



Royal Fleet Auxiliary Association

London and Home Counties Branch

Charity No. 1093950

Minutes of the meeting held on: 24th January 2018

At: Pineapple Pub, London

Present: Stan McCabe (SM), Peter Harrison (PH), Colin Spencer (CS), Derek Pevier (DP), John Caruna (JC), Martin Troman (MT), Tom Adams (TA), Steve Taylor (ST), Tim Donovan (TD), Shane Redmond (SR), Bob Mitchel (BM).

Apologies: Richard Fernley, Gillian Downham, Bob Nichols, Ian Prescott.

Meeting Opened: 1245 at the Pineapple Pub.

Minutes of last Meeting: Acceptance of the previous meeting's minutes

Proposed: (SM)

Seconded: (SR)

Items from previous Minutes: None

Chairman's Report:

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending today and thanked PH for organising the Christmas lunch.

(SM) advised of the £250 donation from HQ which has been shared between the Sea Cadets and the RNLI Tower at Westminster Bridge.

(SM) suggested that a visit to the RNLI would be very interesting and would ask (RF) consider them for the coming year, maximum 18 persons. This is by way of thank you from the RNLI for the donation.

(SM) advised that the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) comes into force on 25th May 2018 which will have a fundamental effect on both the way the RFAA keeps, and protects your data and how it can (or cannot) communicate with you. A copy of the document is available, if requested. The next issue of the year book will contain a form which members will be asked to complete and return. If members do not provide the required information they may be excluded from membership. If the association fails to meet the legal requirements of the Act it could suffer heavy financial penalty.

(SM) said that the critical changes for the RFAA at national and branch level briefly in simple terms we need to:

- Hold any data on you in a secure manner
- Tell you what data we hold
- Seek your positive approval to hold data
- Only communicate in the methods you have approved
- Keep records of our statements to you and your approvals

(SM) said that currently the RFAA are doing the following to comply with the new regulations:

Updating our cybersecurity policy.

Aiming to provide each member with a generic statement on the type of Information held and what is done with it.

Seeking from each member a positive written approval to communicate with them at branch and national level.

Looking at how branches and national level work together.

Improvement of our people data records at branch and national level.

(SM) explained about the difficulties re the venue for our meetings. He said the options such as the Solent Branch or the using a room in the VSC or other pubs in the area were not practical. He had discussed with the landlord of the Pineapple Pub who advised that he was very happy to allow us to hold the meeting there. We could use the lounge area without charge and he would turn down the music etc. A general discussion followed, and it was agreed that the Pineapple was a very good, central location, quiet and good food.

(SM) suggested that we visit the Arboretum the day before the Reunion in Liverpool. He had been in contact with the Swinfen Hall Hotel they had informed him that it would cost £150 for B & B per night.

(SR) suggested that dinner at the Swinfen Hall would be a good idea, and whether this could be included in the deal. SM will check with the hotel and advise the members.

(SM) said that he had been advised by HQ that HRH had thoroughly enjoyed his visit and that he had stayed longer than anticipated.

Trustees Report

(SM) said that at the last meeting of Trustees, probably the most important items were the Practical Quality Assurance Systems for Small Organisations (PQASSO) and the EU data protection regulations.(GPDR). Arrangements for the 2018 reunion are well in hand and will be published with the Year Book which is due in February, The Financial report indicated that, when finalised, the Association is in good health. Honorary Life Membership has been bestowed on past chairman Rex Cooper.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the balance currently stands at £394.14
Gangway Collection: £55

Secretary's Report:

(SM) reported that Richard hopes to be back for the next meeting.

AOB:

(SR) Former Chairman of this branch, Jim White, passed away at Christmas aged 90.

(SR) R. Cooper, life member, his wife passed away recently.

(SM) At the AGM we shall be looking for a new Chairman as SM will be moving to the New Forrest. PH very kindly offered to take on the role.

(SR) Thanked (SM) for doing an excellent job saying that it would be a hard act to follow.

It was suggested by the meeting that our website should include photographs of the committee.

(SM) said that he would discuss with the secretary including our photos in the web site.

Welfare

Gillian advised by phone that she does not have anything to report on welfare.

(JC) raised the problems he had been having with Cyprus Authorities to arrange a Head Stone for the grave of AB Brincat who had been buried in the Catholic Cemetery in Cyprus. HQ had agreed for a Head Stone to be erected but until they can find official documentation identifying the actual location of the grave nothing can be done. (JC) had visited the cemetery; he had contacted the High Commission and other bodies all without success. However (JC) said that he would continue trying.

The next meeting will be on: **Wednesday 14th March** at the Pineapple Pub.

Please Note: AGM scheduled for: **Wednesday 13th June**

The meeting closed at 1405 hours: