20210905-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_26 Aug 21\_Minutes-U

5 Sep 21

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

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| Present | AM S Evans  Air Cdre N Hay  Gp Capt I Sharrocks  WO (Ret’d) D A Wood  CT R Swanson  Flt Lt A Hargreaves  Wg Cdr (Ret’d) P Lenihan  Wg Cdr Richard Leask  Sqn Ldr Bryan Parsons | President  Vice President  Chairman  Secretary  Dep Secretary  OIC Assn Standard  Charities Comm Rep  OC IX(B) Sqn (Des)  IX(B) Sqn Mentor |
| Apologies | Gp Capt J Nixon  Mr Mike Pritchard  Mrs Eve Pritchard  Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) R James  CT Mark Couling | Vice Chairman  Joint Treasurer  Joint Treasurer  Historian  Groundcrew Liaison |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**  1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending with a special welcome to OC IX(B) Sqn (Des), Wg Cdr Richard Leask and thanks to Sqn Ldr Parsons for once again representing the Serving Squadron. The Chairman passed on congratulations and best wishes on behalf of the Assn to Wg Cdr Leask, who takes up post on 1 Sep 21.  **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**  2. The minutes of the last meeting (22 Jul 21) were distributed to all members prior to the meeting and the Chairman offered the following to update on outstanding actions:  **Decision:** All other Actions listed in 22 Jul 21 Minutes that are not agenda items for this meeting were deemed closed.  **Item 3 – Financial Situation**  3. The Treasurers reported in writing to the meeting and the Secretary provided the update: the accounts are in a stable position with a current account total of £25,253.59  4. Subs receipts have been forthcoming and 264 members have renewed their subscriptions. The Treasurers informed the Committee that most of the LHM continue to pay their subscriptions.  5. Chasing the £5 subs payers has resulted in a further 7 responding with apologies, updated payments and full back payments as Donations, and some have Gift Aided themselves as well.  6. With regards to Gift Aid, the Treasurers once again provided an update regarding the HMRC altered conditions to benefit Charities in view of the Covid effect, it is hoped to formalise the response by mid-September.  7. The external audit will be carried out by Mr Charles Porter to keep business independent to the Assn membership. The Treasurers extended their thanks to Mike Inder for agreeing to step in if required.  **Item 4 – Donations from the Assn**  8. The Treasurers confirmed the £500 donation to the Bardney Heritage Centre had been made and a message of thanks had been received.  **Item 5 – IBCC Support**  9. The Chairman informed the Committee that the planned meeting with the IBCC for 23 Jul had not taken place, however the Chairman will continue to pursue that contact. This is an ongoing matter.  **Item 6 – Links to RAF Lossiemouth and surrounding area**  10. The Chairman took the opportunity to brief OC IX(B) Des on the Assn aspiration to forge strong links with the Sqn, RAF Lossiemouth and the surrounding area. OC IX(B) Des committed to continuing the conversation when in post. This will be ongoing business for the Assn.  **Item 7 – Historian Research**  11. The Secretary presented a short update on behalf of the Historian, informing the Committee that the Bazin 14 are meeting on a regular basis, supported by the Historian.  **Item 8 – Tirpitz Dinner 2021**  12. The Vice-Chairman was unable to attend the meeting due to work commitments. The Chairman reminded the Committee that he would shortly take over as ProjO for this dinner as the Vice-Chairman will be proceeding on an out of area detachment.  13. The Chairman committed to confirm numbers, cost and subsidy for the 463 Sqn RAAF members attending the dinner.  14. The Sqn Mentor, OC IX(B) Des and his wife would like to support the dinner and requested places for them to attend.  **Item 9 – OC IX(B) Sqn (Des) and IX(B) Sqn Mentor – Sqn Update**  15. The following update on sqn life was presented to the Committee:   * The Sqn has flown the last sortie on Op BILOXI in Romania today, 26 Aug 21. Unfortunately, the recovery plot has been severely affected for both for the aircraft and personnel because of the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan and the evacuation from Kabul airport. It is likely that the aircraft will have to trail home overland via Germany. The return of Sqn personnel is expected to be via several civilian flights and bus journeys. * As the detachment has drawn to a close there have been quite a few Q launches and lots of engagement with NATO partners. There has been a minor Covid outbreak but nothing that should further complicate the recovery. * There was expected to be extensive media coverage of the Sqns return but this will be muted because of the nature of the recovery but OC IX(B) Sqn (Des) will meet the troops with a beer or two, as they return to RAF Lossiemouth. * Despite the short extension to the Biloxi deployment and the issues with returning home, the Sqn will still be deploying to RAF Leuchers in October. * The ‘New Gotham’ build is currently running 45 days behind schedule meaning the Sqn is unlikely to move into their new home before the beginning of August 22.     **Item 10 – Remembrance 2021**  16. Plans are on track for the Bardney Remembrance Service and follow on at the IBCC.  17. The Secretary, as ProjO for the Cenotaph March Past, informed the Committee that 30 volunteers have been successfully registered with the RBL and will all march together on 14 Nov.  18. Niall Huskisson will lay the Assn Wreath at the NMA Memorial.  **Item 11 – AOB**  19. There were 10 items of AOB:   * **Assn letter to Sqn members.** The Secretary had revitalised letters previously distributed to serving sqn members on arrival and departure from the Sqn, inviting membership of the Assn. These had been shared with Committee members prior to the meeting and the President offered to refine the wording before they are sent to the Sqn. The Sqn Mentor agreed to investigate how they can be attached to the arrivals and clearance procedures for sqn members. * **Donation on behalf of Mrs Margaret Parks.** The Secretary informed the Committee that a £502 donation had been made to the Assn in memory of Mrs Parks. The Chairman will write a letter of thanks to Mrs Parks’ daughter. * **Virtual Raffle.** The Treasurers asked, via their update, if we should embark on another virtual raffle in light of the Reunion Dinner cancellation. After some debate it was decided the raffle would be better held in person, during a dinner, where more focus on ticket purchases could be made. Whilst the virtual world has its uses, it also has its limitations and the Committee elected to reject the idea of holding a virtual raffle in 2021. * **Pictures for the BHC.** The BHC has requested any pictures the Assn may be able to provide for them to make up a new display, chronicling the history of IX(B) Sqn. * **IX(B) Sqn DVD.** The Sqn Mentor asked if the Assn had a copy of the Stories from IX(B) Sqn DVD as the Sqn only had an empty box and he wished to make viewing a part of induction to the Sqn. The Secretary stated there is a copy in the Assn stock and said he would send it to the Sqn Mentor. * **Memorabilia into space.** OC IX(B) Sqn (Des) informed the meeting that a former sqn Canadian exchange pilot, Jameel Janjua, now works for Virgin Galactic and has offered to fly ‘something’ from IX(B) Sqn into space. After establishing that the Assn Standard Bearer and/or the Standard would **not** be allowed, OC IX(B) Sqn (Des) suggested that a Sqn Crest patch would be ideal as it represents those of every era. It was suggested that maybe two could be flown, one to be framed for the Sqn HQ and the other to be raffled to raise funds for the Assn. OC IX(B) Sqn (Des) will investigate further. * **Tornado Gin.** The OIC Assn Standard reminded the Committee that the limited addition Tornado gin, advertised via Assn social media, was still available and stated that the draw for Tornado sqn numbers was still to be made. Entering the draw for number 9 is free but the winner commits to paying £50 for the bottle, with a substantial donation being made to the RAF Marham Heritage Centre. * **Squadron Whisky.** The Sqn Mentor stated that the serving Sqn is looking to commission some more IX(B) Sqn whisky, given the success of the sales at the stand-up parade. The Assn will be informed when more definite plans have been made. * **Squadron Christmas Function.** The Vice-President asked the Sqn representatives if there are any sqn Christmas functions planned, either formal dinners or more low-key beer calls. Whilst nothing is planned at the moment, the Vice-President proposed that two donations of £99 be made to contribute to whatever the Sqn decide to lay on towards Christmas celebrations. This was agreed unanimously. * **Spring Function.** The President suggested that a Spring 2022 function would be appropriate given the length of time that has passed since the last Assn get-together, this was considered an excellent proposal and worthy of further consideration. * **End of Year Financial Report.** The Charities Commission Rep asked when the end of year financial report would be published so that reporting to the English and Scottish Charities Commissions can take place. As the Treasurers had offerd apologies for this meeting the Secretary offered to contact them requesting they have a conversation with the Charities Commission Rep.   **AOB Actions:**   1. President to refine Sqn members letters and send to Secretary. **Post meeting note – completed.** 2. Secretary to forward letters to Sqn Mentor. **Post meeting note – completed.** 3. Chairman to write to Mrs Parks’ daughter. 4. Secretary to send Assn DVD to Sqn Mentor. **Post meeting note – completed.** 5. OC IX(B) Sqn to investigate memorabilia into space. 6. Treasurers to transfer two donations of £99 to IX(B) Sqn. 7. Secretary to inform Treasurers of need to speak to Charities Rep. **Post meeting note – completed.**   **Item 12 – President’s Remarks**  20. The President concluded the meeting by wishing Wg Cdr Leask the very best wishes of the Assn for a successful tour as OC IX(B) Sqn and reminded him that the Assn remains poised to support the Sqn and its personnel at any time.  **Item 13 – Date of Next Meeting**    21. Thur 30 Sep 21 at 20:00 via Teams TeleConference. | |  |

D A Wood

WO (Ret’d)

Sec

Approved by Wg Cdr I Sharrocks, Chairman, XX Sep 21.