**GIBRALTAR REA WEEKEND 2020 UPDATE**

Good afternoon all,

I hope you are safe and well, and bearing up to the current challenges life is throwing our way! We will of course pREvail.

As we are still receiving a number of emails, queries etc with regard to the status of the **Gibraltar REA Weekend 2020**, I thought it would be helpful to send an email to all on the mailing list – please feel free to forward as appropriate.

I can confirm that sadly, but perhaps understandably, the 2020 REA Gibraltar Weekend has been cancelled. This decision was made in conjunction with the very close support of REAHQ and based on guidance and instruction implemented by the Government of Gibraltar. Please note that it has been CANCELLED and not POSTPONED – the next Gibraltar event will now take place in 2021. The cancellation was kindly posted by REAHQ (on web and Facebook) and on the Gibraltar Facebook page last month, and a copy of the announcement is included below for info:

*It is with great regret the national reunion event in Gibraltar between 15 and 18 May 20 is cancelled.  HM Government of Gibraltar has published guidance against gatherings of over 100 people; our weekend has a number of events which would be effected by this guidance.  Any monies paid to the Gibraltar branch for event costs will be returned, the Branch Treasurer will be in touch with you all in due course.  Unfortunately it is an individual responsibility to recover any costs for travel and accommodation.  Gibraltar is not currently covered by a FCO travel advisory notice not to travel, any Association member who already has travel plans in place and elects to continue with those plans does so at their own risk – no official REA reunion events will take place over the weekend of 15 to 18 May 20.  Any Association member planning on traveling to Gibraltar is urged to follow any and all Government advice, UK and Gibraltar.  The Gibraltar Branch are available to help with or answer, within reason, any queries you may have.*

If you have any further queries or concerns, or have not yet spoken to someone about refunding monies that may have been paid, please contact the following:

* Richard Tomlinson (Treasurer) – Richard.Tomlinson@ramboll.co.uk [00350 54028355]
* Jack Noble (Secretary) – Jack.Noble@ramboll.co.uk  [00350 58008085]

As the UK, Gibraltar is in lockdown and virtually all of us are working remotely from home, so we do have email connectivity and will answer 😉. Some of you have queried whether it is still worth travelling to Gib regardless of the cancellation. This must be your decision, but please do note that currently, all restaurants, bars, cafes, shops (less grocers and pharmacies) are closed, and likely to be for several weeks. Movement, as in UK, is restricted to essential activities only and police presence is now prevalent on our streets with on-the-spot-fines about to be implemented. You may also be aware that there are severe restrictions imposed in Spain as the situation continues to worsen, and crossing the border into Gibraltar now requires several approved documents – no documents, no access! Sorry its not better news guys, but it is important that you are fully aware of the situation.

A number have asked about next year’s event. The provisional date for REAW21 is **Fri 14 May – Mon 17 May 21**. Although it is unlikely this will change, please note that it does remain provisional at the moment because we have yet to secure the date in the Command Forecast of events – this is simply due to other priorities in the Headquarters at the moment. And of course, booking Casemates Square and Main Street for the Parade and March is impossible at this time!

I hope this helps provide some further clarity, albeit not all gREat news. If you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Stay safe all.

*If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please just drop me a line – thanks.*

Kind REgards

**Jack Noble**

Secretary

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