
Brit Club News

January, 2006

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

Vol. 6, Issue 1



Coming Events

January 3

Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at Tastefully British, 2236 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota.

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

January 15

President's Cocktail Party – When the new year arrives we will have a new president, Glenys Oldham. In accordance

with tradition, all members are invited to attend a party at the president's home in Osprey on Sunday, January 15 from 4pm to 8pm. BYOB and a dish to pass. Please call ahead to reserve at 966-1240. The address is 801 Golden Pond Court, Osprey. See directions below and feel free to park in my driveway or on the street.



From Sarasota/Bradenton

– Take US 41 south to Bay Street (stop light after The Oaks). Go left on Bay Street until you reach Park Trace. Turn right into Park Trace and follow the road to the bottom where it will curve to the left. Take the first right (Scherer Way). Take the first right again

(Golden Pond Court). Our home is on the corner.

From Nokomis/Venice – Take U.S. 41 north to Blackburn Point/Old Venice Road. Turn right onto Old Venice Road. Take the first right onto Rivendell Boulevard. Stay on Rivendell Boulevard until you reach Placid Lake (about ¾ of a mile). Turn right and stay on Placid Lake until you can go no further (T-junction). Turn left onto Scherer Way. Golden Pond Court is the first street on the left. Our home is on the corner.

February 7

Board Meeting – 6:00 p.m. at Tastefully British, 2236 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota.

MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

2006 Proposed Activities Survey Results

We had quite a few responses to the survey included with the December newsletter. The following is the list of the top events selected.

Christmas Party
Barbeque
Wine Tasting
Siesta Key Beach Picnic
Brunch at the Hilton

Halloween Party
Potluck Supper at member's home
Play or Musical Event
Pub Evening (one pub only)
Sarasota Bay Cruise

New Year's Eve Party
Casino Night
Progressive Dinner Evening
Sarasota Ballet Night
Scavenger Hunt

When the new board meets on January 3, they will be deciding upon a preliminary list of events for 2006, using the survey results. The preliminary schedule will be included in the February newsletter, so check it out and mark up your calendars.

Our website is www.SarasotaBritishClub.com

From Our President

FROM IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT, PETER GOLD:

My year has flown past and now I hand over a thriving club with many new members and fresh ideas to Glenys and her new Board. I wish them luck for next year.

In this public forum may I offer my thanks to last year's Board, all of whom worked very hard and I hope enjoyed their year.

The numbers for our annual Christmas party are looking very good and by the time you read this I hope you have enjoyed the event.

I take this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

FROM NEW PRESIDENT, GLENYS OLDHAM:

I hope you all had a very merry holiday season. The Annual Christmas Party was a huge success. We had 90 attendees. The Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club took good care of us and provided excellent food. Shona Burtner and her sister took home the \$100 prize for the Charleston competition. The 50/50 raffle prize was \$255 and won by a guest of my husband and me (no, it wasn't fixed!). Past president Andy Reeves played an excellent Santa Clause for us and drew the names for the 8 door prizes. Attendees were full of praise for the whole event. Many thanks to the committee who worked so hard to make the event such a success. This year Audrey & Terry Sweeney acted as greeters and introduced new members to board members and other attendees. Several new members told me how nice it was to be greeted and introduced around and were impressed by what a friendly bunch we were. Thank you for the excellent job, Audrey & Terry. I think we may be calling on you again for a repeat at future events!

We begin the new year with a new board. Our first meeting will be on January 3rd. I would like to extend members' thanks to the 2005 board for all their hard work. The last year has been a tough one. We had events cancelled at the last minute due to inclement weather and had less than our usual attendance at the Annual General Meeting due to an approaching hurricane. Fortunately Sarasota was spared again. Although we lost a few members during the last year, some of whom moved away from the Sarasota area, we gained a lot of new members.

There are many issues I plan to bring before the board during the coming year, such as producing a welcome package for new members, a review and improvement of the contents of the newsletter, rewriting our outdated bylaws, more contact with members, more effort to introduce new members at social activities, a renewed effort to launch the British Business Club, etc.

As of this writing we have received quite a few replies to our request for members to send in their choices of possible activities for 2006 and will be reviewing those replies at our January board meeting, at which time we shall set a preliminary schedule of activities for the coming year.

The 2006 board has no Social Secretary. This has been a daunting task in the past. I am sure many members are loathe to commit to filling this position for a year. What I intend to propose to the new board is that we spread this workload. Each time we have an upcoming event, the board will be calling members to ask for volunteers to help. If we give each volunteer only one small task, hopefully we can get more members involved in the running of the club.

I hope to see many of you at my home of January 15 for the president's cocktail party. Please see the front page of this newsletter for details and directions.

Do You Own Your Own Business?

For advertising, our rates are reasonable and such an ad not supports the club by its revenue, but may bring you more business. Many of our members make a point of trying to support British businesses, especially ones where the owner is a member of the club. Please consider advertising your business in our newsletter.

Newsletter advertising rates are as follows:

Business Card size.....	\$10.00
Quarter Page.....	\$15.00
Half Page.....	\$25.00
Full Page.....	\$40.00

There is a 20% discount if you purchase your advertisements annually. All ads must be paid for in advance. Please send your camera-ready advertisements by the 15th of the month to the newsletter editor, Rose Gillet, at 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235 or email them to her at rosegillet@yahoo.com.

Two Versions of Tomato Soup

While we were in London, we had a delicious soup in a funky little wine bar café in Covent Garden, and although I could not obtain the actual recipe, experimented enough that I feel I have achieved the right mix. I recently ‘discovered’ using goat’s cheese in recipes and find it really adds to various dishes. The tomato is actually a fruit, but it’s always used as a vegetable, and is of the same family as the potato, egg plant and pepper. It is rich in vitamins, particularly Vitamin C. Because tomatoes came from the New World, they weren’t used much in British cooking until the sixteenth century, and it wasn’t until the nineteenth century that they were eaten raw.

My preference for making tomato soups is to use fresh tomatoes, but canned can also be used quite effectively. Strangely, you may find when using fresh tomatoes, the colour of the soup may be more orange than red, but the taste is certainly great. If you use fresh tomatoes, make sure they are ripe and soft. After washing them, plunge them into boiling water for a few seconds to help loosen the skins. If using canned or preserved tomatoes, be sure they are plain tomatoes and not with other ingredients such as garlic added. Always add a pinch of sugar to tomato recipes that are cooked, as it helps to cut the acidity a bit. Also when cooking with bay leaves, use them whole so they can easily be removed, (they can be quite harmful to those with digestive problems, by getting trapped in the colon.)

I adapted my regular tomato soup recipe, in which I use chopped tarragon instead of basil, which is always popular. If you want to make tomato and tarragon or basil soup, it is also good chilled, but with the goat’s cheese, it should be served hot. I hope you enjoy my version.

Cream of Tomato soup, with Goat cheese

2 Tbsp Olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
2 lb tomatoes, peeled and chopped
1 Bay leaf
2 cups chicken stock
4 oz goat cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
½ cup heavy whipping cream

Sauté chopped onions in heated olive oil until golden; add tomatoes, bay leaf and chicken stock, and simmer about 20 minutes. Remove bay leaf, add cut up goat cheese, and stir in until melted. Allow to cool, then puree in a blender to a smooth consistency. Stir in cream, and reheat gently for serving. Yield 4 servings

Tarragon Version: As above, except omit the bay leaf and goat cheese. Add 2 Tbsp chopped tarragon to simmer in the chicken broth, before processing (can use 2 tsp. dried tarragon).

Recipe from Sandra Cherry of "Your Cup of Tea" – Yourcupatea1@yahoo.com and www.yourcupoftea.info

Tea Anyone?

There will be a tea party held at the Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club on February 18, 2006, at 2:45 pm. While this is not a Brit Club event, it is being planned by a member of our club, Susie Batty. You can enjoy scones with clotted cream, cucumber sandwiches, etc., along with a traditional “cuppa”, all while listening to an interesting speaker. Ladies are invited to dress up and wear hats. Men are also invited. Apparently Susie held one in 2005 and it sold out. If you wish to attend you must contact the Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club to make a reservation. Phone # is 941-918-9595

Returning Next Month

Returning next month will be the horoscope column by Sue “Moonstar” Ford – welcome back, Sue!

When Was London Bridge Built?

The first London Bridge was constructed by the Romans around the year 60 AD. Since then there have been at least 5 versions of the bridge.

London owes its existence to a ford that apparently still exists beneath the Thames mud opposite the Houses of Parliament.

Julius Caesar's legions took this route before going on to storm the heights to the north, such as Primrose Hill, Hampstead, and Highgate. They might have followed the line of the River Fleet, which now flows through the sewers beneath the street that bears its name.

As well as being the lowest fording point, London was the highest reach of the Thames where a sea-going vessel could unload its cargo. It could also be conveniently bridged, which the Romans achieved around 60 AD.

Since Roman times London has fallen by 15 feet, a reaction to the end of the ice age 25,000 years ago that weighed down much of Britain under ice. Northern Britain is 'springing back up' after being covered in ice, whereas southern England is sinking to counter act the north. So whereas in Roman times London Bridge marked the end of the sea's tidal influence on the Thames, today that point reaches a further 19 miles upstream.

In 850 Danes destroyed the first bridge. The rebuilt version collapsed due to heavy floods in 1091. The replacement for that burnt down in 1136.

The first stone version, partly paid for by a wool tax, was started 40 years later. This bridge partly collapsed in 1281, but when restored, this time with houses, shops and a chapel on it, stood until 1831.

The next version remained until 1971, when it was sold to become a tourist attraction at Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

The old nursery rhyme that said 'London Bridge is falling down' is quite appropriate.

Rose's Corner

I want to wish you all a peaceful and happy New Year. May 2006 be the Brit Club's best year ever!!

We are anticipating a wonderful new year with our new Brit Club board. Welcome returning members and those of you who are standing for board positions for the first time – welcome aboard!!

Please mail articles to me at Rose Gillet, 3219 24th Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34235, fax at 366-9248, call at 366-9984 or email me at rosegillet@yahoo.com. Closing date for the newsletter is the 15th of each month.



Brit Club News



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

President Glenys Oldham
1st Vice President Nairn' Gillet
2nd Vice President Mick Gypps
Treasurer Shona Burtner
Recording Secretary Sandra Cherry
Past President Peter Gold
Directors Terry Sweeney
Amy Croshaw
Business Network Sue Burmaster
Membership Secretary Kathy Curtin
Newsletter Editor Rose Gillet
Program Committee Lisa Warren
Website James Croshaw
Public Relations Nairn' Gillet

Where Your Membership Dollars Went in 2005

We began the year with a balance of \$2,728.91, plus were holding a \$700 refunded from the Waterside Restaurant when they let us down with the food at the 2004 Christmas Party. This \$700 was refunded to members in form of free food for two events: \$547.51 for the catered barbeque at Turtle Beach on 5/20/05, and \$152.49 for food at the Annual General Meeting/barbeque on 10/21/05.

The list below gives you a breakdown of where the club dollars were spent in 2005. The net expenses for the cost of events represents the club's actual cost after deducting any income from attendees and the \$700 reimbursement from the Waterside Restaurant.

Net Expenses for 2005:		Net Income for 2005:	
President's Cocktail Party	\$ -	Membership Dues	\$1,815.00
Tampa Bay Downs Races	\$ 40.00	Newsletter Ads	\$ 45.00
Polo Club Match/Picnic	\$ 107.00		
Sarasota Kennel Club	\$ -		
Turtle Beach BBQ/Picnic	\$ 75.79		
Pub Crawl	\$ 115.00		
Siesta Key Beach Picnic	\$ 32.96		
Annual General Mtg & BBQ	\$ 113.10		
Christmas Party	\$ 334.35		
Monthly Newsletter (incl. Postage)	\$ 681.18		
Brit Club Advertising Flyers	\$ 146.65		
Hosting Cost of Web Site	\$ 215.40		
Annual P.O. Box Rental	\$ 38.00		
Non-for-Profit Registration	\$ 61.25		
Bank A/C Maintenance Charges	\$ 101.50		
Envelopes & Stamps	\$ 29.13		
Misc. Administrative	\$ 178.95		
Total.....	2,270.26	Total.....	1,860.00

As can be seen from the above figures, the club operated with a loss of \$410.26 for 2005. We are ending the year with a balance of \$2,318.65. The bulk of the loss was from the annual Christmas Party. The actual cost per head was \$46.22. We charged only \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members, the same as had been charged in December, 2004. It had been decided to keep the cost down and have the club subsidize the party somewhat in order to bring members back after the Waterside restaurant let us down at the 2004 party. We will not be able to subsidize the 2006 party, so we will either have to find a cheaper venue (the food at Stoneybrook was \$10.50 a plate more than the Waterside), or we will have to raise the price of the tickets next year.

Cost of 2005 Events

The following list shows the final cost of club events for 2005. These amounts represent the actual cost of the event less any income (charges for attendance, etc.). Part of the money refunded by the Waterside Restaurant from the 2005 Xmas Party (\$547.51), paid for the catered Turtle Beach barbeque. The balance of the Waterside refund of \$152.49 paid for part of the food for the Annual General Meeting & barbeque.

Date	Event	Total Club Cost
11/16/05	President's Cocktail Party	\$ -
2/27/05	Day at the Races	\$ 40.00
3/20/05	Polo Club Match/Picnic	\$ 107.00
4/15/05	Night at the Dogs	\$ -
5/20/05	Turtle Beach BBQ	\$ 75.79
6/24/05	Pub Crawl	\$ 115.00
8/21/05	Indian Cooking Class/Dinner	\$ -
9/17/05	Siesta Key Picnic	\$ 32.96
10/21/05	Annual General Meeting/BBQ	\$ 113.10
11/18/05	Le Barge Sunset Cruise	\$ -
12/16/05	Christmas Party	\$ 599.35
	Total Cost.....	\$ 1083.20