



# XXIV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

## ROYAL AIR FORCE

President: Air Commodore Richard Gould CBE MA BSc FRAeS  
Chairman: Group Captain K Chapman MPhil BA

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT RAF LYNEHAM

6 OCTOBER 2007

**Members attending:** Messrs R Gould (President), K Chapman (Chairman), S Wright (Deputy Chair), K Rayner (Treasurer), D R Burgin (Secretary).

R Bates, R Brawn, C Carrington, N Cooper, B Cowin, R Dew, C Harley, G Harradine, M Hills, W Holden, A Johnson, G Jones, M Long, J Martin, H Luxton, J Martin, I Nelson, T Paterson, R Payne, L Poll, O Reardon, D Smith, B Spurway, D Stewart, A Turner, A Wilson.(31 in total)

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to those who had travelled from near and far to attend this year's 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary AGM and Reunion programme. We were once again back to our traditional format of holding this event on the first Saturday in October with a healthy turnout to endorse this choice. The Squadron had selected the Station briefing room as the venue, where guests joined Association members for a presentation by OC XXIV's deputy (Sqn Ldr Howard Carby) immediately after the AGM.

#### **Item 1/2007 Apologies for Absence**

The Secretary had received various apologies of absence by letter, phone, electronic mail and word of mouth, along with several generous donations to the Association funds amounting to in excess of £150. We make special mention from the list of Brian Baker from Western Australia, Dickie Dower, Rhode Island USA and John Tetley, previous President, Cornwall.

As in previous years, the list of notifications and letters was made available for all attending to read. A full list of apologies is as follows:

B Baker (+ donation), S Batchelor, D Carter, P Clewer, M Coumbe, G V Donald, D Dower (+ donation), W Francis, D Goodman (+ donation), F Goodwin, L Hagon, R Hale, V Hemmings (+ donation), J J Ironside (+ donation), D Marney, J McArthur, K Morris (+ donation), T Peacock, J Richardson, J Smither (+ donation), T Southgate, J Tetley (+ donation), P Tootal, L Warrington, S Webb, S Wheeler, R Wright.

#### **Item 1.1/2007 In Memoriam**

It was with great regret that the Secretary had to report that this year we had lost more members than we recruited. Those present stood in silence in remembrance of the following comrades:

Gp Capt W M Watkins OBE, Gp Capt M J Hardy, SAC D Croker, Sgt W K Knight, Sgt T R Fry, Flt Lt M Tuck, Sqn Ldr A S Drew, Wg Cdr J B Towler (not an Association member)

Details of the events surrounding the loss of some of our comrades were posted on the Association web log and a more detailed obituary will be published in the 2008 Newsletter.

**Item 2/2007 Minutes of the previous AGM**

No observations were raised against the accuracy of the 2006 Minutes, which were duly accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Mike Long, seconded by Clive Harley, passed unanimously.

**Item 3/2007 Matters Arising**

The following actions were left outstanding from the 2006 AGM for the Committee to address:

- Item 8/2006 – Secretary to book Officers' Mess for Ladies Guest Night.  
**Complete**
- Item 8.1/2006 – Deputy Chairman to book coach and band and enquire about hotel deals, Treasurer to confirm sufficient funds to cover additional costs.  
**Complete**
- Item 8.2/2006 – Membership Champion Mike Long to produce Welcome Letter and Association Brochure to be available from Squadron Adj for new members leaving Squadron  
**Complete**
- Item 9.1/2006 – Richard Bates to liaise with Secretary and Crown Hotel, Blockley, Glos in preparation for the Summer Lunch Social.  
**Complete**
- Item 9.2/2006 – Chairman to contact OC Admin Wing reference Association attendance at Lyneham Families Day.  
**Complete (see note in Item 4/2007 below)**
- Item 10.3/2005 – Treasurer to send donation of £91 to Burton Hill House School.  
**Complete.**

**Item 4/2007 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, speaking on behalf of all those involved with the organisation of this year's Reunion, was pleased to see that the revised format for the Ladies Guest Night (i.e. provision of transport and live music) had had the desired effect in boosting this year's attendance figures.

He informed the AGM that he had written to OC Admin Wing (now re-titled OC Base Support Wing) seeking permission for Association members to attend the annual Lyneham Families Day. Although he had never received a direct reply from this individual, the Chairman had subsequently been contacted by OC XXIV Sqn who confirmed that, after discussions with OC Base Support Wing, it had been agreed that Association members would henceforth be most welcome to attend the Station's Families Day. Future requests to attend should be addressed to XXIV Sqn Adjutant, who will then

issue the necessary passes to the individuals concerned. Such applications should be addressed to “Adjutant, No. XXIV Squadron, RAF Lyneham, CHIPPENHAM, Wiltshire, SN15 4PZ” and marked Lyneham Families Day Application.

Finally, the Chairman expressed appreciation to OC XXIV Sqn and the Squadron liaison team, with a special mention to Flt Lt Pete Astle, Flt Lt Phil Whitworth and FS Stu Wright, for all their hard work in organising this year’s Anniversary under ever more demanding operational resource constraints.

#### **Item 5/2007 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer distributed a full set of accounts to all present, outlining Income and Expenditure to Year End 31 October 2006, the Balance for the same period and a Bank reconciliation statement. The net surplus of Income v Expenditure for the year ending 31 Oct 2006 was £53.10, which mainly accrued from Reunion events. A copy of the accounts is included with the minutes.

Generous donations from members continue to give Association funds a welcome (if un-budgeted) boost, for which we are all very grateful. The Centenary Fund, which is due to mature in 2015, is increasing at £100 per annum and remains on course to achieve the target of £1,000 by 2015.

#### **Item 6/2007 Secretary's Report**

##### **Item 6.1 Membership**

Association numbers have only increased by 3 this year despite continued advertising and the waiving of any joining fee. Sadly we have also to report the loss of 7 existing members (see Item 1/2007). We shall continue to advertise through many outlets, including the Aircrew Association, Air Mail, RAFA, BA 25 Year Club, RAF Club, RAF News, Teletext etc.

Membership recruitment is being undertaken by e-mails, Internet and our Membership Champion, Mike Long. Members are also asked to help by promoting the Association among friends and colleagues whenever possible. Applications forms are available from the Secretary or can be downloaded from the Association Web Site.

##### **Item 6.2 Attendance**

Attendance for the AGM and Reunion Lunch this year was 66 against 50 for the year 2006, with 18 meeting up informally at the Swindon Hilton Hotel on the Friday evening. The Association Ladies’ Guest night in the Officers’ Mess attracted 60 members and guests against 40 at our last event at Lyneham in October 2006. The attendance figures look promising and justify the extra effort and cost involved in organising the band and hotel coach transfers. A special thanks from the Secretary to Sam Wright for taking on this role.

##### **Item 6.3 Newsletter**

This year's Newsletter, Summer 2007 (Issue No. 14) was a 30-page edition (phew!) but as always was a struggle to bring together. Yearly nagging may be paying off as we did have some useful contributions from the membership this year. Please keep sending articles, stories, anecdotes or photos; they help to maintain a living archive of the Squadron's history. Feedback from readers continues to remain complimentary and it is clear that the Newsletter is well regarded as a means of keeping ALL members up to date.

The Secretary repeated his "re-re-request" for a replacement Editor for the Newsletter, as a change does usually bring a fresh look and feel to any publication. All material will be returned or turned over to the Squadron Historian to add to the comprehensive collection on display at each Reunion.

Note also that Issues 5 - 14 are available on the Web Site for reference in **Portable Document File (PDF)** format, which mirrors the look and layout of the original document, showing colour photos where used.

#### **Item 6.4 Summer Social**

The 2007 Summer Lunch was held on Thursday 7 June at the Crown Hotel, Blockley in the heart of the Cotswolds and was a resounding success with 26 Association members and guests attending. OC XXIV Squadron (Wg Cdr Don Turnbull) and his Liaison team set aside a heavy workload to join us.

The event was organised by Heather and Richard Bates who generously provided pre- lunch drinks at their home in Blockley before we all adjourned to the Crown for a long and convivial lunch. The format proved very popular and is being repeated for Summer 2008. (see Item 8a/2007 below).

#### **Item 6.5 Website**

The Association website is the place to visit to check the Diary of Events, Minutes of Meetings, Newsletter articles and links to many other related organisations. Suggestions for new LINKS (or information on any that have ceased) are most welcome feedback. (see email address on website).

New for 2007 has been the addition to the website of the **Blog Book** or on-line diary. The advantage of a blog is that it offers a rolling record of what is going on, is posted on-line and allows updates to be made quickly and easily. Any information, gossip or more serious issues are available to one and all. You may add your own comments and the topics have been grouped into themes such as Reunions, Current Squadron Matters, Roll of Honour etc. The easiest way to see it working is to book mark the page and give it a go. Any comments or feedback are once again more than welcome. (Secretary's note: I won't mention RSS feeds unless you are a complete IT Geek!)

Our presence is well registered with the most popular search engines on the Internet, and our website has a reasonably memorable address [www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net](http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net).

#### **Item 6.6 Sqn Support**

The Secretary added his most grateful thanks for all the support and help received from XXIV Squadron Liaison Team, especially this year with so many on operational commitments and so few around to give of their precious spare time. Special thanks go to Flt Lts Pete Astle and Phil Whitworth and to FS Stu Wright for their invaluable contribution to this year's Reunion events. Mike Phillips also merits a special mention for his fund-raising raffle and auction, which raised over £150 for Association funds.

**Item 7/2007 Annual Election of Officers**

All members of the existing Committee confirmed that they were willing to serve another term but, as required by the constitution, offered themselves up to the AGM for re-election.

Proposed by Richard Bates and seconded by Trevor Paterson, a motion to re-elect the existing Committee for a further year was unanimously endorsed by the AGM.

Accordingly, the Committee structure for 2007/08 is:-

<b>Chairman</b>	Keith Chapman	<b>Deputy Chairman</b>	Sam Wright
<b>Treasurer</b>	Keith Rayner	<b>Secretary</b>	David Burgin

**Item 8/2007 Format/Dates of Future Association Events**

The Chairman confirmed that the Association would continue with the tried and tested format whereby the entire reunion programme takes place on a Saturday. Members will still be able to meet informally in a local pub or hotel on the Friday evening, if they so wish.

**Please get the following dates in your diary now!!**

**Wednesday 4 June 2008** – Summer Lunch Social. Pre-lunch drinks will be hosted by Nick & Jackie Yerbury at their home in Purton, after which we will adjourn for lunch at a nearby venue. (Venue to be confirmed by Secretary in due course). More details below at Item 8a/2007.

**Action on Secretary to confirm lunch venue**

**Friday 3 October 2008** - evening casual "meet and greet" at Hilton Hotel, Swindon.

**Saturday 4 October 2008** - AGM, Reunion lunch, informal afternoon programme, & Ladies' Guest Night in Sgts Mess, RAF Lyneham

**Action on Secretary to book Mess**

**Item 8a/2007 Summer Lunch Social Event 2008 – 4 June**

Association Member Dr Nick Yerbury and his wife Jackie have kindly offered to host pre-lunch drinks at their home in Purton prior to our summer lunch on Wednesday 4 June. It was initially suggested that we could find a location in Purton itself for lunch, but Ian Nelson (who had recently enjoyed an excellent yet inexpensive lunch at a Four Pillars Hotel near Oxford) informed the AGM that this same hotel group has a sister establishment at the **Cotswold Water Park** just 10 miles away from Purton. This event is planned for **Wednesday 4 June 2008**. Details and logistics will be posted on the Association website but are repeated here for those without web access.

**SUMMER SOCIAL INVITATION**

Nick and Jacqueline Yerbury cordially invite members and guests of XXIV Squadron Association to join them for drinks at their home at Ivy Lodge, High Street, Purton, Swindon, Wilts, SN5 4AD [Telephone 01793 770552] at **1100-1130** on **Wednesday 4 June 2008** prior to lunch at The Four Pillars Hotel, Lake 6, Spine Road East, South Cerney, Glos GL7 5TL (Tel 01285 864000) Cotswold Water Park.

Purton is about 5 miles from M4/Junction 16 and about 10 miles from the Cotswold Water Park.

Timings: 11:00 – 11:30 arrive at Ivy Lodge; 12:15 depart for lunch; 12:45 sit down to lunch at Four Pillars.

Post Lunch - Free to tour local Water Park area.

**Action on Nick Yerbury to check local parking and access to Ivy Lodge  
Secretary to contact The Four Pillars re date & approx numbers  
Members attending to notify Secretary by 16 May 08**

**Item 8b/2007 Reunion weekend 2008**

The AGM agreed that following the success of this year's Reunion, a similar format should be adopted for 2008. The Deputy Chairman has agreed to arrange the engagement of a suitable band, coach transfers and hotel discounts and to coordinate with Squadron Liaison regarding Point of Entry and passes.

**Action on Deputy Chairman**

Members please note: Reunion Applications and Security details for next year's events should be sent directly to: **Deputy Chairman, XXIV Squadron Association, 33 Calne Road, Lyneham, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN15 4PT.**

The address on the application form will also be changed as a reminder.

**Item 9/2007 Up-date on Burton Hill School**

In July 2007 Burton Hill School finally closed its doors and ceased to be a centre for day and residential care for pupils with severe mental and physical disabilities. XXIV Squadron, the Association and other local fund raising groups have supported the School for many years.

The Squadron is currently looking for another local charity to support in place of Burton Hill House and the Association proposes to fall in line if and when this happens. However, until a new Sqn charity is selected, the Association proposes to continue to donate one pound for each year the Squadron has been in existence to the Shaftesbury Society of which Burton Hill House was part. This year's donation will be £92. A motion to this effect was proposed by Tony Johnson, seconded by John Martin and passed unanimously.

**Action on Treasurer**

**Item 10/2007 Any Other Business**

No issues were raised under AOB requiring any action. Tony Johnson mentioned that a BBC1 documentary about 27 Chinook Squadron entitled "Life above enemy lines" would be televised on 9 October 2007 and may be of interest to members.

The Deputy Chairman took the opportunity to update those present who were attending the Ladies Guest Night about timings and final coach pick-up arrangements.

Finally our President, Air Commodore Richard Gould, expressed his thanks for all the hard work that the Committee and Squadron Liaison team had put in to make the weekend such a success.

The meeting closed at 11:45 hrs in time for guests to join members for a briefing by Sqn Ldr Howard Carby who was standing in for OC XXIV.

**Secretary's Note:** - Would anybody with an e-mail address who has not already notified this or who has **changed address** please send a brief message to:-

**the24secretary@at royalairforce.net** (see also web site) to keep membership details up to date.

**Bookmark this site; it's the Association Web Page on the Internet**

<http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net>

**PLEASE NOTE! DATE OF NEXT AGM & 93<sup>rd</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION: SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2008. THIS WILL BE ANOTHER HIGHLY ENJOYABLE OCCASION, WITH FREE EVENING TRANSPORT BETWEEN SWINDON HOTELS AND THE SGTS' MESS & LIVE MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE DINNER. DRESS CODE: DJ OR MESS KIT. YOUR COMMITTEE LOOKS FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

**No. 24 Squadron Association**  
**Balance Sheet Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006**

	2006	2005
<b>Assets</b>	£	£
Barclays Bank	886.34	1,059.35
Cheltenham & Gloucester	1,918.01	1,893.23
Barclays Centenary Fund	201.33	
<b>Total</b>	3,005.68	2,952.58
<b>Members Funds</b>		
Opening balance	2,952.58	2,483.66
Surplus/deficit for the year	53.10	468.92
<b>Closing Balance</b>	3,005.68	2,952.58

**Bank statement reconciliation**

Bank statement balance		2,820.16
Less outstanding cheques		1,933.82
<b>Reconciled balance</b>		886.34
Cheltenham & Gloucester account		1,918.01
Barclays Centenary Fund		201.33
<b>Closing balance</b>		3,005.68
Balance b/d	2,952.58	Payments 2,558.01
+ receipts	2,641.11	Balance 3,005.68
	5,593.69	5,563.69

**Income & Expenditure**

	2006	2005
<b>Income</b>	£	£
Reunion	2,051.00	2,233.00
Membership	80.00	20.00
Interest	26.11	29.67
Donations	305.00	450.00
Lunch	14.00	0.00
Raffle	165.00	105.00
	2,641.11	2,837.67
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Reunion	1,620.00	1,824.00
Donations	-	90.00
Lunch	269.66	-
Printing & Postage	499.74	454.75
Administration	198.61	-
	2,588.01	2,368.75
<b>Net surplus/deficit for the year</b>	53.10	468.92