



A word from your President



Yet another enjoyable and delightful Christmas Luncheon with so many lovely friends around. This was a function when quality won over quantity by many lengths.

To all members who could not attend – you missed something special but there is always a next time (but it is 12 months away, unfortunately).

The Christmas Lunch started with our “own” Skål Choir, now well-know world-wide. 1.000 Skålleagues in Budapest at the world congress opening ceremony saw and heard our choir singing the Skål hymn on a video. It was very impressive and of course one feels proud of “our”, “London” choir.

During the lunch I had possibility to show all members the certificate/diplomat from Torremolinos in recognition of our 75th anniversary.

I had the honour to hand over to Ernest Rawdon the Skål history book from Skål International and bottle of vintage Port from his colleagues in London as a recognition of his 61 years as a member of Skål and as the oldest Skål member world-wide (Ernest is 96 years young in January 2010).

Robin Jackson received his Chain of office as 1st Vice President this day. We all wish him good luck!

Our speaker, the face of World Travel Market, Fiona Jeffery entertained us with facts and figures on WTM and on the more serious matter on the Charity Just A Drop which you surely will hear more about in the future.

A warm thank you to our National President Tony Bennett and wife Christine. Your presence was very much appreciated.

May I take this opportunity to, on a more personal note, wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mats Wivesson



Remember February 2009?
The photo is my house and car in deep cover of snow! Hope it will start snowing soon and Santa Claus has no problems to land with his rein-deers

Don't forget – WE NEED MORE MEMBERS!

Don't forget
MEMBER GETS MEMBERS
Just one new member from each of you
will be the best Christmas gift ever.

Calendar of events – 2010

Date	Venue	Event
January 26	R.S Hispaniola	AGM Luncheon
February	No function	this month
March 4th	Santorini Restaurant	President's Night
April 15	TBC	Recruitment Evening
May 20	Westminster Catering College	Veteran's Lunch

Next event – 26th January

Annual General Meeting!

Tuesday 26th January at 11.00
followed by luncheon, 12.15 for 13.00.

Come and let your voice and opinion be heard!
Meet your new President
and much more ...!

RS Hispaniola at Victoria Embankment just
minutes away from Embankment
Underground Station.

Please send in your form a.s.a.p.

Merry Christmas!



*Wishing you all
a Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year
From all of us at the
Skål London Council*

New members!

New members – Skål London:

KLAUS LOHMANN

Director
German National Tourist Office UK & Ireland
P.O. Box 2695, London W1A 3TN
Tel: 020 – 7317 0912 / Email: klaus.lohmann@d-z-t.com

CEM CAGLAR

Young Skål
2105 East Tower
3 Pan Peninsular Square, London E14
Tel: 07739 – 800 043 / Email: cem@chaglar.com

MARK MILLER

Executive Director
The Tourism Society
Trinity Court
34 West Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1SH
Tel: 020 – 8661 4636 / Email: mark@tourismsociety.org

**We wish you all very warm welcome to
Skål International London**

News Skål International

Skål International & UNEP signed a MOU

Skål International and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, following a series of meetings between representatives of UNEP and Skål International.



The object of the memorandum is to provide a framework of co-operation and understanding and to facilitate a collaboration between the two organisations to advance their shared goals and objectives in regard to working with the tourism sector to encourage and create a knowledge-sharing network to

incorporate sustainability as one of the core values of any economic activity.

More international news 2!

103 Clubs with Net Growth of at least 10%

During the Gala Dinner held during the 70th Skål World Congress **103 Clubs** were presented with certificates for increases in their membership of at least 10% in the period from October 2008 to September 2009.

Vice President Development, Tony Boyle said that this was a tremendous achievement in a year when the global crisis was seriously affecting the travel and tourism industry.

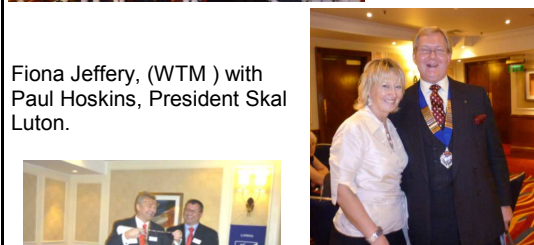
The top three Clubs with the highest net growth were honoured with a special certificate. The silver award went to Skål International Rio de Janeiro with 28 new members. The Gold award for second highest net growth went to Skål International Singapore with 38 new members and the top, platinum award went to Skål International Bali with a net growth of 58 new members.

**Skål London congratulate all 103 Clubs!
A challenge to all our members
Can we be among the top 100 clubs next year?**

Latest event



The Christmas Lunch; the Skål Choir with Mats Wivesson and speaker Fiona Jeffery from World Travel Market.



Fiona Jeffery, (WTM) with Paul Hoskins, President Skål Luton.



Robin Jackson receiving his Chain as 1st Vice President from President Mats Wivesson



Photo right; Oliver Staas, Park Inn Hotels and Paul Follows, Distinguished Hotels discussing Christmas preparations.

More Photos in the Photo Gallery:
WWW.SKALLONDON.CO.UK

Did you know – Skål and the Skål Toast

Skål and the Skål Toast

There is often some confusion on the origin of the meaning of the word Skål and the Skål Toast. Previous research by Scandinavian Skål-leagues has shown that :

"The word Skål is of old Swedish origin and was, among other things, a drinking bowl of varied shapes. Made of wood - glass would have been too dangerous in those days of violent social habits - they were known as Skålar. As a logical consequence they said Skål when they drank to each other, before becoming quite unruly.

But the Skål ritual also had attached much importance and serious significance. Despite religious disapproval in the 17th Century, about the so-called "master of the house toast", Swedish Canon law of 1686 gave it its blessing. According to the law it was to take place at the beginning of the wedding dinner 'before noise and manners arise' - meaning - 'before sitting down to dinner'.

Skål customs in former times had a much more serious meaning than today. In medieval society the vassals sealed their oaths to the king or feudal lord with the toast 'Skål'.

The Skål worldwide toast is: "To fellow Skål-leagues everywhere - Happiness; Good Health; Friendship; Long life – Skål". What is important is that this toast should be recognised as an important part of the formalities of any gathering and a recognition that we are part of a worldwide family of friends.

Research into Skål customs also suggest that for several hundred years in Nordic countries, the following jingle was a feature of life "Din Skål, min Skål, alla vackra flickors Skål.

Meaning: Your health, my health and the health of all the pretty girls".