



# ANGLO-BELGIAN CLUB

President H. R. H. Prince Philippe of Belgium

60 Knightsbridge  
London SW1X 7LF

Tel: 020-7235 2121

Fax: 020-7245 9470

Secretary e-mail: [\*secretary@ra-bc.com\*](mailto:secretary@ra-bc.com)

Membership Secretary e-mail: [\*membership@ra-bc.com\*](mailto:membership@ra-bc.com)

Reservations: Tel: 020-7235 2121, Fax: 020-7235 5672  
E-mail: [\*reservations@royalthames.com\*](mailto:reservations@royalthames.com)

Functions: Tel: 020-7201 6283, Fax: 020-7235 5672  
Email: [\*functions@royalthames.com\*](mailto:functions@royalthames.com)

---

# AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

*Dear Royal Anglo-Belgian Club Member,*

*Tempus fugit. It has been 18 months since I took over the Chairmanship of our cherished Club and despite being at the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club almost every week, there seems to be a genuine lack of time to implement all the ideas and strategies to develop our Club further. In the previous newsletters, I told you about these strategies and the year end is always a good moment to evaluate.*

*Rejuvenation of the Club: over 10% of our members are now under 35 and 25% over 70, leaving us with very sound two-thirds in what I would call the target category.*

*Rejuvenation of the Committee: four members in their forties joined the Committee in the last 18 months redressing the balance. This gentle drive will continue in the coming year, achieving a healthy balance of experience and new ideas. Since our last newsletter, the Committee has welcomed Padre Paul Wright, Chaplain of the Guards Chapel and Mrs. Marie-France André, Minister Counsellor of the Belgian Embassy, who is replacing Mrs. Jana Zikmundova. I look forward to a fruitful collaboration with them.*

*Events policy: the decision to concentrate on the First Tuesday has proven to be the right one with record attendance (our latest event attracted over 200 people) and maximum exposure of the Club to non-members at specific occasions such as the Luxembourg wine tasting and St. Nicolas. It is one of the most efficient ways to attract new members.*

*Sound finances: the Club continues its financial policy of 'bon père de famille', watching every penny and building up reserves for future occurrences. A full financial report will be sent to you together with an invitation to the Annual General Meeting in January.*

*Public relations: I will continue to direct journalists, business people, business organisations, politicians and other London visitors to our Clubhouse as it is an inexpensive and effective way of giving our Club the public exposure it needs. I invite you to do the same.*

*One bold proposal which I made at our last Joint Committee Meeting with the Royal Thames Yacht Club is to take over the whole Clubhouse during the London 2012 Olympic Games and to turn it into a Belgian House which would be used by the press, VIP'S, competitors and of course our members. Another proposal is to turn the 'tired' looking Britannia bar into a Duvel bar.*

*Increasing membership: RABC membership declined by 14 last year to 480 and this is a major disappointment. Despite attracting almost 60 new members, we still lost 70. Moreover, the Dutch Club – admittedly in a year of transition – dropped to only 13 members, making things even harder. For me, 500 members is the absolute minimum to keep the Club viable. We need you, the current members, to introduce at least 1 new member every year. It is not a big effort and it will be the only way to guarantee the longevity of the Club. On page 14 of this newsletter, we have introduced a sparkling incentive scheme which hopefully will entice you to do just that. With our next newsletter, you will receive a number of professionally revamped Club brochures which you can use to inspire potential new members to join us in the New Year. Another very important tool in attracting new members has been our website, giving us 1 or 2 new leads a week. A recent study has shown however that the website is far from perfect and could be improved tremendously – a project which will take place in 2009.*

*Should you wish to propose a new potential member to the Club, Daniëlle Massaux, membership Secretary of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club is very happy to help and can provide you with new membership packs.*

*Within the same spirit of improving our membership figures, I hosted a lunch for the director of the **Cercle Gaulois** who was introduced to me by Mr. David Van Riel and I visited the **Cercle Munster** in Luxembourg. They had similar problems in the past and one of the solutions they have brought in to retain membership is to introduce 'sub' groups with particular interests such as a 'classic car' group or a 'music' group.*

*Members who feel they could run such an interest group are kindly invited to contact Ann De Renais or myself.*

*Mrs. Ann De Renais is our new(ish) Club Secretary who has taken over from*

*Miss Anne Gerard in May. Ann is a well-known personality in our community and is also a professional soprano travelling the world singing at major concerts and festivals. She has proven to be a great asset to our Club so far and I would also like to thank Patrick Bresnan, our Honorary Secretary, for helping her in her new task.*

*At this very moment, our auditors are working with last year's figures and these will be presented by the Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 at 6 p.m. during the Annual General Meeting at the Clubhouse. I hope to see you all there.*

*On behalf of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club General Committee and the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club Members of staff, I would like to thank all the members for their tremendous support in 2008 and I wish you a healthy and prosperous 2009. Please do not forget to give generously to the Christmas staff fund this year. We have enclosed a letter to that effect.*

*Long live the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club!*

*Michel Vanhoonacker.*

*RABC Chairman*

# FUTURE EVENTS 2008/2009

## ROYAL ANGLO-BELGIAN CLUB

### Members Drinks – Britannia Bar: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month

Do not forget to join us in the Britannia Bar at 6.00 pm on every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. It has been very popular during the year 2008 and we look forward to welcoming you on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2009 when the Chairman and members of the General Committee look forward to meeting you and your friends.

As ever, your friends are very welcome, so that we can encourage their interest in joining as members of the Club.

If Ann De Renais has your e-mail address you will receive a reminder of each 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday, please make sure you are on her mailing list by e-mailing her with your details at [secretary@ra-bc.com](mailto:secretary@ra-bc.com)

Note for your diaries, the first Tuesday's dates for 2009 are as follows:

6<sup>th</sup> Jan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 5<sup>th</sup> May, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> July,  
(not in August - Club closed) 1<sup>st</sup> Sept, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct, 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov, 1<sup>st</sup> Dec.

### *RABC Annual General Meeting and Reception 2009* *Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009*

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club will be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2009 at 6.00pm, at the Clubhouse. The meeting will be followed by a reception held at the same time as the First Tuesday Drinks.

# FUTURE EVENTS 2008/2009

It is hoped that many of you will attend, and for those who wish to stay on for dinner afterwards, it is advisable to book a table in advance (see enclosed invitation and participation form).

## BELGIAN LUXEMBOURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

06/01/09	First Tuesday Drinks- Epiphany Celebration - Belgian Film Festival to be confirmed	RABC
03/02/09	First Tuesday Drinks- St. Valentine Celebration with Chocolates from Sweet-Creations and AGM	RABC
03/03/09	First Tuesday Drinks-Lt. Colonel, Padre Paul Wright , Chaplain of the Household Division and Guards Chapel– Book presentation ‘Funny Little Wars’ a book about H.G. Wells, toy soldiers and Belgium. This is a book for boys of all ages and as H.G. Wells said, for girls of the better sort who do like boys games	RABC
07/04/09	First Tuesday Drinks	RABC
05/05/09	First Tuesday Drinks	RABC
08/06/09	AEGON Championships	Queen's Club
02/06/09	First Tuesday Drinks	RABC
10/06/09	2009 Golf Day in collaboration with the Rotary Club London	Denham

## ROYAL THAMES YACHT CLUB

5<sup>th</sup> March 2009 – Cheese tasting

**An Evening of Cheese and Wine Evening  
– Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 6.00pm-8.30pm**

# FUTURE EVENTS 2008/2009

A wonderful evening is planned hosted by Tom Badcock, Master of Cheese. From the Cheese Cellar. With a selection of delicious cheeses to taste as Tom takes us on a journey of the history of cheese. This will be an informative and fascinating evening and one that we are sure will prove to be very popular amongst the members.

## ANGLO-BELGIAN SOCIETY

**UK-EU SOCIETIES New Year Concert**  
**Thursday 8 January 2009 – see attached leaflet**

**Events of the ARTSTUR held at the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club** Italian Art and Culture (formerly ACCADEMIA)

### LECTURES & EVENTS: 2009

**ARTSTUR LECTURES AT ANGLO-BELGIAN CLUB - EARLY 2009**  
**Wednesday 21 January 2009**

6 for 6.30 pm Lecture by **Rosa Maria Letts** on *“Bernini’s Theatre in sculpture and architecture: “from Santa Teresa to the choreography of Roman plays and festivals”*.

This lecture, last of the Baroque series, will be at the Anglo Belgian Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1.

Price of Lecture: £22 (£20 Friends of Artstur) to include a glass of wine.

8.15 pm **Dinner in the Anglo Belgian Club** at which the after dinner speaker will be **Ross King** who will speak on the *“American Presidential Election in relation to his analysis of Macchiavelli’s ‘The Prince’*” in his well known book on the subject [“Macchiavelli Philosopher of Power”, Harper Collins, 2007].

Price of Dinner: £50

# FUTURE EVENTS 2008/2009

## **Wednesday 11 March 2009**

6 for 6.30 pm **Brian Sewell** will introduce the artist **Ricardo Cinalli** who will present his major work "**The Resurrection**" a mural painting in the Cathedral of Terni. Ricardo Cinalli is one of the outstanding artists of the 20C and his masterpiece in Terni Cathedral (illustrated above) stands comparison with the major frescoe paintings of the 15C and 16C in Italy.

**The presentation will take place at the Anglo-Belgian Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1.**

Price of lecture: £22 (Friends of Artstur £20) to include a glass of wine.

**RABC Members who are interested in attending opera performances or lectures and who wish to be on Artstur's mailing list, please contact Artstur by telephone or e-mail and mention opera database.**

*Artstur Italian Art & Culture, 59 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7RA*  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7235 6650 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7235 6659 Email: [HYPERLINK "mailto:artstur@googlemail.com"](mailto:artstur@googlemail.com) [artstur@googlemail.com](mailto:artstur@googlemail.com) [HYPERLINK "http://www.artstur.com"](http://www.artstur.com) [www.artstur.com](http://www.artstur.com)

# PAST EVENTS 2008

## **Torch Kindling Ceremony – Westminster Abbey : Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

The Amicale des Anciens Combattants Belges en Grande-Bretagne held their traditional Torch Kindling Ceremony at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Westminster Abbey. This torch was taken to Belgium for the Remembrance Ceremonies in Brussels on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008. This ceremony was attended by His Excellency the Belgian Ambassador. As always it is one of the finest Anglo-Belgian traditions supported by many people.

# PAST EVENTS 2008

## ANGLO-BELGIAN SOCIETY

**12 January 2008** - A performance of Jacques Brel songs by Anthony Cable at the New End Theatre in Hampstead marked the New Year. “Jacques Brel - Rage to Live” was a fitting tribute to one of the greatest of poets and chansonniers.

**29<sup>th</sup> January 2008** - The Society and Franco-British Society came together in 29th January to sponsor a talk in French by Dr Cynthia Gamble on “Un bol d’air normand et quelques soufflés belges”.

**January 2008** - Michael Farr returned in January to talk to the Society about Hergé and Tintin to mark the 100th anniversary of Hergé’s birth. The event also promoted the publication by Egmont of Michael Farr’s “Tintin and Co”, a study of the origins and development of a dozen characters comprising la famille Tintin.

**5 February. 2008** - Pierre Alechinsky

In February, in conjunction with Galerie Birch in Copenhagen, the Redfern Gallery held an exhibition in London of seven major works by Pierre Alechinsky, who has been described as Belgium's most eminent living artist.

In addition to being a prolific painter, illustrator and writer, Alechinsky is one of the founding members of the influential European abstract expressionist group CoBrA, formed in the early 1950s. This exhibition was a rare solo showing of Alechinsky in London. It was special because Pierre and his wife, Micky, attended the opening of the exhibition on Tuesday, 28 february 2008 –

**9 April 2008** - David King, a member of the Society, gave a talk in April on ‘Victor Horta and Art Nouveau’. The talk was illustrated by photographs showing the houses Horta designed and many of their interiors.

# PAST EVENTS 2008

**6 June 2008** - The Society supported Wim Oers , who is also a member of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club, in organising a Belgian Day at the Architectural Association School in June. The subject of the papers presented was conservation and restoration in Belgium, and included the Flemish Béguinages, Victor Horta, the Atomium and the Royal Palace and Greenhouses at Laeken.

**8 July 2008** - The Society and the Anglo-Netherlands Society came together in July for a private view of the exhibition “Turmoil and Tranquillity”: The sea through the eyes of Dutch and Flemish masters 1550-1700 held at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich.

**13 July 2008** - The Cenotaph Ceremony once again took place in July. It was organised by the Belgian Ministry of Defence, with the support of the Amicale des Anciens Combattants Belges en Grande-Bretagne. A wreath was laid on behalf of the Society. The British and Belgian Defence Ministers attended. The ceremony was followed by a reception on-board Belgian ships visiting London for the occasion.

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2008** - The Society’s Annual Dinner was held at the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club. The Guest of Honour and Speaker was Ambassador Lode Willems. While Belgian Ambassador in London from 1997 to 2002, he had made many friends who remembered him and his wife with affection and also recalled the great contribution they had made to the affairs of the Society and Club.

## BELGIAN-LUXEMBOURG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Golden Bridge Export Award 2008 - Millenium Gloucester Hotel – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

# PAST EVENTS 2008

The prestigious 'GOLDEN BRIDGE EXPORT AWARD 2008' presented by the Belgian-Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain for achievements in exporting to the UK has been won by Modular Lighting Instruments. The result was announced during a Gala Diner at the Millennium Gloucester Hotel in London on 19<sup>th</sup> November by H.E. Mr. Jean-Michel Veranneman de Watervliet, Ambassador of the King of the Belgians in Great Britain.

In the Best Small and Medium Enterprise category, H.E. Mr. Hubert Wurth, Ambassador of Luxembourg in the UK handed over the trophy to FAG Creative Foods from Ostend. Meyvaert Glass Engineering was awarded the 'Best Newcomer' Award.

BLCC Chairman Michel Vanhoonacker said: 'Despite the financial crisis, companies' interest in participating and winning the Golden Bridge 2008 Awards remained high and competition was fierce. In these challenging times, winning awards can give companies very welcome positive publicity, boost moral in the workplace and create a competitive advantage.'

The evening started in high spirits with a performance by the Belgian impersonator and singer Dirk Denoyelle and his pianist Sigert De Jean. This wonderful team created a very joyful and relaxed atmosphere involving all guests, setting the mood for the rest of the event. For more details please visit [www.dirkdenoyelle.com](http://www.dirkdenoyelle.com)

**If you wish to know more details, please contact Ann De Renais on 0207 127 4292 or [events@blcc.co.uk](mailto:events@blcc.co.uk) [www.blcc.co.uk](http://www.blcc.co.uk)**

# CLUBHOUSE

## Smoking ban in public places

As most of you are aware, virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England became smoke free on Sunday 1 July 2007. Despite strong lobbying, private members clubs are regrettably no exception therefore the Clubhouse must operate a strict smoke free policy in accordance with the Health Act 2006 from 1 July 2007. Some of you may know that hotels can still offer smoking bedrooms. However, robust ventilation requirements have to be satisfied to permit this but as the club's ventilation does not meet the required standards, none of the club's rooms can be offered as smoking rooms.

## Refurbished Cabins

All the cabins on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at the Club have now been refurbished with the exception of one. Highlights include new flat screen televisions, improved showers, shelf-top controls for the air conditioning units, and new beds with duvets. Blankets are available from reception upon request.

## Catering and Clubhouse Staff

The Catering is now handled by Bartlett Mitchell Ltd since the beginning of January 2008 and members will have noticed the improvement on good food and service. Do come and enjoy the new menus in the New Year.

Mr. Stuart Cawley is the Food & Beverage Manager and has now joined the team at the Club.

# CLUBHOUSE

## **Coffee Room**

The Club Menu in the Coffee room now changes weekly, using the best seasonal produce.

The A-La-Carte Menu still features many of the classic favourites that members have come to enjoy.

The Breakfast Buffet has become very popular with an improved selection of continental items available also with some new items to start the day on a healthier note.

## **Marriage Licence**

The Club was granted a Civil Marriage License at the end of 2006 and more people are using this ceremony in the Clubhouse. We would like to encourage members to spread the word amongst friends so that they might consider using the RABC Clubhouse for family marriages and wedding receptions. The Perfect Venue for the Perfect Event - Weddings receptions, Wedding Ceremonies and other celebrations.

The Royal Thames Yacht Club and Royal Anglo-Belgian Club is one of the most elegant addresses for a special day. The Club can accommodate every kind of reception, from a marriage ceremony with a maximum of 150 guests, to a glittering champagne reception for 200, or a seated wedding breakfast for up to 160. Several smaller rooms are available for more intimate settings.

# CLUBHOUSE

Photos can be taken in the Club, or in nearby Hyde Park only a few yards away.

The kitchens have recently been updated to allow us much more flexibility in the way we can present our food. Prior to any celebration we would encourage a menu tasting and a discussion with our Executive Chef, Simon Morris. Wines to match your choice of food would of course be suggested. The Clubhouse bedrooms are available to your guests who may wish to stay on.

Please contact the Functions Team at the Royal Thames Yacht Club on 020 72016263 or [functions@royalthames.com](mailto:functions@royalthames.com) for further information or to discuss your requirements. We look forward to welcoming you at the Club.

## **Conference facilities at 60 Knightsbridge**

The Club has a number of meeting rooms available for all business requirements and we are delighted to offer Club members inclusive delegate packages when booking conference and meeting room space at the Club.

### **Package 1**

Royal Thames Club Delegate Rate - £60.00 per person includes:

Full day meeting room hire

Water & Mints on meeting room table

Arrival Tea & Coffee with Croissants

Mid Morning Tea & Coffee with Biscuits

2 Course Lunch with, Coffee in the Coffee Room (Restaurant) dining from our Club Menu

Afternoon Tea & Coffee with Biscuits

# CLUBHOUSE

## Package 2

Royal Thames Day Delegate Rate - £65.00 per person includes:  
As per Package 1 but with a Hot Fork Buffet Luncheon served in meeting room

## Package 3

Royal Thames Residential Day rate – 24 hour rate £180.00 per person includes

As per Package 1 plus

3 Course Dinner with Coffee in Coffee Room dining from the Club Menu (A – la carte

Menu available at a supplement)

Double cabin with en-suite bathroom and full English breakfast.

Please contact our Functions Team on 020 72016263 for further information or [functions@royalthames.com](mailto:functions@royalthames.com) for an event pack.

## Membership

We are particularly keen to recruit new members. If you know anyone among your circle of friends and business colleagues who might wish to join the Club, please encourage them to contact Danielle Massaux at the Secretariat. We would be delighted to meet them and show them the Club's facilities at first hand. Why not invite them to join you at Members Drinks on a 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. **Each member who brings in a new member between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 will be given a free case of Champagne (6 bottles). This offer is not valid for bringing new young or senior members.**

# CLUBHOUSE

## New Members

Since 1st January 2008 until now, 67 new members have joined the Club. Please get to know them and make them feel at home in the Clubhouse. Members are urged to do their utmost to introduce new members to the Club. Herewith a list of their names.

Rev.Br.	Rupert	Allen
Mr.	Alexander	Atkinson
Mr.	Marnix	Bakker
Mr.	Simon	Barrett
Dr.	Jane	Barrett
Miss	Assia	Barry
Mr.	Oliver	Bradbury
Mr.	Johan	Bryssinck
Mr.	Frank	Burke
Mr.	Peter	Castro
Mr.	Rupert	Cattell
Mrs.	Juliette	Cattell Lloyd
Mr.	Tom	Ceelen
Corporate	Overseas	Centric Retail Solutions
Mrs.	Susannah	Clasen
Mr.	Pieter	Cleppe
Mr.	Stéphane	de Bonvoisin d'Erp
MR.	Denis	de Groote
Mr.	Jean-Sixte	de Muysers Lantwijck
Mr.	Luts	De Pla
Miss	L.	de Theux de Meylandt et Montjardin
Miss	M-F.	Dernoncourt
Mr.	Peter	Gangsted
Mrs.	Anne	Geerinckx-Gangsted
Mr.	Bart	Gombert

Mr.	Mark	Goossenaerts
Mr.	Gerard	Govaerts
Mr.	Peter	Grey
Mtre	Cyril I.	Grigorieff
Mr.	François	Guillaume
Baron	Gauthier	Guillaume
Mrs.	Janet	Hamilton
Dr.	W.A.	Holmes-Walker
Corporate	Overseas	Interel Cabinet Stewart
Mr.	Dirk	Jaxcsens
Mr.	Denhard	Jongman
Mr.	Richard	Koppen
Mr.	Herman	Laub
Corporate	Overseas	Leonidas
Mr.	Wim	Lievens
Mr.	Frederik	Lofthagen
Mr.	T.	Lövenbach
Mr.	Steven	Loyens
Mr.	John	Menhinick
Mrs.	Marilyn	Menhinick Van Eetvelde
Mr.	Anas	Minai
Mr.	Edward	Minter
Mr.	Roger	Mozynski
Mr.	Thomas	Parker
Padre	Lt. Col.	Paul Stephen Wright
Miss	Annick	Quintyn
Miss	C.	Ravoet
Mrs.	Sophie	Rogge
Mr.	Pierre	Sapin
Mr.	T.L.J.	Schalenbourg
Mrs.	Annie	Shead
Mr.	Peter	Somers
Mrs.	Catherine	Stewart

Mr.	D.	Van Lede
Mrs.	Eva	Van Poppel
Mr.	Martin	Van Wunnik
Mr.	Wim	Vandenbussche
Miss	A.	Vanrenterghem
Mr.	August	Vlak
Miss	Marina	Warras
Mr.	G.	Weyns
Miss	Julia	Wild

Members who are in the process of joining will have their names added in the Club's next Newsletter.

### **Subscriptions 2008 - 2009**

We thank all members who have already paid their subscription due for the year commencing 1 July 2008. For those members who have yet to pay their subscription, we thank them in advance for a prompt settlement. This facilitates the running of the Club and enables us to meet our commitments to the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

If you have not received your **yellow membership card for 2008/2009**, this is probably because you have omitted to renew your subscription, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Overseas members who do not have a UK bank account may continue to pay their subscription by bank transfer to the Club's account at Fortis Bank, giving full details of their membership so that we can identify the payment when it reaches the Club's bank account.

# CLUBHOUSE

**Our NEW banking details for payment are:**

FORTIS BANK SA-NV UK BRANCH  
**5 Aldermanbury Square**  
**London EC2V 7HR**  
**United Kingdom**

U.K. Pound Sterling

**Account Number : 35928101**  
**Sort Code: 40-52-62**  
**IBAN : GB62 GEBA 4052 6235 9281 01**  
**SWIFT/BIC Address : GEBAGB22**

- I have enclosed a U.K. cheque of £.....dated ...../.../2008.  
I have written my name and membership number on the reverse of the cheque*
- I have paid by transfer and have given instructions to the Bank to pay the  
Anglo-Belgian Club in Pounds Sterling £..... on...../ .../2008.  
I have paid all bank charges and have enclosed the RABC payment slip*
- Cash payment of £ ..... on ...../.../2008.*

P.S. : Don't forget to write your personal name and/or membership number on all payments – Thank you for your co-operation.

Please note that all subscriptions should be paid in POUND STERLING  
- Thank you .

If you need any further information about membership,  
Daniëlle Massaux will help you  
Tel. 020 7 2016272 – e mail : [membership@ra-bc.com](mailto:membership@ra-bc.com)

# CLUBHOUSE

## Secretariat

Ann De Renais, who is Belgian, and who has lived in the U.K. since 1994, has joined the Club as from 13th May 2008 as Secretary of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club. She can be contacted via the usual e-mail address [secretary@ra-bc.com](mailto:secretary@ra-bc.com) or by phone on +44(0)207 201 6271. Ann works part-time and is usually available from Monday till Wednesday. Please make her feel welcome, she is very helpful and open to members.

## Christmas Cards

Christmas cards (£3 for 12 cards with envelopes, postage and package included) can be purchased from the Secretariat. For more information, please call the Secretariat.

## Club Ties and lapel pins

Royal Anglo-Belgian Club ties and lapel pins can be purchased from the Secretariat. Club ties cost £17.00 and lapel pins cost £3.00. For more information please call the Secretariat.

## When Visiting Brussels

The Club has negotiated special rates for accommodation at the Jolly Hotel du Grand Sablon and Hotel Métropole. Please contact the Secretariat for more information

You are reminded that reciprocal clubs in Brussels do not have accommodation facilities but can sometimes obtain preferential rates at nearby hotels.

# CLUBHOUSE

## **Peak Health Club**

Just a brief note to remind members that following the success of the Peak Health Club, we are pleased to announce that this is now an integral part of the Club facilities. Vouchers can be purchased at the reception desk of the Club. They cost £25.00 (including towels and locker) and are valid for a whole day. Members will be required to sign a Disclaimer Form at the Peak Health Club. More information on The Peak Health Club can be obtained from the website at [http://www.jumeirahcarlontower.com/health\\_club](http://www.jumeirahcarlontower.com/health_club)

## **Week-end rates**

The Club is still offering week-end rates for Royal Anglo-Belgian Club members: £85.00 (Friday, Saturday or Sunday). Should you need further Information, please contact the Reservations Department of the Club.

## **Dress code**

It is with some satisfaction that we draw your attention to an amendment to the Clubhouse Bye-Laws which relax the dress code. 'Business Casual' dress may be adopted throughout the Clubhouse. In the area downstairs a relaxed dress code is allowed for members and

upstairs members and guests are expected to maintain a standard of dress in conformity with the tradition and atmosphere of the Club.

Gentlemen are required to wear a jacket and tie in the Coffee room, Restaurant and other public rooms on the Quarterdeck (first floor) at all times and ladies are requested to wear a dress, skirt or smart trousers, though tailored trouser suit is acceptable. You can find the details of the Bye-Law on the notice board at reception.

# CLUBHOUSE

## Reservations by E-Mail

Please note that you can make reservations for cabins, the coffee room and functions by e-mail to the Club Reception. The address is:

[reservations@royalthames.com](mailto:reservations@royalthames.com)

***You are encouraged to contact Reception when making a booking, as Reception is immediately aware of the availability of Clubhouse facilities. Should you encounter any problems in making a reservation, do not hesitate to call the Secretariat.***

## Meeting and Private Dining Facilities

Whatever your occasion, our Functions Department can assist in making the occasion successful. Under the watchful eye of Michael Brown, and Virginia Buvoli who will ensure that every detail has been taken care of. We have the room capacity, the staff, the expertise and service to match your needs. The room capacities are as follows:

Meeting – boardroom layout	up to 44
Meeting – theatre layout	up to 180
Dining	up to 174
Reception/Cocktail Party	up to 220

The Clubhouse is an ideal venue for your social occasions, whether it be a wedding, a christening, a birthday, a luncheon or dinner, or just a business presentation or meeting.

Please call Functions Department or send an e-mail to: [functions@royalthames.com](mailto:functions@royalthames.com)

# CLUBHOUSE

## Britannia Bar Menu

Bar meals and snacks are available, and we hope that members will take advantage of this facility. The menu includes a choice of appetisers, sandwiches and desserts. Afternoon tea is also served.

The Britannia Bar is open from 12.00 noon to 8.30pm Monday to Friday, and George Villeneuve will be there to take care of you.

## Business Room

Briefcases and business papers should not be brought into the public rooms - the Club is not an office. Briefcases should be left with Reception. *The Model Room* has been designated as the Clubhouse Business Room. There are now three new workstations with wi-fi currently available. In addition printing facilities are also available. Members may take briefcases into the room, work on business papers and use laptop computers. Try not to disturb other occupants: it should not be used as a meeting room. A laptop computer can be hired from the Reception Desk.

## Parking at 60 Knightsbridge

Members of the RTYC and RABC wishing to park at the Club are required annually to purchase an annual parking permit. The cost of the permit for 2009 has yet to be decided. The permit is valid from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009, and should be renewed after that time. The

purchase of a permit gives no guarantee that a parking space will be available. Parking spaces will be taken up on a first-come-first-served basis. Parking facilities are not available for reciprocal members and guests. Parking permits should be purchased from the Secretariat.

# CLUBHOUSE

The charge of the Parking Permit should be seen as a token contribution to the Club for limited parking facilities. The charge bears no comparison to the usual cost of parking in Knightsbridge, which is of the order of £20 a day. It is also possible to purchase a 24hr permit at the cost of £10.00 from the Reception Desk when members stay overnight at the Club.

## Congestion Charging Zone

The Clubhouse in Knightsbridge is now in the congestion charging zone. For more information on the limits of the zone, visit the website below. There is also a leaflet available for members at the Reception Desk who will be able to assist.

**[www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/cc-ex/index.shtml](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/cc-ex/index.shtml)** or telephone 0845 900 1234 – **[cclondon.com](http://cclondon.com)**

## Staff Christmas Fund

The fund is again open for members who wish to make a contribution to show their appreciation of the Clubhouse staff's courtesy, friendliness and co-operation. Thank you in advance for your donation, which you should send to the Secretariat. Cheques should be made payable to the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club. Please refer to attached letter from the Chairman.

## Mobile phones

Mobile phone calls are prohibited in the public areas of the Club and calls should be taken and made in the Model Room, cloakroom or outside.

# CLUBHOUSE

## Faxes

If members wish to receive or send faxes while they are staying at the Club, they are advised to use the **Reception fax no.: 020-7235 5672**, as Reception is attended 24-hours-a-day.

## Communications – e-mail

Many members have asked us to make greater use of e-mail to keep them up-to-date with Club affairs, in particular the programme of events. Do we have your current e-mail address? If not, please inform the Secretariat so that we may promptly report news and events to you to keep you fully up to date on Club matters. At present about half of our members can be contacted by e-mail.

## Christmas Closure

The Club will be closed for the Christmas and New Year holiday as follows:

<i>CLOSING DATE</i>	<i>OPENING DATE</i>	<i>FACILITIES AVAILABLE</i>
<i>Friday (after lunch) 23rd December 2008</i>	<i>Wednesday 5th January 2009</i>	<i>None</i>

During the Christmas closure, the only London club which can offer hospitality for lunch/dinner and accommodation (when cabins are not available at the Club) to members of the Royal Anglo-Belgian Club is **the Royal Air Force Club**, 128 Piccadilly, London W1V 0PY, tel. 020 7499 3456, fax. 020 7355 1516. Members may make reservations directly with **the Royal Air Force Club**: telephone number for room reservations is 020 7390 1000 : e-mail [frontoff@rafclub.org.uk](mailto:frontoff@rafclub.org.uk) and for dining room reservations 020 7399 1020.

# CLUBHOUSE

Do not forget to carry your RABC membership card, as it is required for admission to the Royal Air Force Club. Ladies are welcome throughout the club. The minimum age for children is 5 during the week but there is no minimum age at weekends. Dress is relaxed at weekends and on public holidays but not jeans, trainers or other overly casual clothes.

## Easter Holiday

<i>CLOSING DATE</i>	<i>OPENING DATE</i>	<i>FACILITIES AVAILABLE</i>
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2009 <b><i>Easter</i></b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2009	Accommodation only
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 <b><i>Bank Holiday</i></b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Accommodation only
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2009 <b><i>Bank Holiday</i></b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2009	Accommodation only
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2009 <b><i>Summer Closure</i></b>	25 <sup>th</sup> August 2009	Accommodation only

## WHAT'S ON IN LONDON

*National Gallery*  
*Trafalgar Square, London WC2*  
*Tel. 020 7747 2885*  
[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

**Permanent Collections**  
*Up to 18 Jan 2009 : Renaissance*  
*Faces Van Eyck to Titan. Landmark*  
*Exhibition exploring the dramatic*  
*Rise of portraiture in the Renaissance,*

---

*Also including works by Botticelli, Holbein & Bellini. From 12 Nov. Sisley England & Wales*

*Tate Britain*  
***Millbank, London SW1***

***Tel. 020 7887 8000***

*Open daily from 10am-5.50pm*

*www.tate.org.uk*

***Up to 18 January 09 Turner Prize 2008. Works by the four shortlisted Artists in this prestigious annual prize.***

*Tate Modern*  
***Bankside, London SE1***

***Tel. 020 7887 8000***

*www.tate.org.uk*

***International modern art in transformed Bankside Power station up to 1 Feb exhibition dedicated to Mark Rothko (1903-1970) one of America's most iconic post-war Painters.***

***Royal Academy of Arts***

***Burlington House***

***Piccadilly, London W1***

***Tel. 020 7300 8000***

*www.royalacademy.org.uk*

***Up to 22 March 09 Byzantium 330-1453 Capturing the diversity of Th Byzantine Empire's amazing Artistic production with 100's of Icons, micro-mosaics and wall Paintings***

***The Queen's Gallery***  
***Buckingham Gate,***  
***Buckingham Palace Road,***  
***London SW1A 1AA***

***Tel. 020 7 766 7301***

*www.royalcollection.org.uk*

***Up to 26 Apr 09 Treasures from the Royal Collection. Spectacular Jewels, historic porcelain and world Famous paintings from the U.K. royal residences.***

\*\*\*

\* \* \*

The next Newsletter will be issued in Spring 2009

\* \* \*

Members of the RABC are encouraged  
to submit contributions to the Newsletter.  
We need articles and anecdotes on all aspects of 'Club Life'

\* \* \*



Best Wishes for  
Christmas and the New Year