

HISTORY AND CONSTITUTION

The Labour Supporters' Group was founded in Javea in 1992, as a point of contact for Labour members living on the Costa Blanca. It preceded the setting up of Labour International as a recognised representation for Labour members living abroad. To comply with Spanish law it had to formally register with the Valencian community, specifying its constitution and rules.

Labour International Cost



Its legal entity was and is Labour Supporters (Comunidad de Valencia) and its aims were made more specific:

- To promote the policies and ideals of the Labour Party
- To encourage British expatriates in Spain to register for an overseas vote and to use that vote to effect a Labour Government in the UK, and Socialist members in the European Parliament.

When Labour International was formed within the Labour Party in 1997, the LSCV became part of LI and duly became a recognised branch known as **Labour**

International Costa Blanca North (LICBN). Rules and procedures were introduced to be compatible with those in the UK, but some allowances were made to reflect the circumstances of being abroad. This was done in consultation with LI and other branches, notably Brussels branch.

The broad aims were retained and more specific statements were made, mainly to attract non-members of Labour, with the aspiration of their joining the Party. To this end, three types of members were established:

1. LI members (ordinary members)
2. Labour UK members (extraordinary members)
3. Non-Labour members (associate members).

Each had differing rights re status, attendances, positions and voting rights. In brief, it meant that associate members would not be able to vote on Labour Party policy matters, nor could they be elected onto the committee. Everyone has been encouraged to attend, to contribute, and to join various social activities, such as monthly lunches, music and poetry groups.

On these terms the branch has functioned well, and prospered, over the last 20 years. With respect to membership, the great majority of members has been drawn from existing Labour members who have re-settled on the Costa Blanca. Success rates on conversion have been modest, and more likely to have occurred because of external events.

The social aspect of our branch is very important to us. Labour supporters who have settled here have often found themselves significantly outnumbered by those who vote for the Tories, and our branch has become an oasis of like-minded people in a desert of political opponents. Some of our partners and friends who are not LP members have joined the branch more for the social activities than for the political content.

In branch meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month at L'Ancora Tennis Club in the Arenal, Xàbia, we operate an inclusive policy, allowing equal rights to speak and vote to all members, whether

ordinary members, extraordinary members or associate members; the exception to this is that associate members are unable to vote on Labour Party matters. These practices have encouraged more members to join, to stay with us, and to enable the branch to operate successfully. We have nearly 60 members and have recently produced a leaflet for recruitment purposes, together with our website and a Facebook page.

Several of our extraordinary members are not temporary visitors to the Costa Blanca, but spend the greater part of the year here, and are as closely involved in branch affairs as ordinary members.

John MacKay & Tony Lawton March 2018

Click here to see more: [www.labintspain.org.uk/LI History index template 04 05 2018.htm](http://www.labintspain.org.uk/LI%20History%20index%20template%2004%2005%202018.htm)



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