

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

www.faaa.org.uk



2024 Annual General Meeting

**Held at 1100 on Saturday 13th April 2024 at
The Holiday Inn Southampton**

Minutes

Committee	Attendees:	
	Alan Key	Peter Murray
	Mick Wyatt	Mike Foote
	Dave Smith	Jeff Cook
Apologies:	Jim Moulson	Gerry Jackson
	Bob Ridout	
Branch Delegates	Mick Wyatt	Daedalus
	John Brown	Kent
	Doug Carrington	Solent
	Carole Sharpe	Southdowns
	Ian Tate	Weymouth &Portland

Association Members 15 Attending.

Apologies	Ronald Sandry	Bristol Branch
	Geoff Owens	Kent Branch
	Helen Edwards	Weymouth Branch

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1100 and the Vice-Chairman 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:

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Lilian Hodgson - Non-Member but on the website
Cdr Anthony Hodgson - Non-Member but on the website

Craig Gibson - Weymouth Branch
Stan Richardson - Daedalus Branch
Terrence Gidman - Daedalus Branch
Barrie Davies - Kent Branch
Ray Miles - Southdowns Branch
Nigel Whiteley - Southdowns Branch

Item 2 – The Loyal Toast

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

Item 3 – Apologies

Apologies received are listed in the header section of the minutes.

Item 4 – Review of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

The Minutes of the 2023 AGM were accepted as correct by the meeting and adopted accordingly. There were no items to be carried forward.

Item 5 – Officer’s Report

Chairman’s report

I attended the RNA parade in September 2023 and the RBL Cenotaph remembrance parade.

With the help of Alan Key and George Pick we have managed to get this year’s Reunion delivered, which hopefully is going smoothly so far.

Throughout the year as well as the NEC meetings held on the 7th October 2023 and 20th January 2024 we held Zoom meetings on the 4th September and 7th December 2023 along with number of Reunion 2024 Zoom meetings held this year.

Going forward I would like to see us award our trophies which I believe we have not done for a number of years and attend invitations sent out by HMS Sultan if and when they arise.

Webmaster’s Report

I have continued to build and add to the website, and we have upgraded our subscription to Wix.com who are our hosting company, and this give us more scope to improve and add more items to the website going forward.

I am currently learning by a bit of trial and error on how to do things, but it is the intention to create a members only area and to put a joining form that can be completed online and sent direct to the Membership Secretary and/or Treasurer. We are currently not looking at paying the joining fees or membership renewals via the website.

We have also had quite a few people contact us 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.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Vice-Chairman's Report

Weymouth Branch

I stood down as the Chairman of the Weymouth & Portland Branch at our AGM in March after nearly five years since we started up the Branch in 2019 and seeing it grow to the largest Local Branch in the Association with over 85 members.

I need to focus more on my current roles as Vice Chairman and Cenotaph Marshall, on the Association National Executive Committee and in preparation for my future role as Chairman of the NEC next year.

Lt Cdr Helen Edwards RN, who sends her apologies today, takes over as Chair supported by a very strong committee.

Cenotaph Whitehall

We did very well at the Remembrance Parade in Whitehall last year with 17 members in attendance followed by a river cruise organised by the SHAR Association.

I am organising the Association attendance at the Cenotaph again this year so if anyone who would like to put their name down for it today, please let me know. I have requested 24 tickets and numbers of interested members is growing fast. I shall know by mid-May how many tickets we will be issued.

Key Dates:

1 May	All association ticket requests to be submitted. Any requests received after this deadline will not be accepted.
15 May	RBL to confirm 2024 ticket allocation to each association.
22 August	Deadline for associations to complete individual participant information. Registration closes.
30-31 October	E-tickets and joining instructions sent to individuals.

Vice Chair focus for 2024/25

As we know both Yeovilton and Culdrose do not have FAA Association Branches, which is tragic. Yeovil Branch sadly closed last year, and I am taking a lead on a drive to try to re-establish Branches at, or close to, both Naval Air Stations.

Secretary's Report

Due to the sudden illness of our Secretary, Jim Moulson, Peter Murray stood in as Secretary and gave a review of Jim's actions regarding the state of the Fleet Air Arm War Memorial on the front at Lee on Solent.

Over the years the two benches situated on the Memorial had deteriorated badly and to a dangerous condition. There is no record of who originally donated or placed the

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

benches on the Memorial. Jim arranged with the Gosport Shed to have these benches totally refurbished and reinstalled. The Benches are now situated back in place and are in immaculate condition, each containing a small, engraved brass plate noting that they were refurbished by the Fleet Air Arm Association. The cost to the Association was £600 per bench. Also, Jim has been in contact with the Imperial War Graves Commission regarding the general state of the Memorial and a small amount of remedial work was carried out.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer explained the Accounts in detail. The Accounts have been professionally audited. In order to simplify the accounts and subsequent auditing they will be prepared and presented in a different format in 2025. Alan explained that they do not reflect the true situation, the reason is that last year we made a loss of £3,000 but the reason they show a profit is that the Reunion monies are included, which are for 2024/25.

Alan explained Capitation fees for 2024 showed an increase over 2023 despite two branches having dissolved. The reason for this is that Solent and Yorkshire capitation for 2023 was carried over. The dissolved branches were Ford and Telford & Wrekin. After a struggle we now have electronic banking with two signatures as before. It is up and running well now and everything is much improved.

Alan presented a selection of slops including many car stickers and ladies scarves. Sales of slops have increased mainly due to Weymouth Branch purchases. Alan reported that stock held has been reduced from £3,000 to the current £735 due to his superb salesmanship. Alan explained that in future there will be no shirts or jumpers due to the order requirements of the manufacturers.

Alan explained that we have supported Operation Christmas Box for many years, donating £500 each year. Operation Christmas Box sends out a small but very useful gift to all UK service men and women serving overseas on Christmas Day. Alan also explained that our Association is the only Armed Forces Association supporting Operation Christmas Box. Alan has lobbied many associations to increase support but to date with no success. Recently he has enlisted the help of a Sir James (Jim) Dutton ex head of the Royal Marines who is also now trying to improve support for this function. Even our own Officers Association do not donate.

Alan reported that there were two payments from the Welfare Fund during the year. The Welfare Fund is available to provide assistance to any Full Member who has financial difficulties. Support is given to assist typically, travel to and from hospital and in exceptional circumstances up to £1000 can be available for mobility needs such as wider doors, walk-in showers etc. The policy is available to view with all Branch Secretaries, or on request Association Secretary will make provide a copy. We have been the beneficiaries of the will of the late Sue Halliday, whose husband Les was a founder member of the Association. The legacy received was £2250.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Standard Bearer Report Mick Wyatt

National Standard was paraded at
FAAA/TAGS memorial, Lee-on-Solent, in May
Remembrance Sunday, Lee-on-Solent, in November
RNA biennial parade, London Cenotaph, in September
Members funerals -
Arthur Thompson, May '23
Terry Gidman, December '23
Other funerals –
Marie Adams, Luton RNA, March '23
Ron Almond, Ex matelot, Amptill RBL, February '24

Membership Secretary Report Mick Wyatt

Association total 415 members as of 28 February 2024.
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 96 members including 8 new members,
Weymouth branch recruitment has greatly increased to a reported nearing 90 members.

Item 6 - Election of Officers – Branch Postal Vote

Eight postal voting forms were mailed containing candidates for two Committee members and Treasurer. Six forms were returned re-electing Alan Key as Treasurer, Mike Foote and Gerry Jackson as committee members. They will all serve for a further two years.

Item 7 - AGM Reunion 2025

Dave said we need to start planning now for next year, we had some issues this year as the outside organiser refused to go forward with us, so we took it upon ourselves to where we are now and it has been fantastic. We only sent the papers out in December and we have 51 attendees. We plan to send out a survey post this weekend to make a decision in May as to whether we return to the Holiday Inn Southampton or AN other hotel we know in the locality. We need to advertise the event more widely using the RNA, RBL and Navy News media so that more people will be aware of the AGM/Reunion. We hope to be able to send out the invitation papers sometime in August/September.

Item 8 – Changes to the Constitution

The Chairman read out the proposed changes to the Constitution which had been agreed by the National Executive Committee during previous committee meetings. Changes to Rule 2.1b, 2.1d, 4.1b, 4.1e.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

Note: Change to Rule 2.1d removes the restriction to the Chairman on retiring, not being allowed to take up another office for a period of one year. These changes will be included in a re-write of the Rules and Constitution which will be issued in due course.

Item 9 – CONA/FNF

Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust

The Portsmouth Naval Base Property Trust is a charitable property company responsible for the conservation and re-use of the buildings in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard and at Priddy's Hard in Gosport. They are looking for volunteers. Contact them at <https://www.pnbpropertytrust.org> for more information or if you would like to volunteer help

COBSEO NEWSLETTER

COBSEO, as the Confederation of Service Charities, provides a single point of contact for interaction with Government, including local government and the Devolved Administrations; with the Royal Household; with the Private Sector; and, of course, with other members of the Armed Forces Community. The Confederation of Service Charities issue a regular newsletter, to obtain one contact enquiries@cobseo.org.uk

VETERANS ID CARD

A link outlining what we need to have ready for the Veterans ID Card application, and the button to get started. <https://www.gov.uk/veteran-card>

FLYNAVY FEDERATION

Jeff Cook briefly explained FNF stating that it is a grouping of all FAA Associations, particularly so for marching at the Cenotaph Memorial Parade. After the Parade members of the FNF proceed to the Fleet Air Arm War Memorial on the Embankment for a private service.

Minutes of Fly Navy Federation meetings are circulated by Jim Moulson, the Secretary to all Branch Secretaries.

The next meeting of the FNF is on the 1st May and is to be held in the Second Sea Lord's residence in Portsmouth Dockyard.

Peter Murray advised the meeting that the Fly Navy Federation was founded by Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, our Association President.

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 19th. 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.

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

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

We have been invited to a Memorial Service at Tarrant Rushton, Blandford Forum which was a wartime air station where the Fleet Air Arm had squadrons based. We will be parading our National Standard and the Weymouth Branch Standard. This service takes place on the 1st June. Anyone is invited to attend. Contact Dave Smith.

There have been several complaints regarding the condition of the Fleet Air Arm Memorial at the National Arboretum.

Dave Smith wrote to the Arboretum on this matter, and they said they would look into it. On a subsequent visit, apparently very little if anything had been done. Jeff Cook advised that the FNF coordinate maintenance of the Memorial.

This will be raised at the next FNF meeting on the 1st May.

Mike Foote proposed a vote of thanks to the committee but specifically to Dave Smith and his wife Jan and Alan Key and his wife Deryn, for organising this reunion and AGM weekend. They did a magnificent job. They were given a round of applause by the meeting.

Alan acknowledged the help they had received from one of his colleagues, George Pick. George is a retired travel agent and gave his services free of charge and has said he will continue to do this in the future.

The Chairman had a final announcement to say the committee had agreed to appoint Peter Murray to the position of Vice President of the Association. Peter was delighted to accept saying he was both honoured and humbled and said he hoped to be around for many years to come and continue to support the Association.

The Chairman closed the meeting with the Loyal Toast to King Charles.
Following the meeting the attendees assembled outside for a group photograph.

Peter Murray (Secretary Acting)
16.04.24

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1st March 2023-29th February 2024

INCOME	2022-2023		2023-2024	
Capitation Fee @ £5				
Bristol	7	35.00	7	35.00
Ford	8	40.00		Dissolved
Gt Yarmouth	2	10.00		(*) none paid
Kent	12	60.00	12	60.00
Solent			56	540.00*
Southdowns	14	70.00	17	80.00
Weymouth	54.	270.00	61	305.00
Wrekin	10	50.00		Dissolved
Yorkshire			14	100.00*
Daedalus Branch @ £20			1	20.00
Daedalus Branch @ £16	1	16.00	1	16.00
Daedalus Branch @ £14	2	28.00	2	28.00
Daedalus Branch @ £12	12	144.00	11	132.00
Daedalus Branch @ £9			1	9.00
Daedalus Branch @ £10	1	10.00	2	10.00
Daedalus Branch @ £6	65	390.00	69	414.00
Daedalus Branch @ £5	1	5.00	1	5.00
Joining Admin Fee		23.25	3	12.75
SUB TOTAL	209	1151.25	258	1766.75
Sale of Stock		925.25		444.40
Reunion Raffle Money		260.00		
Committee Meeting Lunch		60.00		
Nationwide Account Interest		20.76		
HSBC Refund		27.55		
Welfare Account Interest		7.52		
Donations		225.00		2210.37
2024 Reunion Payments				6936.00
TOTAL INCOME		2677.33		11357.12

* Solent £260 for 52 Member 2022-2023 Yorkshire £50 for 10 Member 2022-2023

EXPENDITURE	2022-2023	2023-2024
Outstanding cheques from 2022 Accounts	180.10	
Purchase of stock	196.80	
Wreaths	220.00	117.50
Royal Maritime Club	60.00	60.00
Public Liability Insurance.	416.85	416.88
Broadway Printing (2023 Stickers)		180.00
Donation - Operation Christmas Box	500.00	500.00
Navy Wings	318.50	
Gosport Shed (Memorial Bench)		1200.00
FAAA Website Registration/upgrade	617.60	305.61
Web Site Costs	127.15	32.19
Committee Meeting Lunch	237.50	115.00
Social Supplement - Kent	90.00	
Social Supplement – Weymouth	240.00	330.00
Social Supplement – Solent.	280.00	310.00
Social Supplement – Yeovil	90.00	
Officials Expenses - Secretary	22.90	12.00*
Treasurer	106.19	76.76*
Standard Bearer	100.00	
Vice Chairman	13.50	
Yeovil Committee Member	50.00	
(*)Shown in 2024 March bank statement		
Reunion 22023		
Isle of Wight Tours	1854.25	
RM Band	1674.00	
Raffle Prize	140.50	
TAGS Memorial Lunch	34.00	
TAGS Blendworth Band	100.00	
SF Events (2023)		1300.00
George Pick Travel (2024)		2500.00
Rum & Port (2024)		184.42*
Refund (Bob Bigland)		40.00
HSBC Bank Charges	154.35	60.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8016.44	7727.58
TOTAL INCOME	2677.33	11367.12
DEBIT: INCOME/EXPENDITURE	5339.11	3639.54

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

HSBC Current Account	245.62	594.22
Cash in Hand	43.90	27.90
National Westminster Bankline	50806.26*	54112.20*
TOTAL	51094.78	54734.32

* 10,840.42 Welfare Fund 2023

*10,590.42 Welfare Fund

WELFARE FUND

Welfare payment	350.00	250.00
TOTAL	10840.42	10,590.42
Held in the Nat. West Current Account		

Value of Stock Held (Cost)

Gold Wire Blazer Badge	4 @ 13.95	55.80
Ties	15 @ 10.44	156.20
Beret Badge	14 @ 8.10	113.40
Ladies Head Squares	4 @ 9.99	39.96
Baseball Caps	14 @ 8.84	123.76
Car Sticker	26 @ 0.81	21.06
Medal Holder Small	2 @ 2.40	4.80
Medal Holder Large	1 @ 4.92	4.92
Chrome Lapel Badge	130 @ 1.41	183.30
Life Lapel Badge	51 @ 0.64	32.64
TOTAL		735.84