



## Royal Marines Association Costa Blanca Branch (Spain)

April 2010

The April meeting of the Branch commenced at 1837. We had 40 Full and Associate members at the meeting with 22 apologies.

**Phil Prince Chairman** opened the meeting with the usual minutes silence to remember the sacrifice made by members of the armed services and to remember old comrades. Particularly Dennis Mortimer, ex Drill Instructor who recently passed away. Are thoughts were also with Mick Smallwood and Brenda Cowan who are at the moment both poorly and with 40 Commando Group RM who are currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Jim and Penny Rowan left Spain by motor home on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April and arrived back in the UK on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Prior to leaving Penny gave two donations to the Association, one of coins to the value of €11 and one of €47 from Roy, a friend of the couple. This money will be placed in the Welfare Fund.

Once Jim & Penny are settled Phil will write to Charlie Hobson CEP RMA, and thank him for the help the Central office provided in the repatriation of Jim. A vote of thanks was paid to Jack Freeman for his efforts in this repatriation. Many thanks Jack.. Note: Further information is at the Welfare Report in this newsletter.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon there will be a Help the Heroes march from the Consum Super market at La Zenia. All members are requested to attend to support our Standard Bearer. Phil and Joan will be in the UK and unable to attend.

Brenda Cowan is currently unwell and in this respect Eddie has resigned from his duties as Librarian and as Chairman of the Corps Birthday Dinner. Cathy Woodward has kindly volunteered for the position of Branch Librarian but we need a Chairman for the Corps Birthday Committee.

A short discussion regarding the purchase of a wheelchair was carried out at the last meeting. Don Churchill, President did not feel this capital investment was required and in this respect, after consultation with the members, the motion was declined.

### **Secretary's Report**

Information in the trays on the bar. On the notice board is information regarding the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) and photographs of Jim & Penny prior to their departure from Spain.

### **Treasurers Report**

The Financial status of the Branch is on the notice board. Please note balance at the bank after the "Pig Roast"

**Welfare.** Jack reports that when the Rowans arrived back in the UK they went to Essex to visit relatives, then on to Huddersfield. Penny will contact us when fully settled in and will keep in touch with the Association. Mick Small wood has one more treatment to go but is still feeling very tired. He is having regular tests and in 5 weeks will have an operation.

Brenda Cowan was in hospital for 4 days, now out is feeling a lot better. Brenda came to the "Hog Roast" 30<sup>th</sup> April so definitely on the mend !!

Roger Pay is still having problems with his knee, Jack offered his services as amateur surgeon complete with saw but this was declined!

### **Social Bill Nixon Torre Area**

Hog Roast 30<sup>th</sup> April. 62 Members attended this function and was an excellent social evening. Nice food and good company, what more can you ask? A sum of €128 was raised during the course of the evening and our thanks must go to Bill & Kath Nixon for hosting this event.

Coffee Morning 20<sup>th</sup> May. Another successful coffee morning and held at "Alex's Bistro" in Montebello, hosted by Rita & Pete. 28 Members attended this event and €56 was raised for the Association. For those members that haven't got the space and wish to hold a coffee morning,, then find a bar and put on a €50 buffet. Cuts out the washing up! Note: The € 50 is paid from Association funds.

### **Social Eric Edwards La Marina area**

Coffee Morning 24<sup>th</sup> June at Eric & June Edwards property La Marina, and being organised by the La Marina residents. There is a committee meeting prior to this event. Same Location.

Note: The community pool will be available to those that wish to take advantage of an SC Acquaint!

Our next charity event is a sponsored swim at La Mata beach on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June, commencing at 11am. This event will be advertised on local radio and in the papers. The Association currently has 10 members taking part and your sponsorship would be very much appreciated.

### **Membership**

Membership remains stable and outstanding subs are being paid

**PR-** reports that the local newspapers are managing to keep the general public aware of our meetings. Bert thanked the members who turned out for the Veterans Parade which is one of our largest PR Events.

### **G & L**

Dave not present but the latest article is in the G & L so many thanks to Dave Lawton

**Merchandise** Bill Nixon has now received the fund raising pack from Central Office. Bill now has a contact that can do embroidery on your shirts at very reasonable prices.

### **A.O.B.**

RBL Remembrance Service will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 11am La Siesta Church. There will be a buffet at Los Arcos after the service the cost being in the region of €4. Members recognised that it would be good for inter-service relations to attend the buffet. The Chairman will keep members informed of any further details.

**Tu Café** now has a darts board and from mid-day Saturday we have sole use of the bar for darts competitions.

**Bob Pinfold** has donated a cartoon print of a Commando River Crossing, this will be place with our other memorabilia in the Tu Café. Thanks Bob

### **EVENTS SPAIN**

#### **Possible coach trip to Seville & Cordoba 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010**

Coach for 35 persons at a cost of €235 for half board, 3 nights/4 days. If we get more than 25 going there will be a free place.

Deposits required this month.

### **EVENTS**

#### **25/26<sup>th</sup> June- South Coast Proms Band of HM Royal Marines Whale Island**

**Spean Bridge** Fort William Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June

**Emmetts Hill Memorial Service** Dorset Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July

23 July- Opening Ceremony Royal Marines Liberty Bridge in Westkapelle

**CTCRM 64<sup>th</sup> Re-Union 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September**

If you require contact details on these events see Pete Hon Sec

**Jokes**

**GREEK**

The Greek Treasurer was addressing parliament. “When I took over the economy the nation was poised on the edge of an abyss. Well, I am proud to announce since then we have taken a great leap forward”

**IRISH**

Patrick stumbled into the AA meeting and knocked over a few chairs. The secretary frowned: “Oh, we were so happy last night when you turned up sober. “Well tonight it’s my turn to be happy,” said Patrick

**THAT’S IT!!**