

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 20:00 on Wednesday 7th September 2005

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Steve Mullis Vice Chairman
Reg Haywood Secretary/Treasurer
Fred Briggs Wings Appeal Organiser

Associate Members

Marlene Elliott Social Events Coordinator
Sandra Martin Social Events Coordinator
Julie Mullis Publicity Officer

1. **Apologies were received from:** - Derek Brown, Mary Shaw, Mike Beaumont, Alan Gibson

2. **The minutes from the last meeting were read, signed and accepted.**

3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:** -

- 3.1 Fred Briggs queried the apparent high cost of expenses for Mijas International Day. Steve Mullis explained that most of the cost was for the purchase of food, and was about the same as in previous years. Steve also pointed out that proceeds for the day were over twice the expenses.

4. **Treasurers Report:** -

Balance at 31st July 2005 8908.66€

Money to Bank during August 2005 1125.00€ Band Tour Income

Total Income July 2005 1125.00€

Outgoings during August 2005 1643.65€ Band Expenses
41.25€ Stationery
1002.00€ Welfare Payment to Sol Andalusi
8.82€ Welfare Travel Expenses

Total Outgoings during August 2005 2695.72€

Balance at 31st August 2005 7337.94€

Welfare Officers Report: -

5.1. Mary Shaw reported via Email on the following cases: -

5.1.1 Re the couple from El Chorro - their family collected the items of small furniture and medical aids last week and transported them to the UK and my son and I transported the couple to Sol Andalusi for which the Branch is paying the biggest part of the bill but I got a contribution from the local RBL of 447€. As there will be other minor expenses I have left a 'float' Of 100€ with reception to cover these incidentals that have in principal been agreed and will collect a completed receipt next week.

They fly to Stanstead on Thursday and will be transferred to Clacton by the son, where I have facilitated arrangements for them to rent a sheltered accommodation flat. I have made arrangements for immediate assessment of their financial situation by the appropriate Department (the old DHSS) in order that they can claim all the allowances, i.e. DLA and obtain any other adjustments the flat needs etc.

Mary requested how she could make contact with a local RAFA Branch or Rep to maintain contact and RAFA help?

The family have expressed the deep gratitude to RAFA for their assistance and asked that this be noted. I last visited on Sunday evening and they seem very happy with their accommodation and relieved to be returning to the UK so Sylvia can have the full care she needs. It must be said that he has cared for her

extremely well and it is his now failing health not just the financial situation that has brought about this assisted return. The location of their home here was of course totally unsuitable and we were unable to provide any assistance to them in any form other than advising on returning to UK.

5.1.2 Couple from Arroyo de la Miel. Mike Beaumont and I have also been dealing with this couple and are looking at helping him become more mobile. This may involve the purchase of an EPV or as there are several problems with that it MAYBE preferential to rent. Now August is over and Spain is back to work I hope to get answer to some of the question.

5.2 The above reports prompted some questions being asked by the committee. Reg Haywood reported that the case in 5.1.1 resulted in the high cost of Welfare payment noted in the Treasurer's Report. It is hoped that this may be covered by a payment from RAFA or RAFBF, to which claims have been submitted. Steve Mullis explained that on some occasions where time is of the essence we couldn't wait for grants from RAFA or RAFBF, but need to deal with the need at the time. He also said that this is our reason for raising funds.

In the case reported in 5.2, some concern was expressed about the proposed purchase of an EPV as this raises issues of cost, insurance, maintenance and storage.

5.3 Having recognised the excellent work being done by our Welfare Officers, and not wishing to hamper their work in any way, the Committee felt there should be more accountability as our funds are not limitless and we are likely to be dealing with more high-cost cases in the future. To this end the Committee agreed to impose a limit of 500€ spend on each individual Welfare case and if this needed to be exceeded it should be referred to the Committee. Where this was not possible because of the urgency of the case the request should be referred to the Chairman/Vice Chairman, who has the authority to sanction the funds.

6. Wings Appeal Report: -

6.1 Fred Briggs reported that 112.60€ had been collected from year round boxes during August.

6.2 The collection on the night of the Band Concert raised 147.69€

6.3 A further 40€ was handed over by Brian Marsh (concert sponsor) from his Home Collecting Box.

6.4 Fred issued boxes for airport collection, starting Saturday 10th September, and individual money bags with stickers for date and time of collection.

7. Social Events Report: -

7.1 Marlene Elliott reported that The House that Jack Built was now closed so they were looking for an alternative venue for the Christmas Dinner Dance. Possibilities to date are Casa Chims and Crystals. Steve Mullis suggested Aguamania, near Cartama, where we could provide a coach at a small additional cost. The Social Events Coordinators were asked to explore all these options and make a decision as soon as possible.

7.2 Marlene issued tickets for the Battle of Britain Wings Week Social. The buffet would be decided after the meeting.

8. Any Other Reports: -

8.1 Reg Haywood reported on the success of the Band Concert. While final figures were not available it was estimated that approx 420 people attended, although the atmosphere generated made it feel like more, and the current estimated proceeds after costs was almost 4000€, but there were still two possible bills to be settled, the balance for the Band meal at Hercules and any cost the ayuntamiento may choose to impose.

Reg also reported that he had been invited to visit the RAF Music Service PR and Marketing Manager while in England in October, to commence discussions for a similar event next year. Steve Mullis expressed reservations about holding the event again next year. After some discussions on the merits and otherwise it was agreed to defer the decision to the AGM in January.

Reg Haywood will write a full report before his brief return to England early in October.

9. Other Notified Items: -

9.1 No notified items.

10. Any Other Business: -

10.1 Reg Haywood reported on an Email he had received from Simon Martin following a request for advise on UK Welfare Travel costs. The current payment for UK Welfare travel is 40p/mile. This calculates at 0.34€ per Kilometre. It was agreed that Branch Welfare travel expenses would be set at 0.35€ per kilometre and reviewed at the AGM.

11. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 2nd November 2005 at 20:00 in the Galaxy Bar.

Since many committee members would not be available, there will be no committee meeting in October. There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:30 hrs.