

Royal Air Forces Association - BRANCH 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida de Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel on Monday 19th January 2009 at 12.30 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Fred Briggs	Chairman
Reg Haywood	Treasurer
Cedric Sayce	Public Relations
Derek Brown	Welfare Officer
Doug Heron	Wings Appeal Coordinator
Jack Griggs	Secretary

Associate Members

Alan Gibson	Auditor
Sandra Martin	Social Events Coordinator
Gloria Haywood	Social Events Coordinator

1. Apologies

1.1. Apologies were received from: Steve Mullis, Corinne Mudie.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.

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

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting: -

3.1. Wings Appeal Trophy presentation to the RIMA Bar, Reg was arranging. Now expected to happen after the AGM on the 26th January.

4. Treasurer's Report to Committee Meeting Monday 19th January 2009

Balance at 30th November 2008 21,940.48€

Money to Bank to 31st December 2008

Social	2015.00€
Branch subscriptions	30.00€
Donation	120.50€
Membership Subscription	22.00€
Welfare Payments In	4,167.81€
Total	<u>6,363.61€</u>

Outgoings to 31st December 2009

Welfare Payments Out	6,919.78€
Bank Commission	17.28€
Postage	24.50€
Welfare Expenses	109.32€
Social	1,274.00€
RAFATrad	78.27€
Total	<u>8,423.15€</u>

Balance at 31st December 2008 19,980.94€

5. Welfare Officer's Report: -

5.1. One grant renewal interview carried out, renewal being processed.

5.2. Ongoing activity to re-house long term case in a Spanish govt. care home.

5.3. Continuing to expedite RBL wheelchairs database via Donna Wilson, RBL country officer, input from branches is very slow in arriving!

5.4. We have located a useful Age Concern contact based in Alhaurin de la Torre, Mrs Louise Fickfinger. Propose we invite her to a future committee meeting, to update us on the new Spanish law of dependency, which is to assist elderly handicapped people and covers all EU citizens. Reg has her contact details.

5.5. Derek will liaise with Donna Wilson to ensure RAFA is included in any future round table discussions on welfare items at the British Consulate, and that talks are not restricted solely to RBL representatives.

5.6. We will arrange a discussion for all welfare team members, tentatively late February/early March, to develop input on welfare training for the proposed agenda item at the European Area RAFA conference this autumn.

6. **Wings Appeal Report:** -
 - 6.1. No activity this month.
7. **Social Events Report:** -
 - 7.1. Christmas Dinner and Draw. Overall a success with the Draw selling a record number of tickets and all prizes were donated.
 - 7.2. Boot/Table Sale 28th February 2009. Confirmed to run from 1100hrs to 1400hrs at the Galaxy. Calling all for sale items. If sufficient good items then a Tombola will be run.
 - 7.3. Valentines Social 14th February. Tickets now available from Sandra. Social committee to organise the buffet supper. Supper will be by ticket only.
 - 7.4. Summer ball (?). It was agreed to investigate 2 possible venues for a function in June, and report back at the March Committee meeting. Derek is looking at the El Paraiso(?) near Mijas and Cedric is checking out the Sol Andalucía Resort, which we have used before.
8. **Secretary's Report:** -
 - 8.1. Nominations received for all Committee positions now in advance of the AGM. Pleased to report that all current members are standing again for next year. Several papers received from uk and passed to the interested parties for action as necessary.
9. **Other Notified Items:** -
 - 9.1. **Charity Status and follow up actions.** This is still ongoing and is in the hands of the lawyers/Government offices. Reg will contact the lawyers again to hasten up the decision. This is now urgent.
 - 9.2. **AGM. Officer Nominations.** As reported in 8 above, nominations are in for all posts. It was agreed unanimously that we will have 2 Vice-President positions for the next year subject to the result of the voting at the AGM. The position of Membership Secretary was discussed and the Committee decided that it would be better if this post was filled by a local member. To this end Jack agreed to be nominated in the absence of any other volunteer. Jack also said he would examine the Regulations regarding this position before the AGM.
 - 9.3. **Exchange Rates for subscriptions.** This was discussed and it was agreed to set the rate at €1.15 to the GBP from now until a review in April 2009 but this would be kept under close surveillance in view of the current financial situation. Thereafter reviews would be at 3 monthly intervals. The Membership Application Forms should be altered to show the new rate and also be modified to make payment in Euros the preferred method. Jack to advise Steve of these decisions.
 - 9.4. **Welfare Study for the European Area Conference.** A meeting of the Welfare Committee and Branch officers will be arranged for late February/early March to prepare our Branch input to the study being conducted by the North Costa Blanca Branch.
10. **Any Other Business:** -
 - 10.1. Reg advised that he was contacting RAF Music Services with a view to a Summer Concert this year and he is also talking to RAF Gibraltar to arrange a visit to the Station in the next 3 or 4 months.
11. There being no other business, the **meeting closed** at 1345 hours
12. **Date of Next Meeting:** - 16th February 2009 at the Galaxy Bar at 12:30. (Followed by the social gathering)