



Royal Marines Association Costa Blanca Branch (Spain)

July 2010

The July meeting of the branch commenced at 1834. We had 31 Full and Associate members present and 11 apologies and one visitor.

The meeting was held at the Tu Café and with the weather being nice (HOT!) the meeting was conducted on the patio area of the café. A bit uncomfortable and hot for the Chairman and Hon Sec on top table as this was in the direct sunlight.

Chairman's Report

Phil Prince gave a warm welcome to new member Tam Ramsey, ex ML and 45 Commando. A minutes silence was observed for Old Comrades, and to the Royal Marines of 40 Commando who have fallen since our last meeting. Cpl SBS (R) 1st July Name Withheld, Mne David Hart 8th July, Mne Mathew Harrison 13th July, Mne Jonathon Crookes 16th July- a total of 13 since their deployment and of course this does not include those RM's wounded or injured. We were also asked to remember those Branch members who are poorly or sick at this moment in time and we wish them a speedy recovery. There followed a minutes silence.

Phil followed by giving a big thank you to Bill Nixon for the BBQ he hosted at the "Poco Loco" Bar. Attended by around 30 members and guests and proved to be another social success. Phil then spoke about an article that appeared in a UK paper regarding the UK Forces Review. In the article there is a suggestion that the Army take over operational control of the Corps with the RN surrendering control of Amphibious ships etc. Interesting!

Hon Sec's Report

Newsletter from the Exeter Branch is in the correspondence file. There is a newsletter from Central Office, 36 pages in length, available on the internet. If you haven't got access to the Internet then a paper copy can be made available for members. Apologies to Chas who turned up at Casa Ventura last month for the monthly meeting as he didn't receive info on the change of venue.

Treasurers Report

The report on the financial status of the Branch was available on the notice board. There is now a separate "Welfare Fund" which is very healthy at this moment and therefore will be frozen at this time.

Welfare Report

Sad News – On the 17th September Brenda Cowan died whilst in the UK, our condolences go out to Eddie Cowan and family at this sad time.

Pete Wilkins was in the UK recently and took the opportunity to see Jim Rowan at his home in Huddersfield. Jim is progressing as well as can be expected with his treatment. \Jim has much more overall movement on his limbs since returning to the UK and is receiving the rehabilitation therapy he requires. With monies raised Penny is having an electric wheelchair made to suit Jim's disabilities and this of course will give him independence. Jim & Penny are in the process of getting better accommodation suited to Jim's condition.

Re Andy Kurek- Putting on weight but currently has a chest infection and has been in hospital receiving oxygen.

Social report

Bill Nixon Bill thanked all those that attended the BBQ.

Eric Edwards 7th Sept Petanc Competition at La Marina Sports complex with BBQ cost €5. The event starts at 4.30. Those wanting to take part will be drawn against a partner for the competition with a small trophy for the winner.

Dave Barrie laid on an excellent buffet following the July meeting. This was much appreciated by the members- Many thanks Dave

Membership- Remains stable

PR

Bert apologised to the members for not being able to get the change of venue into the local papers. There is an article on the sponsored swim recently undertaken in La Mata. Tony Baldwin who lives in Gran Alicant is suffering from Alzheimer's and his wife has asked for any old friends and comrades who know Tony to come and visit. If members wish to go, please contact Jack Freeman who will co-ordinate visits.

Brian Bartlett, 40 Commando Association, has list of Royal Marines returning from Afghanistan that have injuries etc. If any member wishes to get in touch with any of these lads please get in touch with Brian.

40 Commando Association are always looking for new members and there is a re-union planned for the Manchester area in March 2011. **Note:** To be a member of the Association you need not have been a member of 40 Commando.

G&L

The current issue has our Costa Blanca Region article in it. Dave Lawton reminded members that should they have any photo's that can be used with articles let him know. The web site is up and running and working well; that is how Tam Ramsey found our Branch.

Merchandise

Now have a supply of plaques recently arrived from the UK at €26 @ There are brooches and bric-a-brac available. A detailed brochure from the Corps Museum with the usual merchandise is available for your perusal.

There are wrist bands showing our support for the Corps and are available from Bill Nixon or Pete Wilkins.

We now have a new supplier for the RM embroidered badges. so if you have a shirt that require a badge see Bill cost only €7!

Any medals you require mounting also see Bill

Corps Dinner

Need more members and guest's for this function. Transport is available should it be required

A.O.B.

Royal Air Force Association, Costa Blanca. Battle of Britain service at La Siesta Church 15th September at 11am. Our Standard bearer and our Chairman will be attending

Venue Change: The committee have decided to look at the suitability of other venues and a decision will be made at the next meeting

EVENTS SPAIN

Petanc Competition and BBQ at La Marina (See previous details)

EVENTS UK

CTCRM 64th Re-Union RMA 18th – 19th September

October JE 8 Squad 50 years Re-Union. Details see Hon Sec

October 29th JE 31 Re Union Details Hon Sec

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

Jokes

Make your MP work –Don't re-elect him

Why is it the only people who know how to run the country are driving taxis and cutting hair?

How come there is only one Monopolies Commission?

THAT'S IT!!
