



## About Rotary Hilversum International

Rotary Hilversum International (RCHI) is a diverse group of members from all over the world, living in the region around Hilversum (reaching around the triangle Utrecht, Amersfoort & Amsterdam). Members are usually either of Dutch nationality having lived a significant time abroad, or foreign nationals, who have temporary or permanently relocated to the Netherlands. The members are diverse in culture and gender as well as in vocational backgrounds.

### Our beginnings

RCHI was founded in 2014. The initiative to form an international club in Hilversum was taken by two fellow Rotary clubs in the region, with the specific goal of attracting an inspiring international group of members.

Our motto is: 'Bridging cultures – Building communities'.

## What club activities do we have?

Leveraging our international character, our mission is to do all what is in our hands to make a difference to humanity. Bringing to life our motto, RCHI's activities centre around our club programme (Fellowship) and Community Service.

### Fellowship



What binds RCHI is an open mind for diversity in background and culture, a passion to share our experiences and bonds with a strong network of friends from all over the world. We also believe being a club member should be a lot of fun. Our Fellowship Committee passionately ensures a stream of activities to encourage good relationships and friendship between the club members & exchange ideas, share interests, and leverage our diverse international perspectives & skills.

## Community Service



The club is keen to contribute to society with charity programmes through interaction with the international and local community. The charity activities are aligned with the Rotary International Charity Programme. We often strengthen our exposure and capabilities as a club by joining forces on projects with other mature clubs in our region.

Our community Service is a core programme of regional initiatives supported by businesses and individuals to provide fun and happiness to all kinds of underprivileged communities from various backgrounds (not restricted to, newcomers, international groups and youth groups). We successfully sponsor projects that empower women plus local social enterprise initiatives aimed to build bridges between the local community and newcomers requiring social structure and companionship in t'Gooi region.



We organise a winter event called "Breaking the Ice" and in autumn, the "Pony event", both aimed at connecting refugee children with local children and bringing them into contact with local culture through skating or horseback riding. In addition, we regularly have spontaneous actions from club members for charitable causes which receive warm support. About four times a year we have club social events outside the club evenings, to help us bond as a club. Some of these social events include club member partners.

Other activities will be added as the club grows to balance inspirational events with the usually full schedules of our club members, who are all active and successful members of society.

## How is RCHI organised?

The Club is governed by a board which is elected by its members. Board members rotate annually, so that over time most members get to serve on the board, in the spirit of shared responsibilities. In addition, we have a number of committees, usually made up of two to four club members focusing on various club activities. Currently we have active committees themed around; social club activities, community service and charity events, fellowship club evening programmes and membership, plus a diversity, inclusion and equity (DEI) committee to ensure that we continue to contribute to making a positive change for all people.

It is envisaged that with further growth of the club other committees will be formed around other themes, such as contacts with other Rotary Clubs abroad and fundraising for charitable causes. As we are a dynamic club, things are not carved in stone. RCHI is a lively club, welcoming input from all club members.

## When and where do we meet?

We meet twice a month on Wednesday evenings from 7.45 to 9.30 PM in Restaurant “de Eendracht”, ‘s Gravelandseweg 62 in Hilversum. The official programme starts at 8 PM and lasts until 9.30 PM. Often members stay on longer for an informal drink. The annual club season lasts from September until end of June. During the summer period we usually have a few informal social gatherings.



Our club evenings are aimed at being fun and energizing events. Our club members share their experience through vocational talks and inspirational speakers from outside the club are invited to enlighten us about a wide variety of subjects. We usually have engaging discussions.

## What do we expect from our members?

We expect all club members to have an open mind with respect to different cultures, gender and background. Our members share what they can from their backgrounds and experience and have a supportive, social and inclusive outlook on life. All members contribute to the success of the club in a manner in which they feel most comfortable and suits their areas of interest and experience.

We expect our members to be present on average around at least 70% of the club evenings and other activities.

## How time consuming is an RCHI Membership?

The more you put into membership of the club, the more you get out of it. Having said that, all of our members have busy professional and personal lives. We strive to keep the size of the



club in balance with the club membership dues. As a general guideline: apart from the club evenings every two weeks, expect one or two evenings a month for committee meetings

(informal gatherings at member's homes) and three to four days per year during holidays and weekends for our charity and social events.

### What is the cost of membership?

Members pay an annual membership fee of around 300 Euros (slightly adjusted annually). In addition, all members pay 70 Euros per year to cover the cost of drinks. For some social events a modest contribution is requested for members attending. For activities related to community services and charity some club members contribute on a strictly voluntary basis. Investing our time can be as valuable as donating money.

### How can you become a member of RCHI?

Membership of RCHI is by invitation only. RCHI members should have an international background, either foreign nationals living in the Netherlands or Dutch nationals with strong roots in the international community, i.e. because they have lived abroad.

Our Membership Committee is tasked with;

1. Fostering vocational and cultural diversity
2. Attracting members keen to contribute to the club and society, with a deep respect for other people's beliefs, backgrounds and opinions, and
3. Maintaining a good gender balance

If you are interested in learning more about RCHI or becoming a member, please let us know by contacting our Membership Committee, E: [michielgovaerts8@gmail.com](mailto:michielgovaerts8@gmail.com)

After a first introductory interview, you will be invited to join two club evenings to get a good idea of the club atmosphere. If there is a good mutual fit, you will be welcomed to join RCHI.

