



SKÅL INTERNATIONAL

International Association of Travel and Tourism Professionals
Founded 1934

Skål International Dublin 70th Anniversary Celebration

In 1948, the first post-war Skål Club to be formed was in Dublin and we became Club No. 37. One of the founding members was George Volckaert, the son of Florimond Volckaert, who was the main influence in forming Skål International in Paris in 1932. At that time, George was Sabina Airlines manager in Ireland.



To prepare for our anniversary event, a sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Sam Wilson was formed. When it was established that the Main Dining Hall in Trinity College, the world renowned University which was established by Royal Charter in 1592, was available, it was agreed to use this venue.

We were delighted that the World President of Skål International, Susanna Saari was able to attend. Other VIP Invitees on the night included National President Margaret Cahill, Hon. World President Mary Bennett, Chairperson of Tourism Ireland, Joan O'Shaughnessy, National Administrator Sabrina Horgan and the Kelly Rogers family. VIP guests in attendance were National Treasurer, Nora Cronin, National Secretary, Beatrice Colleran, Cork President, Mary Browne and President of Skål Northern Ireland, Norman McBride. On the International front we welcomed Margaret Wilson from Skål Cairns and Charles Yuan from Skål Taipei. A total of 98 Skålleagues and Guests attended on the evening.

We are indebted to Matt McNulty for organising a display of extensive Skål memorabilia at the wine reception preceding the dinner. This reception also featured our flautist Cory Kelly-Rogers, a most appropriate choice as Cory is the grand-daughter of Jack Kelly Rogers, a founder member of Skål Dublin in 1948. Also, in attendance and recognised, was Tony Condon, son of the legendary Paddy (PG) Condon, another founder member from 1948.

President Jim presented Susanna with a suitably inscribed, gift edition of The Book of Kells as a memento of her visit. The original Book of Kells, dating back to c. 800 AD is an illuminated manuscript in Latin, containing the four Gospels of the New Testament. It is on permanent display in Trinity College and is regarded as Ireland's finest national treasure.

As the evening coincided with Paddy Dignam's 90th birthday we arranged for Susanna to present Paddy with a special Certificate of Recognition which highlighted his 46 consecutive years membership of Skål International Dublin.

Many thanks to President Jim for commissioning our striking 70th logo, which we used on all correspondence and stationery and for overseeing the presentation of the menu. A special unique commemorative CD was produced for the evening by Bob Linnane of which everyone received a copy. In summary, a most successful event, with a very positive feedback from attendees.

PHOTO GALLERY