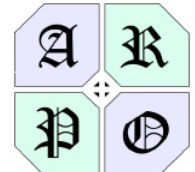


ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers Costa Blanca South



Issue No. 47

February 2010

www.arpo.org.uk

Hello All. Please excuse the appearance of this month's newsletter, I am awaiting the programme which will enable me to compile it in it's correct format. Normal service will be resumed next month! (Pat Stephens)

Meeting Report:

The meeting was held on Wednesday 13th January 2010, when 46 members were present. There was one new member.

Chairman Keith Giles opened the meeting at 10.35 and declared that nominations for the ARPO 2010 / 2011 committee are now open.

Apologies were received from Knutt Robberstad, Derek Dunham, Peter and Maureen King, Dave Morgan, Brian and Trish Godfrey, Tony and Moira Cross. The following updates on member's current health were provided as follows; Ron Burk updated the meeting that Derek Dunham is now back in the UK awaiting an operation and is not expected back in Spain before March. Joan Wood updated us regarding Tony Cross. Tony had visited his G.P for a routine Prostate check and a problem had been found. There was also a lump on his bladder. Tony has been operated on and, although his condition is not curable, it is treatable and he is now undergoing chemotherapy. Tony and Moira look forward to seeing us all later in the year and wished all members a Happy New Year. Dreena Wharton gave a brief update on Bob Morgan, who is now back in the UK. Things are not good and his condition is terminal, but the time frame is not currently known. Bob is now undergoing treatment for pain relief. On behalf of all the members Keith wished Derek Dunham well, asked Joan to convey our best wishes to Tony and Moira for a speedy recovery for Tony and sent all our best wishes to Bob and his wife Marion.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the December meeting were then read out. They were proposed by Linda Peters and seconded by Jim Neville as correct. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report:

It was reported that at the beginning of the month cash in the bank was 1346.37 euros;

Cash in hand was 657 euros;

The float was 212.79 euros, which gave a total of 2216.24 euros.

Income:

Subs were = 30 euros;

Video club = 3.25 euros;

Book club = 16.02 euros

Raffle = 000

Cash from the bank was 500 euros, giving a total of 549.27 euros in income.

Outgoings:

Newsletter = 2.50 euros;

Monthly draw = 25 euros

Accounts book = 13.70 euros;

Jack Clayton = 200 euros;

Raffle prizes = 300 euros giving a total of 541.20 euros in outgoings.

Cash in the bank now stands at 1349.49, including 3.12 euros interest;

Cash in hand is 157.08 euros;

The float is now 212.81, giving a final total of 1719.38 euros.

The treasurer stated that this showed a loss of 496.86 euros for the month. This remark drew comments that it was not a loss at all as the club already had the money in the account and it was expenditure.

Matters Arising:

It was reported that at the Christmas party the raffle had produced almost the full cost of the free drink for those attending, which had been previously agreed on. It was short by only one euro, which the secretary had put in himself. The secretary also gave the treasurer a break down of where the money had been spent and stated that, wherever possible, all receipts had been obtained and were attached.

While on finance, it was disclosed that we had not, as yet, closed the bank accounts. The secretary and Fred Wharton, as signatories, had visited the Banco Popular and signed the required paperwork in order to complete this. It now only required the treasurer to visit the bank and to sign the paperwork so that the accounts could be closed. At this time the bank would provide a cheque for the outstanding monies in both accounts. Keith Giles asked the treasurer for his assurances that this will be completed prior to next month's AGM. Assurance was given.

Social Functions:

It was reported that the Christmas party had been another great success. The staff at Stan and Ollie's restaurant had really looked after us, the service had been good and both the quality and quantity of the food had been excellent. A good time had been had by all members who attended this function. Jack Clayton had also given his usual good performance and we had enjoyed a surprise duet by Jack and Barbara Burks, which had been very well received. Should we be unable to go to Portico Mar Restaurant for a subsequent function it was safe to say that Stan and Ollie's provided a very good, alternative venue. A vote of thanks went to Linda and Jim Neville for all their hard work in both arranging this function and, on the night, ensuring that everyone had a good time.

Forthcoming functions are as follows:

Wednesday 27th January at The Captain's Table restaurant, which is being organised by Joan and Jim Wood. The cost is 10 euros p.p with all monies to be paid on the day.

Wednesday 24th February at Portico Mar, which will utilise the restaurant's own 'Menu del Dia'. This is being organised by Mike and Linda Peters.

The March lunch will be organised by Ron and Barbara Burks at a venue to be announced. Further details will follow.

Any Other Business:

Keith Giles asked about obtaining EHIC cards, as it appeared that when they expire next year they will no longer be issued in Spain. He had contacted the respective office in the UK but it was unclear when or where you had to apply for a new one, if one was available. It was reported by several members that a new system is to come into force, in Spain, on May 1st and that current EHIC cards can be extended until this date by the Spanish social security.

The secretary had received an e-mail from a lady who used to be the lead nurse for Paul Cunningham Nurses, but who was now involved in something similar to a District nursing service. She would like to address the meeting sometime in the future regarding this service whereby, basically, a person can get 104 home visits by a nurse and 22 visits by a doctor for a payment of 300 euros. This covers numerous conditions. The secretary asked the members if this would be of interest to the meeting and it was agreed that it would be a good idea for the nurse to speak to us at a later date, to be decided.

There have been several items in the local press of late relating to Iberdrola and their continued supply of electricity. It had been reported that home owners were required to confirm that they wanted to continue with Iberdrola and that this involved them re-confirming their contract with the company. The secretary had contacted Iberdrola and had been told that this was correct and, more importantly, if home owners failed to do this then the company would impose a surcharge of 20% on each subsequent monthly bill. It all seemed a bit confusing as the company had previously stated that all contracts would be renewed automatically. The change in attitude by Iberdrola may have something to do with them losing their monopoly. It was stated that you could also re-confirm your neighbours' contracts, if they were non residents, providing that you had their contract number. Further to this item I, myself, contacted Iberdrola to re-confirm my contract with them and was told that this was not necessary as it only applied to users with an electricity rating of 10kw, which, usually, involves commercial users. It seems another case of the right and left hand syndrome.

Also in the previous week's press was an article on the need to install a power switch (an ICP), which is similar to a surge protector. It transpires, again from Iberdrola, that you have a period of 4 years in which to install the switch and, of course, it will be at your own expense. Once again, should you fail to do this there will be a surcharge imposed on your bill for any increase in your power consumption over and above your contract power limit. This could also result in your electricity system tripping out should you choose to have too many appliances, such as your oven, aircon and washing machine, running at the same time.

Nominations for the Incoming Committee:

Chairman Ron Burks, proposed by Jim Wood and seconded by Geoff Killingworth

Treasurer Colin Company, proposed by Nigel Liddiard and seconded by Jim Neville

There were no nominations at this time for the post of secretary. In the interim period, before a secretary is appointed, Susan Bradford, the current assistant secretary, will continue to cover this position. Keith Giles will retain his position as Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations for the committee and the nominations were closed.

The 25 euro draw was won by number 40, Nick Bradford.

The chairman closed the meeting at 11.30.

STOP PRESS!

1) P&O have announced that, as from 27th September 2010, they are to discontinue the ferry service between Bilbao - Portsmouth - Bilbao. Normal services will be running until that time but, after this date, it will be Brittany Ferries or nothing. The latter are planning a ferry service into both Portsmouth and Plymouth, but costs have yet to be announced.

2) Credit Card Scams: The latest scam is very clever in that the fraudsters do not ask you for your card number, or any other information, as they already have it. The fraudster will call and state that they are from the security department of the relevant card company, providing security I.D, and saying that your card has been used for a specific purchase (of which you are not aware). After providing you with all the relevant information and telling you that you will get a refund as a fraud enquiry has begun, the fraudster will then want to verify that you have the credit card in your possession. To do this they will ask for the 3 security numbers on the back of the card. This is the number that the fraudsters want. Under no circumstances reveal this number. The true company will already have this number. Let's be careful out there as this type of fraud is ever on the increase.

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 on functions.