



**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY NINTH MEETING OF THE
FLY NAVY FEDERATION**

Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, 9th March 2018

(www.flynavyfederation.org.uk)



Present:

Jock Alexander
Cdre Nick Tindal
WO1 Paul Stevenson
Vic Murphy
Harry Worth
John Hallam
Jim Williams
Arthur Charles, Gill Charles
Arnold Thompson, Ben Worship
Andy Harris
Brian Stanley, Robin Harper
H Williams
Dave Clark
Alan Breward
Ray Whitehouse
Dave Philpot
Tom Dawson
Phil Carpenter

Chairman/Navy Wings
CO RNAS Yeovilton
Command WO FAA
Aircraft Handlers Association
Aircrewmans Association
Armourers Association
Channel Dash Memorial Trust
Cloud Observers Association
Fleet Air Arm Association
Fleet Air Arm Officers Association
FAA Buccaneer Association
FAA Field Gun Crew Association
Fulmar/FAABA
NMA/FAABA
RN Photographers Association
RN Safety Equip & Survival Assn
Sea Harrier Association
Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. Jock Alexander opened the meeting and thanked all for coming. Apologies noted.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. No comments or points were raised. On-going items from the minutes of the previous meeting were carried forward to the agenda.

COMMAND BRIEF

3. CO VL gave a very upbeat report on the FAA. A high operational tempo remains, whilst at the same time all are working very hard transitioning to several new aircraft types coming on line concurrently. The Wildcat and Merlins (Mk 2 & 3) are proving to be first class operationally, whilst the fully marinised Merlin Mk 4, and the F35B, are making fantastic progress, with major milestones occurring in 2018. The first Mk 4s are being delivered to Yeovilton, and UK RN/RAF F35's will arrive at Marham in the next few months. Later in the year Cdr Nathan Gray is the pilot tipped to launch a new era for the FAA, by being the first to land an F35 on HMS Queen Elizabeth. 617 Squadron will be the first F35 squadron, but is expected to have an RN CO by the time of the first deployment to QNLZ. The Sea King Mk7 finally goes out of service later this year, and there is an 'end of RN Sea King' dinner being planned for early 2019 in Greenwich. More details to follow. In short, the RAF may be turning 100, but it was formed from the RNAS and RFC, and the Senior Service is having an equally fantastic year of aviation milestones in 2018. Yeovilton Air Day will go ahead on Saturday 7th July, but there will not be an Airshow at Culdrose.

NAVY WINGS + RNHF (navywings.org.uk, office@navywings.org.uk, 01935 842005)

4. Supporter numbers continue to grow (£30 per year), and corporate/industry sponsorship also remains strong. Please continue to link association websites to the Navy Wings site, which has mutual benefits in increasing visibility for both websites. Merchandise sales through the website have doubled, and supporters now get wider benefits, including access to 'Dine', which gives substantial savings on restaurant bills (dineclub.co.uk). Work is on-going to secure long-term funding, which is essential if the aircraft are to fly once RN financial support is completely withdrawn in March 2019. Swordfish W5856 and the Sea Fury T20 will fly for the 2018 display season, whilst the rebuild progresses on the engine of Swordfish LS326. Work continues on the Sea Vixen (with thanks to H Williams), which is fully recoverable, but requires considerable funding. The Associate collection has 15 privately funded Aircraft, with two Wessex V's hopefully being restored to full flying condition in 2018, and two Sea Kings to follow. There will be another opportunity to view the progress with these aircraft, as well as the last flying Whirlwind, at an open day on Saturday the 19th of May at Chard Equestrian Centre from 10am-6pm. Details on the Navy Wings website.

FLEET AIR ARM MEMORIAL CHURCH (navyyeo-chaplaincyshared@mod.uk, 01935 455257)

5. Due to a funeral being held at the FAAMC Tina Cullen was not able to attend the meeting, but forwarded the following: When the FAA Memorial church first came into being, we would host FAA Associations throughout the year, but these have declined due to increasing age and dwindling numbers - we are hosting the HMS Illustrious Association for their last ever get together in June. It would be sad to see this tradition die out, so we would love to see you, either en masse, or for an individual service. There has been a strong desire expressed for an Associations service, so can secretaries please canvas members as to whether they would be interested in a service where we can all meet, remember those who have crossed the bar, and celebrate our great heritage and fellowship. If [members] could propose any dates they think would be significant, that would be great. It doesn't have to be on a Sunday or even a weekend, it can be what we want, when we want it. It can stand alone, or it can be part of a day/weekend event. Please send responses [to Tina, by Easter if possible – although some AGMs are after this date]: navyyeo-chaplaincyverger@mod.uk.

FLEET AIR ARM WATCH (<https://www.elliottbrownwatches.com/faa>)

6. WO1 Stevenson is thanked for bringing the first production version of the Elliot Brown FAA Watch to the meeting - and for having put a large amount of work in to the project. It looks great, is exclusive to FAA personnel, and with £50 from each sale going to FAA causes, including Navy Wings, it is also an excellent way to support FAA charities. Please advertise the watch as widely as possible via the link above.

FLY NAVY FEDERATION

7. i. a. **FAA Memorial – National Memorial Arboretum.** The stonework is currently looking untidy due to very wet weather having waterlogged the area. Once the ground has dried out, Natural Cut Stone will clean the memorial and add a protective coating. Please advise members visiting the NMA that the memorial is still being cared for properly, but that maintenance is limited by access in the winter months. 2 plinths (Channel Dash and RNAS Sembawang) have been added, with 2 more (HMS Fulmar and 825 NAS) in the pipeline. Approximately 40 blank plinths remain.

b. **FAA Memorial – Victoria Embankment London.** There is some minor damage to the stone surround, and the memorial also needs updating with the most recent FAA Battle Honour - Al Faw 2003. The secretary is in touch with Westminster Council, who are responsible for the memorial's upkeep. It is hoped that the work can be carried out this summer.

ii. **Remembrance Day Cenotaph March 2017.** The march was a great success in good weather, but this was despite the RBL causing confusion and frustration again with some very poor administration. This was due to inexperience and a lack of continuity in their special events team. Even though FNF Associations had carried out all preparations correctly, some were separated from the main group (the Handlers being put in amongst the RAF – seemingly because there is 'Aircraft' in their association title). The secretary will ensure this does not happen again, with early prompts and reminders to the RBL events team for 2018. A comment following the post-march gathering on Embankment was that it could have been a little more tightly controlled. This has been taken on board, and, despite the event being informal, there will be a more structured approach in 2018.

iii. **FAA Memorial Service/Parade - Lee on Solent.** This annual FAA event (originally TAGs, but few members now remain, note: Gordon Passmore died February 2018) is attended by RN and local dignitaries, and takes place on the 3rd Sunday of May (May 20th 2018). Arnold Thompson and Ben Worship are thanked for organising it once again, but assistance from others would be greatly appreciated. Road works currently affect the area around the memorial, but Lee on Solent church will be the fall-back venue if necessary. Please advertise the service to all members. Association Standards are welcome. The 2017 event cost £150 to run, but 2018 is likely to be closer to £400 if the roads are open, as Public Liability insurance is required. Donations will be requested once the cost is finalised. Jim Williams highlighted that the [Armed Forces Covenant](#) administers a £10m government fund giving grants to small projects, which is available to assist with service-related events. The CDMT received a grant when holding the 75th anniversary events in 2017.

iv. **Channel Dash Commemorations.** All are welcome at the annual services on the 12th of February, held at 1100 at the 825 Sqn memorial in Ramsgate Harbour, and at 1400 at the Operation Fuller memorial on Dover seafront. The 75th Anniversary commemorations went very well, and the next project for the Channel Dash Memorial Trust is to ensure a continuing legacy, now that the members are getting older. Funding is available for at least another 4-5 years of services at both memorials, and the Trust is looking to other FAA associations for suggestions on the best way

forward. Please contact Jim Williams (jimwilliams0710@yahoo.co.uk) with any advice and ideas. Assistance from any locally-based association members would be greatly appreciated.

v. Covesea Museum – Lossiemouth. The building for the joint RN/RAF museum at Covesea Lighthouse is complete, and will be open soon. It now requires items to fill the RN side of the space. Anyone who has artefacts, models, pictures, stories or other memorabilia (particularly a large white ensign) from their time at the base, or on the attached squadrons, which they would be happy to donate, please get in touch with Dave Clark (finectydave@gmail.com). The museum would also like to be able to borrow items from other museums, but requires accreditation to do so. The chairman will investigate with the NMRN regarding requirements/procedures.

vi. Donation to Blind Veterans by FAABA. Brian Stanley and the FAABA are thanked for visiting St Dunstons and donating to the Blind Veterans charity. A fantastic cause and great facility, where Brian had an excellent day meeting the veterans and staff.

vii. David Fitzgerald funeral. Many thanks to all who responded to the request for information from a Southampton Funeral director regarding Dave Fitzgerald. Dave was an aircrewman, whose long career included flying on the Fortuna Glacier rescue mission during the Falklands war. Once his background had been established the Aircrewmans Association stepped-in, and represented the FAA at his funeral. Many thanks to the ACA and its members.

viii. FNF Car Stickers. More have been produced, please contact the secretary if you or association members require any for adorning suitable vehicles (RN/FAA/RAF or otherwise).

ix. GDPR – General Data Protection Regulations. With effect from May 25th 2018 new regulations will be in force to protect individuals' data and privacy. All associations will be affected, as any database holding personal details will be required to have a data controller, to ensure that the information is held securely, and only used for the purposes specifically authorised by the individual. This includes an annual opt-in requirement for the use of data, and the deletion of any data that is no longer current. All associations must take action to ensure that they are compliant with the regulations - lots of information is available online for those unsure of the GDPR requirements.

x. Conference Of Naval Associations (CONA) (www.cona.org.uk). Minutes of the recent meeting are available on the CONA website, and Ben Worship is thanked for continuing to represent the Federation. Of particular note was a presentation by the Veterans Support Officer of the Royal Marines Association. This highlighted their innovative approach to mental health issues, which involves the inclusion of the wives and family of affected veterans. If anyone is aware of veterans requiring assistance, more information is available at royalmarinesassociation.org.uk. Another CONA benefit available to all associations is the provision of subsidised minibuses from the LIBOR fines fund. See the CONA website for more information on this and all other CONA benefits.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES/AOB.

For a full list of RN Associations' reunions and events, visit <http://www.rnshipmates.co.uk/reunions.php>

8. i. FAAOA. FAA zigzag ties will be given to all Wings/C of C recipients in order to instill early awareness of the FAA family and image. The association will send a representative to ceremonies wherever possible, and will also engage with other associations and the Command WO in order to ensure all are included in the initiative. AGM, London, Thursday 22nd March.

ii. HMS Illustrious. The 2018 reunion venue has had to be transferred from Weymouth to Bournemouth, but the dates will remain the same - 19th-22nd October. The Liberty Boat Disaster Memorial Service will still take place at Portland as scheduled on Sunday 21st October.

iii. RN Photographers. The 100th anniversary of the Branch will be held in 2019, more details to follow. Reunion/AGM 12th-14th October, Plymouth. For 2019 it is intended that the Photographers, Safety and Survival Equipment and Cloud Observers Associations will hold a combined AGM/Reunion.

iv. Aircraft Handlers. AGM postponed from March to April due to the bad weather. The Branch is vibrant with the arrival of the new carriers, and the association attends passing-in parades for all new handlers at CU and VL to welcome new recruits to the history of the Branch.

v. FAA Association. AGM in Kettering 5th-8th April. Annual Eastchurch Observance Ceremony remembering the pioneers of naval aviation (first held during the centenary in 2009) takes place on the 2nd Friday in May (11th May 2018), attended by RN and local dignitaries.

vi. Armourers. AGM 23rd-25th March, Coventry.

vii. Aircrewmens. 29 new members so far in 2018, all currently serving, and recruited through ACA Chairman's visits to Squadrons and Wings parades, including handing out ties – clearly a successful technique. AGM 13th-15th April, Weymouth.

viii. Many thanks to Gill Charles for organising the glass tankard and tot glasses, engraved with the Federation logo, for RAdm Clayton. Navenby Glass (details from secretary/Gill) now have the Federation details on file, and can engrave it on to various items for gifts.

NEXT MEETING.

9. Friday 5th October 2018 at 1400, in the Fleet Air Arm Museum. Please note new start time, requested by the museum to de-conflict use of the Warneford room, which is still given free of charge to the Federation for its meetings.

Phil Carpenter
Secretary
Fly Navy Federation

(Signed on original)