
Brick Lane beware – Army does good curry

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CURRY isn't exactly the first dish that springs to mind when you imagine the royals sitting down to lunch at the palace, but Prince Charles tucked in yesterday at Lord Mayor David Lewis's World's Biggest Curry Lunch, held at the City's Guildhall Yard to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund.

Charles chatted with other high-profile Curry Lunch committee members (including Lloyds TSB chairman Sir Victor Blank, Merrill Lynch Europe chairman Robert Wigley and Deutsche Bank London's MD of global banking Charlie Foreman), while the rest of the guests got busy enjoying copious quantities of curry, wine and Cobra beer.

Around £200,000 was raised for the Army Benevolent Fund, partly through ticket sales (watch out Brick Lane – people are willing to cough up £95 a head for Army curry) and partly through a silent auction and other fundraising brainwaves – at the end of the lunch, they were even flogging the table decorations.

Auction favourites included a week's holiday in the Maldives and firearms training for six people with the City of London Police, with both lots going for £4,000.

The Capitalist got all excited about the Red Devils tandem parachute jump prize, although one retired stockbroker poohpoohed it, laughing: "None of the banks are going to let their young, adventurous traders out for a boozy long lunch – and there won't be many skydiving enthusiasts among us old farts!"

Insurance underwriting firm Markel International's Nigel Lee, who was "thinking seriously about bidding for the jump", proved him wrong – though the daredevil who eventually scooped the prize, for a bargainous £1,275, remains anonymous.