



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

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As you are all aware, I have recently taken over the role of editor of the ARPO news letter. As such, I gladly welcome items for inclusion in the news letter and any items of obvious interest to other members will be considered. These can be sent to me, via e-mail, at pat.stephens08@gmail.com. Items for inclusion should reach me by the end of the month, for inclusion in the following month's news letter.

Meeting Report:

The April meeting of ARPO was held at Sacko's Bar on Wednesday 14th April 2010. There were 38 members present, with no new members at the meeting.

The Chairman, Ron Burks, opened the meeting at 10.35 a.m. and apologies were received from Danny Gidman, Keith & Kathy Brown, George & Jacqui Durno, S & M Forsythe, Harry & Hilda Powell, Peter & Maureen King, Trevor Poole, Jim & Joan Wood and Pat & Lol Bilbey.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the March meeting were read out by the Assistant Secretary, Susan Bradford, in the absence of Danny. They were proposed by Mike Peters and seconded by Gerry Watson as being correct. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

The Chairman, Ron Burks, then gave the members an update on Lol Bilbey, who had been admitted to hospital, and he advised the meeting that Derek Dunham was now back in Spain.

Treasurer's Report:

Colin Company started by telling the members that as Jim Wood had told him to do his new job as Treasurer 'in his own way', he thought he would award himself a monthly salary out of the members subs (a bit like MPs expenses). However, Danny had said that, as he did all the writing, he would like to have a salary too. Likewise, Ron had said that as he had the gavel, he should also have a salary. Colin decided that this should be put to the members present, in order that they could take a vote on the matter - to much hilarity. Mike Peters then asked if Colin could prove that he was worth €5 per month. To date, no proof has been forthcoming!!

Financial Matters:

Cash in the Bank : •1707.77
Float : •78.01

Total: •1785.78

Income: Subs. •380.00, Solicitor •60.00, •24.00 from Angie's books (thank you very much!) Donations •25.00, •18.39 profit from the raffle at the Bocados, Los Dolces

Outgoings: •25 for the monthly draw.

Total Income: •482.39

Cash paid into Bank: •500.00
Cash in Bank: •2277.77
Float: •60.00

Grand Total: •2267.77

Charity Pig: The ARPO pig is still ongoing and he is still hungry for any loose change that can be spared at the end of the meetings.

A member then raised the question as to why ARPO were now taking the tip for staff at the social functions from the Raffle monies? It was explained by the Chairman that, really, it was down to the people organising the lunches how to collect the tip. Rather than make 'loose change' issues for the organiser, the cost of the meal could either be rounded up or the tip taken out of raffle money.

Fred Wharton also advised that the tip is not included in the next meal at La Herradura and it will be left up to individual members.

Social Functions:

Fred and Dreena Wharton re-iterated that the next ARPO lunch was to be held at Restaurante La Herradura, in Los Montesinos on Wednesday, 28 April. The cost will be €15 per head with a typical Spanish type venue and food. There will not be a seating plan for this lunch and tables will be laid for 10 or 12 places. There is a bar for your own drinks before the meal.

On behalf of Peter and Carolyn Dunn, Barbara Burks advised that the lunch in May will be held at Pimientos Restaurant (just outside San Miguel) on Wednesday, 26 May at €12.95 per head including a bottle of wine per couple.

Mike Peters indicated that he has the sign-up form for the Summer Ball at Portico Mar on 25 June. It will be €25 per head, to include beer, wine, soft drinks and coffee. Spirit drinks will be extra. The menu and booking forms will be available at the meeting next month, which will include which party you wish to sit with.

One for the Future:

Keith Giles then gave advance warning (because of the 'shutdown' in the summer months) that he and Henie will be arranging the September lunch which will be held at The Mirasol restaurant in Cabo Roig, with a restriction of 60 people. Further details will follow.

The Chairman then suggested that as ARPO are not here to make money, perhaps a subsidised coach trip could be organised in October – somebody had already suggested Cartagena when the Hannibal processions take place, but it was pointed out that this event is held in September. Mike has all the details of the previous 'floating' restaurant etc if members would like to revisit Cartagena. Another suggestion would be the trip with David's coaches to Caravaca and Calaspara. Any further suggestions from members would be given all consideration.

Any Other Business:

Mike Peters apologised to the members for the error regarding the 'free of charge' Pensioners Bank account with Bankinter, which he thought only applied in the La Marina branch of the bank. It transpired that other members have managed to open the account at the Torrevieja branch. The account also includes a European travel insurance which provides cover when you are 30Km away from your home. Members were advised to contact their own branches of Bankinter for further details.

Jim Neville then brought to the members attention an email he had received saying that a couple went to a football match and had left their GPS in the car. Needless to say, the car had been broken into and the GPS stolen. The thieves then brought up the home address of the couple in the GPS and burgled that as well. Moral – don't leave your GPS in the car and certainly don't put your home address in the GPS. Further to this, be aware that if you have a mobile Sat Nav system which can be fixed to your windscreen by a sucker, when you leave the car and take the Sat Nav with you, make sure that you clean the sucker mark from the windscreen (I find that a paket of baby wipes does the trick). This mark is what the thieves look for prior to breaking into your vehicle. Even if you have taken the device with you, the thieves do not know this and will still break into the car!

Jim also informed the members that, similarly, a mobile phone was stolen and the thieves sent a TEXT message to the owner's husband, at home, saying 'forgotten my pin number' and by the time the woman had contacted her husband herself, the bank account had been cleared. Again, put your home number under a coded entry.

The winner of the 25 Euro draw was no. 5 – Angela Dewey, so well done to Angela. The Chairman then closed the meeting at 11.05 a.m.

Following the meeting there was a Presentation given to the members by Abaco Solicitors regarding the Spanish subsidised holiday trips to various parts of Spain, the Balearics and Tenerife. Members were then given an opportunity to register their interest with Abaco.

Obituary:

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our friend, ARPO member and former treasurer, Lol Bilbey. As everyone knows, Lol had many problems with ill health recently, culminating in his admission to hospital. Lol sadly lost his brave fight for life and passed away on the morning of Wednesday 28th April, aged 66 years.

Lol had been a member of Sheffield and Rotherham Police in the early 1970's, serving at Central Sheffield, Ecclesfield and Attercliffe. Unfortunately, Lol was retired on medical grounds, after only 17 years, due to severe injuries he had sustained whilst doing 'The Job'. Lol then underwent major heart surgery in 2000 and his daughter, Zoe, brought him out to Spain to live his retirement in the sun. He joined ARPO in 2003, becoming the Association Treasurer in 2007/2008.

Lol has been described as a family man who had a great love for his children and grand children and, of course, his dear wife Pat. He was also a keen supporter of Sheffield Wednesday Football Club and played football himself in his youth. His health had deteriorated over the last three years, culminating in cancer of the colon, which ultimately proved one battle too far for Lol to overcome. His funeral took place on Tuesday 4th May.

Our thoughts and condolences go to Pat, his children and grand children and to all his many friends.

R.I.P Lol Bilbey.

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