

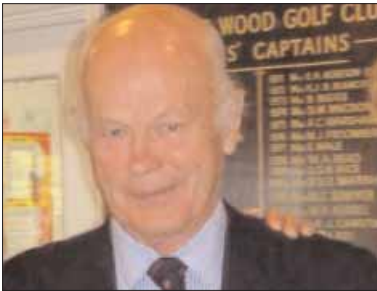


EST. 17TH MAY 1887

Northern Lights

December 2008

Also in this issue:



Rudolf Krefting

p. 4-5



DNK Autumn Golf

p. 14



Political debate

p.12

Important dates

2nd January

Friday Drinks

11th February

Ladies Luncheon

12th February

Gourmet Dinner at the
Ambassadors Residence

12th March

Cod Dinner (TBC)



DNK's Masked Ball

- see page 8-9

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A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Message from your Committee

Dear members, The autumn colours are still vibrant and we have enjoyed some spectacularly beautiful crisp and sunny days. The days are getting shorter and darker though and just last week we truly felt that winter is on its way with a flurry of snow settling over the landscape. What better time to be meeting with family and friends and explore what London and its surroundings have to offer. DNK kicked off its autumn programme with a Ladies' Lunch at the Tate Gallery enjoying a fascinating view of the much acclaimed artist Francis Bacon's vast production. More on what the ladies who attended thought of the exhibition on page 11. Then on October 9th, DNK was extremely fortunate in being able to welcome Kristin Clemet, Siv Jensen, Erna Solberg and Olav Akselsen to DNK's Political Debate. It turned out to be a great success with the four Norwegian politicians interacting in a very lively and interesting debate and questions from the public kept them challenged! What a rare and amazing opportunity to get to speak directly to politicians who govern our motherland! Read about the event on page 12. The Business Forum lunch has had two highly interesting meetings. In September Nathilde Overrein Rapp presented her film company Mandrake, and Statkraft was the guest speaker in November. A full report on these lunches will come in the March issue of NL. The Masked Ball was next on the programme and it was the best fun ever! Everybody had made a huge effort in finding beautiful masks and dressed 'to a T' we enjoyed each other's company while being entertained by brilliant opera singers and dancing the night away. More on that on page 8-9. And don't forget the monthly Friday Drink which is as always an excellent time to meet old and new members informally. DNKs last big event of the season will be the traditional Julebord/Christmas Dinner Dance on November 29th, and your committee is hoping to welcome at least as many members and guests this year as we did last year when the Julebord was a sell-out! DNK will then hibernate for nearly 2 months, but only on the surface. Your Committee will be working hard trying to plan and organize a program which you, our member, will appreciate and attend. We would like you to use your club, to meet interesting and fun people, to learn something from our most interesting guest speakers, and most of all to feel at home in the club and bring your family and friends. We hope to see many of you for the Gourmet Dinner at the ambassador's residence on February 12th, and in the meantime we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Your Committee

Reidun Jebesen
Madam Chairman

Per Voll
Treasurer

Kjell-Ole Haune
Member

Tore Hellebo
Member

Reidun Karlsen
Member

Amra Koluder
Member

Nora Svendsen
Member

Jenifer Andersen
Club Secretary

Notices...

New members

We would like to welcome Espen Skorstad, Monica Haune Skorstad, Sissel Smaller, Trygve Toeraasen, Nils Lilleloekken, Sigrunn Lilleloekken, Joern Groedeland, Cecilie Groedeland, Anette Zimowski, Christopher Phillips, Ingrid Thunem, Hilde Syversen, Christopher Wood, Winston Morson, Solveig Roeine, Anette Bratteberg, Nils Rutlin, Marianne Bakkerud, Nikolai Napier Joergensen, William Flatmo and Mariette Christophersen. The Committee would like to encourage all members to recruit new members!

The Radisson SAS Portman Hotel

We are happy to inform you that all DNK members are offered a corporate rate at The Radisson SAS Portman Hotel. Please quote DNK members at time of reservation to get the favourable rate.

Standard room incl. breakfast/ exl. VAT	£137
Superior room incl. breakfast/ exl. VAT	£147



The Roof Gardens, an exclusive member's only nightclub off Kensington High Street offer DNK members + one guest free entry to the nightclub (Q-jump) .

- * Additional guests will receive a discounted rate of £15
- * Invitations to special "members only" events

You **must** supply The Roof Gardens with a guest list, prior to arrival, addressed to DNKs contact. It is also advisable to register before 5 pm on the Friday for both Friday and Saturday.

Show your members card at the door, abide by the rules, dress code is smart/casual and get ready for a fantastic night out!!

The nightclub is open Fridays and Saturdays.

Mail address for registry: club@roofgardens.virgin.co.uk

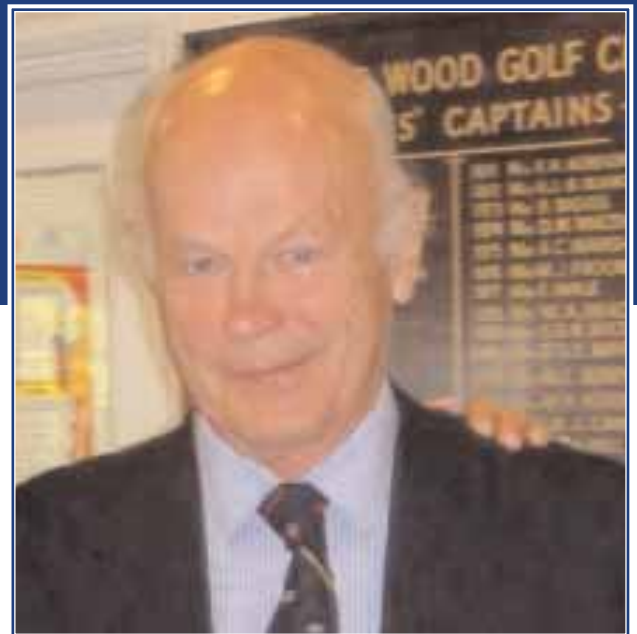
Roof Gardens home page: www.virgin.com/roofgardens

For further details about the Klub:

Den Norske Klub at
In & Out, Naval & Military Club
4 St. James Square
London SW1Y 4JU
Tel: 020 7839 6242

email: secretary@dennorskeklub.co.uk

Rudolf Krefting



A potted history of the Norwegian Club in London and the part played by the Krefting family

Den Norske Klub started life in rather a similar fashion to that which exists now, i.e. occasional meetings for big occasions. Two years after acquiring a freehold in 24 Cockspur Street, Norway House persuaded DNK to set up shop on the 6th floor as they had purchased this freehold to further the interests and activities of the Norwegian colony in London. Several of the original Directors of Norway House were involved in its original purchase. So in 1924 DNK opened its doors and after a shaky start gathered momentum. The 7th floor was incorporated and became the restaurant, kitchen and dining area. This format remained unchanged until after 1945 when the 5th floor was incorporated and became the main assembly and drawing room with an extended bar.

My father became Chairman of DNK from 1933-1938, which must have been a fairly golden era as the photographs from the 17th of May celebrations invariably included members of the Royal Family and big attendances in full evening dress. However, the onset of war heralded big changes and my father joined the British who went to the aid of Norway in April 1940 after being invaded by Germany. Alas, it was a lost cause and he and many others including the Royal Family were lucky to get back to England. The result of all this was that Norway House and DNK became the centre for a host of activities both social and involved in the war effort. Father was exceptionally busy organizing the formation and housing of a Norwegian brigade in Scotland, consisting of whalers and other assorted citizens who had either escaped from Norway or were returning home from abroad and had got caught up in the conflict. Liberation in 1945.

As soon as the war ended, things began to get back to normal, but food rationing made life

more difficult. I had been conscripted into the British army and after getting my commission served in Palestine till 1947.

Meantime the Klub was in full swing and had ably been looked after by Anton Martens during all the war years. For example the Klub never ran out of whisky although it was very scarce. My father returned to the Committee and was a very regular visitor and enjoyed all the various activities including weekly bridge. I joined the Committee in 1959 but due to pressure of work and family resigned in 1962. My father died in 1964 and his post-war triumph was helping in the '48 Olympics.

However, in 1968 I was invited to join the Board of Norway House with a view to taking over as Chairman, which I did and then carried on for 30 years as nobody else relished the task. This gave me a unique opportunity to observe the various highs and lows of the fortunes of the Klub. It was in 1978 during a particularly difficult period that DNK asked the Board of Norway House whether they could have the top three floors rent free and it was agreed. During this period we had a mix of tenants and relatively few Norwegian tenants, whether this was due to the age of the building or lack of interest is hard to determine.

It was during this period that we had our biggest setback when the Export Council ditched us and that seemed a real 'thumbs down' from Norway. I have not alluded to the actual changes in society and the fact that the Klub had lost its unique cachet in an ever-changing world.

The actual Norway House building was beginning to show its age and the maintenance costs

coupled with the up-grade of heating, electricity and the central lift meant that little was left for a structural up-grade when the shareholders and all expenses had been paid. With DNK and the Chamber of Commerce as our major shareholders, both of whom were totally reliant on their unique relationship with Norway House, we had a major problem in trying to raise enough capital. When we approached the Norwegian Government via Arne Woien, who had good contacts in Oslo, we were turned down, as the Foreign Office had their hands full and so a golden opportunity to perpetuate its centre of Norwegian interest was lost. After all the various alternatives had been exhausted and with full shareholder approval it was time to shut up the shop and seek an outside buyer. This was duly done and in 1998 it was completed. The outcome was a bitter pill for me to swallow as I had served the Norwegian Community for so many years.

However, DNK survives in a different format and seems to fill a well-attended need and long may it continue to flourish.

With grateful thanks to Rudolf Krefting.

However, what Rudolf doesn't mention is that the Klub owes another big debt of gratitude to him and that his involvement and work on behalf of the Klub has in fact continued.

You may not be aware that the Klub in the past had a pension fund and continued to pay a pension to the last remaining beneficiary from the 'old days' right up until she sadly passed away last year. The pension fund still contained quite a large sum of money and Rudolf together with Sven Hegstad and Otto Norland worked their way through a bureaucratic maze to ensure the funds were eventually returned to the Klub this year. We are most grateful for the addition to the Klub's funds, which helps to secure a solid future for the Klub.

Many thanks for all you have done for the Klub, Rudolf!!



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Joachim Rønneberg

- A hero of Telemark

*DNK's guest speaker at the Gourmet Dinner
February 12th, 2009*

When the Germans captured Norway in 1939, they gained control of the world's only supply of "heavy water" - deuterium oxide, a crucial ingredient in the atomic bomb.

The Allies knew that if the Germans built an atom bomb, they could win the war. When a ten-fold increase in production of heavy water was ordered in Norway, they decided the plant had to be put out of action.

As a Second Lieutenant during World War II Joachim Rønneberg led the Gunnerside team during the Norwegian heavy water sabotage action against the Norsk Hydro heavy water production plant in Rjukan in Norway in 1943. Subsequently he commanded other raids against the Germans, including the Fieldfare operation in Sunnmøre.

In 1943, he was awarded Norway's highest decoration for military gallantry, the Krigskorset med Sverd. Joachim Rønneberg has also been decorated by the British.

It will be a great honour to welcome Joachim Rønneberg!



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DNK's Masked Ball



On the evening of November 1st the hall at the In & Out quickly filled with exquisitely dressed ladies and gentlemen who sparkled in their black and white finery while hiding behind a variety of alluring masks. The champagne bubbled in tall glasses while people mingled and tried to figure out who was who!! A hugely colourful and glittering scene was formed in the hall and the noise level rose with chatter and laughter which suddenly came to a standstill when the beautiful opera singer Alexandria Beck appeared on top of the stairs while singing the dramatic title song 'Remember Me' from the motion picture 'Troy'.



Alexandria's amazing voice set the tone and the scene for us as we, after her performance, entered the Coffee Room which was decorated in a masked ball theme. Black and white table settings and balloons, vibrant masks, glitter and sparkle on tables, blood red roses, candelabras throwing soft candlelight and shadows around the room, while the red walls enveloped us in their warmth.

Everyone was happy with the evenings' free seating arrangement - trying to find the most handsome, pretty or fearsome mask to sit next to! Masks were kept on while people dipped into the lovely buffet as the competition of the evening was to choose the best female and male mask, so everyone's masks were truly scrutinized. In between courses opera singer Andrew Bain and Alexandria both performed, and entertained us in grand style with their magnificent opera pieces. You could indeed hear a pin drop when Andrew sang Puccini's Nessum Dorma, and we were all in awe when they together performed highlights from the musical The Phantom of the Opera. The black and white/Phantom theme was carried on throughout the evening - even as it came to the pudding - mousse au chocolate with swirling white cream! Perfection we thought!



The prize for the best male mask went to the man in the green, alien mask while the two exotic Natalies of the evening shared the female prize and took home well deserved 'Oscars' as trophies. The dance music started and people poured onto the dance floor enjoying twirling and shimmying until 2 am when everyone took their masks and happy memories of a fun evening home, leaving with the hope that this was the start of a new DNK event tradition!



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Ladie's Luncheon

- at the Tate

The October Ladies' Luncheon was a cultural one. A dozen DNK ladies found their way to the Tate Britain on Millbank where the current main attraction is a retrospective of the works of Francis Bacon.

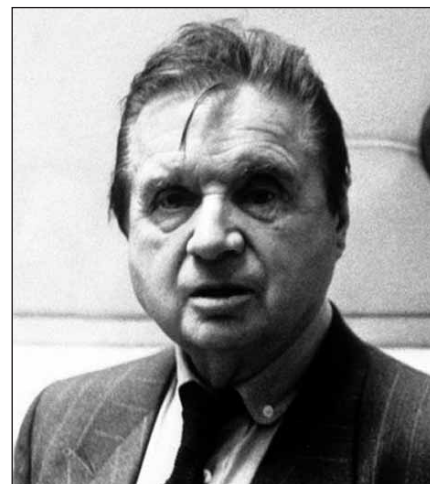
Hailed as one of the most outstanding artists of the 20th century, Bacon is certainly also one of the most controversial ones. His semi-abstract works are rough and raw, with splattered paint depicting contorted faces, twisted bodies and body parts, violence, aggression and crudeness. They evoke a sense of unease and distaste, even disgust, yet curiously also a strange tenderness. His own fascination with distortion, deformation and general discomfiture is brought out in his works and is not to everyone's taste, though his works now fetch millions of pounds at auctions.

Bacon himself led a controversial life, full of paradox and conflict, and clearly, his life was fairly turbulent. His paintings also show the signs of a deeply troubled childhood. He was born into a rather grand family, but as an atheist and homosexual, he soon found himself to be on the outside of the established society of the time. In his art, he sought to depict a human world without God and yet was clearly inspired by religious themes. His screaming popes and other figures with their gaping mouths and disjointed sets of teeth suggest the tensions and anxieties that featured in his own life.

The reactions of the Lunching Ladies to Bacon's pictures were quite mixed, ranging from keen enthusiasm to strong revulsion. Certainly a food-for-thought experience.

When it was time for a more prosaic kind of food, we headed for the self-service Tate Café. The choices included soup and pre-packed salads and sandwiches. In a change from the norm, it could be said that at the October lunch, the cultural aspect took precedence over the culinary one. Francis Bacon would no doubt have approved.

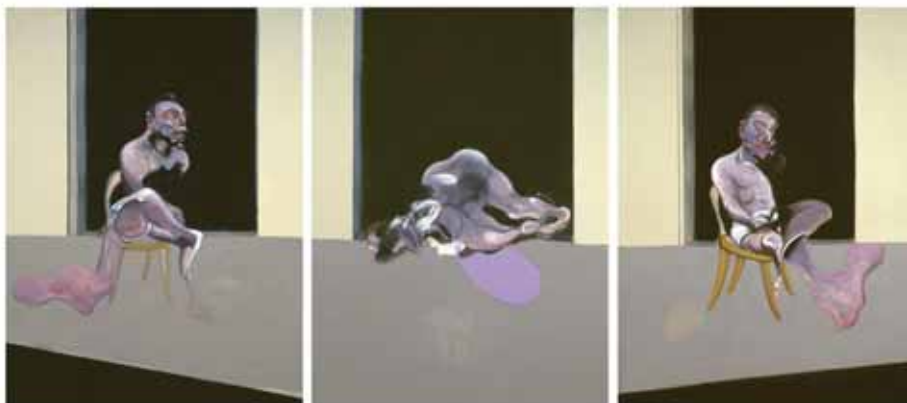
Many thanks to Berit Scott



Francis Bacon
Photo: AP/Scanpix



Study of a Dog
1952
Photo: Tate/Estate of Francis Bacon



Triptych - August 1972
Photo: Tate/Estate of Francis Bacon

Political debate

- 9th October

With four prominent figures of the Norwegian political landscape attending the DNK Political Debate 2008 at the prestigious SAS Radisson hotel in Portman Square, the evening always promised excitement and intrigue.

With Olav Akselsen, Party Secretary of the Labour Party (AP), Erna Solberg, leader of the Conservative Party (H), Siv Jensen, leader of the Norwegian Progress Party (Frp) and Kristin Clemet, CEO of the independent think-tank CIVITA and former MP for the Conservative party (H), the sixty-strong audience was treated to a lively and interesting debate.

The evening kicked off with drinks and canapés, and a chance for the audience to meet the guest speakers. The proceedings then moved to an intimate debating hall where the speakers were seated at a head table. Chaired by Tore Hellebo and Per Voll, the discussion then began in earnest. The two-hour debate covered a range of topics from the current financial crisis, to Norwegian foreign and security policies, to views about next year's election and party coalitions. Free from the pressures of the media scrutiny, the politicians captivated the audience with their open and unguarded opinions. Questions and commentary from the audience further added to the lively and vigorous discussion.

With enthusiastic argument and strongly-held opinions, the debate soon overran its allotted time-slot. However, the crowd was lucky enough to continue the debate in informal discussions, all again enjoying drinks and canapés with the four visitors. Despite, or indeed because, of fiercely-argued and passionate debate, the DNK political debate once again proved a hit with audience and politicians alike.



Nico Widerberg

- in London

One of Norway's most renowned sculptors, educated at the Academy in Oslo, later studied in France and Italy. An amazingly gifted artist who has exhibited throughout Scandinavia, Europe and the USA - and now in London.

Nico Widerberg's one man show 'Past in Future' drew a lot of people to the newly opened Kings Place Gallery in London this autumn. The architecturally outstanding Gallery formed a perfect setting for Widerberg's Giacometti-like torsos. Widerberg's beautifully elongated torsos are displayed in both granite and iridescent glass making the Gallery come alive with their unique presence alluding to the past Egyptian Middle Kingdom while remaining unmistakably of today. Widerberg's experiments at the Hadeland Glassworks have produced some remarkable iridescent glass torsos which seem to be both solid presences and apparitions as they appear to glow from within. His sculptures are timeless. They unite traditions as diverse as pre-classical Greek to Moore, Rodin and Picasso. Widerberg himself says his goal is "to produce strength, communicate energy: There is something about creating something living out of an inanimate material. I try to give life to something dead, which comes to life - it's a sort of cycle."

To the observer you are reminded of fairytales as you admire the torsos - if you kissed them they would wake, breathe, move and talk!



SITTING FIGURE I
2003

STANDING FIGURE II
2004



DNK Autumn Golf tournament

DNK golfers and guests gathered at Hampton Court Palace Golf Club for DNK's autumn golf tournament on Thursday 30th of October. We were 18 in all and one of our guests, Jonathan Lloyd came all the way from Normandie in France to play.

The golf course is situated in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace and has the enviable accolade of being the only course set in a Royal Park. The course dates back to 1895 and is a blend of parkland and links. It lies hidden in a nook of the Thames and is a tranquil hideaway where golfers and Royal deer share the view of the Palace.

After days of rain and wintery showers we were dressed for all weather. As anticipated it was cold and windy, but the course was in excellent condition as it is naturally free draining. The undulating fairways and the strategically placed bunkers were pleasantly challenging. The biggest surprise was the beautifully manicured greens!! They were incredibly fast and very difficult to read.

The rain held off until the last group was safely inside the clubhouse! We enjoyed a delicious meal and good company and some of us were lucky enough to bring home a prize!

The prize winners were:

Best lady guest:	Jette S. Hansen	32 points
Best gentleman guest:	Charles Boston	37 points
Winner of DNK Ladies Trophy:	Reidun Jebsen	35 points
Runner up:	Nora Svendsen	30 points
Winner of DNK Fuglesang Trophy:	Svein Eggen	33 points
Runner up:	Sven Hegstad	33 points
	Nils Rutlin	33 points
Best combined Lady (Arthur Arnold Trophy):	Reidun Jebsen	
Best combined Gentleman (Vandrepokalen):	Sven Hegstad	
Nearest the pin:	Helen Wilhelmsen	
Longest drive	Sigrunn Lillelokken	
	Charles Boston	





EST. 17TH MAY 1887

DNK 2008/2009

December

- 03 December Ladie's Christmas Luncheon
- 05 December Friday Drinks

January

- 02 January Friday Drinks

February

- 06 February Friday Drinks
- 11 February Ladie's Luncheon at the Magnificence of the Tsars exhibition, V&A Museum
- 12 February Gourmet Dinner at the Ambassador's residence with speaker Joachim Rønneberg
- 26 February Business Forum

March

- 06 March Friday Drinks
- 11 March Ladie's Luncheon at 'Byzantium 330-1453' exhibition at the Royal Academy
- 12 March Cod Dinner (TBC)
- 25 March Business Forum

In & Out Events

January

- 21 January Burns Night
- 27 January Fireside Chat
- 30 January Last Friday Drinks

February

- 04 February 10th Anniversary Party
- 05 February The In & Out and Bath Golf Society Annual Dinner
- 11 February Down & Out Comedy
- 13 February Valentine's Lunch
- 19 February Champagne Tasting
- 27 February Last Friday Drinks
- 27 February St. David's Day Lunch

March

- 04 March Down & Out Comedy
- 05 March Annual Club Dinner

nbcc calendar

January

- January Aberdeen 2009 Kick-off
- 29 January Nordic Thursday Drinks
- 30 January Norgesfesten Dinner & Dance

February

- February YP Business Seminar
- 26 February Nordic Thursday Drinks

March

- March Joint Nordic ICT Forum
- 26 March Nordic Thursday Drinks

April

- April Shipping & Energy Dinner
- 31 April Nordic Thursday Drinks



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