

16 March 2016

**MINUTES OF AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SHREWSBURY AND DISTRICT
BRANCH OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION, HELD AT THE HARLESCOTT CLUB
ON MONDAY 7 MARCH 2016 AT 1230 HRS.**

Present: J Burke President
P Sharp Chairman

And 25 members:

E Blackie	M Bradbury	P Butler	A Cundall	R Davis	R Dolton
L Donaldson	R Dunse	R Ellis	M Farmer	R Fildes	B France
N Hall	D Hayward	B Howett	M Lewis	S Marston	P Martin
D McGoogan	M Parry	R Pearce	J Penny	B Pye	P Small
J Tisbury					

And 6 Associate Members:

P Burke	S Farmer	H Lewis	A Madeley	J Marston	C Parry
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Apologies: 7 Members and Associates:

B Beattie	J Davis	R Downward	B Males	A Trotman	J Trotman
A Usher					

ITEM 1 – DEDICATION

1. The Chairman welcomed the RAFALOs from RAF Shawbury and then read the Dedication.

ITEM 2 – APOLOGIES

2. The Treasurer received notification of the 8 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 2 March 2015, had been circulated. It was proposed by M Bradbury and seconded by M Farmer 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 R Davis that the Accounts be accepted. **Approved by acclaim.**

9. The Treasurer informed members that the accounts had been audited by Baldwins (Shrewsbury) Ltd. 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; N Hall 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 the Chairman. **Approved by acclaim.**

ITEM 9 – STATEMENT BY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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

52 Life Members (54 in 2015)

124 Annual Members (123 in 2015)

14 Full Associate Members (14 in 2015)

5 Branch Members (5 in 2015)

195 Members in total. (From 196 as reported to the 2015 AGM)

ITEM 10 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

13. 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. Finally the President advised that all of the present Committee sought re-election and had been properly proposed and seconded. Further M Bradbury had volunteered to join the Committee. He then asked the meeting to consider the nominees en-block.

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

<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposer</u>	<u>Second</u>
Chairman	P Sharp	J Tisbury	P Small
Vice Chairman	J Tisbury	P Sharp	P Small
Secretary	J Tisbury	P Sharp	P Small
Treasurer	P Small	J Tisbury	P Sharp
Committee Member	R Dolton	A Madeley	P Small
Committee Member	A Madeley	P Sharp	J Tisbury
Committee Member	P Martin	P Small	A Madeley
Committee Member	M Farmer	J Tisbury	A Madeley
Committee Member	M Bradbury	J Tisbury	P Sharp

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

ITEM 11 – ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO AREA AGM

16. Mr P Sharp had attended the Area AGM at Cheltenham as the Branch Delegate. It was proposed by J Tisbury and seconded by P Small that P Sharp be endorsed as the Branch Delegate to the Area AGM.

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

ITEM 12 – ELECTION OF DELEGATE TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

18. The S Marston had volunteered to attend Annual Conference at Blackpool as the Branch Delegate. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by P Martin that S Marston be elected as the Branch Delegate.

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

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

20. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by J Tisbury that the fee for Branch Associate Membership remains at £5.50 for the ensuing year.

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

ITEM 14 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

22. No other business had been notified.

ITEM 15 – NEXT MEETING

23. The next AGM of the Shrewsbury and District Branch of the RAFA will take place in the Harlescott Club on Monday 6 March 2017.

J A TISBURY
Secretary

P SHARP
Chairman
Mar 17

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)

SHREWSBURY RAFA AGM - 7TH MARCH 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another year as your Chairman and what a busy year it has been, WE have seen our membership increase and our Wings contribution remains strong at well over £5000. Towards the end of the year we were faced with the closure of our long- standing social meeting venue and we were fortunate enough to find an excellent replacement here at the Harlescott Social Club where Graham and Julie are working hard to ensure that we feel welcome and that our meetings run smoothly.

All of our activities rely on the efforts of your committee who do a considerable amount of work behind the scenes to meet our commitments as an active branch of the Royal Air Forces Association and coordinate Wings, Welfare and a host of other activities. Your committee has reduced in size, particularly with the loss of both Al Poole and Tecwyn both of whom were particularly active. I would like to publically thank the Committee members for their support and hard work and I am extremely grateful that they have all agreed to continue in their respective roles should you wish them to do so. I am equally grateful that Mike Bradbury has volunteered to stand for appointment to the committee and I hope that you will all show your support.

We have a busy year ahead and we will continue to focus on our social activities. Should any of our members have suggestions or ideas that can be added to the programme please let me know.

Paul Sharp

SECRETARY'S REPORT

All members will have received a copy of the Annual Newsletter just before Christmas in which I reported on the Branch's activities during 2015. I hope that you will all agree that the Branch had another successful year. RAF Shawbury held an excellent Games Night in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants Mess in April; the RAF continues to be an exciting and varied career as is proved by the fact that 2015 was the year of 4 RAFALOs, no sooner was one appointed than they were posted or promoted or both, we must thank FS Pete Booth, Sgt Dean Phillips, Cpl Simon Gardner and FS Steve Smith for their efforts in keeping us in touch with the RAF; and for the supply of free RAF News and Station Magazines which are very popular. We also made a donation to the Contact Houses at RAF Shawbury during the year.

The Branch was represented at Area and Annual Conference. Our Standard was on parade at a number of the Association's events in commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, at Truro, Cardiff and at the Birmingham Military Tattoo where Shawn showed off his skills in front of 20,000 people over 2 days. The Branch was also represented at RAF Shawbury Families Day, on Mayor's Sunday, the Battle of Britain Parade and Service at St Chad's, and at the Remembrance Parade and Service in Shrewsbury.

During the year we have again had outstanding support from 1119 (Shrewsbury) Squadron of the ATC, not least at our annual event at Shrewsbury Cemetery on 1 April to commemorate the founding of the RAF and to remember all those who have fallen. We have had a couple of high profile visits to the Branch during the year, perhaps the most notable was in June when the Association's National President Air Marshal Sir Dusty Miller attended to present Al Poole's National Presidential Certificate to Al's widow Tricia; a poignant occasion.

Following the sad loss of Al Poole, his deputy Paul Martin stepped up to become our Welfare Officer and quickly got into his stride, our thanks to him. Our thanks also to Mike Farmer who maintains our excellent website, it is always up to date thanks to Mike's efforts so if you are uncertain about any arrangements for events it's a great source of information, so give it a try.

I would like to mention just 3 people. Firstly the amazing Rose who braved the zip wire in Wales on her 99th Birthday and raised over £1K for the Association; secondly Shawn Marston who carried our Standard on many occasions during 2015 and represented us fantastically well. Finally, and most importantly I thank, on your behalf, our outstanding Chairman, Paul Sharp, who has spent another year whipping the Committee into shape and ensuring that

we kept on functioning. 2015 was an especially demanding year for us all as we lost both Al Poole, our Welfare Officer; and Tecwyn Roberts, our Social Secretary and ATC Liaison Officer.

So another year of keeping the Association alive and well in Shrewsbury, thank you all; and thank you Paul.

Thank you.

John Tisbury

TREASURER'S REPORT

2015 was a very good year financially.

During the year, Income included the annual membership rebate of £620, and the generosity of one of our Vice-Presidents Rose Davies, who celebrated her birthday instyle, raising over £700 for our branch. We received £70 from the Harlescott Social Club, where we are now, following a darts match, and several smaller donations. In all totalling £1485 – the best ever.

Expenditure. The Reman Club increased the cost of hiring a room by £5 per month during 2015. Otherwise other costs were similar to previous years, being for wreaths, speakers, newsletter payment and committee expences.

Wings Appeal Collections. Again a successful year raising £5082, resulting in over £1000 being added to our branch welfare fund. Our thanks go to Alex, Roy and all members who helped them, not forgetting RAF Shawbury personnel for their contribution.

Social Fund. The raffle remains popular. Thank you for your generosity in purchasing tickets and donating prizes. The individual monthly profit report for 2015 has been included in the Communication book for circulation. We start 2016 with £300 already towards this years Christmas celebration – so thank you.

Pam Small

WELFARE OFFICER's REPORT

The Branch Welfare Officer reported that the routine work of the Shrewsbury and District Branch has continued this year with payments of just over £2300 being made from our Welfare accounts; mainly dispersed from the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund through the RAF Midland Area Welfare Office.

Additionally, a donation of 4 small grills had been made to the RAF Shawbury Contact Houses at a cost of £119.97 from our Welfare account.

Our Welfare Accounts appear to be in good health with £5019.69 in the Deposit account, gaining 0.5% interest and the Community account currently at £1994.55. The main increase in our funds has come from the Branch's Wings Rebate of £1016.57.

The Welfare Officer highlighted the new RAFA Welfare BeFriending Service and advised the meeting that he could be the point of contact should any member wish for more information about the scheme. He also reminded the meeting that should anyone be aware of a person, who might be in need of welfare support, that it was necessary for that person to request support as the Welfare Officer was not permitted to "cold call" without an invitation from that person.