



# Royal Marines Association Costa Blanca Branch (Spain)

## February 2010

34 Full, Associate and Honorary Members attended the meeting with 15 apologies. Our Chairman Philo Prince opened the meeting at 1843 and asked those members that could, to stand and observe a minutes silence for old comrades, members of the branch that are unwell and members of the Corps on active service.. There are no known casualties from the Corps this month but other military units have suffered.

There followed a minutes silence.

Phil reminded us that the Corps will be deploying to Afghanistan in April and we wish them a safe 6 months

Pete Wilkins our Branch Sec is somewhat deaf and is finding it increasingly difficult to hear what is being said to take the minutes. The committee have found a suitable replacement to take the minutes, Maddie Pinfold and this is very much appreciated. Pete will continue in the new role of RMA Branch Liaison Officer, this means he will be the coordinator for Branch matters within the RMA network.

Valentines Night/Dinner Dance was held at Casa Ventura with 40+ members and guests attending. The food on served was acceptable and the entertainment was excellent.

Congratulations, Eric on another great social evening. Will miss you when you step down at the AGM.

Phil reminded everyone that at the AGM, the next meeting, if you wish to get involved at committee level then get your names down.

The committee have agreed that those members holding coffee mornings should be entitled to €50 towards refreshment expenses. This money will be paid from the entrance fee and the raffle. Remember those that wish to hold a coffee morning and don't have the necessary space at home to guest 30-40 members, see other members that are willing to assist.

**Hon Secretary** Lots of information in the usual trays on the bar. Don't forget the RMA Weekend in September; there are only 600 places available for food, so make sure you apply soon if you intend to eat at the re-union.

**Treasurers Report** The financial status is on the notice board. Please note the final total for the Jim Rowan appeal.

**Welfare** The hardest part of the Welfare Officers job is knowing who is sick or needs assistance, so if you know any member that requires assistance then give Jack Freeman a call.

Don Churchill's chair has now been repaired and is working correctly.

Jim Rowan's repatriation is reaching a conclusion. Flying Jim home is now out of the question, this is mainly due to Penny's condition. Penny with the help of immediate family have made the decision to take Jim back by road. The RMA here and in the UK will provide financial assistance where required. Jim is in good spirits and speech and movements are improving.

### Social Report

The quiz night 4th March was a great success and I believe there will be more at this venue in the near future.

Coffee Morning at the Crazy Golf Centre. For those that didn't attend you missed a good social get together. This was an excellent venue and hosted by Bill & Kath Nixon. There is a Hog Roast scheduled for this venue Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April so if you are not sure of the location see Hon Sec who has maps

The Corps memorabilia has now been relocated to Dave Barries bar in Torrevieja. If you have any plaques/photos/flags then let Dave Barrie know. Note: Parking for this bar is in the nearby Marina or in the underground car park.

### Membership

Some subs still outstanding for some members so see Maddie for payment.

**PR-** Bert Moye nor present at the meeting.

G & L The current issue features an article on the Corps Birthday event, with a photo of our President and his lady wife. The write up also features our WW11 Veterans.

Our Website now features pictures of the memorial wall and the RMA Weekend at Lympstone.

Merchandise Various items have been ordered from the UK. There are 10 RMA Shopping bags included in this order and will be €7 each.

A.O.B.

Veterans Day 23<sup>rd</sup> April. 1700-2030 Parade at 2000 with "Sunset" routine. The Spanish Military will be attending and displaying equipment. Dress: Blazers and Medals.

### EVENTS

**Possible coach trip to Seville & Cordoba** in September 2010 4 days half board all details from Eric

### F.Y.I. UK Events

**Graspan Parade** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**RM Memorial Parade** National Arboretum Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May

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

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

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

If you require contact details on events see Pete

**Private Adds      Company Adds      Joke**

Old Jake was alone in his hotel bedroom watching television when there was a knock on the door. He opened it and a buxom young girl walked in.

“Oh. I am sorry” she said, “I must be in the wrong room”

“No love”, said Jake. “It’s the right room, but you are thirty-five years too late

The reporter was pressing the old guy on his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday as to why he lived so long.

Two reasons” said the old guy. “The first is my life long practice of having two whiskies a day”

“And the second?” asked the reporter.

“Cancelling my voyage on the Titanic,” said the old man.

---