

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

www.faaa.org.uk



2023 Annual General Meeting

**Held at 1100 on Saturday 13th May 2023 at
The Hilton Doubletree Hotel Coventry**

Minutes

Committee	Attendees:	
	Jim Moulson	Peter Murray
	Mick Wyatt	Mike Foote
	Dave Smith	
Apologies:	Alan Key	Gerry Jackson
	Bob Ridout	Jeff Cook
Branch Delegates	Mick Wyatt	Daedalus
	John Brown	Kent
	Doug Carrington	Solent
Members:	Tony (Ben) Fenn	Solent
	Dave (Tex) Edwards	Daedalus
	Geoff Owens	Kent
Apologies	Carole Sharpe	Southdowns

Item 1

Opening Prayer and Remembrance of Members who have Crossed the Bar

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The Chairman opened the meeting with the Fleet Air Arm Prayer at 1100. The meeting then stood observing a minute's silence for those members who have Crossed the Bar since the last meeting and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Leonard Williamson – South Downs
Douglas Brown - Daedalus
Ronald Birch - Daedalus
Brian Fairbotham -Daedalus
Richard Searles - South Downs
Robert Bowers - Daedalus
Rodney Howe - Daedalus
Arnold Thompson – Daedalus
Mick Sherry – Weymouth
Gordon ‘Oscar’ Harris – Weymouth
Eric Pitt – Bristol
Paul Pettit (TAG)

Item 2 – The Loyal Toast

The Loyal Toast will be taken at the end of the meeting.

Item 3 – Review of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were accepted as correct by the meeting.

Item to be carried forward is update to Rule 2.1a of the Constitution and Rules requires modification to include the Daedalus Branch Secretary as a permanent member of the Committee.

Item 4 – Officer's Report

Chairman's report

There has been very little activity during the year 2022/23. I was unable to represent the Association at the TAGAs/FAA Memorial weekend due to a booked holiday. However, the weekend went well and was well represented by a good number of Association members.

I have been involved with discussions over road closures at Lee-on-the-Solent with a local councillor and representatives from HMS Sultan and with the presence of a guard and band for Remembrance Sunday. All was resolved during the meeting and the finance for the road closures was provided by Gosport BC. John Beavis, local councillor, confirmed that funding for the future was budgeted for and accepted by Gosport BC.

In time for Remembrance Sunday the War Graves Commission tended to the hedging and flower bed at the FAA Memorial. I have also been in consultation with The Gosport Shed with regards to the refurbishment/rebuild/replacement of the benches

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which have been in place at the memorial for many years. One bench is nearing completion and will be returned to the Memorial soon. The second will then be worked on and should be in place for the 2023 Remembrance Sunday Service. It looks as if the only funding for this work will be a donation to the Gosport Shed.

Remembrance Sunday service itself went very well with 31 members from the Solent Branch and FAAFGA marching. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the FAAA and TAGA plus more from other FAA Associations. I was at the Cenotaph in London leading the Armourers Association.

I was invited to meet a LT Murray Jones from HMS Sultan to discuss future relations with the establishment, in particular the presentation of the Dr Rotman trophy. It was very productive and a future meeting is to be arranged to finalise a process.

I received an invitation to attend a Sultan Affiliates Day along with 3 members to be held in September, unfortunately Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II passed away and the event was postponed. Unfortunately I was away again for the rescheduled event in February, but the Association was represented by the Vice Chairman, Dave Smith, along with 3 members of the Solent Branch.

I attended a meeting in February arranged by the RNA, regarding the future and aims of CONA and what can be achieved at the meeting, rather than it being just a talking shop! Minutes of that meeting are attached. Phil Carpenter, Secretary FNF, is now involved as I believe we should be represented at the CONA meetings by a Central body.

Finally my last duty of the year was to attend the Funeral of one of our Vice Presidents Arnold Thompson, stalwart of the Association, and both the TAGA and Blind Veterans being involved in many of their activities.

Vice-Chairman's Report – Dave reported on his visit to the HMS Sultan Affiliates Day which was something of an “eye opener”, as training methods have moved on a pace since his day. Now personal computers, social media, on line examinations are the norm. Good to meet some of the young trainees there, working with all the technology. There were a lot of professional bodies there to see how the examinations aligned with their professional qualifications. It was a good day, watching the field gun crew go through their paces as this was their first week.

Dave said there were lots of posters on the Notice Boards but nothing from our Association. It would be good if we could have some kind of poster or publicity material in the training areas. This may bring us some serving members. It was a good day and we should try to repeat it.

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Website – Dave reported as Webmaster that he now has made the Website available on phone and tablet, which is a lot easier. Further ideas and developments for the website could be picture galleries and live newsfeeds, similar to the Officers Association website. Sir Adrian Johns has agreed to have their Webmaster contact Dave . Dave will explore the possibility of an Association Facebook account, there is another Facebook account for the Association which we believe was set up by Ray Day.

On line membership and payment is another possibility which would make joining a much simpler transaction and encourage people to join.

Secretary's Report

I attended the Fleet Air Arm Ex TAGS Memorial Parade in May 2022. The event went very well and we had three Flag Officers, our Patron Sir Adrian Johns, our President, Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham and Commodore Bill Covington from Navy Wings. This memorial event has been organised by Arnold Thompson and Val Sayer since 2013 when the TAGS Association dissolved. Our Association is committed to continue this parade which was inaugurated in 1953 and until 2013 was organised by the TAGS Association.

This is an important event and is fully supported by our Patron, Sir Adrian Johns. We would hope that we can increase attendance in future. Due to the difficulties of road closures it is expected in future that it will be a Remembrance Service in St Faith's Church as a parade is not possible. The 2023 Parade will take place on May 21st at 1500 at St Faith's Church Lee on Solent. Prior to the service a lunch is served at Lee on Solent Golf Club for anyone wishing to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Peter Murray gave the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Alan Key, Treasurer. The Accounts have been circulated by e-mail a couple of weeks ago to the Branch Secretaries and made available today at the meeting. Alan reported that the Accounts have been fully and professionally audited.

The banking arrangements have been changed such that we now only have two bank accounts, the main working current account is with HSBC and the main Association funds and welfare accounts are held with NatWest.

Electronic banking is now available and anyone who wishes to pay directly should also notify the Treasurer by e-mail of their payment.

The Annual Accounts 1st March 2022 – 28 February 2023 had balances of:

HSBC Current Account £453.62

NatWest Main funds Account £40,904.15

Nat West Welfare Account £10,772.95

Alan reported that Sue Halliday has bequeathed 0.5% of her estate to the Association. The amount is not yet known.

The Association's assets insurance has been renewed this month.

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A copy of the Accounts is attached to the Minutes and on the last page you will find a list of all available slops.

Standard Bearer

Mick Wyatt reported that he had attended Arnold Thompson's funeral and two other funerals of non association members but members of the RNA. Also Remembrance Sunday and the FAA EXTAGS Memorial Parade at Lee on Solent.

The Chairman asked Mick had he heard anything from the Not Forgotten Association and Mick reported, not recently. However, the Secretary had received a request to interest for some upcoming events. This e-mail should have been received by all Branch Secretaries, as this was the arrangement with Not Forgotten Association. Peter Murray will forward a copy of the e-mail he has received from the Not Forgotten Association to Branch Secretaries and the Committee. He will also contact Rosie Thompson at the Not Forgotten Association to make sure they have the correct email addresses.

Item 5 - Election of Officers – Branch Postal Vote

Eight postal voting forms were mailed containing candidates for committee and Vice Chairman, there were no candidates for the position of Secretary. Seven forms were returned and these were recorded by Mike Foote who reported that Peter Murray was elected to the Committee and Jeff Cook elected to the position of Vice Chairman.

In the absence of any candidate for the position of Secretary, Jim Moulson volunteered himself at the meeting and was elected to the position of Secretary by a unanimous vote. The meeting thanked Jim for taking on this responsibility.

The Committee going forward comprises:

Mick Wyatt
Bob Ridout
Peter Murray
Mike Foote
Gerry Jackson

The officers are:

Dave Smith – Chairman
Jeff Cook – Vice Chairman
Alan Key – Treasurer
Jim Moulson – Secretary

Dave Smith, took over as Chairman of the meeting.

Item 6 - AGM Reunion 2024

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Dave said that we need to increase our attendance as this year's attendance was very low. He suggested that the problem is the trade off between costs and travel distance. To try and get some feedback on this from the members, he will undertake a survey of all members for whom we have e-mail addresses, to elicit their opinions. For next year's AGM Reunion Dave will focus on London (Union Jack Club – easy rail access), Portsmouth and Weymouth where our two largest branches are located.

As time is critical regarding a location and booking, Dave will call a Zoom committee meeting within the next few weeks to hopefully reach a decision.

Item 7 – HMS Sultan Affiliation

See Vice Chairman's Report

Item 8 – CONA

CONA Meeting: 17 Feb 2023 - Royal Maritime Club, Queen's Street, Portsmouth

Chairman: Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB

General Secretary: Captain Bill Oliphant

Secretary: Malcolm Little (malcolm@royalnavalassoc.com)

Agenda

1. Networking sandwich lunch from 1230 - 1330
2. Opening Remarks – Vice Admiral Duncan Potts CB
3. Governance – election of Chairman & Secretary
4. GS's update since last meeting (see Handout)
5. Royal Navy - Cdre David Joyce (People & Training, Leach Bldg, Whale Island)
6. Battle of Atlantic (BoA80) – Malcolm Little
7. Naval Associations Biennial Parade (see Notes below)

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8. SSAFA – Alice Farrow
9. Shared benefits:
 - Cascading the learning (available Grants, etc)
 - Membership discounts (UK Holiday Group, etc)
 - Liability Insurance, free Minibus use (Pompey/ Plymouth/ Manchester based), admin /database support, Special Interest Groups, sound engineer (at a cost), etc
 - GDPR (positive member opt-in's, and Privacy Policy for storing personal data)
 - Joint comms promotion, incl generic contact details on social media/website/ Year- Book/circulars/Navy News
 - Representation and advocacy into Cobseo, OVA, RNRMC et al
10. Any other business:
 - Individual Association Updates – as forwarded in advance of meetings
 - New CONA members
 - Royal patronage
 - RNR and Sea Cadet officers
 - IMC
14. DONM – DTBD (close approx. 1600)

Notes:

- Pre-Covid CONA met in March and September, to share information, work in collaboration to increase reach to the (mostly) Veteran audience, and jointly attend relevant events. Member organisations differ in size, from 30 to 16k members, running on goodwill and a passion to maintain pride and strengthen camaraderie in their (element of our) Naval Service.
- Because the soft power potential of refreshing and equipping the Veteran element of society is worth harnessing, there is increased interaction between serving and former serving naval folk. The total number of naval association personnel exceeds 50k, all of whom are essentially naval enthusiasts, albeit with a regular need to be updated.
- **The Biennial Parade this year is close to the first anniversary of our late Queen's passing, giving us all the opportunity to parade our standards in Whitehall and demonstrate our allegiance to the King.** Thank you to those Associations who have already indicated their intent to parade or join our platoons. If you wish to participate let us know soonest via admin@royalnavalassoc.com with an indication of how many of your members will swell our collective ranks this year. For security reasons we have been asked to keep the date and timings off social media and to only share it with our members under the same caveat. It will also boost our credibility with the Met Police if all on parade are reminded to bring their Association membership cards with them.
- We welcome confirmation of the correct Association email and point of contact details, including any not on our list. We also seek permission to store email

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addresses and to list CONA member associations (not individuals) on our RNA website.

- **Finally, RNA membership is free and entirely complementary to all other Associations!**

Item 9 – Branch Proposals

None received.

Item 10 – Any Other Business

Jim Moulson reported that Gosport Borough Council now have the finances set aside for road closures for the Remembrance Parade, also HMS Sultan will provide a platoon to act as a guard.

The benches from the Fleet Air Arm Memorial are with the Gosport Shed for refurbishment and Jim is hopeful that one will be ready for the FAA/EXTAGS Parade Memorial Parade in May.

Peter Murray advised that a proposal from a Branch had been received requesting one of their members be made an Association Life Member. The proposal was duly considered by the Committee and although this member had done considerable work over many years for his branch, he had not been involved in any activities at National level. It was decided that he could not be granted National Life Membership, however the Branch can make him a Branch Life Member. The Branch will be advised accordingly.

Following Peter Murray's resignation as Secretary, the committee thanked him for carrying out this position for the last 12 years. Mike Foote also suggested Jenny be included for all her support efforts in the background.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 1250.

Tots were drawn and the Chairman proposed the Loyal Toast to King Charles.

Date of next Committee meeting is Saturday 7th October 2023 at Lee on Solent Conservative Club.

The Accounts, which have already been mailed out to Branch Secretaries and Committee, will be sent separately with these minutes.

Signed:

Peter Murray

Date: 22 May 2023

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ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1st March 2022-28th February 2023

INCOME	2021-2022		2022-2023	
Capitation Fee @ £5				
Bristol	7	35.00	7	35.00
Ford (dissolved Dec22)	3 (5)	40.00	8	40.00
Gt Manchester	9	45.00	(*)	
Gt Yarmouth	2 (3)	25.00	2	10.00
Kent	12	60.00	12	60.00
Solent	57	285.00	(*)	
Southdowns	16	80.00	14	70.00
Weymouth	38	190.00	54.	270.00
Wrekin	14	70.00	10	50.00
Yeovil (dissolved Dec22)	16	80.00	(*)	
Yorkshire	17 (17)	170.00	(*)	
Deadalus Branch @ £20	1	20.00		
Deadalus Branch @ £16	1	16.00	1	16.00
Deadalus Branch @ £14	3	42.00	2	28.00
Deadalus Branch @ £12	15	180.00	12	144.00
Deadalus Branch @ £11	1	11.00		
Deadalus Branch @ £10	5	50.00	1	10.00
Deadalus Branch @ £6	66	402.00	65	390.00
Deadalus Branch @ £5	1	5.00	1	5.00
Joining Admin Fee		37.75		23.25
Arrears from 2021		143.00		
SUB TOTAL	287	5671.18	209	1151.25
Sale of Stock		410.45		925.25
Reunion Raffle Money				260.00
Committee Meeting Lunch				60.00
Nationwide Account Interest		44.50		20.76
HSBC Refund				27.55
Welfare Account Interest		1.08		7.52
Donations		157.75		225.00
TOTAL		6560.05		2677.33

EXPENDITURE	2021-2022	2022-2023
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Outstanding cheques from 2022 Accounts		60.10
Purchase of stock	822.00	196.80
Wreaths	98.50	220.00
Royal Maritime Club	60.00	60.00
Public Liability Insurance.	407.10.	416.85
Donation - Operation Christmas Box	200.00	500.00
Navy Wings		318.50
Committee Meeting Lunch	224.00	237.50
Social Supplement - Kent	80.00	90.00
Social Supplement – Weymouth		240.00
Social Supplement – Solent.		280.00
Social Supplement – Yeovil		90.00
FAAA Website Registration	120.00	617.60
Web Site Costs		127.15
Broadway Printing (Membership Labels)	162.00	**
Officials Expenses - Secretary	16.74	22.90
Treasurer	113.48	106.19
Standard Bearer	00.00	100.00
Vice Chairman		13.50
Yeovil Committee Member		50.00

REUNION

Isle of Wight Tours		1854.25
RM Band		1674.00
Raffle Prize		140.50
TAGS Memorial Lunch		34.00
TAGS Blendworth Band		100.00
ZOOM Meetings	43.17	
HSBC Bank Charges	16.30	154.35
Welfare payment	250.00.	350.00
Yeovil & web designer		

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5776.17	8016.44
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TOTAL INCOME	6560.05	2677.33
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DEBIT: INCOME/EXPENDITURE	783.88	5339.11
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****Unpaid cheques Broadway Printing 180.00**

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Nationwide Account	45318.00	TX to HSBC/NWB
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HSBC Current Account	147.56	245.62
Cash in Hand	27.91	43.90
National Westminster Bankline		50805.26 */**

* 10,840.42 Welfare Fund

** one outstanding Transfer total £180.00

TOTAL	56433.89	51094.78
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WELFARE FUND

HSBC Current account @ 28/02/21	10940.42	10840.42
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As at 28/2/23

Now in the Nat.West Current Account

Value of Stock Held (Cost)

Gold Wire Blazer Badge	12 @ 13.95	167.40
Ties	27@ 10.44	280.60
Beret Badge	17 @ 8.10	137.70
Ladies Head Squares	5 @ 9.99	49.95
Baseball Caps	20 @ 8.84	196.80
Cumber-band	3@ 23.70	71.10
Car Sticker	28@ 0.81	23.08
Medal Holder Small	2 @ 2.40	4.80
Medal Holder Large	1@ 4.92	4.92
Chrome Lapel Badge	124 @ 1.41	174.84
Life Lapel Badge	51 @ 0.64	32.64

TOTAL.	1143.83
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