20230519-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_17\_May\_23\_Minutes-U

19 May 23

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 17 MAY 23**

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| Present | Air Cdre N Hay  Air Cdre I Sharrocks  Gp Capt J Heeps  Gp Capt J Nixon  WO D A Wood (Ret’d)  Wg Cdr R Leask  Sqn Ldr R James (Ret’d)  Flt Lt A Hargreaves | President  Chairman  Chairman Des  V Chairman/Treasurer  Secretary  OC IX(B) Sqn  Historian  OIC Standard |
| Apologies | CT Rob Swanson | Dep Sec |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**   1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.   **Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**   1. The minutes of the last meeting (9 Mar 23) were distributed to all Committee members prior to the meeting. The outstanding actions were discussed and all other actions were accepted as closed. 2. There was only 1 outstanding action: The handover of Chairman from Air Cdre Sharrocks to Gp Capt Heeps. This would take place shortly and the Committee were pleased to see Gp Capt Heeps at the meeting and welcomed him warmly into his new role.   **Item 3 – Financial Situation**  4. The Treasurer stated that the accounts remain in a healthy condition although very slightly under the predicted figure in the Financial Plan for this year. The account stands at approx. £28K and the Treasurer will be producing the End of Year accounts soon.  **Item 4. Bardney Church Window**  5. **Design.** Slightly out of process, the design was sent to the decision maker in the diocese council for his opinion. He didn’t flag any red cards as to the content depicted but did say it was too congested in the proposed format. He advised on what should be removed and from his advice the design was reworked in a slimmed down format. This design was shared with the Committee and the president talked through the features of the design and how it told the story of IX(B) Sqn from formation in 2014 through to the Typhoon Sqn at Lossiemouth in the present day. The window is in 3 panels and shows the transition of the Sqn from 8 Dec 2014, through the formation of Bomber Command and includes aircraft from the Sqn’s history and the Victoria Cross awarded to FS George Thompson. Central to the window is the Sqn crest, Bomber Command and the WW2 years and the background across all 3 windows is a plan of Bardney airfield. The RH window is concentrated on the post war years including the formation of the Assn. The window that will be replaced with our stained-glass design is on the left hand side of the church, in what is affectionally known as the IX(B) Sqn corner, close to the Sqn Standard laid up in perpetuity and several pictures of the Sqn and it’s aircraft. The designer will produce a colour version of the new design this week and then the formal approvals process can begin with the diocese council.  6. Members of the Committee were invited to comment on the design and all were enthusiastic about how it is presented and the story it tells when viewing across all 3 panels.  7. **Finance.** The expected cost of the window is £35K - £37K and the Committee had previously agreed to underwrite up to £10K of this amount, with the remainder being fund-raised through Assn events and personal donations. The Assn is already in procession of a £3K legacy and a £5K donation towards this work and the Committee were in agreement that it should be well within the grasp of the Assn membership to raise the remainder. The President reminded the Committee that the designer had already committed a significant amount of time into the project and even if it was cancelled now, there would be a bill for her work forthcoming.  8. The designer would like a £2K advance to purchase glass in the UK while it is available. A like for like purchase from Europe will be more expensive. The Committee were in complete agreement that the design is excellent and to proceed with the window project also approving the £2K for glass purchase.  **Action: Treasurer to make £2K payment to window designer**  9. The President agreed he would write to all Assn members when an up-to-date colour design was received and committed to calling an Extraordinary General Meeting should any Assn members object to the project.  **Action: President to write to all Assn members regarding the Bardney Church Window Project.**  **Item 5. 2023 Reunion Weekend**  10. The ProjO and on ground liaison are busy putting the details into the Reunion Weekend planning. 59 Assn Members had signed up for the Dinner with 5 spaces being offered to the Sqn. The Ramnee hotel is booked for the dinner and attendees will be contacted in due course regarding menu and arrivals drinks choices.  11. Squadron planning is maturing and the Visit Instruction will be issued shortly, as will the invitation to ACM Lord Peach. The Lancaster from BBMF had been requested but denied and a Typhoon flying display is under negotiation. The Squadron also understands the limit on numbers for the dinner and looks forward to the Friday, post parade, Happy Hour engagement.  12. The coach company require a 50% deposit to secure the booking. The Committee decided to wait until a decision was made about the use of RAF MT before paying the deposit. **Post meeting note: Use of RAF MT was refused by Air Command.**  **Item 6. TABS 2023**  13. The Editor declared that TABS 2023 had been delayed due to events beyond his control. It is 95% complete and will be sent to the Historian for a final proof read shortly with the aim to get it to the printers shortly thereafter.  **Item 7. November Events**  14. The Tirpitz dinner will go ahead in Woodhall Spa and the Chairman volunteered to contact the Junior Sqn Assn regarding the event. The Committee are looking for a ProjO for the dinner.  15. Bardney Remembrance Service will take place as usual but the price of lunch at the Bardney Heritage Centre had increased slightly. This has been covered in the Members Letter which the Secretary has drafted to be included with TABS. The Deputy Secretary is requested to provide the appropriate wreaths.  **Action: Deputy Secretary to liaise with Chairman and to order appropriate wreaths from the RBL.**  16. The Secretary has bid for 38 places at the Cenotaph March Past and currently has 35 marchers listed. Secretary to obtain wreath for laying at the Cenotaph.  **Action: Secretary to order Cenotaph wreath from the RBL.**  17. The Secretary will email Niall Huskisson to once again request that he lays the wreath at the NMA Memorial.  **Action: Secretary to contact Niall Huskisson.**  **Item 8. Historian Update**  18. Lots of research currently ongoing which is keeping the Historian busy.  19. The website has received some attention from Nick Phillips (minutes from 9 Mar refer) and he has made some good progress at reducing the size of it (7GB to 3 GB), speeding up access and obtaining a back-up. The work is not complete and his assessment is that another 5 hours of work will be required which the Historian asked for funding to continue this work. The Chairman asked for a link to be sent to the development site so that Committee members could see the progress for themselves before giving further funding approval ex-committee.  **Item 9. Sqn Update.**  20. OC IX(B) was again in conference from Op AZITIZE where the Sqn are Commanding Air Defence Operations. The Sqn finished combined air policing, flying alongside the Luftwaffe, on the 2nd May. It had been an excellent 2 months operating with them and some good relationships had been formed. They had scrambled 8 times together and met NATO specified time limits on every occasion.  21. IX(B) Sqn have been in charge ever since, flying a hot and cold week about. They have been taking advantage of some excellent training opportunities flying with F22 and F35 from NATO partner nations. They have also carried out a fighter escort mission heading East, the first one to be flown outside of RAF Akrotiri.  22. A IX(B) Sqn scramble had recently intercepted Russian aircraft and the news was quickly cleared for posting on Social Media by the Expeditionary Air Wing, ensuring news of the Sqns success was quickly in the public domain.  23. The Sqn are due to return to RAF Lossiemouth as the detachment finishes at the end of May. This is the second IX(B) Sqn operational deployment coming to an end and once again it has been a fantastic and successful overseas deployment.  **Item 10. - AOB**  24. The Assn had received a letter from the Binbrook Heritage Centre looking to forge closer ties with the Sqn and Assn and the Chairman elected to provide a response.  **Action: Chairman to write to Binbrook Heritage Centre.**  25. The Secretary had received an offer from the Lucas Aerospace (Wolverhampton) Veterans Liaison, for Assn members to tour their facility and have a lunch. The Committee agreed that when Lucas Aerospace make a firm offer with a time, date and itinerary, the Secretary will email the membership to canvass interest.  **Action: Secretary to liaise with Lucas Aerospace Veterans Liaison.**  **Item 11 – Date of Next Meeting**  26. The next meeting will be held via Teams Tele-Conference on Wed 12 Jul 23 at 1900hrs. | | Chairman    Treasurer  President  All  Deputy Secretary  Secretary  Secretary  All  Chairman  Secretary |

Dean Wood

Assn Sec

Approved by Air Cdre Ian Sharrocks, Chairman on XX Jun 23.