

Minutes of the 3(f) Squadron Association Annual General Meeting 19th October 2019
Held at The Barnsdale Lodge Hotel

The Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 10.00

AGENDA

2018 AGM Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Chairman's Report
Membership Secretary's Report
Any other business

OFFICERS PRESENT

Phil Ward - Chairman
Dave Ellis - Treasurer
Phil Willsher - Membership Secretary

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ledwidge, Dave McKenzie, Eric Chamberlain & Eric Pigdon

APOLOGIES

Clive Handy, Dave Perry, Vic Lorriman, Keith Grumbley, Bob Farrell,
John Hickie, Cab Townsend, Chris Moon, Sir Richard Johns, Sir Clive Loader

2018 AGM MINUTES

The minutes of the 2018 AGM were distributed to the members present and read. The minutes were proposed by Dave Ellis and seconded by Phil Willsher. Confirmed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING

Dave McKenzie pointed out that, although he had sent his apologies due to illness, his name did not appear on the list. This was noted and apologies given.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Chairman – Phil Ward

Vice Chairman – Clive Handy

Treasurer – Dave Ellis

Secretary – Dave Perry

Membership Secretary - Phil Willsher

All members of the committee said they were happy to remain in post for the next year.

The acceptance of the committee was proposed by Eric Chamberlain and seconded by Mary Ledwidge. Carried unanimously

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dave Ellis opened his report by saying that there had been successful hand-over from the previous treasurer. The yearly accounts were distributed with the agenda and 2018 minutes to all attendees of the AGM. Matters arising from the year's accounts showed that the

newsletter remained a large cost as it was sent to all members including several members overseas and not in electronic communication.

The website was also a high cost but necessary as needed for active information and hopefully attracting new members. It was suggested that the website address be published in these minutes.

www.3fsquadronassociation.com

The new subscriptions initiative was proving successful. The current life members would be invited to pay the annual sum of £10 however their member status would not be affected if they declined.

The 2018/19 accounts were proposed by Dave Ellis and seconded by Dave McKenzie. Carried unanimously.

2019 Report

Dave Ellis continued his report by saying that the accounts were looking much healthier with the new subscription payments being accepted by a good number of members.

He wished to draw the member's attention to a quantity of striped ties that had been purchased many years ago thus tying up much needed revenue and the significance of them appeared to be lost. It was thought that the striped tie was for all ranks and the new Cockatrice tie was for aircrew. Eric Chamberlain said that historically a striped tie was requested by the membership so a number had been purchased in silk and polyester. A discussion followed and it was decided to advertise the striped tie as the old pattern and the cockatrice tie as the new, all ranks tie. Dave concluded his report with the fact that pin badges and books were also tying up revenue and members needed to be continuously aware that they were available.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Phil Willsher began his report by stating that after taking over the role of membership secretary we had 238 members but now we were down to 229. 10 members were lost during the year to natural causes or had simply left. Only one new member had joined the association.

All persons present were well aware that the association desperately needed new members if it was to continue and a discussion followed regarding ways to attract new blood. A suggestion was discussed about asking the squadron to include an association application form with their other documents handed to the men and women as they leave 3(f) to take up new positions. Following on from this it was asked if something advertising the association could be pinned to their notice board although it was pointed out that the younger generation need information electronically as they rarely read notice boards. It was also suggested that a nicely designed, punchy poster be designed to hang on the walls of the crew room. Phil Ward said he would look into these suggestions.

Further discussions regarding membership in the newsletter and website followed although it was pointed out that most of these suggestions had been tried before. It was decided to try all possibilities again with newer or updated material and to check there was a valid link between the association website and the Squadron website.

(Apologies from Eric Pigdon at this point as his transport had arrived and he had to leave)

It was commented on by Dave McKenzie that there had been a very good "Canberra" presence at the dinner the previous evening, also noted in the President's speech at the

dinner. Dave went on to suggest that perhaps a mention on the Canberra website might help keep up the momentum.

It was asked that a note be made in the minutes of the larger Canberra presence and a much lower Harrier attendance.

In order to move things along the Chairman requested that all members think about any news ways to encourage new membership and let the committee know.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Phil Ward began his report with the success of the visit to RAF Valley at the end of May helped by CO of Valley Chris Moon. Phil also reported that the Sqn visit at the end of July was poorly attended due to conflicting holidays including his own. He went on to say that he had already had a conversation with Si Devenish (Sqn Uncle) and the Sqn Commander Steve Kenworthy regarding a visit in 2020. A date of 21st August 2020 was put forward by them but this had to be confirmed once the Station diary had been consulted. Phil hoped for a big push on this event to encourage anyone who had had anything to do with the Squadron in the past and also the present. The itinerary for this event regarding a confirmed date, format of visit, informal meal the evening before or perhaps a BBQ on the Sqn in the evening of the visit would be announced in the newsletter in due course. After confirmation of the visit then a big advertising push to all relevant websites to encourage people to attend.

There followed a short discussion regarding the date of the next AGM. It was decided to remain at The Barnsdale Lodge as it was convenient. It was decided unanimously for the 23rd/24th October 2020.

Phil Ward announced that Vic Lorriman had decided to stand down from organising the annual dinner/AGM but would continue as the Historian to the association. He has been organising the dinner successfully for many years and Phil Ward proposed a vote of thanks to Vic for all his hard work. This was seconded unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A suggestion was made regarding claiming gift aid on membership fees. The treasurer said he would look deeper into this and keep the committee informed.

Dave McKenzie proposed a vote of thanks to Phil Ward which was seconded by Mary Ledwidge.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.50