1 Jun 22

**MINUTES OF IX(B) SQN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 22 AT THE IBCC**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Present  | Air Commodore HayAir Commodore SharrocksMike & Eve PritchardWO (Ret’d) WoodGp Capt (Ret’d) FergusonSqn Ldr (Ret’d) JamesWO (Ret’d) Inder**Members:**Master Navigator (WO) (Ret’d) KellyIan WalshPeter GoodingJayne SpavenJohn HarrisDenise HarrisJim FurnessJono PrettejohnsChas AdlingtonSimon BowronAJ SmithRay GoodallStuart BowersMartin BurrowsJennie BoltTony BridgesRoy HughesRob Williams | PresidentChairTreasurersSecTravel RepReunion ProjOStandard Bearer  |
| Apologies | Wg Cdr (Ret’d) Derek WatsonWg Cdr LeaskCT Rob SwansonMonty MontgomeryCass SingletonPat TidmarshRocky RockliffTony Taylor | OC IX(B) SqnDep Sec |
| **Item 1 - Welcome**1. The Chairman opened the Meeting and welcomed all members present. He discussed Assn plans for this next year and expressed his hope that all of the committee’s work is rewarded by a successful year of activities for Assn members.

 1. The Chairman stated that the year to come still contains some significant challenges; RAF Messes have their own obstacles to overcome in dealing with a backlog of Service requirements including requests to host associations. Our very own reunion dinner remains uncertain but he reiterated the commitment to hold the reunion weekend in Scotland and told of contingency plans being made by the ProjO. The Committee is absolutely determined to provide a COVID rebound and to give as many opportunities, to as many members as possible, over the coming years.

**Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting**1. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed.

The Minutes were accepted as a true record: Proposed by the Historian and Seconded by Alfie Ferguson.**Item 3 – Financial Situation**1. The Treasurers provided an overview of the Financial situation and informed the Membership that the financial position was very good, with a current balance of £28,317.49.

 1. Donations to the Assn had far surpassed any expectations, being supported by most generous members.
2. Gift aid for this Financial Year was £435.25. Rob Williams asked why the Gift aid figure was so low compared to income. Mike and Eve explained that some of our benefactors chose not to gift aid and some were unable to gift aid. Mike stated that they regularly sent communications to all members of the importance of Gift aid.
3. Costs for the 2022 Annual Reunion are presented below:
	1. Each non Sqn member to be subsidised by £14.95 from the £54.95 menu package to £40.
	2. Each Sqn member to be subsidised by £54.95

 * 1. We have 65 attending, of which 15 are from the Sqn.

 1. 65 x Assn members x £14.95 = £971.75.

 15 x Sqn Assn members x £40 meal = £600. 1 x red and 1 x white per table = £296.  TOTAL = £1867.75. ii. 2 bottles of red and 2 of white per table, it will add another £296. iii. Expected invoice from IBCC is £3889.iv. Possible subsidies £2163.75. Total is £6052.751. In conclusion the Treasurers stated that with our member’s support we are in a positive financial position going forward. Assn members were asked to accept and ratify the accounts for 2020/2021.

**No objections were received and the accounts were accepted unanimously.** 1. As part of the Annual Report the Assn is required to report on its charitable activities. The charitable articles and how we meet them were presented by the Treasurers and they reported that no charitable were very diverse during this reporting period and accounted for £1875.
2. The Treasurers finished their presentation to the AGM with a brief note on the Financial Forecast, with some predicted allowance for a continued COVID affect. The Treasurers remain hopeful that we will continue to attract new members, Gift Aid will increase, donations will still be made and we can raise funds with permitted charitable activities. Without being too optimistic income is estimated at c.£9,000 and expenditure c.£8,000.
3. The Chairman concluded with his desire to see the Associations Charitable activities increased over the coming year and informed the meeting that he is in close liaison with RAF Lossiemouth to see if we can support any local charities.

**Item 4 – 2022 Reunion** 1. The 2022 Annual Reunion would be held tonight at the IBCC. The Chair asked for volunteers to assist the Historian with the Raffle and Auction. Ray Goodall and AJ Smith volunteered to help. WO Ret’d Mike Inder would march in the Assn Standard prior to the dinner commencing.
2. The Committee remain determined to hold the 2023 Reunion weekend and dinner at RAF Lossiemouth to reaffirm our bonds with serving squadron members and Alfie Ferguson confirmed he is happy to be the travel rep once again.

**Item 5 – Remembrance Sunday Events**1. The Chairman reported that the planning for Remembrance Sunday at Bardney and a follow-on wreath laying at the IBCC will continue as per previous years.
2. For those wishing to attend there is a deadline of 14 Oct 22 to notify Air Cdre Sharrocks. As the Serving Sqn is located in Scotland, they would be unable to attend; The Chairman confirmed the Assn Standard would be required and that a volunteer would be sought to parade it, if Ady Hargreaves is unavailable.
3. Cenotaph 2022 ProjO, Assn Secretary Dean Wood, informed the meeting that he has bid for 36 places from the Royal British Legion and would not receive confirmation of numbers until mid-July.
4. The Secretary is to request a member, local to the NMA, to lay the wreath at the Sqn Memorial at the NMA on or around Remembrance Sunday.

**Action:**  Secretary to contact Niall Huskisson in the first instance.**Item 6 – Tirpitz Dinner 2022 at the Petwood Hotel**1. Planning for the 2022 Dinner continues and it will be held on Sat 12 Nov 22 at the Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa. The Function Room at the hotel is sizeable and the expectation is that the largest Assn in the RAF family will equally rival that of the Junior Sqn hosts; numbers are not expected to be an issue. The ProjO will contact the Junior Sqn to confirm Assn involvement and numbers, also stating there is no expectation for the Assn to subsidise the cost of the meal.

**Action:** Chairman to contact Junior Sqn ProjO.**Item 7 – IX(B) Squadron Update**1. As a former IX(B) Sqn Commander the Chairman talked through the Sqn slides as OC IX(B) Sqn was unable to attend. The Chairman reiterated how busy the RAF are currently with all that is going on in Europe and presented the Sqn update on behalf of OC IX(B); the brief covered Sqn on Operations, Growth and performing the Aggressor Role and is summarised below:
2. Building work continues at RAF Lossiemouth as Hangar 2 (the new Gotham) takes shape. This will be a state-of-the-art operating area, fit for the RAF’s oldest and premier bomber sqn.
3. The Sqn has been on constant operations from home soil in the QRA role, intercepting those who pose a threat to UK shores as well as deploying to Eastern Europe for enhanced QRA with NATO partners. In addition, the F35 Lightning and Typhoon forces have felt the full benefit of IX(B) Sqn in the aggressor role, where sqn pilots replicated enemy techniques, tactics and procedures to challenge and test air combat skills, better training our own forces. IX(B) Sqn is uniquely furnished for the role, providing radar equipped supersonic threat replication of the 4th generation, by pilots well trained in tactical awareness, utilising helmet mounted sights, radar interception techniques and enemy missile simulation. Strategic defence engagement on behalf of UK interests featured heavily during the last year with the Sqn deploying aircraft to take part in events in Lithuania, Estonia and Portugal.
4. Squadron engineers have also been required to support Op SHADER during a surge period, accompanying II(AC) Sqn and all reports from theatre have been extremely complimentary about their performance.
5. **Future Plans:** The sqn will complete a re-role to Tranche 2 Typhoon (the mark currently being operated in Eastern Europe) and is likely to become a full multi-role sqn by 1 Apr 25 when the Tranche 1 Typhoon is retired; finally putting the ‘Bomber’ back into the Sqn. The Chairman expressed his informed opinion that this was highly likely to be brought forward.
6. As a final note the President talked about his recent discussions with the RAF Lossiemouth Station Commander about the amount of time serving squadron personnel are away from their families. This is currently running at around 6 months of the year and the President wanted the meeting to recognise the sacrifices families continue to make on behalf of the Nation. As there would be serving squadron members at the Reunion Dinner he asked that members were cognisant of this while conversing with them over a few drinks.

**Item 8 – Historian Update** 1. The Historian took the opportunity to remind the AGM that the two objects of the Assn are exclusively charitable and informed those present that when requests for research and information are received, many days and hours are spent researching, so much so that the Trustees previously agreed we should suggest that requestees either join the Association or make a small donation to the Association, in return for the time and provided information.
2. The Historian talked to the meeting about WO Bob Brown, our oldest Assn member who flew Wellingtons in WW2 and spent 4 years as a Prisoner of War. Bob is living in the North of England and is 102 years young.
3. The Bazin 16 group are in daily contact, swapping stories, photos, facts & figures about their fathers. Of particular note was that the great Lancaster Pilot - Mac Macintosh DFC would have been 100 today.
4. The Chairman thanked the Historian for his continued efforts to both promote the Assn and to assist others, especially family members, in researching the exploits of our predecessors.

**Item 9 – Governance**1. The Board, effective from 28 May 22:

Trustees:* President – Air Cdre Nick Hay
* Vice President – Air Cdre Ian ‘Rocksy’ Sharrocks
* Chairman – Gp Capt James Heeps
* Vice Chairman – Gp Capt Jon ‘Lenny’ Nixon
* Treasurers – Gp Capt Jon ‘Lenny’ Nixon
* Secretary – WO (Ret’d) Dean Wood

Advisory Members:* OC IX(B) Sqn – Wg Cdr Richard ‘Leasky’ Leask
* SNCO IX(B) Sqn – Chf Tech Mark Couling
* Dep Secretary – Chf Tech Rob ‘Swanny’ Swanson

Era Secretaries:* Canberra – Air Cdre (Ret’d) Spike Milligan
* Vulcan – Gp Capt (Ret’d) Alfie Ferguson
* Tornado – Sqn Ldr (Ret’d) Dicky James
* Typhoon – Wg Cdr Simon Batt

**Item 10 – Proposed Assn Calendar**1. The Chairman stated that the Committee are trying to spread events throughout the year to give members more than one opportunity to get together to dine.

**Item 11 – AOB**1. The Chairman asked the Historian to talk through the list of members who has passed in the previous 12 months.
2. Stu Bowers asked if there were any significant anniversaries upcoming in 2022.
3. The Historian knew of none. The next big birthday would be Ed Kelly, who would turn 100 on 5 December 2023.
4. The Chairman mentioned that he had organised a casual “Finfest” style meeting at KT pub in central London on the Second Saturday in September and all were welcome. This date and location were not to be openly published. AJ Smith thought that this would clash with the Jaguar Reunion, which the Chairman would check.
5. Ed Kelly then took the floor and told a story about being 98 which was very well received by all present.
6. Nick Hay raised an article of AOB, highlighting the sad tale of a IX(B) Sqn Vulcan from RAF Waddington which crashed into a residential area close to RAF Luca, Malta, in 1975, killing 5 of the crew, 1 person on the ground and injuring around 20 people, the 2 pilots ejected and survived the crash. The President has received a request from the daughter of one of the crew, for the Assn to support an event in 2025 to commemorate the crash. This was agreed unanimously and the President will link up with Alfie to discuss potential travel options.
7. The President thanked Mike & Eve for their outstanding service to the Association over the last 3 years as they retire from the role of Assn Treasurer.

**Item 12 – Date for next meeting**1. The date for the next AGM will be promulgated in due course.

**Item 13. Closing Remarks**1. The President thanked everyone for attending and asked that the serving squadron members are made to feel a part of the Assn family at the dinner this evening. He passed on his thanks to Mike and Eve for their service and to the wider committee for their sterling work over the year.
 | SecretaryChairman |

***Dean Wood***

D A Wood

WO (Ret’d)

Assn Secretary