

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 20th April 2009 at 1230 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Fred Briggs	Chairman
Reg Haywood	Treasurer
Doug Heron	Wings Appeal Coordinator
Corinne Mudie	Vice-Chairman
Derek Brown	Welfare Officer
Cedric Sayce	Publicity Officer

Associate Members

Sandra Martin	Social Events Coordinator
Gloria Haywood	Social Events Coordinator

ITEM

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from: - Steve Mullis, Bill Dixon, Jack Griggs and Alan Gibson

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes from the March meeting were accepted and signed.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

1. Ongoing Action for Welfare team to prepare an input on Welfare training and problems for the European Area Conference report being prepared by the Costa Blanca Branch. Following a brief discussion, Derek agreed to produce a short report on our views to be passed to the Secretary for onward transmission. See Welfare Report below.
2. Website problems. Progress. (Jack is meeting Andy Blyth out here in May to work on the Website layout and content face-to-face)
3. Social Matters to be discussed under Social report.
4. Fred's pictures for the Newsletter, Steve to respond. Fred has received a response. Item now closed.

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. 3 cases dealt with since last meeting
2. Grants paid to three ongoing cases.
3. RAFA were invited as guests to the recent Age Care Association AGM. The meeting was most interesting, and there are many areas where we can utilise their resources and vice versa. Their current chairman Charles Betty welcomes enhanced co-operation between our organisations. Age Care have now opened a charity shop in Calahonda, operating daily. The new British Consul Steve Jones attended the meeting, and advised that a two-day conference of regional welfare organisations is planned for later this year to which RAFA Benalmádena and other branches will be invited.
4. Regarding the RAFA European area autumn conference welfare initiative, we wish to state that our prime concerns are the deficiencies in content of RAFA UK HWO training courses, which are mainly directed to UK situations and welfare resources. We would strongly recommend that a RAFA UK welfare training representative visits selected RAFA branches in Europe to assess and understand their specific needs before any further UK courses are arranged. Such a representative would also find it most useful to attend the conference being organised by the new British Consul.

6. Wings Appeal Report:-

1. Doug reported that in March we had received 146.47€ from collection boxes, and that the running total so far this year is 382.83€.

7. Social Events Report:-

1. The Easter Social held on 12th April raised a total of 130.00€, a reasonable outcome considering only 26 people attended.
2. The Summer Ball scheduled for Friday 26th June will be held at Restaurante Val Paraiso. Tickets are costed at 30€. Reg is produce tickets for the event. Posters for the event have been distributed.
3. It was agreed that the cost for the Gibraltar trip would remain the same for members and non-members.
4. Derek suggested that for a future monthly social he has some RAF related DVD's that could be screened in the Galaxy Bar.

8. Secretary's Report:-

There has been some activity from HQ this month as the Annual Conference is looming. Draft resolutions have been distributed to the Committee for comment so that we can advise Steve which way to vote, or if he is to listen and vote accordingly at the conference. Voting forms have been received this week for elections to the Central Council and this is being dealt with. I have to send off a Branch Report in the next 2 weeks for presentation at Conference, I hope to have done this before I go to UK. I have been working with Steve on Draft Resolutions for the European Autumn conference concerning the Area Council membership and terms of office. There is a similar resolution at the May conference being tabled by the Huntingdon Branch for the Central Council. To stand a chance of getting the resolutions through it is best that Steve primes the Area delegates at the May conference to sound out opinion and support for the proposals. When he returns from the Conference we should be able to put to the Committee our ideas and then have Resolutions put on the Autumn Conference Agenda. The aim of the proposals are to get new blood on the Area Council, stop the present practice of "certain names" always occupying prime positions, and the introduction of 2 new Council Members representing Associate and Full members. The Central Council will probably introduce a position for an Associate member at this years conference. (At present Associates cannot be Council members)

Following a request from Cedric, I have ordered a signed copy of the Tornado/Spitfire print and some posters of the same, from HQ. The signed print will cost about GBP 20 which will be taken from our overseas account. So far no news of delivery.

9. Other Notified Items:-

1. **Charity Status and follow up actions.** Reg has again contacted the lawyers to expedite our registration

10. Any Other Business:-

1. Jack asked if we could consider a Branch subscription moratorium for those who were still RAFA members but had slipped the Branch subs for a year or so. This may bring a few members back. (these are 4 year members or life members). The Committee discussed and agreed to this proposal.
2. Jack advised that he will not be at the next meeting due to a UK visit.

There being no other business, meeting closed at 1345 hours.

Date Of Next Meeting:- 18th May 2009 at the Galaxy Bar at 1230 hours. (Followed by the social gathering)

Diary Dates

Saturday 2nd May Boot/Table Sale at The Galaxy Bar, 1100 to 1400 hours.

Monday 18th May Committee Meeting and Social Gathering, 1230 and 1400 hours resp.

Thursday 21st May RAF Gibraltar visit. €25 pp from Reg asap.

Monday 15th June Committee Meeting and Social Gathering, 1230 and 1400 hours resp.

Friday 26th June Summer Ball at Valparaiso Mijas Costa. Details to follow.