

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> July 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  
Helen Buchan Social Events Coordinator

### **1. Apologies.**

Apologies were received from: - Bill Dixon, and Alan Gibson.

### **2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.**

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

### **3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:**

1. **Case Workers Course**. Corinne reported that the course was at a higher level than the normal RAFA courses and was of value, even though it still was UK orientated. **Action Completed.**

2. **Trawl for Welfare helpers.**

**Jack has actioned and responses sent to Derek.**

3. **Ticket sales for BoB DD** via Brit Essentials.

**Jack awaiting reply from owner.**

4. **Conference Travel Nil Returns**. Despite contacting HQ, there seems to be confusion on this. We apparently can just *not* submit a claim form, but as the rules state, all delegates must submit the form. Jack still cannot get a straight answer out of HQ about putting in "nil return", still leaving us contributing to the overall fund. We are not trying to avoid paying the pooled fare, we just want to submit no claim for fares and lower the amount *every* branch pays. **Ongoing Action with Jack.**

5. **Partnerships**. This ongoing action is progressing slowly. Jack has contacted the Consulate and had a call from the Embassy in Madrid, following reluctance from HQ to follow this up. Madrid (Age Concern España) is very keen for RAFA to join the Partnership and is in contact with RAFA HQ. The latest is that they are awaiting a call from Simon Martin for "Full Discussions". Jack will be advised by Madrid of progress. **Ongoing Action with Jack.**

6. **Welfare returns to AWO**. This is being done by the Welfare team. **Action Completed.**

7. **Caravan Holiday Dates**. Still await dates from Bill. **Ongoing Action. Bill to Note.**

8. **Wings Items and Display boards**. Wings items received. Display Boards still being followed up. **Ongoing Action with Jack and Reg.**

**Jack still to follow up.**

9. **Honorary Vice President Post.**

### **4. Treasurers Report: -**

Reg presented the June 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. As a result of Jack's appeal last month, we have welcomed Wendy Sweeney, a qualified RBL caseworker, as a new volunteer to join our welfare team. She will give the team a brief resume' of the capabilities of nursing care solutions, run by Michelle Grant, who have just approached us to offer their services for welfare cases.

2. Derek will visit the Fuengirola Dementia Day Care Centre before the next meeting to ascertain whether all welfare team members need attend also to familiarise themselves with its facilities.

3. We need to come to a unified decision on future use of Villa Jacaranda for welfare cases, as there have been significantly different experiences in treatment of residents according to team members. We will discuss this at the next committee meeting.

4. Three welfare cases have been dealt with since our last meeting.

### **6. Wings Appeal Report:-**

1. Reg reported 108.80€ from tins this month.

2. **Wings Week Collections**. It was decided that due to the changes at the Airport and the very much reduced check-in queues, we will not collect there this year. We will concentrate on collections at Iceland in Mijas Costa. This is a much easier place to collect at as there is plenty of parking, and there is a place to sit down. Tins will also be put at each check-out desk. Collection hours will be 1000 till 1600. We need more collectors to man the shop and volunteers will be asked for in the Newsletter and Website. Georgina will contact Iceland about the details of the collections. The collection schedule will be finalised at the next meeting.

## 7. Social Events Report:-

1. The **Monthly social** arrangements are ongoing. Today it is Quiz time. It was decided to drop the August Social Meeting due to poor attendances. Restart Socials in September.
2. **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battle of Britain Dinner Dance.** Big push needed by all to sell tickets. We must close the list at the end of August and then see how many we have. **The last thing we want to do is cancel this important event due to lack of interest!!**

## 8. Secretary's Report:-

The usual busy month. I had a call from Sarah Rogers of Age Concern España in Madrid reference joining the Partnership with the Embassy/Consulate and RBL. They are very keen for us to join. The call was in response to my enquiry to the Consulate on behalf of Simon Martin, about how to apply and who to talk to. Our enquiry has been met with open arms as for some time the Embassy has been trying to involve not only RAFA but also the RAF Benevolent Fund and SAAFA. The intention/aim is to have a Corporate Partnership Board which can speak with one voice on all matters concerning the Welfare of expats. Madrid has contacted Simon and he has said that he will call Madrid for "Full Discussions". When, I do not know, but Madrid will keep me informed. I have to express concern over this matter which does not seem to be important in UK. Madrid have said that they want RAFA to be fully involved in all discussions so the reluctance is not understood, especially as this costs nothing other than time.

## 9. Other Notified Items: -

1. **Georgina's Garden Party Dates.** This has been set for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2010 from 1430 onwards. Further details later. "Brew for The Few" package has been obtained from UK for this event. Very many thanks to Georgina and her husband for allowing us to use her garden for this fund raising event.
2. **Newsletter items.** Reminders to go in for the Wings Collections, Padron Renewals and the Dinner Dance. (Steve has been sent details.)
3. **Remembrance Sunday.** Arrangements well in hand. The Branch will provide "Tapas" as usual but we will decide later if a charge will be made. Possibly a Sponsor could be found for the food and wine. **All to look around.**
4. **e-Mail Addresses.** We are trying to standardise the communications in the branch. The use of "rafabenalmadena" by Steve as a **private** e-mail address is not only confusing, but unacceptable as it can lead misunderstanding as to where a message originates. It also gives the impression that the messages are sent with the Branch's knowledge and approval. Steve should be contacted to ask him to give us his normal private e-mail address. A new address will be raised for contact concerning the Newsletter. It is not acceptable for any individual to use the Branch name for private use. **Jack to Action.**

## 10. Any Other Business:-

No other business

The meeting closed at 1350 hours.

Date of Next Meeting: - 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at the Galaxy Bar at 1230 hours. (Not followed by the social gathering)

## Diary of Events

16<sup>th</sup> August. Committee meeting at 1230 followed at 1400 hrs by Wings Week Scheduling. Galaxy Bar.

11<sup>th</sup> September. 70<sup>th</sup> 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.

20<sup>th</sup> September. Committee meeting at 1230 followed at 1400 hrs by Social Meeting. Galaxy Bar.

16<sup>th</sup> October. "Brew for The Few" Cream Tea Garden Party at Georgina's 1430 onward. Details later.

18<sup>th</sup> October. Committee meeting at 1230 followed at 1400 hrs by Social Meeting. Galaxy Bar.