

Royal Air Forces Association Branch 1357 Benalmádena

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at The Galaxy Bar, Avda. Bonanza, Arroyo de la Miel, on Monday 12th December 2011 at 12.30 hours.

Those present at the meeting were as follows:

Full and Life Members

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

Associate Members

Stewart Stark Auditor Designate
Georgina Young Public Relations

Before the meeting started, the Committee co-opted Stewart Stark as the new Branch Auditor and thanked him for volunteering to this important position.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from: - Bill Dixon, and Wendy Sweeney.

2. Acceptance of the minutes of the last meeting.

The minutes from the November 2011 meeting were accepted and signed.

3. Matters arising from the previous meeting:

None directly, all covered by later items.

4. Treasurers Report:-

The November accounts and balance sheets were presented 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:-

- a. One case processed for Respite Care
- b. Three cases Maintenance Grant Renewal requests processed.
- c. One new case requesting provision of a hearing aid.
- d. We will discuss in January, possible repatriation to UK of an elderly long-term case currently based in Malaga.
- e. New Nursing Care Resource. "Nursing Care Solutions" - contacts Michelle Randall and Jan Goode. We will arrange for their attendance at a future Committee Meeting.

6. Wings Appeal Report

Any money collected now will be added to next year's totals. The presentations of this year's trophies will be arranged to take place before the AGM date. Final arrangements when Bill arrives on 30th December.

7. Social Events Report

- a. **Monthly Social program.** Ongoing. The AGM is the next time there is a social gathering, and the CO of Gibraltar has agreed to address the members. The members need to be asked again what they expect or would like us to arrange on the social front. A visit to RAF Gibraltar is in the pipeline.
- b. **Christmas Dinner. Progress.** 36 people now and it was also agreed to buy a "Russell Christmas Cake" for the raffle.
- c. Events possible next year include the Gibraltar visit around April/May, a Summer or Battle of Britain Ball, St, Georges Day in Arroyo on April 21st. It has also been suggested and agreed that we should invite the RAFA Secretary General over to visit the branch and see what we get up to. This would also ideally be at a time when we have a social event organised. Jack is to make the initial advances.

8. Secretary's Report:

This month has seen 2 new members so far and their applications have been processed with HQ. I have purchased the Projector and a collection of leads etc to complete the package. The projector was within the agreed budget at €295. I have exchanged e-mails with HQ concerning the cost of sending out questionnaires to gather in members details when this should have been done via the Branch Secretaries initially, with a saving of well over 20,000 GBP. Only those members not attached to a Branch needed direct contact. I expect this will be discussed at the next RAFA Conference. HQ need to think before they act. I have circulated the central Council Minutes for all to read. We have a volunteer for the Branch Auditor, Stewart Stark, who will be attending this meeting.

9. Public Relations Officer Report:-

A letter has been sent to Iceland thanking them for allowing us to collect there for Wings Week. The Olive Press is being contacted with a view to further publicity.

10. Other Notified Items:-

a. Newsletter items. Reg ready to send out the next issue. There will be an item on Welfare Spending.

b. Items for the proposed 2012 Welfare Seminar. It was agreed that we would put forward items for the proposed Welfare Seminar 2012 including, Country Regulation variations, Comparison of procedures, Gaps in Services for such things as respite and residential care, repatriation problems. It was considered worthwhile in getting all welfare HWO's together to exchange ideas. Jack to forward list to Simon.

c. Branch Insurance. Further discussion. The segments of the Insurance Policy sent to us is little confusing and lacks detail. It is suggested that this should be discussed and explained in detail at the next European Area Conference.

11. Any Other Business:-

a. Since the changeover of owners of the Galaxy the keys to our display cabinet have disappeared. Reg will arrange for a locksmith to sort it out for us.

Meeting closed at 13.55 hours.

Date Of Next Meeting:- 16th January 2012. Committee Meeting at 12.30

Diary of Events

16th January 2012. Committee Meeting at 12.30

23rd January 2012. AGM at 13.00 hours. Details to be advised. This will be attended by the CO of RAF Gibraltar who will address the members.