



British Association of the Var

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May 2011

Newsletter

No 108

QUESTIONS AT THE AGM

Those who attended the AGM will remember that two members raised some points on the Internal Rules and Regulations. They felt that the Rules should be amended in the same forum as the Statuts ie an EGM and that it should be clearer in the Rules that Members have a right to put forward proposals before the AGM or during the proceedings. This article sets out how I came to the decision to permit different forums for amending the Statuts and the Internal Rules and Regulations.

The committee of the 1905 Association Actes 6 gave us a lot of help and guidance and I used a reference book "Créer et Gérer son Association" written by a person with a great deal of experience of 1901 Associations and verified by a team of qualified experts.

The 1901 law itself gives no guidance about which type of general meeting is appropriate for the amendment of Statuts.

The reference book advised, under the heading "La procedure de modification des statuts", "*Généralement, les modifications statutaires sont adoptées à la majorité par les membres réunis en assemblée générale, mais il est possible que la responsabilité en relève du seul conseil d'administration par exemple.*" Here, it is saying that modifications of the Statuts are generally approved by the members in a general meeting but that it is possible that the responsibility can be taken on by the committee alone.

Actes 6 advised, first, that giving the committee the sole responsibility for amendments to the Statuts was not democratic and could lead to them being amended to give advantage to one person or group of persons. They felt that the size of BAV and its charitable objectives dictated a need to allow the members to approve all amendments. Its second piece of advice was, because all amendments to the Statuts must be registered with the Préfecture together with the minutes of the meeting at which they were approved, they should be approved by a general meeting specially convened to deal only with the amendments – an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Moving on to the Internal Rules and Regulations. The reference book said "*Il peut être amendé sur simple décision du conseil d'administration. Pour qu'il puisse avoir force de loi pour ses adhérents, il doit être approuvé et connu par tous. C'est pourquoi il est préférable que le règlement intérieur soit approuvé par l'assemblée générale, puis distribué à tous les membres de l'association et affiché dans ses locaux.*" This makes it clear that, in order to have any legal effect, these rules must be approved by the members in a general meeting – any general meeting. Such rules only have to be registered with the Préfecture if the object of the association is public benefit (public in general, not a specified part of it). So, the Internal Rules and Regulations can be amended by any general meeting. By leaving it this way then any necessary amendments could be dealt with by an AGM or an EGM. The Committee decided that the wording of the rule should remain as it is.

One member raised the point that notice for an EGM should be longer than 7 days. The Committee did not agree with this. An EGM could be called to oust the Chairman or other officer or committee member and to appoint a replacement which the Association might need to do in haste. In reality, the notice would always be longer than 7 days, 7 days is the minimum.

. . . Continued on page 4

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Forthcoming Events

MAY

Finance Seminar

Thursday 5 May - Villecroze

Book Sale & Coffee Morning

Wednesday 11 May - La Motte

Coffee Morning and Book Sale

Thursday 19 May - St Maximin

Painting Group

Thursday 19 May - Salernes

'Bring and Share' Lunch

Saturday 21 May - Tavernes

Coffee Morning

Sunday 22 May - Salernes

Happy Boules

Contact: Rob Flanagan rob@baofthevar.com

Digital Photography Group

Contact: Mike Harper *****@yahoo.co.uk

Neighbourhood Network

see details on page 8

JUNE

BAV at Lorgues Brocante

Thursday 2 June

Garden Party Lunch

Saturday 4 June

GIANT BOOK SALE

and 'Bring and Share' Lunch

Wednesday 22 June – Lorgues

BAV Welfare 'Helpers Day'

Thursday 30 June - Lorgues



www.baofthevar.com

See the Latest News and Forthcoming Events on our BA website

Book Sale & Coffee Morning

Thursday 11 May 10h – 13h

at Peter and Shirley Rowson's
in La Motte

The first Book Sale of the summer. Time to exchange your Easter Holidays' reading matter for some new summer thrillers or relaxing romance!

Please advise if you are coming, and to confirm directions.

Shirley Rowson 04 *****

Coffee Morning and Book Sale

Thursday 19th May 10h30 - 12 noon

at Diana André de la Porte's home
St Maximin

It is not often we venture as far west as St Maximin, so if you live in the 'far west' of the Var here is your chance to get together.

Shirley Wrigglesworth will be there with a supply of books and representing the Committee, and looks forward to seeing you. Please 'phone Diana to confirm that you are going and for directions.

Diana 04 *****

'Bring and Share' Lunch

Saturday 21 May - 12 noon

Chez Terry & Jane Joyce
in Tavernes

A new venue, a new concept! Join us for lunch at the Treasurer's spectacular house with the view that goes forever!

Couples should bring a dish that will make 6-8 good servings, and a single person a dish of 3-4 servings. Everything goes on the table, and everyone has a choice of lots of different dishes. As it's summer, all cold please!

A 'cover charge' of €7.50 per person provides wine and bread for all. Please let Jane know in advance what you are bringing: starter/main course/veg/salad/pud.

Books will also be there!

Jane Joyce *****

Directions from the east: from Sillans La Cascade take the D32 towards Fox-Amphoux (see signs for Tavernes) stay on D32. Arrive at D71 junction and turn left towards Tavernes. As you come into village turn left directly after the restaurant (this is *****).

From the south: At Barjols follow the signs to Tavernes D554 in Tavernes after passing a car park on your right turn right to go through the village (don't blink) La Poste on the corner. Take the first right just before the restaurant (this is *****).

From the west: Follow the D554 to Tavernes, turn left to go through the village (don't blink) La Poste on the corner. Take the first right just before the restaurant (this is *****).

*****: Past the car park then about *** metres there's a small chemin on the left (big green wheelie bin on corner, **GPS 43.**** 6.******) take that road. When tarmac runs out (***) metres there's a concrete road on left and it is the house at the top of the hill (***) metres).

Sunday morning Coffee and Books

Sunday 22 May

**at the home of Ivan Rose & Danielle
Jamme in Salernes**

10h30 - 12 noon

Enjoy Morning Coffee on the terrace around the pool and admire their spectacular view, then spend some time browsing through books.

No dogs please – cats in residence!

5€ per person donation

As parking is limited, please share cars if possible. **Please 'phone** to confirm you are going and for directions!

Ivan 06 *****

New Members

This month we welcome two more new Members:

Anthony and Elizabeth Kemp from Lorgues



The **ONLY**
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UK qualified
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At first glance, it would appear that we have no shortage of competition, however, if you look closely, you will realise that we are the only company based here in the Var. You may also notice we are one of the very few British "certifié" (French qualified) advisers in the whole country.

If you are looking for the very best financial advice, why look any further?

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Conseil en Gestion de Patrimoine Certifié, Conseil en Investissement Financiers, F000116, CIF-CGPC association agréée par l'AMF

Once again at the kind invitation of
Danny Ashley Claydon

a Garden Party Lunch

at ***** , Aups

Sponsored for the first time by
CURRENCIES DIRECT

on

Saturday 4 June at 12 noon

Menu

Aubergine pâté

Egg Neapolitan

served with Toast and French Bread

Home cooked carved Roasted Ham

Baked Salmon

German Potato Salad

Green Beans

Selection of Cookies' Desserts

Café

Wine from Domaine St Marc des Omèdes Cellar

18 € for Members, 23 € for non members

At the end of the luncheon fresh carved ham will be available at 16€ per Kg, the queue will be long.

**During the event Currencies Direct will
invite all attending to enter a
FREE CHAMPAGNE PRIZE DRAW**

Please use the **Booking Form** and send to:

Jim North, ***** ,

83460 Les Arcs.

Booking form to be returned

by 28 May please

04 ***** email *****@wanadoo.fr

PLEASE remember to **bring your own** plates, cutlery, glasses, and umbrellas! Please also bring along some pocket money –

Books and Cards will be on sale!

NO DOGS PLEASE

Directions: from the south or east - drive into "Centre Ville" through the market following "Toutes Directions". The road twists around the back of the town, past ancient monasteries, a modern school across a roundabout, and finally onto what appears to be a causeway. The entrance to "*****" is on the left, and will be signed. If you miss it, there is another roundabout at the end of the bridge.

GPS coordinates – N 43.***** , E 6.*****

Continued from front page . . .

The two members who spoke raised overlapping points which, basically, related to how Members can make proposals at the AGM. They both felt that the right should be enshrined in the Internal Rules and Regulations, along with a procedure, so that it is clear to Members that they have such a right.

No general meeting can approve, sanction or agree anything which does not appear on the agenda which is circulated to all Members. So, any "motions" or "proposals" would either have to be submitted enough time ahead of the proposed GM date to enable the Committee to consider them and include them on the agenda or, if put forward at the meeting itself, would have to be recorded for discussion by the Committee for inclusion on the agenda for the next GM. This is the main reason why I, personally, do not like "Any Other Business" as an agenda item because it implies that there can be further business which is not being notified to members. This cannot happen. But, in order to make it clear that Members can put proposals forward, the Committee has decided to replace "Matters of Interest" with "Members Ideas and Suggestions".

One Member suggested that Rule 6(a) should be amended by the addition of "Any Member who wishes to make a proposal at the AGM shall submit the proposal in writing to the Secretary two months before the AGM". The Committee has agreed that a separate rule should be added but that the deadline should be "two months before the AGM or 31 December whichever is the earlier" to ensure time for discussion. The existing 7 day rule re questions relates to the content of the AGM papers and that rule will be amended to make that clear.

The Committee agreed that it should be clear in the Rules that Members could put forward proposals at the AGM itself and that those proposals would be discussed by the Committee to determine whether they should be put to the vote at the next AGM. Suitable wording will be added to the new rule referred to in the last paragraph.

Clare Brown 7 April 2011

**British Association of the Var
Welfare Coordinator**

Shirley Wrigglesworth

04 ***** or 06 43 86 49 01

welfare@baofthevar.com

Cheating on your plate?

Not a reference to the cholesterol content or calories on your dinner plate, that affects you alone, the plate in question is the registration plate on your motor vehicle. The vast majority of us drive French registered vehicles of French origin, or correctly imported ones from the UK. However it is noticeable that UK plated motor vehicles are growing in number with NO UK road tax on display but with a French insurance windscreen sticker and a French *contrôle technique* on display.

The UK DVLA website clearly states that any vehicle taken out of the UK for more than 12 months is considered exported, you should advise the DVLA. Their website clearly stating "Your vehicle will become subject to the legal requirements of the new country when exported."

For vehicles that are brought over for less than 12 months, they remain subject to UK law. The registered keeper must by law make sure the vehicle remains taxed while it is overseas. Providing you have a current MOT and Insurance it can be taxed while abroad. If you don't tax the vehicle and it is taken back to the UK untaxed the vehicle will need to be transported and not driven on its return to the UK and a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) declared immediately. **A SORN cannot be made while the vehicle is abroad.**

So to drive a car in France it must be fully registered in a European country. The OWNER must be traceable, the vehicle must have CT (MOT), insurance and tax (if necessary) in its country of registration. The UK plated cars seen with no road tax by default should have a SORN completed, but as it is illegal to do that while it is abroad, was it driven illegally to the ship or train? Owners seem to consider that as no road tax in France then no need to tax a UK plated car. Any insurance purchased by owners should read in detail ensuring that they are complying with all the small print details.

Cars not fully registered in the UK or France are on the road here illegally. In an accident police may not be impressed and insurance companies are keen to find a way out of paying. Everyone should be aware of their obligations and should take decisions in full recognition of the consequences of their actions.

Mike Milner

House Insurance

Summer is fast approaching and we are all looking forward to opening the windows and allowing fresh air to come through our homes. **Please remember** that not everyone is honest. There are some individuals who will come into your home uninvited – especially when the doors are not locked.

Also, when you leave the property, even to go to the local shops, your insurance policy may not cover your property if your shutters are left open!! Please read the small print or talk to your agent for clarification.

Shirley Wrigglesworth 04 *****

 Assurance et Epargne long terme	Luc de Bardonnèche Agent général VIDAUBAN 04 94 73 00 11
Car insurance	House insurance
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Professional insurance	Life insurance
Local agency - Friendly advice - English fluent	
www.aviva-vidauban.fr de-bardonneche-luc@aviva-assurances.com	

BAV at Lorgues Brocante Thursday 2 June

A team of helpers will be manning the BAV stall in the main street. What we need now are items to sell. If you have any items that you are willing to donate to raise funds for the BAV then we will be happy to sell them. **Please do not give us clothing.** All items must be in good condition. Electrical items will be tested prior to the event. Collections will be possible - although you can **deliver by 28 May** to the following people: Shirley Wrigglesworth - Lorgues, Clare Brown - Tavernes, Pauline North - Les Arcs. Please call me if you need collection arranged **before 28 May.**

Shirley 04 *****

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Another first, a sponsored event

Always mindful of the effects of the current financial restrictions many Members are experiencing, your Committee has taken action to introduce a sponsor for our June Aups picnic. The sponsor is **Currencies Direct**, who were the first independent foreign exchange company outside the normal banking world.

At Aups they are contributing towards some of our costs, which will ensure more of the Members' financial contributions are available for the BAV Welfare Fund. On the day there will be Currencies Direct representatives in attendance, they are BAV members, and they will be organising a free champagne prize draw. The only stipulation for those entering the draw is that they must provide contact details on the draw ticket so that after the event Currencies Direct can contact them and provide further details of the cost effective foreign exchange and international payment service they can provide.

The menu and direction details are on page 3. Your reservation slips MUST BE returned to Jim North by **Saturday 28 May.**

Mike Milner

Advance notice!

BAV Welfare 'Helpers Day'

Thursday 30 June

at Shirley Wrigglesworth in Lorgues

Many of you have registered with me as 'Helpers' for which the Welfare Team are very grateful - although I know that some of you have yet to become actively involved.

I am holding a 'HELPER'S DAY' with a Bring and Share Lunch on **Thursday 30 June** in Lorgues and would also like to invite those Members who are not registered with BAV but do help in the community.

If you are in this category and would like to take part, please contact me by email or telephone **before the 15 May.** If you are a registered BAV Helper you will receive an invitation automatically but please put this date in your diary.

Shirley Wrigglesworth

Welfare Coordinator

04 ***** welfare@baofthevar.com

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Lunch and Quiz 'Crapulous'

Every Quiz we have run turns up an interesting or amusing question that tickles the fancy of those involved. When asked, "What is a crapulous person full of?" the laughter was spontaneous.

The Quiz at the Cafe de la Tour on 8 April had followed an enjoyable lunch and social gathering. Seven teams enthusiastically competed in the 9 round 45 total question competition. They were certainly not crapulous, they were driven by a desire to have the kudos of being announced the winners.



Team members contributed a total of 93€ in entry fees so were playing for a prize pot of 46.50€. After an hour and a half of entertainment and suitable asides about the Q&As the winners were "Are we there Yet," who, having managed to answer 34 questions correctly, promptly donated the winnings back to the BAV Welfare fund. A gesture loudly applauded by those present.

What is a crapulous person full of you may be wondering, alcohol is the answer and all present discovered that a group of bishops are called a bench! We will be back in the autumn and welcome all to join us.

Mike Milner

Chairman's' Letter

Since the AGM is now in the past, suddenly there seems to be time for 'doing things'. I have spent many hours in my garden this month tidying up and getting ready for summer, and also dreaming of changes which are far too much hard work to start just now ... the sun is getting warmer, and the rosé is well chilled!

I repeat what I said at the AGM, once again to express my huge gratitude to your Committee, these 6 brave and upright men and women, for their clear thinking, their work and their support, their friendship, their camaraderie and their sense of humour and their wonderful husbands, wives and partners who do so much to share the load as well as put up with being abandoned not only for Committee Meetings but also lengthy 'phone calls at inconvenient moments and welfare visits.

It was a year of hard work and tumultuous decision-making for the Committee. Seven people, from differing backgrounds, education, work and life experiences, carrying the weight of responsibility of putting together a new organisation with the fair and unbiased judgement expected from you, the Members.

Luckily we are all educated and broad minded enough to be able to see and understand each others' point of view. We do have differences of opinion, and in turn each of us at some time, has to swallow and accept some decisions that we individually don't completely agree with. But that is what a Committee is about, to discuss and make informed decisions which will best cater for the majority without totally offending the minority. We know, it is impossible to please everyone all of the time.

The most noteworthy announcement made at the AGM is that Shirley Wrigglesworth has given notice that she will be standing down as Welfare Coordinator at the latest at next year's AGM.

Also, under the new Statutes *Article 8b*, in future, 1/3 of the Committee will resign each year and may or may not stand for re-election. So next March, Shirley Wrigglesworth has already given notice of her resignation from the Welfare role, and possibly the Committee as well. And if no-one else wants to resign then the two longest serving Committee Members will be standing down, and may or may not offer themselves for re-election: they are myself, and Clare Brown!

So perhaps while you are enjoying the lazy Provence summer, having friends to stay, playing a round of golf, even attending a BA function, you would give some positive thoughts towards serving on the Committee. It is not always hard work! It is also enormously satisfying to know that you are helping in a small way to improve the quality of life of our unfortunate welfare 'cases'.

Now is the time that we need 'new blood' on the Committee. We have as a group been working together for 2 years: we have accomplished an enormous amount of administration, but it is now time for new ideas. There is one vacant seat at the moment, and we can easily make room for a 'secondment' if he/she is 'learning the ropes' of the Welfare seat. **Volunteers please!**

Auriol Langen Chairman
04 *****

Exchange rate for tax return

As all Members who are fiscally resident study their French tax declaration forms, one small but vital piece of information that they need is the 2010 average exchange rate. The exchange rate for 2010 which will be accepted by most tax offices is £1 = 1.1654€.

Mike Milner



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Mike Lorimer - Orias No. 07032481

Events diary on website

Can we just remind Members who have internet access, early every month the BAV website at www.baofthevar.com is updated. To show this has been done, the homepage picture is changed and the wording under it is the month *when* it was done.

The space on the website enables us to include more advanced notice of items, see *Coming Events* section, which are pencilled in but not yet announced in the Newsletter.

One Member has recently enquired about the June picnic at Aups and why the date which is 4 June had not been circulated to Members. The date has been prominently displayed on the website since February, but not yet in the Newsletter due to lack of space in the Forthcoming Events column. It is fully prompted in this May issue, complete with the reservation slip.

For Members who do not have internet access just ring one of the Committee Members. If dates and venues are known we can advise you over the 'phone or let you know when things are sorted.

Mike Milner

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For next month's Newsletter

Please let us have your Advertisements, Articles and Reports for the June issue by

Monday 20 May

All contributions to
newsletter@baofthevar.com



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Neighbourhood Network

Les Issambres:

Contact: Joan or Brian Taylor, 04 *****
*****@aol.com

Meeting details – every other Tuesday 11h at L'Arpillon café next to the Casino on the main road.

Les Arcs:

Contact: Jim or Pauline North, 04 *****
*****@wanadoo.fr

Meeting details – please get in touch with Jim.

Services at St John's for the Var St John the Evangelist - Ave Paul Doumer, St Raphaël

Holy Communion is held **every Sunday at 10h30** followed by refreshments and a monthly lunch.

Grimaud Village Church

1st Thursday of each month at 11h00
Eccumenical Service

Please ring 04 94 95 45 78 for details

www.sjevar.com

~ ~ ~

MONTAUROUX CGA Prasada Church of England

You are very welcome to join us on the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 11h00** for a service of Holy Communion

We also have a Bring and Share Lunch afterwards

For further details about this or any other pastoral needs

Please ring Cécile or Jean 04 94 47 74 26

Prasada, 294, RD37, 83440 Montauroux

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L' Oasis Fellowship, Lorgues every 2nd Sunday at 11h15

Arc-en Provence 1801 Chemin des Pailles
Bring and Share Lunch

and every 4th Sunday at 11h15

Notre Dame des Anges - Bring your own Picnic

For details and directions contact

**Rev Peter or Shirley Massey at
04 94 73 93 37 06 87 94 04 83**

www.arc-en-provence.com/oasis

MEMBERS' GROUPS

Digital Photography Group

After the success of the two Calendars produced last year, we are now looking through the considerable archive of photos the group has amassed over the previous months. At our last meeting we had a preliminary viewing of contributions from members and selected nearly 30 photos which were contenders for inclusion in the 2012 edition.

However, not everyone in the group was represented at this meeting, so for those Digital Photography Group members who have not yet submitted their Var-themed photos **please let us have them** for possible inclusion. As a group we are very keen to get as many different perspectives on the Var as we can to add variety and breadth of interest to our calendars. There are several ways to get your photographs to us if you are unable to attend our next few meetings, so please use the contact below to discuss the options.

For more details **please contact:**

Mike Harper *****@yahoo.co.uk

Painting Group

The next meeting of the BA Painting Group is on **Thursday 19 May** at Maggie Singleton's home in Salernes. **Please contact** Maggie for directions if you have not been before - 04 *****.

For information about the Group **please contact:**

Pauline North 04 *****
*****@orange.fr

Happy Boules

The Group meet every Monday at 2h30 and welcome new members.

For further information and details of our next venue, **please contact:**

Rob Flanagan 04 *****