

Royal Air Forces Association – Benalmádena Branch 1357

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Held at The Galaxy Bar, Avda. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel, on Monday 21st June 2010 at 1230 hours.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Fred Briggs Chairman
Corinne Mudie Vice-Chairman
Reg Haywood Hon. Treasurer
Derek Brown HWO
Jack Griggs Hon. Secretary

Associate Members

Sandra Martin Social Events Coordinator
Georgina Young Public Relations

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from: - Bill Dixon, Helen Buchan, Alan Gibson, and Doug Heron.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.

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

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

- 1. Publicity and Vacancies on the Committee.** Georgina Young has volunteered to become the Branch Public Relations Officer. Reg Proposed and Corinne Seconded that Georgina should be co-opted to the Committee. Carried Unanimously. We all give a very big welcome to Georgina and wish her luck in the post.
- 2. BoB Dinner Dance.** Jack to report on any further progress. Posters have been sent to every member together with the programme. Posters and menus have also sent to all local RBL branches, Social Clubs and The British Society. Tickets are available together with meal order forms for those on the poster as sellers. Accommodation has been arranged for those wishing to stay overnight, at €69 per couple including breakfast. Maybe we should also consider selling through one of the UK shops as well. Actions ongoing.

4. Treasurers Report: -

Reg presented the May 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 were dealt with since the last meeting. Unfortunately, I have to report that one of these cases has since died.
2. Corinne has attended the Case Workers Course - Level 2 in the U.K. from 11th - 13th June and it will be helpful if she could make a short report on the course for the next Committee Meeting. **Action Corinne.**
3. The introductory visit to the Dementia Treatment Centre in Fuengirola will now be scheduled for July at a mutually convenient time and date.
4. At the request of the HWO RAFA Gibraltar, Mike Hamence, we have assisted in transferring the funds for a funeral payment for one of his cases.
5. It was suggested that we should trawl the Branch for Assistants/Helpers who could accompany Welfare Team members on case visits, and possibly also to train them for future Welfare activities. **Action Jack.**

6. Wings Appeal Report:-

1. Reg reported 186.50€ from tins this month.
- 2. Wings Week Collections to be discussed in detail next month. Volunteer collectors will be required. Committee to consider collections at both the Airport and Iceland.**

7. Social Events Report:-

1. The **Monthly social** arrangements are ongoing. Today it is Quiz time.
2. **70th Anniversary Battle of Britain Dinner Dance.** See above in Actions Arising. We agreed to try to find a couple of shop outlets for selling tickets. Perhaps Brit Essentials in Alhaurin el Grande. **Action Jack**
3. Georgina has provisionally offered her garden up for a "Cream Tea" afternoon, possibly on September 20th. All agreed it is a great idea and thanked Georgina for the offer. We will discuss more at next meeting. Meantime, Jack has sent for some extra posters from UK, including "Brew For The Few" which is the banner under which we could run it. **Jack to put on Agenda for next month.**

8. Secretary's Report:-

It has been a busy month sending out many BoB posters etc. I have written to HQ in response to their request to follow up application for RAFA to obtain "Partner" status with Consulates. I have been in touch with Benalmadena, Fuengirola and Mijas foreigners departments and got us on their newsletter distribution, these are now on our Website, and RAFA is on the list of local organisations. I have also contacted the "Connections" magazine with our details etc. A couple more subs in but still a number outstanding and now lapsed.

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. **Conference de-briefing.** Items to be discussed:

a. **Conference Travel Nil Returns.** Bill had to submit his rail tickets as the Conference would not accept a "Nil Return". We may have to submit a resolution allowing this as at present ALL delegates have to submit at least a rail/bus ticket. Surely, as the total travel costs are divided among all branches sending a delegate, then a NIL RETURN must make it cheaper for ALL branches. The present system does not make sense. **Jack to seek advice from HQ.**

b. **HQ** have instructed that we are to resubmit the case and details of "Partnership with British Consular Services" and the Overseas Director is to contact the correct authority to follow it up. The Council were not aware of the implications and want to take it further. Well done Bill. **This has been done and is being progressed with our Overseas Director. Action with Jack**

c. **Welfare returns** were discussed and it may be that we will raise a Resolution to make these compulsory as at present many Branch HWO's do not submit returns. We were also asked to contact the AWO reference sending him copies of applications to the RAF Benevolent Fund. **Mike McCourt AWO, contacted and we will send copies to him. Action Welfare Team.**

3. **Branch Subscriptions.** Review in the light of the general subs increase next year. **It was agreed to defer until later in the year. Reg is considering the Branch running costs and it may be possible to lower the Branch membership fee to absorb the RAFA general subs increase. Reg and Jack to monitor the situation.**

4. **European Area Conference 29th to 31st October 2010.** Attendance of Delegate and Welfare Seminar. Names to be submitted to HQ by Friday for the Seminar. Delegate already nominated as Bill. **HQ and Gib advised of the names of our attendees at both the Main Conference and the Welfare Seminar. A current programme of events requested from Gib. (HQ have since sent a programme and this has been forwarded to all Committee members. Also, the RBL Country Officer has been invited to the Welfare Seminar following authority from HQ.)**

5. **Bill is to donate a 1 week let in his luxury caravan/mobile home** in the Lake district next year (date to be advised) for our Christmas or Dinner Dance Raffle. **Action with Bill to offer dates.**

6. **Wings Items and Display boards.** The Committee agreed a budget of 200€ for the purchase of display material/Boards etc to be available for Wings Week. **Jack and Reg to Action. (post meeting note, new Wings products ordered from UK for early delivery)**

10. Any Other Business:-

1. Jack raised the possibility of inviting the British Consul or Vice Consul to become an Honorary Branch Vice-President. It was agreed and thought to be a good idea and could help to keep us "up front" with the Consulate. **Jack to follow up and make tentative enquiries.**

2. Concern was expressed that the latest Newsletter came out before the Committee Meeting having been advised otherwise, and could have been embarrassing. The Committee agreed that in future the Newsletter should have a cut off of 2 days after the Meetings and that it should be sent to the Committee before general publication. Georgina asked for any PR items also to have the same cut-off. This way any important decisions of the Committee would get early dissemination. **Jack to speak with Steve. (done)**

The meeting closed at 1355 hours.

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

Diary of Events

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

16th August. Committee meeting at 1230 followed by Social meeting at 1400 hrs. Galaxy Bar.

11th September. 70th Anniversary Battle of Britain Dinner Dance at Resort Sol Andalusi. 1930 for 2000. Full details distributed and on the Website. 3 Course Dinner with wine etc, Arrival aperitifs, entertainment and dancing. Dress smart or DJ, Cost 40€ per person. Details on web and Newsletter. Accommodation (B&B) at Sol Andalusi available at 69€ per couple.