



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

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Seasons Greetings

The Committee extend Seasonal Greetings to all our members and wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas. At this time we are all feeling the pinch through the current economic climate especially on price increases in most commodities and the further weakness of the pound adding to difficulties. Maybe at this time of the year we can put these behind us for a while and enjoy the spirit of the season.

See over for some slightly improved good news!

Meeting Report

Minutes of the ARPO meeting held at Sacko's Bar Wednesday 12th November, 2008. 48 members were present and 1 new member introduced himself.

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the October meeting were read out. Proposed by: Jim Neville
Seconded by: John Kane

Matters Arising:

A correction under Any Other Business of the last Minutes regarding the Iberdrola Cheap Rate timing should read: Winter - 10pm until 12noon, Summer - 11pm until 1pm.

Also Leighton Jenkins clarified with the Chairman that the ARPO Website link to 'South Wales' is, in fact, Swansea branch.

Treasurer's Report:

Lol Bilby reported that 70 euro had been received in membership subscriptions, 17 euro from Angie's books (thank you

very much!) and 5 euro from Linda's cards. Outgoings for the month were 25 euro for the draw and 2 euro for the Newsletter photocopies.

197 euro was received from the raffle at the Dona Isabel event in October, with 46 euro for the raffle prizes, giving a total profit from Dona Isabel of 151 euro.

The Cash in Hand Book stands at 62.76 and the Cash Deposit Book stands at 1303.52. The special 'term' deposit is 600 and currently the charity Pig has 50 euro.

The Treasurer then reminded members about the 2008 'Xmas Squares' raffle priced at •1 per square or 6 squares for 5 euro.

Also, any member who had not paid their subs for this year and/or wanted to pay for 2009 should see George Patterson at the end of the meeting.

The Assistant Treasurer then explained



that when the interest rate changed at the bank in June, our 'term deposit' amount of 600 euro was transferred to the main deposit account to benefit from a better interest rate. The current rate as at today was 4.35% and although some of the interest earned had been placed in the Cash in Hand book, it would all be sorted out when the bank's new computer system was fully on-line. The accounts are in a very favourable position.

Social Functions:

Firstly, the Chairman thanked Ron and Barbara Burks for a really, really good lunch at Dona Isabel last month, saying



Another successful lunch at Manolo's Restaurant.
Good to see Ziggy and Knut back with us.

he thoroughly enjoyed it and was sure everyone else did as well – except for two members who, unfortunately, were ‘mugged’ at the market on their way to the lunch.

The Xmas Party will be held on 19 December at Portico Mar at 25 euro per head. Jack Clayton has been booked for dancing from 8 p.m. until mid-night. The Chairman requested, on behalf of Mike Peters, that members attending the Xmas Party to ensure that all monies and menu choices are given in at the December meeting please. There is a ‘reserve’ list and it would be appreciated if booked members who find they cannot attend to advise Mike beforehand – thank you.

The January meal event will take place on 28 January 2009, 1pm for 1.30pm, at the Punjabi Palace in Montesinos arranged by Brian Smith. A really good price of 11 euro per head for members has been negotiated by Brian. There will be a non-Indian menu for those who do not want Indian food.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the February event will be a dinner, not a lunch. There are still some places left for the Valentine’s Day (Saturday 14th Feb) Dinner Dance being organised by Mike Peters. The usual standard menu at the Portico Mar will be available and again Jack Clayton is booked for the entertainment. Please contact Mike Peters for further info or check our web site.

Discussions took place regarding the possibility of further lunches in 2009 with the following tentative arrangements being put forward:

25 March 2009 – Stan and Ollie’s at El Raso (just off the Lemon Tree Road) arranged by Jim and Linda Neville
April 2009 (not to clash with Easter 10/4 – 12/4) – possibly The Budapest arranged by Lol Bilby
May 2009 – to be confirmed - arranged by Hennie Lee
June 2009 – Club Nautico at Guadamar – arranged by Fred & Dreena Wharton or The Summer Ball

At the end of such an enthusiastic response, the Chairman remarked that it was really nice to see it happening from the members – after all, this is what ARPO is all about, helping each other with information and to enjoy some great lunches!

Any Other Business:

British Consulate DWP Seminar:

Firstly, it was reported by the Chairman that one point he picked up at the meeting he attended was that in the past, the ARPO membership had completed Next of Kin forms, which had been duly passed to the Consulate. The Chairman checked with a Consulate staff member at the meeting to ask if those forms would still be valid and the answer was ‘No’, with the reason given that they cannot transfer the details across because of the Data Protection Act. Members should access the Consulate Website and update their Next of Kin details, by using the LOCATE pages on their website, for both holiday and resident information.

Nick Bradford commenced his briefing on the British Consulate

DWP Seminar by mentioning that it is possible for ex-pats to retain their right to vote in the UK by printing a set of forms from the Consulate Website. It is also possible to vote in the European elections by completing the necessary paperwork from the town hall here in Spain.

Nick went on to précis the details of the help provided by the Consulate regarding Health and Pensions. They cannot help at all with Income Tax but can provide contact numbers etc. if required. All the details that were handed out at the Consulate meeting have been added to the ‘document’ page (under the ‘Branch Info’ tag – scroll to bottom of page) of the ARPO website, for easy reading.

Information was provided about a web page link from the ARPO website for advertising properties worldwide etc – send any relevant information to Gerry Lawson, our webmaster.

It has been decided that the book stall, available at the monthly meeting, will now be extended to include DVD’s and Videos.

The Chairman put it to the meeting that he had been approached from a company called Medicare to provide a Guest Speaker. It was agreed by the meeting that this is not required by the membership.

For the record, the Chairman reminded the membership that in the past ARPO had awarded Life Memberships and although the giving of Life Memberships has now ceased, it is appropriate to hand over the names of the six Life Members and Hon. Secretary to the current committee as follows:

Life Members: Mike & Ann Lenton, Tony & Win Darwin, John Bryant and Paul Clay

Hon. Secretary: Graham Knight

The winner of the 25 Euro draw was no. 48 – Angela Dewy.

Some good news for a change

George Patterson sent the following. I have seen this news mentioned on TV recently and think it is genuine. I can see this putting a smile on George’s face! The £60 bonus was part of the governments efforts to reduce the impact of the recession. I have already received my Winter Fuel payment which this year has been increased by £25 to £125 per person (or £250 for a single pensioner). VAT is also being reduced by 2.5% in UK until 2010.

I understand that the RPI increase for September 2008 was 5.2%. The State pension is set to increase by 5% next year and pensioners are to be paid a ‘one off’ amount of £60 in January 2009. Whilst I have seen nothing official as yet, 5% appears also to be the public sector increase figure.

A little late

Apologies for the slightly late issue of this newsletter due to many, many difficulties recently with my computer. I bought a new system recently and several software packages that I use and some hardware just won’t work with Vista. This resulted in numerous re-installations of the system. Finally a power break lead to the loss of an almost complete newsletter meaning I had to start over again. (Editor)

This newsletter is printed to provide information and every effort is made to ensure accuracy. All planned and future events contain contact details of the organiser(s) and they should be contacted direct for up to date information