

**YACHTIES MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

It is my pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Antibes Raft Race Association Committee, and the three charities that received the funds generated by the race. With the help of all our sponsors we raised €26,000 which was distributed to the charities. One of the most moving moments, at the cheque presentation, was naturally the reaction of the charity reps, as you can imagine, they were all thrilled to bits. To give you an image of what this means to them I will relate the words of the representative of *Restos du Coeur*, Madame Claude Six, who told me that with the funds received, they could provide 6500 meals for those in need – amazing! Encompass will continue to promote tolerance and understanding amongst youths of difference creeds and cultures, and it was indeed poignant to note that on the night of the event, the Antibes Life Boat was at sea, called out on a distress call. Thank you, your generosity, participation, and dedication to this event made it a rousing success. I hope this letter of thanks, which comes from the heart, also brings you joy, because what we have and can achieve together really does “make a difference.” Until next year!  
*Sheena Insull,  
 Antibes Raft Race Association*

**FOR THE RECORD**

I feel obliged to correct a few inaccuracies and misinterpretations regarding a profile piece you ran on me. Firstly, I am in no way reluctant to take on the Presidency of the American Club of the Riviera. I had conveyed that prior to joining the American Women’s Club of Amsterdam (in 2007), I wasn’t inclined to take part in expat clubs. But, because of a very positive experience with that club, and likewise with the American Club of the Riviera, I was and am very enthusiastic about taking on this responsibility and furthermore I am downright thrilled for the way the club has developed this year with all of the new elements I and the board have introduced such as evening activities, a new website, and a much more diverse membership. Secondly, my timeline in France was misstated: I have been living in France for over ten years: I spent eight years in France in the Nineties, then went to LA and Amsterdam before returning to France in 2010.  
*Jennie Dallery, (below) President,  
 American Club of the Riviera*



**Some intending diners at the Radisson Blu 4-star restaurant in Galway were puzzled – or shocked – to find that the highlighted dish of the day was “stuffed roast aborigine in coriander sauce”. Eventually the eatery’s Albanian manager, a Mr Berisha, admitted that sometimes his English lets him down: “Sorry. It should have said stuffed roast aubergine.”**



**BLUE BADGE GOOD**

When we are in our holiday apartment in Ste Maxime we pick up your excellent magazine at the Tourist Office. There is so much useful information in it and we look forward to the day we can retire here and become more regular readers. We have been surprised though at your mentions of inadequate consideration for the disabled in France. Our experiences are exactly the opposite. We find that our English Blue Badge is accepted everywhere and rarely have a problem finding an available disabled bay. In Cannes a policeman even let us double park while he summoned a tow-truck to remove an unauthorised car from a bay. Then he directed us into it. We would like South Yorkshire to be as wheelchair-friendly as the Riviera.  
*Harold Jenkins, Rotherham*

**LOST IN SPACE**

Yawn, the ages old same misconstrued argument makes its rounds, this time clearly wrongly promoted by *The Riviera Reporter* (June-July issue, pg 7) in “Pot: a hot potato”. Whoever wrote it must have smoked a joint before hallucinating, because right after “you can still come across claims that the drug is an indulgence of a depraved minority. Not so” it is then immediately contradicted with statistics that show exactly that – numbers in the minority, i.e.: one in five French adults

The AA has a helpful site for Blue Badge travellers in Europe at [www.theaa.com/public\\_affairs/reports/blue\\_badge\\_abroad.pdf](http://www.theaa.com/public_affairs/reports/blue_badge_abroad.pdf)

have tried cannabis and less than 3% are habitual users. Unfortunately your conclusions are also incorrect: in Portugal its legalisation has been proven to have been an abject failure (do your homework) plus other quotes largely in favour of dope. Altogether a biased piece; good media is supposed to present both sides of an issue. The writer’s memory cells went missing and the majority of us factually already know nowadays that with constant use they don’t grow back again. I suppose you also think drinking excessive alcohol is an upper not a downer?  
*I.S., Villefranche-sur-Mer*

**NOT “OPEN ALL HOURS”**

Many of us, especially from New York and LA, find it difficult to eat at restaurants that open their doors at 8pm. We are used to seeing and meeting our friends straight after work at around 6pm, or before the curtain goes up on Broadway or the West End in London at 7:30pm if we plan to see a show. This is well nigh impossible in the South of France. (Yes, we know Cafe de Paris is there! But it is the only place, and we must be given many choices!) Here the curtain goes up at 8:30 or 9pm! Much too late. We are not all retired. We need to wake up and go to work. Clearly nobody seems to wish to cater to us!  
*Marc Ross, by email*