



From your President



καλιμερα!

English summer 2008 - to be or not to be, that's the question! We have enjoyed two wonderful weeks in Greece and have already booked for next year. Same place, same beach and the same sun!

Nearly 100 people (yes, correct one hundred) attended the Oxford/Brighton/Southampton River cruise earlier this month. The rain did not dampen the spirit and we enjoyed a lovely day on the river, a rich Ploughman lunch and a very interesting guided tour of Eton College. A big thank you to Brian and Velma Kirton of Oxford for a super day!

Coming up in London is the September luncheon on the 11th. We have a new venue, the TAS Restaurant, convenient located just some minutes from Waterloo Station. We will enjoy an eastern Mediterranean menu and our guest speaker, well-know to some of you, is Rob Davidson, from University of Westminster. He will talk about the challenge to marketing travel & tourism.

Please have a look at our future functions on our web-site and start planning!

In October, we have a Sunday lunch at Janet Kevan's Hotel close to Stansted.

World Travel Market in November and the traditional Christmas Luncheon in December with a guest speaker from our Government.

After the summer break we will discuss, at our next council meeting in September, among other things proposed amendments to the Skål International by-laws (to be voted on in Taipei in October) and the proposed increase in national dues. International dues are paid to Torremolinos in Euros and with the adverse exchange rates over £1,500 has been paid out of central funds. Your comments are more than welcome!

I wish you all a nice continuation of your summer holiday!

Mats Wivesson

We haven't had an event in London during July, so there is no report and no photos this month. However, nearly all the events for the remainder of the year and all of next year have been planned, and these are all detailed in the Calendar of Events on the right. Hopefully this will give you an idea of what's in store in the months ahead and will help you plan your diaries.

Calendar of events

Date	Venue	Event
11 September	TAS Restaurant Waterloo	Autumn lunch with speaker Rob Davison
12-15 October	Taipei, Taiwan	Skål World Congress
26 October	Antons Great Hallingbury Manor	Sunday Lunch Joint event with Luton Club
11 November	Crowne Plaza Docklands	World Travel Market Lunch
12 December	Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park	Christmas Lunch
2009 22 January	RS Hispaniola	AGM & Lunch
20 February	Oatlands Hotel Weybridge Surrey	President's Night
19 March	University of Westminster	Recruitment lunch
16 April	Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese	Our traditional pub lunch (Note change of date)
21 May	Westminster Kingsway College	Veterans' Lunch
TBA June	TBA	Evening with German Tourist Office
16 July	Duck Tour & Slug & Lettuce	London Duck Tour with buffet lunch
TBA September	TBA	Evening at Hungarian Embassy
15 October	Beefeater Tower of London	Mediaeval lunch
1-6 November	Budapest Hungary	Skål World Congress
10 November	Crowne Plaza Docklands	WTM Lunch
10 December	Grange City Hotel	Christmas Lunch

Next event—Lunch at TAS Restaurant



Our next lunch in the 11th September promises to be an interesting one in a new venue. The TAS Restaurant is a short walk from Waterloo and an even shorter one from Southwark underground on the Jubilee Line. The speciality here is eastern Mediterranean food (primarily Turkish). The starters will be a meze for all to share and include zeytin yagali patlican—an aubergine dip; tabule (chopped parsley salad); manca (spinach with yoghurt); zeytin yagali bakla (broad beans with salad and yoghurt); falafel; borek (feta cheese in filo pastry). There is a choice of main course: Karisik Izgara (grilled lamb, chicken and meatballs); Mousakka; TAS Special (Lamb with potatoes, onion and oregano) and Tavuk guvech (chicken with ginger. Mushrooms onion and tomato. Our speaker will be an old friend—Rob Davidson from the University of Westminster. He will talk on the challenges of marketing travel & tourism. It promises to be a very enjoyable occasion. The price of £25 (£27.50 for guests) won't break the bank, so send your booking form to Mats soon!

Lunch at Great Hallingbury Manor



Here's another date for your diary. On 26th October we are joining forces with Luton and Cambridge for a very special Sunday lunch at Great Hallingbury Manor, not far from Stansted. Top chef Anton will be preparing a wonderful 3 course lunch.

The menu will be Chef's special selection of starters, followed by a choice of traditional roasts with all the trimmings and concluding with a trio of desserts. The lunch will be served in the 'Oak Room' at 1300 for 1330 and the very special price will be £22.50, which is exceptional value. A limited number of rooms will be available on the Saturday or Sunday at £80 including breakfast. Numbers are limited, so if you want to go you must book as soon as possible. Diana Hall, President of Luton, is organising this event. Contact her by email dianamarie@tiscali.co.uk or phone 017 2781 2722.

Benevolent Fund News

CORRECTION. So sorry, but having written an obituary for our Immediate Past President David Williams, I obviously didn't do my research carefully enough. I said wrongly he was with Sealink for a number of years. I have been contacted by a couple of people who worked closely with David during that period only to be told he never actually worked for Sealink. David was a Railway man for many years and in the later part, with the "International" division, so he worked very closely with all the Ferry companies, including Sealink! Apologies for my error. Promise to be more careful in the future.

Bob Duffett

New Member News

We are delighted to welcome two new members to Skål London.

Ian Stazicker is Vice President, International Sales for Carey International, an international limousine service. Their website is www.carey.com

Maia Sidamonidze is Sales Manager for Jurys in Islington. She hails from Tbilisi, Georgia. Jurys website is www.jurysinns.com

Welcome to you both. We look forward to seeing you at our future events.

Messing about on the river



Our 'first lady' Lolo Wivesson with other guests including veteran Bob Miller on the very successful 'tripartite' boat trip on the Thames'.

Did you hear about the Irish man?

We have all met scores of Irish people in our time, but anyone who has ever met Hillary Murphy, our skålleague from South East Ireland, would never forget him. Hillary has been uncharacteristically under the weather recently due to suffering a stroke. He has spent some 17 weeks in 3 hospitals, but the good news is he is now on the mend and no doubt up to his usual tricks.

He is glad to be out of hospital at last as no doubt are the nurses who may have had their fill of the spare watches, mobile phones and cleaning tickets. On the plus side they may have replenished their smalls drawers. We wish Hillary a speedy recovery.

Puzzle Corner

**What does this commemorate?
Where is it?**



Last edition's solution

This is one of the sphinx's at the base of Cleopatra's Needle

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Skål International is a professional organisation of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship. It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry. Its members, the industry's managers and executives, meet at local, national and international levels to discuss and pursue topics of common interest