

# ***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 October 2025  
Commencing at 1100**

## **Minutes**

**Attendees:** Dave Smith (DS) Peter Murray (PM)  
Jim Moulson (JM) Mick Wyatt (MW)

**Apologies:** Fred Wadley, Ben Worship, Jeff Cook, Mike Foote  
Carole Sharpe

**Visitors:** Andy Salter, Doug Carrington (Solent)  
Paul D'Arcy, Jim Mussenden, Tony Boyle (W&P)

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; Terry Lowden (Daedalus), ex WO(AEM) Nigel Edward Malcom BEM, Ex POAEA(M) Michael (Mick) Warnes

### **Item 1. Minutes of the NEC Meeting 18 January 2025**

- 1) The minutes of the January meeting were accepted with the following correction Under Item 3 Treasurers Report  
Nat West Main Account – Should read £37000 not £48540 and  
Nat West Welfare Fund – Should read £11540 not £11000

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

There were no matters arising from the Minutes, although there were two monetary errors in the Treasurers report which have now been corrected.

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## **Item 3. Officers Reports**

### **Chairman:**

I had attended the FAA Memorial service at Lee-on-Solent, in May, this was formerly the TAGs weekend. In July I attended HMS Ceremonial Divisions and presented the Dr Rotman trophy to the best LAET (AV) and (M), also the TAGA trophy to the best overall AET of the year. Each also received a small trophy presented by Jim or me that they get to keep whilst the real silverware returns to the HMS Sultan Trophy Cabinet

In September I attended the RN Association's biennial parade in Whitehall along with the National Standard Bearer and other members of the association. I also attended the Lt Rhodri Morgan Memorial Rugby match at the Cardiff Arms Park; this was the match that the association donated money towards.

I also chaired several committee Zoom meetings to progress the arrangements for the 2026 AGM/Reunion.

### **Treasurer:**

In the absence of the Treasurer, DS gave a summary of the accounts.

NatWest Current Acc	£32657.26
Welfare	£11658.19
HSBC	£119.79
Cash in Hand	£33.58
Total available Current	£32807.35
Welfare	£11658.19

### **Secretary:**

I attended the FAA Memorial weekend events, dinner at the Lee-on-Solent Golf Club on the Saturday evening, the lunch and church service in St Faith's Church on the Sunday and the wreath laying.

I attended the Daedalus Commemorative Stone unveiling at Solent Airport and laid wreaths at the FAA memorial for VE and VJ 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.

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With the Chairman, I also attended the Ceremonial Divisions and prize giving at HMS Sultan.

## **Membership Secretary/Standard Bearer**

MW advised that there were 5 new members in the Daedalus Branch. MW said that he had received communication from someone in America who wished to join as an Associate member, although he didn't know what the connection with the FAA was. DS said that he would write to the person. W&P membership was increasing steadily, with about 5 new members per month, which were mainly local, membership stood at 145. PD (W&P) said that social media was attracting many, but also some were from all corners of the UK and abroad. He went on to say what the Branch did socially, which appeared to be a big pull for new members.

JM said that he would order the 2026 year stickers.

MW in his Role as Standard Bearer attended the FAA Memorial service at Lee-on-Solent, the DCS unveiling ceremony alongside the Solent Branch Standard Bearer, the RN Associations march in Whitehall and took pride of place as one of 3 National Standard Bearers. MW and VP PM attended the FNF meeting and afterwards laid up the Hanworth Branch Standard with Navy Wings to be displayed in their hanger.

MW also took the opportunity to announce that with immediate effect he would be standing down as the National Standard Bearer due to mobility issues and would therefore not be available for the Remembrance Sunday service at the FAA Memorial. It is hoped that a new Standard Bearer would be recruited as soon as possible.

Website:

DS said that he had been working on updating the site, but there is still work to do.

## **Item 4. 2026 Reunion/AGM**

The returns from the questionnaire were discussed at a couple of Zoom meetings but nothing was conclusive. However, it was agreed that the AGM would be separated from the reunion, with the AGM to be held in April/May and the reunion in September.

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The locations and format were yet to be decided, although it was concluded that the AGM should be a hybrid of in person and Zoom meeting subject to a suitable location being found. Any location would need to have media facilities. Locations with facilities could be Navy Wings, Portsmouth Maritime Club or a hotel. DS will contact these locations to enquire what facilities are available and when. PM said that most members were retired and therefore a meeting needn't be restricted to a weekend.

Locations for the reunion were discussed at length, PD said that the "Junglies" held a successful reunion at Yeovilton, using the Senior Rates Mess, he would follow this up with one of his contacts. JM said that he would contact HMS Sultan Mess President, to see if this was feasible, as both locations would need to provide overnight accommodation. Both locations had good opportunities for visits to local attractions. JM was not sure if Sultan would allow more than the one-night accommodation, if at all, due to security and the movement of visitors on a training establishment during the working day. There may be an opportunity if it was held during the summer leave period, but that may not be feasible due to lack of catering staff. A date for the reunion will be set once we have confirmation from Yeovilton or Sultan. If neither are available, we will have to look for a suitable hotel. Possibilities are the Queens Hotel in Southsea, many reunions are held there, although parking is restrictive.

JM (W&P) would make enquiries regarding costings at the Crown Hotel, Weymouth, as the Branch held a Christmas function there last year. It was agreed that the venue should be at Yeovilton, HMS Sultan or the Crown Hotel Weymouth. JM (W&P) said that he would contact the Crown for some ideas and quotes. All agreed that the AGM be held in April/May preferably by Hybrid Zoom and the reunion be held in late September or early October.

## **Item 5. Remembrance Sunday 2025**

DS will be going to the Cenotaph again this year, JC had advised that he has 22 confirmed attendees and had also booked an area on the Tattershall Castle following the Ceremony at the FAA memorial on the Victoria Embankment.

JM said that the Solent Branch Standard would be paraded at the FAA Memorial at Lee-on-Solent and HMS Sultan would be organising the parade. An ex-1<sup>st</sup> Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Nigel Essenhigh would lay a wreath, he is a new resident of Lee and has expressed his wish to attend

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annually, also in attendance would be the head of the FAA, Rear Admiral Rimington.

The War Graves Commission have recently cleaned the memorial and trimmed the hedges that border the memorial, Gosport BC will be tidying the flower beds.

## **Item 6. Fleet Air Arm Memorial Weekend**

PM gave a brief history of the weekend. It was originally set up by the Telegraphist Air Gunners Association (TAGA) in 1953, who held an annual act of remembrance over the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May. The members were accommodated and entertained at Senior Rates Mess at Daedalus on the Saturday evening and was one of busiest weekends at the mess and there was a full parade, with guard and band on the Sunday. As the numbers dropped off and the TAGA folded, it was an express wish that the TAGs were never forgotten, and it was then decided that there should be an annual FAA Memorial weekend since 2013. There are now just 2 TAGs still alive, sadly the Memorial weekend has not been well attended by any of the other FAA Associations, but it the wish of our Patron, Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, (AJ), that it continues.

A informal gathering is held at Lee-on-Solent Golf Club on the Saturday evening. Then on the Sunday a lunch is held at the Golf Club, followed by a service of remembrance at St Faith's Church and wreath laying at the FAA Memorial. The service is always attended by AJ and usually Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham FAAA President and a small platoon of trainees from HMS Sultan (AES).

## **Item 7a. Capitation Fees (Constitution 3.d)**

DS agreed that due to an oversight the Capitation Fees had not been reviewed as per the Constitution. He had wanted to increase the fee but was advised that it was not right time to increase them by the committee, due to the amount of money held by the Association. If we want to grow the Association by encouraging serving and younger veterans to join, then we need to offer them something as an incentive to join. This is what we should be concentrating on and using the funds for that and for subsidising events like the reunion. It will be a topic for discussion at future meetings.

A discussion took place regarding membership and recruitment to the Association. W&P are averaging 5 new members and have done so consistently for a number of months. This is not just to do with

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demographics, PD(W&P) said that new recruits to the branch heard of the Branch by word of mouth and said that the social programme attracts them. JM replied and said that the Solent Branch had done exactly what W&P are now doing social wise and probably more, but age, mobility and general ill health has caused the decline in membership and that is the reason for the decline in Branches nationally. PD(W&P) compared the RNA who have mentors who go into HMS Raliegh as soon as recruits join the RN and offer them free membership for life and overnight the membership rocketed, this was due to a lifeline from the RNRMC. However, the debate on how to encourage membership from both serving and veteran personnel will continue within the FAA Association and we need to look at taking best practices from branches to help increase our overall membership. We are already looking at reviving the Yeovilton branch and there are efforts to try and get a new branch in Culdrose area.

As a matter of course this will now be included as a standing item for the AGM agenda.

## **b. NEC Funds**

A point of order was raised by the Chair of W&P regarding approval of the reduction of funds by £20K over a 10-year period from 2018. DS agreed that although there was no strategic written plan in place to manage this, we have been subsidising the reunion and branch functions as well as granting donations to good causes which is naturally reducing the balance in the account. PM outlined the background to the Dr Rotman legacy. A review of the past reduction approval will take place in the coming months with a view to using some of the funds to increase the association membership going forward.

## **c. Branch Function Subsidy Review (Policy)**

JM said the Branch Subsidy of £10.00 per member attending a designated function was agreed and set at the October 2019 meeting and was to be reviewed annually at the Autumn meeting. A review has never been carried out and now is the time to review the amount set in view of the reduced Branches and rising cost of functions/travel etc. JM suggested an increase to £15.00 per full member attending such an event. This proposal was agreed by the Committee.

## **Item 8. Blind Vets Summer Camp Donation**

Andy Salter attended the meeting to request a donation be made to the Blind Vets Association to assist with funding for the annual summer camp, which is held at HMS Sultan in August. Andy gave some

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background to the request. Originally called the St Dunstan's camp, it was held annually at HMS Daedalus, with the Vets being accommodated in the PO's Mess and all the socialising events in the WO & CPO's mess for many years, with the "dogs" being provided by the FAA Field Gunners. There was minimal cost attached for accommodation and entertaining. On the closure of HMS Daedalus, the camp was invited to move to HMS Sultan. Over the years the cost to the Blind Vets has increased annually, even to the point where they were invited to the Wardroom for lunch and a quiz but had to pay for the meal! Andy asked that the Association award a grant to assist with the 2026 camp. It was proposed that a donation of £500 be made to the Blind Vets Summer Camp. Going forward a request would be added to the AGM agenda for a donation to be made for future camps. This will be similar to what we do for the Christmas Box appeal.

## **Item 9. Standard Bearers Equipment**

MW said that the Standard Bearer's equipment was showing signs of age and wear, particularly the with silver thread starting to fray on the sash. DS agreed that we should try to find somewhere to clean and refurbish the equipment or replace it as necessary. JM suggested the Repair Shop!!

## **Item 10. AOB**

JM advised the meeting that he had spoken to Mick Grubb, Chairman Yorkshire Branch who confirmed that the Branch had formally closed at the end of September, and the Standard had been laid up at Elvington Yorkshire Air Museum.

**Item 11. Date of next meeting:** Saturday 24 January 2026 at Court Barn Conservative Club, Lee-on-Solent

The Chairman closed the meeting at 14:30

Jim Moulson MBE  
Secretary  
Fleet Air Arm Association