

Dear members

As the month of May begins we are fully into Springtime and beginning to dust off our swimming shorts, the most courageous of us tentatively dipping our toes in the water and bracing ourselves for the warmer climate.

Last month we held the evening cocktail at Buddha bar which was great fun, it was well attended and I was happy to see many members present. Equally the cocktails at Novotel have also seemed to be quite popular with our members.

As usual at this time of the year, Monaco also held its annual events. Rafael Nadal capped a magical week at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters, surging to the title on a pristine, sun-kissed afternoon in the Principality. He was at his dominant best against Kei Nishikori, beating him 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 in the final to become the first man in the Open era to win the same title 11 times.

It was also good to see his semi-final rival, Grigor Dimitrov at the Monaco/USA QuizNite at the Star Deck, on the winning table. A BAM table was also organised and present, with a respectable 3rd place podium victory. We hope to see a few more BAM members present next year!

As a car enthusiast, I was pleased to see the 15th anniversary edition of Top Marques, the world's only live luxury automobile show where more than 40,000 visited the show. This is now the Principality's third most popular, event after the much anticipated Grand Prix!

Springtime in Monaco is not only synonymous with Super Cars and Tennis but also of a new Art renaissance which includes mainstays like Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, the Festival Printemps des Arts and newcomer, Artmonte-Carlo, The "Monaco Art Week" which involved the whole Principality giving birth to an urban-interconnected Art exposition and round tables promoted by the main art galleries and auction houses.

This month BAM will be holding a Wine & Cheese tasting and we are hoping to see many of you there for an evening of light fun entertainment amongst friends.

John Luigi Megginson

President

## OBITUARY

We were very sad to learn of the death of Gerry Williams on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, at the age of 96. Gerry and his wife, Golda, came to live in Monaco during the 1970s and were active members of BAM for many years. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his daughters, Ruth and Naomi and the other members of his family.

## PAST EVENTS

### **Monaco/USA Quiznite**

BAM members made up a team to compete in the annual Monaco/USA Quiznite on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April, managing a very respectable third place overall and only very narrowly missing the prize for the best team name. Our thanks to Angie Taylor for coming up with "Wham, BAM, thank you Ma'am," which so nearly won, beaten only by the "Titanic Swim Team." We are looking forward to brushing up on our U.S. trivia and doing even better next year!

### **"Meet the New Committee" – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

As those who braved the torrential rain to make it to the Novotel will know, our plans for a lovely sunny buffet cocktail evening at the Wine Palace were well and truly washed out by the terrible weather but we didn't allow ourselves to be beaten and more than twenty stalwarts bravely turned up to congratulate our new President and meet the newly elected members of our Committee, as well as those who are continuing in their rôles. A big thank you to everyone for making such an effort on a dreadful evening.

### **Cocktails at the Buddha Bar**

For our second cocktails of the month, on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April, we returned to the Buddha Bar where, once again, more than twenty members enjoyed the cosy atmosphere and inventive drinks and snacks.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **Lunch at the Lycée Technique - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

Please email [bam@monaco.mc](mailto:bam@monaco.mc) to reserve your place. Due to the limited number of spaces available, bookings are on a first come, first served basis. The lunch takes place at the **Cordon d'Or** cookery school in the **Lycée Technique et Hôtelier**, beginning at 12.15pm and will finish around 2.30pm. The cost is 17€ excluding drinks.

### **Wine and Cheese Tasting – Date & place to be confirmed**



An opportunity to taste wines from "Pure Taste France" is being arranged. Originally from the Netherlands, Anne and Eric Willemsen have now started their thriving new young company, based in Lorgues, following more than thirty years' experience in the restaurant and wine world. They will be bringing with them not only a wide range of wines for tasting, which can then be ordered on the night for delivery to Monaco but also their own range of gourmet cheeses, specially selected to complement each wine.

Further information about the company can be found on [www.facebook.com/puretastefrance/](https://www.facebook.com/puretastefrance/)

We are still completing arrangements for this event so please keep an eye on your email updates for further details.



## THERE WILL BE TEARS!

**19<sup>th</sup> May – A DAY TO REMEMBER**



As just about anyone who hasn't been living in a parallel universe for the last few months will know by now, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May is guaranteed to boost the sales of Kleenex tissues, whether it be to deal with the tears of joy at Harry and Meghan's wedding celebrations or those shed for the winners/losers of the FA Cup Final!

Whilst the Royal Wedding will take place in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at noon, the "other" match will not begin until 5pm so there will be plenty of time to celebrate both events.

Newly-established in Monaco is the "Monaco Challenge" Association, which aims to organise challenges, both sporting and non-sporting, to raise funds for a variety of charities and causes. Their first event is in celebration of the Royal Wedding and will be held on the Star Deck at Stars 'n Bars, when they will launch the Monaco Tree Challenge, which aims (over time!) to plant a tree for every citizen and resident of Monaco – 37,550!

BAM members are heartily invited to attend - a welcome drink, Brit/US nibbles, a Prosecco toast for the wedding, a tree kit and cocoa tree chocolate bar, and entry to a tombola with great prizes, are all included in the entry price of €30. You can watch the wedding live on the big screen and are encouraged to dress up - **RED WHITE AND BLUE!** A great fun event, with the added bonus of saving the planet too.

For further details visit <https://www.facebook.com/monacochallenge/>

**Please note that, owing to the Grand Prix, there will be no cocktails on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> May.**

On the **8<sup>th</sup> June**, the **MonacoUSA** club will be running a dinner concert, *Divas Through the Decades*, featuring the **Diva Darlings** and held at the **StarDeck**. For more details and bookings visit their web site at <http://www.monacousa.org/>

**DON'T FORGET! Celebration of the Queen's birthday – 13<sup>th</sup> June at the Café de Paris!**

**VISIT TO THE SUMMER EXHIBITION AT THE GRIMALDI FORUM – Save the date**

**The Gold of the Pharaohs – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm**

This year's annual summer exhibition at the Grimaldi Forum will feature more than 150 masterpieces on loan from the Cairo Museum, including sumptuous ensembles (sarcophagi and funeral masks, gold and jewels, liturgical items and tableware).

We have arranged a private guided tour of the exhibition on 12<sup>th</sup> July at 5pm.

The tour will be followed by cocktails. Further details to be advised.



## LOCAL NEWS

### Monaco Bookworms

The Monaco Bookworms book club meets every third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at St Paul's library and BAM members are most welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on 17th May and the book to be discussed is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. Contact [lyd.porter](mailto:lyd.porter@maboum.com) on [maboum.com](http://maboum.com).

### MAY – the Month of the Grands Prix

#### Happenings at the Automobile Club of Monaco

Monaco, and more specifically, the Automobile Club de Monaco, is currently organising the 76<sup>th</sup> Formula One Grand Prix event (24th-27<sup>th</sup> May), along with the 11<sup>th</sup> "Historic" Grand Prix, to take place two weeks beforehand (11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> May). So what's new about this year's Grand Prix?

1. The list of competitors includes a Monégasque, Charles Leclerc, in one of the Saubers.
2. Brand new pits, completely redesigned to give the teams a superb location for doing everything required to prepare – or repair – the cars as speedily and efficiently as possible.
3. The race will be preceded by a rendition of the Monaco National Anthem by the Prince's Carabiniers. These splendidly attired musicians are well known to BAM members from their performances at the Association's annual Queen's Birthday cocktail for the last two years.

And what is unchanged? - The same circuit, with barriers keeping the cars separated from the crowds. The same frenetic activity, on the circuit, in the grand-stands and streets of the Principality alike. And, finally, the grid girls will still be present. President of the ACM, Michel Boéri, has negotiated with Liberty Media to permit these aspiring models to have the opportunity of parading and presenting the cars and drivers as they have done so well in previous years.

## BAM PATRONS

We thank our Patrons for their continued support of BAM's work within the Principality.

 <p><b>Barclays</b></p>	 <p><b>Banque J. Safra (Monaco)</b></p>	 <p><b>LANDMARK TRUST GROUP</b> Landmark Management SAM</p>
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<b>John Luigi Megginson</b>	- President	<b>Ann-Marie Hayward</b>	- Member
<b>Stephen Bull</b>	- Vice-President	<b>Audrey Blair Roux</b>	- Member
<b>Brian Chancellor</b>	- Honorary Treasurer	<b>Lincoln Phipps</b>	- Member
<b>Michael Greenwood</b>	- Honorary Secretary	<b>Yvonne Bernhardt</b>	- Chair of CST
<b>Patrick Coote</b>	- Member	<b>Julie Lewis</b>	- Member
<b>Eric Blair</b> – Ex-officio member, Honorary Consul		<b>Vivienne Taylor</b>	- Administrator

To provide a focus for British and Commonwealth citizens residing in Monaco and surrounding areas to meet socially, represent their views in the Principality and to provide a welfare service for those in need.

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