

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION



Annual General Meeting 6th April 2019

Best Western Royale Hotel Bournemouth

MINUTES

Attendees:

Committee

Brian Bingham –Chairman	Mick Wyatt – Daedalus Sec
Arnold Thompson – Membership Sec	Ben Worship – Treasurer
Peter Murray – Secretary	Alan Key – Committee
Dave Fairley – Committee	Mike Foote - Committee
Jim Moulson – Vice Chairman	Ray Day – Webmaster
Jeff Cook – Cenotaph & RBL	

Branch Delegates in Attendance

Daedalus	Yorkshire
Ford	Solent
Kent	Yeovil
Telford & Wrekin	Southdowns
Hanworth	

In accordance with the Constitution Item 4.1a The Secretary declared the meeting quorate.

Branches

17 Members signed in the Gangway book.

Apologies

None Received

Item 1. Opening Prayers and Remembrance

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1100 with the Association prayer.

The Chairman then gave a reading of Names in Remembrance of our Members who have been reported to have Crossed the Bar since the last meeting:

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Branch</u>
Eric Cuffley	Solent	Peter Doyle	Bristol
Cyril Drake	Daedalus	Margaret Gidman	Daedalus
Michael Hall	Southdowns	Roy Jennings	Telford
Gerald Journeaux	Bristol	Jim Kearney	Solent
John Lawrence	Manchester	Dave Lawrie	Ford
Alan Lloyd	Kent	Eric Martin	Daedalus
John Muir	Ford	Peter Nixon	Kent
Albert Oliver	Birmingham	Len Owen	Manchester
Harold Reed	Daedalus	Christop Pook	Solent
Alan Reeson	Yorkshire	Derek Sorrel	Hanworth
Dennis Toff	Daedalus	Fred Towler	Daedalus
Kathleen Turner	Daedalus	Frederick Udell	Daedalus
Dave Yeomans	Solent		

A minute's silence was observed in remembrance.

Item 2. The Loyal Toast

The meeting toasted Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

Item 3. Review of the 2018 AGM Minutes

The Minutes were accepted as read.

Item 4. Matter Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 5. Officers Reports

Chairman

Brian Bingham reflected on the sad list of Members who have crossed the bar, the list seems to be longer each year. This is the main reason that Branches are having to be dissolved.

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On a brighter and more positive note Brian introduced **Jeff Cook** to the meeting. Jeff is in the process of establishing a new **Branch based in Weymouth**, more details will follow in the next few weeks.

Jeff has also taken over as the **Cenotaph Parade Marshal** and liaison with the **Royal British Legion**.

Brian also welcomed to the meeting **Ray Day the Association Webmaster**. Brian thanked Ray for the great job he does on our behalf running the website. The website is an increasingly important means of communication.

Brian announced that **Mick Wyatt** has volunteered to take on the role of **National Standard Bearer** for which we are very grateful. No other volunteers came forward. Mick is also Daedalus Branch Secretary.

It has been an eventful year for the FAA, things were going well at Navy Wings when the Navy/MOD have given notice that they are to quit their current location within five years.

I have attended three funerals, two for the Ford Branch and Margaret Gidman our Newsletter (and Airey Fairey) editor.

Brian also stated that some of the money we have donated to various causes came from the raffles we have, so please support them generously.

There was a good turnout for the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade at Lee. It would be good to see more support for this. There are still a couple of TAGS well into their 90's and members who travel from Telford, Kent and London attend. We must have members living quite close to Lee on Solent who could get there.

It is now held in St Faiths Church whilst construction works are ongoing in Daedalus site.

Vice Chairman

Jim Moulson in his first year as Vice Chairman attended the Dr Rotman Award presentations along with Arnold and Ben.

Jim also attended the FAA Memorial Parade Saturday dinner at Lee on Solent Golf Club.

Jim also attended several funerals.

Secretary

Peter Murray attended the funeral of Len Owen in Derby along with several other Members. Mick Wyatt paraded our National Standard.

I was invited by Jim Moulson to attend the RNBT presentations event at HMS Collinwood. This was very interesting and gave me an insight into the many support services the RNBT provide. The guest speaker was Rear Admiral Bath the head of naval personnel.

Treasurer

Ben Worship said how pleased he was to hear the Weymouth Branch is reforming.

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Copies of the accounts were handed out to Branch Delegates.

Ben then went through the Association Annual Accounts in detail covering the period 1st March 2018 to 28th February 2019.

The accounts were accepted by the meeting.

The Accounts will be distributed with these Minutes.

Ben stated that the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade showed a loss of £50. We have asked for donations from other Associations through the Fly Navy Federation, despite some promises only the Buccaneer Association gave a donation of £50.

Membership Secretary

Arnold Thompson together with Val Sayer also organise the **Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade**, this parade was until 2014 the TAGS Association parade and this year would be the seventy third year. On dissolution of the TAGS we agreed to continue this parade to become the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade. This is an important parade and needs broader support not only by our Association but by the other member Associations of the Fly Navy Federation.

For those of you who do not know, Val Sayer is the widow of Les Sayer a TAG, she has been involved in the organising of this Parade for many years.

Our Association Patron Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns has attended every parade.

The memorial at Lee on Solent is just as important for the FAA as the memorial on the Embankment. The one at Lee contains names of those lost in the second world war and since. The Embankment memorial contains no names.

This year the Parade is on the Sunday 19th May at 1245 in St Faiths Church Lee on Solent. On the Saturday evening there is a buffet dinner at Lee Golf Club and after the parade on Sunday there is a lunch also at the golf club.

The cost of the Saturday evening buffet is £17, the Sunday lunch is also £17.

Arnold then gave an overview of the membership records. Currently there are 14 active Branches with 419 Full Members and 137 Associate Members. Together with Honorary and Life Members gives the Association a total of 583 Members.

A copy of the Membership records will be distributed with these minutes.

Arnold confirmed that all membership records held meet the GDPR regulations.

Mike Foote said that due to local council elections there will not be an Eastchurch Memorial Parade this year. The Village Hall must be used as a polling station.

Item 6. Election of Officers

Fred Wadley Association Vice President gave the results of the postal ballot:

!5 Branches were polled and 13 voted. All candidates were re-elected.

Peter Murray as National Secretary

Terry Lowden as Committee Member

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Bob Ridout as Committee Member

There were no new candidates standing for office.

Item 7. Association Constitution and Rules

The motion to ratify the January 2019 revision of the Constitution and Rules was accepted. **10 Branches voting in favour with 3 Branches abstaining.**

The 2019 revision is effective as from 6th April 2019.

Jim Moulson who led the working group who revised the document thanked those who took part for their support.

Item 8. Forward Financial Planning

The motion to manage down the Association funds to £20000 over the next ten years to the benefit of Members was accepted. **10 Branches voting in favour with 3 Branches abstaining.**

Item 9. Branch Proposals

There were no proposals for the AGM from any of the Branches.

Item 10. Any Other Business

Alan Key gave an update on marketing and recruitment at Yeovilton Air Day:

* A recruitment advertisement will appear in the Air Day Programme.

*Alan has arranged a free of charge (£250) pitch for our stand.

Alan will try to get the stand positioned in the hangar as this is the best place not requiring the tent.

Three members are needed to man the stand and **Bob Ridout** is confident that **Yeovil Branch** can provide them. Alan will arrange for them to be given free entry passes to the site.

Alan will liaise with **Arnold** regarding the stand equipment.

Brian Bingham advised that one of our members Stan Richardson will be 100 this year. The RBL will be holding a service on the Monday 11th November at East Preston. Brian requested that our Standard be paraded. Ford Branch will cover the cost.

Ray Wrigglesworth advised that unfortunately the Ferndown & District Branch has been dissolved. All debts have been cleared and remaining funds donated to the RBL in accordance with Association policy. Many methods to attract new members did not bear fruit.

Ray reformed the Branch after the Bournemouth Branch was dissolved.

Members will transfer to the Daedalus Branch.

Ben Worship gave an update on the CONA meeting:

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Presentation was given by Captain Cooke Priest the CO of HMS Queen Elizabeth. The ship is very large with over 3000 compartments. She has just completed trials with 287 launch and recovery of the F35 with everything going to plan. Five USN Captains on board observing these trials all commented that they wished they had this kit. The ship is now in dry dock Rosyth for a routine inspection before returning to the USA for more trials. Not much said about the F35 as it is still mostly secret.

Many functions on the ship are fully automated including weapons transfer and preparation.

Captain Cooke Priest is keen to have visits to the ship in order to raise awareness.

Any group wishing to arrange a visit should contact Lt Cdr Chris Harris at HMSQLNZ-AIR-SATCO@mod.uk

Any one planning a visit must be in good physical shape as there are obviously many ladders and so on to contend with.

Ben also mentioned the Association of ex-Service Drop-in Centres - ASDIC www.asdic.org.uk

There are currently 39 Drop in Centres around the country offering invaluable support to Veterans and their families, particularly regarding Welfare and Mental Health support. Veterans Outreach Support www.vosuk.org based in the Royal Maritime Club in Portsmouth is an example, if Association members are aware of fellow veterans in need of support, then ASDIC Drop In Centres may be able to help.

Veterans Identity Cards are currently being issued to people leaving the service. Apparently they will be issued automatically to all people who have registered for a veterans lapel badge.

UK4U were given a donation this year of £200, however UK4U has now closed and the money was transferred to a new organisation called Operation Christmas Box who eventually acknowledged the donation.

Alan Key gave a brief update on the **Sea Vixen**, the plan is still to get it airworthy but of the order of £2m is still needed.

Alan also informed that The Fly Navy Heritage Trust is now known as Navy Wings and the aircraft are being transferred to Navy Wings.

The Navy/MOD have withdrawn funding so raising money is more important than ever. Jock Alexander Chief Executive of Navy Wings is in contact with business leaders and net worth individuals to raise money.

Our Members can help by joining Navy Wings as a supporter. It costs only £30 pa and there are a number of benefits in addition to help keep the aircraft flying.

For details go to www.navywings.org.uk

Alan also said that Navy Wings may be able to obtain a new location somewhere on the Yeovilton site.

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Jim Moulson said the Solent Branch will hold their Taranto Dinner in November and anyone wishing to attend would be welcome. Jim will forward more info to the Branches in due course.

2020 AGM/Reunion

The 2020 event will take place at the Aztec Hotel Bristol, Friday 8th May to Monday 11th May 2020.

The AGM will be at 1100 on Saturday 9th May

Peter Murray
National Secretary
11/04/2019

Also distributed together with these Minutes:

Association Accounts
Membership Records