



Royal Marines Association Costa Blanca Branch (Spain)

September 2010

The September meeting of the branch commenced at 1809. We had 34 Full and Associate members present and 6 apologies and two visitors.

The meeting was held at our new venue, Sacko's Bar on El Limonar Urbanisation. If you are ever visiting email the Hon Sec who will be happy to give you the directions to the location.

Phil Prince, our Chairman, welcomed everyone to the new venue and hoped that we would enjoy it and settle in for the foreseeable future. Phil then asked for those that could, to stand, and observe a minutes silence for old comrades and those that have been lost in Afghanistan. Also we remembered two of our branch members that have been unwell recently, Mick Smallwood and Andy Kurek. We wished both members a speedy recovery.

A minutes silence followed.

The Branch Standard was paraded recently at the RAFA "Battle of Britain" Memorial Service" with "Mac" Mackenzie our standard bearer in attendance. Several members attended the RMA weekend at CTC a couple of weeks ago. Whilst on parade the CG spoke briefly about the SDR and the way it may concern the Corps. It would appear that the Corps will be somewhat unaffected by the review, however our Chairman raised justifiable concern about the future RN role i.e. the need to retain the LPD's. We await the full details!

We have received a letter back from the Rhyl Sea Cadet Corps thanking us for our donation of £ 100, but also requested in the letter, further information regarding our branch here in Spain. Our President, Don Churchill replied to this request and the letter written was read to the members at the meeting. Should you get the opportunity read the letter in the file provided, its well worth a read.

40 Commando have now returned from Afghanistan for well earned rest having handed over to the USMC. An article in the G & L covering the period 40 Commando were in theatre is worth reading. Note: If you haven't got the latest issue you may wish to put your name on the subscription list as a "Crimbo" present!

Secretary

The usual information was available in the trays provided at the bar. Note: On the notice board is information regarding the SDR and also details about Royal Marine Christmas cards which are available from the G & L office in the UK. Peter also asked to give a warm welcome to our guests from the UK, Ian & Grace Hammerton. FYI Ian is member of the Edinburgh RMA Branch, and for historical purposes was a member of the last National Service Squad.

Treasurer

Breakdown of funds were made available on the notice board. The monies for Brenda Cowan's nominated charity stands at €242.

Welfare

Jack reported that whilst in the UK recently he met up with Eddie Cowan. Eddie has a few personal details to attend to then will be returning to Spain. Jack said to the member's, that as part of the Royal Marine family we are there to help him should he require it.

Andy Kurek is not well at the moment and is not strong, and once discharged will require a hoist. Jack will approach Age Concern and also investigate prices of hoist's to assist Andy. Marion Millington is still awaiting her hip operation. Mick Smallwood is awaiting further tests and our president Don Churchill has now recovered from his pneumonia. Arthur Richardson, who recently had a fall, is now out of hospital having discharged himself!

Social Secretary

Remembrance Day Note: After the service at La Siesta Church there will be a buffet at Los Arcos Restaurant. The cost of this buffet will be shared between the RMA, RNA, RAFA, RBL. Details of this cost will be known at the next meeting. Meet & Greet will be at Sacko's Bar 8.30 for those coming from the UK. During the evening one of our guests from the Corps will give a slide presentation of the tour in Afghanistan.

X -Mas Draw – Sacko's Bar 19th December Entertainment- Rock & Roll Band. Prizes NEED to be purchased prior to this event so don't leave it to the last minute to get tickets. Causes a bit of a logistics nightmare.

November 8th Quiz Night RMA v RNA at Sacko's Bar 7.30 for 8pm.
Membership- Maddie not at the meeting

PR

Rather than sending goods to Afghanistan with the problem of costs, particularly at Christmas, it would be

G & L

All articles accepted for the next issue and the late Brenda Cowan will get a mention. Dave Lawton also noted that Bill & Kath Nixon have been wed 54 years. Congratulations from the members!

Merchandise

Bill has a list of goods from available from the Corps Museum. With Christmas approaching you need to consider gifts you may need.

Corps Dinner

Full details of this event in the next news letter.

A.O.B.

The current donations for the late Brenda Cowan are €242

Branch Book Club. After a brief discussion the Book Club was discontinued. The books remaining will be given to Age Concern.

Tu Café. The plaques and other memorabilia previously on display at the café are currently being held for safe keeping by Pete Wilkins.

EVENTS SPAIN

November 8th Quiz Night RMA/RNA 7.30 for 8pm

November 11th: Armistice Day La Siesta Church. 1015 for 11am

Joint buffet (RBL/RNA/RAFA/RM) on completion at Los Arcos Restaurant

November 14th : Remembrance Sunday RBL Orihuela Costa. Service starts at 1030

On completion lunch will be available in the Olympia Restaurant €15 per head. If you require lunch phone

Cathy Carson 666180112 or email. cathycarson@hotmail.com

November 26th RITA's Birthday Le Bistro Urb Montebello 8pm. Buffet provided

Jokes

Gordon Brown was jogging in the park and preoccupied by affairs of Parliament slipped and fell in a lake. A youth heard his cries for help and at great risk to himself dived in and saved him. When he recovered Gordon said to the lad, " You saved my life. Anything you name you can have. "I don't want anything" said the lad. "Just don't tell my dad."

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If you think life is a joke consider the punchline.

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We are the people our parents warned us about!

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THAT'S IT!!