



A word from your President



It has been a hectic couple of weeks in the Skå calendar. The founder Skå Club Paris celebrated its 75th birthday with a huge Gala Dinner attended by a delegation from Skå UK.

I took the excellent Eurostar to Paris the following day, the 28th April, to join 200 skål-leagues and guest on the River Seine where our club was twinned with the Paris Club. An exciting moment in Skå London history!

Back in London, we prepared to welcome the International Councillors. They arrived during two days at 10 different ports of entry to London. All of them were met by a Skå representative and escorted to their transfer coach. I believe that the international councillor enjoyed their visit which included a welcome buffet in the hotel, show boat on the river Thames and a gala dinner in the hotel.

A big thank you to the sub-committee, Tony Milhofer, Paul Follows, Jayne Byott and Robin Jackson who really showed what London stands for.

You will find a lot of photos from above events on our web-site www.skallondon.co.uk. Just click on Photo Gallery!

Mats Wivesson

Skå International World Congress!

The 70th Skå World Congress will be held in Budapest, Hungary from 1-6 November 2009. Skå International Budapest is working very hard to ensure a very special congress in this beautiful city on the banks of the Danube.

To let you know that I have just booked British Airways – return flight inclusive of all taxes for £150:00. Good value! Book before price will increase.

NEW Skå London members!

We welcome 3 new members to our Club this month:

Michael SHARP, Managing Director of Central Hall Westminster.

Oliver Staas, General Manager, Park Inn Heathrow Hotel.

Herculano Almeida, Young Skå

A proper introduction will follow in next issue of Skålink.

And we have more new members for you next month – it looks very promising indeed!

A new membership directory has now been produced. Hopefully you will have the directory by post during next week.

Calendar of events – 2009

Date	Venue	Event
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 – 21st May

THE VETERANS LUNCHEON!



Veterans Luncheon!!
Absolute not to be missed.

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

The food is among the best in London and the service is just excellent. A truly successful and enjoyable annual event. An of course not to be missed – the raffle.

All this for ONLY £35.00 p.p. including beverage.

Booking form on our web. Please support our Vets on this once a year occasion!

Coming up soon



Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese Pub

Can't be more traditional than this!

Skå History

We are now slowly putting together the London Clubs history. Parts of it is now available to read on our website www.skallondon.co.uk

But we need your help! We need more information! Do you have any anecdotes, more detailed information or photos please let me know.

History is a part of future planning!

Going to USA?

Blow the whistle on ESTA and EHIC con sites. Simon Calder, travel editor, The Independent writes: (01 April 2009)

You will no doubt know that the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation (ESTA) is obligatory for Brits hoping to fly the Atlantic under the Visa Waiver Program. The Americans insist that everyone apply online. So the diligent traveller will duly tap 'ESTA' into a search engine. Bad move!.

Many of the sites that appear are nothing to do with the US authorities, but a lot of expertise has gone into making them look official. Thousands of Brits have been unwise enough to register through one of these commercial websites, paying up to \$50 for something that should be free.

The term 'buyer beware' certainly applies to sites such as estauk.com, which describes itself as: 'A private website opened for the convenience of ESTA applicants'.

Even though the US and UK have been called two nations divided by a common language, the use of English on the website is laughable. You may be baffled about why the Americans have allowed this ludicrous state of affairs to prevail; failure to think through the project has sowed confusion.

But before you take this as another example of how we do things so much better here, try tapping 'EHIC' into a search engine.

The first result certainly claims that it will help applicants to obtain a European Health Insurance Card – but only after paying £9.95 for something that the Department of Health offers free.

The travel industry needs to make the public aware of such pitfalls. In the internet age, the value of human interaction has actually increased.

Brits fail to renew Health Cards.

British Travellers are failing to renew their European Health Insurance Cards. A department of health survey showed nearly three in five people claimed to have an EHIC, but 68% of those don't know when it expires. Check your card and the expire date in good time before you are travelling.

Why not check it today and right now!

Why is all Boeing aircrafts called 700 ...?



Some facts about the Boeing 700-series:

At the start, when they started the construction of what is now known as the 707, 700 was an internal denomination. 500 was for gas turbines and 600 was for missiles.

First plan was to name it "Jet Stratoliner". Later they decided to call the plane 707, just because it sounds better than 702 or 703.

The name 707 became so popular, that Boeing decided to name all their civil planes as 7x7. Exception was 720, but this was originally named 707-020.

So now only 797 is to come.

Latest event

The International Skål Councillors Mid-Year Congress! A 3 day international event which started with a Welcome Buffet and our Skal Choir singing the Skal International Hymn at the Cumberland.



The London Skål Choir entertaining the international delegates.

Once again a marvelous performance by all the school children.

On the following evening we all went to sea with the Show Boat on the river Thames

The Show Boat in full swing



Mats Wivesson, President London with Marianne Krohn, President of the Continental Council.

The final evening was a great Gala Dinner in the hotel.

And of course in between they worked very hard.

Earlier in the week a group from Skal UK attended the 75-year festivities in Paris which finished on the river Seine when the London Club was twinned with the founder club Paris.



International President Hulya Aslantas with Mats Wivesson and Pierre Boudot-Lamotte, President Paris Club with the Twinning Certificates.

Benevolent Fund News

Regrettably over the last couple of months we have lost two good friends. In mid March retired member Don Copping who many of us knew, for so many years as representing BEA and later on British Airways, passed away. To his wife and Family we extend our deepest sympathy & condolence.

Then in mid April our Member Asa Graham lost her beloved husband Morris. Asa and Morris were regularly seen at so many of our functions and were both real supporters of our Club. We shall all miss Morris, the quiet man, but none of us will miss him, more than Asa to whom we send our very deepest sympathy and condolence.

On a much happier note, next Thursday May 21st is our Veteran's Lunch, so called because it's the one time in the year that we make a special effort to invite our Retired Members, Widows (& Widowers) to attend. This does not mean that Active members are excluded. This is our normal Monthly lunch and everyone is invited. As usual, we shall have our "quick fire" raffle and virtually everyone gets a prize and that in itself makes it worthwhile attending and tickets are still just 20 pence a go! To all we say, please make an effort to support our Vets, we promise you'll enjoy it.

Bob Duffett

Skålink Editor: Mats Wivesson Tel: 01932 – 232037 Email: mats@saltatours.co.uk

Skål International is a professional organisation of leaders from the tourism and travel industry around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship. It is the only international group uniting all branches 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.