

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 6th December 2006

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

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

Associate Members

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|--------------|---------------------------|
| Julie Mullis | Social Events Coordinator |
| Alan Gibson | Auditor |

1. **Apologies were received from:** Corrine Mudie, Catherine Heritage
2. **The minutes from the last meeting were signed and accepted with the addition of a decimal point in the accounting section.**
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting: -**
 - 3.1. None.
4. **Treasurers Report: -**

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| Balance at 30th Oct 2006 | <u>9,794.76€</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------|

Income During November 2006

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Membership Subscriptions | 79.10€ |
| Wings Appeal Airport | 1,057.99€ |
| Wings Appeal Year-round | 32.42€ |
| Branch Overseas Account | 59.50€ |

Outgoings during November 2006

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|-------------------------|---------|
| Social – Wings Social | 11.44€ |
| Photocopying | 14.85€ |
| Postage | 21.05€ |
| RAFA Conference | 309.95€ |
| Welfare Travel | 30.10€ |
| Welfare Telephone Calls | 5.86€ |
| Welfare Grant Payment | 669.24€ |
| Membership Subs to CHQ | 59.50€ |

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|-------|------------------|
| Total | <u>1,229.01€</u> |
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|-------|-----------------|
| Total | <u>1121.99€</u> |
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|--------------------------|------------------|
| Balance at 30th Nov 2006 | <u>9,901.81€</u> |
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5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

5.1. Cases Handled - Welfare Report October 2006 to Committee Wednesday 6th December

Case 06L - Still awaiting feedback from Overseas Welfare Officer.

Case 06M - Is now waiting to sell her apartment before making a move.

Case 06N - Called again but she is awaiting documentation from a Care Home in UK.

Case 06O - No contact made.

Case 06Q - Gentleman in Miraflores area who is terminally ill. His wife had been caring for him but she fell and broke her leg, necessitating employment of domiciliary care, 3 hours per day at 11€ per hour. Visited to complete Request for Financial Assistance and sent to RAFBF. Received subsequent call asking if I could find a care home for him for a week. Got him booked into Sanyres last Monday.

Case 06R - Lady in Torremolinos who had recently moved there from rented accommodation in Fuengirola after she had been burgled and received a letter from her landlord informing her that the rent was to be increased considerably and she had a month to decide what to do. There was no current contract and he did not issue receipts for rental payments. She made the decision to move and after several unsuccessful attempts to contact the landlord, who didn't seem to want to talk to her, she sent him the apartment keys with a letter and moved to her current apartment. Sometime later she received a phone call from her previous landlord to say she owed him lots of money and she had a week to pay or she would suffer the consequences. We advised her to contact a lawyer and lodge these details with him and seek his advice, and also to be aware of her own personal safety.

Case 06G - This is a reprise of an earlier case, where Coin RBL got involved and passed it back to us. The gentleman, who lives in the campo north of Cartama got into all sorts of problems, where he took on a Sky package and the company, instead of taking out just the 30 plus euros per month were taking over 140 euros from his debit card. The only way to stop this was to cancel the card and order a new one. Since he had no money and no way of getting any we took him to Malaga to collect his new card and to Cartama later to collect his PIN No. He then had problems with his pump water breaking down and his water being cut off. Arranged an interpreter to talk to the Community President to find out why they cut off his water. Seems he owed 8 months Community Charge although he believed this had been sorted in September with the intervention of Coin RBL. Derek and I also visited him in the interim and completed an Application for Financial Assistance. We are advancing him 200€ as a loan against either the application or subsequent Equity Release, which he has applied for.

5.2. The Chairman wanted it noted his appreciation of the hard and often un-noted work that the Welfare team do. It seems that general assumption by many is that all they do is form filling, but the wealth of their knowledge of the social system here and in the UIK allows them to advise the various claimants in what often are very difficult times. We as a branch should be pleased that we have this dedicated team working on our behalf.

6. Wings Appeal Report: -

6.1. Brian Martin requested that the branch use a bank transfer system rather than getting a cheque issued when sending money back to CHQ for the Wings Appeal etc. It was agreed this would be done.

6.2. An updated table for the Povey Trophy was handed in for inclusion in the next newsletter.

7. Social Events Report: -

- 7.1. Julie Mullis reported that the Remembrance Day Evening meal was a great success and hopefully it would turn in to an annual event. It was pointed out that it might be better to hold it as a lunch rather than an evening event. The logistics of the work that is done at the church after the Remembrance Service would cause problems with this but it was a point worth noting and possibly the new committee would work to those ends.
- 7.2. Julie expressed great disappointment at the ticket sales for this weeks' Branch Christmas Dinner. It was noted that branch members would be out-numbered by non-members this year. It would be the first year that the dinner itself would lose money on the event, though thankfully the continued success of the Xmas Draw etc would ensure that the branches whole Christmas period would end up in a positive mode monetary wise. Various committee members expressed their disappoint with the choice of venue but it was pointed out by the Chairman that it had been a committee decision to hold the event there despite there being a suitable but more expensive venue on the coast. It seems that unless transport is put on door to door and everyone can order what they want at no cost there is sometimes no way our members will turn up to events. Brian Martin suggested that a more up market event during the summer might be the way forward, whilst Reg Haywood noted that the only events that seem to be a success were those that had a buffet, entertainment at very low cost. We as a branch are competing with numerous social clubs on the coastal area. It is certainly the major challenge for any incoming committee.

8. Any Other Reports: -

- 8.1. There were no other reports

9. Other Notified Items:-

- 9.1. No notified items.

10. Any Other Business: -

- 10.1. Brian Martin brought to the attention of the committee of the willingness of TAPAS, the Alhaurin association, of sharing information to members of our events with a reciprocal agreement. The Chairman was more than happy to include this information in the Newsletter and on our web site of this and any other association with the same reciprocal agreement.

11. Date of Next Meeting:- Wednesday 3rd January 2007, at 20.00, The British Legion Club, Benalmádena

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.55 hrs