

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

www.faaa.org.uk



**National Committee Meeting held at
Court Barn Conservative Club, Court Barn Lane, Broom Way, Lee-
on-Solent PO13 9NZ on Saturday 20th January 2024
Commencing at 1100**

Minutes

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

Apologies: Fred Wadley, Mike Foote, Bob Ridout

Visitors: Tony Fenn - Solent Branch
Jim Mussenden – Weymouth & Portland Branch

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:00

The meeting then stood for a one minutes silence in remembrance of the following who have Crossed the Bar; Stan Richardson (ex Ford) Alan “Charlie” Bett (Solent) Robert Jones (Solent) Craig Gibson (W & P Branch) Geoff Wheatley (W&P)

JC introduced Jim Mussenden, Social Secretary of the Weymouth & Portland Branch who would have some input to recruitment and publicity for the Association.

Item 1. Minutes of the NEC Meeting 07 October 2023

The minutes were accepted as correct by the meeting.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Item 2. Matters Arising – Not on the Agenda

JM advised that he had not heard anymore from the Not Forgotten Association and will contact them again.

PM asked if there could be a Members only section for the website, DS would look into this, but he is not an expert on the website but would look into this in slow time.

DS said that he had not opted for the annual contract with Zoom meetings and we would just go for the free 40 minute sessions, if we needed a Zoom meeting at any time.

AK had contact with the Commodore at Whale Island with regards to raising awareness and promoting of both the FAAA and Navy Wings within the FAA, he promised that this would be done, but don't expect anything to happen quickly.

JM advised that the Constitution had been revised with respect to meetings being quorate (Rule 4.1b). This has to be ratified at the AGM.

Item 3. Officers Reports

Chairman:

DS attended Remembrance Sunday at the Cenotaph laying the wreath at the FAA memorial and then took the Thames Boat trip with the SHAR Association and took the opportunity to meet other members network with other FNF Associations and particularly the FNF Secretary, Phil Carpenter. Other than that, it has been a quiet period.

Vice Chairman:

JC did well to get a good number, 17, representing the Association at the Cenotaph parade in November.

Treasurer:

AK informed the meeting that the bequest from the estate of the late Sue Halliday had been received, £2,167.37 and banked. He gave a summary of the accounts as they currently stand, which are still in a very healthy state.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Bank Accounts:

HSBC Current Account	£598.22
Nat West Main Account	£39,508.66*
Nat West Welfare Fund	£10,590.42

*Includes £900.00 Reunion deposits

Secretary:

JM was invited to speak at the South Downs Branch annual Taranto Lunch, at Bramber, good to meet the Chairman and other members of the Branch.

I also attended the opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and laid a Poppy Cross in the FAA plot. I also attended the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, leading the Armourers Association.

An invitation to attend the Ceremonial Divisions HMS Sultan was received, this gave me the opportunity to meet both the officers and senior ratings from the AES and it is hoped that Solent Branch can take the opportunity to invite some to any social functions in the future in order to establish a better liaison with the group. The Dr Rotman trophies were discussed, and it is hoped to present the prizes in the summer.

Membership Secretary/Standard Bearer

MW said that there have been 4 new members joining since October and was advised that Weymouth & Portland branch now had 81 members, now leaving Solent way behind with 49 members. A discussion then ensued regarding recruiting, advertising, social media, Website, flyers and visiting the Naval Air Stations. MW said that all enquiries he receives are from the ageing population. DS was keen to target the younger serving members, through Facebook etc. One of the issues was that we had nothing to offer any potential members,

MW advised that the Standard had been paraded at the annual Remembrance Sunday parade at the FAA Memorial, Lee-on-Solent. MW was still awaiting confirmation of the requirement to parade the national standard at the Commemorative Service for WWII veteran Stan Richardson, formerly Ford Branch, on 25 January who had crossed the bar in December 2023. At this point, JM advised that he would be unable to attend the service.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Item 4a. 2024 Reunion – Status

AK advised the meeting that the numbers were encouraging and that we were fast approaching the minimum number of 40 required to make a go of it. The numbers included the Patron and President along with the spouses. A discussion then ensued as to the content of the Booking Form. It was agreed that the information needed to be amended to give more clarity regarding the deposit and to include the dress code for the Gala Dinner.

MW said that the online version of the pdf was not yet approved and should not be used, and the arrangements published should be adhered to. Jim Mussenden suggested that the Reunion should be given more prominence on social media and suggested the unofficial FAAA Facebook site, he would approach the admin for the site.

AK advised that the contract with the hotel would not be signed until we were certain that the target of 40 had been reached. He suggested the following for the Gala Dinner, that there would be 3 bottles of wine per table, although the cost of the wine in the hotel was £27 per bottle. He would approach the hotel with regards to the provision of our own wine with corkage to pay, JM proposed that a maximum of £500 be allocated as a subsidy for the wine – this was agreed. The Association should also provide Port for the toast.

AK is to arrange a buffet following the AGM and the rum for tot time. JM undertook to run the raffle with a maximum of £250 for the provision of prizes. PM suggested that we went for quality, not quantity for the prizes, but would hope that members would donate prizes as in the past. A further meeting to discuss the final arrangements for the reunion will be held, by Zoom, on Friday 23 February at 19:00

Item 4b. Future Reunion Locations

It was agreed that future reunions should be dependent on the feedback following the reunion but would probably centre around the south coast. DS said that we have to start the process much sooner than for this year.

Item 4c. 2025 Reunion

As above

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Item 5. Website

DS confirmed that we had bought the upgrade package for the website which would allow for us to create over a period of time:

- 1) A member's area.
- 2) An interactive joining form.

In the future we would investigate

- 3) Being able to pay directly upon joining online via the website.
- 4) Slops being ordered via the website.

We are getting quite a few contact messages via the website which are either dealt with by DS or passed onto the appropriate member of the committee.

DS is still looking into restarting a newsletter to go on the website and be available to be sent out to members.

Item 6. Remembrance Sunday Review

As stated by JC at Item 3, there were 17 Association members paying their respects at the Cenotaph. On completion of the march past the members along with other FNF Associations mustered at the FAA memorial at Embankment for the laying of wreaths. On completion a number of FAAA members joined the SHAR Association for a trip down the Thames with lunch and a few drinks.

The annual service and parade at Lee-on-Solent FAA Memorial was well attended by 33 Solent Branch with members of other FNF Associations and other members attended their local services.

Item 7. Fleet Air Arm Memorial Weekend

PM, who has taken on the role of organiser of the annual FAA Memorial weekend at Lee-on-Solent, along with Valerie Sayer, hoped to increase the numbers attending the lunch and service, supported by our Patron Sir Adrian Johns. He will be writing to the FAAOA and FNF to promote the event. The service will be held on Sunday 19 May.

Post Meeting Note: PM has penned a note, attached, and forwarded it to the FNF Secretary, which has subsequently been published and should be disseminated to all members.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Item 8. Constitution

A discussion took place with regards to the requirement for Officers and Members of the NEC to be full members.

It was agreed that the Constitution to be amended to read:

Rule 2.1b The Officers and members of the NEC must be Members of the Association, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman being ex serving Fleet Air Arm personnel.

Rule 2.1d Remove the last sentence “Where the Chairman completes the term of office, that person should take a one-year break prior to standing for re-election to the NEC”

Rule 4.1b Replace existing rule wording with:
Meetings will only be quorate if the attendance is as follows:
NEC, EGMs and AGM – 50% of Officers and Committee members.

Rule 4.1c Replace existing rule wording with:
An AGM shall be held in April, at such venue and date as decided by the NEC.

Rule 4.1e Remove “Open” and replace with “NEC”.

All rule changes are to be ratified at the 2024 AGM.

Item 9. AOB

AK raised the issue regarding the Association and the annual donation to the Operation Xmas Box. As a result of some research, he said that the FAAA were the only Association within the 3 Services who donated towards this annual event. He would raise awareness of this at other forums to try and drum up more support. It was agreed that we should continue to give it our full support.

Item 10. Date of next meeting: Saturday 13 April 2024 - AGM

Jim Moulson MBE
Secretary
Fleet Air Arm Association