

## Report on the annual reunion “comida” 2018

Sunday 20th May saw the annual reunion and *comida* of the *niños de la guerra* and their descendants and friends at the White House - Meliá Hotel, London, a group of around 80 of us including 9 *niños*.

Luis Jarero and Amaya López - second generation *niños*, yet again organised a memorable and highly successful event. It is easy to underestimate the work that goes into organising such meals; from booking the venue - together with all its negotiations and haggling about space, dates and pricing; to getting the numbers, meal choices and payments from a large and unruly group of people (us!). So - thank you Luis and Amaya, please do the same again next year!

The bar was buzzing with *saludos* and *abrazos* from those who hadn't seen each other for a long time, and all the usual hubbub created by old friends meeting and a healthy mixing of generations, with much smiling and laughter.

Carmen spoke briefly before the meal, about a proposed project to create a permanent record of the annual reunion meal, and asked for people to help with their memories and photos.

The meal itself was Spanish themed. Although, as usual, there were various complaints about the food I can certainly appreciate that to produce any meal in Central London, on a Sunday, for 80+ and that includes wine and service for under £45 is a very tall order. So, again, thanks Amaya and Luis.

Manuel Moreno again ran a raffle for some bottles of wines and various other items from the BCA'37UK stall - unfortunately a photo that had been propped behind the prizes slipped down and with it went the prizes. Sadly the prize wines did not survive, but were replaced with two alternatives. The raffle raised £250 for the BCA'37 UK for which we are profoundly grateful and thank you all for your generosity.

After lunch votes of thanks were made; by Simon Martinez - to Luis and Amaya for organising the event; by Luis Jarero - general thanks to those attending including thanks to the BCA'37 UK financial contribution for the cost of the meal for those *niños* attending. Manuel Moreno ran the lottery and handed out the many prizes.

There was a stall set up by the BCA'37 UK with a display of photographs, “*fichas*” and other of our collected archives, together with some items for sale including some new flags of the Second Republic and the Ikurriña.

Many photos were taken, but I only have one (below), kindly sent to me by John Simmonds. If any one wants to send me their efforts we can add them to this report at a later date.

So, again, thanks to Luis and Amaya, to all who came and lets hope we can make a date to meet again next year!

Report by Carmen Kilner

