



THE MOST torrid spot in town last night was undoubtedly Maxim's of Paris, where guests at the opening were treated to a free and unexpected sauna bath.

This piece of Paris transplanted to what used to be the quintessentially English Stones Chop House suffered from the attentions of the television cameras which wrecked the air conditioning system. It must have been about 150 degrees in the shade.

"I'm delighted with the place," said a sweltering Pierre Cardin, fanning himself with an invitation card. He is a minority shareholder but owns the copyright on the Maxim's title. "I have one in Hongkong and another opening in Peking," he said. "In Peking, however, it is taking a little longer to get it off the ground."

Among the celebrities soaking it all in were Joanna Lumley and Gareth Hunt (pictured above), Ernie Wise and Bill Rodgers, the former MP.