

2 March 2015

MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHREWSBURY AND DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE REMAN SOCIAL CLUB ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2015 AT 1230 HRS.

Present: J Burke President
P Sharp Chairman

And 21 members:

B Beattie M Bradbury R Butler R Davies R Downward R Ellis
M Farmer R Fildes B France B Howett T Roberts S Marston
P Martin D McGoogan M Parry J Penny B Pye P Small
J Trotman A Usher H Williams

And 3 Associate Members:

C Parry O Trotman U Penny

Apologies: 8 Members and Associates:

J Buckler P Burke S Farmer M Lewis A Madeley H Nevett
I Nevett J Tisbury

1. These Minutes are compiled from contemporaneous notes taken by the Treasurer.

ITEM 1 – DEDICATION

2. The Chairman read the Dedication.

ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

3. The Treasurer received notification of the 8 apologies as listed above.

ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM

4. Copies of the Minutes of the last AGM, which was held in the Reman Club on 3 March 2014, had been circulated. It was proposed by M Farmer and seconded by R Fildes that the Minutes of the last AGM be accepted.

5. **Decision:** It was agreed unanimously that the Minutes of the last AGM be accepted.

ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING

6. There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

ITEM 5 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

7. A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached.

ITEM 6 – SECRETARY'S REPORT

8. A copy of the Secretary's Report which was delivered by the Treasurer is attached.

ITEM 7 – TREASURER'S REPORT AND CONSIDERATION OF THE AUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

9. A copy of the Treasurer's Report is attached, along with a copy of the Audited Accounts. No points were raised in relation to the Accounts. It was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by the Chairman that the Accounts be accepted. **Approved by acclaim.**

10. The Treasurer informed members that the Auditors, Turner Peachey had joined a family firm of accountants, Baldwins. The accounts have therefore been audited by Baldwins (Shrewsbury) Ltd. There will be no change to our Branch's arrangement with them. A vote of thanks to the Auditors was proposed by P Small who also proposed that Baldwins (Shrewsbury) Ltd be reappointed as Auditors for the coming year; S Marston seconded the proposal.

11. **Decision: The vote of thanks to the Auditors, and their appointment for the coming year was agreed unanimously.**

ITEM 8 – WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

12. The Chairman informed members that P Martin had agreed to undertake the Branch's welfare work. A copy of the Welfare Officer's Report is attached. Acceptance of the Audited Welfare Accounts were proposed by the Welfare Officer and seconded by S Marston. **Approved by acclaim.**

ITEM 9 – STATEMENT BY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

13. The Membership Secretary advised the meeting that the Branch had:

54 Life Members (56 in 2014)

123 Annual Members (127 in 2014)

14 Full Associate Members (22 in 2014)

5 Branch Members (10 in 2014)

196 Members in total. (From 215 as reported to the 2014 AGM)

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

14. The Chairman introduced B Beattie, R Davies and R Fildes and proposed that these 3 long standing members be accepted as Vice Presidents. P Martin seconded the proposal which was **carried by acclaim**.

15. On behalf of the new Vice Presidents B Beattie thanked everyone for this honour. The Chairman stated that appropriate badges would be presented at a later date.

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

16. In opening the election the President thanked the committee, on his and the members behalf, for their hard work mentioning all present. He stated that he enjoys himself attending the meetings and continued by thanking RAF Shawbury for their association with the Branch, and the RAFALOs who play an important part in maintaining that link. The President concluded by thanking the Reman Club for accommodating the Branch's meetings. Finally the President advised that all of the Committee sought re-election and asked the meeting to consider the nominees en-block.

17. The following individuals had been proposed and seconded as shown:

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Secunder</u>
Chairman	P Sharp	D Hayward	H Williams
Vice Chairman	J Tisbury	D Hayward	H Williams
Secretary	J Tisbury	D Hayward	H Williams
Treasurer	P Small	D Hayward	H Williams
Committee Member	T Roberts	D Hayward	H Williams
Committee Member	R Dolton	D Hayward	H Williams
Committee Member	A Madeley	D Hayward	H Williams

Committee Member P Martin D Hayward H Williams

Committee Member M Farmer J Penny U Penny

18. **Decision:** **The nominees were elected unanimously.**

19. It was advised that the following Committee Members had agreed to undertake the following portfolios:

Membership Secretary	-	P Martin
Standard Bearer	-	S Marston
Welfare Officer	-	P Martin
Wings Appeal Organiser	-	A Madeley
Assistant Wings Appeal Organiser	-	R Dolton
Social Secretary	-	T Roberts
ATC Liaison Officer	-	T Roberts
Web Master	-	M Farmer

ITEM 11 – ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO AREA AGM

20. Mr S Marston had agreed to attend the Area AGM at Torquay as the Branch Delegate. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by P Small that S Marston be elected as the Branch Delegate.

21. **Decision:** **The proposal was carried unanimously.**

ITEM 12 – ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

22. The Chairman sought volunteers to attend Annual Conference at Eastbourne as the Branch Delegate. S Marston offered to attend. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by P Martin that S Marston be elected as the Branch Delegate.

23. **Decision:** **The proposal was carried unanimously.**

ITEM 13 – RATIFICATION OF THE FEE TO BE CHARGED TO BRANCH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

24. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by T Roberts that the fee for Branch Associate Membership remains at £5.50 for the ensuing year.

25. **It was agreed unanimously that the fee for Branch Associate Members remain at £5.50.**

ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

26. No other business had been notified.

ITEM 15 – NEXT MEETING

27. The next AGM of the Shrewsbury and District Branch of the RAFA will take place in the Reman Social Club on Monday 7 March 2016.

J A TISBURY
Secretary

P SHARP
Chairman
Mar 16

Enclosures:

1. Chairman's Report
2. Secretary's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Financial Statements (File copy only)
5. Welfare Report
6. Committee Nomination Form (File copy only)

RAFA - AGM – CHAIRMAN'S NOTES - 2015

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you for attending our 2015 Annual General Meeting.

I hope that you will all agree that we have just completed a very successful year which has seen us maintain our membership. Sadly we have lost a number of our longstanding members, we now only have one remaining Vice-president, but we do have a plan to address this which I will explain later. I am delighted that we were able to provide an impressive contribution to the Wings Appeal whilst maintaining our ability to enjoy ourselves at our regular social meeting and external events and visits. Indeed our Branch meetings continue to be the focus of our activity with the regular attendance remaining strong. We remain grateful for the friendly support that we receive from Steve Harris (Club Steward) and his team for the excellent facilities they provide.

Your Committee has, as always, worked extremely hard to provide us all with activities to look forward to and ensured that our meetings are an enjoyable experience. All of our Committee members have other calls on their time and it is very much like the old analogy of a serene swan floating down a river, what you do not see is the energetic paddling that goes on beneath the surface. At this point I would like to offer my personal thanks to each and every one of them for paddling so hard over the last 12 months!

We have planned another full year ahead and in particular would like to mark both the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain this Autumn and also the 80th Anniversary of the formation of our Branch which will occur in early 2016, again something I intend to talk more about later in the meeting.

Finally, I remain keen to hear your views on the direction you would like to see your Branch in the future and events you would like to see so please do take a moment to think about our future and come to talk to me at one of our meetings.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I apologise for my absence today, I am unable to attend as I am engaged in Association business in London; I do hope that you have a successful meeting.

All members will have received a copy of the Annual Newsletter just before Christmas in which I reported on the Branch's activities during 2014. I hope that you will all agree that the Branch had another successful year; and that there is little to be gained by going all of our highlights again. I must however comment on 2 things; firstly the recent loss of Al Poole. You will, perhaps, not be aware that in addition to the stalwart work that he did for the Branch he was very heavily engaged in the wider Association where he was an Area Welfare Caseworker, a Regional Chairman, an Area Councillor, and a member of Central Council where he chaired 2 Committees overseeing and directing welfare strategy for the Association; his loss will be felt across the Association. The turn-out at Al's funeral reflected his wide involvement; which brings me to my second point. The arrangements for Al's funeral were difficult because of the large number of people who wished to attend and the complication of security requirements involved with holding the wake at RAF Shawbury. The sad event passed off well with dignity and respect. That it went so well was down to one individual who worked tirelessly behind the scenes liaising with the various disparate parties, and closely with to Tricia, to ensure that everything went well. Al had a good send-off and that was largely down to the work of our Chairman Paul Sharp. I wish to pay credit to his endeavours and hope that you will join me in thanking him.

Thank you.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION
SHREWSBURY & DISTRICT BRANCH. AGM 2015

Due to our Branch membership slightly increasing during 2013, the Rebate at the beginning of 2014 was £649. We received donations following the funerals of members Ernie Page and later Brian Sidebotham, also miscellaneous donations throughout the year, making a total donation increase of £689 for 2014.

Our expenditure consisted mainly of administrative costs eg. Hire of the meeting room here, purchase of wreaths, payment of speakers and representation at Area and National conferences. Your Branch was also able to subsidize the lunch held at the Lord Hill Hotel in September.

Wings Appeal raised a sum of £5215 being £910 more than the previous year. So again 20% was transferred into our Branch Welfare account to help those of our family in need. Our thanks to Alex and her collectors.

Social Fund. Profit from your monthly raffle totalled £409.50 during the 2014, thanks to Tecwyn's efforts and your donations of raffle prizes. The profit for the month of May, together with your donation at the meeting, was sent to two ATC cadets towards their expenses enabling them to visit Canada and Australia. The social fund also paid for a Branch Memorial stone to be placed at the National Memorial Arboretum. This did not however detract from members being able to have an excellent and enjoyable buffet and drinks at our Christmas social to round off the year.

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT

We are all saddened by the passing of Alan Poole, our most effective Welfare Officer. Not only was he the mainstay of our Branch's Welfare organisation but he also acted in the Midland Area as an experience Caseworker. Last year, he was instrumental in organising the paying some £4626.41 in welfare grants. £2110.00 of which was for local welfare causes and a further £1000.00 was donated from our welfare account to the Flowerdown House Transport Appeal.

I have been asked to continue Alan's good work. However, currently I do not have the expertise to venture outside our local area or to take on more complex cases requiring the skills of a Case Worker. These will be handled by Tracey Khan from RAFA Midland Welfare.

Our Welfare Accounts appear to be in good health with £4001.94 in the deposit account, gaining 0.5% interest: the Current account currently stands at £2606.83.

Acceptance of the Audited Welfare Accounts were proposed by the Welfare Officer and seconded by (check with Pam's notes) Approved by acclaim.