



# THE DREAM SCENE

## NEWSLETTER



*Helping to keep expat's informed.....and smiling.*

*Bienvenido a todos* and welcome to the June 2024 edition. Issue No.198

The tax season is upon us in Spain. The deadline for returns for 2023 is July 1st 2024. As a general rule, anyone resident in Spain for more than 183 days who earned €22,000 or more or if it's their first time filing, needs to complete a tax return. If you're self-employed you must also file one, no matter how much you make.

Banks are preparing to reduce mortgage repayments, on average, by around €50 per month starting in the second half of the year. The fall in interest rates will be welcome news for four million people who have variable-rate mortgages and have seen their payments increase month after month, in recent years. The 12-month Euribor averaged 3.609% in January, below the 3.679% in December. This is the third consecutive month that this index has fluctuated downwards.

Spain's second-largest banking group, BBVA, has launched a **hostile take-over** of Spain's third largest bank, **Banco Sabadell**. The Spanish Economy and Labour ministers said that they opposed the hostile takeover bid launched by BBVA bank for its smaller rival Banco Sabadell, saying that the government would vow to block the move, which would create a European giant in the sector.

Help for young people to buy a house started in May when banks could help young people and families with children to buy a home by giving them access to **state-backed mortgages**. This measure will allow some 50,000 beneficiaries to access mortgage loans on favourable conditions, with the possibility of financing up to 100% of their first home. It will be available for all those under the age of 35

with an annual income less than €37,800 gross and for families with children under their care, **providing that they haven't bought a property previously.**

The Yorkshire **Condoms** joke advert in the last issue generated a lot of interest and enquiries. One or two wanted to buy some, whilst some others enquired if Lancashire flavoured ones were available? Northerners!!

The Orihuela City Council has allocated an ambitious investment package for the Coast, reaching a record figure of **€12,680,939**. Works will include a pedestrian bridge over the AP-7 road which connects the district of Lomas de Cabo Roig with the coast and a new large drinking-water tank will also be constructed to guarantee supply to the Coast's growing population. More on the package in next issue.

Thanks to Sue & Andy for donation.

Have a great month!

Mick, Tid and The Dream Scene Team.



*If you're with a group of people and you can't work out who the idiot is, keep your mouth shut.*

It was with a huge sigh of relief that **some of the bars (Chiringuitos) and toilets are back on Orihuela Costa beaches** at last. Due to a monumental cock-up by the previous ruling council no tenders were sent out to businesses who wished to compete for supplying the bars, toilets, sun-beds, shades etc., on all the Orihuela beaches.

**The Orihuela Costa will fly 10 tourism quality banners this year**, one fewer than in 2023.

Cala Estaca beach in Playa Flamenca on the Orihuela Costa has had its Blue Flag removed this year due to ongoing problems with drainage and unidentified spills.

The prestigious Blue Flag awards recognise beaches, marinas and tourist boating operations for their outstanding quality, services and facilities and the loss of the honour is a major blow indeed to the area.

Spain racked up an impressive 747 flags in total when the results were announced on Tuesday May 7, the Valencian Community came out on top, with an impressive 159 badges in all. Andalucia came second with 156 flags.

In Playa Flamenca, the tourism **quality seal was removed from Cala Estaca** because the shoreline has been plagued with unsightly, smelly discharges since last summer, and the council is no closer to figuring out where these unwanted spills are coming from. Last summer season, something similar happened. Then, as soon as the current councillor of the Coast, Manuel Mestre, landed in the municipal government, he was informed of the withdrawal of the Blue Flag in nearby Cala Mosca precisely due to the water spills that had been detected on the sand.

Even with this loss, the Orihuela Costa is still the district with the **most Blue Flags in all of the Valencian Community**. Excepting Cala Estaca, and the small cove of Cabo Peñas which is also a dog beach, the other 10 shorelines which stretch along the 12 kilometres of coast have been recognised for their exceptional tourism quality. The 10 Blue Flags that Orihuela Costa will fly this year are: Punta Prima, La Zenia-Cala Bosque, Cabo Roig-La Caleta, Cala Capitán, Aguamarina, Campoamor-La Glea, Barranco Rubio, Cala Mosca, Cala Cerrada and Mil Palmeras.

It truly amazes me that Orihuela was awarded any Blue Flags for last year, when you consider that the beaches had no rentals for sun beds, shade umbrellas, with dirty toilets and no beach bars.

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Got this helpful tip from a good friend who is resident in the UK and a second-home owner here - "Had an infection (nasty boil on thigh) so went to the chemist in Los Balcones. They advised me to go to local Salud in Torrevieja for an urgent but a non-emergency issue. Upon arriving there, I was asked for my **GHIC/EHIC card and my passport**. They photocopied these and, as a non resident, I also gave them my Spanish address and phone number. I was handed a **temporary SIP (health) card** that is valid for 4 months and told to wait till my name was called. I did see a doctor within 45 minutes who spoke good English and I was handed a prescription. I took this to the local chemist and received my antibiotics at a cost of less than €1.40. Fantastic service!" This facility is available to all GHIC/EHIC holders and is a great boon to individuals and of course families.

-----

Drug busts are now so frequent, they barely get a mention in the media. However, this one being local is interesting. Two British men and a Polish guy were arrested in an industrial estate in Quesada as they were about to load 114 kilos of marijuana that they intended to send by lorry in bags of what looked like fuel pellets to the United Kingdom. Photo. At the same time, another British man involved was arrested in Villamartin.



My mate Rob has both Scottish and Irish ancestry. He loves a drink but hates to pay for it.



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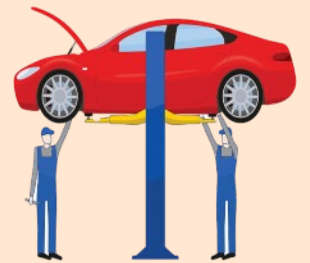
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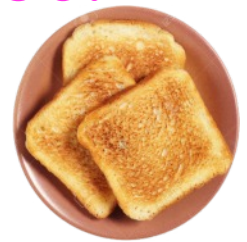
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VIA PARK III

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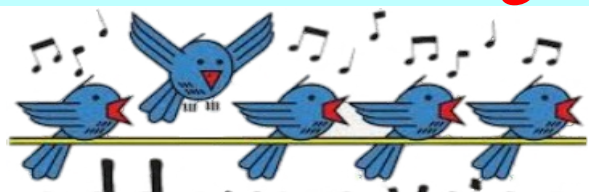
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Queues in Spanish banks are a real pain-in-the-arse. If you want to make them a bit quicker, tap on the shoulder of the guy in front of you, and say, "Hey, man, you wouldn't happen to know how to un-jam a pistol, would you?"

### Too Little! Too Late!

Although it has taken almost five years since the catastrophic flooding of the Vega Baja area due to the DANA cold drop during September 2019, the Segura Hydrographic Confederation (CHS) has only now awarded three contracts worth a total of €1.25 million.

These are the first firm contracts with specific projects, linked to future works against flooding in the Vega Baja. Even these projects could take another 18 months to materialise. This is too little and too late!

In Guardamar alone, 193,000 tons of sludge still remains to be removed to unclog the Segura and is unlikely to be done until 2026! This would cost €4.7 million.

### Padron Numbers Down.

503 citizens have been removed from the Municipal Registry (*Padron*) in Orihuela during the last six months of 2023. As has been the case for decades, the data from the municipal registry do not coincide with the state census of the INE, which is the official one, and which usually lowers those figures.

According to the latest data from the INE, the **registered** population of Orihuela amounts to 82,449. However, the registry estimates the inhabitants at around 86,000, of which 33,000 reside in the urban area, 25,000 in districts and 28,000 on the coast, which can reach 100,000 during the summer.

The economic allocations that municipalities receive from the State and the number of councillors of each municipal corporation are based on the numbers registered on the *Padron*. One of the things which has really surprised me over the years, is how few of those with German nationality are registered here on the *Padron*.



How come you don't go fishing anymore?



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## Rentals tightened in Madrid

Madrid City Hall has announced it will **temporarily suspend** the granting of **new licences for so-called tourist apartments** in a bid to rein in a ballooning industry that's impacting prices and stock of long-term rents in Spain's capital.

Madrid authorities also announced they will not authorise the transformation of commercial properties into tourist accommodation in the centre of the city and will increase the fines for tourist properties that do not comply with regulations.

Madrid, like many other cities in Spain, has been suffering from a rise in illegal tourist accommodation with thousands swiftly popping up across the capital. One of the main obstacles for regulators is how difficult it is to find out exactly how many there are. Madrid authorities have counted 14,699 tourist establishments in the city, 92 percent of which are for tourist accommodation. But, only 941 of these have a municipal licence, meaning the rest are illegal.

According to the Inside Airbnb platform though, there are 25,543 tourist apartments listed in the city.

In order to combat the issue, Madrid City Hall will increase the amount of fines for owning and running one of these illegal holiday lets.

They will set the first penalty at €30,000, the second at €60,000 and the third level at €100,000. Those committing serious infringements or who keep renting out their flats without licences, even after warnings, may have to pay up to €190,000. Current fines are only €1,000 for the first infringement.

In order to help holidaymakers know whether or not an apartment they're interested in is legal or not, the city will also publish a list of flats with licences and their location on an official website.

Even Madrid's populist regional president Isabel Díaz Ayuso, whose policies are usually in favour of "freedom" and liberalisation, has said that they "are studying how to regulate holiday accommodation so that higher prices do not expel neighbours".

## RUBIALES IN THE MIRE!

The former president of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), Luis Rubiales, has denied any wrongdoing while being questioned by an investigating judge as part of her probe into alleged corruption related to staging the **Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia.**

After hearing his testimony, the judge ordered Rubiales to appear once a month in person at the courthouse and to ask the court for permission if he wants to leave the country.

Rubiales told reporters after four hours inside the Madrid court. 'Never was any money exchanging hands in an irregular manner.' During his time as president of Spanish football, Rubiales overhauled the format of the Spanish Super Cup in 2020, creating a four-team mini tournament and moving the competition to Saudi Arabia as part of a deal that was reportedly worth **€40 million** per tournament for the federation.

Prosecutors opened a probe of that deal in 2022 following leaked audio between Rubiales and then-Barcelona player Gerard Piqué regarding **millions of dollars in commissions.**

The probe is investigating other officials and workers at the federation, including Rubiales successor, Pedro Rocha.

Rubiales stepped down as president of the RFEF in September after causing an international scandal after kissing Spain player Jenni Hermoso without her consent at the Women's World Cup final. He is facing a **separate trial over that incident** after being accused of sexual assault but has also denied any wrongdoing in that case.

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*Hymie and Abe were walking down a very dark street late one night when Hymie said, 'Look at all those skinheads coming this way, we are going to be robbed and beaten up!' 'Probably,' said Abe, 'and here's that €200 I owe you.'*

## ORIHUELA COSTA BEACHES

The Orihuela City Council put out to tender different lots that included the management of the beach bars last November 2023. The tender was divided into five lots, each covering several beaches on the Orihuela Costa . The lots were assigned selectively, and several of them have recently been awarded.

Among the recently awarded lots are number 2, which covers the beaches of Cala Cerrada, Cala Bosque and Cala Capitán, and number 3, which includes the beaches of La Caleta and Calas de Aguamarina.

The company awarded these two lots is the company Adem Levante , operating under the Chiringuitos del Sol trademark . Surprisingly, Adem Levante has offered a sum considerably higher than the annual fee requested by the City Council. In addition, it is worth noting that the beach bars in Cala Bosque (La Zenia) and La Caleta de Cabo Roig will remain open all year round, along with their sanitary facilities, which is an additional benefit for residents and tourists.

The one corresponding to the beaches of La Glea, Barranco Rubio and Mil Palmeras, was awarded to Café Olé & Friends , and the nautical sports lot has gone to Recreativos Acuáticos Horadada .

Despite these awards, the ones which includes Punta Prima, Cala Estaca and Cala Mosca remains pending.

## Did the Earth Move for You?

During 2023, there were 91 seismic movements have been detected in the province of Alicante. These registered between 1.5 and 3.8 degrees of magnitude on the Richter scale . This represented an increase of 70.3% in the province during 2023 compared to 2022 in which 64 earthquakes were recorded.

\During 2021 there were 76 quakes and 68 in 2020.

The Alcoy region received the most quakes last year with 21. Next came the Vega Baja area with 11.

Sergfio Molina, the professor at the University of Alicante and member of the Seismic Engineering and Risk Group (GIRS) of the UA, emphasised that part of the growth in quake numbers was because of better and more detection equipment in the province. Molina warns that currently, a direct relationship cannot be established between the increase in seismic activity and the imminence of earthquakes.

Contrary to common belief, increased earthquakes are not necessarily a direct indication of an upcoming grand seismic event. "Earth dynamics are very complex; more factors are needed to understand the full picture."

In recent days, the Torrevieja area registered two earthquakes, the first on May 4, magnitude 2.2 at 1:21am. The tremor has been located in the centre of the Torrevieja salt lagoon. It was just one more of the dozens of microseisms that occur each year in this region of the southeast of the peninsula with an ancient tradition in earthquakes.

Next day at 12:23pm another registered 2.0 in Torrevieja, with the epicentre southwest of Torrevieja, in the border zone of Torrevieja and Orihuela Costa.

Bajo Segura is an area with the highest seismic risk in the Iberian Peninsula, only surpassed by the province of Granada.

Last night I was sitting on the sofa watching TV when I heard my wife's voice from the kitchen. "What would you like for dinner, my love, chicken, beef or lamb?" I said, "Thank you, I'll have chicken, please." She replied, "You're having soup you fat fecker. I was talking to the cat".

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**LOCAL**

## **BRIT'S STILL THE MAIN FOREIGN BUYERS.**

The Spanish notaries' association has published its report on foreign demand for Spanish property during 2023.

Once again it shows British buyers still leading the pack by a wide margin, though not as wide as it used to be.

According to the notaries, 12,470 Spanish property sales involved a British buyer in 2023, down 16.5% on the previous year but 30% ahead of the Germans who had 9,611 purchases, down 27% year-on-year. The French were in third place with 8,647 purchases, down 16%.

Based on the year-on-year change - 2022 & 2023 - the Russian market increasing the most with a rise of 27% while the Swedish market declining the most, down by 35%.

The UK market is almost 40% below where it was in 2007 just before the property bubble burst, whilst France has increased almost five times, and Germany almost ten, since then. Only the number of UK and Ireland purchases have decreased since 2007 but both are still among the most positive, in relative terms, for 2023.

## **MORE THAN 2,000 RESIDENTS IN ALICANTE REJECT THEIR INHERITANCE!**

During 2023, 2,075 Alicante residents refused to accept their inheritance. This is very surprising since the new regional government granted a 99% bonus to the tax allowance, practically eliminating the need for inheritance tax between parents, children and spouses to be paid. This was also applied retroactively to May 28, 2023.

The vice dean of the Valencia Notarial College, Delfín Martínez from Alicante, points out that the most frequent causes for these refusals continue to be the debts accumulated by the deceased. He believed that in many of these cases there would still be some funds available after the debts would be settled.

Other frequent cases are what Martínez calls "technical resignations", which are those in where, for example, a group of brothers/sisters renounces the part that would correspond to them in favour of one of them who, say, is the one who has received the least help from parents in life or the one who has been responsible for taking care of them.

Other cases would be where the inheritance went to distant relatives who received a much smaller deduction in the tax allowance, the Inheritance Tax having to be paid in six months as well.

## **The Stupid Gang!**

A Londoner, a Glaswegian, and a Dubliner get twisted at the local pub one afternoon and conspire to rob the local bank. Drunk as they are, they try and rob the place but are too drunk to pull it off.

As the alarms scream, they leg it out of the bank and down the alley. Hot on their heels are the cops, responding to the alarm. As the three drunks round a bend, they spot a Cats and Dogs Home and jump over the fence into the kennel yard. They see three burlap sacks lying on the ground and they each crawl into an empty bag.

The cops leap over the fence behind them and spot the three bulging sacks on the ground. One cop kicks the first sack and the Londoner shouts, "Bark! Bark!"

"Ah, must be a dog!" says the cop and he kicks the second sack.

The canny Scot shouts, "Meow!" and the cop nods his head, exclaiming, "Must be cats!"

He then turns his attention on the last sack, kicking it sharply.....

The Jackeen (Dubliner) cries out, "Potatoes!"





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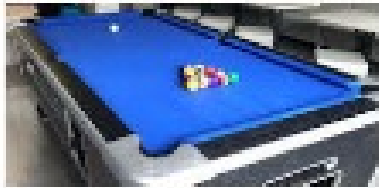
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Yesterday, I bought a map of the world. I then gave my wife a dart and told her to throw it, and wherever it lands, I'll take here there on holiday.

This year, we're spending three weeks behind the fridge!



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I'm not saying I live in a rough area, but the local school has its own mortuary.  
I went to a quiz in my local pub last night, and the first question was  
"Who the f\*ck are you looking at?"



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## ALZHEIMER'S SOCIETY CHECKLIST FOR POSSIBLE DEMENTIA SYMPTOMS

This is not intended to diagnose dementia or any other health condition. Everyone experiences dementia in their own way. This checklist includes common signs of dementia. But there can be other reasons for any changes you've noticed. Talk to your doctor about any concerns on this list.

### Memory and mental ability problems

Memory loss – difficulty learning new information or forgetting recent events or people's names.

Struggling to find the right word.

Difficulty judging distances or mistaking reflections or patterns for other objects.

Struggling to make decisions.

Losing track of time and dates.

Asking the same question over again.

Putting objects in unusual places.

Problems with daily living activities.

Struggling with tasks like paying bills.

Difficulty getting enough sleep.

Getting lost in familiar places.

Mood and behaviour problems.

Becoming easily upset.

Symptoms of depression.

Symptoms of anxiety.

Withdrawal or losing interest in things I previously enjoyed.

Acting inappropriately or out of character.

Feeling restless and walking about.

Table: The Times and The Sunday Times  
Source: Alzheimer's Society



The unclear photo on the left is of a receipt, given just after midnight on April 20 this year at a bar called Kennedy's in Dublin.

What is startling about it are the prices:

One pint of Guinness	€12.50
One pint of Carlsberg	€15.00
One Vodka	€10.95
One Mixer	€9.90
VAT Included	€9.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>€48.35</b>

People don't have to wear a mask to know they are robbers!

"You'll be fine," the Doctor said after finishing the young Woman's surgery.

She asked, "How long will it be before I am able to have a normal sex life again, Doctor?"

The surgeon paused, his face reddened as a small tear ran down his cheek from the corner of his eye. The girl was alarmed. "What's the matter Doctor? I will be all right, won't I?"

He replied, "Yes, you'll be fine. It's just that no one has ever asked me that after having their tonsils out".

**CHANGE IN CATALONIA?**

Catalan pro-independence parties have lost their decade-long hold of power in Catalonia as the pro-union socialist PSOE party – the Catalan Socialists (PSC) in the region – have won the most votes in an election on Sunday, according to most of the votes counted.

The four pro-independence parties, led by the Junts per Catalunya (JxCat) of former Catalan president Carles Puigdemont, are set to acquire a total of 61 seats, short of the key figure of 68 seats needed for a majority in the Catalan Parliament. He says he will try and form a minority government.

The PSC led by former health minister Salvador Illa won 42 seats, up from their 33 seats in 2021. The PSC will still need to earn the backing of other non-separatist parties and one separatist to put Illa in charge. Deal making in the coming weeks, will be key to forming a government. Neither a hung parliament nor a new election is out of the question. In all, seven different political parties won seats in the regional government.

A record drought, not independence, is currently the leading concern of Catalans, according to the most recent survey by Catalonia's public opinion office.

The opinion office said that 50% of Catalans are against independence while 42% are for it, meaning support for it has dipped to 2012 levels. When Puigdemont scarpred from the country in 2017 to escape arrest, 49% favoured independence and 43% were against.



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'I have to do that or Daddy's stomach will get very fat. Bouncing keeps him skinny!'

'That's not going to work.'

'Why not?'

'Because Tina the babysitter keeps blowing him back up again!'

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Two bored casino dealers are waiting at the crap table. A very attractive busty woman from Alabama arrived and bet twenty-thousand dollars on a single roll of the dice.

She said, "I hope you don't mind, but I feel much luckier when I play Topless." With that, she stripped to the waist; rolled the dice; and yelled, "Come on, Baby, Southern Girl needs new clothes!"

As the dice came to a stop, she jumped up-and-down, and squealed..."YES! YES! I WON! I WON!" She hugged each of the dealers. Then she picked up her winnings and her clothes, and quickly departed.

The dealers stared at each other dumfounded. Finally, one of them asked, "What did she roll?" The other answered, "I don't know. I thought you were watching."

Moral --- Not all Southerners are stupid. Not all blondes are dumb. But, all men..... are men.

### Grandad.

Every day, my grandfather used to add a couple of spoonfuls of gunpowder to his tea. He said it was a very old remedy to help him live longer.

It actually worked, and he lived to the ripe old age of a hundred and five.

He left a widow, seven children, twenty two grandchildren and a seventy five foot crater where the crematorium used to be.

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“I figured you should have breakfast in bed on your birthday. Can you reach the stove okay?”

## Cancerphobia

A new piece in New Scientist claims that an irrational fear of the disease is causing people and governments to make poor decisions about cancer.

"Most people still believe that a diagnosis of cancer is a death sentence. That is no longer true," argues David Ropeik. But that fear leads patients to choose more aggressive and risky surgeries than required and governments to spend huge amounts on tackling environmental carcinogens when we "now know that cancer is predominantly caused by naturally occurring mutations to DNA".

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## “Waggy Tails”

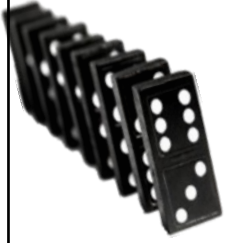
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**CODERE BETTING MACHINE!**





# BAR DOMINO

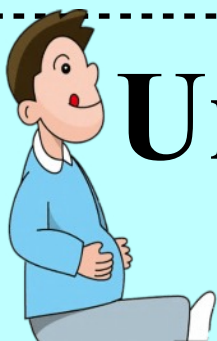


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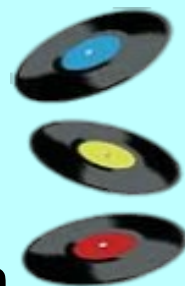


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**CODERE BETTING MACHINE!**

Jim was less than pleased with the doctor's remedy for the constant fatigue that was plaguing him. "Give up sex completely, Doctor?

I'm a young guy. How can you expect me to just go cold turkey?"

The doctor scratched his chin and said "So get married and taper off gradually."

## UPDATED - TORREVIEJA / ALICANTE AIRPORT BUS SCHEDULE

DEPARTS TORREVIEJA	DEPARTS ALICANTE A'PORT
07:00	08:00
09:00	09:30
10:00	10:00
10:30	10:30
11:00	11:00
12:00	11:30
13:00	12:00
14:00	13:00
15:00	14:00
16:00	15:00
17:00	16:00
18:00	17:00
20:00	18:00

Ticket price: €7

Children under 4 years old free (ID required)  
Pensioners: 30% discount. Requires accreditation by presenting a Social Security card. This discount only applies to pensioners residing in the Valencian community.

To prove that you are a pensioner, you must be over 65 years old and present your NIE, DNI or residence card, where you must confirm that you are a resident of the Valencian community.

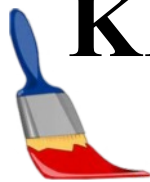
Accessible for the disabled: YES

Free Wi-Fi: YES

Luggage space: YES

Ticket sales in Torreveija: Torreveija bus station (Calle de Mar, 50) and on the same bus at the airport.

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A mother-in-law said to her son's wife when the baby was born "I don't mean to be rude but he doesn't look anything like my son!" The daughter-in-law lifted her skirt and said, "I don't mean to be rude either, but this is a fanny not a f\*cking photo copier!!"

## U.K. Social Welfare Information - Advocacy Costa Blanca.

### Benefit Rates 2024/2025

Sickness Benefits (Attendance Allowance, DLA, PIP.) - High Rate - £108.55.

Low Rate - £72.65



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SC. Royal British Legion, Orihuela Costa Branch*

*David visited us in Catral. We couldnt find anyone to visit us so far inland. You certainly get what you pay for.  
No such thing as a free lunch as they say. B&P W. Catral*

*David helped me when moving my Husband to a care home in the UK. His knowledge of the UK care system is amazing. The amount of time he gave to us was fantastic. We couldn't have done it without him.  
GD-Torre Vieja*

*I contacted a group for help with welfare and care They gave me some forms and advice. I didn't have the time or energy & a friend recommended David. He visited and helped me with the application & is also helping with the Spanish care. Yes he charges but his knowledge and help makes it so worth it.  
MT. San Miguel.*

*David just helped me claim £47389 back from unpaid state pension. All for free!!! IL- Catral.*



0034602465565



advocacycostablanca@gmail.com

Advocacy Costa Blanca is operated by David Minto, a UK registered Social Worker. Get in touch if you need advice or guidance related to UK and Spanish welfare support.

This includes UK benefit applications (Attendance Allowance/PIP) or support to return to the UK with care.

I am registered with the UK professional body for Social Work & every year must provide proof & evidence that my experience, knowledge and skills are up to date. As a self-employed (Autonimo) social worker in Spain I am also required to provide professional liability and indemnity insurance.

The registration requirements plus insurance means that I am always up to date with latest changes in UK social care & welfare law and my practice is fully indemnified. This means that if things do not go as expected or planned, you have professional and financial protection. Reassuring for you and costly for me.

**Can any other social care advisor offer you the same???**



## ‘GET THE TIE CARD NOW!’ BRITS URGED

The British Embassy in Madrid says it's "really important" that the **200,000+ UK nationals in Spain who still hold a green residency certificate** exchange it for a TIE card "as soon as possible" to avoid issues with the EU's proposed new Entry Exit System.

"It's really important that any British person who lives in Spain gets the TIE - not only because it is the most durable and dependable way to prove your rights in Spain, but also to avoid disruption at the border when the EU's Entry Exit Scheme comes into force," outgoing British Ambassador Hugh Elliott said in the statement to the press during May.

"We are working with the Spanish Government and the EU to prepare for the implementation of this new scheme and **we have requested that more TIE appointments are made available.**"

**The green certificate** - issued in either card or A4 sheet size - is the residency document of EU nationals and is officially called Certificado de Registro de Ciudadano de la Unión. They do

not contain a photo, nor do they have an expiry date. Even though its a photo-less flimsy piece of paper or cardboard, the green certificate does offer the advantage of not having an expiry date and therefore not needing to be renewed. The TIE card does have to be renewed.

As the UK Embassy writes: "The non-biometric Green Certificate, though a valid residency document in Spain, was issued prior to EU Exit and does not feature in the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement or in Annex 22 of the Schengen Border Guard Handbook.

"Therefore, it is expected that Green Certificate holders may lose out on the chance to be exempt from registering.

"As a result, they may encounter difficulties and delays at the border, especially when entering other EU countries where the Green Certificate may not be recognised."

It's important to note that the British Embassy has not stated that is now compulsory for Brits to exchange their green certificates for TIEs, but they are strongly advised to do so.

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## Russia Expands Interference.

Russia has been jamming GPS signals in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania for months. The cyber attacks have disrupted sea travel, and Finland has been forced to suspend some flights to Estonia.

“This is a deliberate action that is putting people’s lives at risk,” said Estonian Foreign Minister Margus Tsahkna.

Meanwhile, Germany, Czech Republic, and Poland each said separately that the Russian military-linked hacker group Fancy Bear, aka APT28, had compromised their governments’ systems last year.

And during early May, the Financial Times reported that European intelligence agencies say Russia is preparing to move from cyber attacks to violent acts of sabotage. It said the Kremlin is planning bombings and arson attacks on European infrastructure.

Anyone who is watching the developments in the Ukraine closely will note that the Russians are also methodically bombing the electrical power grid facilities there, almost on a weekly basis.

## Sex Work from Home in Holland 25

A growing number of areas in Holland already permit sex work from home, including Rotterdam, Utrecht and Tilburg; to prevent exploitation from being driven underground where unlicensed sex workers "become more vulnerable to coercion, violence and blackmail", claimed Tilburg.

Many Dutch cities disagree on whether sex workers should be allowed to operate from home under proposed legislation. Many of the 150 municipalities surveyed by NOS, the Netherlands' largest news organisation, believed the change of rules would be a "nuisance" for residents.

One town argued that it would lead to traffic congestion and "people in the area feeling less safe", reported Dutch News. "If sex work takes place in the private sphere it is difficult to gain insight into possible abuses," the municipality of Kaag en Braassem told NOS.

Many municipalities have not yet decided on whether to support the national law, said Sky News, with the legislation currently on hold and no date for it to go before parliament.



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*(These tips are to assist those of us who have very little knowledge of modern technology.)*

Now the real reason you can't watch BBC iPlayer, ITV X and other UK streaming TV is due to them being **GEO-locked** and therefore only available for viewing in the UK.

**What is Geo-locked?** Well it means "Geographical Location" and in short it is technology that stops Internet connections from outside a specific area, i.e. the UK, from accessing their services. Why, you may ask? The main reason is licensing. This means the service is only licensed to be used in that region by the licensing authority.

We will now look at using a VPN route to access these services, however there are other ways to access them.

**What is a VPN?** It stands for Virtual Private Network and in basic terms allows you to connect to the Internet from a location you choose from your VPN provider. There are lots of VPN providers and all have a similar setup but in general you sign up for their service and login to their app. Once logged in you will see a

choice of countries and locations. So for instance UK, Manchester. If you click on that, you access the Internet through that Manchester connection and viola you can use the Internet like you are in the UK. So when you connect to the Internet you connect through an IP address - this means Internet Protocol - and this shows your location, so a VPN gives you a different IP address that makes you look like you are in that region.

Now the likes of the BBC **are not stupid** and part of their license to stream is that they must do all they can to make sure you are in the UK. Their systems are designed to spot multiple connections from the same IP address and these get blocked, so one day you may be able to connect and another not. Most VPN companies change them regularly.

If you are outside of the UK and want a better VPN option, then most providers offer you a dedicated VPN. This is with your own personal IP address which you pay for as an extra.

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- Support with benefit applications to UK and Spanish government
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- Emotional Support

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### The Adoption.

A Husband and Wife who worked in a Circus went to an adoption agency. The social workers there raised doubts about their suitability?

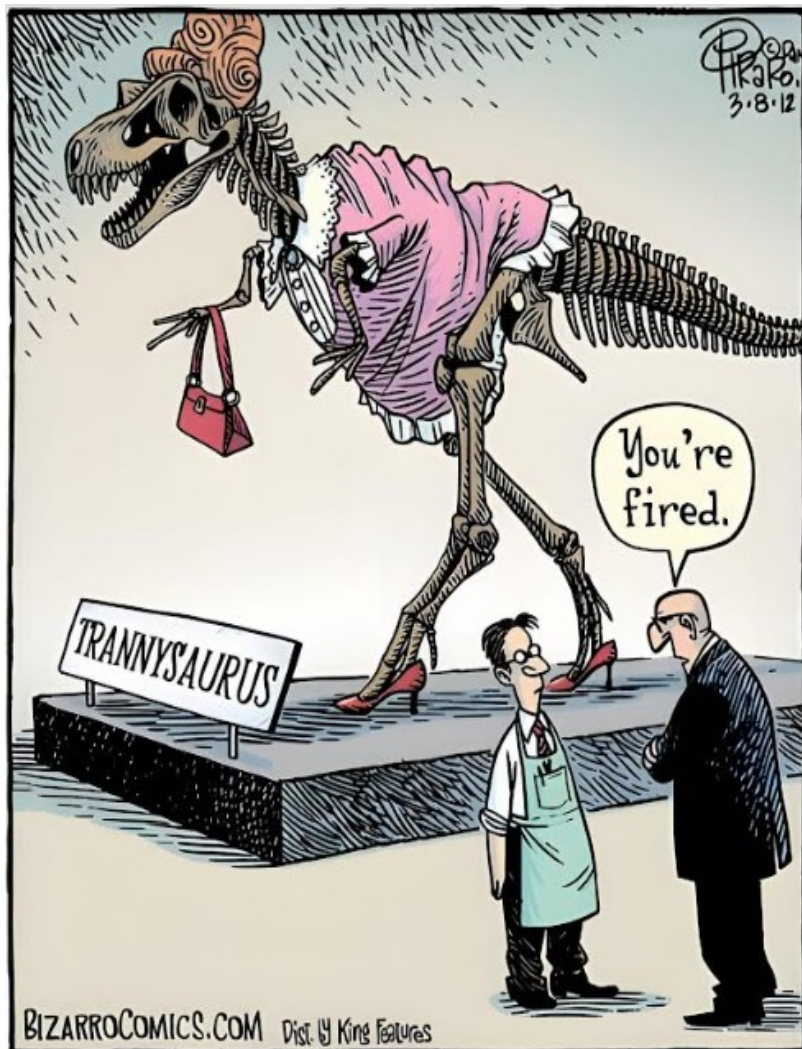
The couple then produced photos of their 50-foot Motor Home, which was clean and well maintained and equipped with a beautiful nursery. The social workers then raised concerns about the education and care a child would receive while in the couple's care.

"We've arranged for a full-time Tutor will teach the child all the usual subjects along with French, Mandarin, and Computer Skills". "Our Nanny will be a certified expert in paediatric care, welfare, and diet."

The social workers were finally satisfied.

They asked, "What age child are you hoping to adopt?"

"It doesn't really matter..... as long as they fit in the cannon"



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Residents in some streets of Madrid woke up during late April to the scent of tropical fruit, as the city hall rolled out **new mango-scented tarmac** as a bizarre means of improving foul-smelling odours outdoors, as well as apparently hiding the scent of freshly poured asphalt itself. "Those of us who have an especially large pituitary, as is my case, will appreciate it even more," said Mayor José Luis Martínez-Almeida. "I'm getting dizzy from the strong smell of mango, I live on the first floor and I had to close all the windows for it not to smell indoors," one less appreciative resident told local TV channel TeleMadrid. Madrid authorities have chopped down almost 9,000 trees over the past two years.

A football fan accidentally called police during a match when his smartwatch confused his goal celebration for an emergency. Doncaster Rovers won 4-2 against Barrow on 21 April after a spectacular comeback by Rovers, who were two goals down with five minutes left until the final whistle. The unnamed fan's Apple watch **detected activity that indicated a severe accident**, triggering its SOS feature. South Yorkshire Police posted a picture of the internal call log on X that noted "from background noise this is clearly a football match", adding "hoping you've all recovered!"

A gold pocket watch retrieved from the body of the richest passenger on the Titanic, John Jacob Astor, sold at auction for **\$1.46 million**—a record price for a piece of Titanic memorabilia.

A Belgian man was acquitted on drunk-driving charges after doctors testified that he suffers from "auto-brewery syndrome," in which his gut ferments carbohydrates into alcohol. The man—who coincidentally works at a brewery—had a blood alcohol level four times past the legal limit when pulled over, though he didn't feel intoxicated. A month later he was pulled over again, testing three times the limit. He'd been unaware he had the rare

condition, said his lawyer, and was "relieved that he finally knew what was up."

A **76-year-old** from Windsor has become the



oldest Briton to complete the notoriously challenging Marathon des Sables. Harry Hunter, photo, a former Household Cavalry officer, ran the six-day, **155-mile race** through the sand dunes and rocky mountains of the

Sahara to raise money for his local hospice. He had to carry all his own food and cover about a marathon a day in temperatures of up to 50°C. On the second day, he turned 76. "I had over 800 people singing happy birthday to me on the start line, it was very emotional," he recalled. "It was a great experience – tough, very tough, which I expected."

Did you know that in 2008, Finnish police found a dead mosquito while searching the inside of a stolen car. They tested the blood from the mosquito's last meal and successfully used it to identify the thief.

A zoo in China was criticized for **dyeing a pair of dogs black and white** to make them resemble panda bears. The Taizhou Zoo in Jiangsu province admitted it trimmed and dyed the fluffy Chow Chows to make up for its lack of the iconic Chinese bears. State media criticized the zoo for misleading visitors, but zoo officials said they had clearly billed them as "panda dogs." "People dye their hair," said a spokesperson. "Dogs can dye their hair, too." Other zoos in China have been accused of misidentifying animals, and in 2019 a dog café in Sichuan province dyed six Chow Chows to look like pandas. (Well, I suppose people put blokes in Man U shirts to make them look like footballers.....Incoming!)

My mate set me up on a blind date. He said, "She's a lovely girl, but there's something you should know... She's expecting a baby." I felt like a right idiot waiting in the pub wearing nothing but a nappy!





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Los Altos*

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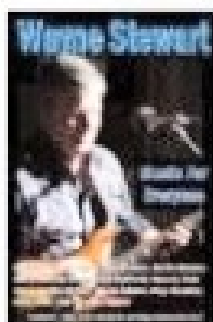
**Thursday: Simon Morton**

**Friday: A Las Raices**

**Sunday: Wayne Stewart**

Ask for times at Sunset or keep an eye on our FaceBook page..

<https://www.facebook.com/sunsetcafebarandlounge>



I bought my wife a pair of diamond earrings last month and she hasn't talked to me since.  
That was part of the deal.

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& POOL  
TABLES**



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OR SPECIALITY BEERS.  
The Best Stocked Bar in  
the Costa Blanca!**

**BINGO!**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY  
AT 7.30pm!!  
& SATURDAY at 2pm!!**

**LIVE  
WORLDWIDE  
RACING  
COVERAGE**

I've decided to give up donating blood; so many difficult questions every time.  
Who's is it? Where did you get it? Why's it in a bucket...?



### Phone Sex?

I checked into a hotel on a business trip and was a bit lonely so I thought I'd get me one of those girls you see advertised in phone booths when you're calling for a cab.

I grabbed a card on my way in. It was an ad for a girl calling herself Erotique, a lovely girl. She had all the right curves in all the right places, beautiful long wavy hair, long graceful legs all the way up..... you know the kind. So I'm in my room alone and figure, what the hell, I'll give her a call.

"Hello?" the woman says. God, she sounded sexy. "Hi, I hear you give a great massage and I'd like you to come to my room and give me one. No, wait, I should be straight with you. I'm in town all alone and what I really want is sex. I want it hard, I want it hot, and I want it now. I'm talking kinky the whole night long. You name it, we'll do it. Bring all your implements, toys, everything you've got in your bag of tricks. We'll go hot and heavy all night. Tie me up, cover me in chocolate syrup and whipped cream, anything you want baby. Now, how does that sound?"

She says, "That sounds fantastic, but for an outside line you need to press 9.....".

### Believe it or not but .....

Afghanistan is trying to promote itself as a tourist destination!

The Taliban government have reported that at least three foreigners, **all Spanish**, and one national had died as a result of an attack carried out by unidentified gunmen in Bamiyan province.

In addition to the four dead, four other foreigners (all tourists) and three Afghans were injured in the attack.

The injured are from Norway, Australia, Lithuania and Spain.

Bamiyan, home to two monumental Buddha statues destroyed in 2001 by the Taliban, is Afghanistan's main tourist destination. The Bamiyan region is mostly inhabited by members of the Shia Hazara community. This religious minority, historically persecuted, has been repeatedly targeted by the Islamic State group (IS), which considers them heretics. Has to be one of the weirdest holiday locations on earth! 'Cept for Iran, Syria, Hull, Drogheda, etc.



## AQUAQUEST PLUMBING

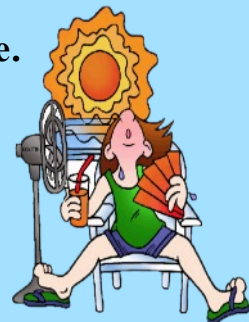


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## Lime Bar Fishing SUNBATHING Club

Since the last report, we have heard reports of hundreds of fish being killed at El Bosquet. The owners are not sure what caused it, but the fishing has been terrible there for a few weeks now. With our members struggling to catch at the best of times, it looks like we will have to sunbathe on the river bank for a while longer! It seems as if the carp are finally spawning in the rivers, so once they have finished, hopefully the river fishing will improve....

The results of the preliminary rounds of the knockout cup were, Fagash beat Antique Man with 1 small carp between them, Just John beat Fred and Sweeney beat Big Fish Chris (BFC). BFC was winning with Sweeney just keeping in touch. If BFC had landed the monster carp that he lost at the net, it would have been game over. However, in the last 5 minutes (again), Sweeney hooked into a biggie and after a good battle, managed to get it in the net to win. Not only did he win this tie, but he is now at the top of the biggest carp sheet too, it weighed 5.22 kilos. Well done Sweeney, just a shame David Bailey couldn't work the camera (again)! At the last meeting we welcomed 2 new sunbathers, Martyn & Brian (nicknames to follow). I hope you have plenty of suncream & welcome to the club. The monthly match was decided to be fished at Eden 3, but as the pegs needed trimming before the Friday match, the Shropshire Lad volunteered to clear them on his own. Thank you for the hard work. Unfortunately, I had to go back to UK so the match report below is from Sweeney.



11 sunbathers arrived at Eden 3 for the draw at 07.45. The new lads (Martyn & Brian) were with us. 3 Rods & BFC (match committee) inspected the pegs and river and reported that the pegs were OK but the water level was very low. After much discussion, it was decided to move venue and fish the Mercadona drain. Not everyone was delighted and the "Lad's" previous peg clearing had been done in vain!



Everyone piled back into their cars and made the 5-minute journey, only to find that the drain was also low (almost 12" below the concrete plinth)! Antique Man, Fred, Martyn & Brian went off to check out Nancy's, whilst the remaining 7 (after a roving draw) made ready. Brian decided to fish Nancy's where he landed his 1st Spanish carp, but the other 3 called it a day and drove off. As expected, fish were few and far between except for the "Lad's" peg, where the small mullet were very obliging to his pole and float tactics with bread punch on the hook. The level dropped again in the latter part of the match, leaving about 18" of water, and the fish became even more infrequent. 1st was 3 Rods with 4 nice carp for 3.9 kilos, 2nd was the Lad with 2 carp and 26 small mullet for 3.6 kilos and 3rd was Fagash who had 1 good mullet for 1.4 kilos. Sweeney and BFC caught but Yorkie and Old Bill both blanked. I am glad I missed that one!!

After the recent rains and lovely sunshine, the bamboo is shooting up into a thick jungle. Therefore, a paths and pegs clearing party from Carp R Us cleared Eden 2 & the Sunbathers cleared Eden 3. Unfortunately, no youngsters turned up! Only 3 x 80 year olds and a nearly 70 year old turned up to clear about 150 yds of bamboo and multiple pegs.

See photo of Sweeney before we started and him & 3 Rods crawling back afterwards! If you fish the rivers, please take a sickle with you to trim the peg that you fish. Every little helps. The next meeting bun fight is at The Lime Bar on Tuesday 4th June.

Thank you. Stay safe.

Fishy fingers,  
The Ghost

A power of attorney is a legal agreement that gives a trusted person — the attorney — the authority to manage someone's affairs if they cannot do it themselves. An ordinary power of attorney gives someone the power to look after your affairs for a temporary period, for example if you are living abroad. A lasting power of attorney gives them power to manage your affairs permanently and in the UK there are two types: health and welfare, and property and financial affairs.

During early May The Sunday Times reported on a case where Rebecca H. had a lasting power of attorney (LPA) to allow her to manage her father's affairs when he was no longer able to himself. Richard H, 86, sold a property in **Portugal in 2022**, but his bank there rejected the lasting power of attorney and refused to release the £250,000 he made from the sale.

Rebecca needed the sale to pay for his huge care costs of about £6,000 a month.

The Portuguese bank was able to reject the lasting power of attorney **because England, Wales and Northern Ireland have not ratified the Hague Convention on the International Protection of Adults 2000. IT WOULD FACE A SIMILAR CASE IN SPAIN!**

The Hague Convention encompasses a series of international treaties and agreements that have been ratified by various countries over the years. This is legislation that created a clear system for recognising powers of attorney and court orders for vulnerable people among those countries that signed up.

The **Hague Convention has been ratified in Scotland** along with the EU countries and several others.

**One can only wonder why England, Wales and Northern Ireland had not signed up** when the Convention was being formed. I can only put it down to the Brexit fear of having to

agree to legal judgements and decisions made abroad, including in the EU.

Thankfully for many, the UK is now having second thoughts about joining the Convention. On January 12, 2024, the United Kingdom took the first step toward accession to a new worldwide regime for the recognition and enforcement of judgments by signing up to Hague 2019.

Now that the United Kingdom has signed up to Hague 2019, **the next stage is ratification. BUT, this requires the convention to be put before both Houses of Parliament by a Minister for a period of 21 sitting days.** The convention will be ratified if neither House resolves that it should not be. Following ratification, the United Kingdom will formally accede to Hague 2019 and become a Convention State **after a period of 12 months.**

Presently, however, there has been **no indication as to when Hague 2019 will be put before Parliament** to be ratified, and the looming General Election may delay things further. Only time will tell if and when the United Kingdom will ratify and subsequently accede to Hague 2019. For now, it's a waiting game.

At this stage Rebecca has spent **more than £5,000** in an effort to release the sale funds and is most likely to have to spend a lot more!

This year a court in Lisbon finally accepted the lasting power of attorney, but not that Richard had lost mental capacity, which is often a requirement before the document can be used. It means that Rebecca must go back to the Court of Protection in the UK for an order confirming that he cannot manage his own affairs, which will cost them **£800 for a private assessment and £3,000** in solicitor's fees. She will then have to take it to the court in Portugal, and of course more delays and more fees!

I was mugged by a thief on the way home last night.  
He pointed a gun at me and said 'Your money or your life.'  
I told him I was married .... and had no money and no life.

We hugged and cried together.

It was a beautiful moment....



**DREAM HILLS BOOK SWAP**

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365 days a year.****FREEFONE 900 525 100****Luigi, at his best!**

A virile, middle-aged Italian gentleman named Luigi was relaxing at his favourite bar in Rome when he managed to attract a spectacular young blonde woman. Things progressed to the point where he invited her back to his apartment and, after some small talk, they retired to his bedroom where he rattled her senseless.

After a pleasant interlude he asked with a smile, "So, you finish?"

She paused for a second, frowned, and replied, "No." Surprised, Luigi reached for her and the horizontal-jogging resumed.

This time she thrashed about wildly and there were screams of passion. The sex finally ends and again Luigi smiles and asks, "You finish?"

Again, after a short pause, she returns his smile, cuddles closer to him and softly says, "No."

Stunned, but damned if he was going to leave this woman unsatisfied, Luigi reaches for the woman yet again. Using the last of his strength, he barely manages it, but they end together screaming, bucking, clawing and ripping the bed sheets.

Exhausted, Luigi falls onto his back, gasping. Barely able to turn his head, he looks into her eyes, smiles proudly and asked again, "You finish?"

Barely able to speak, the beautiful blond whispers in his ear, "No, I'm Norwegian."

My mate Pierre was in France with his fiancée when a mouse jumped out at them. He kicked the shit out of the mouse to impress her. He is now single.....and banned from Disneyland.

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