



ARPO NEWS

Association of Retired Police Officers
Costa Blanca South

Issue No. 51

June, 2010

www.arpo.org.uk

Meeting Report:

The May meeting of ARPO was held at Sacko's Bar on Wednesday 12th May 2010. There were 38 Members present with no new members.

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting a Minute's silence was observed in memory of Lawrence Bilbey who passed away on 28th April 2010.

The Chairman, Ron Burks, opened the meeting at 10.35 and informed everyone that Danny Gidman had placed notices about Arpo in The Leader and Coastrider. He said that he was investigating the possibility of placing similar notices in Foreign papers to invite ex Police Officers from other Countries to join.

Apologies were received from George & Jacqui Durno, Angela Dewey, Doug & Jean Evans, Peter & Maureen King, Barbara Burks, David & Ann Adams, Brian & Pat Godfrey, Gerry & Freda Lawson, Ruby Corney, Maureen Forsyth, James & Linda Neville and Nigel Liddiard.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the April Meeting were read out. They were then proposed by Mike Peters and seconded by Brian Smith as correct. There were no matters arising.

Treasurer's Report:

At the beginning of April: Cash in Bank - 2267.77 Euros

Income: Subscriptions 40 Euros
Angela's Books 17.50 Euros
Profit from Raffle at La Herradura 48 Euros

Total 105.50 Euros

Outgoings: Monthly Draw 25 Euros
Printing for Summer Ball 15 Euros
Card for Pat Bilbey 2.50 Euros
Donation at Lol Bilbey's Funeral 25 Euros

Total 67.50 Euros

This gave a net profit for the month of 38 euros, and meant that there was currently 2305.77 euros in the bank. The treasurer then informed the meeting that approximately half of the members have now paid their subs for this year and that he would be following up on all outstanding subs still owed.

Social Functions:

The next Arpo lunch is to be held on Wednesday, 26th May 2010, at Pimientos Restaurant, San Miguel, 1pm for 1-30pm. The Price is 12.95 Euros. This is being organised by Peter & Carolyn DUNN, who said that they had the booking form for any other members who have not yet booked.

Mike Peters informed the meeting that 63 members and guests have currently signed up for the Summer Ball. Their is a limit of 80 so he urged members to sign up if they do not want to miss out. Just to re-iterate, the summer ball will be held at Portico Mar Restaurant on Friday 25th June.

Keith Giles said that he and Hennie had booked The Mirasol Restaurant in Cabo Roig for the September Lunch. More details will follow, although Keith did have copies of the menu available at the meeting. Please bear in mind that there is a limit of 60 people for this lunch, so it is advisable to get your names down early.

The Chairman then asked for any suggestions for a Coach Trip

for October. He also said that if any member wished to learn how to play Petanca during the summer months recess, he would organise it at The Castle in San Miguel.

Any Other Business:

Jim Woods then told the meeting that further to Mike Peter's information re free banking at Bankinter for Pensioners, he had made enquiries at his bank, SOL, and they said that they had the same system. They declined Jim's request for backdating his. The only stipulation is that you have to receive a certain amount into your account each month. All Banks do this but have different amounts of pension received required.

The Chairman then thanked Fred an Dreena Wharton for organising an excellent lunch at La Herradura in April.

Nick Bradford informed the members that in order to be eligible to vote in the Local Elections, in Torre Vieja, next year you have to sign up with the Padron at The Padron Office, opposite the Town Hall, before October this year. Nick had some forms available for this, but others were available from the Foriegners Office in Torre Vieja. Further to this, for those who live in the Rojales area, you can go to the Ayuntamiento and they will do the forms for you, you only need to sign them.

Brian advised the members that the Guardia Civil are using an old blue car with a speed detection camera on the road between Los Montesinos and Carrefour.

The Chairman then closed the Meeting at 11-11am.

The winner of the 25 Euro Draw was No.24, Susan Bradford.

Stop Press:

1) The Spanish Prime Minister has recently announced on Spanish radio that all Civil Servants and Cabinet Ministers are to have their pay cut and any proposed pay rises frozen. As a knock on, the Guardia Civil have been ordered not to use 4x4 vehicles in order to save petrol and to conduct more static road checks, and the Health Service have been told to prescribe cheaper drugs and more exacting prescriptions. This could result in you getting 10 pills instead of 28. Also beware of more Guardia Civil static checks when out driving. They need to raise extra revenue and tickets for driving offences are an easy option for them. Further to this, the head of Traffico has recently stated that all extra revenue raised through the processing of driving offence fines will be used to improve Spanish roads. As we all know how bad some of the roads are, you can see that a lot of money needs to be raised. You have been warned! It seems that there is a lot of belt tightening going on at the moment in all Government departments.

2) Following the recent talk by Abaco, Mike Peters spoke to L and A, who have previously acted on behalf of ARPO, and they have reduced their prices to match those of Abaco. Although they can't match the Abaco introductory price of 75 euros, it is another option when considering which company to use.

3) Beware the Latest Scam: There have been numerous reports that fraudsters are claiming to work for Iberdrola and have been approaching homes demanding a payment of 500 euros to replace their electricity meter for a newer, more modern version. Once the money has been paid, needless to say, that's the last that is seen of it. Iberdrola workers will NEVER ask for cash and always carry documentation to prove who they are. Please make sure you always ask for identification from any official. It sounds obvious, I know, but people are still getting caught out.

4) For those who are interested in purchasing a funeral policy or, indeed, any other form of insurance, Nick Bradford has found a company called Salt's Bay Insurance, in Torre Vieja (near to the La Mata end), who appear to offer a very comprehensive Funeral Insurance policy. Their rates are very reasonable, with no lump sum down-payment required, and include provisions for repatriation. Further details can be found on their web site at www.saltsbay.com, by telephoning 965 706 394, or by e-mailing Patricia Snaps at patricia.snaps@saltsbay.com. Alternatively, they can be found at Avenida Las Habaneras, 86, 03182 Torre Vieja. This is the very last building in the street and near to the sea. The policy has, apparently, also been recommended by our Padre, Keith Brown.

5) There are still some places available for the ARPO Summer Ball, so if you haven't put your names down yet please contact Mike Peters sooner rather than later. This is always one of our best functions and is well worth booking for.

Please remember everyone, the news letter is available on the ARPO web site and can be downloaded or printed directly from there. There will be some copies available at the meeting, but these tend to be taken very quickly as not everyone has access to the internet.

Members enjoy lunch at Pimientos

