20221215-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_15\_Dec\_22\_Minutes-U

15 Dec 22

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 15 DEC 2022**

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| Present | Air Cdre N Hay  Air Cdre I Sharrocks  WO (Ret’d) D A Wood  Flt Lt A Hargreaves  CT Rob Swanson  Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) R James | President  Chairman  Secretary  OIC Assn Standard  Dep Sec  Historian |
| Apologies | Gp Capt J Nixon  Wg Cdr Richard Leask  CT Mark Couling | V Chairman/Treasurer  OC IX(B) Sqn  Groundcrew Liaison |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**   1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He congratulated the committee on the organisation of a very successful set of Remembrance events and committed to repeating next year.   **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**  2. The minutes of the last meeting (6 Oct 22) were distributed to all Committee members prior to the meeting. The outstanding action from the previous minutes is at item 4 and all other actions were accepted as closed.  **Item 3a – Financial Situation**  3. The Treasurer offered the monthly treasurers report for Nov via email showing that the accounts remain in a healthy position, with a current account total of £28,836.17 in the bank as of 30 Nov 22. This report was accepted in full by the Committee.  4. The treasurer briefed that some confusion remained about payment and attendance at the Bardney Remembrance Lunch but between the Secretary, Historian and Chairman it was agreed that all had been accounted for and that the Treasurer had been sent details to enable a full refund of costs paid out on the day. This was agreed unanimously.  **Action:** Treasurer to refund costs for Bardney Remembrance Lunch to the Chairman.  5. Via email the Treasurer reiterated the position presented at the last meeting that a sound financial plan was required to indicate how the Assn was looking to allocate funds over the coming years and insisted that the Committee allocate time for discussion. After some healthy debate it was decided that at the next meeting, the Committee will discuss and commit to significant events/anniversaries over the next 5 years. **This discussion represented agenda item 4.**  6. As agreed during the Oct meeting the Assn should make a firm commitment to allocate funds to a specific charity each year and this is to be nominated at the next meeting.  **Action 1:** In support, all Committee members are to consider the list at Annex A, suggest additions to the Secretary prior to the next meeting, and form an opinion on which the Assn should commit to support.  **Action 2:** Committee members consider a charitable cause to commit funds to annually and present representation for consideration at next Committee meeting.  **Item 3b. Travel Policy**  7. It was agreed unanimously that the Travel Policy, previously discussed X-Committee, should be adopted in full. This would see members of the Assn appropriately recompensed for attendance at events where members officially represent the Assn.  **Item 4. Outstanding Actions- Events to support over next 5 years**  8. The Committee agreed decisions recorded at item 3a covered this agenda item.  **Item 5 – TABS 2023**  9. In the absence of the Editor, the Secretary stated that this should be the time where we, as a committee, push the membership to write articles for inclusion in TABS. After much debate, the Committee decided it should not be only committee members contributing to TABS articles, either through personal experiences or through research, but should also be members contributing their own personal experiences of their time on IX(B) SQN.  **Action:** The Dep Sec and Historian to reach out to Assn membership and wider IX(B) Sqn contacts to try and gather stories about the Premier Bomber Sqn in the RAF. Both should include a reminder that without these stories (whatever they are) the Assn will flounder and eventually die.  **Item 6 – Op Telic Dinner 2023**  10. Various options were debated based upon the excellent work, previously distributed to committee members, of the President and Chairman. After much discussion the Committee agreed the event would be held on Sat 25 Mar 23, at Aerospace Bristol, both as a location that would be easy to reach for the mainstream membership and an opportunity to dine in a historically relevant aviation environment. Costs, without any subsidy, would be £109 per person but it is hope that sponsorship of the event, by industry partners, will allow that cost to be brought down.  11. The Assn POC for the Dinner will be the Chairman via a newly created Assn email address, accessible by all committee members.  12. The President offered to collate attendees.  13. It was also decided that this would not be a stand-alone event, given the contribution of all squadrons during Op TELIC therefore, the Committee should reach out to other Tornado Sqn Assns, to both gauge interest and also commitment to an Iraq War commemorative dinner as we were all involved in either the Combat Air Wing or later Op TELIC deployments.  14. The President also believed this dinner would attract wider RAF interest and committed to pursuing RAF Band involvement once a commitment to dine is made.  **Action 1.** Chairman to reach out to other Sqn Assns, cut-off date for interest is 31 Jan 23.  **Action 2.** Mail shot to be sent out to all IX(B) Sqn Assn members.  **Action 3.** Chairman to share Rolls Royce contact with the President who will then reach out to contacts in industry seeking potential sponsorship for the dinner.  The Assn Committee committed unanimously to organising and hosting a dinner in Bristol to commemorate all who served on Op TELIC.  **Item 7 – Historian Update**  15. The Historian has waded through a huge number of historical documents donated by a former member’s widow, and has updated the committee regularly via the group email, as to the subjects he has been researching. There are 3 large trunks of material and he continues to read and categorise them when time permits. He has also come across the Signaller brevet worn by our very own VC winner FS George Thompson, a rare and valuable find.  16. The Committee have yet to make a decision on the final destination of the Brevet but would ask the Edinburgh Museum and RAF Museum if they have interest in adding it to their displays.  **Action:** Historian to contact Edinburgh Museum in the first instance and then the RAF Museum to gauge interest in the Brevet being put on display.  17. The Historian highlighted the number of documents which need to be digitised and how time consuming this would be for him. He requested £100 be granted to employ a local typist to assist him with this task. This was approved unanimously by the Committee.  18. The Historian also committed to uploading all of his research to the Assn account held in the Cloud.  **Item 8 – 2023 Reunion**  19. The Committee welcomed the news that the Serving Squadron has moved into the ‘New Gotham’, the final hurdle that has prevented commitment to the 2023 Reunion. It has been confirmed the Officers’ Mess will not be able to cater for an Assn reunion dinner therefore, any potential dates will have to take into account the availability of hotel catering, which must be investigated and provisionally booked as soon as possible. The Squadron will now be requested to offer dates in 2023, where they can safely host the Assn. The Committee discussed the issue of Typhoon operational deployments preventing any hosting but was reminded that the GR4 Squadron did host the Assn during many such deployments and the Squadron Rear Party was always up to the task.  **Action:** Chairman to press OC IX(B) for dates in Jul/Aug/Sep 2023 where a reunion weekend could be hosted by the Squadron.  **Item 9. AOB**  20. The Sibsey Lancaster Memorial Service will commemorate the 80th anniversary in 2023. The Committee have received an invitation to attend and the President, Deputy Secretary and OIC Standard all agreed to attend; the Assn Standard will be paraded.  21. The Website still requires updating to reflect the current committee and publication of the AGM Minutes.  **Action:** Deputy Secretary to make changes to website to reflect current committee and link to last AGM minutes.  22. The Secretary requested committee members to consider how a meeting could be held at a time to suit the Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, as he felt his input is crucial to many of the live discussions. As the Deputy Chairman is currently serving in Oman (4 hours ahead of UK time) these opportunities are limited with perhaps a Saturday meeting the only realistic option. This will be discussed further at the next meeting and the view of the Vice Chairman sought via email.  **Action 1:** Consideration ahead of next meeting as to when ‘Full’ attendance by trustees could be attained.  **Action 2:** Deputy Chairman to be emailed to understand his view on this matter.  **Item 10 – Date of Next Meeting**  22. The next meeting will be held via Teams Tele-Conference on Thurs 26 Jan @ 1900. Committee members are requested to be online by 1855. The Deputy Secretary will run the meeting as the Secretary will be working overseas. | | Treasurer  All  All  Dep Secretary/Historian      Chairman  President  Chairman  Dep Secretary  President    Historian    Historian  Chairman  President  Dep Secretary  OIC Standard  Dep Secretary  All  Secretary  Secretary/Dep Secretary |

Dean Wood

Assn Sec

Annexes:

1. Initial list of anniversaries over next 5 years.

Approved by Air Cdre I Sharrocks, Chairman on 17 Dec 22.

Annex A to

IX(B) Sqn Assn Meeting Minutes

Dated 15 Dec 22

**INITIAL LIST OF ANNIVERSARIES OVER NEXT 5 YEARS**

**2023** - 20 years of TELIC Dinner in March

**2024** - 80th Anniversary of Tirpitz Raid (Norway) or 110th Anniversary of Sqn formation (St Omer). Either of these could be supported by a major FD event (like Tirpitz Eagle was in 2019 for 75th in Tromso or the event we did in 2014)

**2025** - we have agreed to support a commemoration event of a Vulcan crash in Malta (Oct I think - left email in VP account).

**2026** - 80th Anniversary of last Lancaster flight on IX Sqn 3 Jul 1946 at BBK) - tie into BBMF and Poss IBCC for event, 35th anniversary of Granby.

**2027** - and now for the crazy one - 50th anniversary of first USAF exercise RED FLAG flown by RAF Vulcan crews (Vegas road trip!). If we really wanted to do this, we would need to reach out to the US via the Air Attaché to pose the question early - Jez Attridge is a good buddy.

It would be great if we could do something positive for the Vulcan era as that finished over 40 years ago this year - Apr 82.  Wad has a Vulcan gate guard (607) that is being refurbished. Perhaps, we could encourage Wad to celebrate it with a broader group than the Falklands mob?