

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

www.faaa.org.uk



2025 Annual General Meeting

**Held at 1100 on Saturday 10th May 2025 at
The Holiday Inn Southampton**

Minutes

Committee	Attendees:	
	Alan Key (AK)	Peter Murray (PM)
	Dave Smith (DS)	Mike Foote (MF)
	Jim Moulson (JM)	Mick Wyatt (MW)
	Janet Smith (Newsletter Editor) (JS)	
Apologies:	Jeff Cooke	
Branch Delegates	John Brown	Kent
	Carole Sharpe	Southdowns
	Helen Edwards	Weymouth & Portland
	Les Stevenson	Solent

Association Members 13 Attending.

Apologies	Ronald Sandry	Bristol Branch
	Ian Tate	Weymouth & Portland
	Paul D'Arcy	Weymouth & Portland

Item 1 - Opening Prayer and Remembrance of Members who Crossed the Bar

The Chairman (DS) opened the meeting at 1100 and the Secretary (JM) read the Fleet Air Arm Prayer. The meeting then stood observing a minute's silence for those members who have Crossed the Bar since the last meeting:

Donald Bell - Kent Branch
Violet Roberts - Kent Branch
Howard Richards - Kent Branch
Jack Fryatt - Kent Branch

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Raymond Miles - South Downs Branch
Nigel Whitely - South Downs Branch
Ian Millard - South Downs Branch
Geoffrey Harding-Roots - South Down Branch
Christopher Joseph Knight - Ex Fleet Air Arm
Cdr Charles Giles
William Jones – TAGS

Item 2 – Review of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM were accepted as correct by the meeting and adopted accordingly. There were no items to be carried forward.

DS then introduced Lt Cdr Helen Edwards to all assembled, Helen is the Chairperson of the Weymouth & Portland Branch, he also welcomed Dave & Liz Fairley ex Wrekin & Telford Branch.

Item 3 – Officer's Report

Chairman

I attended the 2024 TAGs/FAA memorial Weekend activities in May, which as always is attended by low numbers, including the dwindling number of TAGs. On completion of the church service at St Faith's Church, Lee-on-Solent, wreaths were laid by ratings from HMS Sultan at the FAA Memorial. I also attended the RBL Cenotaph remembrance parade in November.

Along with the Secretary I attended the Ceremonial Divisions at HMS Sultan and presented the Dr Rotman Trophy to the best overall LAETs (M) and (AV) and the Secretary presented the best overall AET with the TAGA award. This was followed by a lunch in the Wardroom, which gave a good opportunity for networking with both AES Officers and Senior Rates.

I also visited HMS Sultan in April for the Affiliates Day, with other invited guests from various industries which support the work at Sultan. The day included visits to both the AES and Marine Engineering sites to get an insight into the training of all who pass through the Establishment. A most interesting day which included a trip around Alverstoke and Browdown in the Sultan Steam Lorry.

With the help of Alan Key and George Pick we have managed to get this year's Reunion delivered, which although low in numbers will hopefully go smoothly

Webmaster (DS)

I have continued to build and add to the website, to make it more inviting and to improve the Joining Form for new members, but it is taking time. Carole Sharp said that she would like to offer some assistance and Helen Edwards would like to share the Weymouth & Portland (W&P) work behind the CONA site. W&P has been hosted on the RNA site, which looked as if W&P were predominate rather than a branch of the FAAA. The site now shows as the main rather than a sub branch.

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We continue to attract quite a few people through the website contact form which have included requests for information about the association, requests for the association standard to be paraded at Funerals and other questions on a variety of items.

Vice Chairman

Unfortunately, the Vice Chairman, Jeff Cooke had to stand down from the position early on in the year due to personal reasons. DS, on behalf of the committee, wished him all the best for the future, although he is still committed to organising the Association attendance at the annual Cenotaph service in November

Although still in employment, Jeff continues to try and recruit members, both active and retired, from Culdrose and Yeovil, once again thanks to Jeff for his continued efforts to try and improve the membership of the Association

Secretary's Report (JM)

Along with DS I attended the TAGs/FAA Memorial service at Lee-on-Solent in May and the HMS Sultan Ceremonial Divisions and prize giving in November. I have also visited Sultan on a few occasions as the link between the AES and the Association, we now seem to have a good rapport with the AES Staff to continue this liaison for the future. The senior staff at the AES are also keen to be more visible and do what they can to help in whatever way they can.

I attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the FAA Memorial, along with 30 other members of the Solent Branch, this was followed by a tot and some lunch by courtesy of the Court Barn Conservative Club.

I have also been involved with the project team in the erection of a Commemorative Stone at the former HMS Daedalus, alongside the control tower, in the public viewing area. The project is now nearing completion and is planned to be unveiled at a short ceremony on 20th June. The Stone is dedicated to the service and civilian personnel who, served, fought and in some cases died on this site between 1929 and 1996.

I also led a short service of commemoration at the FAA Memorial, with 28 members, including wives, VE 80 day. On completion a number of the Branch Members went to a Garden party at HMS Collingwood, thanks to the Not Forgotten.

Treasurer's Report

AK presented his report stating that the accounts are in a healthy condition, we had membership and capitation payment for 250 members in 23/24 an increase in membership mainly thanks to the fantastic recruiting efforts by the Weymouth Branch.

We had an income of £8,498.77 and out goings of £14,360.77 which on paper seems like a large loss of nearly £6,000 however that includes moneys in and out for both last year's and this year's reunions of £5066.00. This means the Association made a financial loss of £796.00

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We finished the year with £37,464.13 available in the current accounts.
The welfare account made a single payment last year and following generous donations from Max Wright and Donald Bell of £1,437.77 now stands at £11,658.19p

The accounts have been audited and signed off and sent to the branch secretaries.

AK proposed a continued annual payment to Operation Christmas Box of £500 seconded by Les Stephenson and voted in favour.

Standard Bearer Report Mick Wyatt

MAY 2024

Tags Memorial Lee-on-Solent (FAA Memorial Service)
Funeral Geoffrey Harding-Roots - Brighton Crematorium, Southdowns branch

JUNE 2024

RAF Tarrant Rushton memorial service

JULY 2024

Funeral Kenneth William James Markham – Non Member, 99yrs old

NOVEMBER 2024

Lee-on-Solent Remembrance parade.
Channel Dash memorial service, Ramsgate.
Legrave Junior School, Luton – Remembrance assembly attended by 6 local standards.
Funeral Bill Jones – Chichester crematorium, TAG - Non Member, 100yrs old.
Funeral Donald Bell – Beckenham crematorium, Non Member

Membership Secretary Report Mick Wyatt

Association total 362 members as of 28 February 2025.
This figure will change when I have the updated lists from branch secretaries following annual renewals for this accounting year post 1st March
Daedalus branch now has 103 members including 7 new members and now have 29 members over the age of 90 years.
Weymouth branch recruitment has again greatly increased to a reported 116 members, with an additional 11 members as of the AGM.
Solent and Yorkshire Branches have not updated their official numbers since 2018 And 2023 respectively.

Item 4 - Election of Officers – Branch Postal Vote

Six postal voting forms were mailed containing candidates for one Committee member and Secretary. All forms were returned re-electing Jim Moulson as Secretary, and Peter Murray as committee member. Calls were also made for an additional committee member and a Vice Chairman. None were forthcoming,

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however Carole Sharpe from South Downs Branch volunteered for the committee and was duly elected. They will all serve for a further two years.

AK asked why there were no volunteers from the Weymouth and Portland Branch to stand for any of the vacancies? Helen Edwards said that the majority of the Branch were still employed and would find it difficult to commit to the NEC.

Item 5 – Changes to the Constitution

DS proposed the following changes to the Constitution all of which were agreed unanimously.

Existing;

2.1e All such elections will be conducted by a postal ballot and the result shall be scrutinised and the result declared by one (1) member of the NEC and two (2) Branch Delegates at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Proposed;

2.1e All such elections will be conducted by an **electronic ballot of individual Full Members** in the first instance, whilst retaining the option for alternative balloting via the branch and the result shall be scrutinised and declared by **the Chairman or Secretary** at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Existing;

2.2c. The NEC is empowered to commit a maximum sum of £250 per fiscal year as a grant or donation without the approval of an Open Meeting or the AGM.

Proposed;

2.2c. The NEC is empowered **to give a grant(s) or donation(s), not exceeding an overall total of 15% of the funds held in the Association current account at the start of the fiscal year.**

Item 6 - AGM Reunion 2026

DS expressed his disappointment with the numbers for this reunion and for the low turn out for the AGM. He thanked Alan Key and George Pick for their efforts with the organisation. The immediate need is to decide what needs to be done to attract more of the members for attendance at future reunions and in particular for 2026.

There is a need to canvass the membership to ascertain why people are not attending; is it, the location, expense, travel, lack of interest etc. Other Associations appear to have successful events, with some i.e. Bulwark a complete sell out.

Options were discussed including; A separate AGM and reunion. The AGM conducted by Zoom, as was the 2020 (Pandemic) AGM, which was successful, a one night stay, less formal.

The questions which need to be asked;

What would inspire you to come to a future reunion weekend/dinner?

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What format would members like to see for the reunion / AGM?
Should the AGM and reunion be held on separate dates?

Item 7 – HMS Sultan Affiliation

The Association continues to maintain a good relationship with Sultan with both communication and interaction with the AES Staff Officer, Lt Matt Dunne and WO Ian Morcomb, as can be seen in both the Chairman and Secretary's reports at Item 3.

Item 8 – CONA

DS and JM attended a CONA Conference at the Princess Royal Gallery, HM Dockyard Portsmouth on 28 March. It was an interesting and informative day with representatives from 45 Naval Associations attending

The programme included key presentations on: 'the RN Today' from Rear Admiral Jude Terry CB OBE, Director People & Training (formerly NAVSEC); the national 'Thrive Together' programme from Ian Millen, Chief Exec VoS; and 'Collectively Supporting the RN Family' (with the NCC and RNOC) from Debbie Dollner, CEO RNBT.

Item 10 – Branch Proposals

No branch proposals were received.

Item 11 – Any Other Business

Fleet Air Arm Memorial Service takes place on the third Sunday of May and this year will be May 18th. The service takes place in St Faith's Church Lee on Solent at 15.00 after which a wreath laying service at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial takes place. Prior to the service is a lunch held in the restaurant at Lee on Solent Golf Club, the cost of the lunch is £20 payable on the day. Timing is 12 for 12.30.

Anyone wishing to attend the lunch please contact Peter Murray – 07981 878325
Or peter.murray1@btinternet.com.

Dave Fairley brought along the Wrekin and Telford mascot, Fred the Bear to pass onto a Branch or the NEC to take charge of him for the future.

The FAA Pin, which is issued to all Daedalus Branch new members, should now be issued free to all members. AK would look into the cost and inform NEC members of what is available, i.e. Gold or Silver in due course. DS proposed, seconded by PM that it be free issue to anyone joining.

Helen Edwards asked if the Association would support an event, Rugby Match, which is being held in memory of a FAA pilot who had been killed in an accident. AK was against this in principle as the person was not a member of the Association. Helen

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proposed that a token donation of £50 be made to sponsor the event. PM seconded the proposal.

JM advised that the Daedalus Commemorative Stone was now in place and would be unveiled at a ceremony on Friday 20th June.

The Chairman closed the meeting with the Loyal Toast to King Charles.

Jim Moulson MBE (Secretary)
09 June 2025