

XXIV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

ROYAL AIR FORCE

PRESIDENT:GROUP CAPTAIN KEITH CHAPMAN MPhil.BA

CHAIRMAN:SAM WRIGHT

TREASURER:ROGER HALE

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN 24 SQN. RAF BRIZE NORTON

1ST OCTOBER 2016

Members attending: Messrs. K Chapman (President) Sam Wright, Roger Hale

Lynn Rogers, John Harris, Graham Harradine, Tim Gosling, Chas Whitaker, Dave Burgin, Tony Johnson, Bryan Cowin, Richard Bates, Trevor Paterson, Clive Harley, Mike Davis, Nick Yerbury, Mike Davis, John Sully, Liz Carter, Alan Pickering, Keith Rayner, Bernie Meeten, Chris Carrington.

The Chairman opened the AGM at 1100hrs and introduced the committee.

Item 1.1/2016 Apologies for Absence

Stan Webb, Air Commodore Dick Gould, Bill Lowe, Lionel Warrington, Dom Parkinson, Ron Wright, Colin Eames, Dave Goodman, Ted Le-Count, Roger Payne, Kevin Groves, Mike Lythgo, Duncan Wright, Geoff Davis, Nelson Thompson, Stan Webb. John Martin. Colin Pritchard

Item 1.2 /2016 donations

The Association thank:

Geoff Davis £30

Nelson Thompson £10

Stan Webb £10

Item 1.3/2016 In Memorium

The Association regret the passing of the following members:

02 Jan 2016 F/L Lionel Poll 1944-46 Pilot/Nav. Previously a Pathfinder.

19 Jan. M/Eng Richard Dick Ludford

6 Feb. Air Comm. John Lewis Mitchell LVO DFC AFC 1943-45 Nav

16 Feb. Geoff Corfe Nav 1961-63 Colerne

6 Mar Colin Frederick Townsend Airframe Fitter served Lyn and Muharraq

Members stood for 1 minute in silent tribute

Item 2/2016 Minutes of the previous AGM

The vacant post of Newsletter Editor has not been filled so remains open.

The Minutes were then accepted as a true record and proposed by Trevor Paterson, seconded by Tim Gosling, carried unanimously.

Item 3/2016 Chairmans Report

The Chairman explained that he was unable to continue as Secretary due to other commitments, hence the reason why a volunteer was required to take on the duties.

The question of future dinners in the Messes at Brize Norton was now doubtful after both managers advised that new charges would apply for weekend functions and costings could increase by up to 50% due to civilian labour costs of £30/hour. Furthermore the Officers Mess already had bookings for all of Sep/Oct. 2017. The Sergeants Mess were having the same cost increases. The President and Chairman decided to contact other service messes with a view to using Benson, REME Lyneham and Halton.

Item 4/2016 Treasurers report

The Treasurer handed out the accounts sheet for period 01 September 2015-31st August 2016 and explained the accounts to the members, fielding questions as they arose.

Notable donations by the Association were £500 to the St.Clement Danes stone replacement. This money was very generously donated by members in reply to the Chairmans appeal on behalf of 24 Squadron. The Association charity CALM received £101. The Association was in credit overall by £563. Accounts sheet attached to minutes.

The accounts were approved proposed Tony Johnson, seconded Mike Davis unanimous vote. The CALM donation was proposed by Bryan Cowin, seconded by Chris Carrington, unanimous vote.

Item 5/2016 Secretary's Report & Update on Membership

Item 5.1 Membership

We have three new members but lost 16 as a direct result of them changing email address without informing the secretary. The number with valid emails is 184. Bryan Cowin suggested circulating a list of LOST MEMBERS to see if current members can update the secretary on any of the new emails. This action will be taken to see if any return.

Item 5.2 Attendance

33 members attended the AGM and 37 attended the dinner in the Swindon Hilton. Both events attendance was very low compared to previous years. In particular the dinner was poorly attended with just 35 members and two Officers from the Squadron.

Item 5.3 Presidents appeal for new Secretary and Newsletter Editor

The President appealed to the membership for a volunteer to come forward to take on the secretarial post as it is a huge workload for the chairman, currently trying to do both tasks. Bryan Cowin has agreed to take on the secretary duties after a thorough briefing. David Burgin has agreed to help with the transfer of duties.

Item 5.4 Website and Blog

David Burgin continues to update the website and blog and with only 3 members receiving postal information, the main bulk of communications are now by email. It is very important to advise the secretary if your email changes.

Item 6.1 2016 summer Social

Held on the 1st.June in Blockley hosted by Gp.Capt. and Mrs Bates assisted by our President Gp.Capt. Keith Chapman, followed by lunch in the Crown which was excellent and well attended. The committee are researching venues for 2017 summer lunch and Reunion dinner. A speaker for the next Ladies Guest Night is Colonel Stuart Tootal DSO OBE (Late CO of 3 Para in Helmand) Although the date has not yet been decided the Association are planning for Saturday 7th. September 2017 in a mess.

Item 6.2 Squadron Liaison Team

The chairman thanked the liaison team of S/L David Hogg, Sgt Charlie Llewellyn-Smith and Sgt George Slater for their work on behalf of the Association.

Item 7/2016 Annual Election of Officers

The present committee stood down. All expressed agreement to stand again if no other members volunteered. Existing members were therefore re-elected. Proposed by John Harris, Seconded by Chris Carrington carried by unanimous vote. Expressions of interest noted for Vice Chairman and Secretary were later confirmed and Vice Chairman Trevor Paterson, Secretary Bryan Cowin, both appointed by the Committee. Secretary to receive help from Chairman and David Burgin. The Committee for 2016/2017 is President :Keith Chapman Chairman: Sam Wright Dep. Chairman :Trevor Paterson Treasurer: Roger Hale Secretary: Bryan Cowin Web Manager remains: David Burgin Committee proposed by John Harris and Seconded by Chris Carrington. Voting unanimous.

Item 8/2016 Somme Centenary for Major Hawker VC

Project Officer Chas Whitaker outlined the ceremony planned for the annual visit to Llighny – Thillooy on November 11th. The President is handling the booking of the dinner on the evening of the 11th and Chas is the liaison link for 24 Squadron, 6 Sqn. German Air Force together with the Mayor of L.T. Expected numbers are about 50 subject to review for the official ceremony at the LT war memorial and formal lunch after the service. A 20 Euro/HD fee for lunch will be applied to help offset the costs of the Mayor in providing the meal. OC 24 Sqn. will attempt to have a C130J overfly at 1100hrs, but other flights by the Germans or French are uncertain. Those wishing to join the evening dinner party should contact the President.

F/L Phil Mobbs has obtained a sign that will be erected to explain what this years memorial is about. There followed a lengthy further brief on the 2018 centenary 1st April 2018 which was at Northolt and it was agreed that the event must be inclusive of all trades and must Commemorate, Celebrate and Inspire. It will be launched in the Autumn of 2017 involving all the RAF key charities, with details on the RAF100 website www.raf.mod.uk/raf100. Any questions relating to the Arras celebration or raf100 should be addressed to chaswhitaker@hotmail.co.uk.

Item 9/2016 Presidents Remarks

The President thanked the committee for their years work and David Burgin for his continued work on the website/Blog whilst reminding the members that a volunteer is still required for the newsletter.

Item 10 Any Other Business

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1200hrs.

Information: Thanks to Liz Carter selling raffle tickets the grand sum of £129 is added to the Association accounts, with thanks also those who kindly donated prizes, also thanks to David Burgin who kindly did the note taking for the Secretary.

6/10/2016