

# **FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION**

www.faaa.org.uk



## **Annual General Meeting 10th April 2021**

**Held by Zoom Conference**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Attendees:**

##### **Committee**

Jim Moulson - Chairman	Mick Wyatt – Daedalus Secretary
Arnold Thompson – Membership Sec	Ben Worship – Vice President
Peter Murray – Secretary	Alan Key – Treasurer
Dave Fairley – Vice Chairman	Mike Foote - Committee
Brian Bingham –Reunion	Ray Day – Webmaster
Jeff Cook – Cenotaph & RBL	Bob Ridout – Committee
Bob Hayden – Committee	Dave Smith – Committee
Gerry Jackson - Committee	
Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns - Patron	

##### **Branch Delegates in Attendance**

Daedalus	Yorkshire
Ford	Solent
Kent	Yeovil
Telford & Wrekin	Weymouth & Portland

**Apologies** Rear Admiral Cunningham – President

#### **In all there were twenty-five participants**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1000 and welcomed everyone.

##### **Item 1.**

The Prayer of the Association was read and followed by a one-minute silence in remembrance of Members who had Crossed the Bar since the last meeting in 2019 and the life of Prince Philip Lord High Admiral who Crossed the Bar on 9<sup>th</sup> April

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## **Members who have Crossed the Bar since April 2019:**

### **2019 - 2020**

Arthur Gardner	Manchester	Anthony Cooke	NE Hants
Thomas Temple	Solent	Albert Dickson	Yorkshire
Ronald Golightly	Hanworth	Clarence Gibbs	Yorkshire
Horace Dearlove	South Downs	Peter Jones	Telford
Jerry Shore	Yeovil	Dave Lane	Yeovil
Michael Hawes	Solent	Norman Richardson	Daedalus
Graham Piggott	Solent	Peter Searle	Southdowns
Fred Bromley	Solent	John Southgate	Telford
George Chater	NE Hants	Jo Towler	Daedalus
Neville Clements	Telford	Doug Wyatt	Daedalus

### **2020 -2021**

John Scott	Solent	Mike Deriton	Great Yarmouth
John Russell	Watford	Harry Evans	Daedalus
Lawrence Robertson	Solent	Leslie Hutchin	Essex
Derek Bidwell	South Downs	Kenneth Roche	Daedalus
Neil Duggan	Bristol	Alfred Stanley	Eastbourne
William Jeans	Solent	David Stevenson	Bournemouth
Albert Firth	Yorkshire	Edwin Warburton	Manchester
Albert Parish	Kent	Norman Wilmhurst	Kent
William Chick	Ford	Joan Larbalestier	Daedalus
Ray Clark	Yeovil	(Widow)	

## **Item 2.**

The Chairman then proposed the Loyal toast.

### **Opening Remarks by our Patron**

Sir Adrian started by thanking all those who had facilitated the meeting and he gave apologies from Tom Cunningham who had important family business to attend.

He then paid tribute to Prince Philip stressing his astonishing service and loyalty to Queen and Country.

He said that the pandemic had affected us all, some sadly suffering bereavement. However, the pandemic had highlighted the importance of Associations such as ours by offering comradeship, friendship, and support to each other.

Sir Adrian had spoken to Val Sayer, pleased to say she was keeping well and busy with her farm. She was obviously disappointed that the Lee Parade would not go ahead and said, although we will not be there we will always remember.

Finally, he said how delighted he was to be able to join the meeting.

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## **Item 3. Officers Reports**

### **Chairman**

It is sad that the list of Members who have crossed the bar, seems to be longer each year, particularly so with this list over 2 years. This is the main reason that Branches are having to be dissolved.

As we all know this past year has been one to remember, or forget, it all started with the cancellation of our 2020 AGM and reunion, an event I was looking forward to which would have been the start of my first year as Chairman, However as we were all new to Zoom we did manage to carry out one important task, to count the votes for the election of officials and committee members. The following appointments were made:

Chairman                    **Jim Moulson**                    (Solent Branch)

Vice President           **Ben Worship** (Solent Branch)

The result of the voting was:

Vice Chairman           **Dave Fairley**                    (Telford & Wrekin Branch0)

Treasurer                **Alan Key**                        (Solent Branch)

Committee Members:

**Bob Hayden**                    (Yorkshire Branch)

**Mike Foote**                     (Kent Branch)

**Gerry Jackson**                (Ford Branch)

After 28 years as Treasurer Ben was well rewarded with the appointment of VP and Bob Hayden joined the committee, helping to improve the north /south divide!!

- Communication during Covid - many thanks to all branches who submitted a review of their activities during the pandemic. It was noted that the majority kept in touch with members through regular email, "Snail mail" for those without internet, or telephone calls and some used social Media, which I will come to shortly
- Bristol produced a 3 monthly Newsletter for members either by email or "snail" mail also managed to hold a couple of Committee meetings at a local pub
- Weymouth & Portland not only kept in touch with members but held an on line raffle which raised £100 for Branch funds.
- Solent pinched the local RNA Branch quiz, a monthly event, and passed it onto members keeping them occupied and sane throughout the first lockdown.
- We all missed a trick though we never used the technology of Zoom to have a chat and perhaps the occasional virtual tot for regular Branch meetings/chats and I would recommend that for the future.
- VE day fell foul of the virus but Bristol Branch held their own service on the front lawn of Ron Sandry's house which was multi-service. A wreath was also laid at Kingswood War Memorial.
- With restrictions eased during the summer we were able to carry out some impromptu VJ Day commemorations; Solent assembled 15 members at Lee memorial with a bugler and the Branch Standard Bearer. Bristol, once again

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at Ron's house, Yorkshire and Weymouth also paid their respects. Hanworth held their own memorial service at a memorial garden in the grounds of the Hanworth RNA.

- Remembrance Sunday, With the Cenotaph parade cancelled, Branches once again laid wreaths at the local war memorials; **Ford** laid wreaths at Ford FAA memorial, Littlehampton War Memorial and East Preston War Memorial. **Yeovil** at Yeovil Memorial, **Yorkshire** in Dewsbury, Morley and Horsforth. **Twelford** Memorial Bridge, Jackfields and at Ironbridge **Weymouth**; at North Fort, Portland Heights, and attended a service of remembrance at the American War Memorial in Fortuneswell. **Bristol** laid FAAA Wreaths at Kingswood War Memorial, Patchway War Memorial and one member attended Stoke Gifford War Memorial. Armistice Day Ray presented Branch Standard at Patchway War Memorial. **Hanworth** once again assembled at the Memorial in the grounds of the RNA. **Solent** assembled at Lee Memorial along with the SHAR, FAAOA, FAAF GA Figard and WRNS Associations, **Kent** laid a wreath at the war memorial in Ramsgate cemetery.
- On Armistice Day, Ron Sandry paraded the Branch standard at Patchway War Memorial.
- Although unable to attend the funerals of departed members we were able to access the funeral services via the webcast facility.
- I have never been an advocate of social media however with specific facebook pages related to the FAA members have used this to keep in contact with others. Weymouth have their own site and Jeff Cook has used this platform to attract members. He has accessed 815 squadron page and advertised the association, receiving 40 requests for application forms, not sure at this stage how many have actually come to fruition. Mick Wyatt, Daedalus Secretary has received 5 new members with a possible 2 others in the pipeline.
- Please use the official FAAA facebook page with anything of interest.
- Thanks, has to go to Ray Day for keeping our website and Facebook pages up to date, please contact Ray if you have anything of interest to publish.

We are all doing our bit to keep the Association going but it is inevitable that with our ageing membership the smaller Branches will fold. We are at the moment discussing the dissolution of Essex Branch, I am sure that more will follow, without publicity it is inevitable, **we need someone to take on the role of PRO, volunteers please step forward.**

Many thanks to Terry Lowden for his many years of service to the Association, as a serving committee member and Standard Bearer.

On a personal note I would like to thank our secretary Peter Murray for his dedication to the Association as secretary, he is meticulous in his role and his filing system seems to be perfect.

Thanks also to Arnold for keeping the membership details up to date.

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Jim also gave a brief on the forthcoming Carrier Strike Group (CSG) deployment to the Middle East and Asia. This was announced by Rear Admiral Connell at the Fly Navy Federation meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. The flagship Queen Elizabeth will have 617 NAS F35 and US Marine F35 aircraft embarked together with 815 NAS Wildcats. There will also be Merlins from 820 and 845. She will be escorted by destroyers Diamond and Defender with Frigates Kent and Richmond.

## **Treasurer**

Alan stated that there had been a small profit of £36 in the year due to lack of activities under Covid.

Full detailed accounts had been sent to Branch secretaries, and they are summarised below:

### **Summary of Accounts**

	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Capitation	1355.00	1953.00
Sales/Donations	625.33	1918.00
<b>Expenditure</b>	2324.13	4270.56
<b>Debit/Inc</b>	36.40	-401.56
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>	<b>44779.14</b>	<b>44668.58</b>
<b>Welfare Fund</b>	<b>11082.84</b>	

**As there were no questions the accounts were adopted as shown.**

Alan stated that he had renewed the subscription to the Royal Maritime Club for the benefit of Daedalus Branch Members who would like to stay there and receive a discount.

## **Item 4. Election of Officers**

The Secretary reported that he had mailed out 15 ballot papers to the Branch Secretaries and had received 14 returned. An excellent response. Thanks to the Branch Secretaries.

There were three positions up for election, one for Secretary and two for Committee and there were three candidates. Peter Murray standing for re-election as Secretary, Bob Ridout standing for re-election as Committee and Dave Smith standing for election to the Committee.

The result of the ballot was that all three were elected.

The National Executive is therefore as follows:

### **Officers**

Jim Moulson – Chairman  
Dave Fairley – Vice Chairman  
Alan Key – Treasurer  
Peter Murray – Secretary

### **Committee**

Mike Foote – Kent Branch  
Gerry Jackson – Ford Branch  
Bob Hayden – Yorkshire Branch  
Bob Ridout – Yeovil Branch  
Dave Smith – Daedalus Branch

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All ballot forms will be stored and are available for any scrutiny.

The meeting thanked Dave Smith standing for election to the Committee It is many years since we had new Members on the Committee.

In order for Dave to join the Committee Terry Lowden who was due for re election to the Committee, generously stood down. Terry had been on the Committee for many years and he was thanked for his sterling service.

## **Item 5. 2021 Reunion**

Brian Bingham gave an update stating that The Aztec Hotel Bristol is confirmed for the weekend 29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October. This is a 4 star hotel we have used previously and proved to be very popular.

Prices have not yet been finalised but as soon as they are, they will, together with booking information be sent out to Branch Secretaries. The event is being organised by Shirley ex IOW Tours and many of us know her from past reunions.

As we did not have a reunion last year, for Saturday evening we have booked The Royal Marine Association Band who will be providing superb musical entertainment making this a truly special and memorable reunion event.

If you would like to invite friends who are not Members, they would be very welcome to come along to what promises to be a special weekend.

## **Item 6. Branch Proposals**

The Branches had not submitted any proposals.

## **Item 7 Remembrance Parades**

Arnold Thompson informed the meeting that the **Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade (ex TAGS)** at Lee on Solent will not be held this year. The parade was due to take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 1100. Instead of the parade Arnold and some colleagues possibly including Val Sayers will hold a small wreath laying ceremony.

Anyone is welcome to attend although social distance and face masks may still be in force.

The Royal Navy Association biennial Whitehall Parade has been renamed **The Naval Associations biennial Whitehall Parade**. This year the parade will take place on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September and they would like as many Associations and their standards as possible to join the parade, **Jeff Cook Weymouth and Portland Branch has agreed to act as coordinator**, please contact Jeff if you would like to join this parade and get more details. Small numbers from the Branches may march together as FAA Veterans contingent.

**The Royal British Legion Cenotaph Parade** will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Again, Jeff Cook is our coordinator, anyone wishing to join the parade please send your name to Jeff ready for when the RBL send out applications. Jeff already has several names.

Jeff's email address is - [j.cook141@btinternet.com](mailto:j.cook141@btinternet.com)

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## **Item 8. Admiral Jellicoe House**

Jim, who was recently a Vice President of the RNBT gave an update on the new Care Home which will complement Pembroke House in Gillingham. Jellicoe House as the new home will be called is in Portsmouth and is being constructed by a Care Home Company in partnership with the RNBT. When completed it will be owned and managed by the RNBT.

It is a £12 million project, and much funding has already been secured, but more is still needed There have been some large donations received, most recently one from the Bernard Sunley Foundation.

To date donations received are over £1 million

If your Branch would like to make a donation, no matter how small, contact Jim.

There has been a lot of interest from prospective residents so some of us may consider putting names forward

The opening is planned for June 2022 to coincide with the centenary of the RNBT which was founded by Admiral Lord Jellicoe in 1922.

## **Item 9. Any Other Business**

For the past several years we have given an annual donation to the UK4U charity which supports service people overseas at Christmas time. Last year no donation was made despite our Treasurer, Alan Key, contacting them. They have since requested a donation this year to Operation Christmas Box which is the new name of the UK4U charity.

Alan key proposed a donation of £200 and this was accepted by the meeting voting in favour.

## **Closing Remarks by Sir Adrian**

In spite of all the constraints of this year there has been quite a lot of activity in the Branches and The Association. Technology and social media has been a great help in accessing everyone including members who can't attend meetings. We should make best use of social media in the future.

All that is left now is to say a really big thank you to Jim and all the Officers and Committee who make the Association work on a day to day basis.

A special thanks to **Arnold Thompson** who was probably the first person I met when I spoke at my initial Association's Reunion dinner.

**It is my very pleasant duty to tell Arnold that his B13 has come through and he is promoted to the position of Association Vice President. My warmest congratulations and very well deserved.**

Adrian finished his tot, and said until the Reunion in the Autumn, take care of yourselves and stay safe.

Finally, the Chairman thanked Captain Ian Beaumont RN Rtd who had hosted the Zoom meeting. It could not have been done without his expertise.

The meeting was then closed at 1100.

The zoom connection was left active for an open chat.