



Maritime Warfare School

Officers' Association
HMS COLLINGWOOD
Newgate Lane
FAREHAM
PO14 1AS

14 March 2016

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD 2 MARCH 2016**

Present:

Cdre A. Whyntie	Chairman
Lt Cdr J.R. Laurie	Hon Treasurer
Lt Cdr M Churchill	OA Sec
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec
Lt Cdr T.C. James	Committee Member
Lt Cdr D.L. Howe	Committee Member

In Attendance: Capt J Palmer, Webmaster, Cdr David Johnston, Wardroom Mess President/XO
(Agenda Item 1only)

1. WELCOME TO CDR DAVID JOHNSTON

On behalf of the OA, Cdre Whyntie, Chairman, welcomed Cdr David Johnston who had taken over from Cdr Andy Phenna as XO/Mess President. He introduced the members of the Committee and their roles. The Chairman explained that the previous XO had agreed that an OA Committee member should sit on the WRMC and this had proved very beneficial as the OA was a satellite of the Wardroom. The decision of eligibility of those who could join the OA had been delegated by the Mess President to the Chairman of the OA. Cdre Whyntie went through the history of how the OA had been formed. He also covered the primary OA Social events, the OA Annual Prize of a sword and the Honours Board. He explained the nominations process and how the winner of the OA Award was decided and that the sword was presented at Summer Divisions usually by the Officer who had donated the sword. On the financial side, Cdre Whyntie stated that the OA aimed to hold a balance of £5-6K. This figure had been exceeded last year so the OA had donated £2K to the RN&RM Charity, also, they had commissioned the 'Establishments' mirror to Woody's Bar. The Chairman stated that the current issue was the removal of the MOD subsidy for official functions. Cdr Johnston said that the subject was still under discussion by the DIO and that he would report back to the OA on any decision. He reported that the results of the work would be announced on 31 May 16, however, he suggested that in the meantime, the OA should assume that they wouldn't receive a subsidy. Cdre Whyntie briefed Cdr Johnston re the 'Study On the Future of the OA' that Lt Cdr Howe had carried out between 2013 and 2014. The result of the study had shown that OA members were happy with the way the Association was being run and that no change was necessary. The Chairman explained that although the OA had over 400 members, who were all very supportive, it was generally a core of about 50 together with families and friends who supported the events.

Cdre Whyntie thanked Cdr Johnston for making time to attend the Committee meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cdr GG Meekums and Lt Cdr WE Legg.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2 DECEMBER 2015

The Minutes were accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Howe and seconded by Lt Cdr James.

4. MATTERS ARISING

a. Update on the clarification of MOD subsidy.

Following the brief from Cdr Johnson, it was agreed to assume that the OA would not receive a subsidy.

Action Complete

b. Lt Bray's name to be placed on the OA Sword Honours Board.

It was reported that there had been problems with the lettering but it was now in hand and should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

Action In Hand

5. SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT

In his absence Lt Cdr Legg had sent a written report. It stated that all the arrangements for the Summer Ball, Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner and the Winter Ball were in hand but he needed to be advised of the ticket prices for the events. The Committee agreed that the charge for the Summer Ball should be £30/£35 and for the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner £35/40.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Lt Cdr Laurie, Hon Treasurer, reported that the fund remained healthy. He stated that the Association's fund stood at £6383.79 on 1 Nov 15 but following transactions, including receipt of subscriptions and a profit of £238.40 from the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner, the fund stood at £8176.12 on 31 Jan 16. The Hon Treasurer reported that he had just received the figures for the Winter Ball and that there had been a loss of £916 for the event.

The financial report was accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Churchill and seconded by Lt Cdr James.

7. REVIEW LEVELS OF OA SUBSCRIPTIONS

After some discussion, the Committee decided to leave subscriptions as they were.

8. OA SEC'S CORNER

Lt Cdr Churchill, OA Sec, gave the following report.

a. Membership update

Membership to date 1 Mar 16 was 448 (+3 since Dec 15 Meeting) comprising:

- Full/Associate - 22
- Active – 296
- Country – 130

He said he was waiting to be advised by the WR Mess Treasurer on those members for whom requests to their banks/building societies for annual membership payments had been declined. Unless different from previous years, he was expecting losses of around 10+.

b. Spring/Summer 2016 OA Newsletter

Lt Cdr Churchill said he would be pleased to accept any articles from the Committee members for inclusion in the next OA Newsletter, planned for publication as soon as he received the Wardroom Social Programme for the Summer Term, typically end Mar/early Apr. Paragraphs included to date cover:-

Chairman's Message

Winter Ball – photo etc.

Photographs and citation for the presentation of OA Sword 2015 to Lt Bray, on 14 Nov 2015.

Lt Fred Dugan's 80th Birthday Party – photo etc.

OA Mirror in Woody's

Wardroom Christmas Raffle 2015 – Previous OA Sec, Lt Cdr 'George' Harrison won the car.

c. Donation of RN Officers' Swords

Lt Cdr Churchill reported that he had collected the sword, kindly donated by Lt Cdr Mike Edmonds, from OA member Alan Tomkins. He said he would write to formally thank Mike for his generosity and to enquire his eligibility for OA Membership. Cdre Whyntie, Chairman, said that he had collected the sword donated by Cdr Dent and that he would get both swords refurbished together. He needed to know whether Mike wanted his name to remain on the sword. Cdr Dent would be invited to Summer Divisions to present the 2016 sword.

9. REPORT FROM WARDROOM MESS COMMITTEE (WRMC)

Lt Cdr James reported the following:

Following the excellent improvement in what is now Woody's, the Mess is looking to spend up to £30K on further improvements. One of the areas under consideration is incorporating the remaining section of the atrium into the TV room bringing the area up to the same standard as Woody's.

Commissioning a bespoke work of art e.g. a bust of Lord Collingwood is under investigation.

The visual/sound system in the Main Bar is in need of an upgrade. The OA had been asked to make a contribution to this project (see following agenda item).

The Mess President mentioned that it was 100 years since the Battle of Jutland, HMS COLLINGWOOD's only Battle Honour. It was proposed that a Battle of Jutland dinner should be held in early June to celebrate the battle. It was also proposed that as the Wardroom does not have an actual name, it should be named after the Battle of Jutland.

There had been no further feedback from the DIO reference subsidies. The Logistics Advisor had promised to inform the OA as soon as anything is announced. (See paras 1& 4 above, the OA will assume no subsidy.)

A Summer Ball committee had yet to 'stand up' which was a concern as booking entertainment/companies needed to be progressed with haste.

The Mess President stated that attendance at Mess functions was going to be key, especially as the DIO is looking to reduce subsidies for official functions. Currently, he is concerned at the lack of attendance at Mess functions.

10. UPGRADE OF MAIN BAR CINEMA SYSTEM

Following the request by the WRMC for the OA to contribute towards the upgrade of the visual/sound system, the OA Committee discussed the request and decided not to contribute towards the project.

11. AOB

a. Remembrance Sunday. The OAs involvement on Remembrance Sunday at the Fareham Memorial was further discussed. It was suggested that before we went down that line, we should investigate if a Remembrance event took place within Collingwood. Lt Cdr James agreed to investigate.

Action – Lt Cdr James

b. Donation of Sword. After a short discussion the Committee decided to offer Hon. Membership of the OA to Lt Cdr Mike Edmonds. His sword would be used for the 2017 OA Prize.

c. Website. In response to a question from Capt Palmer, it was stated that the feedback re the website was very good.

12. DONM

Dates for the next meetings:-

Sun 19 Jun 16 at 1030 followed by the 2016 AGM at 1130

Wed 7 Sep 16 at 1230

Wed 7 Dec 16 at 1230

Wed 1 Mar 17 at 1230

JRD Rouse

Lieutenant Commander, OA A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB