

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida de Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel on 3rd November 2008 at 12.30 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Bill Dixon QGM	Vice President
Fred Briggs	Chairman
Corinne Mudie	Vice Chairman
Reg Haywood	Treasurer
Cedric Sayce	Public Relations
Derek Brown	Welfare Officer
Doug Heron	Wings Appeal Coordinator
Jack Griggs	Secretary

Associate Members

Gloria Haywood	Social Events Coordinator
Sandra Martin	Social Events Coordinator

The Committee are pleased that Bill Dixon is able to attend this meeting.

1. Apologies

1.1. Apologies were received from: Steve Mullis and Alan Gibson.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.

2.1. The minutes from the October meeting were accepted and signed.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting: -

3.1. Item 7.1. Fred's invitations to Guests of Honour for Christmas Dinner Dance. Fred is still awaiting a reply from the Consulate, and Cedric has invited a couple from the Costa del Sol News who will attend with a photographer. **Action Completed.**

3.2. Item 9.1. Remembrance Sunday Arrangements. **Actioned, See discussion in Item 9.1 below.**

4. Treasurer's Report to Committee Meeting Monday 3rd November 2008

Balance at 30th September 2008 32,240.13€

Money to Bank to 31st October 2008

Social	328.50€
Wings Appeal Airport	1619.21€
Wings Appeal Year Round	40.25€

Total 1,987.96€

Outgoings to 31st October 2008

Welfare Payments	5,893.70€
Bank Commission	2.72€
Social Expenses	120.00€
Welfare Expenses	127.00€
Travel	34.00€

Total 6,177.42€

Balance at 31st October 2008 28,050.67€

5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

5.1. One new case being dealt with.

5.2. One existing case repatriated to U.K.

5.3. Donna Wilson, RBL Country Officer, is compiling a data base of all wheelchairs etc. available for loan from all local RBL branches with hire costs where applicable.

5.4. The kilometre travel allowance for journeys on welfare business has been revised with immediate effect from 50 centimos per km. to 40 centimos per km.

6. **Wings Appeal Report:** -
 - 6.1. So far this year we have collected €2782.25 which is down on last year. Doug thanked all those who collected at the airport and elsewhere. He said that we need a big re-think in the New Year to find ways to bring in more money. Any further money collected must be with Reg by next week for inclusion in this year's total.
7. **Social Events Report:** -
 - 7.1. The Christmas Dinner Dance tickets are selling OK. Thought should be given to next year's events for discussion at the next meeting. It was agreed to have a Valentines Social evening similar to the Wings Social which was a success, the date to be agreed with the Galaxy Bar.
 - 7.2. More prizes are required for the Christmas Draw; anyone with a suitable prize should e-mail Sandra with details. Doug/Sandra will contact EDP for possible wine donation.
8. **Secretary's Report:** -
 - 8.1. A number of documents have been received from UKHQ. Those of special interest or requiring action have been forwarded to the appropriate Committee members for attention. The Website has been returned to its previous layout which is easier to navigate round. We need to get pictures etc of the Committee added with some limited personal information. It was agreed that the Christmas Dinner would be suitable for photos. This is anticipating that everyone is willing to be photographed and intends to continue next year (please).
9. **Other Notified Items:** -
 - 9.1. Remembrance Sunday. The final arrangements were discussed. Steve has the organisation under control and has sent in the detailed running order. All please take note of the precise timings. All Committee members attending are requested to be at the Church no later than 0945hrs. The TAPAS is under control with Sandra listing all the donated food and wine. Gloria will purchase 6 more bottles of red wine which, with existing stock, should be sufficient. It was suggested that the RAFA Banner or Flag should be prominent.
 - 9.2. **Charity Status and follow up actions.** The appropriate forms have now been signed and submitted. Hopefully soon these will be approved.
 - 9.3. **Boot/Table Sale 28th February 2009.** This was agreed to be a mix of "Boot Sale" for our Branch and "Table Sale" where table space is sold to others wishing to sell items. Full details to be discussed at the next meeting including advertising.
 - 9.4. **ID Badges.** These will be ready for the Remembrance Parade.
 - 9.5. **AGM. Officer Nominations.** All were reminded that Nomination and acceptance procedures have to be followed even if willing to continue in office. Nomination and acceptance forms will be produced for the December meeting and Newsletter. Jack to action.
 - 9.6. **President / Vice-President.** Bill Dixon has said that he would be willing to continue in the role of President, we need to look for a suitable Vice President.
 - 9.7. **Conference Report.** Steve has produced an excellent Report on the European Area Autumn Conference held in Benidorm. This will be reproduced in the Newsletter.

10. **Any Other Business:** -

10.1. Bill updated us all on his activities for the Branch this year. He attended Walters funeral early in the year and accepted the Committee recommendation to act as President for the rest of the year. He has visited Australia and the Far East and he handed over the picture of the Patterson grave to the RAAF (reported separately in the Newsletter). There will be more on this if/when the RAAF trace any surviving relatives. In June he took the Veterans Day Parade in Barrow-in-Furness. He will be going to New Zealand next year and hopes to be able to find out about any NZ Graves in Spain and then repeat the RAAF exercise. He will be unable to attend our Remembrance Parade as he will be at the National Arboretum in UK and will lay a wreath on behalf of the Branch at that occasion. The Branch thanked Bill for everything he has done for us this year and look forward to another production year ahead.

10.2. Reg will be in contact with the RAF at Gibraltar with the view to a visit to the base in the first half of next year.

11. There being no other business, the **meeting closed** at 1400 hours

12. **Date of Next Meeting:** - 1st December 2008 at the Galaxy Bar at 12:30. (Followed by the social gathering)