**Ex- Baghdad HHH reunion Benahavis 2016…Bulletin March 2016!**

Many of you arrive in Benahavis on **friday 10 June** and we will all be looking after ourselves on this evening. Our intention is to open a registration desk in the hotel foyer from 17.30 to 19.00 when we will also issue event Tee-Shirts. Benahavis town centre is a 15-20 minute walk up the hill from the hotel and there are many bar and restaurant choices there as well as in the hotel.

**Saturday 11 June** is our big day! After a hearty hotel breakfast we plan to meet at the hotel entrance at 10.30am to commence our Andalucian challenge. Our hares have deliberated long and hard (LOL) to select trails that suit all abilities (commensurate with our generally advancing ages and osteoarthritic limitations) which will of course incorporate a compulsory drinks stop or two to top up our by then diminished level of hydration. We estimate that we will arrive at our venue for the On-On at about 13-13.30.

The On-On will be held on the private terrace of a lively bar. Wine, beer soft drinks and even water will be on tap and a scrumptious buffet including the following dishes should bring our calorific equilibrium back on track.

* King Prawns in lime zest, chile and garlic.
* BBQ chicken wings with homemade BBQ sauce.
* Fresh garden salad of cherry tomatoes, green beans, spring onions, cucumber, marinated fresh peas and a light french dressing.
* Marinated anchovies with roasted red peppers.
* Marinate chicken skewers with ginger, soy, chile and lime.
* Breaded fish goujons served with tartare sauce.
* Homemade mini burgers.
* Crushed new potato salad with chive mayonnaise.
* Jerked chicken served with pickled pineapple with rice and peas.
* Pea pesto crostini with serrano ham, cherry tomato and fresh basil.
* Smoked salmon, cream cheese and fresh spinach rolls.
* And of course …chunky chips!

Post the Down- Downs we have allowed some slack in the time-table for recovery in the hotel spa, swimming pool or even a sneaky siesta before we re-convene in the Los Molinos Banqueting suite at 19.30 for cocktails….i.e. jars of sangria or beer before dinner! Dress code for the evening is smart casual or better and it gives those with the desire an opportunity to put on their glad rags. ..in fact we positively encourage this!

Dinner will commence at 20.15…now this is where we need to re-engage the brain as choices are involved and we need to be **advised of your selection by the end of May**…..please do take note of this as your responses to any requests to date have reached a score of two out of ten at best as issued by a very generous adjudicator!!!!!

**Starter course:**

Fresh Stuffed Pineapple with Prawn Cocktail Sauce.

OR

Selection of the chefs delights: ( Mini Salmon Tartare, Spoons’s Marinade, Mini Melon and Serrano Ham Brochette, Duck Hm and Partridge flavoured Pate).

**Main Course.**

Kingklip Splashed with a Cava Sauce, Duchess Potatoes, Tomato and Spinach.

OR

Beef Entrocote, Panders Potatoes, Broccoli and Carrots.

**Dessert.**

Chef’s Selection.

**Drinks** included comprise House wine, Jugs of beer, Jars of Sangria and Mineral Water.

**Entertainment.**

We have arranged for an interactive after dinner performance with the Al Alba Flamenco troupe which we estimate will occur between 22.15 and 23.00.

Thereafter the locally renowned DJ Larry Jazz will enable us to dance and drink the night away until 01.00 on Sunday morning.

**Bar.**

Post entertainment there is an open bar until midnight when they will be serving:-

Whiskey: Ballantines & J&P.

Brandy:Veterano.

Rum: Cacique, Barcelo or Barcadi.

Gin: Larios or Beefeater.

Vodka: Smirnoff.

Liqueurs: Baileys, Amaretto and Pacharan.

Beer: Amstel on draft.

Soft drinks: various.

**Drinks after midnight are to your own account.**

We have no formal plans or budget for **Sunday 12 June,** but do have ideas that you may wish to consider. We can discuss these after breakfast. This is also when we will vote for next years venue.

1. There is a river and aqueduct running down the valley from Benahavis and the local authorities have recently created a pleasant board walk and country trail which takes in the option ( or not!) of following the river through some limestone caves on a section of this trail -i.e. swimmers required!. This is very popular with the locals in June and also passes by a local flea market set in the middle of nowhere really. Duration say 2-3 hours. This would be a nice way to walk off breakfast and calm the head from any saturday night excesses.
2. The beach! There are beaches all along the coast, but a nice one with a good local Churingito ( beach bar) is at Cancellada which is approximately 15-20 mins away by taxi.
3. A visit to Puerto Banus where there are many top end retailers, bars and restaurants where some of the super rich keep their boats. This is always busy, interesting and .…expensive!
4. Chill out by the hotel pool!
5. By chance……well no…….by cunning plan actually, we have managed to arrange the for the last day of the Marbella Feria to coincide with our re-union. We therefore strongly suggest that on sunday evening at about 18.00 that we make our way by taxi to the Feria ground in Marbella and experience first hand how the Spanish eat , drink and have fun! I assure you that it will be a night to remember.

**On-On and looking forward to seeing you all in Benahavis.**

**BTW- the Hash Cash cost of the above is 125€**

**Finally, the numbers for this event now stands at 62 which is fantastic! We look forward to a great weekend and I take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us this year and long may this camaraderie continue!**

**ON-ON.**