

From your President



Nearly 60 members and guests attended the Veterans' Luncheon the other week. I believe this function just gets better and better with regard to food and service. I'm sure we will see one of these students as a rising star in the near future. The ever popular raffle, conducted with such elegance by our own Bob Duffett, brought in not only well deserved money for the Benevolent Fund, but also brought out many happy smiling faces. The largest smile must have been Giulio Ugo, who won not only one prize but 5 prizes! I hope to see you next month at our June Luncheon at Bertorelli's Soho Restaurant. We have as usual our private room and Nathan Kosky will tell us a little about the past, present and future of the O2 complex. This will be very interesting

particularly when we read about the venue as a world leader for events and concerts.

Even though we know each other quite well by now, we have many new members who do not. Will therefore, in future, insist that all members wear their Skål name badge at all functions. There will be a penalty if you don't! Feel free to bring as many guests as you want to our functions. Please note that if your guest signs on the dotted line within a month and becomes a Skål member, the cost of the luncheon will be refunded (does not include the Christmas Luncheon or President's Night). Do you want to be a Council Member and learn more about how we are running your club? Please contact any one of us on Council. And now I will finish with my standard request to all of you—Tell us NOW how we can change the club for the future, so we all can enjoy and share the spirit of Skål.

Mats Wivesson

Last event—Veterans' Lunch

As always, this proved one of the most popular and enjoyable lunches of the club calendar. Some 56 skålleagues, guests and most importantly, veterans enjoyed a superb lunch expertly prepared and immaculately served by the students of Westminster Kingsway Catering College. The raffle for the Benevolent Fund was again professionally conducted by Bob Duffett, ably assisted by Joy, and nearly everyone won a prize. £300 was collected for the Fund. Once again it was an occasion enjoyed by all who now all

Calendar of events

Date	Venue	Event
12 June	Bertorelli's Soho	Summer lunch With speaker from O2 complex
18 September	St James's Court Buckingham Gate	Autumn lunch With speaker
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	Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese	Traditional pub lunch



Bob Duffett frantically selling raffle tickets with Sheila Gray and veteran Alan Painter



Airline veterans getting together before lunch reminisce about the good old days.



Veterans, members, guests and our President eagerly await the drawing of the raffle

Veteran Presidents at the Veterans' Lunch



Past Presidents at the Veterans' Lunch

Back Row; Don Love, Laurie Stanbridge, Edmund Vowles
Front Row: Bob Duffett, Jan Kevan, Clayton Joyce

Ray Bogaert 1919-2008 A true skålleague

Ray Bogaert, Membre d'honneur AISC, Past President, Past National President and Past International Auditor AISC. Probably, with our former member Bob Symrk the most respected and "honoured" members our Club has ever had. Ray was born on April 13th 1919 and at the age of just 8 years started to travel. His parents decided that he should be bilingual and the best way to achieve this was to split his education between UK and Belgium, one term in England and the next in Brussels so Ray became a very regular traveller on the Imperial Airways service between Croydon and Brussels. There was no "Unaccompanied Minors" service in those days, so his parents would simply take Ray to the Airport and seek out some other likely passenger on the flight and ask them to look after young Ray. Quite an unreasonable responsibility really, in those early days of Air Transportation. After WWII Ray entered the Hotel Business with the Savoy Group. Only the best for young Bogaert! He played many roles as he represented Britain's most prestigious Hotel group, including nipping over to LeHavre on the original Queen Mary, Queen Elizabeth and S.S. United States greeting Royalty, Heads of State and celebrities from all walks of life as they arrived this side of the Atlantic, to commence their stay in either The Savoy, Claridges, The Connaught or The Berkeley. Ray joined our Club in 1954, became our President in 1974, followed by becoming National President and subsequently for many years International Auditor AISC. He served for 10 years on the International's Statues Commission and was appointed Membre d'Honneur in 1987 in appreciation of his many years of service to Skål. Ray & his devoted wife Lynn attended some 33 International Congresses and most of the UK National Assemblies from 1954 through to 2000. Will any of us in the current situation ever match this sort of record? Ray was a most kind and generous man, always prepared to spare time to discuss Skål problems and offer us advice based on his enormous experience. I will end my small tribute by stealing some words from one of Ray's closest International friends, who worked with him in the Savoy Group, now retired from the New York Club, Bill Pullen Past President SIUSA, "Ray was truly one-of-a-kind, a man loved, admired, respected and never to be forgotten. May he always rest in peace with a twinkle in his eye and a smile on his lips".

Bob Duffett

Next event—Summer Lunch at Bertorelli's



Our next event is our Summer Luncheon at Bertorelli's Soho on 12th June. This is always a pleasant venue where we have our own private room and the Italian cuisine is delightful. We have a speaker on this occasion—Nathan Kosky from the O2

Complex. The once infamous 'Dome' used to be a source of contempt being considered a bit of a white elephant. It has now become the leading UK arena for sports and music events. It will be fascinating to hear about the turnaround in it's fortunes. This will be the last event before September, so make a point of coming to this one. Please get your booking form to Mats as soon as possible.

Benevolent Fund News

As a few of you will already know the Veteran's Luncheon was as usual a great success. Excellent menu, very well presented in very pleasant surroundings and with a wonderful atmosphere, too bad there were so few active members to enjoy the company of our "Old boys & girls". As usual people were very generous by giving some excellent prizes for the Raffle which generated £300 in ticket sales, for your Fund.

A very sincere "Thank you" to all concerned.

Sadly, since the last Edition we have lost one of our most "decorated" Skalleagues, Ray Bogaert, our Member d'honneur passed away on May 5th aged 89.

An obituary on the wonderful man, appears elsewhere.

Bob Duffett

Don't forget to wear your name badge!



To help newcomers to our club get to know who we all are, we must wear our

name badges at all club events. Please note that if you turn up without your badge you will face a fine of £1! If (heaven forbid) you are careless enough to lose your badge, a replacement will cost you £5.

And another thing.....

We love seeing guests at our events. However in future the cost will be higher for them **BUT** if they become a member within a month we will **REFUND** the cost of their lunch!

Puzzle Corner

Where would you find this little girl? And what does her statue commemorate?



Last month's solution



The Latin inscription is over Admiralty Arch. Edwardi Septimi is of course Edward VII.

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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