



A.R.P.O.

NEWSLETTER

Costa Blanca South

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Meeting Report

Minutes of the ARPO meeting held at Sackos bar Wednesday 14th October 2009. There were 56 members present. There were no new members. Vice Chairman opened the meeting

Secretary's report

Minutes of the September meeting read out Proposed by Linda Neville. Seconded by Ron Burks as Correct.

Matters arising

Mike Peters then made reference to a point in last months meeting where by Ex Chairman Jim Wood had apologised to members over the fact that we had been paying bank charges and that it had happened during his term of office and had not been picked up. In his view this was totally wrong, as Chairman he had not seen any bank statements, or had any control over the Treasurer's work. The fact that bank charges were made and not picked up was totally the fault of Asst treasurer and the Treasurer. The asst treasurer has left and there has been no apology from the Treasurer. I there fore propose that this remark is expunged from the record.

There was then an outburst from Loll Bilbey saying NO one of the charges had been taken whilst Jim was the treasurer. It was pointed out that I was talking only when Jim Wood was the Chairman, and during that time he had no reason to over see the treasurer's work. When a person volunteers' to do a job you put your trust in them believing they are trustworthy and competent. My proposal to have that remark removed was still on the table it was seconded by Jim Neville proposal carried. The remark will be removed.

Treasurer's report

Cash in the bank stood at 1330.54 Euros
Cash in hand was 566.18. Euros
Treasurers float 114.18 Euros

Income

Members sub 20 Euros. Book club 9.50. Euros. Raffle at Christopher's took 221 Euros. Total 250.50.

Outgoing

Newsletter 4 Euros. Batteries for recorder 4.60. 38 glass cava for Ruby 38 x 2 Euros = 76 Euros. Printer Ink for Secretary 20 Euros. Monthly draw 25 Euros 63 Euros for prizes giving profit of 134 Euros. Bank charges of 16.10 Euros Total 208.70

Cash in the bank is Euros 1349.04 incl 9.50 Euros interest
Cash in hand is 657.08 Euros.
Treasurers float 52.08 Euros giving us a total of 2049.20 Euros.

Matters Arising

Bank Charges have been paid by the Association prior to November 2006, and up to the current date although the Assistant treasurer George Patterson had said we were not paying any, and we were getting interest on our accounts. This theme was reiterated on many occasions and was clearly something that he believed. It must be stated that this was a verbal agreement George had made with the bank. There had clearly been a break down of communication between the Assistant treasurer George Patterson and the treasurer Lawrence Bilbey whilst these two were in office. After George left ARPO the treasurer had internet access to our account but did not pick up on the bank charges. Although he did have internet access to our account and had overall control. There had been a further break down in communication between the Treasurer and the rest of the committee members. Any doubts or concerns that the treasurer had were never voiced to them, so they were all to-

tally unaware of any problem with the banking system. So they, like every other member, thought we were not paying charges and were getting interest. It was not until the June meeting that banking items came to light.

During his narrative the Secretary said that he wished to make it clear to the treasurer and everyone else that A) Fred Wharton is not returning as Chairman. B) Jim Wood is not returning as Treasurer. C) After February he is not returning or staying on as Secretary.

The Secretary has requested with the agreement of the treasurer, that Jim Wood over the next month will audit the books and hopefully be able to present an accurate picture of our accounts.

The treasurer then read out a prepared statement putting his side of the argument. It is a long one and a copy is attached for anyone to read. He is of the opinion that he did nothing wrong. It contained an offer to resign should the committee or members want him too. This was not put to a vote. The treasurer's personal integrity was not in question but there are discrepancies in his account during his period of office.

Various views and comments were then made from the floor too numerous to mention, the main points being.

Sue Killingworth proposed that the accounts be audited every 12 months; it was proposed that not an external audit as this would be too costly. This was generally agreed

Bob Thorogood then said he did not wish to be a party to ARPO being featured in the local press over a matter that isn't really too serious. He proposed that we draw a line under everything and move forward, close the current bank accounts, and open a new one in the name of ARPO and start a fresh

and stop arguing with each other.

Motion proposed by Bob Thorogood seconded by Ron Burks to do this ASAP this was then put to a vote.... in Favour 54. Against 0 Abstentions 2...

It was then agreed that the treasurer will approach Banco Popular and start process to close the accounts. Then together with the vice Chairman and Secretary will survey other banks to get us the best possible deal on a single account.

A copy of Treasurer's Statement and a copy of the meeting tape will be retained until the AGM for any reference purposes.

Social functions.

Last months lunch was at Christopher's thanks to Keith and Henny for all their hard work in arranging that.

October 21st Lunch at Portico Mar Mike Peters.

November 18th Fairways in Villa martin Ron and Barbara Burks.

December 18th Christmas party at Stan and Ollie's Jim and Linda Neville. No seating plan Mix and mingle

Both menus are now on the web page.

Raffle prizes.

People have voiced concerns that we are losing our way with this. Some feel there seems to be a competition to see who can raise the most money from the raffle. We do not have too. A profit is a bonus not a goal. So when looking at gifts please consider the quality and the cost maybe a minimum of 6 or 7 Euros should be a rule of thumb.

The 25 euro draw was won by number 11 Sue Killingworth.

Congratulations to Stuart and Maureen Forsyth who recently became grandparents.

Driving in Spain

Spanish legislation requires vehicle owners to have the following documents in his/her vehicle at all times.

- The vehicle registration document which shows the owner's identity and the car's chassis number
- Vehicle's technical sheet which contains all the technical information about the car and acts as proof that the vehicle has passed the required tests
- Driving licence and road tax receipt
- Photocopy of the NIE
- Photocopy of the Green Card Insurance Certificate

The British habit of flashing headlights to other road users intending that you are giving way should be avoided at all costs in Spain where this is regarded as a sign of aggression.

Several Motorways in UK are now 'policed' by speed cameras that record the time and vehicle details upon entering the motorway with further devices which then calculate your average speed. Hence drivers can be prosecuted for speeding which ultimately leads to a fine and licence endorsement. Any points placed on your licence will also be transferred to a Spanish licence.

ARPO Christmas Dinner

Stan & Ollies Restaurant 7.30pm for 8.0pm

Menu to include Bucks Fizz on entrance, half a bottle of wine, bread and dips, coffee after the meal and mince pies. Price 26 Euros per person (service included)

Starters:

Roasted red pepper and tomato soup

Lentil and bacon soup

Thai fish cakes (swordfish, cod and salmon mixed with Thai spices. Bread crumbed, deep fried and served with a sweet chilli dip)

Deep fried brei (a chunky wedge of Brei, bread crumbed, deep fried and served with a side salad and cranberry sauce) or

Warm chicken and bacon salad (served on a mixed leaf salad)

Creamy garlic mushrooms

Main Course:

All served with fresh steamed vegetables, roast and new potatoes, honey roasted parsnips, Yorkshire pudding, butternut squash and pigs in blankets.

Stuffed chicken breast

Roasted topside of beef

Roast turkey and gammon

Fillet of salmon with a prawn and caper butter

Vegetarian nut loaf

Desserts:

Treacle sponge served with custard

Summer fruit pudding served with fresh cream

Christmas pudding served with custard or brandy sauce

After Eight cheesecake

There is NO SEATING PLAN Mix and Mingle

Live entertainment by Jack Clayton until midnight.

Menu choices and payment to Jim or Linda by the December ARPO Meeting please.

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