20210617-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_4 Aug 21\_Minutes-U

4 Aug 21

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 22 Jul 2021**

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| Present | AM S Evans  Gp Capt I Sharrocks  Gp Capt J Nixon  WO (Ret’d) D A Wood  Mr Mike Pritchard  Mrs Eve Pritchard  CT R Swanson  Sqn Ldr Bryan Parsons | President  Chairman  Vice Chairman  Secretary  Joint Treasurer  Joint Treasurer  Dep Secretary  IX(B) Sqn Mentor |
| Apologies | Air Cdre N Hay  Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) R James  Flt Lt A Hargreaves  Wg Cdr (Ret’d) P Lenihan  CT Mark Couling | Vice President  Historian  OIC Assn Standard  Charities Comm Rep  Groundcrew Liaison |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**  1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending with a special welcome to Sqn Ldr Parsons, representing the Serving Squadron for the first time.  **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**  2. The minutes of the last meeting (17 Jun 21) were distributed to all members prior to the meeting and the Chairman offered the following to update on outstanding actions:   * The Chairman has made contact with the IBCC to engage on what meaningful support the Assn might be able to offer. The conversation continues with the next meeting scheduled for 23 Jul. **Action ongoing.** * The Chairman has made contact with the Stn Cdr at RAF Lossiemouth regarding strengthening ties between the Assn, Sqn, Station and local area. Stn Cdr’s advice is to channel efforts through the Sqn Mentor. **Action ongoing.**   **Decision:** All other Actions listed in 17 Jun 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 £25,428.59  4. Subs receipts have been forthcoming and 255 members have renewed their subscriptions. The Treasurers had completed the action to contact those still paying £5 per annum and have emailed 25 members.  5. The Treasurers updated the Committee regarding the HMRC altered conditions to benefit Charities in view of the Covid effect, as reported in the last meeting, and as it is permitted to claim back 4 years, it has been decided to pend the full assessment in view of the extending Covid situation and planned events this year. At the moment we are holding nearly £1,000.00 of prepays from last year.  6. Mike Inder has very kindly considered acting as Auditor. This is a very kind offer, which will be taken up, if the preferred option fails. The Treasurers are in contact with someone they know (not a personal friend) who may be willing to do this task for the Assn. He is a professional accountant, but does a lot of charity and community work. Whilst not illegal to have a member audit the accounts, an independent would be preferable.  **Item 4 – Donations from the Assn**  7. In light of the detailed breakdown received from the Bardney Heritage Centre (BHC), regarding how they would use any donations from the Assn (action from last meeting), the Treasurers proposed a donation of £500 be made. This was endorsed by the Committee unanimously.  **Action:** Treasurers to make £500 donation to the BHC.  **Item 5 – OC IX(B) Departure Virtual Drinks**  8. The Chairman informed the Committee that virtual leaving drinks for outgoing OCIX(B) Sqn have been overtaken by events. **Item closed.**  **Item 6 – 2021 Reunion**  9. The ProjO, Alfie Ferguson, updated the Committee on the current Scottish Government position which did not look promising for the Reunion. Social distancing restrictions would mean that only half those who wish to attend the dinner would be able to and the Committee had already stated this would be a no-go option.  10. The increase in covid infections throughout the UK was also discussed, with the Committee being ever conscious of the membership demographic and how a steely eyed drive to provide something for the members to enjoy, could ultimately expose them to the danger of infection.  11. The Sqn Mentor then interjected to state that whilst every attempt has been made by both the Sqn and Stn to host the Assn in 2021, the Sqn had just been notified they are to deploy away from RAF Lossiemouth during the month of October.  12. The Committee’s aspiration is to strengthen ties between the Assn and Typhoon era personnel which will not be possible if the Sqn is deployed whilst the Reunion weekend takes place. This was deemed the final nail in the coffin for any official 2021 Assn reunion.  **Decision:**  The 2021 Assn Reunion be postponed until 2022.  **Action 1:** Secretary to email all Assn members informing them of decision, also highlighting the opportunity to attend the Tirpitz Dinner with the Junior Sqn Assn in November.  **Action 2:** Dep Secretary to post decision on website and social media platforms.  **Item 7 – Reunion Event 2022**  13. Debate took place around the best time and place to hold the 2022 Assn Reunion. Given the previously mentioned aspiration, RAF Lossiemouth was immediately nominated and accepted as the location. The Sqn Mentor informed the Committee that ‘New Gotham’ should be completed by Jul 2022 and the Sqn will be better placed to host the Assn after that date. Alfie Ferguson once again volunteered to roll over his plans to next year and again act as the ProjO for the event. An exact date for the 2022 Reunion Weekend will be selected in due course.  **Item 8 – Tirpitz Dinner 2021**  14. The Vice-Chairman stated the dinner is proceeding as planned, will cost £45 per head and he currently has 12 names for 30 spaces, although his understanding is the dinner has been moved into a larger function room so places should not be a problem.  15. There are eight Australians serving at RAF Waddington which the Assn has invited to the dinner to represent 463 Sqn RAAF who took part in the Tirpitz raids. The Vice-Chairman proposed that the Assn cover the costs of their dinners (a £360 donation) and this was carried unanimously by the Committee.  **Action:** Treasurers to lay aside £360 to cover eight meals at the Tirpitz Dinner.  16. The Sqn Mentor asked if places could be made available for a few serving sqn personnel to attend.  **Item 9 - IX(B) Sqn Mentor – Sqn Update**  17. The IX(B) Sqn Mentor provided the following update on sqn life:   * It has been announced that Wg Cdr Richard Leask has been appointed as OC IX(B) Sqn and will take up post on 1 Sep 21. This was roundly celebrated by members of the Committee and the President stated he will write to Wg Cdr Leask both in congratulations and to highlight what support the Assn can offer. * The Sqn remains deployed on Op BILOXI in Romania, working extremely hard both in the air and on the ground but enjoying some fantastic flying with NATO partners. * The Rear Party at Lossiemouth has been grouped with that of II(AC) Sqn and this arrangement has just been extended through to the end of the deployment period. * There has been a significant churn of personnel and this will continue for the foreseeable future; the Sqn WO will soon deploy to the Falkland Islands and the SengO will be moving on in November 21, there are also falling numbers due to personnel leaving the Service. * The Sqn will be both duty QRA sqn and deployed to RAF Leuchers for the whole of October 21.     **Item 10 – Historian Research**  18. There was no update presented on current research tasks.  **Item 11 – Remembrance 2021**  19. The Chairman stated that plans are on track for the Bardney Remembrance Service and follow on at the IBCC. The Secretary informed the Chairman that an attendance list is being maintained.  20. The Secretary, as ProjO for the Cenotaph March Past, informed the Committee that the Royal British Legion has allocated the Assn 30 places and that 30 volunteers had already come forward.  21. The Secretary has contacted Niall Huskisson via email and he will once again lay the Assn Wreath at the NMA Memorial, on behalf of the Assn.  **Item 12 – Retirement of ACM Sir Stuart Peach**  22. The Chairman has written to ACM Peach, on behalf of the Assn, to mark his retirement after 47 years of distinguished service.  **AOB**  23. There was 1 item of AOB:   * **Vulcan Crash in Malta.** The Sqn has received a letter enquiring about the crash of Vulcan XM645 at RAF Luca, Malta in 1975. The Sqn Mentor will forward the letter to the Historian and copy in the Vice Chairman.   **Item 13 – President’s Remarks**  22. The President thanked the Committee for their inputs once again and the Sqn Mentor for his attendance and updates.  **Item 14 – Date of Next Meeting**    23. Thur 26 Aug 21 at 20:00 via Teams TeleConference. | | Treasurers  Secretary    Dep Secretary    Treasurers |

D A Wood

WO (Ret’d)

Sec

Approved by Wg Cdr I Sharrocks, Chairman, 10 Aug 21.