



Maritime Warfare School

Officers' Association
HMS COLLINGWOOD
Newgate Lane
FAREHAM
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27 July 2018

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD 1 JULY 2018

Present:

Cdre A Whyntie	Chairman
Lt Cdr D L Howe	Vice Chairman
Capt J Palmer	Webmaster
Lt Cdr M C Churchill	OA Secretary
Lt Cdr T C James	
Lt Cdr J R D Rouse	A/Sec

18 Members of the Association.

The Chairman welcomed all members and sent condolences to Cdr David Dawson-Taylor for the recent loss of his wife Katie.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:- Cdr D Coombes, Cdr D Dawson-Taylor, Lt Cdr J R Laurie, Lt Cdr I Pile, Lt Cdr C Brooks, Lt Cdr A J W Scott, Lt Cdr R H Paget, Lt Cdr H N Watson, Lt Cdr G J Moore, Lt D J Ansell and Mrs J Pointer.

2. MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 25 JUN 17

The Minutes were accepted, proposed by Cdr G Freeston and seconded by Lt Cdr J Stafferton.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cdre Whyntie, Chairman, gave the following report:-

"This AGM will not be rushed as I believe there are some important issues to discuss.

Certainly this year has been the most challenging since I took over as chairman. This time last year we lost both Geoff and Bill within days of the last AGM. Both still missed.

I am grateful that Doug stood up as my deputy and Colin Gittins took over as Social Secretary. Colin decided to step down a while ago and I would like to thank him for his contribution to the OA. I am also grateful that Doug stands in for me when required.

I thought I might just run through the year and highlight a few issues we have had to face as an OA.

The 2017 Trafalgar Ladies' night was a great success and we enjoyed the Quintet from HMS Nelson's Volunteer Band. Lovely music and I am delighted they will be playing at this year's event.

We suffered an issue with the Establishment not allowing taxis in. The XO was very apologetic that members had to walk to and from the Establishment Gate. His direct intervention has enabled us to use taxis as normal. This is an issue across the Defence Estate and I am not sure there is complete resolution. It is the same as the paperwork needed to allow members and guests into Establishments. Again, I am not sure we completely know if this has been resolved. We will strive to keep the administration as simple as possible.

Our Spring ball was marred by a less than satisfactory scran for which we received an apology from the Contractor and a modest refund. That refund was used to offset a loss incurred. The Mess Manager assures us it was a one-off and the lesson learnt is we will be more interactive on choosing the menu.

We decided not to hold a Summer ball as the committee were all committed to their individual responsibilities running the OA. We have decided to review the annual calendar to ensure all events are spread evenly through the year. This is particularly important for those members who travel considerable distances to support events.

Mark Churchill did e mail all the members months ago to seek preferences for when we should hold the Ball after Christmas. He had just 1 reply, 1 reply. That, in my opinion is a very disappointing response which can be interpreted by some on the committee as apathy or members are just happy with what we organise. I would actually ask members to respond when seeking your views. If this is interpreted as a Chairman's ticking off, it is!!!!

On a more positive note, I am grateful for the support from members who attended a number of funerals over the year. A really good turn-out which I know the families appreciated during their time of grieving.

Personally I was so saddened by the sad passing of Paul Tomlinson. He took me under his wing years ago when I was a sprog Lt and he was a WO. I saw first-hand how he fought his illness with incredible strength and fortitude and was supported by his wonderful wife Mary and I am thrilled that Mary has joined the OA in her own right.

Lt Cdr Mike Edmonds kindly donated his sword in 2017 and it was won by Lt Oliver James. Both Submariners. They have kept in touch and Oliver was recently selected for promotion to Lt Cdr. Linda Evans sister has donated her late husband's sword which we have had refurbished. The sword was made in 1913 so lots of history behind it.

It will be presented to the 2018 winner later this month in the presence of The Princess Royal who will be taking the salute at Ceremonial divisions.

Further, many will remember Captain Charles Crawford, past Captain of HMS Collingwood. He has kindly donated his sword for 2019. And so we have granted him honorary membership and he hopes to attend future events.

Very recently I was invited to attend a wreath laying to remember the 33 officers and ratings killed during a bombing raid on the establishment on the 18th June 1943. A very moving ceremony.

Looking forward you will note from the Agenda that we will be asking you to vote us back as a committee but more importantly, to vote on 5 new members. I am delighted and grateful they have come forward to offer to help run the OA. Very sadly, Mark has decided to stand down. To ease the transition, he will stay on to complete a hand-over.

We have realised that some roles are more loaded than others; so, I have asked Doug to look at our current roles and loading and suggest a re-casting of roles and responsibilities to equalise the loading. So please bear with us over the next few months when we bring clarity as to who does what. What is wonderful is that Martin Carr has offered to become our social secretary; so vote him in! His first duty will be to organise the Traf Night Ladies Night. This should be finalised at our September committee meeting and we will promulgate names to roles straight away by both E mail and the Web Site.

So this is our opportunity to thank Mark for his exceptional contribution over the years. Could I ask you to show your appreciation in the normal way, and buy him a beer.

Later this year or early next year we say goodbye to our Mess President Cdr Dave Johnston. He is and remains a great supporter of the OA and he and his wife will be our guests at the Traf Ladies night. So please say hello to them on the night.

I very much look forward to the coming year. With new members on the committee we look forward to their essential contribution to our immediate and long-term future.

It is also vital we thank the Wardroom staff, the security staff and of course your hardworking committee.

My closing comment is please support the OA by more than just turning up to events. Please answer requests for views and do let us know your views. We must ensure a long- term future of the OA.

I am happy to take any questions before we return to the Agenda. Thank you”

In response to the Chairman’s comment on lack of response to the question of when to hold the Ball after Christmas, several members said that they hadn’t seen the request for response. Lt Cdr Churchill, OA Sec reported that the request was contained within the Newsletter. Lt Cdr Stafferton suggested that it would have been better as a separate email to members.

4. TO RECEIVE THE TREASURER’S REPORT

In his absence, Lt Cdr Laurie, Treasurer, had produced a Summary of OA Funds and copies were made available to the members.

The total OA funds stood at £7262.91 at 1 Jul 18. It was noted that there was a discrepancy of £96.09 between the “Total OA Funds” for the 2017 accounts (£7511.83) and the “Central Fund Brought Forward” (£7607.92) on 01-Apr-18. On the acceptance that the discrepancy would be investigated, Lt Cdr Raynor proposed and Lt Dugan seconded that the Treasurer’s report be accepted which was passed unanimously.

5. GDPR

The Chairman stated that the OA was compliant. Everybody had the right to rescind the amount of their details that could be published. There were some members (87) who had joined under the 'postcard system' who needed to be contacted to get their permission to publish their details. To date, only about 30% of these had responded to the OA Sec's request. If there was no response from them, only their names would be published in the next edition of the membership list. In response to a question, the OA Sec said that the 87 members in question attended events only occasionally.

6. ANNUAL SOCIAL PROGRAMME

As stated in the Chairman's report, the social events would be spread evenly over the year.

7. TO ELECT/RE-ELECT OFFICERS TO THE COMMITTEE

Five nominations for the Committee had been received. These were Lt Cdr Colin Brooks, Lt Cdr Martin Carr, Cdr Derek Coombes, Cdr Nick Quine and Lt Cdr David Rook. As the Chairman stated in his report Lt Gittins, Social Secretary had already stood down and Lt Cdr Churchill, OA Sec, would be standing down as soon as the hand-over was completed. There was a unanimous vote to accept the 5 new members and the current members remaining on the Committee.

8. Date Of Next AGM

The next AGM would be held on Sunday 9 June 2019 at 1130.

J R D ROUSE
Lieutenant Commander
A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members
Wardroom Mess Treasurer
WRNB
OA Website