20220428-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_28 Apr 2022\_Minutes-U

1 May 22

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 28 Apr 2022**

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| Present | Air Cdre N Hay  Air Cdre I Sharrocks  Gp Capt J Nixon  WO (Ret’d) D A Wood  Wg Cdr Richard Leask  Flt Lt A Hargreaves  Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) R James  Mr Mike Pritchard  Mrs Eve Pritchard | Vice President  Chairman  Vice Chairman  Secretary  OC IX(B) Sqn  OIC Assn Standard  Historian  Joint Treasurer  Joint Treasurer |
| Apologies | AM S Evans  CT R Swanson  Wg Cdr (Ret’d) P Lenihan  Sqn Ldr Bryan Parsons  CT Mark Couling | President  Dep Secretary  Charities Comm Rep  IX(B) Sqn Mentor  Groundcrew Liaison |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**   1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He stated his priority was for the Committee to push the AGM and dinner to the membership to encourage greater attendance.   **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**  2. The minutes of the last meeting (3 Feb 22) were distributed to all Committee members prior to the meeting. There were no outstanding actions from the previous minutes.  **Item 3 – Financial Situation**  3. The Treasurers reported: the accounts are in a healthy position with a current account total of £27,077.68 in the bank as of 25 Apr 22.  4. The treasurers briefed £70 in membership subscriptions has been received this month. The Assn contribution for 50% of the total cost of the memorial bench at Bardney has been paid to Bardney Parish Council. Also paid is the deposit to the IBCC for the AGM dinner of £500, and a refund of expenses and pre-payment for the 2020 Reunion.  5. The treasurers also reminded the committee of their intentions to step down from the role in the near future. The Vice Chairman offered to take on the role as long as it did not contradict any charities commission rules on holding two trustee positions. The Treasurers stated that there is no rule to prevent one individual holding two positions. The Sec also volunteered to assist the Vice Chairman when required. The Historian stated that he believes there is an individual waiting in the wings to take on the Treasurer role but the timing currently doesn’t fit to take over. The Vice Chairman stated he is content to sit in the role until such time as it can be filled permanently by a volunteer.  6. The Treasurers presented the draft financial plan for 2022/23 which was approved by the Committee.  7. The Chairman requested that the Committee considers doing more with the Assn’s charitable status over the coming year and suggested that the Committee should be willing to take more financial risk when supporting these activities.  **Item 4 – Participation in the 2022 Tirpitz Dinner with Junior Sqn Assn**  8. The Committee wholeheartedly supported joining the Junior Sqn Assn again for the Tirpitz Dinner. The Vice Chairman stated he would contact their dinner ProjO and ascertain if they are willing for us to join them.  **Item 5 – 2022 Reunion at RAF Lossiemouth**  9. Due to a number of reasons beyond the Sqn’s control, OC IX(B) Sqn confirmed that it is unlikely the Sqn will be in a position to host the Assn during 2022, in a way that would be meaningful, worthy of the strong ties between sqn and assn and to a standard that he would be happy with. He suggested that Q1/Q2 of 2023 would be a more likely window of opportunity for the Assn to visit RAF Lossiemouth and the Committee elected to once again defer the annual reunion weekend. All Committee members agreed that the 2023 Reunion should be held at RAF Lossiemouth, close to the end of the financial year to enable the AGM to be held and to coincide with several anniversaries from the Sqn history; Apr 2023 is currently the preferred month for the 2023 reunion weekend and a date will be determined in the coming months.  10. Some debate took place regarding another formal dinner is Sep 22 but the Committee considered this would detract from members joining either the post AGM dinner at the IBCC or the Tirpitz dinner in November. It was proposed to hold an informal ‘Happy Hour’ event in London in Sep 22 on either Friday the 9th (9 Sqn on the 9th of the 9th) or Saturday the 10th. It will be put to a vote at the AGM for a decision on the date and the Sec agreed to add it as an item of AOB.  **Action:** Sec to add Happy Hour event date proposal to AOB on AGM agenda. **Post meeting note:** Sec has added item to AGM agenda and amended the slide pack to reflect.  **Item 6 – Committee recruitment**  11. Movements within the Committee positions were discussed to counter the previously notified retirements of the President and Treasurers. The Committee agreed that Air Cdre Hay will become the Assn President, Air Cdre Sharrocks the Vice President, former OC IX(B) Sqn, Gp Capt James Heeps will take on the role of Chairman, the Vice Chairman will remain in post and will take on the Treasurer role as detailed at para 5. These positions will be ratified at the AGM.  12. The status of serving sqn personnel was discussed and it was decided to revert to a previous membership model which dictates that all current serving members of IX(B) Sqn are also members of the Assn by default and without a requirement to pay subscriptions. They will be managed by a sqn point of contact (POC), nominated by OC IX(B) Sqn and will receive an electronic copy of TABS each year, via the Sqn POC. On departing the Sqn they will be invited to become fully paid up Assn members managed by the Assn Sec. The current Vice President will write to all current serving sqn members and OC IX(B) will nominate a sqn POC.  **Action 1:** Vice President to write to all serving sqn members to inform them of their assn membership.  **Action 2:** OC IX(B) Sqn to nominate a sqn POC to manage the serving sqn membership of the Assn.  **Item 7 – 2022 Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the IBCC**  13. The Chairman informed the Committee that space at the IBCC to hold the AGM has been secured and that the dinner menu had been confirmed. The cost would be £54 per head but it was proposed that the Assn subsidise the event for all attendees. The proposal to limit the cost to individuals to £40 per person was carried unanimously. It was also proposed that this dinner be rebadged as the annual reunion, due to the postponement of events at RAF Lossiemouth. This was agreed by all and Assn Stalwart Dicky James agreed to take the reins. The dinner will be accompanied by a blind raffle (prizes are numbered and chosen blind) which the joint treasurers, Mike and Eve Pritchard kindly agreed to run. Any high value prizes donated will be subject to an auction post the dinner.  14. Discussion took place about how the Assn could encourage serving sqn members to make the long journey south in support of assn events. It was proposed by the President that £500 be set aside for the Assn to fund serving sqn member attendance and this was carried unanimously. It was further proposed that the same principle be applied to the Tirpitz dinner and this was again agreed unanimously. OC IX(B) Sqn will look at options available to support travel and will encourage serving sqn members to attend.  15. Given the decision to recognise the dinner at the IBCC as the annual reunion, Dicky James offered to put together further publicity and the Secretary agreed to email all Assn members once again. The 9th May was agreed as the final date for numbers to be confirmed.  16. The Slide Pack for presenting at the AGM has been uploaded to the Assn Sharepoint and pages have been annotated for updating. All Committee members are to update their relevant slides ni later than the 20 May 22 so that the Chairman and Sec can run through an check against the agenda prior to the AGM.  **Action:** Committee members to update AGM slide pack.  **Item 8 – Wellington Memorial Unveiling at Boxmeer, NL.**  17. The Sec and Historian had received an invitation to attend the unveiling of a memorial to the crew of a crashed IX Sqn Wellington from WW2. The historian had previously provided the Dutch memorial team with information regarding the crash and crew and this invitation came with a very tight deadline and not much notice to the actual event. None of the Committee were in a position to attend at such short notice and, given the tight timescale, it was not feasible to approach the membership for a volunteer.    **Item 9 – OC IX(B) Sqn – Sqn Update**  18. OC IX(B) Sqn briefed that the Sqn is in good order and remained exceptionally busy delivering enhanced QRA.  19. A number of sqn engineers had been sent on a short notice deployment in support of II(AC) Sqn as part of an Op SHADER surge. Their efforts have been exceptional and resulted in some excellent feedback from OC II(AC) Sqn.  20. The Sqn has been heavily involved in the R2 workups for the F35 Force, helping them achieve all relevant combat authorisations to achive their combat ready status.  21. Short notice deployments were not restricted to the Ground Crew and Op SHADER, the Sqn had also successfully deployed 4 aircraft to support Lithuanian Independence Day, 2 aircraft to Estonia and another 2 to fly with the Portuguese Typhoons which was heavily reported via the RAF Lossiemouth social media platforms.  22. OC IX(B) had great praise for his sqn engineers and aircrew alike for the way they had responded to recent challenges. The amount of work involved in all of the deployments was amplified by the loss of all admin support on the Sqn; everything was achieved through self-help.  23. In the Blue Air arena, the Sqn has trained and authorised two more 4’s leads and a multi role pairs lead. In addition, the Red v Blue air flying strategy has proved to be an excellent way of maximising available assets and training opportunities and the engineers are doing an outstanding job of producing aircraft, outperforming their sister sqns.  24. OC IX(B) Sqn has been on a liaison visit to Joint Helicopter Command Flying Station Aldergrove and is looking into conducting Typhoon land away visits into Northern Ireland.  25. Away from flying, the Sqn is looking for fin art designs to adorn one of their Typhoons and OC IX(B) is planning an all ranks informal dining in night to take place in May.  **Item 12 – AOB**  26. The Chairman formally thanked Dicky James for all that he continues to do in support of the aims of the Assn, going beyond the realms of historian in his support for our Assn members and their enquiries.  27. Members of the Committee had been instrumental in transferring some donated items, including Ted Newcombe’s uniform, to the Bardney Heritage Centre from the Marham Heritage Centre, where there was no room to display them. Due to some unfortunate miscommunication there is potential for these items to be lost to the Assn. The Sqn is keen to take them on for display in the memorabilia room of the new build, once complete, given the importance of the items; Ted was a member of George Thompson VC’s crew. Efforts will be made to secure the items for the Sqn at RAF Lossiemouth.  28. The Vice President reported that the new bench at Bardney is in place. He asked for a volunteer to attend the unveiling ceremony before the AGM and the Chairman elected to attend. The Vice Chairman is to contact the Bardney Council to confirm details and attendance.  **Action:** Vice Chairman to contact Bardney Parish Council.  **Item 11 - Date of Next Meeting**    29. The date of next meeting will be in June but decided post the AGM. It will be held via Teams TeleConference. | | Secretary    Vice President  OC IX(B) Sqn        **All**    Vice Chairman |

Dean Wood

Assn Sec

Approved by Air Cdre I Sharrocks, Chairman, 10 May 22.