

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 16th February 2009 at 1230 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

| Members | | Associate Members | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Fred Briggs | Chairman | Alan Gibson | Auditor |
| Reg Haywood | Treasurer | Sandra Martin | Social Events Coordinator |
| Cedric Sayce | Public Relations | Gloria Haywood | Social Events Coordinator |
| Doug Heron | Wings Appeal Coordinator | | |
| Corinne Mudie | Vice-Chairman | | |
| Jack Griggs | Secretary | | |

ITEM

- 1. Apologies.** Apologies were received from: - Steve Mullis, Bill Dixon, and Derek Brown.
- 2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.** Reg raised an observation that there was an error in his last report in that the final balance should read €19880.64 and not €19980.64. The minutes from the November meeting were then accepted and signed.
- 3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:**
 1. Wings Appeal Trophy presentation to the RIMA Bar, Reg arranged for this to happen after the AGM on the 26th January. This happened and the event was reported in the local papers. Action completed.
 2. 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. Action completed.
 3. 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. Ongoing action.
 4. See Social report below.
- 4. Treasurers Report: -**
 1. Reg presented the months accounts and balance sheet for the Committee to examine. There were no observations and the report is filed. The accounts can be examined on request.
- 5. Welfare Officers Report:-**
 1. Reg reported 3 new cases so far this year and these are being dealt with. He also said that the TLC care Agency would be talking to members later today during the social meeting.
- 6. Wings Appeal Report:-**
 1. Doug reported that so far we had received €131.80 from collection boxes.
- 7. Social Events Report:-**
 1. Boot/Table Sale 28th February 2009. We are starting to collect items. We will meet at the Lockup at 1000 on Wednesday 25th to bring the RAFATrading items out, and then meet at the Galaxy at around 1200 to finalise arrangements. Cedric asked if he could pay for a table and donate a percentage of his take as he had items too good to donate totally to us. This was agreed. We will have a table for RAFATrading items.
 2. Valentines Social 14th February. This was a financial success making a profit of €352 plus we took €50 on the Wings Teddy Bear draw. There was a problem with tables and seating as so many people attended, including some off the street. This should be addressed before any future event of this type.
 3. Summer ball . Cedric has checked out a venue in Benalmádena and has discussed the possibility of a function with the manager. This is Finca Los Caballeros. This is a very good venue offering all that we could want except possibly the cost. Cedric will discuss this further with the manager and report back next month when we should also have Dereks report on ValParaiso.
- 8. Secretary's Report:-**
 1. Following the AGM, Jack has amended the Membership Forms to show him as the contact and HQ has been advised of the Committee Members and status. Subscription reminders have been sent to all members. Letters should be sent to all lapsed members to try to bring them back on board.
 2. The Website has been examined and many things need to be updated and corrected. See Item on agenda for this. All Committee Members are reminded of their responsibilities as trustees of a charity.
 3. Jack asked for support of the nomination for Chairman of the European Council by Mr Robert Gauci from the Malta Branch. This was agreed and the nomination will be signed and forwarded.

4. Jack was asked to question the value of the Autumn European Area Conference as the delegates all meet at the Annual Conference in May, especially in the light of the current financial climate. He will pose the question to the Overseas Director by e-Mail. (Post meeting note: This has been done and a reply is awaited)

9. **Other Notified Items:-**

1. **Charity Status and follow up actions.** The Lawyer has reported back that if by the 20th February the Authorities have not replied or rejected the application, then it will be deemed as Registered and then we will apply for the Registration Certificate. Reg is following this up.
2. **Website problems.** Following a request from Cedric to clarify a central contact for all Branch matters it was agreed that a general e-mail address for the secretary would be set up. While looking at the problem it was established that the website e-mail addresses in general are not satisfactory as they can only be used from the website and not individually. Jack agreed to set up an address for the secretary RAFA Benalmadena and advise when this was done and then all Branch general communication should be via that address. Once this is done then we should also look at a similar new address for welfare matters. As is usual when looking at a problem, many others raise their heads and Jack has found about 10 or more that need to be looked at urgently. With all the changes in the Branch organisation recently it is necessary to reflect these on the website. Most of the pages require attention and updating and Jack was actioned to follow these up with Andy Blyth, our Webmaster. A number of fundamental changes are needed including, for example, a formal "Contact Us" form for any enquiry. A list of changes will be sent to Andy for action.

10. **Any Other Business:-**

1. Reg reported that he has been advised by the RAF Music Services that there will not be a Band available for a concert this year. Reg will liase with the Consulate to advise them of the RAF Music Services offer of overseas concert arrangements and provide the necessary contacts.
2. Reg is liasing with F.Sgt. Bill O'Hare of RAF Gibraltar in regard to a visit there later this year. Dates and costs are to be forwarded shortly and then we can arrange the transport etc.
3. The idea for a Branch 2010 Calendar was raised by Dougie and it was agreed that ideas should be presented at the next meeting.
4. Cedric expressed concern that we publish our financial staement monthly on the website for all to see. It was explained that we have to produce a visible accurate statement monthly by the rules. However it was agreed that Jack would see how other Branches operate and follow suit if necessary. **(Post meeting Note. A check of other branches websites has shown that neither the Costa Blanca or North Costa Blanca Branches publush actual figures, nor Committee meeting minutes either. We should still publish the minutes but I will alter the way we present the Treasurers Report to leave out actual figures and say that these are available on request, see above for this month.)**

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

Date Of Next Meeting:- 16th March 2009 at the Galaxy Bar at 1230 hours. (Followed by the social gathering)