

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 20:00 on Wednesday 6th July 2005

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

<u>Members</u>		<u>Associate Members</u>	
Doug Heron	Chairman	Julie Mullis	Publicity Officer
Steve Mullis	Vice Chairman	Marlene Elliott	Social Events Coordinator
Reg Haywood	Secretary/Treasurer	Sandra Martin	Social Events Coordinator
Fred Briggs	Wings Appeal Organiser	Mike Beaumont	Welfare Officer
Iris Dober	Welfare Officer	Alan Gibson	Auditor

1. **Apologies were received from:** - Derek Brown, Catherine Heritage, Mary Shaw

2. **The minutes from the last meeting were read, signed and accepted.**

3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:** -

- 3.1 Ref Item 10.3 Steve Mullis corrected this minute item. It should read, "Do we intend to keep on our books those members who pay RAFA Subscriptions but do not pay Branch Subscriptions. It was agreed that they would be kept on the books but would not receive Branch Newsletter.

4. **Treasurers Report:** -

Balance at 31st May 2005 6829.81€

Money to Bank during June 2005

91.50€ Branch Subscriptions  
23.45€ Membership Renewals  
281.40€ Membership Subscription  
20.00€ Social Income (Boot Sale)  
277.96€ Wings Appeal  
1240.00€ Band Tour Income

Total Income June 2005 1934.31€

Outgoings during June 2005

16.52€ Membership Renewals to CHQ  
130.20€ Membership Subscription to CHQ  
6.31€ Social Expenses (food for VE Night)  
7.89€ Newsletter Web Registration  
12.00€ Photocopying  
29.47€ Postage  
44.00€ Publicity (Ad in Town Crier)  
115.00€ Band Tour Expenses  
11.83€ Conference (Raffle Prize)  
30.50€ Stationery  
128.10€ Welfare Travel Expenses

Total Outgoings during June 2005 531.82€

Balance at 30th June 2005 8232.30€

## Welfare Officers Report: -

### 5.1. Mike Beaumont reported on the following cases

Case MA05 Elderly couple who lost a considerable amount of their income on the collapse of the Stock Market and are left with £3,000 in the UK and live on state pensions only/ They rent their apartment for 320€ per month. They have a daughter in the UK but refuse to involve her in their problems and do not intend even considering a return to UK. They feel they are getting to a stage when they could be in financial difficulties and are afraid of not being able to pay their way. Their apartment is well furnished and well looked after, and they live a comfortable but not extravagant life. Mike explained that there are a lot of people on the coast in their situation. At the moment Mike felt there was no need to intervene but that the situation warranted occasional monitoring. Steve Mullis advised that if they were to ask for financial assistance, then the daughter would have to be involved as part of the solution.

5.2. Case MB05 A couple where the husband is virtually house-bound except when he pays a carer to sit with his wife, who is wheelchair bound. They would like RAFA to help find them two-bedroom accommodation in the UK near to either of their sons, one of whom lives in Grays, Essex and the other near Waltham Abbey, neither of whom are in a position to take them in.

5.3 Case MC05 This case is a Branch member who is receiving long-term radiotherapy treatment and requires transport to and from the clinic, which is located on the far side of Málaga. The treatment is approximately half way through its ten-week term.

:

5.4 Mary Shaw reported via Email on the following cases. Email copied as received

Today I visited RAFABF in London, to have a crash course on basic procedure and general knowledge. They were all absolutely great, helpful and pleasant.

In respect of the case of the couple who will be returning to UK, progress is being made. Accommodation has been tentatively agreed in Clacton it is JUST a case of sorting out a few practicalities. Some financial assistance maybe needed in the short term and I discuss this with the desk officer in principle. Mike and I will resolve outstanding matters later this month. (I hope) We have contact with the family in the UK.

Another couple would like some help with Mobility and possible may be eligible for financial maintained later. Again when I have ascertained certain issues (i.e. OT assessment, insurance, recovery.....) I will liaise with the dept and the couple.

I would like to discuss with the Treasurer(Reg?) I think or is it the Committee so that the appalling situation that arose this year in respect of a grant late payment to a RAF beneficiary was delayed. This is an Annual matter needing a confirmation form completing and forwarding. Until now the RBL have done this and when granted monies are sent to RBL at Pall Mall then sent to RBL District and the appropriate RBL Branch. A recipe for delay. If you are willing I will ensure the paperwork is done and the money could come direct to the RAFA Branch account, then I could ensure that the client gets it. I reckon this would be about 3 months quicker if we (RAFA) deal with it direct. Please can I make it clear that it was procedural problems with RBL locally that caused the delay nothing to do with RAFA.

Can I add a personal comment.....I wished I had listened to Steve and Derek before it has been so pleasant dealing with everyone involved in RAFA and the Benevolent dept.

5.5 Reg Haywood reported on a call he had received from the British Consulate regarding a gentleman from Torreguardiario, 84 years old and ex RAF, who asked for someone to help him legalise his English car. Reg Haywood contacted Mike Hamence who offered to contact the gentleman. Awaiting feedback.

## 6. Wings Appeal Report: -

6.1 Fred Briggs reported that 75.23€ had been collected during June and that the final figures for the Povey Trophy were very close between two establishments.

6.2 Fred also asked for volunteers to put their names forward for collection at the airport during Battle of Britain week, 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September inclusive.

## **7. Social Events Report: -**

7.1 Marlene Elliott reported that the entertainer for the Battle of Britain Social on 18<sup>th</sup> September would be Siobhan and that she had agreed to reduce her normal price of 150€ to 120€.

7.2 Marlene confirmed that Ian Jacks has been booked to provide the entertainment for the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## **8. Any Other Reports: -**

8.1 Steve Mullis reported that Membership figures currently stand at 81 this after he had removed the 16 non-payers but hoped that 3 or 4 might be recovered from that 16. Steve asked all the committee to make a push for new members to try and break the 100 mark.

## **9. Other Notified Items: -**

None

## **10. Any Other Business: -**

10.1 Reg Haywood reported as follows on progress made towards the visit of the Band of the RAF College:

Things were progressing well apart from the sale of tickets and he urged all Committee Members to take away both tickets and publicity posters and make a positive push to sell tickets. He also issued a number of self adhesive labels to stick on the posters where bars were prepared to sell tickets on our behalf, with an incentive of two free tickets for every twenty sold, or three for thirty etc.

Since the last meeting Reg has made a provisional booking for the Band meal at the Hercules Carvery for 19:30 on the evening of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August. He intended to confirm that booking in the next week.

Reg has also received a copy of the music programme for the evening and he distributed a draft souvenir programme he had designed for approval of the committee. The committee approved the draft and this will go to the Printers in the next week. Provisional price for printing of the programme was 210€ for 1000 copies. It was agreed that these would be distributed free on the night with just a request for a donation.

Reg also reported that he is planning to make a visit to Gibraltar soon to finalise the booking of a coach and truck to transport band and equipment to Benalmádena and back to Gibraltar. He said he anticipated potential problems in making payment for this, as it is likely payment would need to be made in sterling. Steve Mullis suggested contacting Simon Martin to see if we could use funds held in the Branch's Overseas Account.

The Band Sergeant of the College Band, Flt. Sgt. Steve Penny intends to make a visit to Benalmádena on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August to look at the venue, assess progress and iron out any last minute issues.

Reg is also attempting to contact the representative of the Ayuntamiento to arrange a visit to the auditorium for himself, and to arrange for Steve Penny to visit, and also to issue posters and tickets and to check on possible costs.

Reg has also asked Steve Penny if the band can provide both the Branch and the Ayuntamiento a memento of the visit. Steve has promise to provide framed Band photographs to be presented on the evening. Reg also asked the committee if suitable mementoes could be presented from the Branch to the Band and Ayuntamiento in return. He suggested that something better than the plaques currently used and is to investigate the possibility of appropriately inscribed shields.

The band will need copious amounts of water on the night. Steve Mullis agreed to arrange purchase of large quantities of bottled water to be frozen and delivered on the night and offered for sale to the punters, always ensuring that sufficient was available for the band.

We would also need to know beforehand who would be doing what on the evening in terms of checking/selling tickets, selling water, distributing programmes etc. Reg was asked to draw up a list of duties for the evening to be presented at the next committee meeting.

Steve Mullis reported that publicity for the Band concert would be appearing in the local press in the next week and again in the week leading up to the concert. He has also been in contact with various local radio stations and will be arranging an on-line interview with the Director of Music. One or two of the radio stations hopefully will be running a quiz with tickets to the concert as a prize.

Dress code was then discussed for committee members on duty on the evening of the concert. It was agreed that ties for gents was probably not appropriate but smart shirt and long trousers would be suitable. It was also deemed appropriate for committee members to wear some form of identity badge.

Alan Gibson asked if it would be possible to get the event advertised in the Spanish version of the Sur, Steve agreed to investigate this.

10.2 Steve reported that the funds from the Costa del Sol Branch would be available shortly and asked if any of the committee had given any thought as to how the funds could be used, within the framework of the terms of the merger. Reg Haywood suggested purchasing one or two wheelchairs as the ones we had were in a pretty bad state. Steve made several suggestions for the committee to consider, the first one being purchase of a large screen TV or a computer system for use in retirement homes where ex-RAF members were resident. He also suggested purchasing trophies for each Overseas Area Branch to be presented to best Associate member each year, and possibly one to be presented at Conference each year. Another possibility floated was the purchase of a timeshare to provide members in need with a holiday each year. Further discussion on these options would continue at next month's committee meeting.

10.3 The Chairman asked if a Visitor's Book could be purchased as several visiting members had asked if one was available. Reg Haywood agreed to look into this.

**11. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 3rd August 2005 at 20:00 in the Galaxy Bar.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:15 hrs.