



XXIV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION ROYAL AIR FORCE

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

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN CORAL ROOM, OFFICERS MESS, RAF BRIZE NORTON - 6 OCTOBER 2012

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

S Batchelor, R Bates, R Brawn, I Burns, C Carrington, Mrs E Carter, N Cooper, B Cowin, M Davis, G Gair, C Harley, G Harradine, J Harris, G Jones, B Meeten, T Norcross, G Norton, T Paterson, R Payne, Mrs A Porter, S Webb, C Whitaker, A Wilson. (28 in total)

The Chairman opened the AGM by extending a warm welcoming to all Members and Guests who had made the journey to this year's AGM, which coincides with the Squadron's 97th Anniversary. The Sqn's re-deployment to RAF Brize Norton was now complete, with this the 2nd Reunion at its new home. After last year's success, the Officers' Mess would continue to be the main location for the day's programme, allowing for the AGM, briefings, buffet lunch, dinner and general hosting of Members and Guests all to take place under one roof. At this point non-members and guests were escorted through to the Ladies ante room prior to the AGM.

Item 1/2012 Apologies for Absence

The Secretary had received 31 apologies of absence by letter, phone, electronic mail and word of mouth, along with several generous donations to Association funds amounting to £175. We make special mention from this list of Jack McWicker in Florida USA and both John and Pincher Martin, each of whom has family health concerns.

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

P Benning, J Care, D Carpenter, G Clarke, G Cook, M Coumbe, M Davis (+ Donation), C Eames, GV Donald, D Goodman, K Groves, V Hemmings (+ donation), P Hoare, B Holden (+ Donation), R Ironside (+ donation), G Jones (+ Donation), C Joyner, P Keeble, M Lythgoe, J Martin, P Martin, J McWicker (+ donation), T Pembrey, A Pickering, K Rayner, K Reynolds, J Smither (+ donation), P Tootal, D Turnbull, A Turner, C Williams. (31 in total)

Item 1.1/2012 In Memoriam

With great regret the Secretary reported that the Association had lost four Association Members during the past year. Those present stood in silence for a short while in remembrance of the following comrades:

LAC George Haines, Flt Mechanic, died 21 Nov 2011; Gp Capt Geoff Moss, Pilot, Ex OC XXIV when based at RAF Colerne, 24 Dec 2011; Max Chase, MAMS, formerly Association Secretary, Mar 2012; LAC George Mooney, Elect Fitter at RAF Hendon, Sep 2012.

Details of the events surrounding the loss of these comrades are usually posted on the Association Web Blog at the time of notification and a more detailed obituary is published in the subsequent Newsletter.

During this period of reflection, Members also spared a thought for those colleagues or partners who could not be present because of illness.

Item 2/2012 Minutes of the previous AGM

No observations were raised against the accuracy of the 2011 Minutes, which were duly accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Roger Payne, Seconded by Trevor Paterson, Passed unanimously.

Item 3/2012 Matters Arising

The following actions remained outstanding from the 2011 AGM for the Committee to address:

- Item 6/2011 – Hawker VC Memorial – Secretary to post news and logistics information on Inauguration project progress.

Complete (in conjunction with Chas Whitaker)

- Item 8/2011 – Treasurer to confirm donation of £96 to Squadron nominated charity CALM.

Complete

- Item 9/2011 – Volunteer wanted as Newsletter Editor. No nominations.

Action Still Outstanding

- Item 11a/2011 – Summer Social Lunch Venue – Richard Bates to book The Crown at Blockley, Sec to co-ordinate numbers.

Complete

- Item 11b/2011 – Secretary and Deputy Chairman to coordinate booking of Officers' Mess at Brize Norton, and arrangements for Menus, Costings, Point of Entry, Coach and Music for 2012 Reunion weekend.

Complete

- Item 13.2/2011 – Accommodation – Members to give feedback or recommendations for venues in the Burford/Brize Area.

Part Complete – Members to inform Sec

Item 4/2012 Chairman's Report

The Chairman said it had been a busy year for the Committee with many events taking place. On 11 Nov 2011, an impressive ceremony was held in the French village of Ligny-Thillois to inaugurate a memorial to Major Hawker VC DSO, the first OC XXIV Sqn, who was shot down and killed nearby on 23 Nov 16. More than 50 Association Members, partners and friends attended this ceremony, together with a sizeable contingent of serving Sqn personnel, several official guests and a large number of local people. The ceremony was also attended by the village Mayor, local dignitaries and senior officers from the French Air Force and the Luftwaffe. The chairman thanked Chas Whitaker for the exceptional and invaluable effort he had put into his role as Association project officer for the building and inauguration of this memorial.

The Chairman reminded Members that the inauguration of the Hawker memorial was not the end of the story but only the beginning. Responsibility for maintaining the memorial would need to be shared between the Sqn and the Association. [Note: following the AGM, the President and Chairman raised this issue with OC XXIV who confirmed that, in principle, the Sqn *would* be prepared to contribute to the cost of maintaining the memorial in an appropriate condition.] As concerns had already arisen over the clarity of the engraving on the memorial, the Committee had asked Chas Whitaker to contact the Mayor of Ligny-Thillois (and through him the local representative of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission) to see what remedial work might need to be carried out and how much this would cost.

Two other events took place in November 2011, both of them to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Pisa accident. On Sunday 6 November, a special service of remembrance was held in the Sqn HQ at Brize Norton, during which a new Roll of Honour was unveiled. There was a good turn-out of Association Members for this commemoration, after which attendees adjourned to the Officers' Mess for an informal lunch. The following weekend, on Saturday 12 November, a second service of remembrance was held in the barracks of 187 Reggimento Paracadutisti in Livorno. Sadly, no Association Members were able to attend this event because it clashed with the Hawker ceremony which took place in France the previous day. However, OC XXIV accompanied by two of his officers flew down to Pisa from Paris immediately after the Hawker inauguration, a gesture much appreciated by the Italian military authorities and relatives of the lost 46 Italian paratroopers. Only a few months later, we learned that Italian fishermen operating off the coast of Pisa in February 2012 had hauled to the surface – just off the coast where the accident occurred - what appeared to be a propeller from our lost Hercules. It was later confirmed that this object was indeed a propeller from XV 216. With the blessing of OC XXIV and MOD, the propeller will be safeguarded and displayed in 187 Regt's museum in Livorno. Full story on Association Blog.

<http://the24sec.wordpress.com/2012/08/30/hercules-xv-216-propeller-recovery-off-pisa/>

The Chairman said that another example of the Committee's work behind the scenes was the tenacity of the Deputy Chairman, Sam Wright (ably supported by our new Treasurer, Roger Hale, who had been able to provide the necessary documentary evidence) in finally securing an apology from the Chairman of

the hotel group which owns Bibury Court, apropos our summer lunch at that establishment in June 2011. Enclosed with the letter of apology was a cheque for £150, comprising the long-overdue refund of our £50 deposit plus a further £100 by way of compensation for the way this issue had been handled by the hotel. The Chairman also paid tribute to Committee members (notably the Secretary and Deputy Chairman) who in tandem with Flt Lt Sam Stafford [XXIV Sqn Liaison Officer] had worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of today's Reunion.

The Chairman reminded the meeting and Members not present that XXIV Sqn is due to celebrate its Centenary on 1 September 2015. In anticipation of this event, the Association has been setting aside £100 each year for its special Centenary Fund, which remains on track to meet the £1000 target by the time that the Sqn attains its 100th birthday. With less than three years to run before that historic event, the Chairman reminded everyone that it was not too soon to begin thinking about how this special Fund should be spent. He wished to encourage Members to give the matter serious consideration and come forward with proposals for how we might best celebrate this historic event.

Finally, the Chairman said that the Committee wished to encourage more Members to give short briefings, presentations or speeches at the annual Reunion. Such contributions could be given either during the pre-lunch briefing phase or in the form of a short after-dinner speech. Volunteers were asked to approach any member of the Committee.

Action on ALL Members

Item 5/2012 Treasurer's Report

After over 20 years of valuable service as Association Treasurer, Keith Rayner submitted his resignation to the Committee in June 2012. In accordance with the terms of the Association Constitution, the Committee unanimously appointed Roger Hale to fill this post. Roger is a long-standing and staunch supporter of the Association and a regular attendee at its annual Reunions. [Roger's appointment was ratified by the AGM. See item 11.]

A simplified format for displaying Income and Expenditure has now been developed by the new Treasurer. Using this new format, the Treasurer distributed a Financial Statement for the 12 months' period 1 Apr 2011 – 31 Mar 2012 along with an up-to-date 6 monthly Interim Statement for the period 1 Apr 2012 – 30 Sep 2012. [Copies attached to these Minutes]

The transfer and combination of accounts leaves the Association with a balance of £787.69 in the current account and £728.19 in the Centenary Fund. The latter is on track to meet its target of £1,000 by 1 Sep 2015.

The Treasurer has carried out a careful review of the Fund's budget with a view to bringing expenditure more into line with income. The cost of printing and postage in 2012 was £577 – a substantial sum incurred in the production and distribution of the Newsletter/Magazine, Minutes and Reunion information pack. The Committee agrees with the Treasurer that an effective way to reduce pressure on the Fund would be to eliminate as much of these printing and postage costs as possible by adopting the following measures:

Item 5.1 On-Line Distribution of Association Material. With immediate effect, the Minutes, the annual Newsletter/Magazine, notices of Social Events, and information about the Annual Reunion would be posted on the Association website and made available to read/download by Members who will receive an email link and reminder from the Secretary. Those wishing to attend future Reunions will be asked to print off attendance and security proforma, complete them in the usual way and return them to the Secretary with a cheque.

Item 5.2 Hard Copy Distribution. Association Members **without** email facilities or who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter and other documents will be invited to cover the costs of printing and distribution by subscribing £5 per year by Standing Order or by payment of £20 as an advance lump sum to cover the following 4 years. [To take effect from 2013] For those Members who do not use email or who prefer to receive hard copies of Association material, these Minutes of the 2012 AGM will be the last printed documents to be sent out free of charge.

After a lively discussion, both of these measures were adopted by the AGM. Proposed by Brian Cowin; Seconded by Chris Carrington. Carried unanimously.

While re-organising the Association accounts and assessing the state of the Fund, the Treasurer said he had been reminded of the facility set up some years ago to enable Members to make voluntary annual subscriptions by Standing Order (SO). Only six Members currently exercise this option so the Treasurer is keen to encourage others to do likewise. He is sending existing subscribers details of the Association's new Bank Account so their SOs can be amended. In parallel, he feels the time is ripe to re-advertise this convenient way for Members to contribute to the Association Fund should they so wish. To this end, he distributed hard copies of the SO at the AGM and asked the Secretary to post a copy of this form on the website, backed up by an email link.

Action – Secretary to post SO Form on line & send out email link

Item 6/2012 Donation of £97 to XXIV Sqn's designated charity (CALM)

The AGM approved a donation of £97 to the [Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Movement](#) (CALM), XXIV Squadron's nominated charity. Proposed by Richard Bates, Seconded by Ivor Burns, Passed unanimously.

Action on Treasurer

Item 7/2012 Secretary's Report & Update on Membership

Item 7.1 Membership

The Secretary reported a below average year for recruiting with only two new members. This could not compete with 2010's exceptional influx of 15 new members, which had largely been due to the pro-active promotion of the

Association by the then OC XXIV Sqn (Wg Cdr Andy Bacon). In response to a point made from the floor, the Chairman assured the meeting that the Association had formally asked successive OCs XXIV Sqn to implement a standard procedure whereby the Sqn Adj would issue membership application forms to all Squadron personnel as part of their routine posting-out interview.

Sadly, the Secretary also had to report the loss of four existing members (see Item 1.1/2012). However, the Association will continue to seek new members through word of mouth and by advertising through a variety of outlets, including the Aircrew Association, Air Mail, RAFA, BA 25 Year Club, RAF Club and RAF News. The fact that there are no joining or subscription fees will continue to be emphasised as a selling point.

Action on Secretary & Members to promote during 2012/13

Membership Applications forms are available for download from the Association Website.

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

Item 7.2 Attendance

Attendance at the 2012 AGM and Reunion Lunch was 53 members and guests compared with 58 in 2011. The Association's first Ladies Guest night at RAF Brize Norton in 2011 drew 55. There were 52 Members and guests this year. The Secretary was particularly grateful to Sam Wright (Deputy Chairman) for taking on the time-consuming tasks of liaising with the newly privatised Mess Management over costs, menus and seating plan, engaging musicians, arranging coach transport from and to hotels in the local area and dealing with point of entry issues. The AGM heartily concurred.

Item 7.3 Newsletter/Magazine

The hard copy version of the 24-page Summer 2012 edition of the Association Newsletter (Issue No. 19) was posted to ALL MEMBERS in Black and White format. Members were reminded that a full COLOUR version is always available on-line so as not to reduce the impact of some of the excellent photos submitted.

Note new distribution policy as mentioned in Items 5.1, 5.2 and Item 8.

Meanwhile, feedback from readers continues to be highly complimentary. It is clear that the Newsletter/Magazine is highly regarded as a means of keeping ALL members up to date and in touch with the Association.

Unfortunately, despite the Editor giving ample notice since Issue 17 (Summer 2010), no volunteer to replace him has yet come forward. Having now produced 19 consecutive issues, the current Editor feels that the time is ripe for fresh talent to take on this much valued job.

Meanwhile, Members are asked to continue submitting articles, stories, anecdotes or photos because such contributions help maintain a living archive

of the Sqn's history. Any material, such as photos or original documents, will either be passed on to the Sqn's History Archive or returned to the contributor if so desired. [The Editor apologised to Trevor Paterson for accidentally omitting his contribution intended for the 2012 edition]

Action STILL on Membership for Volunteer Editor & to Submit Articles

The Secretary/Editor again reminded Members that Newsletter Issues 5 - 19 are available for reference on the Website in **Portable Document File (PDF)** format for viewing and printing.

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

Item 7.4 2012 Summer Social

The 2012 Summer Social & Lunch was held on Wed 6 Jun at The Crown, Blockley, preceded by pre-lunch drinks hosted by Richard and Heather Bates and financed by our Chairman. Like previous events using a similar formula, these occasions continue to be very well supported and generally attract around 40 Members and guests. This year's event gave the Association the opportunity to keep in touch with OC XXIV, Wg Cdr Tim Jones, and his wife Susie, who were both present. The Secretary reported that feedback from those attending the Summer Social was very positive and noted that the event had once again demonstrated Sam Wright's skill in making everybody think they had the winning raffle ticket. [This raffle raised £125 for Association funds]

The tradition of this very popular event will be continued on 5 Jun next year. (See Item 12a/2012 below for full details).

Item 7.5 Website

The Secretary reminded the AGM that the Association website is the place to visit to obtain information about the more routine and historical aspects of the Squadron and Association. However, it also contains the Diary of Events, Minutes of Meetings, Newsletter articles, Notices and links to many other related organisations. Suggestions for new LINKS to other similar organisations (or information on any that may have ceased) are most welcome.

The Association's presence is registered with the most popular search engines on the Internet and our website has a fairly memorable address.

www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net

A longer-term aim is to transfer even more historical material onto the Association website in cooperation with the Squadron.

The linked "**Blog Book**" - in effect an on-line diary and bulletin board created in 2007 - has been extensively utilised by the Committee during the past year. Members can post and view up-dates on a wide variety of topics, finalise reunion arrangements (e.g. names/locations of hotels, coach pick-up points, attendance list, menus etc.) The ability to post instant news, pictures and comments, which are quickly available to one and all, has proved its worth

again and again. Members with an email address are strongly encouraged to sign up for the automatic **Subscription** service which will notify new web postings straight to an inbox without having to check the site itself.

<http://the24sec.wordpress.com/>

Henceforth, this website will also be used to disseminate information in lieu of the physical distribution of printed material. [See Items 5.1, 5.2 8]

Item 7.6 Sqn Support & Reunion Administration

The Secretary added his personal appreciation for all the support and help received from the XXIV Sqn Liaison Team [with special thanks to Flt Lt Sam Stafford] during this year's run up to the Reunion. This unstinting cooperation ensured *inter alia* that arrangements for gaining access to the Station via the point of entry (always a potentially tricky challenge) ran extremely smoothly. Another challenge – the Association's requirement to agree firm prices for Reunion events well in advance with the commercial management running the Officers' Mess at Brize - is being kept under review by the Deputy Chairman.

Finally, the Secretary expressed thanks to Flt Lt Phil Mobbs, who has continued to liaise with the Association in fielding and dealing with queries and ongoing interest in the Hawker Memorial.

Item 8/2012 Future Distribution of Newsletter & Information

Discussion of this item was prompted by the perceived need to prune expenditure from the Association budget against the background of a declining net balance and a steep rise in postage costs earlier this year. By switching to predominantly electronic distribution of materials, and levying a small charge on those Members who require hard copies, the Association Fund will be able to save a significant sum each year in printing and postage costs, which are disproportionately large for a small organisation like ours. The Committee's proposal to implement this change was extensively discussed and unanimously approved under **Items 5.1 & 5.2/2012** above.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Association currently has about 230 Members. About 150 of these have access to email; about 80 Members have not declared an email address. The Committee's target is to introduce electronic distribution of the Newsletter/Magazine and other materials to as many Members as possible. The concept was proved by uploading all the items that went out by post this summer onto a link on the **Blog Book**.

<http://the24sec.wordpress.com/2012/07/29/e-reunion-pack-for-the-6th-october-2012/>

The Secretary undertook to send - with the hard copy of these Minutes – a note to all remaining “non-email” Members outlining this situation, with options either to pay a subscription (see **Item 5.2** above) or submit a suitable email address. [He suggested that Members might choose a web-based email account like “Hotmail” or “Gmail” that are not dependant on any individual ISP

and do not need to be changed if switching one's broadband provider such as BT or Tiscali.]

Action on Secretary

Item 9/2012 Association Necktie

The move to place an order for a bespoke XXIV Sqn Association Zig Zag Necktie has moved a step closer. The Secretary said that he currently has firm orders for 20 ties [see list and posting on Blog Book] but would welcome any additional interest! The firm "Brannie Ties" has supplied a generic sample and has quoted around 8 weeks from receipt of a sample design to delivery. But they require a minimum order for £350 worth of ties, to be paid in advance. As the Fund itself is unable to under-write this £350, the meeting agreed that an order cannot be placed unless and until at least £300 has been received by the Treasurer in advance payments from Members who wish to purchase ties. The Deputy Chairman kindly offered to personally under-write the balance of £50 to allow the Secretary to place a firm order for £350 worth of ties once the Treasurer has received £300.

Action – Secretary to re-promote prior to order & liaise with Treasurer.

Item 10/2012 Adoption of Revised Constitution

The Chairman reported that (in consultation with the President and other members of the Committee) he had recently produced a comprehensive draft Constitution to replace the previous version of the Association's Constitution which dated from 1986. The revised version reflects current Association practice (for example, use of electronic communication) and up-dates our procedures for management of the Fund. The draft was posted on our Blog Book site several weeks ago and a link sent by email inviting Members to comment. No comments were received regarding its substantive content but one Member observed that it might be difficult to produce an Interim Financial Statement dated 30 Sep each year on those occasions when an AGM is held on 1 Oct. However, the Treasurer did not foresee any problem with this because he can easily predict the balance on 30 Sep - since, in practice, he actually produces this Interim Statement about a week beforehand.

Before inviting views from the floor, the Chairman said that the Committee had discussed the new Constitution at their meeting immediately prior to the AGM. During that discussion, they had re-considered the need for the Association Fund to have a formal annual audit, as provided for in the draft document. In view of the relatively small size of the Fund, the Committee had concluded that it was NOT necessary to have such an audit. Instead, the Treasurer had proposed a formula of verification used by comparable organisations whereby our Statements of Account would henceforth simply be "verified" by either the President or Treasurer, employing and signing the following form of words:

"The Association keeps financial records in a way which properly records the Association's income and expenditure and dealings with its assets and liabilities." Signed & dated by President or Treasurer.

The Chairman said that, by adopting this sensible formula, the Fund would no longer need to pay fees to an external auditor or book-keeper.

The AGM unanimously voted to accept that the revised draft Constitution be adopted forthwith, subject only to deletion of the requirement for audit and its substitution by the verification formula given above.

Action – Chairman to amend draft & Secretary to post final on-line

Item 11/2012 Annual Election of Officers

As per **Item 5** the Chairman invited the AGM to formally elect Roger Hale to the post of Treasurer. Roger had been provisionally appointed to that position by the President and Committee in June 2012. The AGM unanimously endorsed this appointment.

All other members of the existing Committee confirmed that they were willing to serve another term but, as required by the Constitution, were required to offer themselves for re-election.

It was proposed by Brian Cowin and seconded by Ivor Burns that the existing Committee be re-elected for a further year. This proposal was unanimously endorsed by the AGM.

Accordingly, the Committee structure for 2012/13 is:

Chairman	Keith Chapman	Deputy Chairman	Sam Wright
Treasurer	Roger Hale	Secretary	David Burgin

Item 12/2012 Future Association Events including Venues & Dates

The Chairman confirmed that the Association would continue with the tried and tested format whereby the reunion programme takes place on the first Saturday in October, subject to availability of the Officers' Mess at Brize Norton. Members would continue to meet informally, if they so wished, in a local pub or hotel on the Friday evening of the reunion weekend.

Looking ahead to 2013, the AGM agreed the following dates and venues:

Item 12a/2012 - Summer Social & Lunch 2013

Wednesday 5 June 2013. Pre-lunch drinks at the home of Richard and Jackie Gould at Sunningwell (near Abingdon) followed by an informal lunch at The Greyhound, Besselsleigh, Abingdon, Oxford OX13 5PX, Tel 01865 862110.

**Action on Richard Gould to confirm & book lunch venue
Members attending to notify Secretary by 29 May 13**

Full details and logistics will be posted on-line in due course but are summarised below for those without Internet access.

SUMMER SOCIAL INVITATION

Richard & Jackie Gould cordially invite members and guests of XXIV Squadron Association to join them for drinks at their home, 2 Bullsmead, Sunningwell, Abingdon, Oxon, OX13 6RL at 11:45 on **Wednesday 5 June 2013** prior to lunch at The Greyhound, Besselsleigh, Abingdon OX13 5PX

A menu for lunch will be circulated in advance so that attendees can choose their meals before the day. Lunch will begin at about 13:00 hours. Please park at the Sunningwell village hall, which is opposite the church (there will be limited parking available at the house for anyone with mobility problems - please advise in advance).

Travel Directions – Sunningwell is North of Abingdon and Southwest of Oxford, near the A34 Hinksey Hill Interchange. The Greyhound is about 4 miles away on the A420, to the West of Oxford. Maps will be provided nearer the time.

Timings: Arrive 2 Bullsmead from 11:45 onwards for pre-lunch drinks.

Costs: Lunch is expected to cost around £20 per head for two courses, and payment will be by cheque, payable to the Association, to accompany your order. There will be a cash bar during the meal for personal drinks.

Post Lunch: Free to tour local area.

Item 12b/2012 - Reunion weekend 2013

Friday 4 October 2013 - Evening casual “meet and greet” at the Bay Tree Inn in Sheep Street, Burford, OX18 4QA. There is plenty of space in The Woolsack Bar.

Saturday 5 October 2013 - AGM, Reunion lunch, informal afternoon programme & Ladies’ Guest Night (19.00 for 19.30 hrs) in Officers’ Mess, RAF Brize Norton

Action on Deputy Chairman & Secretary to book Mess

The Deputy Chairman kindly agreed once again to liaise with the Mess Manager, arrange suitable and affordable music for the dinner, organise coach transfers and hotel discounts and coordinate with Sqn Liaison regarding Point of Entry and Security Passes. **After note:** the Deputy Chairman has made a firm booking for the Officers’ Mess for our Ladies Guest Night on 5 Oct 13.

Action on Deputy Chairman

Special request to Members! Please ensure that your chosen hotel is clearly annotated on the Attendance Form, as this will be your pick-up point for the evening coach transfer to Brize. The plan is for one coach to pick up Members and Guests in Witney, Burford and Brize Norton village as per 2012. At the

end of the evening, the coach will follow the same route in reverse, departing the Officers' Mess at midnight. Full details will be published in the Reunion pack, which will be distributed either electronically or in hard copy (see **Items 5.1 & 5.2**) by the Secretary in July 2013.

Item 13/2012 President's Remarks

Our President, Air Cdre Richard Gould, congratulated and thanked the Committee for successfully meeting the various challenges that had arisen during the past year. The Association was in good shape and in capable hands. The various social events, including the Reunion weekend, had been well supported and highly successful. He also thanked Keith Rayner for his work as Treasurer and strong support over the last 20 years or more, especially during periods when the Association was not as popular and buoyant as it is today.

Item 14/2012 Any Other Business

Item 14.1 – Absent members. The Deputy Chairman suggested that the meeting should spare a special thought for those Members who could not be present at this year's Reunion due to family and personal health reasons.

Item 14.2 – 100th Anniversary of XXIV Sqn. Ivor Burns re emphasised the importance of this hugely significant event in the Sqn's history, which will occur on 1 September 2015. The Chairman said he expected OC XXIV Sqn to take the lead in organising the celebration of this special event, with the Association providing its usual strong support.

Item 14.3/2012 – Hawker Memorial. Chas Whitaker drew attention to the plan for a group of about 12 Association Members and partners to make an informal visit to the Hawker memorial at Ligny-Thillooy on Remembrance Sunday, 11 November 2012. They will attend the annual ceremony at the village war memorial, adjacent to the Hawker memorial, at 11.00 hrs. With the permission of the Mayor, Sam Wright will pipe a lament and the Chairman will lay a poppy wreath on the Hawker memorial. Members wishing to attend should inform either Chas or the Secretary asap.

Action – Secretary to post details on Blog Book

The meeting closed at 12.20 hrs after covering a great deal of essential business aimed at putting the Association back on track for a long and sound future. Our guests then re-joined members for an excellent briefing by Wg Cdr Tim Jones on Current Ops, after which an informal self-service lunch was served in the dining room.

Secretary's Note: - Anybody with an e-mail address who has not already notified me of that address or who has **changed address** please send a brief message to:- **the24secretary@royalairforce.net** (see also website) to keep membership details up to date.

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

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

and this site; it's the Association Blog Book <http://the24sec.wordpress.com/>

PLEASE NOTE! DATE OF NEXT AGM & 98th ANNIVERSARY REUNION:

SATURDAY 5 OCTOBER 2013. THIS IS CERTAIN TO BE ANOTHER HIGHLY ENJOYABLE OCCASION, WITH COACH TRANSPORT PROVIDED BETWEEN THE “FOUR PILLARS” AT WITNEY & OTHER LOCAL HOTELS AND THE MESS.

THERE WILL AGAIN BE LIVE MUSIC DURING THE MEAL. DRESS CODE FOR DINNER: DJ OR MESS KIT, WITH FORMAL EQUIVALENT FOR LADIES.

YOUR COMMITTEE AND COLLEAGUES LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE FOR OUR THIRD REUNION AT RAF BRIZE NORTON. PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

6 monthly Financial Statement 1 April - 30 Sept 2012

<u>INCOME</u>	£
Refund of bank fees	35,00
Raffle at luncheon	125,00
Refund from Bibury Court	150,00
Members Reunion payment	100,00
TOTAL INCOME	410,00

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£
Cheque accountants fees	60,00
Flowers - luncheon	10,00
Flowers - luncheon	10,00
Printing Association magazine	306,00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	386,00

NET SURPLUS **24,00**

Opening Balance 1 Apr 2012	113,37
Receipts	410,00
TOTAL	523,37
Payments	386
Balance 30 Sept 2012	137,37

MEMBERS FUNDS **£**

Opening Balance 1 Apr 2012	113,37
Surplus	24,00
TOTAL	137,37
Transfer from C & G in June	500,00
Closed C & G account transfer in Aug	606,06
Balance 30 Sept 2012	1243,43

C & G Building Soc Account
1 Apr 2012 - 30 Sep 2012

Opening Balance 1 Apr 2012	1091,46
Interest	14,60
TOTAL	1106,06

Transfer June to Current Account	500,00
Transfer August to Current account	606,06
Balance 30 Sept 2012	0,00

Expected Expenditure

Secretary expenses 2011 - 2012	258.74
Centenary Fund	100,00
CALM ??	97,00
TOTAL	455,74

Estimated Balance Ongoing **787,69**

Centenary Fund Account
1 Apr 2012 - 30 Sept 2012

Opening Balance 1 Apr 2012	728,06
Interest	0,13
Balance 30 Sept 2012	728,19