



## Newsletter Number 74

### Official Newsletter of the Madeira Regency Owners' Association

*Welcome to the slightly different format of your regular Newsletter. Members will have seen that the Editor is now using Microsoft Publisher, kindly donated to MROA by our Chairman, Tim Bulmer. I welcome your comments on changes or improvements.*

*Helena*

#### **AGM 2015**

The AGM Meeting at Barnsdale Hall, held on Sunday 7th June was a successful, happy meeting with 75 members and friends in attendance. Some took the opportunity to stop over and enjoy the wonderful scenery and venue. Oh, and the weather was glorious!

The minutes are published on the MROA website. Members without access to the website may request a hard-copy.

#### **A message from our Chairman July 2015**

'While Roger Brooke continues to recover well having stepped down from his MC duties, I have requested an initial 'post Roger era' meeting with Tor Jorgensen & Leo de'Kok as soon as feasibly possible but certainly prior to the autumn AGM. The FNTC communicates directly with the MC on high level matters and with the members on matters financial.

The Management Committee is still awaiting a financial summary from the FNTC. The FNTC is waiting for budgets from the Madeira Hotel Management Company (MHMC). The MC previously only corresponded with members once a year by surface mail - normally post AGM. This was down to strict cost instruction from Luis Camacho. I am now pushing for a minimum of two per year with additional periodic email updates - plus of course non sensitive information for release to MROA members via the NOTICEBOARD.

Contrary to previous rumours there are no 'free-bees' for MC members - certainly I have NOT been offered additional weeks or free flights!

The next official MC update, which should include financial news, is expected after completion of the pier works.'

#### **Madeira Regency Palace former administrator jailed**

Friday, June 26, 2015 in [Madeira & General News](#)

On Wednesday a court in Funchal handed the former chief administrator of the Regency Group, Luis Camacho, two prison sentences on two counts of tax abuse.

According to the Diario, in the first case the entrepreneur was sentenced to two years in prison for "practicing fiscal embezzlement ..... for not having delivered €382,412 due to the tax authorities". This related to VAT paid by customers and IRS contributions deducted from salaries of employees of the company 'Hotelmar' (Hotel Regency Club) for the period October 2006 to March 2008. Camacho was also sentenced to one year and 10 months in prison for "not having delivered €463,159 to the tax authorities concerning the VAT charged to customers of the company 'Camachos, Comércio de Novidades'". In addition to the sentences imposed on Camacho, fines of €7,000 and €6,000 were applied on each company respectively.

In passing sentence the presiding judge noted that the administrator had already been convicted in four other cases for non-payment of taxes, for which milder punishment had been applied in the form of fines or suspended sentences. In his defence it was claimed that the entrepreneur's priority was to pay wages to employees and service suppliers, and that meeting tax obligations were considered a second priority.

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Luis Camacho was present for sentencing, but it is understood that he will remain at liberty until the appeal process has been exhausted.

“the Englishman walks before the law like a trained horse in a circus. He has the sense of legality in his bones, in his muscles.”

- Maxim Gorky.

## The jetty.

I am pleased to report that with the help of many members, we have been able to *see* the progress, (and completion?) of the jetty repairs. Thank you to all who have shared your pictures on the web site. (If you haven't viewed them, it is worth a glance) I have also taken a keen interest in any news which has been received back from members.

I will be very pleased to find that we can once again swim from the jetty and are not compelled to ‘test the temperature’ of the pool as our only source for swimming.

Please keep your pictures and reports coming—see addresses on final page.

The Editor

## Madeira Regency Palace closes

The following is from the blog on <http://madeiraislanddirect.com> and appeared at the beginning of July 2015.



The picture left is from the Diario today and shows Deodato Moniz, director general of the Madeira Regency Palace

Hotel, comforting one of the 110 employees who, like himself, became unemployed yesterday as the hotel was closed by the administrator appointed by creditors. He offered no official statement, but equally did not stay in the background, instead publicly supporting and commiserating with his former colleagues.

Apparently Deodato had always believed that the

## SUSPENDED SENTENCE



Cartoon by Jennie from an idea by Helena

ending would be different, but the two banks that called the creditors meeting of the 27th of April (Millennium BCP and Novo Banco, formerly BES) remained intransigent, despite the hotel recording an average occupancy rate of 70% last month and 75% for the year. He told journalists that “there was someone who did not want to be part of a solution”, and ominously pointed out that there are hotel units with even greater financial problems than the Madeira Regency Palace that remain open. It is understood that the combined hotel/timeshare was generating profits of €40,000 each month, but this was considered too little for the lenders owed millions. Hence the closure yesterday, with security guards and police preventing workers from entering one last time – some of whom had worked there from the opening sixteen years ago,

The Diario reports that Adolfo Freitas, president of the Hospitality Workers Union, claimed that he was in the presence of "organized crime". "How is it

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## ARTHUR DOWTY



It is sad to report the death of ARTHUR DOWTY, aged 82, on 13 July at his home in Ombersley, Worcestershire.

Arthur and his wife Jean have been MRC members for many years and visited the island regularly. John Townend recalls Arthur's forthright action during a short adjournment of a club AGM in Fun-

chal, when he stood on a table in front of members and encouraged all of them to join MROA. Many signed up there and then! Later Arthur joined the MROA Committee and was elected Chairman which he held for some years.

He stepped down as his health began to fail him and sadly was diagnosed with motor neurone disease, an illness which he bore with great courage. Thank you Arthur for your services to MROA and our members. We extend our sympathy to Jean and her family.

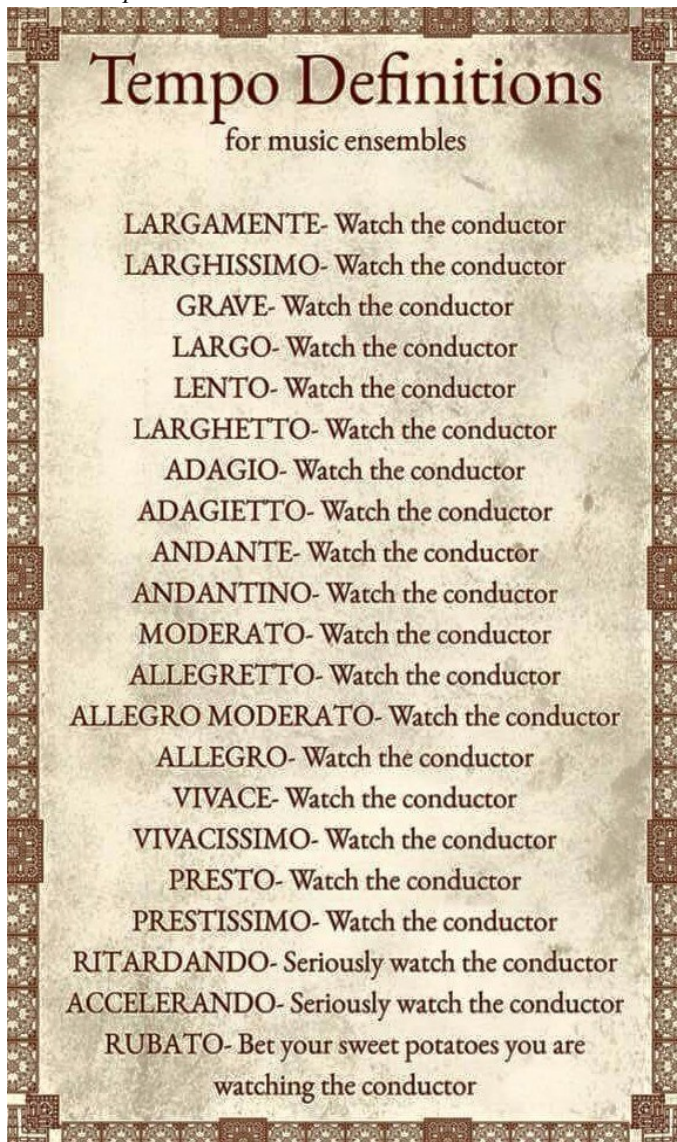
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possible to have accumulated debt to €35 million?" He believes that these situations continue to happen because no one is held accountable. "The criminals are still at large. Those who led this company to a bottomless pit will continue in freedom, rule your good life. For these workers remain some months of unemployment".

And of course there remains the small matter of thousands of timeshare owners who have been deprived of their investment.....

The majority of the Comments on the topic can be found here, although there are others at the end of subsequent posts: <http://madeiraislanddirect.com/blog/2015/04/regency-palace-hotel-to-close/#comment-211171>

*Many of us enjoy singing in a choir or group, but it is not always easy to understand the musical notation. The following should help?*



## Duty Free—or Less for Me?

If you have ever been asked to hand over your boarding card when buying anything “air-side” at an airport – and I guess everybody has – the Independent today exposes a major rip-off by some retailers. Far from having anything to do with security, this request has everything to do with the outlets being able to reclaim VAT from the tax authorities without passing the benefit on to the customer. Apparently, since the practice was exposed on social media last week there are a growing number of travellers refusing to show their boarding cards at airport stores.

This is all about the difference between those passengers flying to EU destinations and those flying to other world-wide destinations.

The following poem and report were sent in by John Moreton  
(Regency Club, last two weeks May 2015)

Madeira here I come.

Vaguely to the tune of "I lost my heart in San Francisco"



I left my shoes at Gatwick Airport.  
As I went on my way  
the heels began to fray  
and then the soles disintegrated.  
Crumbs of withered shoe  
lay like piles of poo  
around my feet in Gatwick Airport.

I limped along in Gatwick Airport.  
Not knowing what was wrong,  
one leg seemed rather long  
In Gatwick Airport:  
I'd had those shoes for years  
and now I am in tears  
I've got to buy some bloody new ones.

'Twas plain where I had been,  
Black powder could be seen  
All over Gatwick Airport.  
I took the damn things off  
in case I did get shot;  
shoe-bomber I am not  
in Gatwick Airport.

I looked down at my shoes  
And both had blown a fuse  
in Gatwick Airport.  
For £79.10 I could be shod again  
but I refused the con  
I'll not be put upon  
in Gatwick Airport.

No I won't be victimised  
By capitalistic guys  
In Gatwick Airport:  
But I had to buy new shoes and now I've got the blues  
in Gatwick Airport.  
Those new ones cost a bomb  
And £12.50's gone  
In Gatwick Bloody Airport

John Moreton

I bought the shoes in Madeira about 10 years ago and hadn't worn them very much since, they cost about £8.00 from a shop just up the hill from the cathedral in Funchal. I was the source of great amusement for my wife and so called friends as we made our way to the plane. I suppose I could have worn just the uppers but my socks would have worn out very quickly.

**Club news: (May 2015)**

The pier/harbour repairs are under way at last. They are very noisy, resulting in hardly anyone around the pool area and pool bar at lunch time. The Regency seemed to be a happier place than this time last year ,(when we arrived as the strike started), but the staff are working from day to day not knowing what the future holds. The club is now a good place to practice your French speaking skills, Someone is doing a good job of selling holidays at The Regency Palace, due to close at the end of June with the loss of over 100 jobs. (\*) Young Mr Camacho parks his Jaguar in front of the Club and goes into town. Free use of the computer in Owner/Guest Relations Office is a good idea.

John Moreton

\*See previous article 'Madeira Regency Palace Closes'



Now that there are not so many 'original' owners left at the Madeira Regency Club, readers might like to hear of one of the regular activities

which would take place in January and February of each year.

At that time, there was a very keen group of Scandinavian members who would swim from the jetty every morning between 8.30 and 09.00. Anyone who wished to join in should just be ready by the steps and join the crowd as they swam across to the Savoy 'castle' and back again. There would be a lot of laughter and chatter; though not all were fluent in the language of the other. One day, a dear friend, Bill, who despite his years was a remarkably good swimmer, suggested that what we needed was a flag and that it should be carried across to the 'castle' and raised to show our 'conquest'. Thus a

Continued page 6

## MOSTLY TO AMUSE

### Miss Heard and Miss Understood—from

‘Words and Stuff,’ ‘The Oldie’ May 2015

Lady Mondegreen is the product of a phonological juncture.

Born in 1954, she was brought into the world in an article by Sylvia Wright, an American writer, whose mother liked to read her daughter old Scottish ballads. One of these was a lamentation that started, ‘Ye Highlands and ye Lowlands,/Oh, where hae ye been?/ They hae slain the Earl o’ Moray/And laid him on the green.’ That stuck in the mind of the young Sylvia. She was particularly moved by the last couplet, which she understood to involve a double murder: ‘They hae slain the Earl o’ Moray/And Lady Mondegreen.’

Therein lies the fertile phonological juncture: a pair of phrases whose words, when uttered without pause, sound similar but have different spelling, pro-nunciation and meaning.

Wright, the author of *A Shark-Infested Rice Pudding* and *Get Away From Me With Those Christmas Gifts*, realised that with her coinage she was on to something.

It wasn’t altogether original. The old game of Chinese Whispers, played at children’s parties, relies entirely upon repeated mishearing. Mondegreens, however, are not always based on a mishearing. The person who interprets ‘ice cream’ as ‘I scream’ has not misheard but misunderstood. , Mondegreens occur when, ‘Somewhere between the sound and the meaning, communication breaks down. You hear the same acoustic information as everyone else, but your brain doesn’t interpret it the same way.’

In this a mondegreen is like a pun: it is a play on words alike in sound but different in meaning. But, unlike a pun, a mondegreen should be an accidental not an intentional misapprehension, based ideally on a phrase of several words and, crucially, more enjoyable than the original.

For years, the commonest mondegreens have been found in popular music. The internet abounds with people mishearing ‘I wanna be adored’ as ‘I wanna be a dog’ (The Stone Roses), ‘Einstein a Go-Go’ as ‘I stir the cocoa’ (Landscape), ‘I want you to stay’ as ‘I won’t chew the steak’ (Rihanna) and ‘I’ll be beside the phone, waiting for you’ as ‘I’ll be your xylophone...’ (The Foundations). The singers’ wretched diction and their imaginative use of words in an unfamiliar form of expression make for amusing misunderstandings. As a child, I particularly enjoyed “Oh I’ve got a wheel barrow” for “Oh you’ve got a way about you” (The Everly Brothers).

Recently, though, a new source of misapprehensions has arisen, this one in the form of subtitles for the deaf on television. The computer software that provides these aids works by recognising sounds, not always successfully. That’s hardly interesting if it’s a confusion between ‘sauce’ and ‘source’. More measurably, it has led to ‘our toddlers’ being turned into ‘ayatollahs’ and ‘principally chemical and biological weapons’ becoming ‘the prince

of chemical and bionicle weapons’. A writer to the *Times* heard a commentator during an Olympic rowing event shout, ‘Girls, don’t give up, don’t surrender!’ but read a subtitle urging, ‘Girls, don’t give up on that sex offender!’ Lady Mondegreen would surely have approved.

## Alerts to Isis Threats

*Contributed by Colin Grimes*

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent events in Syria and have therefore raised their security level from “Miffed” to “Peeved.” Soon, though, security levels may be raised yet again to “Irritated” or even “A Bit Cross.” The English have not been “A Bit Cross” since the blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out. Terrorists have been re-categorized from “Tiresome” to “A Bloody Nuisance.” The last time the British issued a “Bloody Nuisance” warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

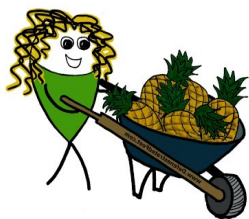
The Scots have raised their threat level from “Pissed Off” to “Let’s get the Bastards.” They don’t have any other levels. This is the reason they have been used on the front line of the British army for the last 300 years. The French government announced yesterday that it has raised its terror alert level from “Run” to “Hide.” The only two higher levels in France are “Collaborate” and “Surrender.” The rise was precipitated by a recent fire that destroyed France’s white flag factory, effectively paralyzing the country’s military capability. Italy has increased the alert level from “Shout Loudly and Excitedly” to “Elaborate Military Posturing.” Two more levels remain: “Ineffective Combat Operations” and “Change Sides.”

The Germans have increased their alert state from “Disdainful Arrogance” to “Dress in Uniform and Sing Marching Songs.” They also have two higher levels: “Invade a Neighbour” and “Lose.”

Belgians, on the other hand, are all on holiday as usual; the only threat they are worried about is NATO pulling out of Brussels.

The Spanish are all excited to see their new submarines ready to deploy. These beautifully designed subs have glass bottoms so the new Spanish navy can get a really good look at the old Spanish navy. Australia, meanwhile, has raised its security level from “No worries” to “She’ll be right, Mate.” Two more escalation levels remain: “Crikey! I think we’ll need to cancel the barbie this weekend!” and “The barbie is cancelled.” So far no situation has ever warranted use of the last final escalation level.

‘It’s déjà vu all over again’.



waterproof version of the banner, (above) was produced and ‘the Great Danes’\* and the ‘Great Brits’ informally founded **RASCALS**—Regency Atlantic Swimming Club, Amateur League. Our motto? “Who dares, swims”. Even as our original members reduced in number new members were constantly added. The only requirement for membership was the ability to swim the distance to the Savoy steps and back again—and be there early! Although in recent years, we no longer carry the flag, several members, both Brits and Scandinavians still swim together in the early morning. We can only hope that the new jetty repairs will once again allow us this privilege. \*A loose term to cover all the Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Icelandic swimmers—all lovely people we encounter. (*When we started, the Royal Savoy was yet to be constructed, so we simply called the area the ‘Savoy steps’.*)

## FOOD AND DRINK

*Almost without exception, you will have seen ‘espada’ on a restaurant menu—or eaten ‘espada’ in some form. Below is a little about this strange, very deep sea fish.*

The black scabbard fish is a fish with a body that is extremely elongated; up to 1.1 m (3.6 ft.) in length. It inhabits the lower depths of the ocean, (between approximately 1000 and 4000 metres), by day but moves upwards in the water at night to feed at middle depths on crustaceans, octopus and other fishes. The narrow, elongated body of the black scabbard fish, along with its pointed head and long dorsal fin, are adapted for fast swimming. This fish has a large mouth with large fang like teeth for efficient predation. In order to camouflage well, it has a coppery-black coloration with an iridescent tint. The fish’s large eyes are of such a large size to facilitate sight in low light. Eggs and larval stages of this fish are unknown and juvenile fish are rarely caught.<sup>[4]</sup> Juveniles, however, are reported to exist in the middle depths of the ocean. The life cycle of black scabbard fish is unknown, but the most common hypothesis is that one single stock undertakes a large scale clockwise migration around the NE Atlantic. Spawning is restricted to certain areas including Madeira, the Canary Islands, and possibly further south during the months of October through December the juvenile black scabbard fish stay to feed and grow for a few

years in the fisheries south of the Faroe Islands and the west of the British Isles. Afterwards, the juveniles then move south towards mainland Portugal and even further south to the spawning areas. The most recent studies indicate that the maximum age of the black scabbard fish from Madeira was about 14 years and the maximum age in Mainland Portugal was about 12 years. The mature and spawning adult fish have only been observed in the last quarter of year in certain set of locations including Madeira, the Canaries, and the northwest coast of Africa.

The black scabbard fish is of economic importance to fisheries associated with countries of the Iberian Peninsula, and especially with the Madeira Islands where they are prized for food. Because of its good flesh quality, it usually fetches high prices, along with the crab they are the two most sought after sea products for consumption in the Madeira Islands and Portugal and therefore play a huge economic role in these locations. In areas in Portuguese waters the black scabbard fish has traditionally been caught by line gears. it is the most important deep-water fish exploited,. In the last decade alone landings of the black scabbard fish have increased to about 3000 tonnes in Madeira and 3000 tonnes in mainland Portugal.

Eating raw or undercooked black scabbard fish could result in a parasitic infection; there is also the presence of several toxic metals found within fish. However, according to standards set by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization, as long as the liver is not consumed there are no real health risks in consuming the Black Scabbard fish as long as it is done in moderation.



The Black Scabbard—better eaten than viewed!!

“Life is too short for platonic love affairs or  
savoury desserts.”

Food writer Josh Ozersky.

Correct at 01/07/15

**Apartments for sale  
(in apartment sequence)**

040\*  
Weeks 13&14&15

P11\*  
Weeks 2&14

P21  
Weeks 32&33

P22  
Week 47

P23  
Weeks 46

P25  
Week 20

105  
Week 52

203&501  
Weeks 51&52&1

502  
Week 52

504  
Weeks 44&45

514\*  
Weeks 31&32

802  
Weeks 36&37

803\*  
Week 9

**Apartments for rental  
& possible sale (in  
week order)**

Week 15  
P33

Week 20  
P25 & 315\*

Weeks 22&23  
403

Weeks 31&32  
514\*

Weeks 36&37  
802

Week 52  
502

Pxx - poolside  
\*Two bedroom

*The above details appear  
on the MROA web page.  
We would urge you to reg-  
ularly check the site for  
details and to update your  
entry if there are any  
changes*

Full details can be found on [www.mroa.org](http://www.mroa.org)



On 1st August the Minerva became the first visitor to the new dock on Funchal seafront which was created as part of the redevelopment after the floods of 2010. The vessel is 135 metres long and carries about 300 passengers. The Minerva used the new pier because the car rally occupied parts of the old port, making it impossible to use the normal facilities.

**Weather concerns**

There are concerns that the 330 metre Cais 8 will suffer in winter weather, especially when wind and sea conditions are from the southeast, meaning that there will be days of the year when it is impossible to moor a ship at the pier.

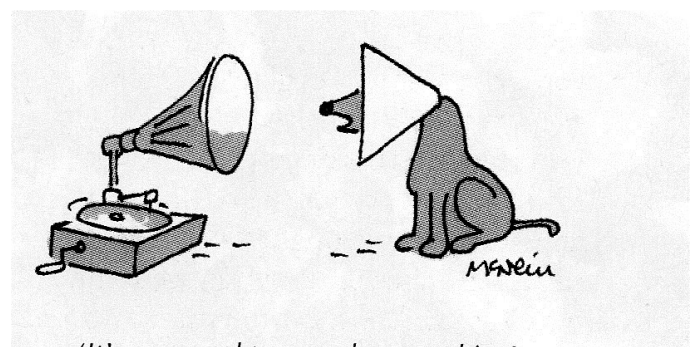
**Flights**



Currently, there is no recent news regarding flight schedules, etc.

Please send in news of flight changes or additions; plus any good/or bad experiences you have with flights to and from Madeira.

For example, when is the best time to book, what are the advantages and does easy boarding make any difference?



*'It's supposed to stop the scratching'*

**STOP PRESS**

**MADEIRA REGENCY PALACE**

On 10th August 2015, our Chairman, Tim, asked Manuel da Silva to confirm where timeshare / flexi owners at the MRP with certificates of ownership stood legally.

Manuel kindly responded,

“What I know at the moment is that the Company who owned the Palace is now on an insolvency process.

There will be two ways out, first the Bank finds a buyer and sells the hotel and second, the hotel will reopen until the Bank finds a new owner.

Regarding Member Certificates it is very difficult to say what is going to happen, since the Company who owns the place will be insolvent and as people in the street say that they do not have DRHP (Periodic Property Real Rights).”

Those members who also own at the Madeira Regency Palace must, I’m afraid, be patient and hope!

*“If you want to be happy for a day, get drunk; a week, kill a pig; a month, get married; for life, be a gardener.”* - Chinese saying, quoted in New York Times.



**MROA CONTACT DETAILS**

All **MROA** correspondence should be addressed as follows:

**General Postal enquiries:**

**Madeira Regency Owners Association**

C/o “Ferndale House”, Highgate, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5BA

**Telephone** Jenny Mathieson 01342 823355

**All e-mail communications:**

Jenny, [mroa.biz@virgin.net](mailto:mroa.biz@virgin.net) or [helenabll@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenabll@yahoo.co.uk)

**Newsletter contributions to**

Helena Bell “Carillon”, 15, Barcombe Avenue, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25b 4DT

[helenabll@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:helenabll@yahoo.co.uk)

**Membership web site**

[www.mroa.org](http://www.mroa.org)