

Costa Blanca Anglo Spanish Association.....Survival

Our survival could be likened to a three-legged stool: Financial, Programme, Committee. Should any one of these legs be missing, the whole thing falls down. So, where are we now and what do we need to do for our future survival?

Financial: During the past three years we have had to adapt to a shrinking membership. For this reason, we now meet at the El Rodat, have dispensed with liability insurance, and are organising trips in conjunction with a travel company. These measures have saved and will continue to save the Association a considerable amount of money and, at our present level of membership, will give us a break-even balance at the next AGM.

Programme: An interesting programme of speakers and day trips is essential both to retain current members and attract new people into the Association. The present committee already has an outline speaker programme for 2012 and we intend to work closely with the travel company for the day trips and, if viable, weekends and holidays. Using the resources of the travel company means that we take advantage of their knowledge, guides, insurance, and with no risk to ourselves of expensive recesses.

Committee: As has been stated many times during the past three years, there is a legal requirement here in Spain for any Association to have a committee. This committee has to comprise of the minimum of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and one spokesperson. As we will be losing at least two committee members next year, you the members will need to elect at the very least a president, vice president, and treasurer. It is not too early to think how individually you can fill one of these places.

So what is involved in being a committee member? The official description is stated in section two of the Association's Constitution and can be read on our website. What we actually do is meet five times a year (a couple of hours each on average) and for the past year or so we have published the minutes of the meetings on the website so that you can read our deliberations and see the nitty gritty of our involvement.

We are also obviously involved in devising the programme, arranging meals for after Association meetings and liaising with restaurants. We get to the Rodat an hour prior to each meeting for the necessary organisation.

Our Constitution states that committee members MAY sit for three years and MAY stand for reelection after a gap of two years. In other words, a committee member could just serve for one or two years in order to keep the Association viable for the future.

At the last AGM, arms were twisted and we have fortunately been able to function and enjoy ourselves as an Association during this present year. There is no guarantee that this will happen again and this year's committee will then have to place a proposal to the AGM next January that the Association be wound up.

To summarise, our finances and programme are in good order but we **must** elect a new committee at the next AGM. **Over to you!**

September 2011
Committee.