20210305-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_3 Mar 21\_Minutes-U

5 Mar 21

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 3 Mar 2021**

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| Present | AM S Evans  Air Cdre N Hay  Gp Capt I Sharrocks  Gp Capt J Nixon  WO (Ret’d) D A Wood  Mr Mike Pritchard  Mrs Eve Pritchard  Wg Cdr S Batt  CT R Swanson  Wg Cdr (Ret’d) P Lenihan  Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) R James  Flt Lt A Hargreaves | President  Vice President  Chairman  Vice Chairman  Secretary  Joint Treasurer  Joint Treasurer  OC IX(B) Sqn  Dep Secretary  Charities Comm Rep  Historian  OIC Assn Standard |
| Apologies | CT Mark Couling | Groundcrew Liaison |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**  1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for joining.  **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**  2. The minutes of the last meeting (21 Jan 21) were distributed to all members prior to the meeting and outstanding actions were added to this meeting agenda. These outstanding actions were reviewed as follows:  **Decision:** All other Actions listed in 21 Jan 21 Minutes that are not agenda items for this meeting were deemed closed.  **Item 3 – Financial Situation**  3. The Treasurers reported the accounts are in a stable position with a current account total of £20,293.90   1. The end of Financial Year Report is being prepared and the deadline is 5 Apr 21.   5. Audit requirements at the end of this FY, in respect of the Charity Commissions (CC), will be confirmed shortly; the Treasurers are investigating with the English and Scottish CCs.  6. As previously agreed the 2021/22 Financial Plan will be compiled but the Treasurers stated the need to remain flexible, in the short term, whilst plans for Assn events firm up as the Nation comes out of lockdown.  **Item 4 – Rev David Bartley Departure.**  7. Letter and signed print en route to David Bartlett as previously agreed. The print has very kindly been donated by the Serving Squadron. 8. The Vice President had received a quote for the two IX(B) Sqn frames for the prints destined for the Church in Bardney at £55 each, £110 total. It was proposed by the Chairman that this quote be accepted, seconded by the Dep Secretary and carried unanimously.  **Decision:** £110 to be spent on picture framing  **Item 5 – Committee TORs**  9. The agreed Committee TORs are to be made available to members via the website.  **Action:** Deputy Secretary to link a pdf copy of Committee TORs through the Assn Website.  **Post Meeting Note:** Committee responsibilities document linked to Website.  **Item 6 – Lancaster Parts for Auction**  10. At the Dec 20 meeting the Historian informed the Committee about parts up for auction in Sweden from IX Squadron Lancaster WS-T, serial number LM448, which diverted there after being hit by heavy flak, in Nov 1944. Parts in question are: Airspeed Indicator, Turn & Slip, Rate of Climb and Descent Indicator, Altimeter, Direction Indicator, Artificial Horizon, a Rear Gunner’s ‘bunny suit’ and several maps. After some excellent work by the Dep Secretary, the Committee had an understanding of the potential value of the items. The Chairman led the discussion and suggested the Assn should look to purchase the 6 cockpit gauges, with the intention of displaying half of them between the Bardney Heritage Centre and the Serving Squadron History Room, reserving the other 3 for potential auction at high profile Assn events, to raise funds for the Assn. Some healthy debate took place regarding the purpose of the potential purchase – displaying squadron heritage versus raising funds. The Vice Chairman asked if the Swedish owners would consider donating to the Assn and the Historian confirmed they would not.  11. It was proposed by the Chairman that an initial bid of £1000 (in line with the Dep Secretary’s valuations) be placed with the Swedes and that the Historian be given leeway to negotiate up to a maximum of £1500 to secure the 6 items. Seconded by the Secretary and carried unanimously.  **Action:** Historian to negotiate with his Swedish contact to purchase the 6 items with an initial £1000 bid but reserve the right to negotiate up to a £1500 maximum.  **Item 7 – 2021 Reunion**  12. The Secretary reported that he had obtained an update from the ProjO, Alfie Ferguson, and 122 expressions of interest form Assn members had been received. He also stated that his intention is to send out an email to those on the expressions of interest list after the Easter break, regarding booking of hotel accommodation. Discussion took place around levels of confidence the event will be able to take place and the Committee unanimously agreed that the Reunion Dinner this year was of such significance to Assn members that planning should continue at present. OC IX (B) Sqn informed the Committee that Mess functions are not at the top of the priority list from a Lossiemouth perspective but happy to continue planning at present, although any final decision was out of his hands. This will be discussed further at the next meeting which should see the UK move in to Phase 2 of the release from lockdown.  **Action:** Secretary to contact and update the ProjO on the Committee discussions. **Post Meeting Note:** Secretary has provided feedback to ProjO via email.  **Item 8 – TABS 2021**  13. The Vice Chairman and Editor reported he is in possession of plenty of material for the 2021 Edition. Whilst he is currently behind the drag curve of his editorial planning, he is on target to produce a mature draft by the end of March and he requested outstanding Committee articles by Friday 12 March.  14. The Committee were informed that sponsorship for the back cover had been secured but there were currently few other options to secure financial backing. There is one potential sponsor in train with ongoing negotiations with Thales at Cranwell and the Chairman suggested Babcocks may also be an option and volunteered to investigate. The usual contact from RAFA and the RAF Benevolent Fund had not been forthcoming this year but this was considered understandable, given the current crisis in the Charities Sector due to coronavirus.  15. Discussion took place regarding potential printers for TABS 2021 regarding seeking further quotes to challenge that of Minuteman, who printed last years copy. It was decided that the current climate was not conducive with seeking competitive options and that, as Minuteman provided an excellent service in 2020, we should stick with them as our preferred printer for 2021.  16. The Vice Chairman asked about the number of required copies this year and the Secretary pointed out that there was a considerable number of copies remaining from the 2020 print run. The Secretary agreed to inform the Vice Chairman of the number of active members and the number of remaining 2020 copies.  **Action:** Secretary to inform Vice Chairman about number of 2020 TABS copies remaining and number of active Assn members. **Post Meeting Note:** Secretary has informed Vice Chairman of numbers.  **Item 9 - OC IX(B) Sqn – Sqn Update**  17. OC IX(B) Sqn informed the Committee that the Squadron has been extremely busy supporting the F35 Force work up for deployment on HMS Queen Elizabeth. The Squadron has received its 7th aircraft and as a consequence has seen a 50% rise in expected output. The Squadron has been taking part in exercises to prepare other RAF Squadrons for deployments including providing challenging scenarios for QWI courses.  18. The uplift in aircraft numbers has seen far more flying of 3 ship formations as the Squadron preps for the upcoming Romanian air policing deployment. Both aircrew and groundcrews are working hard to get to grips with the change in flying profiles/tactics and engineering required when employing Tranche 2 Typhoons; IX(B) Sqn takes over NATO air policing responsibilities from the Spanish and will be deployed from May – Sep 21.  19. OC IX(B) Sqn informed the Committee that the George Thompson VC Assn Award will be presented soon and the Vice President offered to present it if diaries could be aligned with a forthcoming work visit to Lossiemouth. OC IX also reminded the Committee he is preparing for his handover in Jun 21.  **Item 10 – Association Website**  20. The Deputy Secretary informed the Committee that modernisation of the website is taking place, as and when he can find the time. He also agreed to remove the reference to the 2020 raffle.  **Action: Dep** Secretary to update website to remove reference to the raffle.  **Item 11 – Historian Research Tasks**  21. The Historian provided an update on research tasks. He is spending 4 to 6 hours per day researching, primarily on the Tirpitz raids and the ‘Bazin 13’. He stated that he receives lots of requests to carry out research on behalf of individuals and requested guidance on whether he should ask for Assn membership or donations in return. The President suggested the Historian draft a response to people requesting research tasks and to circulate it amongst Committee members for comment.  22. The Chairman also requested the Historian provide an update to the text displayed with a IX(B) Squadron painting displayed in CHOM at RAF Cranwell, as it is outdated and incorrect.  **Action 1:** Historian to prepare response to research requests and circulate to Committee.  **Action 2:** Historian to provide updated text for painting displayed in CHOM to Chairman.  **Item 12 – AOB**  23. The Vice Chairman remarked on the Joint Tirpitz Dinner with the Junior Sqn Assn. He stated the dinner is still planned to go ahead on Sat 13 Nov 21 and that we should advertise the dinner so that interested Assn members can look to reserve accommodation at the earliest opportunity.  **Action:** Dep Secretary to advertise function on Website and Assn social media sites.  24. In addition, the Vice Chairman informed the Committee that he will be deploying overseas before the Dinner takes place and would therefore be unable to continue as the ProjO beyond this point. The Chairman offered to pick up the mantle and the Vice President offered to support.  25. The Chairman stated that he was running low on Assn Stationery and the Historian (who processed the previous order) was requested to obtain a quote for headed paper, envelopes and with compliments slips.  **Action:** Obtain quote for Assn branded stationery.  **Item 13 – President’s Remarks**  26. The President thanked the Committee for all the good work being continued during the latest round of CV-19 national lockdown and stated how good it was to see everyone on screen. He thanked OC IX (B) Sqn for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the meeting and reminded him the Assn is here to help the Serving Squadron if required.  **Item 14 – Date of Next Meeting**    27. Thur 8 Apr 21 at 20:00 via Teams TeleConference. | | Action Closed  Deputy Secretary  Historian  Secretary  Secretary  Dep Secretary  Historian  Historian  Dep Secretary  Historian |

D A Wood

WO (R’td)

Sec

Approved by I J Sharrocks, Chairman, 8 Mar 21.