

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

10 December 2019

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT CHAIRMAN'S HOUSE 4 DECEMBER 2019**

Present:

Capt J.N. McGrath	Chairman
Lt Cdr D.L. Howe	Vice Chairman
Lt Cdr D.J. Rook	Treasurer
Cdr D. Coombes	OA Secretary
Lt Cdr M.P. Carr	Membership and Social Secretary
Capt J E Palmer	Webmaster
Lt Cdr T.C. James	W.R.M.C Representative
Cdr N.J. Quine	Committee Member
Lt Cdr C.F. Brooks	Committee Member
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec

**1. APOLOGIES**

All members of the Committee were present.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 17 SEP 19**

Para 3a should read Lt Cdr **Brooks** will proceed with the planning.

With the correction, the minutes were accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Howe and seconded by Lt Cdr Brooks.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

a. Lt Cdr Brooks to proceed with the planning for members to take part in the Cenotaph Remembrance parade.

Lt Cdr Brooks reported that the notice in the Newsletter had only resulted in one additional member registering an interest. That brought the total up to 7, including him. He stated that units in the parade at the Cenotaph generally marched past in ranks of 6 and he did not consider that it was currently a worthwhile endeavour but he would plan to make the final decision in March.

**Action Continuing**

Capt McGrath suggested that an alternative would be for members of the OA to form a group at the HMS Collingwood parade on 11 Nov and then follow it with lunch, with partners, in the Wardroom.

b. Lt Cdr Howe to enquire whether OA members could attend the remembrance ceremony at Blandford Forum.

Lt Cdr Howe reported that he had made the enquiry and although not adverse to the idea, it would take a bit of planning. It was agreed that the ceremony, which took place in the Summer, would not be so much of a focus as the one at Collingwood on Remembrance Day.

**Action Complete**

c. Date for SD/OA Christmas Lunch to be decided.  
The date had been arranged for Sunday 8 Dec 19.

**Action Complete**

d. Chairman to contact Pooleys to find out the cost of a new sword.

The cost of the sword will be £1387.36 and the order has been placed. The Chairman reported that he would be collecting the sword in the New Year.

**Action Complete**

#### **4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Paragraphs 5a, 5b and 5d of the Report were discussed. The remaining would be taken at the March meeting.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch (para 5a). It was agreed that the event would be run along the lines of a standard lunch. It would be more expensive for 'Silver Service' and it was suggested that the midway position between that and a buffet would be 'Family Service' where the main course meat was served plated, the vegetables would be on the table for people to help themselves. There would be music during the lunch, type and details would be investigated but possibly a string quartet. The rig would be suits. The aim was to keep the cost to £30-£35 per head. The Captain of HMS Collingwood, Captain Jordan, would be invited as the Principle Guest.

**P.M.N.** Captain Jordan has accepted the invitation.

Event for the Summer Social Gathering (para 5b). It was agreed that a daytime Summer BBQ for members, families and friends would be organised, probably in July. Lt Cdr Carr would discuss possible dates with the WRMM.

**P.M.N.** The provisional date for the BBQ has been arranged for Sat 11 Jul 20.

Chairman's Relief (para 5d). Capt McGrath would be standing down as Chairman at the 2021 AGM and he was keen to have his relief nominated in time for the 2020 AGM. Various officers' names were put forward by the Committee as suggestions. Captain McGrath asked all members of the Committee to continue to come up with suggestions with a view to having it resolved by the March meeting.

**Action All**

#### **5. SOCIAL & MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Lt Cdr Carr, Membership and Social Secretary, gave the following report.

##### **Social.**

The Trafalgar Night Dinner was deemed a success by all who attended. The final numbers were 183 with 59 OA Members. The final cost to the Association was £418.06 which was inflated by £190 (above cost of the Gosport SCC) for the Cumberland Guard to parade the Baron of Beef. There had been many positive responses with early diary entries for next year. One down side was once again some delay/confusion at the main gate where the staffs appeared to have difficulty with the guest list and admitting taxis for pick up after 21:00.

The OA Christmas lunch on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec would have 118 attendees from 33 OA members; this was slightly less than last year. The bar would open at 11:45 with Lunch at 13:00. Lt Cdr Carr gave the details of the menu.

The first event scheduled for 2020 would be the lunch on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Mar to celebrate 80 years of HMS COLLINGWOOD and the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Admiral Lord Collingwood. Because of an event in the wardroom on the previous evening, Lt Cdr Carr said staff availability may be impacted.

## Membership.

Membership currently stood at 407.

There had been:-

One new member since the last meeting Lt Cdr Gary Head RNZN.

Three cancelled memberships, Lt Cdr Alf Kendall (unable to contact), Lt Cdr Bernie Halls (Illness) and Lt Cdr Ian Pike (moved to Nelson Mess).

Two members had 'Crossed the Bar' – Cdr Ken Bowen, Mr Dudley Roessler.

The breakdown of members was as follows:

ACTIVE	275
COUNTRY	107
FULL	15
HONORARY	10

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Rook, Treasurer, stated that his report for the meeting started at the last reported position from the OA Committee meeting in September of £6,245.98. From the ongoing OA account activity to the end of November 2019, as recorded by the WR Mess Treasurer, the OA's current financial position stood at; £5,273.53.

As far as notable activity through the last period was concerned, Lt Cdr Rook reported that the deposit of £531.82 for a new sword had been paid, which was in accordance with the Committee's decision to use it as a method to reduce the OA's operating capital figure to around the £5,000 mark. A subsidy of £348.38 to the OA Trafalgar night dinner had also been provided.

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

Cdr Coombes, OA Sec, reported that he had received feedback suggesting that the last Newsletter had been well received; he said the draft for the Spring/Summer edition was under way. Future Newsletters would be sent via Mail Chimp. The Ad Hoc process was thought by a couple of members to be potentially attractive and several commented that they thought the AF reminders process was really good.

Cdr Coombes reported that the MoD Security pass office in Atlantic Block was now fully manned with Lisa McGuinness who replaced Peter Trickett and her aide Aaron Edwards who transferred from a post in the WO and SR's Mess. He said that there were some new faces at the Main Gate which was because of the phased introduction of 16 new MGS personnel to release armed personnel from pass office duties back to their nominated, primary roles.

Cdr Coombes stated that the numbers of OA passes that had been renewed was 36 since the 17 Sep meeting (1.55 per working day). There was a notable bump in applications in the lead up to Trafalgar Night in part due to the prompts from the Partial AF system. Also of note were those members who attend functions purely on the "list system"

- There were some 90+ out of 290 Active members who regularly renew their passes.
- For Trafalgar Night, 56 OA members attended, 10 of whom did not have current ID Cards.

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

Lt Cdr James gave the following report.

a. Wardroom Christmas Draw tickets were still on sale £1 each. The draw would take place during the Wardroom Mess Christmas lunch on 18 Dec 19.

b. Refurbishment/Replacement of the index for the Mess Painting "Life of Collingwood" had been scoped by the previous Mess Improvements Rep Lt Steve Cass. There was a problem with the funding and it had been suggested that the OA may want to be involved. The new Rep had liaised with the Graphics/Photographic section and the outcome was awaited.

c. Hard Copies of the updated Mess Rules were now available and Lt Cdr James distributed several copies to the Committee.

d. The Mess had been thanked for the very successful OA Trafalgar Night Dinner.

e. It had been announced that there would be some events in 2021 to celebrate the introduction of the WE Branch into the Royal Navy. The Mess had been made aware that the OA wished to be involved.

## 9. AOB

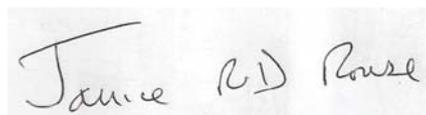
Lt Cdr Quine volunteered to investigate whether any of the local colleges and universities had music groups suitable for providing the music at OA functions. **Action Cdr Quine**

## 10. DONM

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

Wed 11 Mar 20 at 1230

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R D Rouse". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light grey rectangular background.

J R D ROUSE

Lt Cdr

A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB