

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 28th January 2023
Commencing at 1100**

Minutes

Attendees: Jim Moulson Peter Murray
 Jeff Cook Dave Smith
 Bob Ridout Mick Wyatt
 Mike Foote Ben Worship

Apologies: Bob Hayden Carole Sharpe Gerry Jackson
 Alan Key Arnold Thompson

Visitors: Doug Carrington - Solent Branch
 George Payne - Solent Branch
 Chris Tooke - Solent Branch
 Les Stevenson - Solent Branch

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1030.
The Secretary declares the meeting quorate.

The Chairman attended the funerals of two ex FAA persons, Lt Cdr Bill Rampton and Cdr Charlie Port. No reports of Association members Crossing the Bar.

The meeting then stood for a one minutes silence in remembrance.

Item 1. Minutes of the Meeting Oct October 2022

The minutes were accepted as correct by the meeting.

The agreed changes to Rule 2 of the Constitution regarding succession and Daedalus Secretary Committee membership still need to be inserted.

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Item 2. Officers Reports

Chairman:

Following the October meeting I was 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. At the time of this meeting, I am in consultation with The Gosport Shed with regards to the refurbishment/rebuild/ replacement of the benches which have been in place at the memorial for many years, more to follow on that subject.

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 have received an invitation to attend the rearranged Sultan Affiliates Day along with 3 members to be held on February 23rd, Unfortunately I am away again, but the Association will be represented by Dave Smith plus 3 members of the Solent Branch. I have been in contact with Malcolm Little of 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! I have put him in contact with Phil Carpenter, Secretary FNF, as I believe we should be represented by a Central body. Jim advised that the next CONA meeting is on the 17th February at the Royal Maritime Club, the meeting will begin with lunch at 1230, followed up with informal discussions and a presentation.

The biennial Naval Associations Parade will take place on Sunday 10 September, once again I have had discussions with Phil and it was agreed that we should have one platoon under the FNF banner.

Treasurer:

Peter Murray gave the Treasurers report on behalf of Alan Key

Bank Accounts:

HSBC Current Account	£453.62
Nat West Main Account	£40,904.15
Nat West Welfare Fund	£10,772.95

Alan reported that electronic banking was finally working after great difficulty with the bank. There was so much trouble that the bank paid £200 compensation.

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The Association asset insurance has been renewed this month.

Sue Halladay (widow of Doc Halladay) has bequeathed 0.5% of her estate to the Association. Sue was a keen supporter of the Association and always attended the Reunions. The monetary will not be known until the estate is wound up.

Slops: Baseball caps are now available.

Secretary:

Two Branches have unfortunately dissolved:

Ford Branch in November 2022

Yeovil Branch January 2023

The Association now comprises 8 Branches including Daedalus Branch.

After polling the Branches for volunteers to stand for Officer and/Committee there has been no response,

RBL and Cenotaph Marshal Jeff Cook:

Bob Ridout (Yeovil Branch), Jeff Cook and Ted Edwards (Weymouth Branch) had the honour of attending the memorial service of Ivor Faulconer in Sturminster Newton in November 2022. There was also a fly past by the Navy Wings Seafire and Harvard. Bob and Ted carried respective standards and presented them to the Altar for the Service.

Ivor was 101 when he crossed the bar on 1st October 2022. He had a distinguished career in the FAA during the 2nd World War, flying Walrus's off the battleship KG V during Arctic convoys, and later flying Fulmars off Victorious. He went on later in peace time to be a founder member of the Air Squadron, flying his own Tiger Moth float plane.

A Member of Weymouth & Portland Branch won a visit to the Falklands in the Falklands Forty raffle.

Secretary:

After requesting Branches to forward names of volunteers to stand for Officers/Committee I have received no response whatsoever. More about this under Election of Officers and Committee Item 6.

Vice Chairman and Webmaster Dave Smith:

The website has been renewed and I am currently trying to resize so it can be viewed from tablets or smartphone and not just PC's.

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A lot of effort including professional help has been necessary to restore the web site after the previous webmasters breakdown.

Dave believes that we own the domain name.

Should anyone wish to post anything on the web site please contact Dave.

There are two Facebook FAAA websites, apparently one is controlled by Alan Breward and the other by Ray Day the last Webmaster.

Membership Secretary Mick Wyatt.

Latest number of memberships are:

Full Members	365
Associate Members	57
Life Members	7
Honorary Members	6
Total Membership	435

Ben Worship thought that there were more than 7 Life Members. To try and correct the number could Life Members contact the Membership Secretary Mick Wyatt - email memsecfaaa@btinternet.com

Item 3. Welfare Fund Activity.

There has not been any Welfare Claims since the last Committee Meeting.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the revised Welfare Fund policy allows for claims up to £1000 for certain situations such as mobility.

Item 4. 2023 Reunion Status Update.

Jim reported that to-date only 11 bookings have been made. We need a minimum of 40 for the event to go ahead. Registration closes on the 10th March so we have until then to lift the bookings to 40 plus.

Cancellation will cost the Association £500,

In the event of cancellation alternate plans would be needed for the AGM

To encourage Members to book awareness needs to be raised. Mick Wyatt Daedalus Branch Secretary will contact all Members again, Peter Murray National Secretary will again contact all Branch Secretaries and Dave Smith Webmaster will highlight on the Website. This contact action should be done quickly, Feb and repeated late Feb in order to keep pressing.

The Chairman will draft a letter to accompany the communications.

Booking forms need to included in all contact action.

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Item 5. HMS Sultan Affiliation

This was covered in Item 2. Chairman's Report.

The HMS Sultan Affiliates Day on 23rd February will be attended by Dave Smith Vice Chairman and three members of Solent Branch

Item 6. Remembrance Parades 2023

RBL Cenotaph Parade will be on the Sunday 12th November and details will be sent out to Members when the RBL release the program. Meanwhile anyone wishing to parade please let me know - Jeff Cook email jeff.cook@faaa.org.uk

Last year there were 14 attendees which was the highest for many years. After the Cenotaph Parade all Fly Navy Federations gather at the FAA Memorial on the Embankment for a small service. Attendance here is approaching 100.

Jeff Cook will also coordinate The Biannual Naval Associations Parade which will take place in Whitehall on September 10th. He will advise everyone when more details are available.

The FAAA (ex TAGS) Parade will take place on Sunday 21st May. This parade has always been organised by Arnold Thompson and Val Sayer.

Jim Moulson will contact Arnold to find out the status of this event, The recent format has been lunch at Lee on Solent Golf Club after which the Memorial Service takes place in St Faiths Church. After the service a small wreath party attends the Memorial to lay wreaths. Arnold had not been in touch with Val but would do so in the coming days. He is progressing well and attends a Vets meeting at a local venue.

Item 7. Election of Officers and Committee

Despite requesting volunteers for election there have not been any names put forward. If there are no names received by the 10th March when the postal ballot forms will be mailed the Officers and Committee for 2023/24 will comprise:

Chairman	Dave Smith
Vice Chairman	Jeff Cook
Treasurer	Alan Key
Secretary	Vacant
Committee	Mick Wyatt
Committee	Bob Ridout
Committee	Gerry Jackson
Committee	Mike Foote
Committee	Peter Murray

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Item 8. Any Other Business.

Jim Moulson said that on a recent visit of Sultan talking with an instructor it was obvious that few if anyone knew of FAA history. Some form of “mentoring” visits were mentioned. Jim will raise this at subsequent meetings.

On the FAA Memorial are two six seater benches which are in a state of disrepair. Ownership of the benches is not known, neither which organisation had them installed.

Jim Moulson has been in contact with the Chairman of the Gosport Shed about repair or replacement of the benches and will visit the “shed” in the coming week. It has been agreed that the benches are beyond repair and replacements will be rebuilt, subject to a satisfactory quote, which will be done in the very near future.

Jim proposed that our Association contribute to the repair/replacement and request that the Officers Association and Fly Navy be asked also to make a contribution. It was agreed unanimously that we contribute up to £2000 towards the eventual cost.

Dave Smith raised the issue of attracting new members. He said that having looked at the Website we do not offer what we promise for members who pay £6 joining fee. For example the Airey Fairy ceased publication in 2016. We need to try to make joining more attractive and he hopes to change the website accordingly.

Dave also mentioned it should be possible to re-establish branches which are geographically close to Air Stations, such as Yeovilton and Culdrose. Jeff Cook has had great success in establishing the Weymouth and Portland Branch which now numbers 50 members. A start to this process would be establishing some kind of liaison with some sort of Officer in the Air Stations.

This has been tried in the past but due to turnover of personnel has not been successful, despite our providing leaflets on the Association to be distributed to serving personnel.

The Chairman gave the sad news that Yeovil Branch had dissolved this month and he thanked Bob Ridout for his sterling efforts for everything he had done for the Branch and the Association. The meeting gave Bob a round of applause.

Next Meeting will be at the AGM on the 13th May

Peter Murray
Secretary
4 February 2023