

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING Held on the 24th September 2016 at Derby RBL Club

Attendees:

Brian Bingham	Arnold Thompson
Peter Murray	Mike Foote
Gordon Appleby	Ben Worship
Gordon Pinkney	Peter Westbrook
Dave Fairley	

Visitors: None

Apologies: Ron Golightly, Fred Wadley, Terry Lowden
Margaret Gidman, Alan Key.

The Chairman opened the Committee meeting at 1105, and welcomed everyone attending.

A special welcome to Peter Westbrook, the Daedalus Branch Secretary.

Item 1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Aztec Hotel Bristol on 9th April 2016

The Minutes were accepted as read by the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman read out a letter he had received from Sue Halladay regarding the AGM and her experience and thanks.

This letter is attached to the minutes..

Item 2. Officers Reports

Chairman

Following the AGM at Bristol in April so began my term in office as your Chairman, I am still not sure if I am fully aware of the task ahead and the shoes I have to try and fill. As you all know the work that Arnold Thompson carried out as Chairman of our Association over many years was immense. I am hoping to tap into his knowledge and experience whenever I can to ensure I do the best job possible.

May proved to be a very busy month starting with the Aviation Observance at Eastchurch on the 6th. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce along with Sir Adrian Johns attended and our Association had a good turnout of members. The crowd around the

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Memorial were treated to a fly over by an RN Merlin that later landed in the local school playing fields for the children to look over.

The following weekend 14th & 15th was the Fleet Air Arm Remembrance Service at Lee on Solent. Our Association has taken over from the TAG's Association in running this event; thanks go to Arnold who is the organiser.

Taking the salute the FAAA Honorary Vice President Rear Admiral Keith Blount OBE, although blustery on the seafront, the rain kept off until after the Parade. Again I was very pleased to see a good turnout of our members, some having travelled from outside the area.

By Wednesday 18th I was staying in the WO & Senior Rates Mess at RNAS Yeovilton, by invitation from 825 Sqdn to attend their Wings Parade on the Thursday. The day was fantastic, from the welcome Bucks Fizz, the Parade, the Flying Display followed by the Wardroom Reception and meal I was well looked after and spoilt. Cdr Collins who was our guest at the AGM started to introduce me to Rear Admiral Blount when the Admiral turned and said "I was with Mike last weekend at Lee". At this point I asked the Admiral if he would consider attending Eastchurch for the 2017 Observance, he was very interested and asked for an official invite.

On the 16th June I attended the Eastchurch Observance Committee meeting where we discussed the 2016 Observance and how it had gone and any changes that needed to be made for the future. We then moved on to the 2017 event and the proposed date is Friday 5th May, the committee agreed to invite Rear Admiral Blount as the main VIP. The Observance for 2018 was also discussed and it is hoped that a member of the Royal Family can attend. The proposed date is Friday 18th May 2018.

A meeting was scheduled for 1st September; this was cancelled by the Chairman as Rear Admiral Blount had not yet replied to the invitation.

Sadly Watford Branch has been forced to dissolve due to falling numbers in their membership. At some point I believe we will only have the Daedalus Branch and then possibly an AGM and one other reunion per year, this as we all know is what other Associations do.

At present we have committee vacancies that require filling; I would ask members, especially the younger ones to consider these places as without their commitment the whole Association is on a short life span.

Vice Chairman

No report – position vacant.

Treasurer (copy of accounts attached)

Ben would go through the latest accounts during the Open Meeting in order to avoid duplication of effort. A copy of the accounts will be attached to the minutes.

The Association public liability insurance has been renewed. The cost has gone up by £10.

Ben has added Association Logo cummerbunds to slops. These are £25 each and look very smart.

Secretary

This year I have applied for 8 tickets for the Cenotaph Parade. Applications now require full personal details for everyone including official number. This is at the demands of Met Police high security measures.

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I will order two wreaths for the Association. Terry Gidman and I will be laying these wreaths on behalf of our Association at the FAA Memorial on the Embankment and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall.

I received a letter from a Captain Channon RN about the 100 year memorial of the first deck landing by Commander Dunning in 1917. This has been passed on to the Fly Navy Federation.

Also as Secretary of the Watford Branch I have to advise that the Branch is to be dissolved due to lack of Members. The last meeting will be on the 9th October this will be a sad occasion.

The residual funds are to be split 70:30 between Navy Wings and St Bart's Chapel Yeovilton.

Airey Fairey Editor

Mike Foote read out Margaret Gidman's report in her absence which he had received: "Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on September 24 2016 but Terry and I have a long term commitment that we cannot change.

I would have liked to have been at the meeting in person, to deliver this message and to have gained 'feed back' on the copy below.

It is with regret tinged with sadness that I feel it necessary to tender my resignation as Editor of the FAAA Magazine. I would like to point out that this is NOT because the magazine is going electronic. This is far from the truth – the fact is that there is not a lot of copy available to warrant the word 'magazine'. There is very little copy coming from the RNAS Air Stations or other past areas.

However, I have received good support from the Branch Secretaries and their copy will be passed to the Web Master – plus any other items of interest. I am also willing to continue to collate the Branch information if required.

Finally, and most important, is that I would like to thank everyone for the support and help that they have given me during the time I have prepared the FAAA Magazine for print."

Mike explained that he had spoken to Margaret and explained we no longer need a 40 page plus magazine now but just a fairly simple Newsletter for the website. This Newsletter can be a Word or PDF format with pictures in Jpeg. Margaret agreed to continue to do this and remain on the committee as the Newsletter Editor or similar. This will all be resolved at the next meeting when hopefully Margaret will be there. Arnold Thompson was surprised that Margaret was not receiving copy from the RNAS as he was getting plenty of information. It appears to be an admin problem with the email distribution.

Standard Bearer

Gordon Appleby reported that he paraded the National Standard at the following events:

Friday 6th May – Aviation Pioneer Observance annual service at Eastchurch, Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce attended

Sunday 15th May - Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade (ex TAGS) Lee on Solent

Saturday 25th June – Armed Forces Day RNA Woking

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Sunday 3rd July – Battle of Britain Memorial Day Capel le Ferne, Air Chief Marshall Sir Andrew Pulford took the Parade

Sunday 24th July – Sea Sunday at Littlehampton Woking RNA

Sunday 19th August – Canadian Veterans Association Memorial Service to commemorate the 74th anniversary of the Dieppe raid. The Canadian High Commissioner attended

Sunday 18th September – RAF Battle of Britain Commemoration Service Horsham

Membership Secretary

Arnold Thompson handed out the latest list of the Association membership, see below. The list is only as current as Branches will allow due to them not sending membership updates. Note that the Watford Branch and the Eastbourne Branch have both recently been dissolved

BRANCH	Full Members	Associate Members	Association Life Members	Branch Life Members	Association Honorary Members	Branch Honorary Members	BRANCH TOTALS
Bristol	28	4	0	1	0	0	33
Daedalus	161	42	6	0	2	1	212
Essex	21	49	1	0	1	4	76
Fernedown & District	10	5	0	0	0	0	15
Ford (Peregrine)	16	1	2	0	0	0	19
Great Yarmouth	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Greater Manchester	27	1	0	0	1	4	33
Hanworth	10	1	3	0	0	0	14
Kent	12	9	0	0	0	0	21
North East Hants	10	9	0	0	0	0	19
Solent	93	2	1	0	0	0	96
Southdowns	21	9	0	0	0	0	30
Telford & Wrekin	13	23	0	0	0	0	36
Yeovil	24	16	0	0	0	0	40
Yorkshire	48	4	0	0	0	0	52
Executive Officers	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	502	175	13	1	4	9	704

Membership Totals as of 22/09/2016

The records are sadly out of date in the last 18 months I have only received updates from three branches.

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I would be extremely grateful if Secretaries could keep me updated with the changes in their membership, it would help in keeping the Membership Register in date.

Daedalus Branch Secretary

Peter Westbrook was concerned about lack of new members. This is a problem for all ex service organisations and not just ours. We have advertised through HMS Sultan, the tree fold FAAA booklet is included in all discharge packs when leaving the service and recently an advertisement in the Malaysia / Borneo magazine costing £350 did not attract any enquiries.

Membership via the website cannot be followed up and completed without capitation fee being received.

Peter was also concerned with the Airey Fairey and capitation fees for the Daedalus Branch. This is covered in Item 4 below.

Item 3 2016 AGM/Reunion Review and 2017 Update

Brian Bingham advised that so far bookings are down on last year at so far only 38, however there is still plenty of time.

Commodore Rtd Jock Alexander will be attending to give a presentation to the AGM and also attend the Gala Dinner.

Mike Foote said he would contact Rear Admiral Keith Blount to see if he would be able to attend as the evening VIP guest. We could have two VIP speakers if he can attend.

Item 4. Airey Fairey Distribution/Association Website

Following on from the Editors report, the AF will no longer be produced but replaced by a "Newsletter" publication for the website. This will have ramifications on the Capitation fees particularly the Daedalus Branch who pay for the AF in the capitation they pay. Also a newsletter type document will be much easier for those Daedalus Members not on the internet. Peter Westbrook advised that he has 34 Members without access to the website and it cost £136 to copy and mail the last AF to these members. Other associations seem to produce newsletters quite successfully and at reasonable cost

The Committee undertook to resolve these issues at the next Committee meeting which takes place before 2017 capitation fees are due. Recommendation regarding a Magazine/Newsletter will be put to the membership at the next AGM.

Item 5 Welfare Fund Bi Annual Review

This item is covered in the General Open Meeting

Item 6. Fleet Air Arm Memorial Plinths – Donation

Arnold Thompson advised that the current siting for squadron plaques on the FAA Memorial at the National Arboretum is now full. It is now necessary to provide more space for additional plaques and to do this a new foundation is needed. Donations are

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being requested for the construction cost of this foundation. The Committee will recommend a £500 donation. This will be put to the General Open Meeting. Arnold did point out that our association has in the past donated £6000 towards this memorial.

Note that the cost of plaques is covered by those who wish to lay them.

Item 7. Ford Heritage Site

Brian Bingham explained that a group called HMP Ford Community Partnership are running The Ford Airfield Heritage Project. They have permission from the Ministry of Justice to renovate and turn some of the original accommodation site buildings into a Museum of Ford as an RNAS/RAF station. Funding will come from the Lottery and hopefully from the government Libor fund. When completed this Heritage Centre will have a small café and be open to the public.

Brian asked that this be raised at the next Federation meeting.

Item 8 AOB

It was noted that no invitation to the celebration of Winkle Brown held at Yeovilton had been received. Apparently 650 people attended but not one from our Association.

Gordon Pinkney suggested that we could have pens with the association logo for sale to raise money.

Brian Bingham said he would organise this using the AGM//Reunion number 2 account.

Mike Foote will contact Val Sayer to get details of the manufacturer she uses for the TAGS pens.

The next Committee Meeting will be at Hanworth RNA Club on 21st January 2017 Commencing at 1100

Peter Murray

National Secretary

Attached

Sue Halladay letter

Four Monthly Account 1/3/2016 to 30/6/2016

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

18th April 2016

Mr M J Foote
Chairman FAAA
8 Warwick Drive
RAMSGATE
Kent CT11 0JP

61 Dyas Avenue
Great Barr
BIRMINGHAM
West Midlands B42 1HQ

Dear Mr Chairman, *Mike*

Thank you very much for giving me the surprise of my lifetime when you asked Sir Adrian John to present to me a framed Life Membership Certificate for the Fleet Air Arm Association..

I understand that Arnold Thompson initiated the idea which you then put before the Committee at the October 2015 Committee Meeting in Derby and that the proposal was immediately unanimously ratified. I have written a personal letter thanking Arnold and I would be grateful if you could arrange for Peter Murray to 'Minute' this letter at the next Committee Meeting.

I still feel that Saturday evening 9 April was all a dream and that I shall suddenly wake up and find myself in conversation with Commander Simon Williams, our Guest of Honour for the evening, and drinking an excellent cup of coffee!

My deepest sincere thanks go to all involved and I feel truly humbled and at the same time somewhat guilty accepting this Award. It was a pleasure to initially help Doc with the secretarial work for both the 'National FAAA' as it was then known in its early days, and the Birmingham Branch too. I took on the position of Treasurer for the Branch and the Committee made me a Life Member for doing so. After Doc 'Crossed the Bar' the Birmingham Members and a few FAAA Members became my 'family' and some strong long distance friendships were formed and still exist. On the 7th November 2015 Birmingham Branch was dissolved and that was an extremely sad and difficult day so I have every reason to feel a little guilty BUT if I say I am thrilled by the Award well, that is a total understatement. Thank you, thank you, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am still on cloud 9!!

I pray that the Association continues to flourish, that you all enjoy many more excellent Reunion weekends and that you make other Members as happy as you have made me. It's a great feeling I can assure you!!

Yours Aye



SUZANNE L HALLADAY

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FOUR MONTHLY ACCOUNT

1st MARCH 2016 to 30th JUNE 2016

INCOME

Capitation fee @£4

Bristol	17
Eastbourne	6
Essex	19
Ferndown	12
Kent	14
North East Hants	11
Watford	14
Wrekin	15
Yeovil	22
Yorkshire	<u>34</u>
	164
Daedalus Branch @ £16	3
Daedalus Branch @ £14	7
Daedalus Branch @ £12	87
Daedalus Branch @ £10	26
Daedalus Branch @ £6	5
Daedalus Branch @ £4	2
Daedalus Branch @ £2	<u>4</u>
	298

Sales	£203.50
Raffles	£139.00
Donations	£68.50
Daedalus Admin	£16.25
Donations Airey Fairey	£73.50
Donations FAAA Mermorial Service	<u>£320.00</u>
	£2,972.75

Nationwide Account B/F	£43,856.19
Current Account B/f	£346.63
Cash in Hand B/F	<u>£113.45</u>
	£47,289.02

EXPENDITURE

Purchase of Stock	£190.08
Raffle Prizes	£52.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00
Standard Insurance	£8.00
Donation East Church Parish Coi	£50.00
Donation Blendworth Band	£100.00
Rev P. Chamberlain	£50.00
Morton Michel Public Liab	£154.95
Hobbycraft	£8.00
Slops Refund	£14.50
FAA Webmaster	£30.62
Pickets & Pursers	£220.00
Technical Events	£132.00
IOW Tours	£198.00
Hotizon Publications	£300.00
Expenses: Treasurer	£21.38
Secretary	£137.12
Daedalus Branch Sr	£38.87
Standard Bearer	<u>£110.25</u>
	£1,865.77

Nationwide Acc @ 30/06/16	£44,757.19
Current Account @ 30/06/16	£388.61
Cash in Hand ' 30/06/16	<u>£277.45</u>
	£47,289.02

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