

THE CONNOISSEUR'S CHOICE

An eclectic collection of items for the inquisitive or specialist palate auctioned through sealed bids.

ITEM 1: Lunch for two in the House of Lords with David Owen



Baron Owen of Plymouth has had one of the most interesting and varied political careers of the past half century. What an opportunity to discuss the great events of the last few decades with an active participant! Trained as a doctor, he was MP for Plymouth Devonport for 26 years. Under Labour governments he served as Minister of Health and Foreign Secretary. He was co-founder of the Social Democratic Party, and its leader from 1983-90. From 1992-95 he was EU negotiator in the former Yugoslavia and joint author of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan for that country. He now sits as a Crossbencher in the Lords. He was Chancellor of the University of Liverpool for over 13 years, retiring this year.. He has been President of Enham since 2000.

Kindly donated by Lord Owen

ITEM 2: A six-person tour of the treasures of the prestigious Garrick Club, with lunch to follow



Founded in 1831 as a place where 'actors and men of refinement and education might meet on equal terms' the Club's greatest treasure is its collection of theatrical paintings, drawings, play texts, playbills and theatre programmes. The building itself has been completely redecorated in recent years, and the paintings restored and rehung, so it is in absolutely pristine condition. The Curator, Marcus Risdell, will lead a two hour tour; the winner's party will be joined by Mr and Mrs Roderick Chamberlain, Chairman of Enham, who will entertain them to lunch in the club at the end of the tour.

Kindly donated by Mr Roderick Chamberlain

ITEM 3: A Real Tennis lesson from a former world champion in the newest court in Britain



Whether you already play real tennis, or are a lawn tennis player with enough curiosity to try the 1,000 year old version of the game, here's an unrivalled experience for you.

There are only 28 courts in Britain and the 2008 one at Radley College near Oxford is the only one to be built this century. This is a sport where age and treachery can still beat youth and skill: and you just might end up hooked!

Kindly donated by Mr Chris Ronaldson

ITEM 4: A day's driving for one person at the Speed Hillclimbing School at Gurston Down, Salisbury, with an invitation for a further guest to observe; and lunch for two



Speed Hillclimbing is about driving a car from a standing start to a flying finish against the clock along an uphill course of 967 metres. At Gurston Down the sport is in its 42nd year. You may bring along whatever car you wish, so long as it is road legal and dates available are 11th May, 8th June or 13th July 2010.

Kindly donated by Mr Geoffrey Hunt

ITEM 5: A Four Ball Round of Golf at Foxhills Golf and Country Club, Chertsey



Taking its name from the brilliant but mercurial 18th century politician Charles James Fox, the Manor House was owned by Chertsey Abbey in the Middle Ages. Now a luxury family friendly club, and rated one of the world's best golf resorts according to the Observer, it has two championship courses, the first par 3 course in Britain, and an award winning restaurant.

Kindly donated by the Foxhills Golf and Country Club