

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 19th October 2009 at 1230 hrs.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

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
Alan Gibson	Auditor

ITEM

1. Apologies. Apologies were received from: - Steve Mullis, Bill Dixon and Gloria Haywood (working)

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

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

1. Lapsed members. Jack to follow up the Committee agreement to waive previous years Branch Subs. It was agreed that we will ask only for the next year's Branch Subs so long as the person remains a RAFA member. **Ongoing Action.**
2. UK Remembrance Gardens, 28 September and 5 November 2009. Bill attended the 28th September Ceremony, and is attending the Westminster Garden Ceremony on 5th November en-route to Spain for our Parade. Bill will be bringing photos of the events when he attends our Remembrance Parade. **Ongoing Action.**
3. Charity Status and follow up actions. Bank accounts were set up today to conform with RAFA Regulations. Signatories established in the correct way. **Action Completed**
4. Wings Week. See report below.
5. Remembrance Parade 2009. **Arrangements in hand with Steve. Gloria, Sandra and Reg arranging TAPAS and cups for drinks. Corinne is preparing the food with a budget of €200 and Reg is to obtain the wine (42 bottles), cartons of orange and apple juice, and 100 small bottles of water. Signs to be produced by Jack showing the €5 charge for the TAPAS. Derek will speak to Rosela at the church for them to supply extra food for 50 people and Sandra the same for the Torremolinos RBL. 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. Conference Resolutions. Resolutions presented to Conference by Steve on behalf of the Branch. His report will explain the results. 3 Resolutions were successful and 3 failed. Post meeting, Jack has e-mailed HQ commenting on the resolution results and asking to see the Welfare Paper. **Action Complete.**
8. War graves Commission. Jack, Reg and Derek met with the CWGC in Malaga and had confirmation that we cannot put anything on the grave plot. We could however have a plaque made to CWGC standards, but this may be expensive and beyond Branch means. **Action Completed**
9. 2010 Diaries and 2009 Christmas Cards. Diaries have been ordered but not the Cards as the minimum quantity was twice the number we require. **Action Completed.**

4. Treasurers Report: -

Reg presented the 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. Three cases dealt with since last meeting
2. One client repatriated to residential home in Northern Ireland
3. Responded to RAFA Gibraltar proposal that RAFA branches locally should provide a contribution to winter heating costs for welfare cases they deal with, from branch finances. This was not approved by our branch, each case should be reviewed individually and if justified, BENFUND would be approached to provide funds.

4. Derek, HWO, is proposing to nominate Reg Haywood and Corinne Mudie to attend a level two Case Worker RAFA Welfare Workers course in the UK from 11th to 13th June 2010, applications to be in by May 2010

6. Wings Appeal Report:-

1. This month the sum is €1476.40 with €1295 coming from the Airport Collection. This is a very disappointing result for the airport and next year we need to get organised very much earlier and we urgently need more collectors. This year a large percentage of the take was collected by just one or two people, and we also had collectors who are NOT members. In the words of school reports..."must do better".
2. **For Steve. Please put a letter of thanks to the airport collectors in the next Newsletter.**

7. Social Events Report:-

1. Christmas Dinner at the Chameleon – 12th December 2009 confirmed. **It is necessary to pre-order the food from the menu when the ticket is sold.** This will allow printing of place names with the order on them as last year. Fred to invite the British Consul plus one as our GoH. **Fred to Action. (post meeting note:- Our President has just told me that he will be attending – Jack)**
2. Christmas Raffle at the Galaxy – 16th December 2009. More Raffle prizes wanted, e-mail Sandra with what you have or can arrange. Food arrangements to be discussed at the next meeting. **Ongoing Action**
3. Summer Ball – 26th June 2010 (Venue tba)
4. Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary 15th September 2010 (venue tba)
5. Burns Night 25th January 2010 (venue tba)
6. Valentines Social at Galaxy (date to be confirmed)
7. Easter Function tba.
8. Table Sale Dates. Arranged **for Saturday 28th November.** Posters circulated and put on the Website.
9. Possible Trolley Dash at Iceland. Derek will speak to Iceland. **Ongoing Action Derek.**

8. Secretary's Report:-

There has been some discussion with HQ in connection with the Autumn Conference. Our Resolutions are going ahead, hopefully with good support from other Branches. Steve will report on the voting results as soon as he can. Otherwise a quiet month except for Branch work in getting ready for renewals etc..

9. Other Notified Items:-

1. Social Meeting Program for the next few months. Sandra was asked to produce a programme of event for the Social Meeting each month. We can then advertise what is going on and push for better attendance. **Sandra to action**
2. Exchange rate. This was set at €1.10/GBP for immediate effect. Revised Membership Application Forms have been distributed and should be used from now.

10. Any Other Business:-

1. Alan reported that RBL Benalmadena were running a coach to the Remembrance Parade. and was concerned that they may wish to lay a wreath. Steve rang the RBL and in fact there is no worry, the coach is the Torremolinos one just picking up in Benalmadena.
2. Peter Griggs asked through his brother Jack, to record a very big "Thank You" to the Welfare team and the Branch for the loan of the electric buggy. Both he and his wife Pauline have said that it has transformed their lives over here now that Peter can get around much easier. Another success for the Welfare Team in helping a RAFA member.

The meeting closed at 1410 hours.

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

Diary Dates as last month but the Christmas Dinner Dance and Draw dates are confirmed, and the Table Sale is now on 28th November.