

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The British Legion Club, Avenida. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 20.00 on Wednesday 31st May 2006

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Steve Mullis	Chairman
Derek Brown	Welfare
Brian Martin	Wings Appeal
Fred Briggs	Vice Chairman
Reg Haywood	Treasurer
Brian Marsh	Secretary

Associate Members

Catherine Heritage	Welfare
Sandra Martin	Social Events Coordinator
Julie Mullis	Social Events Coordinator
Alan Gibson	Auditor

1. **Apologies were received from:** Iris Dober – Welfare
2. **The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman**
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting: -**
 - 3.1. Since the last meeting the Branch Secretary, Mr. Brian Marsh, had tendered his resignation in a letter read to the Committee and kept on file. The Chairman stated that he would be writing to Mr. Marsh to thank him for his efforts whilst he held the position of Hon. Branch Secretary. Due to the contents of the letter of resignation Brian Martin proposed a vote of confidence in the Chair, a vote that proved to be unanimous in favour.
 - 3.2. The Chairman wanted to point out that ever since the formation of the branch, members of committee have been allowed free rein in carrying out their responsibilities, with the backing if committee if needed. All positions on the committee carry a proportion of trust, without which the committee would be unable to work. Permission for every little item is not always required as this can quite often mean the inability to proceed as required. All members must still be aware that their actions are governed by terms of the Royal Charter
4. **Treasurers Report: -**

Balance at April 30th 2006 16588.05€

Income During May 2006

Membership Subscription	49.00€
Branch Subscriptions	15.00€
Social Income	155.00€
Welfare deposit Repaid	10.00€
Welfare Loan Repaid	500.00€
Wings Appeal	38.70€

Total 767.70€

Outgoings during May 2006

Social Expenses	5.00€
Membership Subscriptions to CHQ	28.00€
Welfare 03P Loan from RAFBF for Residential care and flights	4389.22€
Welfare 06C Payment of Qtly Maintenance Grant	669.24€
Welfare 03P Loan from Branch	500.00€
Welfare 06B Purchase of EPV	1270.00€
Welfare Telephone Calls (Fax)	3.40€
Welfare Travel Expenses	301.70€
Bank Commission	1.75€
Postage	21.98€
Stationery	38.98€
Mijas International Day	500.00€

Total 7729.27€

Balance at 31st May 2006 9626.48€

5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

5.1. Derek Brown would like to remind all members that the welfare department is in possession of a personnel DVD player, which is available for hire by branch members at a nominal cost. It is available, free of charge, to any member in hospital. Reg Haywood currently holds this.

Derek Brown suggested that Branch put names forward for the next Welfare Course being held at Sussexdown in September. Both Reg Haywood and Alan Gibson were nominated with their approval.

5.2. Cases Handled

Case 06B - EPV delivered and paid for. Submitted RAFBF claim to help with their mounting daily expenses.

Case 06E - Still getting occasional calls from elderly gentleman saying that he wants to return to England to live in a mental home. Advised him to talk things through with his family. No further calls this week.

Case 06G - Revisited this case & resubmitted application, with supporting documentation for replacement dentures, plus additional funds to cover taxi fares to hospital for ophthalmic appointments. Application approved for 1040€. Will also be submitting further application for replacements when eye condition is resolved.

Case 03P - Gentleman has now returned to South Africa with his daughter and has apparently settled in well. His daughter is seeking Power of Attorney so she can return to Spain for the sale of her father's apartment, which will resolve the outstanding loans made, by the branch and the RAFBF.

Case 06H - Ex RAF – fell off his scooter and suffered broken leg. Currently staying with friend who rang me saying he was worried about his mobility once he had recovered. Hired wheelchair and crutches from RBL and delivered. 15/04/06. Went to collect items and discovered that the gentleman had committed suicide the previous week. Collect crutches but not the wheelchair because of complications. Have arranged for it to be delivered to Reg Haywood.

Case 06I - Gentleman living in Turre, near Mojacar, in need of financial assistance to return to UK and to tide him over till he gets established in England. Visited 1st May and completed application, but held off submitting it while I sought advice on how to proceed from Overseas Welfare Liaison Officer. Advised that RAFBF will not fund repatriation but could help in either Spain or in England. Received a list of Housing Associations/Homes etc, which has been passed on. Nothing further heard.

5.3. Further to last month's request about a division of covering areas between the branches here in Spain. The chairman wishes to state that he met delegates/chairmen from the other branches whilst at the conference and that further discussions were planned. He would report back with details. (*This was not mentioned during the meeting but feel it prudent to advise the committee etc*)

6. Wings Appeal Report: -

6.1. Brian Martin stated that certain amounts had been collected for the Wings Appeal, details of which would be forwarded to the Treasurer. The Chairman requested that a full list of amounts collected since January be forwarded to him for inclusion in the next newsletter, as the start of June was the cut off date for the Povey Trophy.

6.2. Brian Martin commented that as yet he had not received any of the branch surveys back. The Chairman stated that he had only received them just prior to going to Conference and that with the amount of work involved with sending the out to all members they had only just started to being sent out.

6.3. Sandra Martin stated that it was impossible to get the required wording on the plaque for presentation to the airport. She suggested that we purchase two plaques with one written in Spanish and one in English since a larger plaque was not practical. The committee agreed.

6.4. Julie Mullis stated that the end of Wings Week Buffet Bash would be held as usual at the Branch Headquarters, The Galaxy Bar, on Sunday 17th September. Entertainment and other details still needed to be finalized but the venue had been reserved.

7. Social Events Report: -

- 7.1. The Mijas International Day's events are close to being ready. The mural will be ready in time and Julie Mullis stated that most of her helpers had been notified but the loss of the Brian and Carol Marsh's assistance might cause some short-term problems. Even though we had received sponsorship of the stall to the tune of 1,000€, from the Euro Weekly News, Steve Mullis stated that he had noticed a significant rise in prices this year but that he still hoped with the assistance of other generous benefactors to keep any branch costs to a bare minimum.
- Steve Mullis also stated that he had been in contact with lbex Insurance and that the money for the balloon race should by now have been transferred to the branch accounts. Brian Martin assured the Chairman that because of the number of balloons we are letting off and the fact that they will be released individually, permission was not required from Air Traffic Control at Malaga Airport. The Chairman accepted this but stated should there be any comeback then the branch would pay for his bail.
- It was again stressed that Mijas International Day is scheduled for June 10th and a request is made to all members and associate members to put their names forward as volunteers for helping both on and before the day
- 7.2. The Branch Anniversary Dinner is being held on Saturday 3rd June at The Sensara Complex and at this moment in time there are 36 people due to attend including the British Consulate with his wife plus 3 branches of the RBL had been invited and there chairpersons or equivalent will be attending.
- 7.3. Julie Mullis stated that she was having slight problems with the proposed outing to Antequerra Market & the lakes at El Chorro planned for the 4th July. In order to maximize the potential people wanting to do this trip, it was decided to back the booking of a 50-seater coach at a cost of 358€ and that the cost would be 10€ a head. It was stressed that if branch members wanted future outings to be organized then their support is imperative.
- 7.4. Reg Haywood stated that Chameleon's had decided not to put in a price for the Branch Christmas Dinner this year. At this moment in time the only place under consideration is the Moonlight Club in Sunset Beach. Full details plus a menu were expected to be presented at the next committee meeting when a final decision would be made plus consideration would be given to any other venue.
- 7.5. The committee gave Steve Mullis the go ahead to order this year's grand draw raffle tickets.

8. Any Other Reports: -

- 8.1. The plans for the Band Concert are progressing well, Reg Haywood met with Malcolm Goodman of Music Services and confirmed that we have a grant of 2,000 pounds towards the cost of this event. Posters and tickets are about to be printed and publicity for the event starts in June.
- Director of Music and Band Sgt visited 26th May and expressed satisfaction with venue, looking forward to playing there. Some concern with Galaxy bar for meal, thought too small, so will look again at Hercules Carvery, as per last year.
- Estimated costs so far:-1752 for hotel overnight stay + approx 1000, for coach, all covered by grant of £2000 from RAF Music Services Trust. Sponsor covers the cost of printing programs, posters and tickets.
- Posters and tickets will be printed in next couple of weeks ready for distribution. Program to be printed when received the play list from DOM

9. Other Notified Items:-

- 9.1. No notified items.

10. Any Other Business: -

- 10.1. Reg Haywood stated that the RBL had placed a 10€ an hour charge on the use of the meeting rooms which could be offset by the amount of money that went over the bar at a rate of 2 for 1. Due to the advantages of holding detailed discussions on possible personal issues it was decided to continue using the premises for future meetings.
- 10.2. Reg Haywood stated that he would contact Brian Marsh reference the work he was doing/having done concerning the changing of the branches charity status.
- 10.3. The Chairman announced that he was proud and humbled to announce that he had been approached to run for the vice chairmanship of the European Area next May and asked what the opinion of the committee was to this. Due to the main benefit of improved exposure for the branch plus an extra voice on the European Area it was decided that the branch would make the proposal depending on various questions as to cost to branch etc that the chairman stated he would find out prior to the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting:- Wednesday 5th July 2006, at 20.00, The British Legion Club, Benalmádena

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50 hrs