



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

15 March 2020

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD 11 MARCH 2020**

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
Lt Cdr T.C. James	W.R.M.C Representative
Lt Cdr C.F. Brooks	Committee Member
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec

**1. APOLOGIES**

Capt J E Palmer. The Chairman informed those present that Cdr N.J. Quine had resigned from the Committee for personal reasons.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 4 DEC 19**

Para 9 Lt Cdr Quine should read Cdr Quine.

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

**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 had concluded that there was not enough interest in the London Remembrance Parade to justify the effort involved. **Action Complete**

b. Committee members to consider suggestions for Capt McGrath's relief when he steps down as Chairman at the 2021 AGM.

Capt Palmer has volunteered to be the next Chairman. Capt McGrath said he would like Capt Palmer to take the Chair at the Dinner celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WE Branch in 2021. **Action Complete**

c. Cdr Quine to investigate whether any of the local colleges and universities have music groups suitable for providing the music at OA functions.

It was agreed that further action was not necessary at the moment.

**NFA**

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

Official Functions (para 1). Since the last Committee meeting in Dec 19, Capt McGrath reported that he had attended 2 official functions. On Friday 10 Jan he attended the Service in the Chapel of St Michael to mark 80 years to the day since the first trainees marched into HMS Collingwood. It was a Service that embraced contributions from Chaplains of all denominations and had the sort of rousing hymns that people enjoy singing. Afterwards there was a buffet luncheon in the Chaplaincy with the cutting of an anniversary cake by Captain Jordan assisted by the youngest rating serving there.

80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch (para 2). The lunch was held on Sat 7 Mar with 96 people attending. The Committee agreed that Lounge suits were appropriate for any future formal lunches. This would not apply to the lunch following the AGM and the Christmas Lunch.

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WE Branch (para 3). The date of Sunday 14 Feb 21 was proposed for the event. It would be a joint affair with HMS Collingwood. The Senior WE officer would be invited as Guest of Honour.

Poll of Members (para 2). It was agreed not to proceed with a poll asking members why they did not book for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary Lunch. Lt Cdr James suggested that it was a combination of the past history of the low food standard; problems with taxis entering the establishment; the temperature of the mess because of the heating problem. Capt McGrath reported that when he arrived for the lunch on Saturday, the gate did not have the list with the details of the people attending, but the problem had been resolved. Cdr Coombes said for the Trafalgar Night Dinner, he had obtained a dispensation to allow taxis to enter after 2100; also, there was special help for the disabled. He believed that taxi drivers were not interested in getting individual security clearance to enter HMS Collingwood because there was sufficient business elsewhere.

Social Programme for 2020 (para 5). See details at Agenda Item 6. It was agreed the XO would be invited to the OA Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner but as in previous years, there would be no GoH.

HMS Collingwood Armistice Day (para 6). The Chairman of the OA lays a wreath at the Remembrance Service and the event has been attended by other members of the Committee in the past. It was agreed that the event would be put into the OA diary for all interested members and partners to attend. It was suggested that following the Remembrance Service, members and partners could retire to the bar and then join together for a lunch in the Wardroom. Lt Cdr Carr would discuss the arrangements with the WRMM.

**Action Lt Cdr Carr**

Trafalgar Night Side Party and Parading the Beef. The Chairman had produced a list of some organisations who may be able/willing to provide a Side Party and to Parade the Beef at the OA Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner. It was agreed that the Volunteer Cadets within Collingwood were preferable and would be approached first.

#### **5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

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

Membership currently stood at 402, the breakdown being:-

ACTIVE	272
COUNTRY	106
FULL	14
HONORARY	10

Seven Members had cancelled since the last meeting, Lt Cdr Neil Bassett, Cdr Tony Bosustow, Lt Cdr Peter Braley (Health), Lt Cdr Andrew Dinsdale, Lt Cdr Philip Gibbs, Lt Michael Waddleton and Lt Jim Watts.

Deceased since last meeting: Lt Cdr Alf Kendall.

**PMN.** Lt Cdr Carr has reported that he had been informed by Dr Nigel Healey that his Father Cdr Ken Healey died in November 2016. Ken Healey had been listed in the last newsletter as a 'missing member'.

## **6. SOCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Carr reported that 96 had attended the 80<sup>th</sup> Lunch from 43 OA Members. Sadly he had a total of 9 cancellations in all with 3 on the day, and 2 the day before; all 9 were within one week of the function. There was a discussion on cancellation charges and it was agreed that if the cancellation was after the deadline, a charge will be made for consumables only. The booking form for future events would include details of cancellation charges.

After cancellations the subsidy was in the region of £315.

Several members expressed an interest in repeating this type of event (but maybe a bit less formal). The Social Programme for the remainder of the year:-

Wed 22 Apr	Wine Tasting (currently 18) maximum 60 and limited to 3 guests per member
Sun 14 Jun	AGM followed by Families Lunch
Sat 11 Jul	Families BBQ
Sep TBC	Golf Day at Southwick Park
Fri 30 Oct	Ladies' Trafalgar Night Dinner
<i>Wed 11 Nov</i>	<i>Armistice Day lunch ( tbc)</i>
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Families Christmas Lunch.

**Post Meeting Note:** The Wine Tasting on 22 April, the lunch which would have followed the AGM on 14 Jun and the BBQ on 11 Jul have been cancelled because of the Covid-19. The AGM will be achieved 'on line', details will be circulated.

## **7. 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 December of £5,273.53. From the ongoing OA account activity to the end of February 2020, as recorded by the WR Mess Treasurer, the OA's current financial position stood at £7,494.30.

As far as notable activity through the last period was concerned, Lt Cdr Rook reported that the final payment for the sword of £606.82 had been made. Also, the funds had been replenished in February

by the Direct Debits of the members. There had been only 4 declined payments, which were being chased by the Treasurer.

**PMN.** The treasurer has heard that, sadly, Lt Cdr Peter Skrzypczak has had to cancel because of ill-health.

In response to a query from Cdr Coombes on whether the funds would increase too much without the major expenses of the Balls, Lt Cdr Rook said that with more smaller events there would be more subsidies. It was agreed that the maximum cost for the Trafalgar Ladies' Night Dinner would be £40, for other events the upper limit would be £35. It was also noted that events on a Saturday incurred higher labour charges.

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

Cdr Coombes, OA Sec, reported that 22 passes had been processed since the last meeting (1.86 per working day) with a median approval period of 7 days from receipt to issue. He said there was little change in those Active members who renewed their passes; some 90+ out of the total of Active members. Cdr Coombes said from a limited straw poll at the recent lunch, he elicited positive comments on the pass reminders and AF approval timescales.

## **9. PROPOSAL BY RICHARD SPALDING TO INTRODUCE A "MEMBERS' AREA"**

After some discussion, the Committee decided not to introduce a "Members' Area" to the website. As Social and Membership Secretary, Lt Cdr Carr said that in his general email that he sends twice a year, he could include any queries from members looking for old shipmates. It was also pointed out that members were periodically sent the updated 'List of Members' which included contact details. The Committee also decided that it would be inappropriate to include members' advertisements on the website or in the Newsletters. The advertisements were adequately covered in other publications such as the ARNO Yearbook and the Navy News.

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

Lt Cdr James gave the following report.

- a. Refurbishment/Replacement of the index for the Mess Painting "Life of Collingwood" was still in hand with the Mess Improvements Rep and it was envisaged that there would be no further requirement for the OA to be involved. However, the Improvements Rep had been absent from the last 2 Committee meetings and so the action was still to be completed.
- b. At the Mess Committee Meeting on 22 Jan 20 it was announced that there was a strong possibility that there would be a licence cost to show sports and films in public places within the Mess. SO2 Logs had requested advice from Navy Legal and it was confirmed that a licence was required but was acceptable to assess the capacity of a TV room i.e. the numbers that could be seated within the room rather than the number of Mess Members. However, at the last Committee Meeting on 19 Feb it was understood that there may have been a rethink and the requirement had not yet been finalised. Unfortunately, the new in post SO2 Logs could not attend the meeting and so a definitive statement was not available.
- c. Until a new Mess Social Sec could be found, a sub-committee would be formed from within the various departments of the establishment. The OA would be advised on the outcome.

## 9. AOB

- a. After the recent 'phone interruptions' at the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lunch, Lt Cdr Rouse suggested that as part of the Chairman's opening words at a formal function, everyone should be reminded to switch off their phones or put them on silent.
- b. Lt Cdr Rouse thanked Lt Cdr James for arranging the update of the OA Committee Board in the foyer.

## 10. DONM

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

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

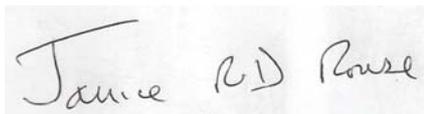
**PMN:** The normal AGM has been cancelled, see above at Agenda Item 6.

Wed 9 Sep 20 at 1230

Wed 2 Dec 20 at 1230

Wed 3/10 Mar 21 tbc

Sun 13 Jun 21 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 with a large initial 'J' and 'R'.

J R D ROUSE

Lt Cdr

A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB