



# Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association

London and Home Counties Branch

Charity Number 1093950

## Minutes of the Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016 Marine Society - London

**Present:** Richard Fernley (RF), John Caruana (JC), David Smith (DS), Tom Adams (TA), Peter Harrison (PH), Stan McCabe (SM), Shane Redmond (SR), Colin Spencer (CS), Peter Harrison (PH), Bob Mitchell (BM).

**Apologies:** Derek Pevier, Dave Bolton, Ian Prescott, Mike Ainley, John Allix, Paul Momelly, Gillian Downham, David Cooper, Bob Nichols.

**The meeting opened:** 13.00 hours

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** The minutes of the last meeting were accepted. Proposed (TA). Seconded (JC).

**Matters Arising:** Maltese seaman who died in Cyprus, request for a headstone. HQ handling situation.

### Officers Report:

**Chairman's Report:** (SR) Welcomed members, and pleased with the turnout. The position of a member (JW) was discussed, and a letter to be sent from HQ to clear matters.

**Vice-Chairman:** (SM) Pleased with the turnout of members to the King's Maritime History seminar on Scapa Flow salvage. Further seminars will be advertised on the website.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance in the bank £550.67p + Gangway Fee

**Secretary's Report:** (RF) in Gillian Downham's absence she is to hold a BBQ on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> July to raise funds for the RFAA down at her home in Steyning, Sussex.

**Vision Document:** Various aspects of the document are currently underway, with a letter to be sent to Lt Cdr Cliff Lewis to confirm London Branch involvement with a trophy. It was agreed that we would sponsor the SCC Seamanship Trophy and we required from the SCC a criteria document. It was also agreed that the trophy should be a glass goblet for the branch with a London Branch crest going to the person winning the Seamanship award each year.

The list of all the Sea Cadet bases (London) to be sent to all RFAA London Branch members to see which is the nearest base and to see how they can help in anyway ie talks on navigation / communications / RFA / Engineering.

A decision was made that SM should go ahead and place a minimum order for London Branch crests. They would be presented to various organisations including: Marine Society / Sea Cadets / IMO / Pineapple + crests ordered by the membership. SM to organise.

**2017 Reunion:** Royal Palaces rejected by the committee and discussions opened with VSC as a venue. This will be an ideal venue not only for the Reunion but also for the AGM. SR & RF to visit VSC in early April to make the necessary arrangements. Possibility of a Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May reunion which would link-in with HRH possible attendance.

An email from Gillian Downham has indicated her help with the organising of the reunion, this was gratefully accepted (SR) and a reunion team will be established.

**Trip to Malta:** (SM) Thanked (DP) for the work he has done in getting flight details and venues. It was agreed that there was enough interest to go ahead with the venture. Contact (SM) for further details.

**AOB:** (RF) reported An email has been received from HQ regarding the Battle of Jutland celebrations. Details have been sent out on the members email site.

(RF) Reminded everyone that on the 27<sup>th</sup> April was a visit to the Admiralty (Pub) @ 12noon at Trafalgar Square. Also on the 18<sup>th</sup> May @ 12.00 meeting at the Pineapple and then onward to the Imperial War Museum.

(PH) has investigated several venue options for the Branch Christmas celebration. They have included HMS President, HQS Wellington, HMS Belfast + others. The conclusion was that the VSC was by far the best value for money. RF thanked PH for the hard work investigating the venues. SM to organise 2016 celebrations.

(JC) Malta Liaison. Reports concerning various Royal visits.

(JC) explained the current position with him and the MNA. SR explained how JC should approach the situation and to bring the situation to a satisfactory conclusion.

**Date of next Meeting:** AGM - Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016 @ 1pm  
12noon @ The Pineapple

**The meeting closed at 15.00**