about sixty people, including a uniformed Eagle Scout — who received the official scout handshake and salute as well.

“I became a scout when I was 8-years old,” Bhichai told Scouting Rotarian, “and scouting taught me a great deal. For example: when ladies climbed onto the bus I was riding, I jumped up and said ‘Please sit down.’ Already scouting had taught me manners — when I was just 8-years old. I have remained involved in scouting ever since.

(see Bhichai Rattakul on page 3)

Greetings from the new IFSR Chairman David Judge

My congratulations to John Kenny & Harold Friend previous Chairs that set us on a firm foundation. I see IFSR members as two-way ambassadors to and for Rotary & Scouting. Unlike other Rotary Fellowships we do not hold tournaments, cruises, fly-ins or similar Fellowship Events and the only occasions some of us meet one another are at RI Conventions & Conferences.

These are important events and we should meet to promote IFSR and increase membership. For the membership at large it is essential that we expand communication and information of IFSR projects and activities around the world. We should urge all members to report and contribute their activities and encourage others to do likewise in their Scouting/Rotary communities.

A personal idea I am proposing is a joint ROTARY & SCOUTING CENTENNIAL PROJECT to celebrate our centenaries in 2005 & 2007. I would like every one of the 630 Rotary Districts to sponsor a Scout from their own District and a Scout from a third world district who could not otherwise afford attending the 2007 Centennial World Scout Jamboree. These two would become buddies at the Jamboree and I believe become great ambassadors for both Rotary & Scouting. It’s up to you, the members, if this goes ahead.

Further I would like to invite all IFSR members to visit the 2007 World Scout Jamboree in my District 1240 of which I was proud to be the Millennium District Governor.

(see David Judge on page 2)

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I am willing to be part of a team to arrange a tour program to include Gilwell, Brownsea Island, London and other places of general interest besides the Jamboree itself. Although there would be a Scouting theme I would aim to make the tour attractive to all.

The 2003 RI Convention will be in Brisbane and in the coming months I hope we can increase IFSR membership in Australia. It would be great if we can have a large IFSR attendance in Brisbane. Any help or contacts to achieve this objective will be welcomed.

My wife Christine joins me in wishing you success in your endeavors for Rotary, Scouting and the people of the world. We thank your for “Being Prepared To Put Service Above Self”

Sincerely,
David A. Judge

THE HISTORY OF THE IFSR
By Harold Friend

In the early 1990’s a group of British Rotarians interested in Scouting came together with the idea of forming a Rotary Scout Fellowship. Among those original members were Sammy Sameuls, the late Norman Cooper, Edward Robinson, John Kenny and David Judge.

The necessary requirements of RI for formation of a new Rotary Fellowship were met and at the RI Convention in Mexico in 1991 the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR) was approved. The first group was within RIBI in Britain & Ireland although IFSR quickly spread throughout the Rotary World, particularly North America.

IFSR’s first World Chairman was Sammy Samuels from London, followed by Past RIBI President, RI Director & current RI Trustee John Kenny from Scotland. Under John’s leadership IFSR doubled its membership and expanded to 18 countries. PDG Harold Friend from Boca Raton Florida was Chair 1999-2002, having previously held the position of IFSR Secretary for several years. Harold did much to formulate IFSR procedures, expand membership into 31 countries and was responsible for drafting the current IFSR Constitution. On 1st of July 2002 PDG David A. Judge of Colchester England took over as IFSR Chair.

IFSR has held Rotary meetings in conjunction with national Scout Associations, World Scout Conferences and various other World Organization of Scout Movements activities. A strong connection has been established between the international Scout organizations and IFSR. Working thru IFSR Dr. Jacques Moreillon, Director of WOSM, was invited to be a keynote speaker at a session on Youth at the 2002 Barcelona convention and he was able to attend the Annual General Meeting of IFSR.

The Silver Wheel is the highest international award presented by IFSR to individuals who have provided leadership to bring together Scouting and Rotary. Those presented with this award have been: Past RI President Cliff Doherty, Past RI Director & IFSR Chair John Kenny, PDG & IFSR Chair Harold Friend and WOSM Director Jacques Moreillon.
“Later on, as Deputy Prime Minister I became the vice chairman of the scout movement in Thailand. The Prime Minister was chairman, so I was second man for many things, but I took great interest in this duty because of my scouting experiences as a kid. His majesty the King of Thailand is also very keen on scouting activities in your area are “supported fully.” Whenever we have a Jamboree or a big event, he attends — and in scout uniform also. The scout uniform means so much to me.”

The next World Scout Jamboree runs from 28 December 2002 to 7 January 2003 at Sattahip, Thailand. The National Scout Organization of Thailand has approximately 75 IFSR members in leadership roles.

“Several years ago the Secretary General of the World Organization of Scouting, Jacques Moreillon, came to my office in Government House, Bangkok and had a meeting with me and my son Anatchai, Scout Commissioner in the Asia Pacific Region. It takes 6 or 7 years to prepare for such a big event as a World Scout Jamboree; Jacques needed to know what level of support it would receive from the government of Thailand. Of course I assured him it would be supported fully.”

Scouting Rotarian encourages IFSR members to make sure scout activities in your area are “supported fully.”

(see Brian Thiessen on page 4)

During the World Scout Conference in Thessaloniki, Greece over 20 key world Scout leaders- all Rotarians- were guests of the city’s Rotary Club. Bussed to the meeting from the Conference to the Club’s own building which in many was likened to the good British Club.

Rotarians from 15 countries as well as the son and grandson of RI President Bhichais Rattakul enjoyed the Greek hospitality and listened to brief remarks from a number of world Rotary and Scouting leaders. Our principal speaker was the Hon. Suwit Khunkitti, Thailand’s Minister of Education and Leader of the Scout delegation. He indicated they were expecting 30,000 Scouts to the World Jamboree 2003. World Scout Secretary General Jacques Marillon challenged each Rotary District to help sponsor 2 boys to the 2007 One-Hundredth Anniversary of Scouting near London. One Scout from the Rotary District and one from a 3rd World country that couldn’t go without financial help.

Other speakers included the Chairman of the Boy Scouts of Greece Dr. George Asimakopoulous, the Governor of District 2480 Kostas Angouridakis. Thessaloniki Club Vice President presided. Our thanks to newsletter editor, Ted Olson, who personally made the arrangements with the host club for the event. He also spoke about the IFSR and handed out applications for membership. An extra special thanks also goes to Tony Papageorgiu for all his work to make local arrangements in his Rotary Club.

Taking this opportunity the Rotary Club of Thessaloniki sent a copy of an ancient Hellenic statue of land of Macedonia to the RI International President via his son.

Visiting club banners were exchanged and like most Rotary meetings this one also finished far too soon. We then all rushed back to the World Scout Conference a warm Rotarian/Scouting experience richer….

(From Bichais Rattakul on page 1)

IFSR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

In Barcelona the following officers were elected:

Chairman- David Judge of Colchester, England; Brian Thiessen of Alamo, California Vice Chair; Norlyn ‘Bud’ Allison of Houston, Texas as Secretary; Brian Kimberly of Abbey Park, England as Treasurer; Bruce Trefz of Gastonia, North Carolina as Public Relations. Officers in the various Regions will be covered in our next issue.

HIGHLIGHTS OF JUNE 24th BARCELONA IFSR MEETING

By Brian Thiessen

IFSR Chair Harold Friend chaired the meeting and 29 members from 7 countries were in attendance. Minutes were approved and the Treasurer reported that our finances are strong with $2,129 on hand as this IFSR year closes.

The meeting highlighted a very thoughtful address from Jacques Moreillon, the head of the World Organization of Scout Movements (WOSM). He discussed the particularly vital role Rotary must play in alternative education for the youth of today to become true leaders of tomorrow. He urged each Rotary District to sponsor one boy from their area and one from a 3rd world country to the 100th anniversary of Scouting in 2007. Jacques was also a keynote speaker at on of the Rotary plenary sessions and is an honorary life member of IFSR.

Regions: Reports were presented on activities and projects completed in Australia and the InterAmerican regions. Hong Kong/Asia Pacific reported that the Hong Kong Jamboree had 5,000 campers.

The Silver Wheel was presented to Harold Friend who then presented this award to WOSM’s Jacques Moreillon. The two previous recipients; RI Past Presidents Cliff Dochterman and John Kenny.
The IFSR Booth in Barcelona

The IFSR booth at the Barcelona Convention was well organized and staffed throughout the Convention. It was well located and included not only a wide variety of IFSR literature but also special materials provided by the Scouts of Spain—posters, calendars, newsletter, booklets on Spain Scouting, etc.

IFSR members who helped staff the booth included George & Pauline Meekins of Hartford (D-1260), Harold Friend of Boca Raton (D-6930), Del Raby of Santa Rosa (D-5130), Tom Swearingen of East Portland (D-5100), David & Christine Judge of Colchester (D-1240), Carolyn & Brian Thiessen of Alamo (D-5160), Dorothy Savok of Barrow (D-5010), and Jack Mayo of Austin (D-5870) and others.

A great big Thanks for your participation! We will also need IFSR members to staff the booth at the next RI Convention in Brisbane 1 to 4 of June 2003. We urge YOU to sign up and assist. To volunteer contact David Judge (david.a.judge@virgin.net) or Brian Thiessen (bdtalamo@pacbell.net)

Pictured here from LtoR= Spanish Scouters including Elena Jimenez, IAR Chair Brian Thiessen, RI President Rick King & IFSR World Chair David Judge

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Published: Section issue = Summer / Winter
International issue = Spring / Fall

MEMBERSHIP YEAR – July to June

IFSR-MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)
Membership year is same as Rotary year (1July-30 June)
NEW____ RENEWAL____ LIFE MEMBER__ASSOCIATE____
Name___________________________________________DATE__________Address________________________________
City____________________________State_____________Zip____________Tel:(H)_______________(())_______________
Email___________________Rotary Club______________ Rotary Dist._____ Classification____________
Positions held______________________________________ Scouting History____________________________________
Present Scouting position  (if any)________________________

Make checks to: INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF SCOUTING ROTARIANS (In UK, send in POUNDS STERLING, Outside USA or RIBI, please send Credit cards, checks, or Travelers Cheques). INTERAMERICAN REGION-United States, Russia-East of the Urals, Canada, Mexico, Central & South America, Caribbean. Send to: BRIAN THIESSEN, Int’l. Vice Chair, 100 Los Balcones, Alamo, CA 94507 USA email=bdtalamo@pacbell.net
In RIBI, send to: BRIAN KIMBERLEY,43 Hiller Green Lane, Abbey Park, Redditch, Worcester B98 9BN U.K. email=Kimbo@eupony.net
ALL OTHER AREAS send to: Bud Allison, 6042 Warm Springs, Houston, TX. 77035 USA email=IFSRNA@prodigy.net

MEMBERSHIP: New $25.00/L17 (includes blue tie and pin (s&h) Renewal= $20.00 or L12 or $25 (for all others). Associate Member= $20.00 or 12 or $25 (for all other). Life Member=$200 (US) –may be paid by Credit Card indicate card type_____Number________________________Expiry____Signature________________