

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Steve Mullis Vice Chairman
Reg Haywood Secretary
Tony Hansford Treasurer
David Carlton Welfare Officer

Associate Members

Marlene Elliott Social Events Coordinator
Sandra Martin Publicity Officer
Julie Mullis

- 1. Apologies were received from:** - Doug Heron, Derek Brown, Iris Dober, Catherine Heritage, Bill Dixon,
- 2. The minutes from the last meeting were read, signed and accepted.**
- 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting: -**

3.1 Ref Item 10.2. in November minutes. Following Tony Hansford's query at the last meeting, Steve Mullis contacted Simon Martin and several other European Branches, to see how they manage the issue of collections in Euros and payments to RAFA. Various options seem to be used, where some branches open a UK Account and transfer money from their local Euro Account in largish quantities, thus minimising bank charges. Others obtain a UK cheque from their own "foreign bank" and send this to RAFA. The consensus was that it would be impractical for RAFA to open a Euro Account as it would not be widely used and would still encounter the problem of exchange fluctuations and bank charges. The 4000€ cheque sent by Benalmádena Branch earlier this year was converted to sterling at a rate of 1.4718€ to £ sterling and a bank charge of just under 12 Euros. It would seem the best solution to this issue would be to investigate the possibility of electronic transfer between accounts, which would hopefully result in a reduction in charges.

4. Treasurers Report: -

Tony Hansford presented the following report:

Balance at 3rd November 2004	<u>5988.56€</u>	
Money to Bank from 04/11/04-01/12/04	62.90€	Social Profit
	641.66€	Various items
Total Banking from 04/11/04-01/12/04	<u>704.56€</u>	
Outgoings from 04/11/04 – 01/12/04	115.00€	Annual Draw Tickets
	95.68€	Various Expenses
Total Outgoings 04/11/04 – 01/12/04	<u>210.68€</u>	
Balance at 1st December 2004	<u>6482.44€</u>	

5. Welfare Officers Report: -

David Carlton reported on the following Welfare cases.

- 5.1. Ref. 5.1 in November minutes. No further information received.
- 5.2. Ref. 5.2 in November minutes. Application for extension of Welfare grants successful, with one case receiving a slight increase.
- 5.3. Ref. 5.3 in November minutes. Still unable to make contact with potential new Welfare Officer.
- 5.4. David reported on the case of a lady with cancer, that has now been taken over by the RBL, and who is now in Nightingale House.
- 5.5. David also mentioned a case that was reported in UK newspapers of a gentleman with Alzheimers who had allegedly been dumped in a Nursing Home in UK. Following investigation of the case, David Hannah, UK Welfare Officer, reported that the gentleman in question was not a member of RAFA, and

that no application for assistance had been made to RAFA, RAFBF or any RAFA Branch, and that the only assistance that could be offered would be financial.

6. Wings Appeal Report: -

6.1. Totals sent to CHQ for 2004 Wings Appeal was 6,100€ and £210 sterling

6.2. The Wings target for next year will be set at the AGM.

7. Social Events Report: -

7.1 All future social events are as advertised in the monthly Newsletter.

7.2 Marlene Elliott reported that Wayne Michaels had been booked for Valentines Night in February 2005.

7.3 Tickets for this years Dinner Dance have been going very slowly and everyone was asked to make an extra effort to sell more. Arrangements were confirmed regarding table layouts and decorations, top table, display of standards and other issues regarding the Annual Dinner Dance.

8. Any Other Reports: -

8.1 Steve Mullis reported that at Remembrance Sunday 156€ was presented to St George's and 25€ presented to the British Cemetery to go towards upkeep of the War Graves. This money was raised from the sale of tapas and drinks after the ceremony. The Branch also got a good report with photographs in the Costa del Sol News. It was also suggested that because of the number of wreath layers at this years ceremony and problems getting the British Consul through, that he should lay his wreath first.

9. Other Notified Items: -

None

10. Any Other Business: -

10.1 Reg Haywood reported that he was still awaiting confirmation from RAF Music Services regarding the proposed Band Tour in 2005. He was also making arrangements to discuss the issue with Pepe Nieto (Deputy Mayor) from the Benalmádena Ayuntamiento.

10.2 Steve Mullis reported that he had received an offer for a RAF Gibraltar tour to include a Rock trip for a maximum of 30 people.

10.3 All Committee members were again reminded of the need to inform the Secretary in writing of their intention regarding Committee posts for 2005, by December 23rd.

11. Date of Next Meeting: - Annual General Meeting Thursday 6th January at 14:00 in the Galaxy Bar

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:25 hrs.