

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 20.10 on Wednesday 4th April 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

Alan Gibson Auditor

1. **Apologies were received from:** Patrick Sweeney
2. **The minutes from the last meeting were signed and accepted.**
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:** -
 - 3.1. The Secretary reported that he would chase up the e-mail he had sent to the Costa Blanca North Branch with reference to the charity status of the branch.

4. Treasurers Report: -

Balance at 28th Feb 2007 13,702.62€

Income During March 2007

Branch Subscriptions	99.84€
Membership Renewals	19.60€
Social	43.00€
Wings Appeal	173.62€

Outgoings during March 2007

Membership Renewals to CHQ	13.44€
RAFA Conference	275.72€
Stationary	42.85€
Welfare Expenses	272.67€
Welfare Payments	1,355.00€
Bank Commission	9.25€
Social	20.00€
Annual Audit	15.00€
Branch Overseas Account	36.19€
Photocopying	21.00€
Postage	37.30€
Miscellaneous	4.93€

Total 336.06€

Total 2,103.35€

Balance at 31st March 2007 11,935.33€

5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

- 5.1. The welfare team attended four cases since the last meeting.
- 5.2. Approval of three aid grants was received from the RAF Benevolent Fund.
- 5.3. Liaison was established with RAFA Gibraltar on welfare matters, who will handle cases south of the Estepona area from now on, our contact there is Mike Hammence, HWO designate, phone 952890333
- 5.4. We have prepared an introductory news brief on who we are and what we do, for the branch newsletter, and will prepare follow ups from time to time.

- 5.5. The meeting with the British consul, Bruce McIntyre, on establishing a welfare resources database for the region will be scheduled for second half may provisionally. This meeting can also cover the proposal for a respite home in the region, possibly in co-operation with SANYRES.
- 5.6. A meeting with appropriate RBL welfare contacts to improve communication/liaison between our welfare teams and theirs would be mutually beneficial; we will leave our chairman/secretary to pursue this.

6. **Wings Appeal Report: -**

- 6.1. Brian Martin presented the updated Wings Appeal Chart for this year to the Committee, and he stated that though the money collected might seem on the low side we were in fact in front of the money collected to the same date last year. He did ask for any suggestions from the committee and members of different ways of boosting our collection to the Wings Appeal. The table appears in this month's newsletter.
Cedric Sayce reported on the progress, or the seemingly lack of it, reference the new Wings Appeal Trophies. Despite now being in disagreement with the American & Spanish Postal systems and the company supplying various parts for the trophies he felt that eventually everything would come together possibly under the original budget.

7. **Social Events Report: -**

- 7.1. Unfortunately Patrick Sweeney was absent from the meeting and there was therefore no direct report. However a letter from him does appear in the current newsletter and items have been added to the events calendar.
It was suggested that it might be prudent, in future, to ensure that when committee members are going to be away for a fair while that other members of the committee cover their jobs.

8. **Any Other Reports: -**

- 8.1. Central Band visit report for Committee Meeting 4/4/7
Received a request from the RAF Music Engagements Coordinator, Chief Tech Steve McGuinness, for the Branch to consider sharing the cost of a coach from Gibraltar to Torrevieja and return to Málaga for the Band Concert organised by the Costa Blanca Branch. An estimate from Paco Pepe Coaches for this is 2000€.
Also, in accordance with the terms of a Category 2 visit by the Band, it is believed that there would be an additional cost of meals and subsistence for the Band on the journey to Torrevieja and subsequent return to Málaga, amounting to another 2000€, although this additional cost has yet to be verified with the Engagements Coordinator. So we would be faced with an additional bill for, at best 1000€ or, at worst, 2000€ on top of our own projected costs approaching 6000€. And this just to get the Band to Torrevieja and back.
After consulting with the Committee I have emailed Bryan Hewett of the Costa Blanca Branch, copied to Steve McGuinness, explaining that there is no way the Branch can take on these extra costs.
Have received publicity material from the Central Band to be passed on to the Ayuntamiento for inclusion in their Summer Music Festival brochure. Watch this space. Further publicity is on its way for use in publicity posters and programmes. Brian Martin has agreed to help design these with me. I will be meeting with the management of Sanyres Retirement Home in the near future to discuss the possibility of sponsorship.
- 8.2. Steve Mullis gave the committee the promised update on the preparations for this year's Mijas International Day. This year the branch would be returning to previous year's format of not having a sponsor for the stall but to be looking to various local businesses for a small donation towards our cause. There also would not be the balloon race this year as it is felt that further planning needs to be done to ensure that this kind of event would be a major success.
He requested that the branch purchase polo shirts, t-shirts and RAFA key rings for sale at this and future events. Examples of these items and pricing were given and the committee agreed with the purchase.

He further stated that the standard final meeting with organisers of the event is due to be held on Tuesday 10th April. The staffing on the stall will be organised by Julie Mullis as will the decision on what food items would be sold on the day. Members should contact Julie to put themselves forward as helpers on the day.

9. Other Notified Items: -

9.1. No notified items.

10. Any Other Business: -

10.1. It was proposed by Brian Martin and seconded by Corinne Mudie that the branch holds a Summer Ball and Anniversary Dinner this year on the 30th June. The committee accepted this.

A discussion then followed on the merits of two different venues and it was decided to hold the event at the Solandalusi complex in Alhaurin de la Torre. Details of this event appear in this month's newsletter.

11. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 2nd May 2007, at 20.00, The British Legion Club, Benalmádena

Meeting closed at 21.40 hrs