20241006-IX\_Assn\_Committee\_16\_Sep\_24\_Minutes-U

6 Oct 24

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE – 16 SEP 24**

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| Present  | Air Cdre I SharrocksGp Capt J HeepsWg Cdr C PearsonWg Cdr P Lenihan (Ret’d)WO D Wood (Ret’d)FS R Swanson Flt Lt A HargreavesFS P Custerton | V PresidentChairOC IX(B) TreasurerSecDep Sec StandardSqn Rep |
| Apologies | Gp Capt J NixonSqn Ldr R James (Ret’d) | V ChairHistorian |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**1. The Chair opened the Meeting at 1900 and thanked everyone for attending. He stated we are a bit behind the drag curve and the Chair has been focussed on getting all of the details perfect but now is the time to get news out. He also thanked the Sec for getting the meeting into the diary to focus attention on the upcoming events.
2. The Chair confirmed Lord Peach will be attending the unveiling of the Memorial Window on 10 Nov.

**Item 2 – Minutes from last meeting**1. It was agreed that the Minutes from 9 Jul 24 meeting were a true record. There were several outstanding actions carried forward:

**Action 1.** Dep Sec to contact the Sgts Mess to find the second Langevad painting. The Mess was still closed due to asbestos work. Carried Fwd once again.**Action 2.** V President to contact the NMA stonemason wrt NMA Memorial condition. This will become a routine business liaison and the V President has taken ownership. **Action Closed.****Action 3**. ACM Lord Peach had agreed to be the Assn Patron and the Chair would produce new letterheads. New Letterhead has been produced and is on SharePoint. **Action Closed**.**Item 3. – Financial Situation**1. The Treasurer had reported the accounts to be in a healthy condition with a current balance of £33,391.88p. There are problems with getting the correct code from HMRC for claiming Gift Aid, currently we will only be able to claim 1 year back (£17000 plus the £3500 for the window.
2. The Treasurer confirmed that to obtain a 40p per mile recovery for mileage, it is better for individuals to recover the difference on their personal tax returns, rather than the Assn pay it, a decision was made to return the Motor Mileage Allowance to 25p per mile, payable by the Assn.
3. The Treasurer also stated it may be necessary to pay an accountant to check the Assn Accounts this year, although he is working on an alternative option and would report back when the situation became clearer.

**Item 4. – Reunion Weekend Bardney 9/10 Nov 24.**1. Securing a lunch booking at the Officers Mess, RAF Waddington, was proving difficult, with the Mess quoting £25 per head. This was discussed and it was agreed it would be too much to ask the Membership to pay for a mess lunch and would be too much for the Assn to fund for the small proportion of the membership who will be able to attend. The Chair would include advice in the letter to membership that anyone attending the AGM May wish to stop for lunch on the way. The Committee agreed that the Assn will fund tea and coffee during the AGM.
2. Funding was discussed and with a £375.50 venue hire for 110 diners, the cost of the meal would work out at £43.28pp including port for the loyal toast but without wine (£21.50 per bottle). Costs for serving members of IX(B) Sqn were also considered and the following decisions were made in line with the charitable objects of the Assn:
* The Reunion Dinner would be subsidised by the Assn account and the cost for the Reunion Dinner at the IBCC, per member and guest, would be limited to £40 per person (without provision of wine on the table).
* The cost per serving Sqn member (limited to 8 persons) would be £20 per person – self funded travel from RAF Lossiemouth.
* The cost of the dinner, travel and accommodation for the IX(B) Sqn Aviator of the Year and partner would be covered by the Association.
* There would not be a raffle at the Dinner.
* Lunch at Bardney on Sun 10 Nov would be self-funded at a cost of £16.50, collected by the Assn but no subsidy granted.
1. Events for the weekend were confirmed as follows and would be distributed by letter from the Chair post meeting. The total subsidy and financial commitment, approved by the Committee was £4000, which did not include travel and accommodation for the Aviator of the Year and partner as this was an agreed annual commitment.

**Saturday 9 November 2024*** 1315 – Association AGM in RAF Waddington Officers’ Mess. Tea and coffee served.
* 1415 – Split into groups to visit Waddington Heritage Centre and Vulcan XM607.
* 1615 – Depart RAF Waddington. 1845 – International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) opens for Reunion Dinner pre-drinks.
* 1930 – Reunion Dinner starts in IBCC.
* 2345 – Cash & card bar closes.
* 0030 – IBCC locked up.

**Sunday 10 November 2024** * 0900 – Bardney Methodist Hall on Church Lane open for refreshments.
* 1000 – Church service, including dedication of IX(B) Squadron memorial stained-glass window.
* 1050 – Congregation moves to Village Green.
* 1100 – Two-minute silence, then outdoor service and laying of wreaths.
* After – Church remains open for viewing of memorial window.
* 1200 – Sunday roast lunch in Bardney Heritage Centre.
* After – Wreath laying at IBCC.
1. With funding previously committed to an annual award for the Aviator of the Year, an engraved hip flask presented at the Reunion Dinner, the Treasurer would source locally in Scotland.
2. OIC Standard confirmed he would not be present at the Reunion weekend due to prior commitments but former Sqn WO Mike Inder has volunteered to parade the Assn Standard at Bardney on Sun 10 Nov.
3. Lord Peach supports the idea of a brass plaque being mounted below the Memorial Window to add to the rich history of IX(B) Sqn in St Lawrence Church however he does not want Assn funds being spent to purely commemorate his part in the unveiling and commemoration of the window. The Chair committed to obtaining a quote for an appropriate plaque to be engraved and purchased by the Assn before the unveiling on 10 Nov.

**Action 1: Treasurer to source and purchase engraved hip flask.****Action 2: Sec to distribute letter on behalf of the Chair.****Action 3. Chair to investigate cost of engraved brass plaque.****Item 5. – TABS.**1. The Chair will be sending Air Cdre (Ret’d) Nick Hay’s Obituary for TABS to the Vice Chair and the Treasurer was requested to update the accounts for TABS or to provide a short statement that the accounts and projected forecast would be agreed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**Item 6. – Governance – Presidents Position**1. The Vice-President has stated his commitment and absolute honour to fill the role of President. After much discussion it was agreed that, with the Assn recently adopting a Patron, it was no longer necessary to have a Vice-President position. It will be proposed to the Assn Membership at the AGM, that the Assn (Charity) is represented by 5 trustees plus the advisory members of the Board, Deputy Secretary, OC IX(B) Sqn, Historian, OIC Standard and IX(B) Sqn Ground Crew representative.

**Item 7. AGM**1. The draft AGM slide pack was reviewed and content discussed. All Committee members with content to update are to do so prior to next meeting.

**Item 8. Historian Update** 1. The Historian, although not present at the meeting, had conveyed that he continues to support family members of IX(B) Sqn personnel in their quest to find out about their ancestors who served.

**Item 9. Sqn Update** 1. The Assn Committee had the privilege of welcoming Wg Cdr Chris Pearson to the Committee as the new OC IX(B) Sqn. Chris is well known to many of the Committee through his service on IX(B) during the Tornado era, and it is great to see him leading the current Colony of Bats.
2. OC IX(B) offered an introduction, an update on current projects and a brief synopsis of the current status of the Sqn:
* The 110th Anniversary of the Sqn will be celebrated around the same time as the reunion Weekend, when a 120 Sqn Poseidon P8 will fly over the fjord near Tromso, where the Tirpitz was sank, carrying several IX(B) Sqn personnel as passengers.
* On the 22 Nov at RAF Lossiemouth, a Tirpitz dinner will be held in the Officers Mess. Invited guests will include members of IX(B) and the Junior Sqn plus members of both associations, these will include the son of a Lancaster crew member who flew on the Tirpitz raids.
* On the 8th December 2024, the 110th Anniversary, there will be a local church service and the anniversary will also be celebrated by a flypast of the sqn buildings and a double shift beercall.
* The Sqn is in the throes of preparing for EX COBRA WARRIOR due to take place over the next 3 weeks.
* A great deal of preparation is going into the Sqn deployment on OP SHADER in Jan 25. OC IC(B) was also able to share that these deployments are being reduced to 3 months duration from the traditional 4.
* Rebranding of IX(B) Sqn is now properly underway now that the Sqn is fully multi-role. The Aggressor tag and associated symbology will now be dropped.

**Item 10. AOB** 1. Major events and commitments for 2025 were discussed. The location of the 2025 Reunion was debated as this will be the 50th Anniversary of the Association. RAF Honington was suggested as a prime location to hold the reunion celebration dinner, given its association with IX(B) Sqn. The Treasurer committed to investigate potential dates with the Station Commander with an aim to discuss it at the AGM in November.
2. The Committee had previously committed to support an event in Malta, to be held in October 2025, to commemorate the sad loss of a IX(B) Sqn Vulcan and crew, together with Maltese citizens on the ground. Late president Nick Hay had held the helm for our contribution to this commemoration and the secretary offered to take the Assn lead and contact the service personnel leading the main event.

**Item 11. Date of Next Meeting.** 1. A vote will be published on WhatsApp to decide the next date for meeting, a commitment was made for this to be in October.
 | **ACTION**Dep SecTreasurerSecChairAll |

Dean Wood

IX(B) Sqn Assn Secretary

Approved by Gp Capt James Heeps, Chair, on 21 Oct 24.