



The CIPR Local Public Services Conference in Edinburgh was enjoyed by all, especially **Chris Payne**, head of commercial operations at Tower Hamlets Council. Fun-loving Chris whooped it up at the traditional Ceilidh dance on Thursday night. But Flack couldn't help noticing that he missed the 10am presentation he was giving on local newspapers the next day. Oops... Elsewhere at the conference, *The Guardian* associate editor **Michael White** revealed his secret fascination with political bloggers. 'I don't read **Guido Fawkes** until he writes about me, and then I pretend lofty indifference,' he said... In London, senior flacks were mixing with senior hacks at the London Press Club Ball,

held in aid of the Journalists' Charity. As the auction got under way, one mystery bidder offered big money for esteemed political cartoonist **Martin Rowson** to draw a person of their choice. The mystery man then picked the Telegraph Media Group's corporate affairs director **Guy Black** (pictured) as his victim. 'I'm never speaking to him again,' quipped Black... Finally, word reaches Flack of a fun outing enjoyed by the Bell Pottinger Public Affairs team. Apparently, agency chair **Peter Bingle** took his whole team, including new recruit **Tim Collins**, to watch one of his all-time favourite shows. So, Flack wonders what the political consultants made of *Priscilla Queen of The Desert*.

1 Disability charity Scope lured fashion doyenne **Dame Vivienne Westwood** to open its shop in Horley, Surrey. The charity has kicked off a process to re-fit 13 Scope charity shops by 2010. It is hoping to attract more customers by Christmas.

2 Heard of comic **Dave Gorman**'s wacky attempts to meet others with the same name? Step forward **Jill Woolf** (right of picture), managing director of Sussex-based Chimera Communications. She has just met **Nancy Brockman**, owner of Chimera Communications in Colorado, US. The pair found each other on the internet and have now agreed to seek opportunities for joint working.

3 Flack hereby presents a photo from the latest '2010 Australian Men of Cricket' calendar, which raises money for the **McGrath Foundation**. Paratus Communications' **Adam Vincenzini** oversaw the bulk of the shoot off the coast of Scotland. He admitted: 'To be honest, it was a bit wasted on me.'



(SAVING) ON EXPENSES

Babbo Restaurant, London W1S

Reviewer **Phil Hall**, chief executive, PHA Media

What is it good for?

The finest Italian cuisine cooked by head chef Douglas Santi, who has worked all over the world, including at the famous Alain Ducasse restaurant, Louis XV, in Monaco. Babbo is close to Brown's Hotel and the shopping mecca of New Bond Street.

Signature dishes

The Lasagne al ragout di chianina. It is prepared according to a secret recipe that is more than 100 years old and was passed down to Santi by his grandmother. All the fish dishes are sensational as well.

Who's the boss?

A smart, attractive Brazilian lawyer called Tatiana Alonso.

Tips please

The restaurant has only been open a month and has already attracted the Duchess of York and several top London chefs and Avram Grant, the former Chelsea manager. So the dress code is strictly smart casual.

What's the damage?

A two-course lunch is £22 and three courses are £26. So if you want to impress a client, hobnobbing with the rich and famous on a budget, try Babbo.

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