

NRDC ITALY WIVES' INTERNATIONAL CLUB

by Pascale Rouse

Perhaps many of you are not aware that within the broader family of NRDC-ITA there is a small, but thriving group of wives and families that meet together on a regular basis.

We refer to the NRDC-Italy Wives' International Club, or NIWIC for short.

NIWIC is open to all spouses and families of staff serving with HQ NRDC-ITA and the Support Brigade. Its purpose is threefold:

To bring together the wives and families of the staff of the different in order to foster good relations and mutual understanding of each others' customs and traditions, and to assist integration in the host nation's culture.

To raise funds for charitable purposes.

During times of deployment, to support the HQ, especially through the Families Support Centre, to the benefit of the families of those deployed.

With the imminent ISAF deployment in early 2009 it is perhaps the last point that will be most important in the months to come.

But let's first talk about who is eligible to be a member of the NIWIC.

Quite simply, it is any partner of a member of the HQ staff, or of the Support Brigade.

You do not need to provide anything other than your name and a contact address (telephone number, address or email) and a member of the NIWIC will contact you.

Membership is free, and it is entirely voluntary as to which events you may wish to attend, or how much you want to be involved.



So what does the NIWIC do on a regular basis? There are three types of activity that we undertake.

Coffee Mornings. Twice a month (first Wednesday and third Thursday of each month) we meet in the Officers' Club in the Barracks at 1030hrs to have coffee together, and to chat and catch up on the latest news. This is an ideal time to be able to exchange ideas, practice languages, and discuss issues.

Evening Outings. Every month, or so, we meet for aperitifs or dinner in a local restaurant. Again, in this international atmosphere, we learn much about each others' cultures and traditions.

Day Trips. We regularly arrange cultural or shopping trips so that we can take advantage of the wealth of opportunities that living in Italy affords us.



All of this is announced and reported in the regular NIWIC Magazine, the Families' Flyer.

Get hold of a past copy to get an idea of what its all about.

But NIWIC is more than just a social club.

Members help each other when help is needed. This is especially the case when a new family arrives and needs perhaps some advice or assistance in settling in. We also welcome new ideas and suggestions of things we might, as a group, wish to do. NIWIC, of course, does

not run itself. A small Committee of representative wives meets regularly to plan activities and events. The Committee also liaises regularly with the Families Support Centre to ensure that both HQ and NIWIC work together in appropriate areas.

So, if you are a partner or spouse reading this article, and you are not already a NIWIC member then why not come along to the next Coffee Morning, or contact the Vice President, Pascale Rouse (at pascalrouse1@hotmail.com) to find out more.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

