

Royal Air Forces Association
1357 Benalmádena Branch
Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held at
The Galaxy Bar, Avda Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel At 13.00hrs on Monday 25th January 2010

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Members

Reg Haywood
Steve Mullis
Doug Heron
Jack Griggs
Fred Briggs
Derek Brown
Cedric Sayce
Mike Durrant
Joan Burton
Peter Griggs
Kath Dalley
Jim Fenton
Corinne Mudie
Raymond Heritage
Jack Crossland

Associate Members

Kathy Durrant
Sandra Martin
Barbara Briggs
Catherine Heritage
Pamela Cheek
Gloria Haywood
Colin Stubbs
W.Hall

1. The meeting was declared open and chaired by the Chairman, Mr Fred Briggs. He proposed the Loyal Toast and all stood for this and the RAFA Dedication. After the reading of the RAFA Dedication by Cedric Sayce, a minute's silence was held.
2. Apologies have been received from: Bill Dixon, Marie Morgan, Alan Gibson, Dianne Brown and Andy Blyth.
3. The minutes of the 2009 AGM were offered and accepted with no observations. It was proposed by Derek Brown and seconded by Pamela Cheek that the minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4. Chairmans Address

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen and welcome to you all to this Year's AGM and a very Special welcome to any New Members. We wish to thank our President Mr Bill Dixon for offering to attend RAFA Conferences as our Branch Delegate at no cost to the Branch or RAFA. Services like this are very rare and the branch committee has taken up his offer.

2009 started off quite well with various events suggested. Reg arranged for a coach trip to visit RAF Gibraltar which was very successful and enjoyed by all. The RAFA Gibraltar Branch hosted this very full and well organised event. We had our Annual Summer Ball at the Restaurant ValParaiso, Mijas. On this Special Night we were all introduced to our New British Consul Mr. Stephen Jones and his Deputy, Rosslyn Crotty, The evening was a huge success and enjoyed by all. There was another coach trip to Gibraltar later in the year, this time to attend a concert by the RAF Regiment Band, which turned out to be

a very special and enjoyable evening for all who attended. The attendance at the monthly Socials has dropped for some reason and this year more things are being organised to bring in more of you.

I would like to thank Mr Reg Haywood for all his hard work and long hours in seeing the Branch through to full Spanish registration as a non-profit-making organisation (Charity). This allows the Branch to function correctly within Spanish law.

The Wings Appeal was not a great success as in the past years owing to the passes not being prepared on time through a misunderstanding in the Consul offices. This year it would be appreciated if we could get more help for the collections at the Airport.

Unfortunately at the end of quite a good year, the Christmas Dinner and Dance had to be cancelled owing to lack of support.

So I would now like to thank all the committee members for all their hard work over the past year and hopefully they will continue to offer their services. The Welfare Team are singled out for special praise for a very hard year well handled.

We shall now proceed with the main body of this AGM.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Annual Report:

Once again I would like to start my report by thanking our Auditor, Alan Gibson, for his timely inspection of the Branch Accounts.

You will note that this year you have two balance sheets to pore over. This is a result of our charity registration with the Spanish authorities, a long drawn out procedure that was finally realised in October 2009. It makes life slightly more complex for your Treasurer but it was a great relief for all concerned when we signed the articles of association and changed over the bank accounts. It means we now have a more realistic ongoing view of the financial state of the Branch

2009 could be said to be a year of business as usual in terms of the Branch funds with little change in receipts and expenditure from the previous year, with one or two notable exceptions. Receipts for Branch subscriptions and Membership renewals saw a reasonable increase suggesting we seem to be retaining our membership levels. But we really need to increase member numbers if the Branch is to survive long-term. There was also a significant increase in social income but with a similar increase in expenditure, leaving us with a modest surplus increase on the previous year. Well done to the social team.

The one disappointing aspect of 2009 was the reduction in Wings appeal receipts, due mainly to a drop in the airport collection. This was caused by an administrative oversight that saw us lose 2 collecting days. This loss was partially offset by a significant increase in monies from our year-round collecting boxes and from personal donations.

Welfare receipts, these are the funds we receive from the RAF Benevolent Fund for our Welfare clients, remained steady as did our payments to those in need. The welfare team also managed to reduce the Welfare expenses, that is the cost of delivering welfare care, by some 500 euros.

Your Branch Committee have decided to set the GBP/€ exchange at 1.10 euros to the pound sterling for 2010.

Finally I can report that the Branch remains on a sound financial footing, but it will take a lot of hard work from the Committee to maintain this position. The committee have some new and innovative ideas to take forward into 2010 so I would I ask you all to give them your support.

That ends my report for 2009

.Acceptance of Audited Accounts for 2009 was proposed by Steve Mullis, seconded by Derek Brown and Carried Unanimously.

6. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Before the Elections were started, Steve Mullis raised a Point-of Order in that the agenda distributed to all present before the meeting started was different to the one in the AGM Booklet and therefore the use of the amended version had to be agreed by the meeting. Jack Griggs said that the amended agenda only reflected changes made by the committee since the booklet was published and also items for the agenda received by the closing date of one week before the AGM, a quite normal procedure. Steve Mullis insisted that this still needed the approval of the meeting.

It was proposed by Corinne Mudie , Seconded by Sandra Martin, that the revised agenda should be used. Carried, 12 For, 4 Against.

Cedric Sayce then proposed a vote of thanks to Steve, the outgoing Conference Delegate . As mentioned in the Chairmans Address, this committee position no longer requires a full time member as Conferences are being covered under new arrangements and with cost saving benefits to the Branch and RAFA. Carried Unanimously.

(Post meeting secretary's note: It is not a requirement of Branch Regulations to publish the final agenda in advance, only the notification of the meeting, although it makes sense to do so. The business of the meeting shall also follow the Branch Regulations, which our agenda does. There was therefore no point-of-order or vote required. It did however clear the air.)

President..... Flt.Lt.Bill Dixon QGM Elected AGM 2009 for a 3 Year period.

Vice President Douglas Heron

Proposed Sandra Martin, Seconded Gloria Haywood, Carried Unanimously

Vice President Steve Mullis

Proposed Reg Haywood, Seconded Julie Mullis, Carried Unanimously

Chairman..... Fred Briggs

Proposed Jack Griggs, Seconded Reg Haywood, Carried Unanimously

Vice Chairperson..... Corrine Mudie

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Cedric Sayce, Carried Unanimously

Hon.Secretary.....Jack Griggs

Proposed Reg Haywood, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously.

Hon.Treasurer..... Reg Haywood

Proposed Jack Griggs, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously.

Hon.Welfare Officer..... Derek Brown

Proposed Reg Haywood, Seconded Fred Briggs, Carried Unanimously.

Welfare Team Reg Haywood & Corrine Mudie

Not required to be elected but offered to vote for reasons of confidence. Carried Unanimously.

Public Relations Officer Cedric Sayce

Proposed Corinne Mudie, Seconded Reg Haywood, Carried Unanimously.

Social Events Coordinator Sandra Martin

Proposed Doug Heron, Seconded Derek Brown, Carried Unanimously.

Social Events CoordinatorVacant, expect to co-opt a new member(s) soon.

Wings Appeal Organiser No volunteer yet, the committee will cover this while searching for a new organiser.

Branch Auditor Mr Alan Gibson

Proposed Fred Briggs, Seconded Cedric Sayce, Carried Unanimously

7. Resolutions for discussion

1. Proposed by Mr Reg Haywood (Treasurer) and seconded by Mr J Griggs (Secretary), that the Branch Annual subscription remains unchanged at €15 for the year 2010. Carried Unanimously.

8. Presidents Address. The President, Flt.Lt.Bill Dixon QGM, sent the following message which arrived after the meeting :-

“Good afternoon One and All, I am sorry I cannot be with you myself, this is due to commitments this end.

I would like to thank everyone for their sterling work carried out over the past year. May it continue for many years to come. My thoughts are with you All.

Lest We Forget.”

9. The date for next years AGM would be decided by the branch committee and notified in the committee minutes and in accordance with Standing Instructions.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 13.30 hrs

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN & JUAN CARLOS