

Dear Members,

It has been a year since our last AGM and, following a nail-biting electoral roll and successful re-election, you will, I hope, be happy to know that we have another year of informative newsletters and exciting events in store for you.

May is always an exciting month in the Principality. When I think of the major global sporting events in Monaco, two particular ones always come straight to mind, which also happen to fall in close proximity to each other. These are the annual Rolex Tennis Masters Tournament and the Formula 1 Series Monaco Grand Prix (apologies to those who follow Ligue 1!).

This year's Monte-Carlo Masters marked quite a change from previous years, in that the 11 time Champion, Rafael Nadal lost his title to the young Italian, Fabio Fognini at the semifinal stage, repeating his recent performance in Barcelona. The Italian went on to beat Serbia's Dusan Lajovic quite decisively in the final, becoming the first Italian for many years to take the title.

No sooner is the excitement (not to mention the traffic chaos!) of the tennis over than we at once begin to look forward to the largest revenue-generating event for the Principality, the Grand Prix! Whenever I am travelling and meeting people, as soon as they find out that I am from Monaco, the question on everyone's lips always seems to concern the magic words "Grand Prix" - coupled with the (false) assumption that everyone works from an office on a superyacht! What they perhaps do not realise, aside from the fact that Monaco is so much more than the Grand Prix, is the sheer amount of organisation and planning which goes into mounting it. I am always impressed at how quickly the stands go up around the circuit, starting up to two months before the event itself. It is also difficult to explain the complications of access during the four days, how just reaching the port or getting around Monaco becomes a hugely complicated ordeal; the sheer numbers of people and noise level can become quite disorientating. Nevertheless, when 2pm on Sunday 26 May finally arrives and the lights turn to green, I have to admit that I do enjoy it - what's more, this year we are doubly lucky, with the addition of the ePrix on Saturday 11 May - altogether a much quieter affair!

Finally, to round off the end of the month, cars will be in the spotlight once again, with the return of "Top Marques Monaco," under new ownership this time and with three world premières : the McLaren *Grand Tourer*, Ferox's *Azaris* and the *Zacaria*, the first ever street-legal Formula 1 supercar (available for purchase at the Show for a cool \$1 million!). Well, one can dream....

Enjoy the month.

John Luigi Megginson
President

PAST EVENTS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 2 April – Maison des Associations



Although our 2019 AGM was attended by rather fewer members than we should have liked, the meeting ran smoothly and, with the exception of Stephen Bull, who, having served his full term as a Committee member, was required to step down, the existing President and Committee were re-elected for a further term.

Luc Blais (*pictured left*) was elected to the Committee to replace Stephen and was welcomed warmly by the President. At the subsequent Committee meeting, Luc was unanimously elected Honorary Treasurer. We thank him for taking on this valuable and important rôle in the management of the Association.

Our Ex-officio member and Honorary British Consul, Eric Blair, outlined a few pointers relevant to us as residents of the Principality, particularly with reference to BREXIT and commented on the youth of the Committee and the success and vigour demonstrated by the new team!

Eric also mentioned an important matter : if anyone is placed in the position of needing emergency travel documents, these must be applied for online **before** travelling to Marseille to collect them. It is not possible simply to present oneself in Marseille to demand such documents.

BAM KEEPING FIT – Our girls are showing how it's done!

Last month's newsletter featured a new, gentle exercise class run by Lisa Parker on Wednesday mornings. Lisa has already recruited an enthusiastic group of BAM members eager to regain their "fit" bodies ready for the summer. If you would like to join Lisa's group, contact her at lisajazzmin@gmail.com. Her studio is at Monaco Broadcast, next door to Stars 'n' Bars.

BAM members will receive a discount on a course of 4 classes.



THURSDAY COCKTAILS – 11 April – Novotel - Meet the New Committee



For our special "Meet the new Committee" cocktails following the AGM, we were able to discover the newly refurbished Novotel's bar. The new décor is very light and airy and we were happy to record our largest ever turnout for such an occasion. This venue certainly seems to be very popular with our members. A copious and varied selection of tapas-style delicacies was served whilst everyone had an opportunity to catch up on all the news. Whilst we try to vary our venues, we appreciate that we cannot please everyone all the time and are always happy to consider suggestions for new venues so please let us know if you have a favourite venue.

THURSDAY COCKTAILS – 25 April – Flashman's

Rather better weather than the last time we visited Flashman's meant that those who wished could take advantage of the fresh air, whilst the rest of us opted for the covered terrace to enjoy our drinks, accompanied by very generous plates of foccaccia, pissaladière and pizzetta.

Unfortunately, we have to mention one important matter : **PLEASE** be sure to pay for your drinks as you order. We were left with a bill for unpaid drinks on this occasion. We know it's easy to forget whether you had two or three (particularly after three!....) and this is not fair on those who pay promptly, or on BAM, which has to foot the bill, so please take care to pay up.

LUNCH at the LYCÉE TECHNIQUE et HOTELIER de MONACO – Friday 26 April



A most successful lunch was held at the Lycée Technique et Hôtelier on 26 April. As previously mentioned, these lunches have proved so popular that we have had to increase our monthly group reservation from six to eight places.

Our lucky members on this occasion enjoyed a delicious gazpacho with gambas followed by seabass with assorted vegetables and the delicious and artistically presented fruit salad (pictured right).



Needless to say, the next lunch, on 10th May is already fully booked. The Lycée Technique then closes its doors until the autumn, after la rentrée.

FUTURE EVENTS

THURSDAY COCKTAILS – 9 May - 6pm-8pm – Caffè Milano

We are introducing a new venue for our cocktails on 9 May. Caffè Milano (formerly called "Le Virage") is situated in the corner of the Port, below Ste-Dévote, next door to Ubaldi. They are making us a special offer of a demi-pizza and glass of wine for €10 but of course other drinks and snacks will be available.

THURSDAY COCKTAILS – 23 May – 6pm-8pm – L'Oliveraie

We do not normally have a cocktails evening during Grand Prix week but if any of you would like to get together at L'Oliveraie in the Place des Moulins (well away from all the noise and bustle) you will be very welcome. As many of you will know, the wine there is very cheap (€2 per glass or €3 for a quart) so don't expect free nibbles but you can of course order from their extensive snack menu.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY COCKTAIL – Tuesday 18 JUNE - 7pm – Café de Paris



We are delighted to confirm our annual celebration of the official birthday of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, to be held once again in the Salon Bellevue and Terrace of the Café de Paris, set in the heart of Monaco's Place du Casino, overlooking the famous "Camembert" and edifices of the sumptuous new "One Monte-Carlo" complex.

As those of you who have attended in previous years will know, this is our flagship event of the year, when not only do we pay tribute to our Sovereign, the longest reigning monarch in history, but also salute H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco as ruler of the Principality in which we have the privilege of residing. To this end, we welcome many of the dignitaries of His Government, the Conseil National and other Monégasque institutions to celebrate with us.

Entertainment will be provided by the prestigious Goldberg Trio, formed from members of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo.

As in previous years, entrance will be by **PREPAID TICKET ONLY.** For full details and booking form please click [HERE \(pdf\)](#).

OTHER NEWS

BRADERIE de la CROIX ROUGE – Saturday 4 May

From 8.30am until 5pm the Espace Léo Ferré, just above the Fontvieille Shopping Centre, will host the Croix Rouge Monégasque's annual Red Cross Day celebration sale, featuring a wide range of goods for sale and a tombola, all in aid of the purchase of an electric-powered people carrier.

EXPOSITION CANINE INTERNATIONALE – Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 May

On Saturday and Sunday 4 & 5 May the Espace Fontvieille will be filled with dogs of every conceivable shape and size, from the midget chi-hua-huas to the mighty Malamuths so if your fancy runs to our four legged furry friends, this is the weekend treat for you. Full information on 93 50 55 14.



CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL DE BOUQUETS – Saturday & Sunday 4 & 5 May



Created by Princess Grace in 1968, the Garden Club of Monaco presents its 51st annual Bouquet Competition on the Terraces of the Casino. This year's theme is "Climate" and will feature a special category for young people aged 8-18. Well worth a visit, when you will be amazed at the sheer inventiveness and imaginative use of colour and styles.

SPECIAL OFFER FROM BAM MEMBER UDI GON-PAZ

BAM member Udi Gon-Paz specialises in functional medicine therapy, wellness coaching, clinical nutrition and stress management. He is offering body composition analysis, normally costing €29, free to BAM members.

Further information is available by visiting www.wholeiswell.mc or www.facebook.com/wholeiswell or call Udi on 97 77 55 33 or 06 78 63 45 69

And finally : Don't forget the English Library, open every Saturday morning from 10.30am-noon in St. Paul's Church Hall, avenue de Grande-Bretagne. A constant supply of new reading, books for sale and a friendly chat are all on offer.

BAM PATRONS

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

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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.