

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION



Annual General Meeting 7th April 2018

Shire Hotel Kettering

MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee

Brian Bingham – Vice Chairman
Arnold Thompson – Membership Sec
Peter Murray – Secretary
Dave Fairley – Committee
Gordon Appleby – Standard Bearer

Mick Wyatt - Daedalus
Ben Worship – Treasurer
Gordon Pinkney – Committee
Mike Foote - Chairman

Branch Delegates

Daedalus – M Wyatt
Ford – A Thompson
Greater Manchester – G Pinkney
Telford & Wrekin – Dave Fairley

Yorkshire – B Hayden
Solent – A Key
Kent – G Owens
Southdowns – C Sharpe

In accordance with the Constitution Item 4.1a The Secretary declared the meeting quorate.

Branches

15 Members signed in the Gangway book.

Apologies

Committee Members: Fred Wadley, Terry Lowden, Margaret Gidman, Bob Ridout

1. Opening Prayers and Remembrance

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1110 with the Association prayer.

The Chairman then gave a reading of Names in Remembrance of our Members who have been reported to have Crossed the Bar since the last meeting:

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Richard Ascott	EM A 1	Essex Branch	22/07/17
Lyn Aubrey	EL MECH A 1	Solent Branch	13/12/17
Michael Baldry	LAM AE	Ford Branch	19/09/17
Henry Baker	CEL A	Daedalus Branch	21/03/18
Roy Fairbrother	LAM PM	Ford Branch	10/02/18
Andy Hawkes	Lt Cdr	Ford Branch	12/02/18
Lawrence Ratcliffe	A/POAF A	Yorkshire Branch	08/04/17
Peter Manwaring	AEA M 1	Solent Branch	30/10/17
Eric Wigman	AM A 1	Daedalus Branch	12/06/16

2. The Loyal Toast

The Meeting toasted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

3. Review of 2017 AGM Minutes

No issues.

4. Matters Arising

The Chairman said these minutes were reviewed at the Hanworth meeting in January and therefore there were no further matters arising.

5. Officers Reports

Chairman: A good productive Committee Meeting was held at Hanworth in January with the formation of a Sub Committee to review the Association Rules and Constitution to clarify and update with a possible complete rewrite.

I have attended two Eastchurch Aviation Observance Working Group meetings, the 2018 Observance is on Friday 18th May. Sadly it would seem the RN are losing interest with this event as the response from enquires by Eastchurch has been very unsatisfactory and in some cases non existent.

As I reach the end of my term as your Chairman I would like to thank all those who supported and helped me through the past 2 years. Also those who at times disagreed with some of my thinking and actions have played their part and made me reconsider some issues.

The Association can only get better and stronger with change, modernisation and the way we project ourselves as a group.

The new Chairman and his Committee will always have my support as I fully know how difficult and consuming their work can be at times.

Vice Chairman: Attended Culdrose to present the Dr Rotman award as the recipient was on a small ships flight. The ceremony was held as part of Admirals Divisions with several other awards being presented including the Bamber Trophy and Pilot of the Year.

The Swordfish Inn at Newlyn is worth a visit as the Swordfish pictures are still there and I was made very welcome by the landlady.

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I received a letter of thanks from Captain Channon RN for our Standard Bearer parading the Association Standard at the Commander Dunning Service. Captain Channon was full of praise that Gordon had travelled all the way to Bradfield and even offered to make sure he was not out of pocket!

Treasurer: Copies of the Association Accounts for the period 1 Mar 2017 – 28 Feb 2018 were handed out to Branch Delegates. The Treasurer then went through the accounts in detail line by line. For the accounting period there was a credit over expenditure of £1457.28. This was mainly due to the transfer of the funds held in the closing number 2 account. At the end of the accounting period the account held £45931.21

The Welfare account stands at £1195.86, represented by a £10000 investment bond and £1195.86 cash.

The costings for the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Service were also explained. It was good to see that other associations contributed £100 through the Fly Navy Federation towards the cost of this Service.

Ben also warned members to be on their guard as to email scams, he has received bogus invoices and income tax requests.

The Chairman stated that the MOD and RN are withdrawing funding for most events, even from the Commissioning of Queen Elizabeth 2 the largest carrier ever.

This is one reason that 829 Squadron had to resort to approaching veteran's associations for funds to help with their de commissioning ceremonies. It is all a very sad turn of events.

The £100 we donated to 829 Squadron was gratefully received and they have sent a letter of thanks.

Secretary: We have received our usual invitation for the Buckingham Palace Garden Party from the Not Forgotten Association. There are ten members submitted through me, seven members through the Daedalus Secretary and two other branches will be sending members.

Next year I have arranged with the Not Forgotten Association that they will deal directly with all Branch Secretaries. This will make things much simpler and give a better allocation of invites.

As Cenotaph Parade Marshall I have only one name for this year's parade and last year there were only three marched. This year if there are no more members the Fleet Air Arm Association will not be represented and will have to combine with the Armourers or Buccaneers.

I would like to thank Mick Wyatt for standing in for me at the Hanworth meeting and to thank Jennifer my wife who has done all the admin and emailing whilst I have been ill.

Our newsletter editor Margaret Gidman has recently been diagnosed with a terminal cancer illness has sent the following message to the meeting:

“Margaret and Terry are so disappointed at being unable to be with you at this 2018 AGM. But we will be there in spirit, along with other absent friends and colleagues. It is with a deep sense of humility that we extend our gratitude to all who have sent us their expressions of both sadness and shock at this time. It came as a bolt out of the blue as we had only just returned from holiday.

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We both hope that you will have a successful and enjoyable meeting and AGM
All the very best to everyone
Yours Aye Margaret and Terry Gidman”

The Association has sent Margaret a bouquet of flowers and a good bottle of red wine.

Standard Bearer: Gordon thanked the Committee for their support for his activities. Only one parade this year to report, that of the funeral of Captain RN R T Jolly OBE, Surgeon Captain of Falklands Campaign. Next parade will be at Eastchurch Isle of Sheppey on the 18th May.

Reunion Organiser: Brian advised that the 2019 Reunion/AGM will be held on the 5th to 8th April 2019. The venue will be the Best Western Royal Hotel Bournemouth. On the Saturday the shopping trip will be to Poole and on Sunday there will be a visit to Yeovilton.

Invitation leaflets were available.

Concerns relating to attendance at Reunions were raised. During this period many Associations hold Reunions based on the costs of hotels and this congestion of timings can affect attendances.

Isle of Wight Tours have advised that it maybe possible to move the date by up to one month without much impact on price. This will be considered for the 2020 Reunion. Attendance by Northern Branches to the Reunion/AGM was also low.

Gordon Pinkney and Bob Hayden pointed out that there were several large Branches in the North, yet the association is perceived o be a Southern one.

It was proposed that for the 2021 reunion the venue will be discussed with the Northern Branches to see if they would have enough Members wishing to support and attend a Northern venue.

Newsletter Editor: No report

Membership Secretary: The latest membership reports for each Branch was handed out to Delegates, these will also be emailed to Branch Secretaries for them to update. Some Branches are very good at updating their records, others not so. This means that the membership totals are not correct and/or not up to date.

Will Branch Secretaries please send in their latest membership totals.

Since I have been keeping records we have gone from thirty Branches down to fifteen today.

Based on the current records the Membership comprises:

Full active members	472
Associate members	150
Association Honorary members	4
Association Life members	14
Branch Honorary members	8
Branch Life members	1

Daedalus Branch Secretary. Mick Wyatt reported that there are 90 plus paid up members with 4 new members recently joining.

Communications are being improved with the Daedalus Branch members.

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Fly Navy Federation: Arnold Thompson our FNF representative read out a very positive statement on naval aviation from the Commodore CO Yeovilton. Details are contained in the last minutes of the FNF meeting which are on the Association website and have also been sent out to all Branch Secretaries.

Yeovilton Air Day will take place on Saturday 7th July.
There will not be a Culdrose Air Day

6. Election of Officers: The postal ballot papers were invigilated by Dave Fairley, Geoff Owens and Arnold Thompson. Arnold gave the results as follows:

Officers

Chairman	Brian Bingham	Ford Branch	elected unanimously
Vice Chairman	Jim Moulson	Solent Branch	elected unanimously
Treasurer	Ben Worship	Solent Branch	re-elected unanimously

Committee Members

Bob Hayden	Yorkshire Branch	4 votes	not elected
Gerry Jackson	Ford Branch	5 votes	not elected
Mike Foote	Kent Branch	9 votes	elected
Alan Key	Solent Branch	8 votes	re elected
Dave Fairley	Telford Wrekin Br.	10 votes	re elected

The Elected Committee Now Comprises:

Mike Foote **Alan Key**
Dave Fairley **Bob Ridout**
Terry Lowden

Lunch Break was taken at this time.

7. Association Web Site

The newly elected Chairman re opened the meeting welcoming the new Vice Chairman and elected Committee Members.

The Secretary wants to make everyone aware of the importance of the web site as our main means of communication not only within the Association but also to the outside world.

The web site contains all our meetings Agendas and Minutes, notice of events, Fly Navy Federation information and items or articles of interest posted by Members. It is an open website and password is not necessary. If you want to put an item of interest on the web site, simply send it to the webmaster who will post it on the web site. These items of interest of a Newsletter form replace the hard copy Airey Fairey and were until recently gathered and coordinated by the News Letter Editor.

The web site address is www.faaa.co.uk

The web master “polices” the site to prevent unsuitable material being posted.

Jim Moulson proposed that there are links on the web site to SAFA, RNBT and the British Legion

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We are now looking for a Newsletter Editor, so any volunteers please contact anyone of the Committee

8. Any Other Business:

a. New Data Protection Regulations

On the 28th May 2018 new regulations will come into force designed to protect personal data held on data bases. The regulations are very much aimed at banks and companies which hold most or all of our personal data.

However, our Association even though we only hold a small amount of personal data will have to comply with the legislation.

Jim Moulson has researched this, and he states that any data must be held safely and securely, Members must now give their permission that their name address and phone number be held on a data base. This applies at Branch level. Also, data must not be shared without permission of the individuals concerned.

Jim has devised a suitable form which he is using in Solent Branch which asks members to sign giving their consent to the Branch/Association holding the data and communication with them.

This form will be sent to all Branch Secretaries who must have the members sign giving consent (or otherwise). These forms are to be retained at Branch Level and kept up to date.

Jim also reminded the meeting that emails from unknown sources should not be forwarded or opened.

Also, to ensure security of data and email communication, when sending emails they should always be sent as BLIND COPY which is Bcc: under From. This will ensure no one else can access your information.

Arnold Thompson will keep a membership list giving only name, rank and where served. This will be open for access.

The Membership data base containing home address, email etc will not be accessible and will be secure. Access to this data base will only be granted by letter from the persons involved being sent to Arnold.

The Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to Mike Foote the Chairman of the last two years. An excellent job steering through some turbulent times and challenging meetings. He also set in motion a complete review of the Association Constitution which was long overdue. The Association is in a positive situation for the future. Thank you, Mike.

The meeting gave Mike a resounding round of applause.

b. Navy Wings: Alan Key introduced Navy Wings and said that all Members of the Association ought to become supporters to help with much needed funds.

Navy Wings is the new name for the Historic Flight.

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From May 2019 the MOD are to withdraw all funding from the Historic Flight which is now called Navy Wings. Navy Wings will then become self-funding. By becoming Navy Wings supporters' our members can help raise the much-needed funds. It costs only £30 (min) pa. payable by standing order. Just go to Navy Wings web site to join www.navywings.org.uk There are several benefits for supporters.

Without our support Navy Wings could not keep the aircraft flying and could even cease to exist.

c. Upcoming Parades: Arnold reminded the meeting that the Eastchurch Parade will take place on the 18th May at 1100 and the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade (ex TAGS) is on the 20th May. The Standard will be paraded at both events. After the Lee on Solent parade there is lunch at Lee on Solent Golf Club costing £17. Please contact me for more information on these parades.

d. Association Membership Cards: The need for a membership card was discussed at length at the January Hanworth meeting.

Following this up Jim Moulson said we could have a card similar to the RNA to prove membership. The card would contain membership details and can have a photo on the back, it would be update annually with a sticker when capitation is paid. The cost is £249 for 500 cards and £345 for 750 cards. We would require the 750 number.

Jim Moulson proposed that the Association implement membership cards. The proposal was seconded by Dave Fairley and the meeting Delegates voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Jim will place the necessary order and then distribute the cards and stickers to the Branch Secretaries.

e. Reunion Attendance: Jim Moulson said that if we were to consider having high level entertainment such as the Royal Marines Association band we may be able to attract more members to what would be a "bumper" event. With the level of Association funds this is well affordable at approximately £2000. Peter Murray agreed that this suggestion had merit and that it could prove to be money well spent. The 2020 reunion maybe able to run this event. Will everyone give this some thought between now and the October Open Meeting when it will be on the agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1400.

Date of the October open meeting to be advised by the Secretary.

Date of the next AGM Saturday 6th April 2019

Peter Murray

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National Secretary
10th April 2018