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**Society of Anaesthetists of the South Western Region
Rome Meeting: 12th – 15th May 2010
Final Details**



Please bring this letter with you to Rome as it contains details of times, places, and arrangements for the meeting and social events

Dear Colleague

The Rome meeting is next month and almost everyone has paid their final balance but, if not, please do so as soon as possible. The attached information about the forthcoming trip will hopefully help you to plan your stay in Rome. The Michelangelo Hotel is the starting point for the scientific meeting and the social programme, and the hotel staff will have an itinerary so should be able to assist you if a difficulty arises. The programme has a mixture of Italian and UK speakers with a wide range of topics including a session of trainee presentations. I am looking forward to enjoying the meeting with all the SASWR members and our Rome colleagues; particularly since the volcanic cloud no longer casts a shadow over the travelling arrangements.

I would wish to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Mark Ellis and Intersurgical who have kindly sponsored this meeting. There has been a long and successful relationship between the Society, its members and Intersurgical with their range of products, without which our daily working lives would be a little less easy. He and Kate will be joining us for the meeting although their new daughter may curtail their social life.

See you all in Rome.

Kindest regards

Chris Monk
Honorary Secretary, SASWR

Meeting Summary

Travel to and from the airport

The majority of delegates will be arriving on Easyjet flights (EZY 6183) on Tuesday 11th or Wednesday 12th at 15.40. A coach is booked to transfer delegates directly to the hotel on both of these days. This is easier, quicker and more economical than taking either alternatives of taxis or public transport as it is a lengthy journey through the afternoon rush hour. There will have to be a small charge of either £10 or €10 per person to cover the costs, so please come prepared to cross my hand with a note or two of either denomination (10% discount for Euros). Those travelling to different airports or on different days will have to make their own travel arrangements as it is not viable to organise transport which offers any better option than that already available at the airport.

The return trips are booked for the Saturday 15th or Sunday 16th (EZY 6184) which leave at approximately 16.00. Coaches to transfer to the airport from the hotel have been arranged for each day and will leave the lobby at 1300hrs. Again there will be a similar charge.

The best transport within Rome is a taxi from the hotel as they are relatively cheap and convenient. The bus and metro services are close by but often need a number of changes to get to the destination. For the Forum trip taxis are a must as coaches are banned from dropping off tourists close to the Forum plus the cost of a fleet of taxis is cheaper.

Hotel

The rate for the hotel includes breakfast which has a wide range of alternatives so all tastes should be catered for. The rooms, as with so many continental hotels, do not have tea making facilities. With the election in mind, SASWR's advice on foreign policy is to pack some tea bags and reserve a small space for the travel kettle. You will be asked for a credit card to pay for any additional nights booked or any incidental costs. Please inform your credit card company that you are travelling to Italy as it is disappointing to have your transactions blocked for security reasons. There are numerous cash machines in the vicinity and across Rome should your Euros need replenishment but again please warn your bank of your travel arrangements because they tend to block Rome on principle.

Contacting assistance

For the first time in many years Kate Prys-Roberts will not be accompanying us on the trip, this is a great disappointment to us and particularly to me. There should not be any problem to sort out but as we are in Italy, should you wish to contact me I would prefer to receive a text message (+44 7774 851587) or an email on cr_monk@hotmail.com. The hotel were very supportive and helpful on the planning trip, therefore they are the most skilled people in dealing with issues that arise.

Tuesday Evening

Over 30 people will be in or arriving in Rome on Tuesday. Nothing formal is arranged for the evening but should Society members be in the bar at 7-8 pm there should be the opportunity to meet for an informal drink.

Wednesday

Morning - Capitol and Forum Tour

There are a remarkable variety of places to visit in Rome therefore there is no fixed itinerary for the day but a tour to the **Capitol and Forum** has been arranged. 38 people have booked this and the arrangements will be to meet in the hotel foyer after breakfast (9.00) to meet with Isabella, our social programme organiser and guide for the day. The best transport arrangement is to take taxis to the Forum rather than a coach because of traffic restrictions. The taxis will be pre-booked but will have to be paid individually by each set of occupants, please take some low denomination notes. The entry to the Forum is free for those aged 65+ with evidence of EU status, all others need to pay €12 at the entrance and prepayment is not an option. The tour takes about 3 hours so water, hats and protection against the weather will be needed.

Afternoon and evening

The afternoon is free for you to enjoy Rome in your own time. In the evening our President, Stephen, wishes us all to meet in the hotel bar for a sociable start to the evening. After a libation and social chat everyone has the evening free to find a local restaurant to dine in. The local restaurants will quickly be filled by our number so perhaps some planning with a food guide or internet search is to be advised to avoid a long walk.

Thursday

Visit to Tivoli Gardens and Lunch

Our coach will depart from the hotel at 9.00 as it will take 1 hour to travel to **Tivoli Gardens**. The visit to the **Villa D'Este** with the amazing fountains and gardens will take approximately 2+ hours so water, hats and protection against the weather will be needed. Should any member believe the itinerary poses any difficulties please can you discuss this with me before Thursday so an accommodation can be made. There is an entrance fee of €10 which you are expected to pay unless you are over 65 and have proof of EU status.

Having gained an intimate knowledge of the Tivoli water features the party will be taken to a well recommended restaurant for lunch. To manage the numbers (74) arriving en masse the restaurateurs ask us to make a choice of a prima and secunda course. Please could you indicate your choice from the options at the end of this letter to Kate so I may inform the restaurant? There is wine with the lunch but should you wish to partake in more please arrange and pay for this with your waiter. Should the choice not suit those with special dietary requirements please inform Kate at the same time and perhaps make a suggestion of an alternative.

The coach will then return the party to the hotel for mid-afternoon to allow a moment of recuperation before the President's Reception planned for the evening.

President's Reception – Dinner cruise along the Tiber

The Society has arranged for a dinner cruise along the Tiber to take in the sights whilst enjoying a pleasant buffet and refreshments. Embarkation for the voyage is at 20.40 before the 2 boats leave their moorings at the Ponte Sant'Angelo at 21.00. The boats cruise to the Ponte Risorgimento before returning to the S'Angelo pier at 23.15. The strong local advice is for the party to walk both ways between the hotel and the boats because the distance is only 500 metres and I believe takes in a view of the Basilica; should any member wish to organise a taxi then the hotel should be able to help.

Friday

Academic Meeting

The meeting will be held at the hotel on the upper floor starting at 9.30. The venue will be open before the meeting to allow speakers to organise their lectures and those with posters to display them prior to the meeting. Simultaneous translation had been arranged but the Italian delegates have not reached the numbers hoped for, therefore the Society has been forced to make the difficult decision of asking all talks to be given in English. Should this not run to plan there will have to be some swift action to translate into English in a sequential manner. Please register as you arrive so that you can collect your programme and lunch tickets, etc, from the conference staff.

Lunch for the delegates (inclusive), will be a sit down meal in the dining area on the ground floor where breakfast is served. On the way please take time to look at the posters that have been brought to Rome by several of our trainee members from across the region.

Social Programme

The social programme arranged for today is a visit the ancient ruins of **Ostia Antica** and the coach leaves directly after breakfast at 9.00 arriving at the destination by 10.00. The entrance fee is €6.5 unless 65+ and again from the EU. Having visited the ruins lunch is at the self-service restaurant which offers the best and most effective option as there is a lack of fine dining for 40 people in Ostia. The coach will return you to the hotel for a free afternoon and an opportunity to check whether the credit card is working.

Gala Dinner

The Gala Dinner is being held on the Friday night at the **Teatro L'Arciliuto** - Piazza Montevercchio, Most people at the meeting are able to attend and a coach will take the party as close to the venue as possible, but a short walk is likely. Dress for the Gala dinner is usually lounge suits but this venue lends itself towards smart casual, Italian style. To help you plan your late afternoon our host is a Mr Samaritani, he proposes a programme that has us leaving the hotel at 8.30 pm, aperitifs at 9.00 pm with dinner to follow. This will finish about 10.30 pm when the musical entertainment starts. Coaches will probably collect us at about midnight but this is a little uncertain. It is a certainty that the planned level of wine consumption will be exceeded by the Society, as with the Tivoli lunch, those who discover the local antidote to dehydration will need to negotiate this with their waiter and visa card.

Saturday

Academic meeting

The meeting is fortunate to have an additional practical session of airway training at 9.00 before the formal lectures start at 9.30. The meeting will conclude at noon with an interesting talk given by our tour organiser, Isabella, when she will expand on the historical sites we have experienced in Rome.

Social Programme

After lunch at the hotel a large party will then walk with Isabella to the **Vatican** for a tour of the museum, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. It is a 10 minute walk to get there and an entrance fee must be paid of €15.5 (includes non-optional earphones). Isabella predicts the tour will take over 3 hours so comfortable shoes are a must and a good lunch.

Departures

The meeting concludes with the tour of the Vatican, which those leaving on the Saturday must miss as their coach for the airport leaves at 13.00 to get you to the airport for the check in times. Saturday evening is free of any planned events but you should expect to find the Hon Sec in the hotel bar for at least some of the time.

The Rome meeting promises to be both a scientific and social meeting to enjoy. I look forward to welcoming you all in Rome and wish you a safe and dust free journey.

Chris Monk, Hon Sec, SASWR
April 2010

Restaurant choice for Thursday lunch at Tivoli

Please choose one of the two options below for both the first and second course and email this to Kate Prys-Roberts. If you have a food allergy please state what it is, a suggestion of suitable alternative would be helpful? I have negotiated a vegetarian option for the second course but as yet they have not informed me of what it is.

First course:

gnudo di ricotta e spinaci gratinato su fonduta di pecorino (ricotta and spinach on baked cheese)

fettuccine fatte in casa, pomodorini e verdure (home-made fettuccine, tomato and seasonal vegetables)

Second course:

maialino da latte al forno patate e cicoria (suckling pork with baked potatoes and chicory)

pollo disossato e sgaloppato con verdure grigliate (chicken without bones and grilled vegetables)

vegetarian option