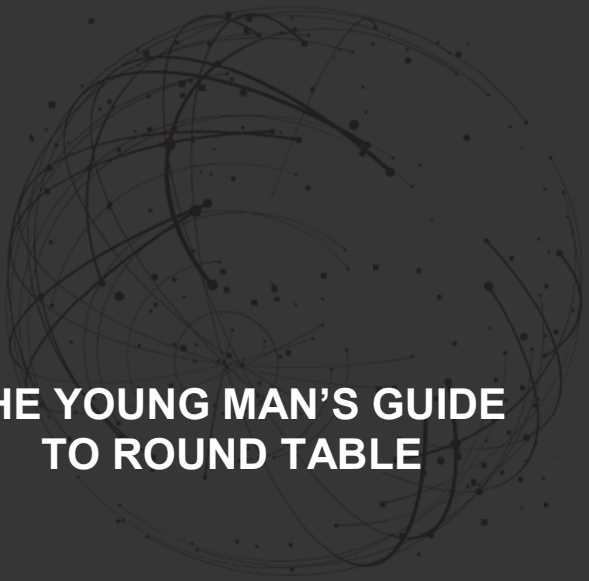
ROUNDTABLE
INTERNATIONAL



THE YOUNG MAN'S GUIDE TO ROUND TABLE

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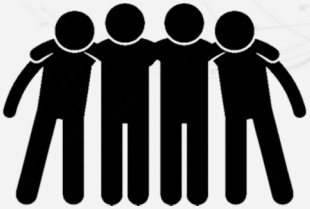
2. WHAT IS ROUND TABLE

Round Table is a **club designed for young men** between 18 and 40 (45 in some countries) years old, irrespective of their religious beliefs or political opinions. Round Table is a closed club, though everybody can join through an invitation of one of the current members who will then became the sponsor of the new member. Round Table is not a business club, it's first of all a place to meet people, to exchange ideas with them and **to develop fellowship**.

Round Table is an **international organization**, active on the 5 continents with 31 000 members (2019). These members meet regularly with the feeling to "meet an old friend for the first time."

The **local clubs** are usually called « Tables », where their members promote first friendship, then **used to support local charities** and charitable causes. Round Table raises funds through either organizing various fund raising events, or by offering time and energy to give a hand wherever it's needed.
As with any hobby, you certainly get out of it what you put in.

This personal commitment certainly also offers a wider experience: Round Table is **used to involve families,** where our kids can learn to spend time together, sharing our values and growing in similar aspects in life as the Tablers themselves do.



3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ROUND TABLE INTERNATIONAL

- To promote fellowship and understanding between Round Table Associations worldwide.
- To promote the formation of new Round Table Associations throughout the world.
- To initiate, develop and improve working relationships with Club 41 International and Ladies Circle International, Tangent Club International and Agora Club International for fellowship, networking and joint service objectives.
- To promote and administer joint service Projects worldwide.

Every association has adopted and adapted these aims and objects to their own particular environment and meaning. Each association has its specific own aims and objects, however they all retain a common thread in spirit and respecting the RTI aims and objectives.

4. HISTORY OF ROUND TABLE

Louis Marchesi in 1927

The first Round Table was formed in Norwich (England) in 1927. The founder, Louis Marchesi, was a young member of Norwich Rotary Club. He pointed out the problem of change, which can only be achieved with young people and he felt a need existed for a club where the young business men of the town could gather.

At the meetings of this “Round Table” they could exchange ideas, learn from the experiences of their colleagues and play a collective part in the civic life of Norwich. This idea was successful and the chartering meeting of the very first Round Table took place at Suckling House, on the 14th March 1927.

Within a year of inception the membership of this Round Table had grown and interest was being shown in establishing Round Tables elsewhere. This is how a national association was founded in England on the 25th May 1928. From a very early stage it was agreed that Round Table would be a non-religious, non-political club and this has continued to this day.

The growth was rapid and Round Table proved it had international appeal with the first overseas Table formed in Copenhagen (Denmark) in 1936. During World War II, Round Table experienced challenges with growth, however further expansion continued with Round Table being established in Sweden in 1943.

After 1945 the pattern of growth was rapidly re-established with Tables being ‘chartered’ overseas, starting with South Africa and thereafter the growth did not stop. Round Table now flourishes in the majority of European countries, throughout Africa, the Middle East, Asia, the Americas, and even more.

In 1947, Round Table counted 133 Tables in Britain and Ireland, 7 Dutch, 5 Swedish and the first Table was chartered in Norway. This is how the international association was established in 1948, with the aim of uniting the various associations, under the name of “Round Table International”, known as RTI.

Today RTI has 31 000 members in 54 countries (2019). Some countries only have 1 or 2 Tables, yet some have hundreds. The main purpose of RTI is to ensure coordination between national associations and to retain the values of the Round Table in each association.

5. OUR LOGO

The first Round Table (Norwich-England) adopted the proposal from Neville Headon from RT Manchester: a drawing inspired by a wooden disc which can still be admired in the Great Hall in Winchester (England). In its centre, we can see the “Tudor’s rose” which was the emblems of the Tudors from 1450 on; just above we can see a king (which could be the King Arthur) with its sceptre. As this original disc is more than 4 metres as diameter, it seems it was used as a Table. This is why the 2-colors-radius all around remembers that every seat around the Table is equal.

This logo was taken over by RT Britain and Ireland while chartering their national association in 1928. This general theme was then taken over by each new association. King Arthur and / or the central rose was replaced each time by a symbol that refers to the relevant national association.

The RTI emblem has also been established from the RTBI emblem.

Emblem of RTBI

6. OUR MOTTO

In February 1927, the Duke of Windsor gave a speech saying:

> "The young business and professional men of this country must get together round the Table, ADOPT methods that have proved so sound in the past, ADAPT them to the changing needs of the time and, whenever possible, IMPROVE them".

The very first President of Round Table (Norwich 1 – RTBI), W. Lincolne-Sutton got inspired by this lecture and proposed to adopt the name of «Round Table» and the motto of « adopt, adapt, improve».

Though those words are almost a century old, this spirit is still up to date and alive in all our clubs!

7. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Supporting charities and uplifting the local community is one of the pillars of Round Table. Numerous activities and events are organized by Tablers to contribute to their respective community.

On the one hand, we can raise funds to support our social projects, on the other hand, we can also offer “manpower”, whereby the Tablers roll up their sleeves to work in an active way to give a hand where it’s needed. Most of the time, Tablers offer a mix of both in order to have a direct contact and keep in touch with the people they are helping.

8. THE MEETINGS

Each Round Table meeting includes a mix of work, amusement, friendship and new encounters. Conferences and / or cultural visits are regularly organized during these meetings. Every Tabler is welcome to any of these meetings.

8.1 Local

Most Tables organize 2 statutory meetings per month, equating on average to 20 meetings per year (as there are no statutory meetings during July and August). Each Table is responsible for creating its own programme, which means that no two clubs are exactly the same.

During these meetings, activities the club would like to engage in are discussed ranging from organizing fund raisers, the charities they would like to support, family meetings, conferences and sport activities. Each club organizes all those events which is required to make the local clubs work. Nevertheless, these meetings always offer a great environment for friendship and amusement.

During these meetings, enjoying dinner together is a common practice too. Table's members also wear our RT pin and jewel (=chain of office), formally open and close the meeting, read the aims and objects, approve the report of last meeting, introduce visitors, discuss matters of concern and give all in attendance equal opportunity to engage and learn.

Those local meetings will bring the same group of ideally 15-20 members every fortnight together, but the opportunities to get together are far greater than that of only the 2 meetings per month. Through Round Table, you can meet people from other cities or countries and even other continents, all with a similar mind set as in your own club!

8.2 Area

Areas exist in some larger associations where a coordinating level between local and national level is needed. They also organize meetings and activities to facilitate encounters and exchanges between different Tables from the same area and provide the link between the Tables and the National Board.

8.3 National

Each association holds an annual general meeting or short AGM for all its members. As it's hosted on local or area level, during this AGM, discussions are based around matters concerning the running of the organization for the incoming year, while meeting many old friends for the first time. Many associations also hold a half-year meeting or short HYM.

Associations also have a National Board to deal with the structure of the organization, coordination and communication between the clubs.

8.4 International

Round Table is present on 5 continents, creating the chance of international encounters and exchanges. For example, you can take part in numbers meetings which combine Round Table clubs having the same club number worldwide. You also get the chance to participate in AGM's of any other associations in other countries and participate in any of the international meetings. Tablers are encouraged not to be afraid of not speaking another language than your mother tongue, as the official language of RTI is "bad" English.

Tabler.World is the administrative platform of RTI. On this platform you can find many Tablers from the same club or different ones, from the same country or other countries, events, news and much more. You can also contact your national IRO who can connect you with Tablers anywhere in the world. Don't hesitate to contact local Tablers while travelling, even during your family and/or business trip.

RTI is divided into 5 regions:

- NEA: Northern Europe and Americas.
- CEE: Central and Eastern Europe.
- SEM: Southern Europe and Mediterranean.
- AMI: Africa Middle East Indian Ocean.
- ASPA: Asia Pacific Region.

Each region also organizes an AGM at different times of the year. On an international level, RTI hold its meeting around end of August and its HYM around mid-February. For those meetings, members of associations with 5 or less chartered Tables can call on a financial subsidy: RTI Travel Fund to assist them financially in attending these meetings. For more info about that travel fund, please go to point 13 of RTI constitution or mail to: secretary@rtinternational.org

9. THE BOARDS

Every year, new boards are elected on all levels (local Tables, Areas, National and International) in order to give everyone the opportunity to be involved and try their hand at one of the prestigious portfolios of leadership. Most of those board's members (depending of associations and levels) receive a jewel or chain of office representing their respective position on that board, each having different colours and designs for different designations.

Each board is composed at least by:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- IRO: International Relations Officer
- Past-President (depending on association)

In addition, there are number of possible board assistants, depending of habits of the association and level, like:

- PRO: Public Relations Officer
- CSO: Community Service Officer
- Shop Manager
- IT Manager
- Etc.

Those ones are usually chosen by the President to support the board team.

10. ROUND TABLE FAMILY

Round Table is an organization only for men under 40 (45 in some countries) years old. Other sister organizations have developed in parallel of Round Table. A Tabler who has reached the age of 40 has the chance to join "41 Club" (also called “Old Tablers” in some countries). Members of 41 Club are only men aged at least of 40 and most were previously a member of Round Table. This association gives former Tablers the opportunity to preserve and develop the bonds of friendship made within Round Table.

The women counterpart of the Round Table is called “Ladies Circle”. This organization was founded by wives of Tablers in 1936. This club is reserved for women (depending of country, generally not only limited to wives or partners of Tablers) and has an age limit of 45 years old. As 41 Clubs is the way to maintain friendship between old Tablers, “Agora Club” gathers former Circlers and is composed by women of at least 45 years old. “Tangent Club” correspond to the same group of people than “Agora Club”, but also do accept non former Ladies Circle within their members.

The friendship that exists between Round Table, Ladies Circle, 41 Clubs, Agora Club and Tangent Club regularly unites the members of those clubs during various events. Having the same spirit, these sister associations work together more and more on community service and on exchanging best practices on local, national and international level.

11. CONTACT

More information about RTI can be found on:

http://www.rtinternational.org

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/RoundTableInternational/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/rtinternational/

Linkedin:https://www.linkedin.com/company/round-table-international/

Mail: secretary@rtinternational.org

12. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AGM:	Annual General Meeting
AMI:	Africa Middle-East Indian-Ocean
ASPA:	Asia Pacific
CEE:	Central & Eastern Europe
CSO:	Community Service Officer
HYM:	Half-year meeting
IPP:	Immediate Past-President
IRO:	International Relationship Officer
NB:	National Board
NEA:	Northern Europe and America
P:	President
PRO:	Public Relation Officer
RT:	Round Table
RTI:	Round Table International
RTI WM:	RTI World Meeting
S:	Secretary
SEM:	Southern Europe and Mediterranean
T:	Treasurer
VP:	Vice-President

13. NOTES

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