

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The British Legion Club, Avenida de Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 20.00 on Wednesday 7th March 2007

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Fred Briggs	Vice Chairman
Reg Haywood	Treasurer
Corinne Mudie	Vice Chairman
Steve Mullis	Chairman
Derek Brown	Welfare
Cedric Sayce	Public Relations
Brian Martin	Wings Appeal

Associate Members

Patrick Sweeney	Social Events Coordinator
Alan Gibson	Auditor

1. **Apologies were received from:** Catherine Heritage
2. **The minutes from the last meeting were signed and accepted.**
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:** -

3.1. None.

4. Treasurers Report: -

Balance at 31st Jan 2007 10,413.24€

Income During February 2007

Branch Subscriptions	180.00€
Branch Trading Income	46.00€
Donation	30.00€
Membership Renewals	142.10€
Membership Subscriptions	32.90€
Social	202.00€
Wings Appeal	72.89€
Branch Overseas Account	59.43€
Welfare Payment	2430.44€

Total 4,195.76€

Outgoings during February 2007

Membership Renewals to CHQ	102.90€
Membership Subs to CHQ	20.58€
RAFA Conference	346.39€
Stationary	4.35€
Welfare	430.41€
Bank Commission	1.75€

Total 906.38€

Balance at 28th February 2007 13,702.62€

Mr Reg Haywood, the Hon Treasurer, stated that if required he could supply a more detailed breakdown of the monthly expenditure to individuals on request.

The position on the change in charity status was brought up again and Reg explained the reason for the slow progress. Once again the Secretary suggested that contact be made with Mr Bruce McIntyre who had recently worked on the charity status of St. Georges Chapel. The Secretary was requested to also contact the Costa Blanca Branch to see whether it was possible to pick their brains on this delicate subject. It was also suggested to look into the viability of having one registered charity number, similar to the RBL but without the need of having a District Committee like the RBL.

Mr Brian Martin raised the question of the cost of flights to Conference for the Branch Delegate, and whether the cheapest method had been found. Various route suggestions were made but the delegate stated that he had spent many hours sorting out his method of travel to coincide with his own work commitments and ensuring that the cheapest plus most efficient method of travel was

utilised within these boundaries. He pointed it out that over the years many nights had been spent at airports to ensure that the cheap early flights were caught, for which the branch receives the majority of the money back from RAFA without extra nights being spent in hotels for which the branch pays. Indeed in most years because the branch had won various trophies, no charge was made for accommodation etc, however this year we have won nothing.

5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

- 5.1. The welfare team attended four cases since the last committee meeting.
- 5.2. A renewed maintenance grant was approved and received for one case.
- 5.3. An extra electric mobility scooter was issued on loan to an existing case.
- 5.4. Arrangements to meet with the British consul regarding consolidation of welfare resources in the region are progressing. We plan to include representatives of the Spanish Red Cross, Age Concern, commercial organisations offering home care, and other related resources.
- 5.5. The Welfare team have agreed to nominate Corinne Mudie from our care team, to the Branch Committee, to attend the first RAFA HWO conference planned for Oct 12/13th in Birmingham as a representative of our branch. The committee agreed to this proposal.

Mr Brian Martin raised the possible benefits of closer contacts with Age Concern (Spain) and it was pointed out by Mr Derek Brown that all these sort of things were being dealt with under item 4 of the welfare report. It was also noted that there are strong links through RAFA and Age Concern in the UK.

6. Wings Appeal Report: -

- 6.1. Mr. Brian Martin apologized for his absence from last month's meeting.
He stated that he would like to pass on his thanks to Mr. Mike Durrant for taking on the responsibility of the collection and upkeep of more than a dozen Wings Appeal collection tins, which should help ensure a more regular income from this source.
With reference to the new Wings Appeal Trophy, Mr. Cedric Sayce reported on the problems he was having with reference to the scaling on the trophy he had envisaged. After an interesting discussion it was proposed by Brian Martin and seconded by Corinne Mudie that the current proposal could be easily split into two separate trophies. This was proposal accepted by the committee.

7. Social Events Report: -

- 7.1. From Mr. Patrick Sweeney
Thanks to all who attended the Valentines bash and our thanks for raffle and money donations that raised over 200euros to the branch funds. We had 45 members and friends attend and all had a good time, although we would have liked to have seen more of you there.
We had our first lunch club walk on the 22nd February and we had five people join us but as we did not get the newsletter to you until after the event it is difficult to blame members for not turning up, still yet again we enjoyed the day.
It was noted here by the editor that the newsletter was posted to members on the 18th February and sent to the web master prior to that date. It was also pointed out that there were members of the committee who failed month after month to read the newsletter so one didn't hold out much hope for the members reading it.

8. Any Other Reports: -

- 8.1. Reg Haywood reported that he had received a request from RAF Music Services to share cost of coach from Torrevejea. He stated he was awaiting details of possible cost.
He also stated that he was also awaiting feedback from RAFMS on details of programme prior to finalising details for tickets and posters.
- 8.2. Steve Mullis stated that he and Patrick Sweeney had attended the first meeting at Mijas Town Hall with regards to this year's Mijas International Day being held on Saturday 9th June. As in previous

years he stated, that he and Julie Mullis were working on this years format and any changes that they felt would keep the branches stall looking fresh and new. A very lively discussion followed where it was pointed out that the committee should oversee all changes etc. Steve Mullis pointed out in response that the branch committee had always backed all committee members, irrespective of what area, in the tasks, which they had taken on without the need to report back on every item on an event. This method had always worked in previous years in allowing planning to proceed without valuable time being lost in reporting back to the committee every month, apart from with a progress update. He also pointed out that it had been agreed at the previous meeting that he and Julie would be organizing this year's event with Patrick Sweeney assisting in order to gain experience for future years. The fact that Patrick would be away for more than a month prior to the event also meant that his input this year could only be minimal in any planning.

The discussion ended with Steve Mullis stating that he would have a report available for the next meeting with their plans for this year's event.

9. Other Notified Items: -

9.1. No notified items.

10. Any Other Business: -

10.1. There was no other business.

11. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 4th April 2007, at 20.00, The British Legion Club, Benalmádena

Meeting closed at 21.25 hrs