



A word from your President



Is it just that spring is here and summer is on its way that I have such a positive feeling about the future of the travel industry. I have just returned from the Swedish Travel Trade Exhibition with the same feeling. Everyone was talking about forward thinking, light in the end of the tunnel etc. I hope you got the same feeling!

The Young Skå Recruitment Event was a huge success and absolute worth doing again or maybe as an annual event. The only question mark is – how much will Skå London benefit when 75% of the students will later return to their country of origin. Jim Power attended and enjoyed the event. He will probably have an answer to this question. A big thank you to Jayne Byott who initiated and organised this event.

As you can see from the list of events we have made a re-shuffle which means that our much appreciated pub lunch at Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese is now booked for June.

30th April – 2nd May are big days for us in London! The Executive Councillors are here for their Mid-Year Congress. Paul Follows is the UK Councillor this year. I hope we can impress these international guys by having a lot of UK and London members attending the events. It is a golden opportunity to make international contact or discuss international issues important to you.

Mats Wivesson
(April 2009)

Going to USA?



TRAVEL TRADE SHOWS – USA

Skå International has teamed up with Travel Trade Shows to help promote membership in the United States of America. Skå will be represented at 45 mini-trade shows this year.

Buck Wilson, Travel Trade Show's Executive Director and Colorado Club Member, says "this will give Skå an opportunity to become more visible". The one day, evening, programmes are small receptions with a table-top trade show exclusively for professional travel arrangers, travel agents, meeting planners, group co-ordinators and event planners. Wilson says, "We highlight small and mid-sized markets where the attendees are anxious and grateful to see suppliers that want their business during these tough economic times".

A discount to any Skå member supplier that wishes to exhibit at these travel trade shows this year. More information at www.travel-trade-shows.com/Skå.html.

Calendar of events – 2009

Date	Venue	Event
May 01	Thames Cruise	International Dinner Cruise
May 21	Westminster Kingsway College	Veteran's Lunch
June 18	Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese	Pub Lunch
July 16	London Duck Tour	Incl. Lunch & London Eye
September 17	Sherlock Holmes Pub	Pub Lunch
October 15	Medieval Banquet	Lunch
November 10	Crowne Plaza Excel Hotel	World Travel Market Lunch
December 10	Marriott Hotel Marble Arch	Christmas Luncheon

Next event – 1st May

Skå International is coming to London!



The International Councillors and Executives are coming to London for their Mid-Year International Congress!

Thursday 30th April is the Welcome Buffet at the Cumberland Hotel, Friday 1st May, the Dinner Cruise, the Show Boat on the river Thames (this is a must!) and Saturday 2nd, the International President's Gala Dinner.

The show-boat dinner depart Westminster Pier 19.30 promptly returning by 23.00. Reception drink on arrival, four course dinner, ½ bottle wine, cabaret followed by disco. **All this for ONLY £47.00 p.p.** (booking form on our web)

Accommodation available at conference hotel, the CUMBERLAND HOTEL, Marble Arch for only £90 per room per night. If you want to stay in other hotels in London over the weekend, please contact Mats Wivesson for more discounted hotel rates

Coming up soon



Veterans Luncheon!!
Absolute not to be missed.

Meet the future chefs, enjoy their excellent food among real friends of Skå London

Young Skål London!

This is a golden opportunity for me to introduce you to our latest member and our newest Young Skål Member –

Maftuna Niyazbekova

Or even better let her introduce herself!



“I started my education in tourism in order to see the beauty of all the countries created by God. Since childhood I had a passion for foreign languages and cultures and wanted to travel all around the world. When I studied at high school ,our first foreign language was English. I did successes while being at School: I participated at all Olympiads-competitions organised at School and in our capital city of Uzbekistan-Tashkent and won some places .

For example, for English language I was awarded a grant-stipend in 1993. In English language classes we were mostly inclined towards Great Britain, London, its traditions and culture and since that time I dreamt of visiting London. Luckily in 2007 I was awarded a scholarship to study at London Metropolitan University -MA in International Tourism Management. I like London as it is a multicultural city where you can see representatives from all countries.

When I see any foreigner in London I try to speak their own language, as it makes closer to their heart and makes them feel happy.

Last year when I visited World Travel Market in 2008, I got to know SKÅL-International Association of Tourism and Travel Professionals. I met a courteous Jim Power who is a President of SKAL and Jayne Byott representing UK office. They advised me to join to their association as it is a nice opportunity to meet other tourism professionals and share their advises and opinions about tourism matters.

As for future, I wish to become a prominent tourism –policymaker to raise the level of Tourism in Uzbekistan.

Welcome to Skål !

Do you remember that powerful speech by Barak Obama on his inauguration day when he said – “ pick yourself up and start all over again?



“Pick Yourself Up” is actually from the film Swing Time (1936) with Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers and lyrics by Dorothy Fields

Here are the lyrics and perhaps something we could all benefit from!

“Pick yourself up, take a deep breath, dust yourself off
And start all over again, nothing’s impossible I found.

For when my chin is on the ground I pick myself up, Dust myself off
and start all over again, don’t lose your confidence if you slip.

Be grateful for a pleasant trip, just pick yourself up, and dust yourself off.
And start all over again, work like a soul inspired, til’ the battle of the day is won.

You may be sick and tired, but you’ll be a man my son.
Will you remember the famous men, who had to fall to rise again
So take a deep breath, pick yourself up, dust yourself off and start all over again!

Lastest event – Young Skål !

The Young Skål event at the Westminster University was a huge success with over 75 students from the Travel & Conference Management courses attending.



Rob Davidsson introducing the panel – from left Lizzi Thomas, Justin Daich, Jim Power and Paul Follows

Rob Davidson from the University introduced our speakers which started with our own Paul Follows (International Councillor).

Justin Daich (Young Skål Luton) informed the student how he benefited by being a Skål member and how it will benefit all students all over the world.



Lizzi in top form and the students enjoying the moment!

Lizzie Thomas from Dale Carnegie spoke about networking and how to make new contacts. A very much appreciated part of the presentation

Jim Power, who flew from Spain just over the day for this event only and finished the presentation and pointed out that a Young Skål membership is just £15:00 per year.



Questions from the floor were taken by the panel and hopefully the students will now return to their classrooms and later to their country of origin and spread the word of Skål all over the world.

A great initiative, well appreciated by the students. Worth considering to be an annual event or roll out the formula to other universities in London (or maybe UK).

Benevolent Fund News



Star ferry in Hong Kong

Bob Duffett is out of office!
Well he is actually touring the Australasia with such a bravura that he decided to stay a little bit longer ...We have to wait some more weeks for him to come back.

I will eagerly wait for his report from this amazing tour and of course from the benevolent fund.