

BROS NEWSLETTER

November 2007. Number 107

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The BROS meeting was held at 5.30pm on Thursday 13th September, 2007 at Lou Paradou Club on a sunny warm Canebieres Day. It was attended by 57 members.

Bob opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. In particular he welcomed Joan and Derek Sadd and Peggy and Jim Anscombe. Bob drew attention to the 40th anniversary exhibition in the Lou Paradou Club. To celebrate the anniversary there would be a substantial buffet after the meeting. Also the meeting would be addressed by Alastair Ross, chairman of the British Association of the Var.

Ros and Melanie welcomed M Valentin and M Jacquemin. M Valentin said that we were all part of Canebieres and should help to move it forward. It was not just for holiday makers. As far as the building permits were concerned there had been no change in the position. The domain was in good shape and its finances in a healthy state.

M Valentin said that Rod Blackmore was working illegally as he had not produced the right papers although he had been asked since April and could be penalised for this. [Bob and Melanie had a meeting the next day with M Jacquemin who said that this had been mentioned as a warning as there may be problems with insurance. It was pointed out to M Jacquemin that this came as a surprise particularly as some work was already in progress. He agreed to produce a list of those builders who were approved. I understand that this matter has been resolved as Rod Blackmore has now got all the necessary documentation.]

M Valentin further said that the Statutes of the Domain had not been updated for 20 years. He invited BROS members to contribute to this updating of the statutes and also to contribute to the Domain Gazette if they so wished. A history of the domain had been published and needed to be translated into English. [Pam Kilbey agreed to do this].

Bob thanked Ros and Melanie for their help with the translating.

Bob referred to the sad loss of Stuart Taylor who had been drowned in a boating accident on Lac Ste Croix. He is buried in the cemetery at La Salle de Verdon. Flowers had been sent to Louise on behalf of BROS members.

Bob also referred to the fire at Noreen and Barry Chapman's plot which sadly destroyed their mobile home but thankfully they were not injured. Bob read a letter from Barry thanking all those who had helped them over this traumatic period. Members were reminded to check their electrical fittings, smoke alarms and availability of hose pipes.

a: BROS Finances.

Due to Joan Sadd's illness there was no treasurer's report but Bob reported that the account stood at £341.00. This matter will be resolved in 2008.

Bob reported that he had given the usual bottle of whisky to M Valentin and M Jacquemin and a box of chocolates to each of the ladies who work in the office. €50 was left at the bureau as a gift to the Le Muy fire service as a Christmas gift from members.

b: Seat in Memory of Paul Richardson

Bob also reported that it had been suggested that a seat be purchased in memory of Paul Richardson. Dot and Bob had visited several locations and had located a suitable bench type seat in stone at Atelier Prete at Puget costing €300. A collection was held at the meeting which raised the necessary money. The surplus being credited to BROS funds. [Ros and Robin Treacher wished to purchase their own seat. The domain agreed to collect and to install both seats also to fix a plaque to the seat relating to Paul Richardson. Both seats are now installed. The seat for Paul is near the bottom of Avenue H. The other is in Avenue A just above its junction with Avenue B. A photograph of the seat in Avenue H is attached. Bob has written to Helen accordingly.]

c: Autoroute Telepage.

Melanie reported that if members wished to make use of this system when using the autoroute it costs €10 to start and obtain the necessary equipment. There would only be a charge if the system was used. Payment would be made by direct debit. A postal account would cost €2 for each monthly account. An email account would cost €1.50 per month.

d: BROS Newsletters

Bob reported that BROS had been indebted for the past 8 or 9 years to Ros and Robin Treacher for producing and distributing the newsletters without any cost to BROS members. However as Ros is changing jobs this will no longer be possible.

Bob expressed the very grateful thanks of all BROS members to Ros and Robin and asked members to express their thanks which they did.

Bob asked if any other member who would be able to carry out the distribution of the newsletters, if so would they please contact him. Without this the subscriptions may have to increase to £5 or €7.

e: BROS Website

Paul Topham's son Antony who is carrying out a computer project with web sites and email agreed to take on the BROS web site. It will be www.dcanebieres.com

f: British Association of the Var

Bob then introduced Alastair Ross chairman of the B A of the Var who was accompanied by Tim Russell and John Collingwood.

Alastair then outlined the details of the association. It had 498 members. Whilst it did have many social functions it was not a drinking or gourmet club but was to provide help for British people in need. It could only give financial aid if there was a British person in the family. It will help with financial or medical matters, also with the Carte Vitel for residents. It will help with dealing with the Marie and the police. It can help with a death, having a baby or buying a car. He said that you need an electricity bill to buy a car in France.

They do have lunches, walks and other outings. At the moment the association has €170,000 in the bank. This can be used in appropriate cases to give loans. They maintain address books and have Christmas cards.

The subscription will cost €20 for an individual and €38 for a couple per year. Any member wishing to join should contact the secretary Clare Brown 00 33 04 94 72 37 42 or by email at ellisandclare@aol.com Many members agreed to join.

Bob thanked Alastair and his colleagues for attending the meeting and invited them to stay for the buffet.

Bob hoped that everyone would enjoy the buffet. He also said that as the BROS drinking glasses were not used they were available for anyone to take charge of them or they would be disposed off.

Bob then concluded the meeting by thanking Joan and Tong Godwin for dealing with the finances at the meeting. He thanked Elsie for the help that she had given during the year. He also thanked all those who had helped with the meeting.

2: Joan Sadd

Joan continues to deteriorate and is now very ill. She is unable to converse or eat properly and all though she is heavily sedated she is still in much pain. It is a very sad time for her family.

3: BROS treasurer

Tony Godwin has kindly agreed to take over the roll of treasurer. It needs a resolution of the membership to confirm this. Please accept this as notice of the resolution which in the absence of objections will be confirmed.

Do not send any further subscriptions to Joan but send them to Tony at 36 Woodmans Vale, Chipping Sodbury, Bristol. BS37 6DL Telephone 01454 315467

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