



# XXIV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION ROYAL AIR FORCE

President: Group Captain Keith Chapman MPhil BA  
Chairman: Sam Wright

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN SERGEANTS MESS, RAF BRIZE NORTON - 12 SEPTEMBER 2015

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

B Barrett, S Batchelor, C Carrington, Mrs L Carter, G Clarke, B Cowin, M Coumbe, M Davis, G Gair, D Goodman, T Gosling, G Harradine, J Harris, P Hoare, W Lowe, J Martin, J McArthur, T Norcross, T Paterson, R Payne, N Thompson, J Sully, C Whitaker. (27 in total)

The Chairman opened the AGM by introducing the Committee to those present and extending a warm welcoming to all Members who had made the journey to this year's Reunion, which coincides with the Squadron's 100<sup>th</sup> Centenary Anniversary. With a tight schedule ahead, the meeting started at 11:00.

### **Item 1.1/2015 Apologies for Absence**

The Secretary had received apologies for absence from the following Members and one donation to the Association Funds.

R Bates, J Davies, C Eames, R Gould, B Hobbs, T Johnson, C Joyner, M Lythgoe, B Meeten, A Pickering, M Stokes, P Tootal, L Warrington. (13 in total) plus non Member Martin Oxborrow, via "Twitter".

### **Item 1.2/2015 In Memoriam**

It was with regret that the Association had learned that two members who had served on XXIV Sqn, had passed away since the 2014 Reunion:

**Members – Ray Barnes**, ex Navigator, RAF Topcliffe and Abingdon, 1951 – 1954, Hastings a/c; involved with but not on the infamous Greenland whiteout incident; **Alan Turner**, ex AQM, RAF Bassingbourn, 1947, York, Lancastrian & York a/c and loyal Association supporter.

Further details can be found on the [Association Blog](#) and in our Issue 22 Newsletter, Page 16. Members stood for a period of reflection and spared a thought for those colleagues.

### **Item 2/2015 Minutes of the previous AGM**

With no observations or comments, the 2014 Minutes were duly accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed by Trevor Paterson; Seconded by Roger Payne; carried unanimously.

### Item 3/2015 Matters Arising

The following actions remained outstanding from the 2014 AGM for the Committee to address:

- Item 4/2012 Volunteers for Talks/Anecdotes – inputs had been received from Brian Cowin who confirmed he is still willing for the next future date. This item would remain open for other volunteers.

**REMAINS OPEN for future events.**

- Item 7.1/2012 - All Members to promote Membership Benefits. A special mention here to Colin Eames who had managed to recruit two new members. [Application forms and details available on line.](#)

**Ongoing for future years.**

- Item 7.3/2012 – Volunteer wanted as Newsletter Editor, along with articles for publication. No nominations yet received and has become critical after Issue 22 (Summer 2015), which is the last to be published by current Editor. Current Chairman, in conjunction with Web Manager aim to publish an equivalent document.

**Action Still Outstanding**

- Item 4/2014 – Chair/Deputy to cross check future Reunion dates with OC XXIV in case of a clash of priorities with Squadron workload.

**Noted & Complete**

- Item 6/2014 – Treasurer to confirm donation of £99 to Squadron nominated charity CALM

**Complete**

- Item 7.1/2014 - Secretary to contact Squadron Adj to check that an Exit procedure is in place to offer serving personnel the option to join the Association on leaving the service or changing posts.

**Adj contacted Dec 2014 & confirmed. Complete**

- Item 8/2014 – Agree date for President/Chairman handover.

**At the Summer Social – Complete**

- Item 9b/2014 – Summer Social final details to be sent to Members.

**Venue change and details sent - Complete**

- Item 9c/2014 – Future Ladies Guest Night – Secretary to arrange for survey for “Off base” venue or Service mess.

**Results 19 For; 6 Against - Complete**

- Item 11/2014 – Upkeep of Hawker Memorial - Chairman to approach Commonwealth War Graves Commission over options available. This was done but in between times, the Mayor of Ligny-Thilloy had the stone refurbished at the Town’s expense.

**Complete**

#### **Item 4/2015 Chairman's Report**

The exchange of posts between President, Chairman and Deputy Chair took place at the Summer Social on the 17<sup>th</sup> June where ex President Dick Gould handed over to Keith Chapman. Sam Wright took over the Chairman's role, leaving Deputy Chair vacant, see Item 8/2015. In the remaining few months no major issues occurred and the main workload had been in working with the Squadron in preparation for the Centenary event.

Lastly, it was an opportune moment to remind Members that a small party would be making, what has now become a permanent diary fixture, namely a visit to Lanhoe Hawkers Memorial and Ligny-Thilloy in France on the 11th of November 2015. [Op Lima Tango] Contact any Committee Member if interested as all are welcome to join the group. Details broadly on the same lines as 2014. [See this link to the BLog.](#)

<https://the24sec.wordpress.com/2014/10/16/hawker-memorial-remembrance-day-ceremony-111114/>

#### **Item 5/2015 Treasurer's Report**

Copies of this years simplified account structure were handed out to Members present, included in these Minutes as [Annex A](#) and B and will also be posted on line. The headline figure is that the Association has total assets of **£2,514.97**, down from £2,730.02 from the previous year. This is comprised of £1,804.13 in the savings account and £710.84 in the current account.

This is considered a healthy enough balance bearing in mind that ALL major commitments have now been paid, i.e. the Centenary Silver Cup and Engraving. The Summer Social and Reunion Lunch, Dinner and Coach was overall expected to be self financing.

A letter had been received from "CALM", in thanks for the annual donation [£99 in 2014] made on behalf of the Members to this worthy designated XXIV Squadron charity. (See also Item 6/2015)

The Association much appreciated the £425 received on a regular basis via Standing Order and the profit from Raffles held at the Summer Socials and Reunions. Details of how to set up a Standing Order can be found on the [Association Blog Book](#).

<https://the24sec.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/20121022-standing-order-proforma-v1.pdf>

Accounts Approved - Proposed Dave Goodwin; Seconded Peter Hoare.

**Item 6/2015 Donation of £100 to XXIV Sqn's designated charity (CALM)**

The AGM approved a donation of £100 to the [Children's Cancer & Leukaemia Movement](#) (CALM), XXIV Squadron's nominated charity. Proposed by Chris Carrington, Seconded by Trevor Paterson, Passed unanimously.

**Action on Treasurer**

**Item 7/2015 Secretary's Report & Update on Membership**

**Item7.1 Membership**

We have had 6 new members join, two of thanks to Colin Eames, and lost 2 members who had passed on. The feeling was that all the information was available via the Web for any ex aircrew or ground crew to join and that a robust process was in place with the Squadron Adj to allow personnel the opportunity to join when retiring from the service or leaving the Squadron.

The Secretary reminded the AGM that Membership Application Forms are available for download from the Association Website:

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

**Item 7.2 Attendance**

The Centenary Dinner was unusual in that it was capped to 50 Association Members inclusive of up to one guest due to a limit on overall Mess numbers. We had to disappoint 10 others because of this limit. This years AGM and Lunch attracted 60 Members and Guests in total, up from 44 in 2014. We await to see if a change of format in 2016 will boost attendance or draw some new faces.

**Item 7.3 Newsletter**

The [Issue 22 Centenary Edition](#) was a 24-page version, available in its original format of colour and black & white on the Web to read or download. A link was sent to all email members to allow them to view this issue and hard copies sent to the four non email Members who pay the £5 per annum subscription for that option.

THE FUTURE – If a new Volunteer Editor can be found before Summer 2016, the Newsletter could continue in a similar format. Failing this, because our [Blog Book](#) is in effect and on line live publication with events published serially throughout the year, this would serve as an equivalent Newsletter. If no volunteer Editor is found, the Chairman and Web Manager will compile an ad hoc Newsheet in lieu.

**Action on All for Articles for Submission & Volunteer Editor**

Note - Newsletter's Issues 5-22 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 Website/Internet**

Our main web site only needs occasional updates as the more dynamic BLog keeps Members informed as the news comes in. See links below:-

Web Site [www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net](http://www.24sqnassociation.royalairforce.net)  
Association Blog <http://the24sec.wordpress.com/>

Members and non-members can sign up to receive automatic updates of news and events as they are posted. We have over 80 followers as our reputation as a good news source grows. Since 2013, we are now linked to a “Twitter” account which has been a rich source of Aviation related news items deemed to be of interest to Members. (see link <https://twitter.com/24SqnAssocSec>). The link between the two has definitely increased traffic to the Association.

Greater reliance on email for all membership contact is working well, allowing the Secretary to confirm Reunion bookings and receipt of cheques, along with the ability to send bulk reminders.

**Note to Members** - it is now more important than ever to notify the Secretary of any changes to your email address, to ensure that you remain in touch. [One or two were caught out this year and missed out on the Centenary Updates.]

#### **Item 7.5 – 2014 Summer Social**

Held on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at The Pear Tree at Purton and it proved to be as popular as ever with the private dining room up to capacity. It was an opportunity to meet the new OC XXIV, W/C Daz Rawlins, to hear a farewell speech from previous Association President, Dick Gould, have a close look at the Centenary Silver Cup and have the offer of a Guided Walk around nearby RAF Blakehill by Dr. Nick Yerbury.

The Summer Social remains a firm favourite with Members, see Item 9b below for next years details)

#### **Item 7.6 Sqn Support & Reunion Administration**

Finally, a vote of thanks from the Secretary and Chairman to the Squadron’s liaison team who were under a lot of pressure with the VVIP Dinner who ensured that the days events went as smoothly as possible.

#### **Item 8/2015 Annual Election of Officers**

The Chairman thanked the outgoing President, Air Cdr Dick Gould, who had held the Association together over the last 10 years through some difficult problems that arose during that period. It is at this point that the current Committee stand down and the posts are offered up for election. This year TWO positions are vacant, that of Deputy Chairman and Secretary.

As no one present at the AGM offered to fill either of the vacant posts, the current Chairman and Treasurer confirmed that they were willing to serve another term and cover the vacant positions as best able.

Accordingly, the Committee structure for 2015/16 is:

**Chairman:** Sam Wright      **Deputy Chairman:** Vacant [Temporary cover]  
**Treasurer:** Roger Hale      **Secretary:** Vacant [Temporary cover]  
**President:** Keith Chapman

Non Committee Post: **Web Manager:** David Burgin

Proposed by Chris Carrington, Seconded Dave Goodman

## **Item 9/2015 Future Association Events**

### **Item 9a – 2016 Reunion & AGM**

A provisional date for the next Association AGM and Reunion was set for the first Saturday in October [1/10/2016] as by convention from many previous Reunions. This would be crossed checked with the Squadron diary and hotel availability for possible conflicts, as per Matters Arising Item 4/2014 and also see Item 9c/2015 below. Post Meeting Note – 8<sup>th</sup> October nearest available date.

### **Item 9b - 2016 Summer Social**

Our usual Summer Social fixture date has normally but not always, been the first Wednesday of June. With no conflicts identified as this stage, the date planned for the next Association Summer Social is **Wednesday the 1st June 2016**.

After a few suggestions, including a visit to the [Brooklands Aviation and Motor Museum](#) in Surrey, [large up front deposit required of £450] or one of the RAF Museums, Cosford or Hendon, a poll of Members favoured a repeat trip to Blockley in the Cotswolds. [Voting - 15 for Blockley, 4 Brooklands, 2 RAF Museum].

Ex Association Chairman, Richard Bates, has made a repeat offer [we had a previously successful visit in 2012] to host pre lunch drinks at his home in Blockley before moving onto The Crown, a short walk away for lunch.

Provisional details below but final, timings, costs and direction to be issued nearer the time.

**Action: The Web Manager will post more details on the Blog and Website in due course. The Secretary will email a reminder to all Members prior to the event.**

### ***SUMMER SOCIAL INVITATION***

Heather and Richard Bates cordially invite members and guests of XXIV Squadron Association to join them for drinks at their home at Milton House, High Street, Blockley, Gloucestershire GL56 9ET at 12 noon on **Wednesday 1<sup>th</sup> June 2016** prior to lunch [at The Crown Inn, High St. Blockley](#), near Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 9EX.

Lunch will commence about 1300 hours. Please park near or at The Crown, in the High Street a short stroll along from Milton House.

**Travel Directions** – Blockley is on the B4479 about 3 miles west of Moreton-in-Marsh, off the A44.

**Timings:** Arrival from 12:00 onwards for pre lunch meet and greet and drinks.

**Finances:** Lunch expected to be around £15/head. Cash bar for drinks and wine for personal purchase. Association Members will be able to pay The Crown individually by cash, cheque or plastic prior to leaving after lunch.

Post Lunch - Free to tour local area. [If you're a veteran motor cycle enthusiast, try the [Watsonian Motorcycle and Sidecar Co](#) in Blockley]

### **Item 9c - Future Ladies Guest Nights. (from 2016)**

Prompted by discussions with 30 and 48 Squadron Associations, it was put to the floor last AGM that consideration should be given to holding a Ladies Guest Night Dinner [LGN] off base, eg Reputable hotel, if this carried sufficient support. A special discount rate on rooms, inclusive of breakfast would be secured as part of the deal and separate from the cost of Dinner.

Consequently, an action was placed on the Secretary [Item 9c/2014] at last years AGM to survey the Members. The results were, 19 in favour of trying out the “Off base” format, 6 to remain at a Service Mess for Dinner. Taking that result as a mandate to progress the idea, the following is proposed.

The broad plan would be to have an optional informal meet up on the Friday evening at the Hotel for those living in the area or staying an extra day. All Members attending the Reunion rendezvous as normal at Brize for the AGM, lunch and daytime programme with the Squadron. Those attending the Ladies Guest Night [LGN] evening dinner would meet back at the nominated hotel. Squadron personnel would also be invited along to the hotel, as per a LGN in a Service Mess. This would save the need for a coach [£300+] and associated logistics and admin.

**ACTION - Chairman to liaise with the [Alexander House Hotel Wroughton](#). More details will be published in due course.**

### **Item 10/2015 Somme & Hawker Centenary 2016**

Early thoughts on this future event appeared to favour the option of combining the Somme event with the Major Hawker Centenary date of the 23rd November 2016. After discussions with the Mayor of Ligny-Thilloy, Dominique Deleplace, now a much honoured part of XXIV Squadron and the Association, it became apparent that a combined ceremony with the much larger scale commemoration planned by the village on **Friday the 11th November 2016** that year was the only sensible solution.

It has been confirmed that serving members of XXIV Squadron will also be present for the event. Being a Friday, it also lends itself to make it a “la pause du weekend”.

**Action – Details to be published Autumn 2016**

### **Item 11/2015 RAF Centenary 1 April 2018**

Chas Whitaker, the Association rep for this item briefed the AGM via our President that little progress has taken place on this major project and hence nothing to report this year.

### **Item 12/2015 President's Remarks**

Our new President was pleased to see quite a few new faces attending this years Reunion and trusted that trend would continue. Keith also asked that the AGM record a vote of thanks for another year of excellent work completed by the Committee.

A special mention to the Chairman for smoothing out the difficulties encountered as a result of the complex Centenary Dinner arrangements, the Treasurer for another set of understandable accounts and the outgoing Secretary, Dave Burgin for 22 continuous years in the post. His good use of modern technology has reduced running costs and brought the Association to the notice of the world wide web.

### **Item 13/2015 Any Other Business**

**Item 13.1 – Raffle Prize Donations.** The Chairman thanked the many Members who had made donations to this year's raffle, with special mention to Colin Joyner for well crafted wooden puzzles. Post Meeting Note:- the AGM raffle raised £187 for Association funds.

**Item 13.2 – Annual subscriptions.** A query was raised by Brian Cowin as to whether the Treasurer thought that annual subscription were needed to bolster funds on top of the income from voluntary donations and raffles. The latest accounts, see Annex A, indicated that would not be necessary under the current forecast, as no more major expenses are planned.



The meeting closed at 12:15 hrs and Members moved back to join family and guests for the presentation of the Silver Cup to OC XXIV. The Wing Commander then proceeded to give a most interesting unscripted briefing on current Squadron operations and plans for the future.

A buffet lunch was served in the Mess Bar and afterwards Members and Guests joined the serving personnel of XXIV Squadron at the Families and Friends event staged around the Squadron HQ and A400M Training facility. Some seats were available for a flight in a C130J around the local and Bristol Channel area.

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**Secretary's Note:** Any Member with an e-mail address who has not already notified the Association of that address or who has **changed address** please send a brief message to:- **the24secretary@royalairforce.net** (also see 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 & SQN 101<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY REUNION:**

**SATURDAY 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016.**

**YOUR COMMITTEE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU FOR OUR SIXTH REUNION AT RAF BRIZE NORTON.**



**Annex B - Balance Sheet 1 Sep 2013 – 31 Aug 2014 - Bank Account Summary**

2014-2915

2013-2914

**TSB**

	Inc	Exp
Balance at 31 Aug 14	£ 2,270.53	
Interest	£ 13.60	
Engraving Silver bowl		£ 480.00
Total	£ 2,284.13	£ 480.00
Balance at 31 Aug 15	£ 1,804.13	

Certified Correct President-24 Sqn Association  
Name K.C.CHAPMAN  
Date

**Cheltenham and Gloucester/TSB**

Inc	
£ 1,515.78	Balance at 31 Aug 13
£ 500.00	Transfer from Current Account
£ 4.75	Interest Jan 2014
£ 2,020.53	Transfer to TSB
£ 250.00	Transfer from current account
£ 2,270.53	Balance at 31 Aug 14

Certified Correct President-24 Sqn Association  
Name RH GOULD Original signed  
Date 25/09/2014

**Centenary Fund**

	Inc	Exp
Balance at 31 Aug 14	£ 932.17	
Deposit	£ 100.00	
Interest	£ 3.56	
B. Douglas Silver Bowl		£ 1,000.00
Totals	£ 1,035.73	£ 1,000.00
Balance at 31 Aug 15	£ 35.73	

Certified Correct President-24 Squadron Association  
Name K.C.CHAPMAN  
Date

**Centenary Fund**

Inc	
£ 828.96	Balance at 31 Aug 13
£ 100.00	Deposit
£ 3.21	Interest
£ 932.17	Balance at 31 Aug 14

Certified Correct President-24 Squadron Association  
Name RH GOULD Original signed  
Date 25/09/2014