

Union



Jack

America's Only National British Newspaper — Established 1982

www.ujnews.com

Vol. 25 No. 3 June 2007

Brits Out In Force At UK – Las Vegas Party

By Leah Lubin

As a special to Union Jack

IT WAS actually in March that I read about it. This party in the desert for British folks. So, being a Californian, I emailed Andy Walmsley, one of the organisers along with pal Steve Lee, and asked if a California Brit would be welcome. He said, "Sure you can come."

Talked my husband into it, promised him it would be amazing (it was). Arrived in Las Vegas a day early, the temperature was 96 degrees.

Next day, the party greeters at the Alexis Park Resort, across from the Hard Rock Hotel, welcomed us with loud British music, relaxing by the pool, free buffet, free take-home goodie bags and great raffle prizes.

By 7pm it was busy already, lots of British flags, people milling about, plenty of places to buy drinks, free cups of tea all night long.

Met Andy early in the evening. He's from Blackpool; I grew up in Middlesbrough before moving to London. Andy told me that 30,000 Brits live in Vegas, most in the entertainment and food industry, and that about 1,500 had responded to the RSVP. I estimate the attendance numbering closer to a thousand and I learned that some travelled from as far away as the UK to be at the party.



UK-LV Party revellers. More photos on ujnews.com/LV_party.shtml

CEREMONIES

It took a while to eventually run into Steve. Steve told me, "We're definitely doing this again next year, bigger and better." Meanwhile, a fabulous Scottish bagpipe band marched around and played while Robin Leach opened the ceremonies.

Standing in line – or should I write 'queue' – for my food, I met two American Air Force career professionals, both retired. One served 17 years, the other 20 years in England. Both with British

wives, one confesses he's on his second marriage to a British girl. "Oh," I say. "How come, do you like us especially?" "Well," he says. "It's because every time I've been looking to get married, I find myself in England."

"Good enough reason," I said.

A big thank you and congratulations to Andy and Steve for a wonderful 'first' in Las Vegas – let's hope there are many more.

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