INTERNATIONAL YACHTING FELLOWSHIP OF ROTARIANS

98 Fleets Worldwide
21 Countries
3000 Members

14 GB & I Fleets
300 Members


TRUE ROTARY FELLOWSHIP

WEEKEND MUSTERS – CRUISES IN COMPANY – RACES – SERVICE EVENTS – TREASURE HUNTS – SHOREBASED EVENTS

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In 1946, Rotarian John Barrett of the Rotary Club of Brixton, London, conceived the idea of flying from the masthead of his boat a burgee bearing the Rotary emblem. He organised a meeting in 1947 with other sailing Rotarian enthusiasts and the ‘Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians’ was born, a completely new concept in the Rotary world.

Since then the fellowship has grown steadily throughout the world and in 1956 it became the ‘International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians’. There are currently 14 fleets in the UK with a membership of approximately 300.

The main criterion for joining is to enjoy ‘messing about in boats’. There is no requirement to own a boat and there are many members who do not. Boats vary between fleets, with some having all sailing yachts, some all motor yachts and some a mixture. Whatever the nature of the fleet, the spirit is always good and events, both on and off the water, are happy and enjoyable occasions, where fellowship is the key.

These events vary between fleets. Musters might be no more than a meet up for lunch at a nearby anchorage on a Saturday or Sunday, or might be a rendezvous for boats much further afield during summer cruises. More active events could include a treasure hunt, or a race, followed by a barbecue and prize-giving.

There is sometimes a service element included in the programme, for example, taking elderly, disabled or under-privileged people for a short sail, to provide them with an experience they would not otherwise enjoy. One fleet incorporates this into Kids Out.

Events are often arranged for the winter months and always allow for a chat over the previous season’s high spots and frights and a look towards forthcoming plans and aspirations.

Members are always welcomed by other fleets, in various countries of the world, offering a chance to sail in new waters, an opportunity which might not otherwise be available to them. IYFR has a membership with two common interests, that of Rotary and that of sailing. Whatever or wherever the events, they always provide enjoyable occasions, where fellowship is the key, in true Rotarian fashion.

Further information on IYFR can be obtained from www.iyfr.net or www.iyfrgbi.org or by e-mail commodoregbi@googlemail.com

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