

Royal Air Forces Association – Benalmádena Branch 1357

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held at The Galaxy Bar, Bonanza Avda., Arroyo de la Miel, on Monday 15th March 2010 at 1230 hours.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Fred Briggs Chairman
Corinne Mudie Vice-Chairman
Jack Griggs Hon. Secretary
Reg Haywood Hon. Treasurer
Doug Heron V-President and Social Events
Derek Brown HWO

Associate Members

Sandra Martin Social Events Coordinator
Helen Buchan Social Events Coordinator
Alan Gibson Auditor

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from: - Bill Dixon.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes from the February 2010 meeting were accepted and signed.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

1. **Publicity and Iceland.** Derek is awaiting response to his e-mail to Iceland. **Ongoing Action.**
2. **Teddies for raffles.** 10 ordered and received.

4. Treasurers Report: -

Reg presented the February 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 welfare cases dealt with since last meeting. I sadly report the death of one of these cases. We are assisting his widow with miscellaneous legal matters.
2. Welfare Training Courses. Reg Haywood has been nominated for a Level 1 refresher course from Aug.25 to 27 inclusive. Corrine Mudie's Level 2 Case Worker Course is on hold as we must arrange for her to attend a Level 1 Refresher course prior to attending such a course.
3. A new dementia treatment day centre has been opened by the Government Health Authorities in Fuengirola. I intend to arrange a visit for myself and other members of the Welfare Team to meet and familiarise ourselves with the staff there.
4. Following complaints by members of the congregation of St. George's Church Malaga after the Remembrance Day Service last year that the practice of charging for refreshments following the service had embarrassed and distressed some of the poorer members of the congregation (Nigerians). The committee has agreed that in future RAFA may not provide any refreshments following the service. See also AOB below.

6. Wings Appeal Report:-

Reg reported 94.67€ from tins this month. The presentation of the Wings Trophy for last year to the Rima Bar is to be arranged. Jack and Reg to liaise and arrange.

7. Social Events Report:-

1. The **Monthly social** arrangements are ongoing. Today it is the turn of The Leeds Building Society who may give a few surprises.
2. **70th Anniversary Battle of Britain Gala function.** It was unanimously agreed that this should be arranged for Saturday 11th September at Sol Andalusi Resort, Alhaurin de la Torre. **Fred to confirm the date with the Resort and is to arrange an on-site meeting with the manager. (Post meeting note:- Date confirmed and meeting arranged for 30th March at 4pm at the Resort)**
4. **Table Sale** 1st May at the Galaxy. Items required please.
5. **Easter Social.** Final arrangements made for the social on Saturday 3rd April at the Galaxy. Price 7.50€ includes buffet supper and entertainment by Karl Knight. Posters printed and distributed. Further push for ticket sales suggested. **Jack to e-mail everyone and more posters to be distributed.**
6. **St Georges Day 23rd April.** Reg and Jack attended a meeting with the Benalmadena Council Foreigners department who are promoting the event this year. We will have a stand at the event where we can raffle things, make collections and sell our RAFA items. This is a great opportunity to publicise who and what we are and perhaps pick up a few new members. Final details at the next meeting or sooner once we have been told the exact time etc.. **Reg and Jack to keep in touch with the organisers.**

8. Secretary's Report:-

A few subs in but many still to come. A list will be sent out to chase up everyone. Fred and I attended the Consulate to hear the announcement on the property situation and the appointment of a Spanish Civil Servant to the Consulate to advise on property law and health and Social Security matters. I have reported on the website. I have tried to get a link on the Consulate website home page to our website only to be told that only "Partners", eg the RBL, can be put there confirming yet again how we are considered. We are on an inside page however which is a start. I have written to HQ to ask the official position of RAFA as regards being a "Partner" and suggesting that HQ contacts the British Consular Services to see if an arrangement can be made and the advantages it would bring to all overseas Branches. No reply yet. (Post meeting note: We are now listed under "See Also" on the Malaga Consulate Website)

9. Other Notified Items: -

1. Vacancies on the Committee. The Wings Coordinators' post remains empty and will be covered by Reg, Fred and Jack until another volunteer arrives.
2. Steve Mullis has offered to cover the Publicity officer vacancy left by Cedric Sayce's resignation. This was discussed in detail and, while we are grateful for the offer, it was considered that his distant location makes this impractical at the present time. It was proposed by Derek Brown that we reluctantly reject the offer and continue the search for a more local member to fill this position. The subject is to be constantly under review. This was carried unanimously. **Jack is to e-mail Steve to let him know of the decision.**

10. Any Other Business:-

Derek asked that we minute the unhappiness of St Georges Church at the charging for "tapas" after the Remembrance Sunday service. The Church appreciated the donation but believed that some of the congregation could not afford to pay and were discriminated against, albeit unintentionally. They were prepared to forego the donation to keep everyone happy. This will obviously be discussed again, and maybe it should be supplied on a "donations" basis this year. It was considered that as a small organisation we could not supply the food and wine for nothing.

The meeting closed at 1335 hours.

Date of Next Meeting: - 19th April 2010 at the Galaxy Bar at 1230 hours. (Followed by the social gathering)

Diary of Events

3rd April. Easter Social at the Galaxy at 2000 hrs. Karl Knight. Tickets as usual.

19th April. Committee meeting at 1230 followed by Social meeting at 1400 hrs. Galaxy Bar.

23rd April. St Georges Day celebration in Public Square (opposite the Rima Bar), Arroyo de la Miel in the afternoon. We have a stand there. Music and Entertainment plus raffles etc.(Bingo?)

1st May. Mayday Table Sale at the Galaxy Bar from 1100 hrs.

17th May. Committee meeting at 1230 followed by Social meeting at 1400 hrs. Galaxy Bar.