

3 March 2014

**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 3 MARCH 2014 AT 1230 HRS.**

Present: J Burke President  
P Sharp Chairman

And 36 members:

J Ashworth	B Beattie	E Black	P Booth	M Bradbury	P Butler
A Davies	R Davies	R Dolton	R Downward	G Evans	M Farmer
G Fellows	R Fildes	W France	N Hall	D Hayward	J Henshaw
M Lewis	S Marston	P Martin	D Matthews	D McGoogan	M Parry
R Pearce	J Penny	A Poole	W Pye	T Roberts	D Rowley
B Sidebotham		P Small	R Smyth	J Tisbury	J Trotman
A Ussher					

And 6 Associate Members:

P Burke	H Lewis	A Madeley	C Parry	U Penny	O Trotman
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Apologies: 7 Members and Associates:

S Farmer	D Hatton	J Marston	H Nevitt	I Nevitt	T Poole
C Woods					

**ITEM 1 – DEDICATION**

1. The Chairman read the Dedication.

**ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES**

2. The Secretary received notification of the 7 apologies as listed above.

**ITEM 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST AGM**

3. Copies of the Minutes of the last AGM, which was held in the Reman Club on 4 March 2013, had been circulated. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by J Penny that the Minutes of the last AGM be accepted.

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

#### **ITEM 4 – MATTERS ARISING**

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

#### **ITEM 5 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

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

#### **ITEM 6 – SECRETARY'S REPORT**

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

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

8. 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.**

9. A vote of thanks to the Auditors was proposed by P Small who also proposed that Turner Peachy be reappointed as Auditors for the coming year; G Fellows seconded the proposal.

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

#### **ITEM 8 – WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT**

11. 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**

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

56 Life Members  
127 Annual Members  
22 Full Associate Members  
10 Branch Members

215 Members in total. (From 196 as reported to the 2013 AGM)

## **ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT**

13. The Chairman advised the meeting that the President, Air Cdre John Burke had been elected President at the AGM in 2011 for a period of 3 years. The Chairman thanked the President for his sage advice and support, and commented that in the last 3 years John, ably supported by Peggy, had represented the Branch across Shrewsbury and District most effectively and he therefore proposed that Air Cdre Burke be re-elected for a further period of 3 years. The Vice Chairman seconded the proposal which was **carried by acclaim**.

## **ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE**

14. In opening the election the President thanked the meeting for re-electing him as President for a further 3 years. He also thanked the committee for their hard work behind the scenes which produced an excellent programme, which resulted in most enjoyable meetings which, he felt, were looked forward to by all. The President also noted the strong relationship that the Branch has with RAF Shawbury, represented at the meeting today by the RAFALO Sergeant Pete Booth, and expressed his thanks to the Station and the RAFALO team. In closing the President advised that all of the Committee sought re-election and asked the meeting to consider the nominees en-block.

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

<b><u>Appointment</u></b>	<b><u>Nominee</u></b>	<b><u>Proposer</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded</u></b>
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	A Poole	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 Tisbury

P Small

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

17. 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	-	A Poole
Deputy 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**

18. Mr S Marston had agreed to attend the Area AGM at Cardiff as the Branch Delegate. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by G Fellows that S Marston be elected as the Branch Delegate.

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

#### **ITEM 12 – ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

20. The Chairman had agreed to attend Annual Conference at Blackpool as the Branch Delegate. It was proposed by the Vice Chairman and seconded by J Penny that the Chairman be elected as the Branch Delegate.

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

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

22. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by M Farmer that the fee for Branch Associate Membership remains at £5.50 for the ensuing year.

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

**ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

24. No other business had been notified.

**ITEM 15 – NEXT MEETING**

25. The next AGM of the Shrewsbury and District Branch of the RAFA will take place in the Reman Social Club on Monday 2 March 2015.

J A TISBURY  
Secretary

P SHARP  
Chairman  
Mar 15

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)

### **Chairman Report – AGM 2014**

If re-elected this year it will be my 5<sup>th</sup> year in the role as Chairman of our Branch. During that period I am delighted that we, as a Branch, have retained the strong social and welfare ethos that I inherited from Brian. It is particularly pleasing that whenever we host visitors from RAFA senior management they comment on how much they enjoy meeting such a thriving, happy and welcoming group.

The mainstay of our activities is your Committee members who work extremely hard across the range of responsibilities related to running our Branch. I am grateful to all of them for their dedication and continuing support. However, we are always on the lookout for willing volunteers and should any of you wish to join us for a Committee Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at the Beaconsfield Club) to see what is involved you would be most welcome.

We are also grateful for the support from our friends at RAF Shawbury with RAFALO attendance at the vast majority of our meetings and the Annual Games Night which this year will be taking place on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.

My plan for the future is more of the same; focus on the social and support activities and encouraging a small number of additional trips and activities during the year.

That concludes my Report unless anybody has any questions (*no questions were raised*)

## **SECRETARY'S STATEMENT – AGM 2014.**

President, Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman it falls to me to report on the activities of the Branch during 2013; however, as I encapsulated that detail in the Annual Newsletter, I'm sure that you do not need me to go through it all again. I would make a couple of points however, firstly I have totted up the numbers in the attendance book (and I know that sometimes one or two people sneak out without putting their name down – very naughty) and it is pleasing to report that over the 12 months of 2013 we had, in total, 506 members at our meetings, that's an average of 42 each time; and that is wonderful. As part of our role within Area Council both Al and I visit many Branches and I can tell you that we are blessed with an outstanding attendance here. I put that down to three things – Tecwyn and his social programme (and perhaps his jokes); to the excellent facilities that we enjoy here at the Reman Club; but mostly down to you all for your excellent support for the Association and its welfare work; thank you. Secondly, we have had a goodly round of events, dinners trips out, speakers, and VIP visitors. That was helped this year through a generous grant of £2500 from the Lottery Fund. Sadly in closing that issue out we had to send back just over £200 of unspent monies, however, I am pleased to say that I have received a letter from the National Lottery to say that they have accepted all of our paperwork; so I am sure that you will be pleased to know that neither your Chairman nor I will now have to go to jail. Finally, you will have noted from the Newsletter we were present at all the major RAF related events in Shrewsbury and District through the year, and kept the RAFA flag flying magnificently; especially at the NIA where Shawn represented us in an exemplary manner at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. (CDs are available).

In closing, however, I would pay tribute to one individual who has kept us all on track over the past year, despite his busy work schedule, our Chairman, Paul Sharp. Thanks Paul.

Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION  
SHREWSBURY & DISTRICT BRANCH. AGM 2014.

2013 was a busy financial year.

Our income consisted of the usual membership rebate of £588, which was £86 more than the previous year, and also donations totalling £126.

Interest on our bank accounts however remained the same at 0.25%.

Our expenditure was greatly helped by the grant from the Big Lottery Fund, with the majority allowing us to thoroughly enjoy our Association's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a lunch at the Wroxeter Hotel, and it also paid for our improved Christmas buffet. Your newsletter has already detailed other items paid by the lottery too.

The drinks at the Wroxeter Hotel were paid for from the remainder of the Dave Law fund, which is now closed. Other expenditure consisted of Delegate and Committee expenses, this room hire and guest speakers, purchase of wreaths and payment for the circulation of the annual newsletter.

Wings Appeal raised £4616, which was slightly down on last year, but was in line with other charity collections. Never the less our thanks go to Alex, Roy and the collectors. As usual 20% of the amount collected is returned to our Branch Welfare fund to help those in need.

Social Fund. Due to Tecwyn's excellent raffle ticket sales throughout the year, £492 was added to this fund. Again our thanks to everyone, who donates prizes. This fund helped subsidize the cost of travel to the Birmingham Tattoo at the NIA in November, and paid for the December Social drinks, here at the club. Now a new social events programme is underway, so do enjoy the rest of 2014.

## **HWO Statement to AGM – 2014**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I draw your attention to the Welfare Accounts at the end of the Statement of Accounts. You will note that there appears to be a considerable increase in the amount of money being moved through the Welfare Accounts. This is due to the amount of work that I undertake as an Area Caseworker and it has been necessary to move the money granted by RAFBF and others through our branch account rather than through the Area Account as that system takes too long to process funds. Locally, there has been some activity involving as recently released airman who needed some assistance and it should be noted that this is a sign of an increase in the level of support that the association is having to provide to young servicemen during their transition to civilian life. The amount of money held within our Welfare Accounts will always include money that is held pending re-distribution to welfare clients; nevertheless, the accounts remain healthy and show a small increase in available funds for branch use (Jan 2013 - £5573.40, Dec 2013 - £6832.90).