

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 14.00 on Wednesday 24th January 2007

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Reg Haywood
Steve Mullis
Doug Heron
Brian Martin
Fred Briggs
Ann Mitchell
Derek Brown
Cedric Sayce
Jack Crossland
Corrine Mudie
Colin Wilson

Associate Members

Julie Mullis
Sandra Martin
Barbara Briggs
Alan Gibson
Patrick Sweeney
Charles Mitchell

Guests

Steve Briggs
Wendy Sweeney

1. **Apologies were received from:** Bill Dixon QGM, Marie Morgan, Catherine Heritage, Raymond Heritage, Edmund Malcolm, Jim Hamilton, Bob Spencer, Shirley Hills, David Hills, Brian McNab
2. **The meeting was declared open** and the Chairman, Mr Steve Mullis, chaired the meeting
3. **The minutes of the 2006 AGM were read and accepted**, proposed by Reg Haywood and seconded by Fred Briggs.
4. **The outgoing Chairman** voiced his disappointment at the very low attendance at this year's AGM and the fact that this seemed to be an ongoing attitude within the branch and unfortunately the Association in general. He noted that in order for the Association to stand a chance of continuing in anything like its present set up the current membership needed to wake up to the fact that just paying ones membership each year was just not enough. The Association membership of around 100,000 sounded fine until one remembered that there are currently **1 MILLION** people qualified to join as full members and it takes the current membership to seek these people out and get them to join the Association and, more importantly, become active members. On a positive note, the outgoing Chairman stated that he was proud to have served the branch as Chairman three times but hoped that he would not be required to take up the mantle the fourth time. He stated that he felt that the branch overall had the capabilities of becoming a major welfare and social force here on the coast if only the members would make that little extra effort to support the excellent work done by the committee. One area that the Chairman was pleased about was the increase in the amount of Welfare cases that the branches welfare team had dealt with in the past year as against the first year of branches existence when we had just 3 cases all year. As a final note the outgoing Chairman wished his successor every success and hoped that the branch would continue to prosper and grow, he pledge his ongoing support to the new committee.
5. **The Annual Statement of Accounts** and the Auditors report were presented by Mr Reg Haywood; a copy of the statement of Accounts is in the next newsletter and kept on file by the Secretary.

The Auditors Report was as follows:

Fellow members, once again I am pleased to report that the Branch remains on a sound financial footing. You should all have a copy of the 2006 balance sheet and I'd just like to go through a few of the more significant items. As you can see we ended 2006 with a sum in excess of 15,500€ in hand, which is over 3,000€ up on last year. Membership Subscription (that's new members) in 2006 was considerably down on 2005, while Membership Renewals remains steady, suggesting that we are retaining the members we have, but that the recruitment of new members is falling.

Branch Subscriptions, the money that helps run the Branch on a daily basis, remains about the same as the previous year and is still thankfully keeping pace with expenditure.

If we now take into account all the social events held over the last year, including the Band Concert and Mijas International Day, we raised in excess of 15,000€, while expenses incurred in all these events being just over 8,600€, giving us an income of some 6,400€.

Wings Appeal this year raised 5,667€ at the Airport and 1,130€ collected throughout the year in the various bars and other establishments, and of course proceeds from the Band Concert enabled us to add another 1,300€ to our Wings Appeal total. This last figure could have been considerably higher but for an unforeseen last minute expense. Our contribution to Wings Appeal in 2006 was 7,650€

One other notable and really heart-warming increase is that of Welfare spend, the majority of which came from the RAF Benevolent Fund in the form of grants for our Welfare clients. I am sure this is one item that will continue to increase year on year as we get more and more calls for help from the RAF community here in Spain.

Finally I would like to add my personal thanks to Alan Gibson for diligently inspecting the accounts and hope that he may continue to do so for many years.

Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes the Treasurers report for 2006.

6. The Election of Officers and Committee Members was held.

The committee for 2007 is as follows: -

President.....**Walter Harley OBE** Not required for re-election

Vice President.....**Bill Dixon QGM**

Proposed Derek Brown, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously

Chairman.....**Fred Briggs**

Proposed Brian Martin, Seconded Alan Gibson, Carried Unanimously

Vice Chairperson.....**Corrine Mudie**

Proposed Steve Mullis, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously

Secretary.....**Steve Mullis**

Proposed Jack Crossland, Seconded Julie Mullis, Carried Unanimously

Treasurer.....**Reg Haywood**

Proposed Patrick Marrinan, Seconded Steve Mullis, Carried Unanimously

Welfare Officer.....**Derek Brown**

Proposed Reg Haywood, Seconded Steve Mullis, Carried Unanimously

Social Events Coordinator.....**Patrick Sweeney**

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Brian Martin, Carried Unanimously

Wings Appeal Organisers.....**Brian Martin**

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Steve Mullis, Carried Unanimously

Public Relations Office.....**No nomination therefore Position Unfilled**

7. The Election for the Annual & Area Conference delegate was held and the position for the forth coming year will be held by **Mr Steve Mullis**

Proposed Julie Mullis, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously

8. The position of Branch Auditor is held by **Mr Alan Gibson** for the fourth year.

Proposed Derek Brown, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously

9. Resolutions for discussion

- 9.1. Proposed by the Hon Treasurer, Mr Reg Haywood, seconded by the outgoing Chairman, Mr Steve Mullis, that the branch annual subscription of 15euro per members stays unchanged for the year 2007.
Carried Unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 14.30 hrs

The raffle today raised 46€

The date for next years AGM would be decided by the branch committee and notified in the committee minutes

The next Committee meeting would be held on Wednesday 7th February 2007 at RBL Headquarters, Avda Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel at 20.00hrs. This will be a committee only meeting.