

Boca News Society Column, June 19, 2006

Rebecca Reports...

My week started in the company of my fellow Brits and ended that way too—at very different venues! On Saturday I watched the England soccer team beat Paraguay in the World Cup on television at the Lion & Eagle English Pub in Boca. Yes—the high flying world of a Society Editor! Dynamo pub owner and “land lady” Marty Crompton oversaw the cooking of 80 traditional English breakfasts, complete with Earl Grey tea served in delicate china cups. At least that’s what PROPEL supporter Mattie Chastain and I had—the other 100 English soccer supporters in the bar however were not drinking tea!

On Wednesday I attended a concert by European singing sensation- Il Divo. Il Divo is hot—in more ways than one! The handsome quartet has just announced they will open for Barbra Streisand on her upcoming tour. The concert was also a fund-raiser for the Centre for the Arts at Mizner Park. In particular to raise money and awareness for the international “Festival of the Arts Boca” scheduled for March 2007. Boca will be in good company—similar festivals will take place in the heart of Tuscany and California’s Napa Valley! The fund-raiser guest list read like a who’s who. Centre President Wendy Larsen and newly appointed Executive Director Deborah Phelan welcomed Yvonne Boice, accompanied by Randi Emerman, the Palm Beach International Film Festival Director, the Countess de Hoernle, Madelyn Savarick and too many others to mention. Il Divo did indeed live up to its reputation—switching effortlessly between English, French, Italian and Spanish. Young girls rushed the stage with flowers at the encore. Memories came flooding back-- I felt like that about David Cassidy when I was 14!

Staying on a musical theme, on Thursday I went to the opening of “Opus 5”, veteran entrepreneur Burt Rapoport and Bruce Blum’s stylish new restaurant and bar in the Shops at Boca Center. The American bistro menu has an Asian influence and I can thoroughly recommend the shrimp and shitake shu mai. Rapoport is of course part owner of Max’s in Mizner Park and owns Henry’s in Delray Beach and Brasserie Mon Ami in Boca.

And finally on Saturday night—back to England, but a world away from the previous Saturday’s event. Elaine Russell, EVP Lang Realty, kindly invited me to be her guest at an 80th birthday celebration for Queen Elizabeth 2. Organized by the British American Chamber of Commerce the reception was held at a palatial home in Coral Gables. The guest of honor was Her Majesty’s Consul Keith Allan who was accompanied by his lovely wife Marja. He told me the posting to Miami was a welcome change from his previous assignments which included Botswana and Uzbekistan! As we all know—the only danger he’ll face in Miami are his fellow drivers!

And that was last week in Boca...

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