

Royal Air Forces Association – Benalmádena Branch 1357

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avenida de Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel on Monday 7th September 2009 at 1230 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Bill Dixon	President
Fred Briggs	Chairman
Corinne Mudie	Vice-Chairman
Reg Haywood	Hon. Treasurer
Doug Heron	V-President and Wings App.
Derek Brown	HWO
Cedric Sayce	Public Relations
Jack Griggs	Hon. Secretary

Associate Members

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

ITEM

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from: - Steve Mullis.

1.a. The Chairman welcomed our President, Bill Dixon, to the meeting and offered him the Chair, which was declined. Bill donated a new set of Table Flags for use at meetings and functions.

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

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

1. Lapsed members. Jack to follow up the Committee agreement to waive back subs. **Ongoing Action.**
2. UK Remembrance Gardens, 28 September and 5 November 2009. Bill will be attending the 28th September Ceremony. It was agreed that we would purchase a Badge Cross for the 5th November Westminster Gardens Ceremony, Jack to arrange this. (Cross ordered, Bill will plant it at Westminster on his way to Gatwick en-route our Remembrance Sunday Parade). **Ongoing Action.**
3. Charity Status and follow up actions. Charity Status now approved by the Spanish Authorities. Reg is to be thanked for his tenacity in following this through. We are now to set up the correct bank accounts in accordance with the RAFA Rules. These will now be set up in October, after Wings Week and at the end of a Quarter. **Reg to Action. Ongoing.**
4. Wings Week. Airport Passes have been applied for. Doug to chase these up. Doug also to speak to the Iceland manager with the view to having a collection point there for the week. Some problem with contacting both the Consulate and Iceland. Probably have to leave Iceland for next year. **Post meeting note:- Airport passes obtained but 3 days late. Strong effort required to catch up. Actions Complete.**
5. Remembrance Parade 2009. Arrangements now well in hand with Steve. Bill will lay the RAAF Wreath which he has given to Reg to complete the Inserts. Gloria and Sandra will arrange the food and wine as before but this year it is suggested that we make a charge rather than have donations. The RAAF would like photographs of Bill laying the wreath. Citations etc as last year. **Ongoing Action.**
6. Shirt Logos. Jack to follow up getting an embroidery file of our logo so that we can produce some quality garments for sale. Nothing to report at the moment. **Ongoing Action.**
7. Website Notice Board items. Steve has asked that we hold this idea for the moment. **Actions Closed.**
8. Welfare items from AiD. Reg has purchased the wheelchair. **Action Completed.**
9. Conference Resolutions. Ongoing actions with Jack and Steve. Formal reply received from UK to our proposed Resolutions. The Area Council have agreed to propose 2 Resolutions with this Branch seconding them. 3 others we have decided to put forward as we have a lot of support from other Branches. We have agreed to put our Welfare Resolutions on hold pending the publication of the European Area Welfare Paper. To keep thing moving on the Welfare front we have submitted a Resolution to initiate a Welfare Training Study as a matter of some urgency. Final actions have been completed to meet the closing date. Conference presentation notes are now being prepared. **Ongoing Action with Jack and Steve.**
10. War graves Commission. Jack has written to them seeking advice and permission to place a plaque in the Malaga plot. The CWGC has declined permission to place a plaque on the graves but will make a final ruling when they visit the site in September. Jack and Reg will be meeting the CWGC Spain Manager on the 16th September at the English Cemetery. There may be further news about the situation concerning a new found grave at Huelva and the possibility of a Headstone Laying Ceremony later this year. **Ongoing Action.**

4. Treasurers Report: -

Reg presented the June and July accounts and balance sheets 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. No new cases since previous report.
2. One of our cases is returning to the U.K. next month, we will arrange transfer of welfare coverage accordingly.
3. The welfare team will attend the Welfare Forum organised via the U.K. Consulate on Sep 16th in Malaga and we will brief the Oct committee meeting on the outcome. Derek to chase up Corinne's invitation.
4. Our 2008 Annual Welfare activities report to the AWO remains outstanding. Derek will endeavour to complete it by the October Committee meeting. (Post meeting note:- Report for 2008 sent to UK, now await 2009 edition)

6. Wings Appeal Report:-

See 3.4 above for actions.

7. Social Events Report:-

1. Arrangements in Hand for the Wings Week Social, with Corinne supplying the Buffet. General push for ticket sales.
2. Future events were discussed and, subject to confirmation and venue in some cases, the following are being arranged.
 - a. Christmas Dinner at the Chameleon – 12th December 2009 to be confirmed.
 - b. Christmas Raffle at the Galaxy – 16th December 2009.
 - c. Summer Ball – 26th June 2010 (Venue tba)
 - d. Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary 15th September 2010 (venue tba)
 - e. Burns Night 25th January 2010 (venue tba)
 - f. Valentines Social at Galaxy (date to be confirmed)
 - g. Easter Function tba.

8. Secretary's Report:-

1. There has been quite a lot of activity with HQ concerning our Resolutions to Conference and we have received a formal response from Simon Martin the Overseas Director. We seem to have stirred up a hornets' nest but we are receiving considerable support from other European Branches. The Website continues to be updated and is looking very good now.

9. Other Notified Items:-

1. 2010 Diaries and 2009 Christmas Cards. It was agreed that we would order 25 2010 diaries and 2 packs of Christmas Cards. Jack and Reg to action.

10. Any Other Business:-

1. Reg said that there are still a few places available on the Gib Concert trip.
2. Bill has given a pair of Slazenger Watches for the Christmas Raffle, and Derek has donated a Canon Photo Printer.

The meeting closed at 1410 hours.

Date Of Next Meeting:- 19th October 2009 at the Galaxy Bar at 1230 hours. (Followed by the social gathering)

Diary Dates

Saturday 19th September, Wings Week Social Evening. Galaxy Bar 2000, Entertainer and Buffet and Raffle, cost €7.50.

Sunday 20th September, RAF Band concert in Gibraltar, details of bus, times and costs asap.

Monday 21st September, Galaxy Bar. Social Gathering at 1400.

Monday 19th October, Galaxy Bar, Committee meeting and Social Gathering 1230 and 1400 respectively.