

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

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National Committee Meeting held via Internet Zoom Conferencing On the 28th January 2021 Minutes

Participants: Jim Moulson Peter Murray
Alan Key Gerry Jackson
Dave Fairley Bob Hayden
Mike Foote Mick Wyatt
Brian Bingham

Apologies Bob Ridout, Arnold Thompson, Terry Lowden

A Minutes silence was observed for Members who have recently Crossed the Bar
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Albert Firth, Neil Duggan, Bill Jeans, Derek Bidwell

Item 1. Last Meeting:

The minutes of the 15th October 2020 meeting were agreed as correct by the meeting.

Matters arising:

Website HTML files will be sent by the webmaster monthly. These files have not yet been transferred by the webmaster. Peter Murray will progress.

Mike Foote gave Alan Key a website where he may be able to obtain logo tee shirts and pilots type shirts at a competitive price. Alan followed this up but did not receive a response. Alan will try again when necessary.

An up to date slops price list is on the web site.

Jim Moulson had been in touch with Arnold Thompson re Solent membership reconciliation, although more work needs doing, it seems that there are only small differences.

Item 2. Officers Reports

Chairman: Jim reported that a Remembrance Ceremony was organised by Solent Branch at the FAA Memorial at Lee on Solent. Several wreaths were laid. Unfortunately, due to Covid that is the only activity to report.

Jim confirmed that Membership stickers have been sent out.

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Treasurer: Alan reported the accounts as follows:

Saving Account £44,153 Welfare Account £11,082 Current Account £516

Alan also reported that he has experienced great difficulty with HSBC in getting bank statements sent to his address and not to Ben. This included a letter to HSBC Head Office and personal visits the local HSBC Branch. Finally, this week he has received the latest bank statements. October and November statements are still outstanding. Everything is now in Alan's name and address.

Despite the poor response and bad administration from HSBC, Alan recommends we remain with them as to change banks would cause many Members trouble with standing orders on the HSBS accounts. A change of bank could also cause some memberships to be lost.

Alan confirmed that he has renewed the Association insurance policy with Military Mutual at a cost of £362, a reduction of £7 over last year for the same cover.

Item 3. 2021 Reunion/AGM.

Currently due to Covid restrictions it is not possible to make any firm arrangements. It was agreed that we provisionally plan to hold the Reunion in September/October when hopefully things may be back to near normal.

Brian Bingham has been in touch with Shirley of IOW Tours. IOW Tours did not go bankrupt but did cease to trade. They are now starting up again. She advised that it is not possible at the moment to make firm hotel bookings, but when possible, she will book some hotels provisionally and as she holds copies of all Branch members a reunion event could be quickly organised getting out information within 48 hours. There is nothing more that can be done just now.

Brian was confident that even if the reunion is organised at short notice, he will be able to secure a VIP guest.

It was also agreed that a table gift for the ladies be provided as a token of the support they have given to Members over many years. This would be funded from the Association Savings account, cost estimate to be agreed at the AGM.

The AGM is to be held via Zoom on Saturday 10th April at 1000. The Secretary will send the Zoom joining link to Branch Secretaries in good time for them to advise their Members and Branch Delegates.

Item 4. Election of Officers

Notice of the postal ballot has been sent to Branch Secretaries and ballot forms are due to be mailed out on 15th February. Under Covid restrictions with Branch meetings not taking place it is difficult to contact Members to solicit candidates to stand for election. In the event that no new candidates are forthcoming, it was decided that those Officers and Committee due for election in 2021 will remain in post and be deemed elected. The 2021 postal ballot would then not be necessary. The next ballot for election of Officers and Committee would then be in 2022.

Item 5. Remembrance Sunday.

Due to Covid events were badly disrupted with Whitehall Cenotaph Parade cancelled. Local Wreath laying ceremonies were performed by Yorkshire Branch and Wrekin and Telford Branch.

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It is not clear what the situation will be for this year and by May the RBL will hopefully give some detail about the Cenotaph Parade. This parade will be handled by Jeff Cook the Cenotaph Marshal of Weymouth Branch.

It is hoped to be able to lay wreaths at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade Lee on Solent in May, one of which will be for the TAGS, requested by Val Sayer. Mick Wyatt Standard Bearer will attend if Covid restrictions allow.

Also, Jim may be able to get a marine bugler.

Jim will discuss the organisational details with Arnold Thompson when Arnold is fit again. Apparently, HMS Sultan are no longer interested in supporting this Parade.

Lunch at the golf club is probably not possible.

Other Memorial parades at which we parade the Standard, Eastchurch and Capel le Ferne are so far situation unknowns. Mick Wyatt will attend Capel le Ferne if he receives an invite from the RAF/

Mike Foote has been in touch with Eastchurch council and they have no plans to organise future events.

Mike Foote has been asked to lay a wreath for the Channel Dash Memorial in Ramsgate on the 12th February.

Item 6. AOB

The Association address in the Constitution needs to be updated. The address should be given as the web site address, this will give access to all contacts in the Association. Jim Moulson will send an updated copy to Peter Murray who will distribute to the Branches,

Arnold Thompson has given notice he wishes to resign as Membership Secretary and Mick Wyatt has kindly volunteered to take over this role. The meeting gave Mick a round of applause in appreciation.

Jim Moulson proposed a change to the Welfare Fund to include travel assistance for Members to travel to the nearest Covid vaccine centre.

This was agreed and a revised policy will be sent to the Branches.

This support is also being provided by the RBL and RNBT

Jim advised that there had been an outbreak of Covid in Pembroke House and unfortunately four residents died,

Jim confirmed that construction of the new RNBT care home in Portsmouth, Admiral Jellicoe House has commenced.

Date of next Meeting. The next Zoom meeting will be the AGM at 1000 on Saturday the 10th of April.

Peter Murray
Secretary
29.1.2021