

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

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



1.

National General & Open Meeting Hanworth Royal Naval Association Club On the 14th Oct 2017

Minutes

Attendees:

Committee:

Bob Ridout Arnold Thompson
Terry Lowden Alan Key
Gordon Pinkney Peter Murray
Gordon Appleby Mike Foote
Ben Worship Brian Bingham

Members:

Ten Members signed in the
Gangway Book

Apologies: Margaret Gidman

Branch Delegates:

Kent	Mike Foote	Solent	Jim Moulson
Ford	Gerry Jackson	Telford	Dave Fairley
Manchester	Gordon Pinkney	Yeovil	Bob Ridout
Hanworth	Terry Lowden	Yorkshire	Bob Hayden

The Chairman opened the meeting at 1300.

The Members stood for the Fleet Air Arm Prayer

The Chairman then proposed the Loyal Toast to Her Majesty the Queen.

The Chairman apologized that the listing of Members who had crossed the bar was not available today. It will be published for the next meeting. The meeting stood and observed a silence for the departed Members

Item 1. Review Minutes of the 2107 AGM

The minutes were accepted as read.

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Item 2. Matters Arising

Jim Moulson said there appeared to be a discrepancy in Solent Branch membership between the minutes and the capitation number.

The Membership Secretary said this was due to Solent Branch not sending updated membership listings in. The Membership Secretary asks each year for this to be done and in the Minutes of the January 2017 Committee Meeting there is a reminder that this be done. The Solent Branch Secretary said he had never received such a request. The Secretary for Telford and Wrekin Branch said that this updating has been done every year for at least the last 10 years.

Jim Moulson thought that the capitation report would suffice, however this goes to the Treasurer not the Membership Secretary.

Branch Secretaries must send in updated membership lists to the Membership Secretary at least one a year.

Item 3. Officers Reports

Chairman:

Since our excellent Reunion weekend at Kettering my position as Chairman became more challenging with phone calls and e-mails, demanding more of my attention.

On 5th May I attended the Eastchurch Observance along with members of our Association. This was quickly followed with a wash-up meeting by the organising committee at Eastchurch Parish Council on the 10th May.

The 21st May I attended the Memorial Service at Lee-on-Solent; this again was well supported by our members from far and wide.

On the 20th July I was invited by the Margate Sea Cadet Unit to attend their Annual Inspection and Parade.

Along with members of my own Branch we attended the 75th Anniversary of Operation Fuller (Channel Dash) at the Memorial on Dover Sea Front; and a wreath was laid on behalf of our Association.

At the 2018 AGM the position of Chairman will be up for election, I think it only fair to announce I will not be seeking re-election; this will give members time to think and decide if they would like to take on this role. I have some medical issues which need to be addressed and that is my sole reason for standing down.

Secretary:

There was only one Member who took up the Not Forgotten Association to attend their Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

There will be 7 members of our Association marching at the Whitehall Cenotaph Parade. This will include a 92 year old TAG. We will lay wreaths on behalf of the Association at the Cenotaph and later at the Fleet Air Arm Memorial on the Embankment.

I received letter from the daughter of Harry Baker an ex member of the FAA and of our Association. She advised that Harry will be celebrating his 100th birthday on the 6th November.

Arnold Thompson who knew Harry proposed that he be made an Honorary Member, this was seconded by Terry Lowden. A Delegates vote on this under the Rules as pointed out by Peter Westbrook could not take place until the next AGM. As this was an exceptional event the Chairman asked was the meeting prepared to vote on this.

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Accordingly, a unanimous vote in favour followed. Harry will be sent his Honorary Membership Certificate and Birthday card by the Membership Secretary.

We have had great difficulty in getting members to volunteer for positions as Officers or Executive Committee Members with the same Members continuing in office. Next year the following positions are up for election;

Three Committee positions, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer The postal ballot will go out at the end of January , hopefully there will be some different Members appearing on the ballot forms.

Vice Chairman:

I attended the Lee on Solent Memorial Parade in May.

In October together with Peter Murray I attended the Kettering Sea Cadet Corps 75th Anniversary Parade and opening Ceremony of the new boat house. The Parade was attended by Rear Admiral Blount who also opened the new boat house.

The cadets are known as TS 800 NAS having been adopted by 800 Squadron Harriers.

One of their cadets has been accepted into Dartmouth as an aviator.

Our Association donated £100 towards the building of the new boat house.

Brian read out two letters of commendation for our Standard Bearer Gordon Appleby. One was from the Chief of the Air Staff for Gordon parading the Standard at the Battle of Britain Memorial Chapel le Ferne. The other was from Captain Channon RN thanking Gordon for parading the Standard at the service remembering Squadron Commander Dunning RN at Manningtree Church. Commander Dunning made the world's first deck landing in 1917 and was killed on the fifth attempt.

Standard Bearer:

Friday 17th Feb. It was the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the S/African troopship "Mendi" in the Solent. A service and commemoration was held at the Pyramid Centre Southsea.

Sunday 5th May. Eastchurch annual service and commemoration at the "Pioneers of Aviation Memorial"

Sunday 21st May. Annual Fleet Air Arm Parade (ex TAGS) Lee-on Solent.

Wednesday 14th June. St. Bart's Yeovilton for commemoration and service to remember the liberation of the Falklands conflict.

24th June Woking RNA Armed Forces Day Parade.

Sunday 9th July. Capel-le-Ferne.

Monday 7th August. Service for Squadron Commander E. Dunning.

Sunday 10th September. R.N.A. Bi-annual Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall.

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Sunday 17th September. Annual R.A.F. Battle of Britain Parade and Service at Brookwood Military Cemetery.

In November Saturday 11th, I shall be in Woking for their 11th-11th-11th Parade and service and on Sunday 12th I will be once again down at Lee-on-Solent for their Remembrance parade.

Peter Westbrook proposed a huge vote of thanks to the Standard Bearer for all his efforts in parading the Association Standard at so many events.

The meeting gave Gordon a resounding round of applause.

Treasurer:

Ben went through the accounts covering the period 1st March to 30th June.

A copy of the Accounts is attached at the end of the Minutes.

Bob Hayden queried the Number 2 account position, Ben explained this would be covered later in the meeting.

Alan Key pointed out that £500 had already been transferred into the main account as part of the closure of Number 2 Account.

It was explained that at the time these accounts were being produced the Number 2 account had not been fully closed. This closure will be completed and covered in full in the next account period.

Peter Westbrook queried the £120 annual payment for the Association website. It was explained that now that we do not have the Airey Fairey the website is an essential and almost only way of communicating with members.

Agenda Item 4 concerns this.

Jim Moulson queried how the Welfare fund pays claims. Ben said that claims are paid out of the main account as the Welfare account is not a cheque account. Money would be transferred between accounts to make payments. Ben stated that the £10000 Welfare account was now invested in a 3 year interest account. The running Welfare fund is now £1105.59 due to various interest payments and several small donations received.

One Welfare claim of £250 has been paid. Bob Ridout said that the recipient was very grateful, the money came very promptly and was a great help.

The Four Monthly Account is attached at the end of these Minutes

The buffet raised £59.03, thanks for your donations.

Newsletter Editor:

Still gathering copy for the newsletter which will be published on the website. Not receiving much input from the Branches.

Fly Navy Federation Meeting:

Arnold Thompson reported on the latest Federation Meeting at Yeovilton.

There had been difficulty obtaining tickets for the Cenotaph Parade due to Met Police requirements.

Commodore Alexander advised that HMS Queen Elizabeth will commission on December 7th. She will then have more sea trials followed by air trials which will be conducted by the RAF 617 Squadron. The RN Squadron 809 will not fully form up until 2023.

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The Dr Rotman award and the TAGS trophy were presented to the top AET technicians at HMS Sultan Ceremonial Divisions by Alan Key and Peter Murray.

Item 4. Web Site Annual Maintenance Cost

The cost is £120 per annum and the Committee recommend this be approved by the Delegates. Within the Association this is a vital means of communication. All the Delegates voted to approve payment.

Peter Westbrook said he thought the web site was too busy and contained too much information.

Peter Murray said that everything he wants to distribute is put on the website in a prompt manner. No attempt to police the site has been undertaken, it is open site. Apparently, there is an “on-official” website which contains “political” information which may not be representative of the Association. There was some confusion if this other web site is Facebook.

Also, some people have had difficulty obtaining passwords for the Members only section.

Peter Murray took the action to contact the Webmaster regarding these issues.

The official website is **faaa.org.uk**

Item 5. AGM 2018 Reunion Update:

Brian Bingham said it is too early to have any attendance numbers, however IOW tours have put all the necessary booking information on the website include a program of events. The venue will be Kettering the same hotel as for 2017 AGM.

Brian then asked the Chairman to cover

Item 6.4 Number 2 Account:

Brian as the holder of this account said it is in the process of being closed as proposed by Solent Branch. All monies, cheque book, paying in book and statements are now being transferred to the National Treasurer by Lloyds Bank.

Brian said he took over the account in 2012. Since, the account has donated as follows:

2012	Blind Vets £160; RNHF £100	£260
2013	Association Welfare £112; RNHF £200	£312
2014	Association Welfare £150; Ghurka Books £26	£176
2015	FNHF £200	£200
2016	FNHF £400	£400
2017	No 1 Account £500	£500
2017	Kettering Sea Cadets 800 Sqdn	£100
	TOTAL DONATIONS	<u>£1948</u>
2017	Transfer Final Balance to No 1 Account	<u>£487</u>

Lloyds Bank may make a charge for closing the Account.

Jim Moulson said he was pleased that these donations had been made

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Jim then asked as to why these number 2 account actions had not been reported nor shown in the National Accounts. He also said that there were no accusations of any financial impropriety.

Brian said the account was set up 20 years ago and he took it over in 2012 and continued using the account in the same manner as all his predecessors by following established custom and practice.

It was only at the 2017 AGM (Item 5) that a proposal for this account to be closed and put under the control of the Treasurer came from Branch Delegate of the Solent Branch.

The necessary actions to conform with this proposal have now been implemented.

The main issue raised by both Bob Hayden and Jim Moulson was that this account was “hidden” from the Membership. There is no doubt that the Membership would have been better informed had this account been reported in the National Accounts. There has been no deliberate attempt to hide this account and had Members attended Reunion/AGM/Meetings they would have been better informed regarding how the account was used.

This raised a discussion about the difficulty of attending meetings due to distance and ageing Members unable to drive or leave relatives alone.

The only solution to this is the web site. Minutes of all meetings are put on the website available for anyone with network access to read. Alternatively, if they can manage to get a Branch Meeting the Secretary reads out the Minutes.

Before carrying on with the Branch proposals, the Chairman made a statement regarding the Daedalus Branch Secretary position:

At the Committee Meeting it was decided the Peter Westbrook would be relieved of this position. There have been many Daedalus Branch Members complaining that they received nothing from the Secretary, for example they were not informed about this meeting taking place.

As this position is ex officio appointed by the Executive Committee, they are also empowered to rescind appointments.

A replacement Daedalus Branch Secretary will be sought.

The Chairman also stated that Solent Branch Members were not Members of the Association from 1st March to the 29th July due to nonpayment of Capitation and their Membership lapsed. A reminder of outstanding fees was given at the April AGM. This lapsed Membership situation was vigorously denied by Peter Westbrook and as not being correct and that they had received nothing to say they were not Members. Jim Moulson also disputed the “lapsed” situation asking by what date Capitation should be paid. Jim said he had always paid by mid-summer and had no repercussions. Despite considerable debate, sometimes quite acrimonious between the Chair and the Solent Branch Delegate, the Solent Branch Delegate was not happy with the decision.

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Item 6.1. Yorkshire Branch meeting agenda to have an AOB item.

Bob Hayden explained that in his experience AOB always appeared on the agenda of the many business meetings he has attended.

Bob said that AOB is there to allow minor issues to be raised, it is not to be used to circumvent any rules regarding putting items on the meeting agenda. It is the right way to end a meeting.

Should a major issue be raised under AOB, it should be taken forward to the agenda for the next meeting.

Peter Murray proposed that all meetings should have an AOB item and that issues raised under AOB did not need to be given any advanced notice.

The Delegates voted in favour of this proposal.

Item 6.2. Solent Branch Repeal the Increase in Capitation.

The changes in Capitation which reduced the Daedalus Branch down to £5 and other Branches up to £5 was decided on by the Executive Committee iaw Rule 3.7a of the Constitution.

Jim Moulson contended that as the Association has some £47000 it is not necessary to raise Capitation. Jim said that the increase of £1 per year would cause Members to leave as £1 was a significant sum.

Peter Murray said that the £47000 was the result of the generous legacy of Dr Rotman left to the Association for the carrying out of charitable deeds, it is not to subsidise members capitation. The Association have made many very good donations and will continue to do so and it is through the Capitation that each member contributes to these charitable acts. The Solent Branch Delegate said that the decision to change capitation was forced through by the Chairman at the Committee Meeting.

Alan Key then told the meeting that he was at this meeting when the decision was taken, it being Alan who proposed the £5 for all members and that The Daedalus Branch Secretary voted in favour. Treasurer abstained as the decision would cause income to fall.

Bob Hayden said it was not the amount of increase rather it was that the Members did not get any notification of the proposed increase. Jim Moulson also agreed that the way the changes to capitation were implemented.

A lot of discussion and argument ensued regarding the financial impact of the changes.

Gordon Pinkney said this was a pointless discussion over £1.

Item 6.3 Solent Branch Review the 14 weeks Agenda Rule.

The Secretary said the 14 weeks had been in the Rules since originally written and considered the frequency of Branch Meetings.

Jim Moulson proposed the period should be reduced to 8 weeks.

This was seconded by Alan Key and the Delegates voted in favour 7 votes. The vote was sufficient to change the Rule which will be done in 2019.

Item 6.4 Solent Branch That the Number 2 Account be Closed.

This was covered previously under Brian Bingham's report.

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Jim Moulson said he had received an abusive email from Brian Bingham and he asked for an apology which was duly given.

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Jim Moulson referred to a letter he had sent to the Chairman asking a number of questions regarding the number 2 account. Jim then said an open letter from the Chairman was sent out saying Solent Members had made accusations of dishonesty. The Chairman replied that the reason for his letter was emails received not Jim Moulson's letter.

Jim Moulson asked that the Chairman apologized. This was not forthcoming. A vote was taken that the closure of the Number 2 Account proceeds.

The Delegates vote on Closing the Number 2 Account was unanimous.

Item 6.5 Solent Branch A review of Public Liability Insurance.

Said that the original policy was for £1 million at a cost of £1200, however to attend the Bournemouth Air Show with the Association stand this needed to be increased to £2 million. A new policy with Morton Mikel this year gives this cover at a cost of £389. Ben read out what was covered under the policy. A copy of this is sent to all Branch Secretaries each year by Ben.

If anyone in Solent Branch can find a better value insurance deal will they please let Ben have details.

For the closure of roads for the FAA Memorial Parade in Lee on Solent the cover has to be raised to £10 million just for that day which costs £154.95. This extra cost and other associated costs with this parade are set out in the Accounts attached to the Minutes of the 2017 AGM. The cost this year to our Association was £8.95.

The Delegates Voted in favour of renewing the insurance for the next year at a cost of £421 (increase in premium due to government tax)

Item 6.6. Solent Branch That Meeting agendas have an AOB section.

This has been covered by Item 6.1 above

Item 7. Yorkshire Branch Need for a definition of a meeting Quorum

A Quorum is defined as "the fixed minimum number of members that must be present to make the proceedings of a meeting valid"

Bob Said that a quorum is needed particularly when making finance decisions.

Presently there is no requirement for meetings to be quorate in the Constitution & Rules (Rule 4)

Then meeting agreed that a definition of a quorum is necessary.

The following were proposed:

Open Meeting and the AGM: need 50% of Branches in attendance for the meeting to be quorate. This 50% may include Branches who have lodged postal votes with the Secretary. (Rule 4.8 refers).

Committee Meetings: need 50% of Elected Members to be present at the meeting for the meeting to be quorate.

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The Delegates voted in favour of the definitions.

9.

As this is a new Rule they are effective immediately and will be included into the Constitution.

The Secretary raised the question of setting a sum of money which the Executive Committee may commit to a Grant or Donation without reference to either an Open Meeting or the AGM

**Bob Hayden suggest £250
The Delegates voted in favour**

Ben explained that for several years our Association has made donations to UK4U, a charity that sends out Christmas Boxes to our Service people serving overseas, Navy, Army or RAF.

These boxes are always on show at our AGM's

The Delegates voted in favour of a £250 donation to UK4U.

The Chairman Closed the meeting at 1515.

Dates of next meetings:

The next Committee Meeting is on the 20th January 2018 at Hanworth RNA.

The next Open Meeting is the AGM on Saturday 7th April 2018 at 1100.
This will be at the Shire Kettering Park Hotel. Kettering NN15 6XT

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FOUR MONTHLY ACCOUNT

1st MARCH 2017 to 30th JUNE 2017

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

Capitation fee @£4

Bristol	19	£76.00	RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00	
Gt Manchester	21	£84.00	Donation Eastchurch Parish Council		£50.00
Gt. Yarmouth	5	£20.00	Donation Blendworth Band	£100.00	
Hanworth	5	£20.00	Donation Rev. P. Chamberlain	£50.00	
Kent	14	£56.00	Fleet Air Arm Website Registration		£120.00
North East Hants	9	£36.00	Welfare Donation	£250.00	
Southdowns	15	£60.00	Expenses: Daed Branch Sec	£46.24	
Wrekin	16	£64.00	Treasurer	£9.87	
Yeovil	25	£100.00	Std Bearer	£321.75	
Yorkshire	<u>32</u>	<u>£128.00</u>		£997.86	
	161	£644.00			

Daedalus Branch @£16	4	£64.00
Daedalus Branch @£14	4	£56.00
Daedalus Branch @£12	72	£864.00
Daedalus Branch '£10	15	£150.00
Daedalus Branch @£6	<u>4</u>	<u>£24.00</u>
	260	£1,802.00

Sales	£135.00
Raffles	£115.00
Donations	£10.00
Daedalus Admin	£10.50
Transfer from Welfare Account	£250.00
Transfer from No.2 Account	<u>£500.00</u>
	£2,822.50

Nationwide Account B/F	£44,133.39	Nationwide Account @ 30/06/2017	£45,686.14
Current Account B/F	£238.35	Current Account @ 30/06/2017	£349.36
Cash in Hand B/F	<u>£102.19</u>	Cash in Hand @ 30/06/2017	<u>£263.07</u>
	£47,296.43		£47,296.43

FLEET AIR ARM ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB, CBE, ADC. PRESIDENT: Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham CBE.
VICE PRESIDENTS: R.Golightly F.Wadley