

# ***FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION***

www.faaa.org.uk



## **2022 Annual General Meeting**

**Held at 1100 on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 at  
The Aztec Hotel  
Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4TS**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

##### **Committee**

Jim Moulson	Peter Murray
Gerry Jackson	Arnold Thompson
Ben Worship	Mick Wyatt
Dave Smith	Alan Key
Mike Foote	Bob Ridout

##### **Apologies:**

Dave Fairley	Bob Hayden
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##### **Branch Delegates**

Doug Carrington	Solent
Bob Ridout	Yeovil
Mick Wyatt	Daedalus
Arnold Thompson	Ford
Ronald Sandry	Bristol
John Brown	Kent
Peter Murray	Telford (proxy for Dave Fairley)

##### **Apologies**

Carole Sharpe	Southdowns
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##### **Members~**

14 Members signed the gangway book

The Secretary declared the meeting quorate.

#### **Chairman's opening remarks**

I would like to welcome and thank you all for attending this AGM and reunion weekend, it is good to see you all. It has been a long two years over the pandemic, which has precluded any form of formal or social activities taking place apart from the Remembrance services in May and November last year. It is also sad that a number have had to cancel due to illness, with others still hesitant about mixing due to Covid, it looks as if the virus will be the new norm now, and like flu we will just have to live with it.

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I am sure that we will have a great weekend and enjoy this evening with entertainment from the RMA Ensembles.

Sadly, there have been 4 Branch closures this year, Essex and Manchester, and it looks as if a couple more may close in the near future. Peter will expand on the closure process, shortly. I am pleased to say that Weymouth and Portland Branch are doing well and manage to recruit new members on a regular basis. Solent branch manages to hold their own

## **Item 1. Opening Prayer and Remembrance of Members who Have Crossed the Bar.**

The Chairman read out the names of Members who had Crossed the Bar. The meeting stood and observed one minutes silence in their memory:

Walter Inglis	NA(AH)	
Robert Keenan	NA(AH)	
Alex Braybrook	CAA(AE)	South Downs
Len White	AF(O)	
Harry Gee	Pilot/PO	
Ralph Wintle	AA1	Solent
Brian Hack	AA1	Solent
Mike Roberts	NAM	
Ken Tomlinson	NA(AH)	Solent
Ken Harding	AM1(AE)	Solent
Dave Holley	WOAEM	Solent
Ron Chitty	EA1	Solent
Mike Light	CPO(AH)	
Peter Spencer	AEA(M)	
Alan Butler	AA1	NE Hants
J Woods	NAM(O)	Essex

Sue Halliday  
Dorothy Thompson

## **Item 2. The Loyal Toast**

The meeting stood and drank a toast to Her Majesty The Queen

## **Item 3. Review of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM**

The minutes were accepted as read. Proposed by Mike Foote, seconded by Ben Worship. The Delegates voted in favour.

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## **Item 4. Officers Reports**

### **Chairman**

On behalf of the TAGS Sunday 1100hrs 16th May 2021

The FAA Memorial weekend, formerly the TAG's, which was cancelled last year was none the less carried out in spirit, with a short wreath laying ceremony. It was good to see members of the FAAA, some of whom had travelled from Luton, Pinner and Rustington to pay their respects alongside some members of the Solent Branch who also represented other Associations. Wreaths were laid by the following; Arnold Thompson TAGA, Brian Bingham FNF and Jim Moulson FAAA. Mick Wyatt paraded the FAAA standard and Tony (Ben) Fenn the Solent Standard. It was a cold day for May and far colder than it was for Remembrance Sunday last year. We were unable to go for a coffee or any lunch but we were able to drink a tot at the end. The 2021 AGM was held by Zoom and throughout the pandemic regular Committee meetings were also held by Zoom.

I would have attended the Naval Associations parade in September but I was recovering from Covid

The Remembrance Sunday service was held at Lee-on-Solent FAA Memorial with a contingent from HMS Sultan and the Volunteer Band. There was concern that it may not go ahead due to the cost associated with road closures, however with some background work by Dave Smith and Peter Westbrook, the event took place, thanks to them both for their input. There was a good turnout, with 30 plus from Solent Branch, although I did not attend, as I was at the Cenotaph in London.

Finally, we were able to hold a face to face committee meeting in January at the Conservative Club in Lee-on-Solent.

I attended (by Zoom) two FNF meetings along with Ben & Arnold but unfortunately missed the first face to face meeting held at Yeovilton in March, which was followed by a social evening in Ilchester.

Ben and I attended the first CONA meeting since 2019.

### **Secretary**

Involved in assisting several ex FAA veterans families arrange funerals and trace relatives.

Liaised with ex Member William Grice via a military historian in New Zealand to get his web site transferred to our Association web site. This was accomplished by Ray Day the web master assisted by Mick Wyatt. This web site is well worth a visit

### **Treasurer**

Alan Key reported that the Association Accounts for the period 1 March 2021 to 28 Feb 2022 had been professionally audited and they had been distributed to all Branch Secretaries.

At 28<sup>th</sup> Feb the Nationwide Account was £45493, the Welfare Account £10940.

A copy of the accounts will be sent with the Minutes.

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Alan advised that there was a profit of £783 during the account period March 2021 to February 2022. This was due to lack of activities because of Covid 19 and lockdowns.

It was pointed out that the accounts to February 2022 did not include the AGM subsidies for the Marine Band and day trips, these costs will appear in next years' accounts. These expenses, together with Branches again claiming Branch Meeting subsidy will reduce the funds by up to £3000.

Alan confirmed that the accounts were now fully electronic and gave notice that he will be changing the way in which he banks Association funds. There are several reasons for this as Banks now make it more difficult for Associations and small Social Clubs to do banking

Currently we have three bank accounts, HSBC, Nationwide and Nat West. In order to simplify banking, we will reduce our accounts to two. The Nationwide Account will be closed and all monies transferred to the Nat West account

The future arrangement will be:

HSB Account, will be the current or working account.

NatWest Account will act as a deposit account and will contain the Main Funds and the Welfare Fund.

This change to banking arrangements was agreed by the NEC.

Alan stated that we hold £1500 in slops and in order to reduce this he will have a discounted sale at the meeting. Sale of slops last year was £400

Recently we have lost four Branches, Essex in July last year and Manchester in March this year. Hanworth and North East Hants also dissolved in July 2021.

All residual funds are to be donated to charities of the Branches choice. It is recommended that these are Naval Charities such as the RNBT and Navy Wings.

In the case of Essex branch, they donated £1000 each to RNBT, Navy Wings, Seafarers UK and Saint Barts at Yeovilton The Essex Branch closing fund of £3827 was rounded up to £4000 by the NEC from Association funds.

Alan confirmed that the donation we give annually to Operation Christmas Box (was UK4U), has been reinstated to £500 from last years' £250. This was unanimously agreed by the NEC.

Recently Alan attended an Operation Christmas Box event and was appalled to discover that we, the FAAA, are the only military organisation/association donating money to this cause. We have traditionally donated £500 for a number of years.

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## **Membership Secretary**

Below please find the latest Membership Numbers. These are estimated numbers. These are best estimates based on the information received from Branch Secretaries. However, I can confirm that we have had 7 new members to the Daedalus Branch.

<b>BRANCH</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>LIFE</b>	<b>FULL</b>	<b>ASSOCIATE</b>	<b>HONARY</b>
Daedalus	136	1	126	8	1
Ford	11	4	5	2	
Gt Yarmouth	2		1	1	
Gtr Manchester	30		23	2	5
Kent	17		13	4	
Solent	20	1	18	1	
South Downs	19		16	3	
Telford & Wrekin	29		13	16	
Weymouth	36		36		
Yorkshire	27		25	2	
Yeovil	26		20	6	
	353	6	296	45	6

## **Standard Bearer**

Mick Wyatt reported that he had paraded the Association National Standard at the following events:

- Fleet Air Arm (ex TAGS) Memorial Parade Lee on Solent
- Naval Associations Parade Whitehall
- Lee on Solent Remembrance Parade
- Three Funerals

Peter Murray said that Mick is still in full time employment but he still makes the effort to carry out these duties. Furthermore, he never claims any expenses.

**A proposal of thanks to Mick was roundly applauded by the meeting.**

## **Cenotaph Marshal and RBL Rep.**

**Jeff Cook – Weymouth & Portland Branch reports:**

### **2021 Naval Associations Parade**

Along with other FAA Associations, the FAAA was well represented for this biennial parade in Whitehall. All formed one platoon as the FNF. It was an excellent day out ending with a march past at the Cenotaph and afterwards decamping at the Civil Service Club for a tot and a bite to eat. I would recommend attending for the 2023 event.

### **2021 Cenotaph Parade:**

A successful 2021 Cenotaph parade with 10 (11 including GD Layla!) FAA Association members on parade. Two had dropped out before the weekend but we managed to form two ranks.

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The FAA Association led the other Fly Navy Federation Associations, The Duke of Cambridge, took the Royal Salute on Horse Guards. We then made our way to the FAA Memorial on Embankment where all 13 Fly Navy Federation Associations were in attendance for the service and laying of the wreaths. Terry Ashton laid the FAA Association Wreath.

## **RBL Falklands 40 Event at the National Arboretum:**

As previously advised to Branch Secretaries, I am the registered point of contact for this event on **14th June 2022** at the National Memorial Arboretum. Please let me know if anyone would like to attend (plus a guest) and I will send a registration email.

## **FAA Falklands 40 at the FAA Church, Yeovilton:**

Applications for this event to be held on **25<sup>th</sup> May 2022** are closed. However, a number from Weymouth Branch will be attending as I am sure a fair few from Yeovil and other branches are. Again, I shall be laying a wreath on behalf of the National FAAA.

Bristol, Yorkshire, Telford, Kent, Yeovilton and Weymouth & Portland Branches all reported laying wreaths at local Remembrance Memorials.

Ronald Sandry Bristol Branch related that there are two memorials they attend in Bristol, one of which commemorates the bombing raids on Bristol. He also said that the MOD in their Abbeywood Bristol office have 600 serving personnel none of which attend the memorial services.

## **Fly Navy Federation Rep**

**Arnold Thompson** reported that there are 18 or 19 ships, squadrons and associations now affiliated to the FNF. Meetings are held every four months usually at Yeovilton. The meetings are a forum for communication and there is usually a briefing on current FAA affairs by the CO of Yeovilton or some other senior officer. After the meeting there is an evening social gathering and some attendees stay overnight.

Arnold also explained how the TAGS Memorial Parade was taken over by our Association and is now called The Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade. This parade always takes place on the third Sunday in May which is the anniversary date of the first TAGS Parade in May 1953.

This year due to road closure issues the Parade will be held as a service of remembrance in St Faiths Church Lee on Solent at 1430 on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May. Before the Church Service there will be a lunch at Lee on Solent Golf 1130 for 1200. The cost of the lunch is £17 the same as last year.

It is expected that our President Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham will be attending.

## **Mike Foote Kent Branch**

Since the end of lockdown the Branch has held regular monthly meeting. Members of the Branch attended the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Channel Dash at the memorial in Manston. Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham and staff from Navy Wings were there. However, the organiser of the event was not aware the Channel Dash was a Fleet Air Arm operation and Mike had difficulty in obtaining tickets. Due to the lack of invitation Kent Branch were not able to parade their Standard.

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Mike said the commemoration event was very interesting with a number of presentations and video clips.

It was announced that this is the last Channel Dash commemoration event to be held at Manston.

## **Item 5. Election of Officers – Branch Postal Vote**

The Secretary reported that ten postal voting forms had been returned out of eleven sent out.

The forms were scrutinised by Committee member Mike Foote who reported that all nominees were elected. These were Alan Key as Treasurer, with Mike Foote, Gerry Jackson and Bob Hayden as Committee Members.

The ballot forms will be retained by the Secretary for any inspection.

The Committee proposed that that the office of Daedalus Branch Secretary be a permanent Member of the National Executive Committee. The Branch comprises over one third of total Association membership.

The Branch Delegates voted unanimously in favour of this proposal.

Dave Fairley the Vice Chairman due to illness could not step up to take over as Chairman, the Chairman thanked Dave for his service as VC over the past 2 years. Dave Smith a current Committee Member volunteered to stand as Vice Chairman

Dave Smith was then nominated and seconded for the position of Vice Chairman. The appointment was ratified by unanimous vote of the Branch Delegates.

The current Chairman, Jim Moulson will remain in office until the 2023AGM when Dave Smith will take up the position of Chairman.

## **Item 6. Revised Welfare Policy Amendments – Increased Benefits**

The Committee proposed that the maximum grant from the Welfare Fund will for exceptional needs, be increased £1,000 maximum. This is over and above the existing £250 for help with hospital travel and parking costs. The £1,000 would be available for mobility requirements and house modifications.

**The proposal was ratified by a unanimous vote of the Branch Delegates.**

## **Item 7. Branch Proposals**

No proposals received.

## **Item 8 Any Other Business**

Should any Branch have to dissolve, they must follow the procedure in Rule 7 of the Association Constitution and Rules.

The Association Constitution and Rules require some changes in particular Rule 2,1a members of the NEC to include the Daedalus Branch Secretary and Rule 2.1f to simplify and clarify the procedures for succession planning.

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**It is the lack of volunteers for Office that cause problems with elections and succession.**

**The Chairman will establish a working group to carry out these changes.**

Jim Moulson gave an update on Admiral Jellicoe House the new RNBT Care Home in Portsmouth. This Home will complement the existing Care Home, Pembroke House. The Home is located in the grounds of the old St James's Hospital. Planning and construction have gone extremely well. Construction was completed one week ahead of schedule and the hand over will take place on Monday 25 April 2022. It is planned that the first residents will be admitted on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The Home has a capacity of 66 bedrooms and there are 35 confirmed positive admissions. There is a special wing with provision for 10 dementia cases.

**Ben Worship, the CONA Representative,** gave details of a Charity Project 71. Full details of Project 71 are attached to the end of the Minutes. Any queries should be directed to Ben.

**Bob Ridout Yeovil Branch** Advised that the Branch had received an invite to attend the Falklands 40 Event at St Barts.

The Chairman told the meeting that Peter Murray will not be standing for re election at the 2023 AGM. A volunteer is needed to take on this role.

## **Date of next AGM Reunion**

The date of the next Reunion weekend will be the 14-15-16 April 2023. To assist in forward planning, future AGM Reunion weekends will take place on the weekend immediately following the Easter weekend.