

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION



MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING Held on the 13th October 2018 at Hanworth RNA Club

Attendees: Mike Foote Alan Key
 Gordon Appleby Ben Worship
 Dave Fairley Terry Lowden
 Peter Murray Brian Bingham
 Bob Ridout Jim Moulson
 Mick Wyatt

Apologies: Arnold Thompson

Branches/Co-opted: Bob Hayden Gerry Jackson Geoff Owens

The Vice Chairman opened the Committee meeting at 1100
The Chairman arrived at 1130 and took over the Chair.
The Secretary Declared the Meeting Quorate – 100% Officer/Committee attending.

The Following Members are reported to have Crossed the Bar since the last meeting:
Fred Soule (Yeovil) Rod Court Fred Udell

Item 1. Review Minutes of the April AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM were reviewed and accepted as correct by the meeting.

Matter Arising

It was confirmed that the Association had put in place the procedures to conform with the recently introduced data protection requirements (GDPR)

Jim Moulson has distributed membership cards to the Branches. Jim advised that spare cards are now with the Membership secretary.

Essex, Bristol and Ferndown Branches had not replied to Jim for quantities.

It is thought these Branches may have Secretary/Chairman issues due to illness.

Peter Murray will contact them to ascertain the situation.

Item 2. Officers Reports

Chairman: Nothing to report.

Vice Chairman: Attended the Dr Rotman award presentations at HMS Sultan. There were full Divisions and we were looked after very well meeting the new Director and staff and now have a contact there.

Also attended the **CONA** conference in Portsmouth Maritime Club along with Alan Key and Peter Murray. The organizer, Sarah Clewes received lots of very good feedback as the conference covered many important subjects.

Peter Murray read out the detailed program and will distribute this as a separate document to Branch Secretaries. Of particular interest was a section by The Forces Pension Society who can provide travel insurance at very competitive rates. Contact web site www.forcespensionsociety.org and it is only £34 pa to join. Advice regarding naval pension at individual level is available.

The CONA conference will be of the same format next year.

Jim also mentioned an insurance company Military Mutual who will quote very good rates for house insurance. Details will be put on our web site.

Secretary: Attended the funeral of Margaret Gidman a very sad but well attended service. Mick Wyatt paraded the Watford Branch Standard.

This year there were 10 attendees at the Not Forgotten Association Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

I attended both the Eastchurch Memorial and our Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parades. Our Patron Vic Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB was present at both these significant events.

Finally, I am resigning as Association Cenotaph Marshall after the 2018 parade.

This year there are only 3 marchers which is not viable. Also, I now have trouble with my feet and the standing and walking is too much. Arrangements for anyone wanting to parade can be made to join and march with the Armourers.

Daedalus Branch Secretary: 98 paid up member and two new members pending.

Standard Bearer: Attended HMS Raleigh on the 10th Feb for the funeral of Captain Rick Jolly RN who was CO of the medical facilities in the Falklands conflict.

The National Standard was also paraded as follows:

April 22nd St Georges Day parade Woking

May 18th Eastchurch Aviation Pioneers parade

May 20th Fleet Air Arm memorial parade Lee on Solent

June Armed Forces Day parade RNA Woking

June 6th Battle of Britain Memorial parade Capel le Ferne in the presence of Prince Michael of Kent

Gordon said that with regret and sadness he has decided to stand down as standard bearer. He is 90 next and wishes to quit whilst ahead, avoiding the possibility of an accident.

He thanked the Committee for their support throughout his tenure.

The Chairman said he was sorry but also glad in a way that Gordon is standing down and thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the Association. Gordon was given a round of applause.

A new standard bearer is now needed can Branches look out for a volunteer for this important position.

The vacancy will also be put on the website.

Gordon had brought that standard and equipment with him for handing over. Mick Wyatt took custody.

This is the only mandatory parade until next May when the Eastchurch parade is due. Apparently, the new padre at St Bartholomew's Yeovilton does not want standards at the Palm Sunday service in March/April.

Membership Secretary: No report due to absence

Treasurer: Ben went through the accounts for the period 1st March to 30th June. Income over expenditure was plus £1002 giving a total Balance of £48601 in the main account. Ben stated that beginning next year National capitation will be £5 for all members

Bristol and Essex Branches still outstanding on capitation payment.

The FAA Memorial Service was at a loss of £50, which we will absorb. A donation from the Buccaneer Association was welcome. Donations for the service are requested from other Associations at the Fly Navy Federation meeting. We are awaiting results.

The Welfare fund stands at £11240 with £10000 in a 3year bond and £1240 in the float account.

Jim Moulson asked what would happen if a large sum was required from the welfare fund. The balance would be taken from the main fund and made good when the bond matured.

Jim also enquired was there anyone else able to access the account should Ben not be available. Ben said. Arnold Thompson had access.

The public liability insurance is due on the 22nd October and the renewal premium with Morton Mickel is £429. Jim also has a quote from Military Mutual for £375, there was also the question of including employer liability.

Jim and Ben are to decide the best option and obtain the insurance.

Ben advised that at this time we have usually made a donation to UK4U. It was agreed to continue this **and the sum of £200 was approved by the meeting.**

Arnold Thompson has advised that we need to purchase more platters for the Dr Rotman trophy awards. Prices are £290 for six and £480 for ten. It was proposed and seconded and approved by the meeting that ten be purchased.

A copy of the accounts will be sent out separately by email.

Item 3 Constitution and Rules. The Chairman deferred this Item to the end.

Item 4. AGM 2019 Reunion Update

IOW Tours have sent out forms to all who attended last year. Numbers applying are not yet available, a much better estimate will be known for the January meeting.

On the Saturday a shuttle coach service will operate to shopping centres.

On Sunday there is a trip to the FAA Museum Yeovilton and for those not wanting the museum the coach will go to the shopping mall in Street.

Brian said the Branches used to donate a prize for the raffle, could Branches again consider doing this.

Mick Wyatt said the Reunion?AGM is not on the website, Brian will forward details to the webmaster.

Alan Key said that a very interesting visit would be to the storage hangar and Alan will contact the Curator to see if such a visit could be arranged. There may well be a cost involved of about £20 per person. It maybe possible to get this waived but as the museum is now part of the Naval Museums organization this may be not be possible.

Brian said he would speak to Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham about this as the Rear Admiral controls the FAA Museum.

It was queried would the visit include the historic flight. This would not be possible as only Supporters of the flight can visit. It is now known as Navy

Wings and is run by Commodore Jock Alexander who Brian will speak to regarding a visit.

Item 5. FAA Memorial National Arboretum

Under the guidance of the Fly Navy Federation the memorial has had significant restoration work done. It had become quite shabby. Dave Fairley visited last week said it is now in immaculate condition. The Federation would like to build up a fund for future maintenance of the memorial and are looking for donations. Ben pointed out that we had donated significant funds in the past a small further donation would be helpful to this good work.

The meeting approved a donation of £100.

Item 6. Navy News Recruitment Advertising

Mike Foote had been approached by Flight Magazine regarding advertising possibly for recruiting. We had tried this at considerable expense (£500) in the past with absolutely no response. Mike suggested the Navy News may be a better place to try a recruitment advertisement.

Jim is familiar with advertising in Navy News said he would get some outline costings before the next Committee meeting in January.

Alan Key said that the Navy Day at the Shuttleworth Navy Air Day attracts a large number of ex FAA personnel, who when questioned by Alan say they have never heard of our Association.

Alan suggested that an advert in the Navy Day Air Show program may well be worthwhile. Alan knows the advertising staff and will get costings for the next meeting. Alan also said he would have some copy prepared for a recruitment advertisement by some people he knows.

Item 7. Award of Life Membership at the age of 90 years

Bob Hayden of Yorkshire Branch explained that they wanted to give some form of recognition and as a mark of respect to members upon reaching the age of 90. They suggested Life Membership not realising that this award was only granted to members who have given a very high level of service usually on the Committee or as an Officer of the Association.

A good deal of heated discussion followed with various opinions expressed including the option of Honorary Membership which in the past has been awarded to people outside the Association. This discussion tried to define exactly what “honorary” membership meant. Meanings from dictionaries were quoted but did not clearly reach a definition. It was also pointed out the few people reach the age of 90. Eventually the Chairman curtailed the discussion as it seemed to be going nowhere and much time had been spent on it.

Jim Moulson then put forward the proposal:

“That any Member of the Association upon attaining the age of 90 years be made an Honorary Member of the Association” The proposal was seconded by Alan Key

This proposal was carried by 6 votes in favour with 3 against.

Mike Foote said that this vote was not valid as Item 7 was for Life Membership and this should be voted on.

Accordingly, the meeting unanimously voted down this Item 7. Life Membership proposal.

Item 3.3b of the draft Constitution and Rules contained this Honorary Membership proposal, together with several other recommended changes.

Mike Foote said that this still needed to be voted on at the AGM and it may not be supported by the Branches.

The Secretary said the protocol now is for the draft Constitution and Rules which will be reviewed today in the deferred Item 3 will be presented to the next Committee meeting before they are put to the Branch vote at the AGM.

Item 3. Review of the Association Constitution and Rules Up

Jim explained that he had led a sub committee comprising himself, Gerry Jackson, Arnold Thompson and Ben Worship. They have had three meetings to review the current document.

The document with recommended changes has been distributed by email two weeks ago to Branch Secretaries and Committee. Some members said they had never seen it.

Hard copies were available in the meeting. The changes in the original document are in RED, however in those at the meeting they are in fainter font (this is because the Association printer is not colour)

Jim aided by Gerry then went through every recommended change. Each recommendation was discussed by the Committee.

There were several changes, deletions and additions as a result. Some were minor simple wording changes and some more significant. The longest discussion related to the voting method at AGM. It was agreed not to make any change to this.

In order to gather more statistics on voting, the Secretary will amend the ballot form for postal voting for election of Officers and Committee to request vote numbers for and against in the Branch vote. In the same way Branch votes on Agenda motions should also show for and against numbers.

Jim will now incorporate these changes into what will become the definitive document of the Association Constitution and Rules This will then to be ratified at the next Committee meeting before presentation to the Branches for their vote at the AGM in April 2019

Item 8. Any Other Business

Mike Foote told the meeting that in January the Kent Branch will celebrate their 10th anniversary with dinner.

Mick Wyatt has volunteered to standing in as Standard Bearer for the November FAA Memorial Parade at Lee on Solent.

The Chairman reminded everyone that an FAAA dress standard needs to be maintained at meetings. This is particularly so at the AGM.

The Secretary advised that there would not be a General Open Meeting as only one Branch Member was present.

Peter Murray

National Secretary 16th October 2018