

# ***FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION***

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**National Committee Meeting held at  
Court Barn Conservative Club, Court Barn Lane, Broom Way, Lee-  
on-Solent PO13 9NZ on Saturday 18th January 2025  
Commencing at 1100**

## **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Dave Smith (DS)                      Peter Murray (PM)  
Jim Moulson (JM)                                  Mick Wyatt (MW)  
Alan Key (AK)  
Ben Worship (BW)

**Apologies:** Fred Wadley, Jeff Cook (JC), Mike Foote (MF),  
Bob Ridout (RR)

**Visitors:**                      **Nil**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:00

The meeting then stood for a one minutes silence in remembrance of the following who had Crossed the Bar; Howard (Dick) Richards (Kent), William Jones (TAG), Christopher Knight (Daedalus) Ron Sayce,

### **Item 1. Minutes of the NEC Meeting 12 October 2024**

The minutes of the 2024, October meeting were accepted as correct by the meeting.

### **Item 2. Matters Arising**

The Daedalus Commemorative Stone (DCS) and the RNA/CONA website are on the agenda and would be discussed at that point

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## **Item 3. Officers Reports**

**Chairman:** DS advised that he had marched with the Association platoon at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, which he said was well attended and great experience. Ross Kemp, Eastenders, came over to them for a chat. On completion of the march past they assembled at the FAA Memorial on Embankment for the annual act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths for those of the FAA who gave their lives in all conflicts. On completion a number embarked on the Tattersall Castle for a few drinks and some lunch.

He also went to HMS Sultan, attending the ceremonial divisions and presented the Dr Rotman trophy to the best LAETs (Avionics and Mechanical) in November.

DS said that he would be visiting W&P Branch for the monthly meeting in February.

### **Treasurer:**

AK informed the meeting that the Association is in a healthy state and the accounts as they currently stand,

#### **Bank Accounts:**

HSBC Current Account	£317.95
Nat West Main Account	£48,540.00
Nat West Welfare Fund	£11,000.00

AK went to the Xmas Box launch and once again there was very little support from CONA members.

### **Secretary**

Along with DS attended HMS Sultan ceremonial divisions and presented the TAGA trophy to the best AET over the year.

JM also organised the annual Taranto Night Dinner, held at the Lee Conservative Club, it was well attended, with 60 members and partners. The guest of honour was Commodore Nick Sargent Officer in Charge of the CHF.

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## **Membership Secretary/Standard Bearer**

MW said that the number was still at 173 Branch members on the books, although it could be more as he does not believe he has a full list from all the branches. He did say that Weymouth & Portland branch now had 120 members. JM said that the Solent Branch membership was hovering around 55 mark, although there have been a couple of new members recently. He had also been advised that Yorkshire Branch would be dissolving in the near future, the majority of their members were Associate members!

JM reiterated the online form was difficult to complete MW said that he would revamp the form to make it easier to complete and make it universal and control the membership database for all members.

JM passed over the year stickers for 2025 to MW at the Remembrance service at the FAA Memorial Lee, although at the time MW said that he had not received them, this was corrected Post Meeting.

## **Item 4. 2025 Reunion**

AK advised that the uptake for the reunion had been disappointing at this stage, with only 9 bookings (17 people) to date. To avoid cancellation at least 40 people are needed.

It was thought that perhaps the “Non refundable deposit” may well be putting people off, this will now be removed from the Booking Form. Although the last date for booking was the 31 January any late bookings would be accepted. However to avoid cancellation and a loss to the Association a decision must be reached by mid February.

JM said that the car parking charge may well be putting people off, perhaps not the money but the principle of the charge. This has been commented on by Solent members

JM to put out a mail to all Branch Secretaries to canvass the members again. Also to contact the President and Patron, as nothing had been heard from them.

**POST MEETING NOTE:** Both AJ and TC are unable to attend.

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## **Item 5a. Daedalus Commemorative Stone (DCS)**

JM gave an update on the progress of the project. The order had been placed for the Stone and the product is now in the process of being cut to the correct measurements and for some of the engraving to be carried out such as the Daedalus/Ariel Crest. The stone will then be transported from China by sea and is expected to be with the local Stonemason in early April. The final engraving will be carried out and hopefully fixed in position in May. The unveiling is planned to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

Fareham Borough Council have turned down the application to erect Information Boards within the public viewing area, Therefore this funding is not required at the moment, a further planning application maybe made in the future.

A programme of events and invited dignitaries/benefactors will be published before the end of March. Plans are for a simple ceremony followed by light refreshments provided by Café @05, by the public viewing area at Solent Airport.

## **Item 5b. DCS Funding**

JM gave an update on the funding to date and once again expressed his disappointment that the Association was not able to pledge any funding above that already allowed by the Constitution, i.e. £250, without going to the AGM for approval. A lengthy discussion took place with no further improvement on the discussion which took place at the October meeting.

DS proposed that the sum of £250 be approved with an amount, up to £1750, to be put to the AGM for approval if required, the proposal was approved by the members present. JM advised that, sufficient funding to cover the cost of the of the Stone had been raised by donations from various organisations, but, with the exception of the Armourers Association, which donated £500, no other donations were made by any FNF Association. An offer had been made as an anonymous donation, of up to £500 had been made by a member of Solent Branch.

## **Item 6. AGM Election of Officers/Committee Members**

JM advised the meeting that there had been no interest shown in the plea for a Vice Chairman, following the resignation of Jeff Cook. Those posts which will need to be filled, due to time served, at the AGM are; Vice

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Chairman, Secretary and 2 Committee Members. JM will put out a request for volunteers for those positions, Ballot Forms will need to be mailed to the Secretaries by the end of March and to be returned by 02 May.

**POST MEETING NOTE;** Both Bob Ridout and Gerry Jackson have been contacted, and due to ill health both have decided it is time to stand down. Bob Hayden is no longer able to carry out the duties of Secretary for Yorkshire Branch due to Dementia.

## **Item 7. Remembrance Sunday Review**

As reported earlier DS attended the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, there was a good number, in attendance and ably led by Jeff Cook. On completion of the march past, all of the FNF Associations mustered at the FAA Memorial, at Embankment for the laying of wreaths. All then retired to the Tattersal Castle for a few drinks and some lunch.

JM attended the service at the FAA Memorial at Lee-on-Solent, there were 31 attendees, including MW with the Standard and Ben Fenn with the Solent Branch Standard. It was well attended by members of the public who came to pay their respects.

**POST MEETING NOTE:** Along with John Beavis a Gosport Alderman, and JM have been in contact with the War Graves Commission, regarding the condition of the Memorial. With some persuasion from our local MP the WGC have promised that work to repair the damaged stone and a complete clean, will be carried out before the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

## **Item 8. Fleet Air Arm Memorial Weekend**

This annual event to remember the TAGs will take place on over the weekend of 17/18 May. PM along with Val Sayer will finalise the arrangements and end out the relevant documentation. JM will be the contact with HMS Sultan for support with a contingent of ratings to act as wreath bearers.

## **Item 9. Request for support from Weymouth & Portland Branch**

DS said that a request for financial support had been received from W&P Branch for a proposed branch trip to Portsmouth. All were in agreement

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that the Branch could apply for a subsidy of £10 per member only, in accordance with the guidance laid out in the Branch Subsidy Policy, and not a one-off payment for the trip.

## **Item 10. Ramsgate Channel Dash Memorial Service**

MF had advised that he had received an invitation from Ramsgate RNA Branch for attendance at the service to be held on 12 February at Ramsgate. MW would be attending with the National Standard. A discussion followed on whether any wishing to attend should be paid travelling expenses. PM said that historically anyone attending voluntarily paid their own way, apart from the Standard Bearer who could claim expenses, under the Constitution. If an exception was made, this could open the floodgates for anyone who wished to attend.

It was agreed that anyone who was specifically representing the Association on official business, could claim expenses.

## **Item 11. Funding request from 820 NAS for Deployment Badges**

A request had been received, via the Website, from 820 Squadron for donations towards the manufacture of deployment badges for the forthcoming 8 month deployment on board HMS Prince of Wales. The cost of the badges is in the region of £800 and a number of charities had been approached for donations. It was agreed that no donation should be made as it was considered that the funding should come from the Squadron or RNAS Culdrose Welfare Fund.

## **Item 12. AOB**

PM advised that he had spoken to Fred Wadley, regarding the laying up of the Hanworth Branch Standard. JM said that he would make enquiries with HMS Sultan to see if it would be possible to lay it up in the Sultan Chapel.

POST MEETING NOTE; PM had made enquiries with regard to laying it up in St Barts church at Yeovil, which would be more appropriate. Permission has been granted.

PM said that the constraint to limit the annual expenditure limit of £250 in any one financial year should be increased to £1000 per year. All agreed and DS said this would be an Agenda item for the AGM.

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PM also said that, as with the Welfare Policy there should be a separate Finance Policy, DS said that he would draw one up for consideration.

DS said that he thought the £250 limit for any Welfare request should be revised and increased to £500. All agreed.

**Item 10. Date of next meeting: AGM Saturday 10 May 2025 at the Holiday Inn, Southampton**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14:30

Jim Moulson MBE  
Secretary  
Fleet Air Arm Association