



From your President



Credit crunch – which crunch? Has our industry avoided the affects or is there a delayed reaction waiting around the corner? We read about torrid time for the airlines and don't know of the survival of Alitalia. My homeland airline, SAS, is on hard times and rumours say ... well that their stake in Spanair is not worth much today. On the other hand, travel agents are reporting increased bookings and for my own company last month, August was our best ever. Let's cross our fingers and hope for the best for the future. Our September luncheon at the TAS Restaurant was a new and very nice experience.

The food was rich and excellent. A place we could return to in the future. I can recommend it if you want some nice food at a good value in the Waterloo area.

Our speaker, Rob Davidson from University of Westminster, did it again! A very interesting subject, the challenge to Marketing Travel & Tourism, which led to a long discussion afterwards.

Don't forget the October Sunday lunch at Janet Kevan's hotel, The Great Hallingbury Manor Hotel. All booking through Diana Hall at the Luton Club. I was there some days ago and it looks really great. If you can't attend the luncheon make an effort to visit the hotel if you're in the Stansted area.

In November, we have the very international World Travel Market luncheon. The booking form is now on our website. I have already received bookings from UK and overseas. Make sure you are not left stranded, send in your booking form as soon as possible!

As you probably already know, we will this year as last year have our own stand during all days at World Travel Market. Will you be able to help us manning the stand any of the days? Contact Paul Follows for more information.

Just a hint the Christmas Luncheon, with a very interesting guest speaker, will be a sell out this year.

Mats Wivesson

Calendar of events (next 6 months)

| Date | Venue | Event |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 |

Last Event: Lunch at TAS Restaurant, Waterloo



A very pleasant lunch was enjoyed by some 20 skålleagues and guests at the TAS Restaurant in Waterloo. The pictures clockwise from the left are: President Mats with our new member, Ian Stazicker; Jayne Byott with speaker Rob Davidson of University of Westminster; Rob giving his entertaining talk; Sheila Gray with John Burroughes, Jayne and Rob; visiting skålleague, Cara Cunnington, President, Skål Johannesburg, South Africa.

Forthcoming events

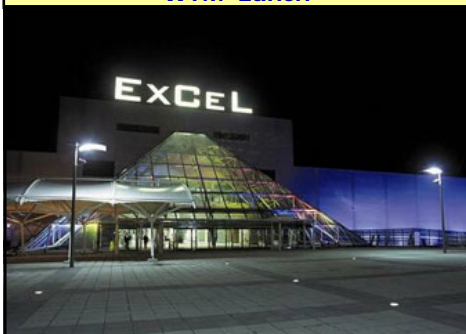
Sunday Lunch at Great Hallingbury



Just a reminder about our special Sunday Lunch at Great Hallingbury Manor on 26th October. This is a joint event with Luton and Cambridge. A wonderful 3 course menu will be prepared by renowned chef, Anton Edelmann (pictured above). The cost is only £22.50 so it's one of the best value events so far this year.

If you want to go contact Luton's Diana Hall tel: 017 2781 2722
email: dianmarie@tiscali.co.uk

WTM Lunch



Our annual international rendezvous with skålleagues from all around the world is on Tuesday 11th November at the Crowne Plaza, Docklands just a couple of minutes from ExCeL. This is always a very popular and enjoyable occasion. There will be a cash bar from 1200—this the place to mingle with interesting people from clubs all over the world. A sit down buffet will be served at 1300. There will be no long speeches! The cost is £37 per person. Early booking is essential!

Christmas Lunch



Our annual Christmas Lunch will be on Friday 12th December at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park. It will be a traditional Christmas menu this year and there will be carols again by the children of Sir John Cass school. Our speaker will be Margaret Hodge MP. (Pictured above). The cost will be £67.50, £70 for guests or tables of 10 £650. Booking forms will be out next month, but put the date in your diary now.

Benevolent Fund News

It is with deep sadness I have to advise you that I have only just learned that our Member Ravi Misra passed away in mid July. Ravi joined our Club in 2004 and represented Eurofly with his son, Rajen, who was also a member for a couple of years.

Ravi, had a triple bypass operation which was totally successful but owing to the poor condition of his lungs, which the doctors did not appear to be aware of, he passed away shortly afterwards. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Rajen and the rest of his family.

Bob Duffett

Where in the World?



Did you know that Skål members get a discount at PC World? Apparently you have to go to the Business Centre in the store and quote Discount Number 8608706. It appears that not all items have a discount but our President, Mats got 25% off a security package. Every little counts!



Word Congress, Taipei

The World Congress is taking place in Taipei, Taiwan 12-17 October. One of the main topics for discussion will be the proposed amendments to the statutes. Past President Paul Follows will be representing London at the Congress. Your Council is still pursuing the idea of a World Congress in London.

National News

Peter Steen, our National webmaster, produces a very professional newsletter on behalf of Skål UK. You can see this on the website (see foot of front page). There's lots of news of clubs and skålleagues around the country. It's hoped to revive the Heart of England club. The National meetings take place in Birmingham on 25th September. And next year's National Congress will be in the Lake District. It looks a lovely programme in a lovely part of the UK as the photo below shows.



Puzzle Corner



Thinking man's sculpture. Where would you find this learned gentleman?

Last month's solution



This sculpture commemorates the women's suffragette movement. It is located just off Victoria Street close to New Scotland Yard.

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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