20230310-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_9\_Mar\_23\_Minutes-U

10 Mar 23

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 9 Mar 23**

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| Present | Air Cdre N Hay  Air Cdre I Sharrocks  Gp Capt J Nixon  WO D A Wood (Ret’d)  CT Rob Swanson  Wg Cdr R Leask  Sqn Ldr R James (Ret’d)  Flt Lt A Hargreaves  Gp Capt A Ferguson (Ret’d)  Wg Cdr PJD Lenihan | President  Chairman  V Chairman/Treasurer  Secretary  Dep Sec  OC IX(B) Sqn  Historian  OIC Standard  Travel Agent  Lossie Rep |
| Apologies |  |  |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**   1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The Travel Agent had until 1930 only, so the 2023 Annual Reunion weekend was brought forward and covered at Item 2.   **Item 2 – 2023 Reunion Weekend**   1. The dates for the 2023 Reunion weekend had been promulgated via the Assn website and social media pages, confirmed as 23 / 24 Sep. The Lossie Rep stated that the 23 Sep 23 would be the third weekend in a row that Lossie catering staff were being asked to volunteer to work. The WO & Sgts’ Mess had 120 dinner places available and have been asked to quote for the maximum numbers, he was waiting for costings. It was suggested that the Assn could provide some financial bonus for each working staff member as an incentive to volunteer for the function and the Lossie Rep would discuss this with the Mess Manger. As a contingency plan the Ramnee Hotel had also been reserved but they only have 80 dining places available, however they also wanted a 50% deposit before the end of the month.   **Post meeting note: WOSM quoted £100 to £120 per person. X-Committee decision made to confirm dinner at the Ramnee hotel.**   1. OC IX(B) Sqn stated that he was planning a Squadron parade (with flypast) for 1500 on Friday 22 Sep 23, followed by a tour of the new Sqn accommodation and an all ranks Happy Hour (if approved by the PMC) in the Officers Mess. He didn’t know how many Sqn members would come to the Reunion Dinner but was confident that interest would be high, given the positive feedback from attendees at the IBCC dinner in 2022. 2. Alfie Ferguson, the volunteer Travel Agent stated that the Premier Inn still had 90 rooms free but we would have to make a decision soon to secure the rooms. He suggested someone look into using Lincoln instead but this was dismissed by the Committee as all members felt it was essential the Reuinion is held at Lossiemouth. 3. Alfie volunteered to draft an email for the Membership outlining the plans for the weekend and requesting expressions of interest without commitment which he would send to the Secretary for distribution. Arrangements for the weekend will not include a coach to Scotland therefore, members would have to arrange their own transport. Quotes for coach travel between the hotel and Lossiemouth were being sought.   **Action.** Secretary to distribute expressions of interest email. **Post meeting note: email distributed.**   1. OC IX and the Sqn members were working hard to provide other entertainment on Saturday 23 Sep, including possible access to the golf club and a distillery tour.   *The Travel Agent and Lossie Rep left the meeting at 1930 and the meeting reverted to the published Agenda.*  **Item 3 – Minutes of the last meeting**   1. The minutes of the last meetings (26 Jan and 16 Feb) were distributed to all Committee members prior to the meeting. The outstanding actions were discussed and all other actions were accepted as closed.   Actions carried forward:  **Action 1.** President to email Association membership to outline the plan for the Bardney window project.  **Action 2.** President to contact the designer to discuss potential designs for the Bardney window.  **Action 3.** President to speak to Rev Harry Jeffrey to see if he would be interested in joining the committee as the Treasurer as he is a former accountant – **Post meeting note: Prospect discussed and Rev Jeffrey does not wish to become the Treasurer but may consider joining the Committee.**  **Action 4.** All outstanding articles from Committee to be with TABS editor by end of March.  **Action 5.** Historian to pass details of trial web manager to the Dep Sec so that passwords and an account can be authorised for access to the Assn website.  **Action 6.** Chairman to complete handover to Chairman Des, Gp Capt Heeps.   1. The proposed visit to St Omer to celebrate the Sqn’s 110th anniversary was discussed. The President had been in contact with Monsieur Lucas Lacombe in St Omer and he is keen to support any event that we hold. The President committed to put in touch the Project Officer (once agreed) and the Sqn representative, with Mssr Lacombe.   **Item 4. Financial Situation**  9. The Treasurer stated that the accounts are in a healthy condition and are roughly in line with the Financial Plan for this year.  10. Highlighting an issue that occurred when the bank account was transferred, the Treasurer stated that it had been impossible to confirm all of the members who had paid subs for this past year and in his assessment around 33% of members appeared to have not paid. The issue had now been resolved and in this next year we will be able to match payments with members and send reminders to any late payers.  11. The subject of those members who have not changed their direct debits to £10 came up once again. It will become clear who they are when the next round of payments is made and the Treasurer will be able to contact those individuals directly.  12. The President stated that he had spoken to the Treasurer and thought that we needed to put down a long term financial plan for the next 5 years or so. With approx. £30,000 in the bank, we need to allocate funding to the various projects and events in the future and reduce the bank balance. We should provide subsidies to members at all functions including new members joining. The President felt that the Association Standard was superb value for money. The Treasurer stated that Subs income was £2500 PA and we had 330 members but numbers were slowly diminishing.  13. The Chairman agreed with the President’s thoughts and reminded the meeting about some of the upcoming events as discussed in the previous meeting.  2023 – TELIC 20 Year Dinner in Bristol.  2023 – Association Reunion at RAF Lossiemouth (23 Sep 23)  2024 – 110 Years of IX(B) Sqn (Potentially to St Omer) plus Tirpitz 80  2025 – 50 Years of the Association (RAF Museum Dinner)  2025 – Malta Vulcan Crash 50-year remembrance  2026 – Association Reunion at RAF Lossiemouth.  14. The President, Chairman and Vice Chairman/Treasurer committed to hold a meeting (along with the Chairman Des) to discuss the details of the long-term financial plan, looking at projected income and what we may commit to over the next 5 years.  15. The President felt it had been a mistake to keep moving the Annual General Meeting date around and it was agreed that where possible it should be on the Reunion weekend  16. Financial commitment to the 2023 Reunion weekend was discussed and it was agreed there would be a £4K ceiling on spending.  **Item 5. Op TELIC 20 Year Dinner**  17. The President told the meeting that 61 people had signed up for the alternate venue Bristol Dinner on 25 Mar 2023 and everything was running on plan. AVM Ellard will be the Guest of Honour and he would make a speech. MBDA had promised sponsorship for the event and the President will look to confirm the amount over the coming days.  18. The Sec stated that the wives of Flt Lt Main and Flt Lt Williams had been invited via the global membership invitation.  **Item 6. TABS 2023**  19. The Editor had sufficient articles, especially from the Historian, but was still awaiting articles from certain Committee members. See Item 3 Action 4.  **Item 7. Bardney Church Window**  20. The proposed stained glass window project for Bardney Church was discussed during Item 3 (previous Minutes) and with outstanding actions previously noted, no further discussion was necessary.  **Item 8. IX(B) Sqn TELIC Memorial Rededication**  21. The OIC Assn Standard discussed the plans for the rededication of the IX(B) Sqn TELIC (Alarm) Memorial at RAF Marham on 23 Mar 23. The service will be conducted by the RAF Marham Padre and the Station Commander will be in attendance as will the families of Flt Lts Kev Main and Dave Williams.  22. The Committee unanimously agreed a sum of £300 for a post service luncheon for the families and senior guests. OIC Standard will organise.  23. A global membership email will be distributed to ensure all are aware of the service and how they can attend.  24. It was also briefed that on 23 Mar there will be an unveiling of the GR4 at RAF Shrivenham with the names of Flt Lts Main and Williams adorning the fuselage beside the cockpit (this aircraft is in IX(B) Sqn colours). There will also be a service at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and AVM Ellard will be visiting Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, where he will lay a wreath and give a short speech in Remembrance.  **Item 9. Sqn Update.**  25. OC IX(B) was in conference from Op AZITIZE where the OAT was -16 degrees and it was snowing. The Sqn are flying alongside the Luftwaffe and it was very beneficial experience. They had done a joint training QRA scramble this week to intercept Polish F16s. The Sqn would continue sharing the deployment responsibilities until the start of May, when the Germans are due to leave and then IX(B) Sqn takes over in toto.  26. The Sqn will be also be holding a Memorial service on 23 Mar 23 to mark 20 years since the loss of Flt Lts Kev Main & Dave Williams.  **Item 10. - AOB**  27. The Historian reiterated that his friend Nick Phillips was willing to give the Assn website an update at £10 an hour for up to 5 hours as previously agreed. See Item 3 Action 5.  **Item 11 – Date of Next Meeting**  28. The next meeting will be held via Teams Tele-Conference on Thurs 20 Apr 23. | | President  President  President  All  Historian/Dep Secretary  Chairman  OIC Standard |

Dean Wood

Assn Sec

Approved by Air Cdre (Ret’d) Nick Hay, President on 16 Mar 23.