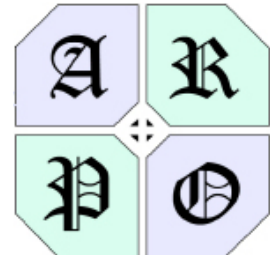


ARPO NEWS



Association of Retired Police Officers Costa Blanca South

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Hello All. Normal service will, hopefully, be resumed next month. Please remember that this is your newsletter and, should you have anything that you consider would be of value to other members, feel free to send details for inclusion to me at: pat.stephens08@gmail.com

Meeting Report:

The AGM of ARPO Costa Blanca South was held on Wednesday 10th February 2010, at Sacko's Bar, when 45 members were present. There were no new members.

Vice Chairman Keith Giles opened the meeting at 10.35.

Apologies were received from Phyllis Smith, Keith and Kathy Brown, Maureen and Stuart Forsyth, Brian and Trish Godfrey, Knut Robberstad, Jean Evans and Bob Morgan. The members were then given a short update on Bob's condition which was that there is no change at this time. Ron Burks updated those present that Derek Dunham has now had his operation and is recuperating at home with his mum and dad. Keith gave an update on Trevor Poole, who is currently back in the UK. Unfortunately, Trevor has been diagnosed with bowel cancer and the outlook is not very good at this time. Our thoughts are with Trevor's family and with the families of all other members who are currently suffering from serious medical conditions.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the ARPO AGM of 2009 were read out and they were proposed by Brian Smith, seconded by Nigel Liddiard (Spike?), as correct. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer reported that at the start of the year cash in the bank, plus cash in hand, stood at a total of 2074.77 euros. After taking into account income for the year against expenditure we now held a total of 1769.08 euros, which gave us an operating profit of 305.69 euros for the year. The Association's bank account at Banco Popular has now been closed and all monies in the account returned to the treasurer.

Jim Wood asked how much we had received during the past year from members' subscriptions and the reply was 370 euros.

As there were no further questions in relation to the treasurer's report the accounts were proposed by Keith Giles and seconded by Ron Burks as correct.

Election of Officers to the ARPO Committee for 2010:

The following people were nominated for posts on the ARPO committee: Ron Burks - Chairman; Colin Company - Treasurer; Danny Gidman - Secretary. These being the only nominees, all were duly elected unopposed and took their places on the stage. In addition, the following people will take other positions as follows: Keith Giles - Vice Chairman; Susan Bradford - Assistant Secretary; Pat Stephens - News Letter; Gerry Lawson - Web Site Manager. A proposal for a social secretary was put to the members but a unanimous vote was that this post was not needed at this time. It was agreed that monthly lunches would continue to be organised by members on an individual basis, although it was stressed that more members needed to come forward to participate in the arrangements in order that the same people were not doing all the work.

Items for Discussion:

The ARPO pig has been used during the past for members to donate their loose change. In 2009 two donations of 40 euros each were made to The Butterfly Children and Paul Cunningham Nurses. Following a discussion it was proposed by Linda Neville, and seconded by Jim Neville, that we now donate any money raised through the pig to the Help for Heroes charity. This was unanimously agreed and it was also agreed that, should the amount be small, the proceeds from a raffle would be given as an additional boost to the donation.

As the pig is feeling quite empty and under loved, Barbara Burks has volunteered to take him under her wing and ensure that he visits everyone at the end of each meeting. Please have your loose change ready as the pig has a big appetite!

The members were asked if they were happy to go to Portico Mar for our two main evening functions of the year. Following a discussion on the topic it was agreed that we would go to this restaurant for these events.

The question of raffle prizes was raised again. It was agreed by all present that we should be looking to buy better quality prizes, not necessarily to be making as much profit as possible, although any profit made would be a bonus.

Jim Wood then proposed that members' annual subscriptions be suspended for this year. To balance this, it was also proposed that the members' monthly 25 euro draw be abolished, and also the members Christmas draw of 6x50 euros. It was pointed out that the Christmas draw had not taken place in 2009 and that the money had been spent on better raffle prizes for the Christmas dinner. This was because we had not done the Christmas squares draw, as we had previously, which would normally raise the money for raffle prizes. A long discussion ensued on the floor, with a number of alternatives put forward. Eventually the matter was put to a vote, with the results as follows:

i) To suspend annual subscriptions for 2009	For - 1	Against - 51
ii) To suspend the 25 euro monthly draw	For - 1	Against - 51
iii) To abolish the members Christmas draw	For - 52	Against - 0

There being no other business Chairman, Ron Burks, closed the AGM at 11.30.

Monthly Meeting:

Following on from the AGM the minutes of the January meeting of ARPO were read. They were proposed by Linda Neville and seconded by Brian Smith as correct. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report:

The final closing balance from the account at Banco Popular was 1768.58 euros.

Social Functions:

January's lunch was held at the Captains Table Restaurant in Quesada and thanks were given to Joan and Jim Wood for organising another successful, and very nice, event.

February's lunch was organised by Linda and Mike Peters and was held at Portico Mar Restaurant. Around 70 people attended the function and another fabulous meal was had. The raffle was organised by Dreena and Fred Wharton, who had obviously taken to heart the discussions previously held regarding better prizes. Thanks to them both for the effort they put in and, on a personal note, the plancha grill is fantastic. At the end of the function Ron Burks thanked all those involved for their hard work in getting the event organised. As this was the first lunch after the new committee had been elected, Ron then presented flowers to Linda Peters and Pat Bilbey (accepted on her behalf as Pat was not able to attend this function - get well soon Pat) as thanks to the wives of the outgoing secretary and treasurer.

Forthcoming Functions:

The March lunch is being organised by Barbara and Ron Burks and will be held on Wednesday 24th at Bocados Restaurant at the Los Dolces Commercial Centre. The meal will be at a cost of 11 euros p.p and a menu is available, both on the web site and from Ron, for those without internet access.

In April, lunch is being organised by Dreena and Fred Wharton, on 28th, at the Restaurant La Herradura in Los Montesinos. Full details and the menu will be available from them shortly.

Two dates for the diary: The ARPO Summer Ball will be held at Portico Mar on Friday 25th June and the Christmas party will held at the same venue on Friday 17th December. Full details of the June menu and prices will be made available in due course.

AOB:

Fred Wharton then gave a brief outline of a group from Torre Vieja who wanted to come and speak to the members regarding holidays for pensioners. It was agreed that the committee will arrange this for a future date.

The 25 euro draw was won by number 45 Pat Bilbey, so well done Pat.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 11.46.

Obituary:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our friend and member, Bob Morgan. Bob had been ill, as we all know, and had returned to the UK before Christmas.

He sadly passed away, suddenly, on Sunday 14th February. Bob served with the Metropolitan Police, beginning his career at St John's Wood. He soon progressed to the CID at Chelsea, before moving to Marylebone and then Twickenham, where he worked both in CID and uniform before being promoted to Sergeant. Bob also served at Lavender Hill, Battersea, the Stolen Vehicle Squad, Kingston and Esher, from where he retired.

One of Bob's claims to fame is that he was an exhibits officer at Gerald Row during the Lord Lucan murder enquiry! Bob and Marion moved to Spain some 8 years ago, having originally intended to only holiday here. Bob became a member of ARPO 2 years ago and soon made numerous friends. I'm told that he had a 'wicked and dry' sense of humor, and that he was always entertaining when you went out with him. This is how he will be remembered by his many friends.

Our thoughts and condolences go to Marion, his children and grand-children, and all of his many friends. R.I.P Bob Morgan.