

2009 AGM REPORT :

Thank you to all our members who came to the AGM.
43 people stayed for the cruise.

RETROSPECTIVE SUMMARY OF 2008 :

EVENTS :

Our LUNCHES took us further afield in our tour to discover new restaurants. They are a popular event with regular attendance every month.

At the end of June, we attracted 300 people to our hospitality event. We funded a British-style cocktail at the Rugby League Club House, which was catered for by BiBNT members, Tout à Manger. We then went as a group to the Ernest Wallon stadium for a rather one-sided international test match between France and England Rugby League teams.

At this event we were given reduced-price tickets and free use of the clubhouse thanks to our partnership with Toulouse's biggest networking association, la Table Ovale.

In July we sent out the second issue of our **CONNECT** Newsletter, excellent reading for your vacation ! It included the latest news of our members, the members directory in a handy detachable format and more tips on how to make the most of our association.

September got off to a big swing as Heather Hughes single-handedly organised THE ROCK & RENTREE evening. This event was the first in the concerted effort with other English-speaking associations in Toulouse, namely TWIG and AIT.

In turn, TWIG then organised a Christmas dinner dance which all our members were invited to.

Our own British Christmas lunch with all trimmings was held again at the Rugby League clubhouse, with catering from our favorite British caterers .. Several professional players from Australia joined us.

COMMITTEE

None of these events would have been possible without the dedication and support of last year's committee members :

Firstly **Sharon Ashton**, who is now permanently based in Paris, having successfully sold her Toulouse-based wedding planning business to other BiBNT members.

Katy Sharples, our long-time, devoted treasurer, who now lives in Marseille.

Lisa Evans, better known for her talents as a professional communication specialist, kindly stepped in to take over the interim of the treasury.

Sarah Bright-Thomas, who provides us with precious legal support. Sarah is the first British National to be elected to the Bar in France.

Valérie Picagnol, co-director of the Hotel Riquet.

Marie Mathers, who runs the relocation service called Expat Assistance, as well as providing valuable support as our new members secretary.

Heather Hughes, who has been a tower of strength to the expatriate and business world for many years. She has been with BiBNT from the very beginning. Founder and ex-director of In-Situ, Heather today runs a new business in real estate via the internet with a team of expats, She is also President of the Secret Pantomime Society.

Stéphane Poirel, whose internet company is called Scyvius. Stéphane is our webmaster.

Jonathon Pugh, our eminent independent estate agent of Jonathan Charles.

Jamie Wagstaff is a landscape architect for innovative gardening. He runs 2 companies plus 2 joint ventures.

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RESULTS OF THE VOTE FOR 2009 COMMITTEE

Marie MATHERS, Jonathon PUGH, Stéphan POIREL, Penny WALL and Jamie WAGSTAFF were all voted back on the committee.

2009 PREVIEW

As a preview of 2009, BiBNT's emphasis this year is on communication between members:

We hope to improve knowledge of each other and our businesses and enhance our communication channels.

In order to achieve this, we are going to provide fixed venues for lunches, alternating between members, the Crowne Plaza, in the town centre, and member Courtyard by Marriot, in Saint Martin du Touch.

We encourage you to bring business cards each time.
Presentation slots are available for short company overviews.

If you are interested in hosting a hospitality event on the premises of your business, or combined with others, please let us know.

We are going to update the website this year, making it more user friendly, with our own "facebook" style, making business networking easier when we aren't doing it face to face.

In conclusion, we would like to like to emphasize that BiBNT may not be the biggest or the loudest network in Toulouse, but it brings together a committed group of multicultural professionals who have a common interest in business development and support.