

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

c/o Fly Navy Heritage Trust R.N.A.S. Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT



Special Committee Meeting held via Internet Zoom Conferencing On the 4th September 2023 Notes

Participants: Dave Smith (DS) Jim Moulson (JM)
Peter Murray (PM) Alan Key (AK)
Mick Wyatt (MW) Mike Foote (MF)

Apologies Jeff Cooke (JC)

The meeting started at 19:10, with apologies from Jeff Cooke.
The meeting was called to review the received from the AGM/Annual Reunion survey prepared and sent out by the Chairman, Dave Smith

Results of the main points of the survey.

- There were 61 responses to the survey, which was considered to be quite good.
- 36 of those responding had not been to a reunion in the past, with the location and cost being the predominant reasons.
- Age was also considered an obstacle; we are not getting any younger and travel can have an effect.
- The time of the year can also be a factor, the closer we get to the summer months i.e., May/June it can be more costly for venues, although May was listed as the preferred month by respondents.
- The top preferred locations, in no particular order were identified as; Bournemouth, Southampton, Weymouth and Portsmouth (Royal Maritime Club)
- Of those who replied 24 said that they would attend in 2024 with 25 saying they would consider it.

All the issues were discussed in depth with personal experiences of past reunions being expressed.

DS advised those present that he had been in contact with Sarah Fletcher, the event's organiser who had stated that the company would only be interested in organising the reunion if there was a minimum number of 40 attending, due to cost,

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The only other option would be to self organise, this presented difficulties in itself, finding a volunteer(s), time consuming, age and responsibility for the venue. However, this may be the only option.

DS also said that there is currently no platform to advertise the event other than the Website and email, it would be helpful if we had a Facebook page on which to advertise an event and may capture people from other FAA Associations.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that the preferred dates would be the weekends of 12-14 April, 19- 21 April, at one of the four locations listed above. There would be a ladies trip on the Saturday, no trip unless requested for the Sunday. The AGM would be on the Saturday morning. Evening entertainment with the Gala Dinner, Dress would be informal i.e., Lounge suit/blazer and flannels, Black tie optional.

AK proposed that the weekend be subsidised at a figure dependent on the projected cost to make it more attractive to members.

It was agreed to hold a further Zoom meeting to agree costs etc. Prior to the planned NEC meeting on 07 October. A date yet to be decided.

Remembrance Sunday: JM said that he could not confirm the final numbers for the service in Whitehall on 11 November, but possibly around about 17. The usual FAA Memorial service will take place at Lee, and it is hoped that the second refurbished bench will be in place by then. An agreement on the donation and cost of materials for the Gosport Shed will be decided at a later date.

Operation Shoe Box: AK said that we should be considering the annual donation for this charity and proposed £500. All were in favour of the size of donation.

The meeting closed 20:20. Date for the following meeting to be decided.

POST MEETING NOTES.

DS had contacted Sarah Fletcher who said that it was not possible for the the company to go ahead with the organising of a reunion unless we could guarantee a minimum number of 40 attendees.

As a result of the email DS sent out with Sarah's comments, he asked if anyone would be willing to take on the organising of the event. JC responded and advised that the Weymouth & Portland Social Sec, Jim Mussenden would be willing to give it a go.