

# ***FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION***

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



## **MINUTES OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on the 21st January 2017 at Hanworth RNA Club**

Attendees:            Bob Ridout            Fred Wadley  
                         Terry Lowden            Alan Key  
                         Margaret Gidman        Peter Murray  
                         Gordon Appleby        Mike Foote  
                         Peter Westbrook        Ben Worship  
                         Brian Bingham        Arnold Thompson  
                         Dave Fairley

Apologies:            Gordon Pinkney

Visitors:             Geoff Owens            Kent Branch  
                         Ray Wigglesworth     Ferndown Branch  
                         Keith Abnett            Ferndown Branch

The Chairman opened the Committee meeting at 1100

### **Item 1. Minutes of the Committee Meeting and Open Meeting held at the Derby RBL Club On the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**

The Minutes were accepted as read by the meeting.

### **Item 2. Matter Arising**

Two matter arising: 1. Capitation and joining fees, in particular for the Daedalus Branch and 2. Pens with Association logo for advertising and marketing.

Refer to Item 6 and AOB in these minutes

### **Item 3. Officers Reports**

#### **Chairman.**

The period since our Derby meeting has been relatively quiet with respect to my Chairman's duties.

In mid December I attended the UK4U Christmas Box Launch and Lunch at the Grosvenor Offices of The Westminster Foundation in London. This is the second

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year I have been fortunate and honoured to attend this event and represent our Association, I am so pleased that we are able to support this worthy cause.

Following the Christmas period the only notable issue I have been involved with is the Eastchurch Aviation Observance Working Group. A meeting was held earlier this week and the preparations for the 2017 Observance being held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May are progressing well.

Margaret Gidman the Newsletter Editor has done a very good job in collating the information sent to her from the Branches and this can be found on our Web Site.

Referring to the meeting last September in Derby, other than Committee Members, only 4 other people attended. This is not acceptable and I believe we need to review this situation and take immediate action to remove this meeting from the calendar.

## **Vice Chairman – No Report Position Vacant**

### **Treasurer**

Four Monthly Accounts as below were explained by Ben.

<b>1st JULY 2016 to 31st OCTOBER 2016</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>				<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Capitation fee @ £4					
Bristol	6	£12.00	Purchase of Stock	£447.00	
Ford	17	£68.00	Raffle Prizes	£49.00	
Gt. Manchester	28	£112.00	RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00	
Gt. Yarmouth	6	£24.00	Morton Michel Public Liability	£389.93	
Hanworth	5	£20.00	Overpay	£7.00	
Solent	60	£240.00	Victory Club Allenton	£70.00	
Southdowns	20	£80.00	Donation FNF	£500.00	
	<b>142</b>	<b>£556.00</b>	Donation UK4U	£250.00	
			Expenses: Treasurer	£8.50	
Daedalus Branch @12	5	£60.00	Std Bearer	£69.65	
Daedalus Branch @ £6	1	£6.00	Daedalus Branch S	£205.19	
	<b>148</b>	<b>£622.00</b>		<b>£2,046.27</b>	
Sales		£173.25			
Donations		£15.50			
Daedalus Admin		£13.00			
Interest nationwide		£55.10			
Buffett Receipts		£24.50			
Overpay		£7.00			
		<b>£910.35</b>			
Nationwide Account B/F		£44,757.19	Nationwide Acc @ 31/10/16	£43,634.86	
Current Account B/F		£388.61	Current Acc @ 31/10/16	£542.77	
Cash in Hand B/F		£277.45	Cash in Hand @ 31/10/16	£109.70	
		<b>£46,333.60</b>		<b>£46,333.60</b>	

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**The accounts show that in the four-month period our expenditure exceeded income by £1135.92**

Ben said that there were no Capitation fees outstanding, a very good situation. A cheque for £175 has been received from the estate of a Ken Arthur Swanson believed to be late of Bristol Branch.

A cheque and joining application has been received from someone in Edinburgh who it seems to have been in the Army. Ben will phone him to check why he has applied to join our association.

## **Secretary**

This year we had only 9 Members in the Whitehall Cenotaph Parade, one of whom was an 89 year old TAG Arthur Wells. Terry Gidman and I laid wreaths on behalf of our Association at the FAA Memorial on the Embankment and at the Cenotaph in Whitehall during the march past. One again we were lucky with the weather.

Security is now a problem to attend the parade, much personal information is needed by the Legion before a named ticket is issued

## **Airey Fairey Newsletter Editor**

In November 2016 I sent an email to all Branch Secretaries. It contained a Summary report of each Branch's activities for 2016 (10 page copy (printed 'back to back')).

The copy is now on the FAAA Website (Branch News) and is easily accessed from the 'main page'. I will continue to collate any copy received whether it is Branch/National news or news from the Squadrons and the TAGs AND then report back as required.

A list of members who have crossed the Bar since the last National Meeting was presented at the meeting. It included the names of 8 members (5 recent entries and 3 Late entries (one recorded Oct 2015)).

**Will Branch Secretaries please inform Margaret and Arnold about members crossing the bar.**

## **Standard Bearer**

Gordon reported that he had paraded the National Standard as follows:

11<sup>th</sup> November 2016                      RNA Woking Armistice Day Parade

13<sup>th</sup> November 2016                      Lee on Solent FAA Remembrance Parade

It is intended to parade the Standard at the RNA bi annual September Whitehall event.

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**Membership Secretary** – Arnold Thompson

**I would be extremely grateful if Secretaries could keep me updated with the changes in their membership, it would help in keeping the Membership Register in date. I am receiving very little information from the Branches.**

Arnold said that since his September report we have lost 8 members crossing the bar:

David Andrews	Ferndown	Earnest “Jumper” Collins	Daedalus
Colin Ramsden	Yorkshire	John Lodge	Manchester
John Hughes	Daedalus	James Horrod	Bristol
Ken Swanson	Bristol	Beverley Sanders	Bristol

It is important to inform Arnold of any members who have crossed the bar.

## **Item 4 2017 AGM and Reunion Update**

Brian Bingham said that so far there are 66 bookings which is similar to last year at this time.

Brian advised that Commodore RN Rtd Jock Alexander Chief Executive of Navy Wings will be giving a presentation to the AGM at the end of the meeting.

Rear Admiral Keith Blount RN Flag Officer Fleet Air Arm will be addressing the Gala Dinner.

The Sunday outing will be to Bletchley Park

**The 2017 AGM/Reunion will be at the Shires Hotel in Kettering on the weekend 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> April.**

This hotel is the same company as the Aztec and is of a high standard. This change of venue will allow for different trips out and being further North will be easier for the Northern Branches to attend.

Details have been sent to Navy News but it has not been published.

## **Item 5. Derby Meeting Continuation**

The Chairman said that this “northern” meeting cannot continue in its current format. At the last meeting held in Derby ten committee members travelled up to Derby to find that only three other members attended. This level of attendance has happened at several previous Derby meetings

The Chairman proposed that we retain the three meetings per year, being the AGM, the Hanworth January meeting and replacing the Derby meeting with moveable meeting. This meeting will have different venues and be of an overnight format. The intention is that it will be as much a social get together combined with a formal meeting, a kind of mini reunion. This meeting will be an Open meeting so that any Branch Members may attend. The Committee unanimously agreed with the

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Chairman's proposal on the new meeting arrangements. Timing of this meeting will be around September.

Brian Bingham will review hotels and venues to report back at the next meeting.

## **Item 6. Airey Fairey Newsletter Format and Distribution**

More and more Associations and Organisations now produce Newsletters and Magazines electronically for the Internet and web Sites.

The advantages of electronic are: that wider distribution is reached, distribution is quick, can allow flexible publication times for example quarterly, is cheap to produce, no postage costs free to distribute, photographs in full colour, colour quality is very good, the work load on the Editor to produce would not increase and probably decrease.

**Because of poor sales of the AF and high production costs the Committee have decided to stop the hard copy Airey Fairey magazine. The hard copy AF will be replaced by an "electronic" document in the form of a Newsletter distributed via the internet and the Association web site.**

Members not on the internet will be copied via their Branch and members of Daedalus Branch not on the internet (approx. 30) will be mailed a hard copy by the Branch Secretary.

Now that the hard copy AF magazine is no longer produced The Executive Committee in accordance with Rule 3.7a of the Constitution and Rules decided that the Daedalus Branch joining fees and capitation fees need revision. It was also decided that all Branches including Daedalus pay the same level of capitation fee.

From 2018 the following will apply:

**Daedalus Branch UK Members. Joining fee £15 which includes a lapel badge and first year's capitation.**

**Daedalus Branch Overseas Member Joining fee £30 which includes a lapel badge, an Association tie and first year's capitation.**

**The capitation fee for all Members will be £5.**

## **Item 7. QE 2 Arrival in Portsmouth**

Alan Key gave an update on the state of both new carriers:

Queen Elizabeth is due into Portsmouth mid-May. It is expected that she will carry out the F35 certification. This will be carried by Fleet Air Arm and US Marine Corps pilots. She will then replace HMS Ocean as a helicopter assault ship.

Prince of Wales is well advanced ahead of schedule and will probably float out this year. She will then take over the role of fixed wing carrier operating the F35's

It is expected that both carriers will be operational by 2021

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Lt Cdr Grey RN FAA Pilot was awarded the Top Gun award at the US Navy test pilot school at Pax River airbase.

Mike Foote will talk with Rear Admiral Blount about the possibility of visiting QE2 in Portsmouth.

## **Item 8. Any Other Business**

Fred Wadley said that he and Terry Lowden will be attending Jumper Collins funeral on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Fred will be parading the Branch standard.

Fred also told the meeting that Ron Golightly has been unwell for quite some time having spent a short spell in a rest home. He is due to be back home in the next few days and Fred will be in contact.

Ben advised that the lunch contribution was £52.20.

Brian Bingham reported back that the proposal to sell pens with the Association Logo to raise funds was not financially viable. Collection and distribution to and from the Branches would also pose a problem. It was agreed not to sell pens.

Mike Foote said a Major General Cordingly has written asking for donations for the National Arboretum Memorial. It was agreed not to contribute as we do this in several different ways.

Mike Foote will be attending a memorial parade at St Bartholomew's on the 9<sup>th</sup> February in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Channel Dash. The event is being organised by 825 Squadron. It was agreed that if Standards are to be paraded then our Association National Standard be paraded.

The Secretary advised the meeting that there were four vacancies for Association Officers due at the AGM. All current officers due for re-election are prepared to stand again. The position of Vice Chairman remains vacant.

I have written to the Branch Secretaries for volunteers prior to my sending out the postal ballot forms in mid-February.

In case any potential volunteers are concerned about costs, Committee Member's expenses when travelling to meetings may be claimed if they so wish.

Ben Worship will be standing down next year after 25 years as Treasurer and Alan Key has volunteered to become the next Treasurer.

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**Arnold Thompson said that the Fleet Air Arm Memorial Parade at Lee on Solent will be on the 21st May.** He also said that there may be a problem closing the road due to road works and the parade may not go ahead.

Mike Foote will check that Val Sayers has the correct date.

There will be a dinner at the golf club on Saturday evening and a lunch after the Parade on Sunday. Anyone interested in the dinner or lunch should contact **Val Sayers on 01206 240328**

**Mike Foote told the meeting that the Eastchurch Memorial Parade was on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.** Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mike.

Mike proposed that £50 be sent to the Council to help with refreshments. The Committee agreed to this.

The Secretary confirmed that all Committee members supported a proposal he had received for a National Life Membership. This will be presented at the AGM/Reunion and Arnold Thompson agreed to prepare the award.

Peter Westbrook drew attention to the RNRM Naval Families Federation who provide support to families. They produce a free booklet which can be downloaded from their web site follow the link [www.nff.org.uk](http://www.nff.org.uk)

The postal address is:

Naval Families Federation

Building 25

HMS Excellent

Whale Island

Portsmouth PO2 8ER

Would Branch Secretaries bring this to the attention of their Members.

**The next Committee Meeting will be at Shire Hotel & Spa Kettering at 1000 on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

**Peter Murray**

**National Secretary**

**25th January 2017**