



Brit Club News

April, 2016

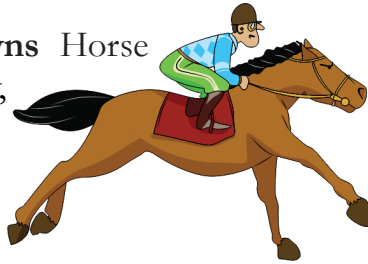
Sarasota British Club, P. O. Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Vol. 16, Issue 4

Coming Events

The SBC Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday April 14th** at the Village des Pins clubhouse, 7964 Timberwood Circle, Sarasota @ 6:30pm. Members welcome.

Tampa Bay Downs Horse Racing, on Sunday, April 17th. See Page 3 for details.



Van Wezel Tour on Wednesday May 11, 10-12pm. Tour of art work, back stage, stage etc. \$5pp janethompson@live.com, 941-388-8018.

Members will meet in the main lobby at 9.50am at the latest, for a 2 hour tour from 10 - 12pm . Tour will include art work, sculptures, back stage & stage areas. \$5 cash per person (to be paid at The Van Wezel on the day). Wear comfortable shoes & a sweater. I have made a reservation for Marina Jack's 2nd floor dining room for 12.30. Please let me know if you'd like to join us, payment will be individual member's responsibility at the restaurant. If you do not wish to attend the tour but would like to join us for lunch please let me know.

Optional lunch is in the 2nd floor restaurant of Marina Jack - check out their extensive lunch menu <http://tinyurl.com/ho3a9qk>.

There is a limit on numbers for this event, so please let me know asap if you are interested & bookings must be made by contacting me by Friday April 11.

Jane Thompson

Memorial Day Ceremony in Arcadia, Monday May 30th at 10.00am, followed by lunch at Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit, 10 South Polk Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266. See Page 4.



Coming Events

- Tampa Bay Downs Horse Racing (Page 3)
- Games Night
- Van Wezel Tour in May
- Arcadia—May 30th, Memorial Day Ceremony Oak Ridge Cemetery
- Quiz Night June 11th
- McCurdy's Comedy Club July 9th
- Conducted Tour of Raymond James Art Collection plus Lunch—date to be arranged
- 'How to Read a Race Card' presentation. To be arranged before April 17th.

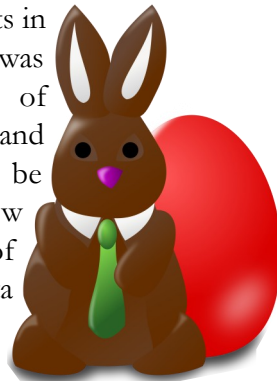
President's letter – April 2016

Wow! The snowbirds are a double edged sword. We curse the extra traffic, and we cannot get into our favorite restaurants, but their tax dollars paid for the beautiful new Public Beach facilities on Siesta Key – if you have not seen them, it is worth a trip (once the snowbirds have gone!)



I am sure that many of you have been hosting friends and family these past few weeks, as they take their spring breaks with us. My son, Mark, joined us for a week from the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is a police officer. His tales of adventures with the “other” One Percent certainly make one’s hair stand on end, with the majority of his ‘clients’ unfortunately involved with drugs or alcohol.

With the Easter Bunny around the corner, I am reminded of frigid Easter egg hunts in Chicago and Boston when Mark was growing up. Indeed, memories of Chicago seem to involve mud – and lots of it! How thankful we are to be here in beautiful Sarasota, and how grateful we are for the friendship of our fellow members in the Sarasota British Club!



....



Several years ago whilst on a trip to London., we found this funky little wine bar cafe in Covent Garden. The owner kindly told me what was in the delicious soup we had, and this is my version, one of favourites; I often make it.



Cream of Tomato Soup with Goats Cheese

2 Tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion or shallot, chopped
2 lb tomatoes, peeled and chopped (can substitute with canned)
1 Bay leaf
2 cups chicken stock
Pinch of sugar (cuts the acidity of the tomatoes)
4 oz goats cheese
salt and pepper to taste
1/2 tsp chopped tarragon
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Sauté the chopped onion/shallot in heated olive oil until golden, add tomatoes, bay leaf and chicken stock. and simmer about 20 minutes. Remove the bay leaf, add cut up goats cheese and stir until melted, Allow to cool a bit then process to smooth consistency. Stir in cream, and reheat gently for serving. (Yield 4 servings)

Recipe from Sandra F Cherry, Union Jack food columnist. I welcome comments and requests; and can be reached at Yourcuppatea1@yahoo.com .



Precis of March Board Meeting

Membership still stands at 190. Bank balance \$4537.60. So far only about 13-14 members have requested a paper copy of the Newsletter be mailed to them. The Club should save close to \$1,000 per year in mailing costs. Reviewed website traffic which is good. Mini golf at Fish Hole was enjoyed by 20 members. The lunch buffet at Flavors of India was attended by 35 members, the general opinion of the food and service was excellent. Club agreed (as a courtesy) to put notice of the Caledonian Club's trip to Scotland in our newsletter. Board discussed several upcoming events they are planning for the next few months, all upcoming events will be posted in the Newsletter.

Submitted by Jane Jacobs



Our ever-popular horse-racing day at **Tampa Bay Downs** will be held this year on Sunday, April 17th. There is the usual 52 seater coach that will pick up in both Sarasota and Bradenton, starting at 9.30 a.m. from Sarasota, and we have reserved 50 seats in the Sky Terrace for the brunch buffet and very inviting dessert table. The cost for round trip coach fare, brunch, and the entrance fee is unchanged from the last couple of years at \$50. You can reserve your spot by calling Steve Adams on [941-524-9410](tel:941-524-9410), or emailing him at sha@adamsiac.com. Once you have reserved your place, you need to mail a check for \$50 per person, payable to Sarasota British Club, to Sarasota British Club, PO Box 21063, Sarasota, FL 34276

Gamble Mansion Tour on March 11th

18 members enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining tour of this mansion/plantation. Our tour guide, Mark, introduced us to life in Florida in the late 1800's and it wasn't pretty! We learned the where the expression 'sleep tight and don't let the bed bugs bite' originated. Let's just say sleeping on a mattress filled with Spanish moss was not a pleasant experience! We saw a real 'thunder box' and learned the origin of other sayings such as 'pop goes the weasel' (it has nothing to do with furry animals), 'hush puppy', 'don't throw the baby out with the bath water', 'whistle while you work' (sort of). We learned why steamed trunk lids are rounded. Afterward several of us picnicked together.

NOTE: If you are planning to go, we thought the dire warnings printed on the flyer seem a little extreme for the conditions we encountered. One needs to be able to climb a flight of stairs but there are plenty of places to have a quick sit down in the house and we did not experience much (any) exposure to the outdoors or traversing uneven terrain.



Reminder The Club's website www.sarasotabritishclub.com is our primary means of attracting potential new members. We look to current members to be our ambassadors familiar with our message and sharing it with those who might be interested in joining. Thank you.

Under 'Events' on the menu you can find the current newsletter and the newsletter archive.

Memorial Day, Monday May 30th
**ARCADIA AND THE ROYAL AIR FORCE
CONNECTION**

Each year on Memorial Day a service coordinated by the Arcadia Rotary Club and the local American Legion is held to honor 23 RAF trainee pilots and their American instructor who were killed training at nearby Carlstrom and Riddle flight schools during WWII. This will be the 60th occasion.



Well over one hundred people, many of whom bring floral tributes, congregate at the beautifully maintained British Plot in the Oak Ridge Cemetery.

The one hour service, starting at 10:00 a.m. at which the Sarasota British Club is always represented, is dignified and moving. The Union Flag and RAF flags fluttering overhead add a further touch of the Britain to the proceedings.

We urge you to attend the ceremony this Memorial Day, to honor our countrymen who gave their lives for us. On the way home we generally stop off for a light lunch. (see column 2)

Directions: Go east on SR 70 (from Bradenton) or SR 72 (from Sarasota) for about 35 miles. Follow signs to Arcadia. As you enter the town on SR 70 the road forks.....take the left fork (Oak Street) to Lee and turn left (there's a bit of a right/left jog in the road at Whidden Street) till the road stops. Turn left and follow that road into Oak Ridge Cemetery. Drive straight on and look for the Union Flag flying over the plot.

Bring lawn chairs as seating is often limited. Also you may want to bring an umbrella for shade.

Afterwards

We have been contacted by Dr. Jennifer Harding from Birmingham, UK who is a daughter of a RAF cadet, posted to Florida in WW2. She writes a 6 page newsletter for No.5 B.F.T.S. Association. This is attached (file

name Newsletter Christmas 2015) for those receiving emails.

She writes and invites attendees to go to Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit, 10 South Polk Avenue, Arcadia, Florida 34266.

“Mary Margaret's Tea and Biscuit takes us back to the grandeur of the Victorian era. As well as lovely soups, salads and sandwiches, desserts include traditional British favourites, which 5BFTS cadets would instantly recognise, such as White Chocolate Bread Pudding (although the strict rationing of sweets and sugar in war time Britain meant that chocolate in bread pudding was a luxury not enjoyed by people back home), Sticky Toffee Pudding, Chocolate Log with Raspberry filling and of course, Scones with clotted cream and Strawberry Jam”

She suggests that those interested in lunch there contact her at jen@jennyharding.co.uk as space may be limited.

Don't forget that the Sarasota British Club is on Facebook. The Club's logo is the profile picture. Check out the numerous photos from recent events. Why not 'friend' us for another way of keeping in touch with the Club and its members. Why not add your event photos to the 'wall'.



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CLUB PHOTOGRAPH ARCHIVE.

If you have Club event photos in a Dropbox account (or similar), please can you send me the web address to add to the list.

2015 Christmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/jjq33xf>

Guy Fawkes Night 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/z9u3tj9>

15th Anniversary Party 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/govrj5>

Lunch at McAllisters 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/hd8qkan>

Dinner at Miguels 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/zd3cfd8>

2014 Christmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/jsuyk6d>

2013 Christmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/jcm7l3y>

2012 Christmas Party

<http://tinyurl.com/jrpu484>

Visit to Spanish Point 2013

<http://tinyurl.com/zanc42g>

Ladies Evening 2011

<http://tinyurl.com/jx3z2gr>

Lunch, June 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/zo8sfh7>

Games Night 2015

<http://tinyurl.com/hpdew6a>

Memorial Day 2015 at Arcadia

<http://tinyurl.com/hpfkm4>

Christmas 2014 Coffee Morning

<http://tinyurl.com/zxymykn>

Royal Wedding Tea at the Ritz Carlton 2011

<http://tinyurl.com/juworzv>

Mini Golf Feb 2016

<http://tinyurl.com/jkzhxpz>

Guy Fawkes Party 2012

<http://tinyurl.com/zt6o9bk>



Ladies Evening 2011



Christmas Coffee Morning 2014

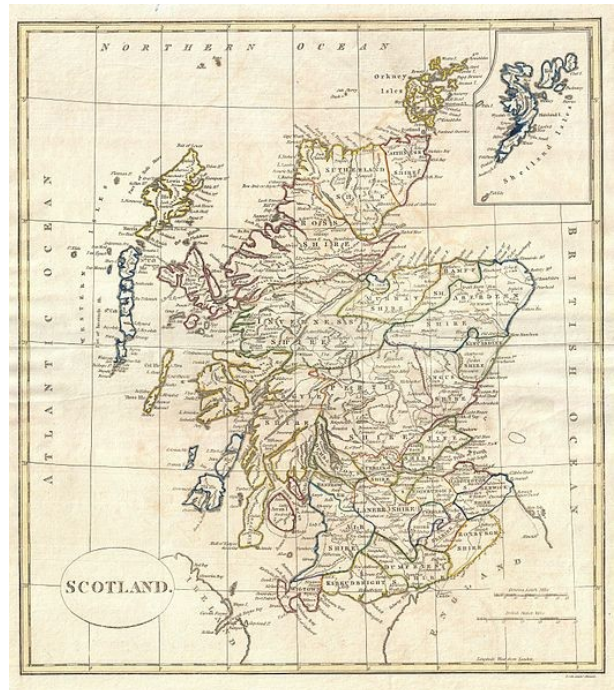


Dinner at Miguels, Siesta Key

Elsewhere

The Caledonian Club has organised a trip to Scotland for its 30th anniversary. This will be 10 Days for \$4,354 from August 3rd. President Bill Wallace has extended an invitation to S.B.C. Members.

For Details, contact Bill Wallace at 941-378-0085 or Sioux Faragher-Hurley at 941-484-0728 or email: teatree-inc@me.com



JOKES

A couple were celebrating their golden wedding anniversary on the beaches in Gold Coast Australia.

Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. People would say, "What a peaceful & loving couple."

The local newspaper reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage.

The husband replied: "Well, it dates back to our honeymoon in America."

"We visited the Grand Canyon, in Arizona, and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon, by horse." We had not gone too far when my wife's horse stumbled and she almost fell off."

My wife looked down at the horse and quietly said, "That's once."

"We proceeded a little further and her horse stumbled again..."

Again my wife quietly said, "That's twice."

We had not gone a half-mile when the horse stumbled for the third time. My wife quietly removed a revolver from her purse and shot the horse dead.

I SHOUTED at her, "What is wrong with you, Woman! Why did you shoot the poor animal like that, are you crazy?"

She looked at me, and quietly said, "That's once."

"And from that moment on.... We have lived happily ever after...."



A balding, white haired man walked into a jewelry store this past Friday evening with a beautiful much younger gal at his side. He told the jeweler he was looking for a special ring for his girlfriend.

The jeweler looked through his stock and brought out a \$5,000 ring.

The man said, 'No, I'd like to see something more special.'

At that statement, the jeweler went to his special stock and brought another ring over. 'Here's a stunning ring at only \$40,000' the jeweler said.

The lady's eyes sparkled and her whole body trembled with excitement. The man seeing this said, 'We'll take it.'

The jeweler asked how payment would be made and the man stated, "By check. I know you need to make sure my check is good, so I'll write it now and you can call the bank Monday to verify the funds; I'll pick the ring up Monday afternoon."

On Monday morning, the jeweler angrily phoned the old man and said "Sir, there's no money in that account.

"I know,' said the old man...'But let me tell you about my weekend.'



And For Easter

All I need to know I learned from the Easter Bunny!

Don't put all your eggs in one basket.

Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.

There's no such thing as too much candy.

All work and no play can make you a basket case.

A cute tail attracts a lot of attention.

Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.

Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.

Some body parts should be floppy.

Keep your paws off of other people's jelly beans.

Good things come in small, sugar coated packages.

The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.

To show your true colors, you have to come out of the shell.



Insights for our Facebook Page

METRIC	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK	TREND
Page Visits	20	5	↑300.0%
Weekly Total Reach	54	6	↑800.0%
People Engaged	11	5	↑120.0%
Total Page Likes	160	159	↑0.6%

Sarasota Property Review for Spring

*H*ow quickly the time flies – we are now looking forward to the snow birds going home and we can have our roads and restaurants back – but has this been a bumper season for the real estate market? The end of 2015 witnessed record-breaking sales for both Sarasota and Manatee counties. January sales reflected the expected seasonal dip as a result of reduced buying activity during the holidays, even as median prices continued to rise.

While sales are slowing down slightly, we will probably continue to see steady, sustainable growth in the first quarter of 2016 rather than the fever of 2015. A relief to everyone trying to avoid the ‘boom and bust’ scenario.

Sarasota County experienced a slight 1.2 percent rise from last year in total sales for single family homes at 520 sales, while condos were down 5.2 percent with 217 closed sales. In Manatee County, single family homes were down 5.4 percent from last year to 385 total sales, but condo sales rose 2.6 percent with 156 closed sales.

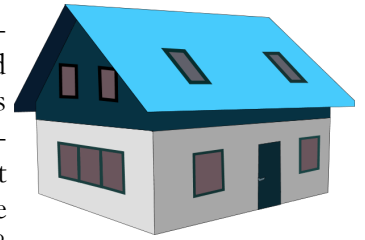
Year on year, single family median prices rose 21.3 percent in Sarasota County to \$230,500, and climbed 10 percent to \$274,900 in Manatee County. Condo prices were also up 17.8 percent in Sarasota County, at \$218,000, compared to \$169,950 for Manatee County, an increase of 6.3 percent over last year.

Inventory of available properties continues to be an issue for buyers, but showed a small improvement. For single family homes in Sarasota County, inventory is down 1.5 percent from last year, and up 2.4 percent in Manatee County. Condo inventory is up in both counties, with Sarasota County up 6.1 percent, while Manatee County saw an increase of 9.6 percent.

The two-county area saw the month's supply of inventory remain low, with a 4.2 month's supply of single family homes in Sarasota County compared to 4.4 in Manatee. The month's supply of condos in Sarasota County is 4.8, and an even 5 months in Manatee, all well below the 6-month supply that is considered a balanced market for buyers and sellers.

The drop in the percentage of distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales) signals another sign of health in the market. Both the number of distressed sales and the share of the market have continued to

decline, signaling our continued recovery. Distressed sales for single family homes in the two-county area represented only 11.8 percent of all closed sales for the month, compared to 25.8 percent last year.



Similarly, distressed condo sales came in at 7.8 percent of those closed sales, compared to 12.3 percent last year. At their peak a few years ago, 48 percent of all sales were distressed.

Pending sales are lower in January in both counties for both single family and condos, a sign that it will be difficult to sustain last year's pace with our continuing low inventory levels. We are starting to see some ‘buyer remorse’ – with contracts being agreed and then the buyers withdrawing within inspection periods. You need to know the contracts and the key dates to help you understand what your rights and responsibilities are. We are on the fourth version of the contracts in the last year!

My personal opinion – the market is starting to slow / stutter a little bit. Overpriced properties are being reduced daily, buyers are informed and more willing to wait for the right property at the right price. Being informed and pricing right are essential in this market. If you are thinking of selling, just be aware that the FIRPTA (Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act) rules have changed recently, increasing from a 10% withholding to a 15% withholding in some cases. A thrilling subject – but one you need to be aware of if you are a non-resident alien!

Submitted by Sharon Gould.

Sharon@sharoninsarasota.com



Sarasota British Club name badges

Please obtain Club badges directly from:
Sarasota Trophy 6601 Superior Ave, Sarasota
FL 34231. 921-4339.

\$8 + tax for badge with magnet = \$8.56

\$6 + tax for badge with pin (without magnet) = \$6.42.

Badges can be collected in person

(M - F 8.30 - 5 or Sat 9 - 12) or shipped to home for
\$3.75.



JOKE

Housework was a woman's job, but one evening, Janice arrived home from work to find the children bathed, one load of laundry in the washer and another in the dryer. Dinner was on the stove, and the table set. She was astonished!



It turns out that Gary had read an article that said, 'Wives who work full-time and had to do their own housework were too tired to have sex'.

The night went very well. The next day, Janice told her friends all about it. 'We had a great dinner. Gary even cleaned up the kitchen. He helped the kids do their homework, folded all the laundry and put it away. I really enjoyed the evening.'

'But what about afterward?' asked her friends.

'Oh, that . . . Gary was too tired.'



Board of Directors (1/1/'16)

President	Paul Wilkinson	410-990-4698	pwilkinson18@comcast.net
Vice-President	Sandra Cherry	921-3162	yourcupatea1@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Maggie Hughes	487-7216	mvhughes50@hotmail.com
Secretary	Jane Jacobs	847-370-2811	jane60010@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Ivan Gould	922-3159	ivangould@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Brian Thompson	388-8018	lakewood2@gmail.com
Website Liaison	Mark Malkasian	445-2890	mark@armeng.com
Director at Large 1	Barry Evans	993-9752	barry.evans@ml.com
Director at Large 2	Diana Wilkinson	410-990-4698	dwilkinson18@comcast.net
Past President	Gary Lee	706-1172	glee01@verizon.net

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