



A.R.P.O.

NEWSLETTER

Costa Blanca South

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Meeting Report

Minutes of the arpo meeting held at Sackos Bar Wednesday 11th March 2009.

There were no new members. Dreena gave an update on Jean Morgan who had recently been taken ill. Mike read out a thank you letter from Richard Jackson who was due to undergo bypass surgery. He had been admitted but on the morning of the operation he was told he was cancelled because of two emergencies. This had now been rescheduled and should have gone ahead the previous day. Brian Smith had called this morning and left a message so we wish him well and will update you next month.

Gerry Lawson was present and requested that members send any info or articles either for the web site or newsletter by email. This can include houses or apartments for sale or rent and suggested members donate 10 euros to ARPO funds.

Pat Southern asked if there was anyone wishing to rent out their car when not in use. Car rental has become very expensive especially in view of adverse exchange rates so if another non resident had a car just standing that they would be prepared to rent. Contact Pat at patinthesun@hotmail.com

Al Colmen outlined a person's sob story saying he had just returned to Spain and had been burgled. All his money and bank cards had been taken. The man who appeared to be of Eastern European origin does not ask for money but is an excellent talker. His MO is to talk victims into 'lending' him money but it's a scam.

Knutt Roberstatt thanked people for his get well card after his recent illness. Good to see Knutt back.

Membership please can we have paid up members only to sign the book. We have noticed that some people who are not paid up members are signing the

book. They are most welcome to attend meetings as a guest of the husband or partner but should they win the draw for the 25 euro prize then we would need to redraw it. This month's 25 euro draw was won by 48 Joan Wood.

RoundTown News has written an article on ARPO we have donated 40 euro to the Paul Cunningham Nurses. Derek Wheal had seen the photo in Costa Blanca News of Dreena Wharton accepting 40 euros on behalf of Debra the Butterfly Children.

Brian Smith outlined a concert at Los Balcones Church. Anybody interested in attending please speak to Brian for more details.

Treasurer's Report

Loll reported that cash in the bank stood at 1307 Euros. Cash in hand was 658.58 and the float 114.58. Grand total 1994.77. Euros.

It's good to get points on your license!

If you own a property in Spain then you will have an NIE number. In this case you fall into the category of having points on your

driving license regardless if this is your original British license or a Spanish one. The law in Spain regards you as a 'regular driver' here if you have an NIE number so you cannot claim to be a tourist and escape the system.

The Spanish authorities work on a similar system to UK whereby if you commit traffic or driving offences then your license may be in danger of being withdrawn and you become disqualified

for a period of driving. However unlike Britain you start with 12 points and offences reduce these. Get to zero and you are auto-



Members had another excellent function March 2009 - Stan & Ollies

matically disqualified from driving. The first time this occurs incurs a 6 month disqualification and a second time a 12 month ban. A list of foreign drivers is maintained and this is accessible by Spanish Police at the roadside. Hence if you are caught having exceeded the points reduction then you will almost certainly be arrested and charged with driving whilst disqualified.

The main difference however is that you gain points for good driving, in other words if you drive free of conviction for 3 years you are rewarded with an additional 3 points. The points system was introduced in July 2006 so hopefully most will benefit from the additional 3 points very shortly. If you are unfortunate enough to have acquired points on your British driving license then these are not transferable to the Spanish system so you will not lose points in Spain.

The Spanish Department of Transport (DGT) has launched a new service that will benefit ex-pats who spend some part of the year in UK or who do not receive a mail service. This service allows for notification of traffic violations by E-mail rather than the conventional postal service. This service is free and voluntary and since you may wish to appeal against such a violation there is an immediate warning of that violation. Obviously you do need to ensure that you maintain a current E-mail address.

To activate the procedure simply visit the Ministerio de Obras Publicas website at www.map.es and click on the Notificaciones Telematicas Seguras link then the 'save e-notices option'. By signing up on-line under the new system you should note that you will no longer receive notifications by normal mail.

You should also receive notifications for driving license renewals, insurance expiry reminders and when your car is due for it's ITV.

GPS systems are the subject of consideration by Congress and may well become illegal for drivers to operate. Apparently the interpretation is physically operating and not making use of so it is probably OK for your passenger to use the equipment and tell you when to turn left or right. Drivers violating this will be the subject of a 200 euro fine although prompt payment can reduce this to 120 euros.

Petanca

Ron and Barbara Burks would like to organise an event for members wishing to learn how to play Petanca. They are think-

ing of holding this one afternoon on a Wednesday in June. Anyone interested in this event please contact Ron on 966 193337.

Social functions

The coach trip to Viva Espana show will be on Friday 22nd May and is being arranged by Mike Peters. A booking list has started for this event and will cost 49 euros per person but this will be subsidised by 10 euros. The event will be limited to two guests per member only. More details next month including start and return times and pick up locations.

The Valentines Day Dinner/Dance at Portico Mar was another success. However, it is requested that when a seating plan is required for a specific function and we put a time ie 7pm for 7.30pm can those attending please adhere to it. Problems occurred on this occasion because some people turned up early and sat where they wanted in the restaurant which meant we then had to ask some people to move in order to seat groups together.

Wednesday 22nd April 2009 meal will be at Budapest Restaurant organised by Loll and Patricia Bilbey. There will be a choice of 3 menus varying between 11.50 and 15.50 euros, please pay on the day. There is no need to pre-order from the extensive menu.

1.0 pm. for 1.30pm. Reservation either at the April meeting or with Lol on 965 482252. Budapest is on the Lemon Tree Road approximately 1 mile from the Torrevieja to Crevillente Road on the left hand side of the street/ There is parking on street.



Ron and Barbara Burks taken at Stan and Ollies, March 2009

The Chairman outlined that if the restaurant is small we may have to limit guests so please understand any problem. Also when booking guests please can members give names for their guests as previously when people have not attended difficulty has arisen.

Next Monthly Meeting

Sacko's Bar 10.30am
Wednesday 8th April, 2009.

Newsletter

I always attempt to make the newsletter interesting and also reflect on social events past and forthcoming. In addition I will add articles of general interest to members.

Since I am not in Spain permanently I often miss news items in the local newspapers so would welcome any suitable items for including in this newsletter. Can I ask members to let me have such items via Mike or any Committee Member please.