



22 Apr 21

**MINUTES OF THE 'VIRTUAL' COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2021**

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 2 Dec 20)**

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

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no actions outstanding. All matters arising are covered in the Agenda items.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**a. Introduction.**

Capt McGrath, Chairman stated that given the continuing lockdown and the consequent lack of both access to HMS Collingwood and social activity, there was very little to report. The main topics were royalties from sales of *The Greenie* and the possible impact of the road map out of the current restriction announced by the Prime Minister on Monday 22 January 2021. He was scheduled to phone the new Mess President, Cdr Terry Tyack, on 20 April to brief him on the OA and by then he may have some idea of the schedule for opening Collingwood to outsiders. **PMN: The date has been re-scheduled for 6 May 21.**

**b. Royalties from the sale of *The Greenie*.**

Capt McGrath reported that the publisher only pays royalties when they exceed a set amount. For the first time in several years the Association had received a payment of £120 and the OA must now decide what to do with the money. In the past, it had been given to a naval charity and the author, Commander Patrick Moore, believed that this was its usual fate. However, the auditors of the Wardroom Mess funds had expressed disquiet at the process. To make it accord with proper principles the matter must be debated by the Committee and approved by members. Capt McGrath stated that it was clear that giving to a charity was outside the rules under which the OA operates and proposed that the royalties could be put towards the refurbishment of swords or the purchase of new swords.

Lt Cdr Rook, Treasurer, stated that the Greenie Royalties had only been £120 and were the first received for 5 years. He suggested that it may be another 5 years before any more were received and he assumed that any further sales of the Greenie would be limited, meaning less revenue. Lt Cdr Rook, who had discussed the subject with the WRMT, agreed that future royalties could be put towards the sword activity and that he would record any money that was received and when it was spent as part of a sword purchase/refurbishment would include the fact in the appropriate committee report. He stated that the WRMT would be content with the proposed procedure. The Committee agreed with the proposal.

### **c. Implications of PM's road map out of lockdown.**

Following the statement made by the Prime Minister on 22 March 2021, that the earliest date at which all limits on social gatherings might be removed would be 21 June 2021, Capt McGrath said that it seemed unrealistic that unrestricted access to HMS Collingwood and the renewal of large scale social activity there would take place before the start of the Autumn Term. Capt McGrath said it seemed unwise to plan for any event before that date but that he may learn something when he talks to Cdr Tyack, the Mess President.

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

Lt Cdr Carr reported that the only social event organised had been the whisky tasting which had been conducted via zoom. All the participants had been supplied with the whisky tasters prior to the event and then all tuned in for the zoom meeting which was conducted by the supplier. It was the first time the OA had carried out a social event via zoom; it worked well and had been enjoyed by all those who had taken part.

The WE 75 Lunch was still in the diary for Sep/Oct dtbc. The OA/SD Christmas Lunch had been provisionally booked for Sunday 5 Dec 21.

There had been little change to the membership numbers since the last report.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Rook, Treasurer, submitted the following report:-

- a. The report for the period commenced from the last stated position for September 2020, where the fund stood at £6,799.43. From the OA account activity through the period to date, the current financial position was £7,029.07.
- b. The previous discussions of the OA Committee relating to dues to the Collingwood Mess funds had now been applied at a flat rate of £5 per OA member for the direct debits that were due at the start of the year. Because the £5 figure was a rounding up of the OA's dues it had led to a very marginal increase to the account total.
- c. The annual cycle of direct debits requests led to uncovering membership issues and as a result the OA was 4 members down for the year. However, 2 further members with refused direct debits over the period had been recovered back into the fold after being contacted.
- d. In summary, with the OA's reduced fees and no spend to report, the OA fund remained stable. The only transaction of note was a receipt of Greenie publication fees of £122 as discussed above.

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

Cdr Coombes, OA Sec, reported that it was quite a difficult update since there were many imponderables for the membership and a date whereby members may be allowed access into HMS *Collingwood* was very much awaited. Clearly, access would be eagerly awaited by the OA members but also from caravan owners, the CWD crèche and SARC users etc. If the OA was well prepared,

Cdr Coombes said he would be in a better position to make the case with MoD security from the outset. In pursuance of the above, members were advised to submit their AFs for renewal of passes iaw the published guidelines from Lt Cdr Martin Carr to ensure that quick approvals could be achieved when restrictions were eased. Currently there were 36 AFs in the queue for MoD approval.

The Spring/Summer Newsletter would be issued in May/Jun with a special contribution from Cdr Patrick Moore to help mark WE75.

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

Lt Cdr James reported the following information.

### From the Virtual WRMC meeting 16 Feb 21:-

The XO Cdr Mark Walker would be leaving CWD on 26 March and would be relieved by Cdr Terry Tyack who was joining from Yeovilton. Lt Cdr James had said that, at a convenient juncture in time, the OA Chairman would like to meet the new XO to explain the OA's role as far as the Mess was concerned. Lt Cdr James was hoping to receive a CV for Cdr Terry which he would forward on.

As far as use of the Mess was concerned, little had changed but the forthcoming announcement from the PM may give some idea on a relaxation of restrictions. That said, Collingwood Open Day had already been cancelled as had the Wardroom Summer Ball. That was not to say that the restrictions would not be eased but it was very unlikely that big functions would be possible until after Summer Leave.

The WE 75 Lunch was still in the diary for September/October dtbc. Lt Cdr James had also discussed a date for the combined OA/SD L&R Xmas Lunch with the WRMM and had provisionally booked Sunday 5 December.

The WRMT reported that the Mess Finances were ticking over despite the loss of income from the bar/functions

### From the Virtual WRMC meeting 24 Mar 21:-

Lt Cdr James said little had changed as far as Covid restrictions were concerned.

Instead of the normal agenda the outgoing XO used the meeting as an opportunity to introduce the WRMC to the incoming XO, Cdr Terry Tyack.

It gave Lt Cdr James the opportunity, on behalf of the OA, to welcome Cdr Terry to Collingwood, highlight some of the contributions that the OA had made to the Mess, eg the Bust and the mirror in Woodies bar. He had explained how the OA organised its own social functions as well as supporting Wardroom functions. Cdr Tyack was very keen to meet Capt McGrath, OA Chairman, and had asked his Assistant to contact Lt Cdr James to arrange a suitable time/date.

After all the WRMC had been given the opportunity to state their roles, Cdr Terry said that he had arrived from Yeovilton, had been the Mess president there and was looking forward to getting to know Collingwood and the people.

A date for the next meeting was not decided but will be after the Easter leave period.

## **8. HISTORY OF THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

The time line of the meetings since 2002 was complete leaving just the AGM's to add in. The process had taken far longer than expected with over 100 meetings to cover, resulting in over 40 pages of abbreviated notes. The proposal was to split it into sections such as:-

The Beginning

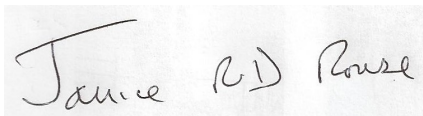
Membership  
The Committee  
Finance  
Social  
The OA Award  
Projects

Once a skeleton was formed, it would be sent to the rest of the Committee for comments, suggestions etc.

**9. DONM**

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:-

Sun 13 Jun 21 at 1030 followed by the AGM at 1130 (tbc)

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "James R D Rouse" in a cursive script. The "R D" is written in a smaller, more compact style between the first and last names.

J R D ROUSE  
Lt Cdr  
A/Sec

Distribution:

Committee Members  
Wardroom Mess Treasurer