



## Maritime Warfare School

Officers' Association  
HMS COLLINGWOOD  
Newgate Lane  
FAREHAM  
PO14 1AS

28 Dec 16

### **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD 7 DECEMBER 2016**

Present:

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

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from, Cdr GG Meekums, Vice chairman.

#### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 7 SEP 16**

With one correction, Lt Cdr JRD Rouse's name to be included in those present at the meeting, the Minutes were accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Laurie and seconded by Lt Cdr James.

#### **3. MATTERS ARISING**

Cdre Whyntie, Chairman gave a report of the OA's attendance at HMS Collingwood's Remembrance Parade on 11 Nov 16 where he had the honour of laying a wreath. There was a very good turnout of Officers, Senior and Junior ratings and civilians and it had been very well organised by Sergeant Andrews RM. Lt Cdr James said he had sent a 'Thank You' note to Sergeant Andrews.

#### **4. SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Lt Cdr Legg, Social Secretary, said he would send an email to the Ian James Band to get a quote for the 2017 Summer Ball. Lt Cdr Churchill suggested that the proposed date of 29 Jul 17 may be difficult for some people as it was in the school Summer holiday period.

It was reported that the Wardroom had asked if they could share the OA Valentine Ball as they weren't getting much response for the WR Valentine Dinner on Friday 17 Feb. After some discussion the Committed decided to agree to a joint event. Lt Cdr Legg said the RMA Band was available on Fri 17 Feb so it was agreed to move the OA event to the Friday and the event would be a Valentine Ball with the OA leading. It was assumed that costs for the band and labour would be shared on a pro rata basis. Booking for the event would be the normal book in the Mess for WR members and the website or postal for OA members. The Chairman, Cdre Whyntie, said that the pre-dinner drinks needed to be sorted out to avoid delays at the bar. There was a discussion on how the pre-dinner drinks would be arranged and costed. The cost of the event had been set at £40/45 but the cost may have to be altered to take account of the altered arrangements. Cdre Whyntie also said as the WR Mess members would normally wear uniform for a Ball, the same option would be available for OA members.

Lt Cdr James raised the question of appropriate dress at the recent combined SD/OA Sunday lunch. After consulting the WR Mess Rules, which stated that casual dress could be worn in the Mess for Sunday lunch, it was decided to take no further action.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Laurie, Treasurer, stated that there had been little change since the last meeting. The Summer Ball subsidy had been deducted. The costs for the Trafalgar Night had not yet been finalised though the ticket price at £40/45 should cover the costs despite the loss of the MOD funding. The OA fund on 30 Nov stood at £3960.55 which was about £600 less than the same time last year.

The financial report was accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Howe and seconded by Lt Cdr Legg.

## **6. OA SEC'S CORNER**

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

### **a. Membership update**

Membership to date 5 Dec 16 remained unchanged at 443, although two members had sadly died (Cdrs Roy Shipway and Dick Covington) and two new members had joined Lt Graeme Oliver and Capt Dick Hobbs, (Capt Hobbs w.e.f.1 Jan 17).

- Full/Associate -21
- Active – 292
- Country – 124
- Honorary - 6

Lt Cdr Churchill reported that, following the OA/SD Families Lunch on 4 Dec, he had already sent a joining pack to one prospective new member with another two to, hopefully, follow shortly.

### **b. Wardroom Mess HMS COLLINGWOOD Mess Rules**

The document had recently been re-printed, but contained several minor errors in respect of the OA. Some errors dated back to when the OA Sec role was moved from a Serving officer to a retired officer, also, when an OA Liaison Officer was appointed to support the OA Sec in dealing with the Establishment internal processes/procedures and in compiling OA Newsletters. The liaison function was short-lived and no longer existed. The OA had been told that it would not be reinstated.

Lt Cdr Churchill proposed that he and Lt Cdr James, who represented the OA on the Wardroom Mess Committee, should meet and draft proposed textural changes which Lt Cdr James would take forward for discussion/ratification by the Mess Committee at a future meeting. Lt Cdr James agreed with the proposal.

**Action: Lt Cdrs Churchill and James**

The Chairman said he was delighted to see new members joining.

## **7. REPORT FROM WARDROOM MESS COMMITTEE (WRMC)**

Lt Cdr James gave the following report:-

- a. The trial of Paperless Billing System whereby a hard copy will only be produced for bills over £50, would end on 16 Dec16 with a vote taken by the WRMC in Jan17 to decide on whether to continue with the system.

- b. Sales of the Christmas raffle tickets were building up and the organisers were about to purchase the last 3 of 30 prizes. First Prize would be £1000 and there were other very good prizes. The draw would be made at the Christmas lunch on 14 Dec.
- c. A combined Valentines Dinner in 2017 had been proposed, and to be considered by the OA Committee. *(The proposal was raised under the Social Committee Report, see Agenda item 4).*
- d. It had been pointed out that the recently amended Mess Rules had some minor errors associated with the OA. However, as the Rules had only recently been amended it was unlikely that another change would be implanted for some time. *(See also para 6b above).*
- e. Christmas Dance tickets had all been taken up.
- f. Further Mess improvements were under consideration, including consolidation of Woody's, reinstating a snooker room, improving the seating in the cinema area and an upgrade of the coffee room furnishings. A further grant from the RNRMC was being investigated.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

The agenda item had been included following recent applications to join the OA by people who did not meet the "Eligibility" as laid down in the current OA Membership Rules and Constitution. Consideration of the subject had been discussed at previous OA Committee meetings and for info Lt Cdr Rouse, A/Sec, had produced extracts of the discussions and decisions dating back to Dec 2006.

The subject was discussed at length. Some of the points of the discussion were that changing the eligibility may "open the flood gates" and the OA was not struggling for numbers. The proposal to include "*Civilians who had served a full appointment and been Full Members of the Wardroom...etc*" had been made at the OA AGM in 2008 and had been rejected by a large majority by OA members present.

Cdre Whyntie, Chairman, said that although he, as Chairman, had been given the discretion by the Mess President to agree the membership of the OA, any major change such as allowing civilians to join the OA would have to be discussed with the President before any further action could be taken. Lt Cdr James took an action to set up a meeting with the Mess President.

**Action: Lt Cdr James**

It was suggested that there may be other occasions when applications would be made to join the COA such as when the wardroom at HMS Sultan closed but it would be the business of the Mess President to decide who would become members of the WR Mess.

**Post Meeting Note: Since the committee meeting on 7 Dec, the Committee has agreed not to proceed with considering membership of the OA by those who do not meet the current requirements of eligibility.**

## **9. AOB**

a. Following a query from Lt Cdr Laurie, the Chairman stated that Capt J Palmer won his prize of a bottle of champagne for inviting the most people to the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner. Capt Palmer offered to make the same prize of a bottle of champagne for the 2017 dinner.

b. Lt Cdr James stated that regarding the WR Connect setup, the WR Sec had requested a meeting with the OA Webmaster, Capt Palmer. Following Capt Palmer's agreement, Lt Cdr James said he would set up a meeting.

**Action: Lt Cdr James**

c. The Chairman, Cdre Whyntie, thanked the members of the Committee for their support over the past year, which he considered had been successful. He closed the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

## **10. DONM**

Dates for the next meetings:-

Wed 1 Mar 17 at 1230

Sun 25 Jun 17 at 1030 prior to the 2017 AGM at 1130

JRD ROUSE

Lieutenant Commander, OA A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB