



Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association

London and Home Counties Branch
Charity Number 1093950

Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th January 2017 The Pineapple, London

- Present:** Richard Fernley (RF), Stan McCabe (SM), Peter Harrison (PH), John Caruana (JC), Tom Adams (TA), Derek Pevier (DP), Colin Spencer (CS), Shane Redmond (SR), Gillian Downham (GD), Dave Smith (DS), Martin Troman (MT), Bob Mitchell (BM).
- Apologies:** Bob Nichols, Jimmy Smith, John Allix, Mike Ainley, Ian Prescott.
- Meeting opened:** 12.30pm
- Minutes of Last Meeting:** Acceptance of previous meetings minutes.
Proposed: (SR) Seconded: (TA)
- Items from Previous Mins:**
- i) Sea Cadet Trophy
Successful presentation and PR exercise
 - ii) Trip to Malta
Successful trip, with many relationships made with the Maltese branch.
 - iii) Website
The website is now up and running.
- Officers Report:**
- i) Chairman's Report:
(SM) reported that he will be elected onto the board of trustee's which gives us an opportunity to keep abreast of all that is going on at HQ. SM reported from his notes the following:
 1. New Chairman wished a more inclusive rapport with the branches.
 2. Two new Trustee's are to be appointed (SM) and Keith Escrow.

3. Membership fees are due on 1st April or on the anniversary of joining.
4. National memberships stands at 670
5. The new chairman's plan is to make the RFAA more encompassing and accessible
6. Bookmarks could be available
7. Branches requested for news on website
8. Members handbook due end Feb
9. Tidespring due in Falmouth end Feb
10. Online (Trustee) vote for Life Membership for Rex Cooper
11. Memorial service to be held at the National Arboretum possibly next year
12. Combined Falkland 35 and Tidespring (2) event discussed and possibly take place June

(SM) also reported on the gravestone of Maltese sailor and the huge steps being made by Ray (Chairman) and a vote of thanks by JC.

- ii) Treasurer's Report:
The branch was £386.32p + gangway fee in credit.
- iii) Secretary's Report:
Now busy with the RFAA Reunion and limited activities will be held until after May.

Reunion 2017:

(SR) updated us on the position of HRH and his attendance. It was agreed that the sub-committee would meet at the VSC on Thursday 2nd February at 12noon. This would be a crucial meeting prior to advertising the menu / dress code / and cost of the dinner.

Welfare Project:

(GD) updated us on Welfare project and a big thank you to Gillian for the work she is doing. A further £50 is being injected into the project. It was discussed that emailing and phone contact would be the first line of contact for members. (SR) thanked Gillian for her for all her hard work.

AOB:

(RF) mentioned the Plymouth MN Project and suggested this was a good idea and something we ought to pursue.

(SM) (RF) mentioned that as a branch we should have the opportunity to invite people into the branch as 'Friends of the London Branch'. This would be a gesture and wouldn't cost the branch anything and would help raise the profile of the branch.

(RF) suggested a cheaper solution to the crests previously purchased. A glass paperweight could be purchased and used as a handout. RF to investigate further.

(GD) mentioned the idea of an RFAA bookmark, are these available to all branches? (SM) to contact HQ and investigate.

Talk on Trip to Malta: By Colin Spencer. A very informative and instructive talk given by Colin.

Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2017 at the Marine Society. All meetings start at 1pm with members encouraged to meet in the Pineapple pub beforehand for a pie and a pint at 12noon.

The meeting closed at 2pm