



17 December 2020

MINUTES OF THE 'VIRTUAL' COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR 2 DECEMBER 2020

Committee:

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
Lt Cdr C.F. Brooks	Committee Member
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING ('Virtual for 9 Sep20)

The minutes had been approved by all the Committee members before final publication.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Response to the Chairman's letter to the XO re the OA Rebate of Wardroom Mess Funds was awaited, see Agenda item 6.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Capt McGrath reported that there had been little activity since the last meeting apart from the responses and activity regarding his letter to the XO (See Agenda Item 6). Once the Covid vaccination programme got going, the OA might be looking towards Easter 2021 for some sort of return to normality. He wished everybody a Very Happy Christmas and a New Year filled with renewed hope.

4. SOCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Lt Cdr Carr, Social and Membership Secretary, reported that, because of the Covid restrictions, there had been no OA Social events since the 80th Anniversary Lunch last March. It was planned that a substantial social subsidised event would be held when circumstances permitted. He reported that the latest Members' Directory had been sent out.

The membership:-

Active 263
Country 106
Full 13
Honorary 10

TOTAL 392

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Lt Cdr Rook, Honorary Treasurer, reported that little had changed since his last report and that the OA fund was now reported as being at £6,799 against the last reported position of £7,000 in Sep 20. It was also noted that discussions had been held with the Wardroom Mess Committee, with reference to the annual OA contribution made to the Mess, which is reported at Agenda Item 6

6. COVID-19 OA REBATE OF WARDROOM MESS FUNDS PAID

In response to the OA Chairman's letter suggesting a more equitable contribution to the WR, as a result of the reduced OA activity during the Covid restrictions of 2020, the XO responded positively. In the subsequent discussions between the OA Treasurer and the WR Mess Treasurer, a reduction of the OA subscription for next year has been agreed and since approved by the OA Committee. As a result, all OA Members both Active and Country, will now only be charged a flat rate of £5 for their 2021 subscription. This represents an administration only fee of the Association for 2020 and has been accepted as the best practical route, rather than a physical rebate to members.

It was also declared by the OA and accepted by the Wardroom, that a similar discussion may be needed at the end of 2021 dependant on ongoing Covid restrictions on both the Wardroom and the OA

7. OA SEC's CORNER

Cdr Coombes, OA Sec, submitted the following report:-

He has 29 Amenity Forms (AFs) at home (signed but not dated by members) ready for his endorsement and subsequent processing with MoD Security when permitted. There are many more Active members who are regular attendees using ID cards and their own transport to HMS COLLINGWOOD whose passes will expire, say, March 2021.

Lt Cdr Carr, Membership Secretary, has a process for sending out partially completed Amenity Forms (based on data already held) by email. Cdr Coombes requested that members held off submitting any AF until contacted by Lt Cdr Carr. Members will be asked to confirm/amend details, sign but not date the reverse then post to Cdr Coombes home address (please do not forward to the Mess). If in doubt send an email (sec@hmscoa.org) to Cdr Coombes

The Winter Newsletter had been sent out on 6 Nov 20. It was a bit 'thinner' than normal for obvious reasons.

8. REPORT FROM WARDROOM MESS COMMITTEE

Lt Cdr James reported the following information.

- a. The WRMC agreed (held before the announcement of the Tier system) that any changes would be made to the WR, SR and JR messes alike.
- b. The Treasurer reported that the Mess finances were steady but that the Treasurer had to keep an eye on the cash flow.
- c. There was a long discussion on making a donation to the Central Amenities Fund to help cover the Junior Ratings Christmas Lunch as the CAF had been stripped of £27K that it would normally receive.

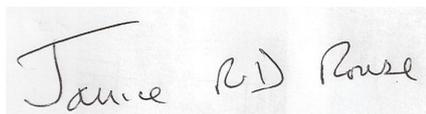
d. The XO intimated that the restriction on entry into Collingwood for OA Members was likely to remain into 2021 without being able to give a timescale.

9. DONM

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

Wed 3/10 Mar 21 tbc

Sun 13 Jun 21 at 1030 followed by the AGM at 1130

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "J R D ROUSE" in a cursive style. The letters are connected, and the "R" and "D" are particularly prominent.

J R D ROUSE

Lt Cdr

A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members

Wardroom Mess Treasurer

WRNB