



# TORNADO TIMES

## London Edition

### The 12th Annual Special Hockey International Tournament

London, England, 2006

By Mary Seguin

England, here we come! After years of anticipation, months of preparation, not to mention the lack of sleep, we finally arrived in London in a sea of purple and teal to board a bus for Butlins Resort at Bognor Regis. It didn't take the kids long to discover the huge indoor pavilion filled with video games, shows,

bowling, go-carts, and food. Not to forget the indoor pool complex that rivaled our own water parks. And for those who didn't mind the cold, a bracing walk along the sea did wonders to clear the head. By the time we all met up with the other teams at the "Meet and Greet" that night, most of us were fading, but excitement was high. We were off to tour London the next day.

Two buses left Bognor Regis early the next morning and we had our first glimpse of London. Our first stop was the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace, and then it was off to Covent Gardens for lunch. In the afternoon, we saw St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and the houses of parliament, Trafalgar square, Picca-

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#### Important Dates

- Annual Meeting—  
May 28, 2006 —  
1:00 P.M.  
Grandravine Arena
- Golf Tournament—  
July 20, 2006—  
Nottawasaga Inn
- Thanks to Mary  
Seguin for her re-  
port on London
- Thanks to Frank  
Nagle our photogra-  
pher.

## London Tournament continued from pg. 1

dilly Circus. Our tour guides were patient and knowledgeable. But no time for shopping. Yet.

Then it was time to start thinking hockey. Two hour bus rides there and back made for long days, but the excitement of doing what they had come to do kept the kids on high. And what a two days it was! After a false start at the wrong arena, we finally arrived at Bracknell for the opening ceremony. Eight teams were represented – Grandravine Tornadoes, North York Gladiators, Cooksville Crusaders, Albany Cougars, Michigan Flyers, Orangeville Wolves, Durham Dragons and the Werewolves of London. Our team marched onto the ice behind the Canadian flag. The mayor had wonderful words of encouragement for the players who had come so far. Mike Dwyer's dream was finally here. London was hosting the Special Hockey Tournament. As the parents cheered, the kids played. And before long, the two days were finished. Tired and happy, we made our way back to Bognor Regis. Joe kept us awake with his "colourful" jokes, and some of us decided we had to check out the "Spotted Dick" pudding at the hotel.

We now had only two days left. Many of us went by train to London or Brighton, even Paris, to shop, see a show, sight-see, or pick up last minute souvenirs. And then it was time pack, to try to fit it all in the same suitcases we came with. To heck with weight allowances! But there was one last event. The culmination of the tournament. The banquet.

Filled with balloons and large round tables, the room reverberated with talk, laughter, and lots of good food. A video of the tournament made us remember it all over again. Mike Dwyer and his wonderful volunteers put on a tournament that none of us will forget. Mike said our presence would help promote hockey in England and that already a couple of new teams were in the offing. It made us realize that that's what Special Hockey's all about. Helping each other. A big thank-you to Mike and Joe and all the people who made this happen. But without the kids, none of us would be here. They're the real special people of Special Hockey.

Mary Seguin

Once again our heartfelt thanks and admiration go out to Lisa Rizzuto who did such a fabulous job on our Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance. This year, the results spoke for themselves. Over 200 people attended and totally enjoyed a wonderful prize filled evening. The dinner was delicious and the complimentary bar a big hit. The raffle event kept everyone on the edge of their seats anticipating a whopping win. The lucky winners went home with extraordinary prizes. We keep looking forward to this event each year and Lisa does not disappoint us.

Lisa and Nick  
February, 2006



## GOLD SPORTS PATRONS



## SILVER SPORTS PATRONS

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Toronto



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Pierrette and Jimmy opening one of their many baby gifts.



The happy, expectant couple cut the "Pink and Blue" cake.

Jimmy and Pierrette Graziano were showered with a beautiful array of baby gifts for their little bundle which is expected in July. Our best wishes for good health, happiness and joy go out to the expectant couple and we cannot wait to meet our newest Grandravine Tornado member.

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## **Fundraising**

I would like to congratulate everyone at Grandravine Special Program for a very successful year of fundraising. Specifically I want to mention Stefania Morgillo, Carmelina Corvinelli and Mathew Cicottelli for the Golf Tournament, Mary Lou Elbe for the Casino Rama Trips and Lisa Rizzuto for the Valentine Dance. I would like to thank all those of you who brought in sponsors and donations and who helped with the various events. And I also want to acknowledge a major new sponsor this year, The Leafs Fund.

Fundraising is one of those things that can sometimes turn people off. You know what I mean – ‘another organization with their hand out again’. While we do have our hand out, I think it’s fair to say that through the efforts of the people mentioned above, our fundraising events are more like FUN-raising events. Everyone always has such a good time.

And it is because of this fundraising that we can provide our program at an affordable level. This year we sent 2 teams to the SHI tournament, bought new uniforms and new shirts for the whole team. And as well the money went towards our many ongoing expenses. That is our fundraising objective.

Thanks again to all of you who contributed in so many ways.

Mike Liotta

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Grandravine Special Program  
is a member of  
Special Hockey International.

We're on the Web  
[www.grandravinetornadoes.org](http://www.grandravinetornadoes.org)



### Website News

*A new forum is being added to our website. It is open to players, coaches and any other interested parties. This forum is a place where you can stay in touch or exchange information. It should be up and running by the time you read this. So, check it out.*

## SPORTS PATRON

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