



Officers' Association  
HMS COLLINGWOOD  
Newgate Lane  
Fareham  
Hants  
PO14 1AS

27 September 2019

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD  
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD 17 SEPTEMBER 2019**

Present:

Capt J.N. McGrath	Chairman
Lt Cdr D.L. Howe	Vice Chairman
Lt Cdr D.J. Rook	Treasurer
Cdr D. Coombs	OA Secretary
Lt Cdr M.P. Carr	Membership and Social Secretary
Lt Cdr C.F. Brooks	Committee Member
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Capt J E Palmer, Cdr N. J. Quine and Lt Cdr T C James.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS (9 AND 12 JUN)**

Under 'Present' (minutes for 9 Jun and 12 Jun):-

Capt Palmer should read Capt J E Palmer and Cdr D Coombs should read Cdr D Coombs.

Paragraphs 8 (minutes for 9 Jun) and paragraph 11 (minutes for 12 Jun) should read **Sun** 14 Jun 20.

Paragraphs 6, 8 and 10 (minutes for 12 Jun) Cdr Coombs should read Cdr Coombs.

With the corrections above, the minutes were accepted. Proposed by Lt Cdr Brooks and seconded by Cdr Coombs.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

a. Email to be sent out to see if any members would be interested in taking part in the Cenotaph Remembrance Parade.

The email went out and to date there have be 5 responses in the affirmative. As there is interest from members, Lt Cdr Carr will proceed with the planning. **Action Continuing**

b. Lt Cdr Howe to enquire whether Collingwood still attended a remembrance ceremony at Blandford Forum.

Lt Cdr Howe reported that HMS Collingwood still attended a ceremony but it was held on the Collingwood Field Gun weekend. Capt McGrath suggested that members may like to attend either as a group or as individuals. Lt Cdr Howe said he would investigate whether it was possible for OA members to attend the ceremony.

**Action Lt Cdr Howe**

c. Lt Carr to send out an email following up the suggestion of organising additional events such as golf days.

The email was sent out. (See report under Agenda Item 4). **Action Complete**

d. Capt Palmer to follow up the suggestion of publishing the WR Mess Rules on the website with the WR Mess.

Capt Palmer had confirmed by email that the action was complete and that an appropriate extract of the Mess Rules had been published on the website under Organisation. Capt Palmer also reported that the citation and photographs of the OA sword presentation were on the website.

**Action Complete**

e. Lt Cdr James to find out if Collingwood was planning anything for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WE branch in 2021.

In his absence, Lt Cdr James had submitted a written report saying that, to date, he did not believe that HMS Collingwood was planning to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WE Branch. It was reported that plans were being made to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HMS Collingwood in 2020.

**Action Complete**

f. The subject of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

See Agenda item 9. **Action Complete**

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Carr, Membership and Social Secretary, reported that there was a total of 409 OA members. Condolence letters had been sent to the families of 3 deceased members. He had received a membership application from a member of New Zealand Navy who had said that he had been a Life member of the Collingwood WR Mess. Lt Cdr Carr would check with the WR Mess Treasurer for confirmation before starting the joining process. There was a discussion on whether Wardroom members of Fort Blockhouse should be allowed to join the OA when their mess closed. Capt McGrath said that it would be the decision of the XO. The circumstances were different from the time when Dryad and Mercury moved into Collingwood.

Lt Cdr Carr reported that the Summer Ball had been cancelled because of insufficient numbers. The RMA band had been paid a cancellation fee.

The golf day was taking place that day at the Dryad golf course with 6 members and one guest. The event would be put in the diary for next year and Capt McGrath suggested that a 'golfer' member should run the event, and suggested it could be Lt Cdr James. If there was more interest from members next year, Lt Cdr Carr suggested that a trophy could be bought.

Lt Cdr Carr reported that, to date, there were 150 people going to the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner. The cut-off date was 14 Oct 19. The date for the OA/SD Christmas lunch needed to be decided.

**Action Lt Cdrs Carr and James**

The Chairman's paper on the Social Programme for 2020 was then discussed. Also included in the discussion was the list of events suggested by Cdr Coombes. The proposed events included:-

- a. Garden Party with military or brass band for entertainment, wet weather routine to be an indoor CTP.
- b. Lunch with a speaker.
- c. Musical evening with Drinks and Dinner with military/brass band, string quartet, chamber orchestra to provide the music.
- d. A dinner with the winner of the OA sword which would give members the chance to meet the winner and see the sword. The winner could give a brief career outline.
- e. A dinner or lunch with paired wines from one producer introduced by a local wine merchant or possibly from one English vineyard introduced by the grower.
- f. A dinner with inside and outside entertainment, eg magic show, fire-eater.
- g. A gambling evening.
- h. BBQ with trad/untrad jazz or barbers shop group.
- i. Singer impersonator and/or musician and dinner.
- j. Stand-up comic and buffet dinner.
- k. A quiz.

The Committee agreed that the Balls would be discontinued for one to 2 years and then ask members if they wished them to be brought back. Capt McGrath had also suggested in his paper that dates other than Trafalgar Night could be the subject of an event. As lunches were usually well supported, it was agreed that one could be held to mark the date of Admiral Collingwood's death on 7 March 1810. In 2020 the date would fall on a Saturday. After a discussion about the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner, it was agreed that a Guest of Honour may be invited in future years. The 'Toast to the Immortal Memory' would be included but not the 'Battle of Trafalgar' speech.

The Committee agreed that a skeleton programme for the events each year would be:-

Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner.

One formal lunch (with partners and guests but no children).

2 family lunches (one following the AGM and the Christmas Lunch).

Other events such as the Golf Day and as proposed above, would be included if there was sufficient interest.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Rook, Treasurer, stated that the report started at the last reported position from the OA AGM of £7412.24. From the ongoing OA account activity to the end of Aug 19, as recorded by the WR Mess Treasurer, the OA's current financial position stood at £6,245.98.

Lt Cdr Rook reported that a cancellation fee of £962.50 had been paid for the band that was booked for the cancelled Summer Ball.

As reported at the last meeting, Lt Cdr Rook said that the Wardroom Treasurer had suggested that the OA's capital figure be reduced to around £5000. He suggested that this could be achieved by increasing the subsidies for events; also, as had been discussed at a previous meeting, funds could be used to buy a sword for the OA prize for future years. The Committee agreed to both of the suggestions. Capt McGrath said he would contact Pooleys to find out the cost of a new sword.

**Action Chairman**

Lt Cdr Carr informed the meeting that Association of Royal Navy Officers (ARNO) would sponsor the Port for the Trafalgar Night.

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

Cdr Coombes, OA Sec, reported that the last Newsletter issued by email resulted in 9 new rejections. Six have since been resolved and the remaining three have become "lost members".

In late June, with only 6 working days' notice Amenity car passes had to be exchanged for a new type and all existing passes would be invalid from 1 Jul 19. This sudden requirement was GDPR driven. The exercise revealed that, under GDPR rules, members with out of date passes had their details expunged from the database by external auditors (to HMS Collingwood). One of the ramifications is that the "temporary pass" system will no longer be possible since many members' details will not be available at the Main Gate. Cdr Coombes said he would seek a new "Ad Hoc" entry method for use in exceptional circumstances (*See Post Meeting Note below*). The MoD and OA databases were now synchronised so the intention to institute a system (a Martin Carr initiative) to remind members of pending renewals could commence. The Secretary would provide a statement for Lt Cdr Carr to issue to clarify establishment access for social event.

**Action Lt Cdr Carr (completed)**

**Post Meeting Note:** *It has been very recently discovered that, for GDPR reasons, MoD personnel databases have been sanitised which (in the case of the OA) affects Amenities Pass information older than about 18months. This is a Command-wide directive. Thus, if passes are some 6/7 months out of date, members' MoD dBase information will be expunged. The net result is that members who fall into this category will no longer be able to arrive unannounced at HMS COLLINGWOOD Main Gate and be issued with temporary passes since the MoD staff no longer have access to member information. However, I have agreed a process with MoD security to enable Ad Hoc access aimed at those members who live "outside the patch" and who do not regularly renew their passes but wish to make an informal visit. I will publish the finally agreed process in the forthcoming Newsletter. Clearly, this means of access should not be abused.*

*The above does not affect members who do not renew passes regularly but wish to attend organised functions such as SD(R), OA lunches, formal Mess Nights or film nights. The aforementioned events will continue to be processed by the sponsored list system under the likes of Martin Carr, Trevor James or Mick Legg.*

## **7. REPORT FROM WARDROOM MESS COMMITTEE**

- a. Tickets at a £1 each were now available for the Christmas Draw. There were over £5000 in prizes including a family holiday, Amazon voucher, numerous electrical goods and adventure breaks.
- b. There had been a further change with Lt Abigail Smale taking over as Social Sec and Lt Pete Taylor reverting to Assistant Social Sec.
- c. Mess Rule amendments had now been completed and hard copies would be printed after Summer leave.

## **8. CHAIRMAN'S PAPER ON SOCIAL PROGRAMME FOR 2020**

See Agenda Item 4.

## **9. THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WE BRANCH**

The subject of how to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WE branch would be considered after the events celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HMS Collingwood in 2020.

## **10. AOB**

Lt Cdr Carr said that literature about ARNO would be available in the foyer on the evening of the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner. He also said that ARNO would like some photographs of the event.

## **11. DONM**

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

Wed 4 Dec 19 at 1030 (at the Chairman's house)

Wed 11 Mar 20 at 1230

Sun 14 Jun 20 at 1030 followed by the AGM at 1130

J R D ROUSE

Lt Cdr

A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB