



HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

HMS COLLINGWOOD
Newgate Lane
FAREHAM
PO14 1AS

21 Jun 2021

MINUTES OF THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD 'VIRTUALLY' JUNE 2021

Committee Members:

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

Because of the Covid-10 pandemic lockdown, as in 2020, the 2021 OA AGM was held as a 'virtual' meeting. The Agenda together with the Minutes of the last AGM and the Reports by the Chairman, Treasurer and Membership and Social Secretary were sent out to members for their comments. A deadline for responses was set for 1200 on 13 Jun 21. One member of the Association responded and resolved as indicated at paragraph 3c. Also, all members were deemed to have voted in favour of the resolutions unless they informed the Secretary in writing before the deadline of 1200 on 13 Jun 21.

1. MINUTES OF THE 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 'VIRTUALLY' JUN 20

The Minutes were accepted, proposed by Cdr Derek Coombes and seconded by Lt Cdr Colin Brooks.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Capt McGrath's written report:-

Last year when we were forced to hold our AGM by virtual means, it did not seem possible that a year on we should have to adopt the same stratagem. Let us hope that this will be the last time that we cannot meet face-to-face and then enjoy the OA/SD Lunch that follows. It will come as little surprise that there is not much to write about but there are a few points that are worth recalling.

The Ceremonial Divisions at which the OA Sword would usually have been presented were cancelled but all the prizes, including the OA Sword, were presented at individual ceremonies that followed each other and were held in the Wardroom Garden on 24 July 2020. It was a great privilege to present the sword on behalf of the donor, Mrs Gillian Leighton-Goodall, whose late husband, Surgeon Commander (D) David Leighton-Goodall, had at one time been the Senior Dental Surgeon at HMS *Collingwood*. The name of the recipient, whose parents' entry to the establishment had been effected

covertly, has had to be withheld but I can assure you that the winner really deserved the award and was completely surprised to find out at the very last moment.

Another point of note concerns the lack of members' access to the facilities of the Wardroom since the start of the pandemic. This required action to ensure both that members were not financially disadvantaged and that any solution was also fair to the Wardroom. These negotiations produced a very equitable result and the Committee decided that, rather than refunding members, the 2021 subscription would be reduced to £5. As it seems unlikely that there will be any general access to the establishment and, therefore, the Wardroom until the Autumn Term, this agreement should be a useful template when considering this year's position.

Last year marked the 80th Anniversary of the opening of HMS *Collingwood* and the Command decided to publish a book capturing its history to which the OA was invited to contribute. Members of the Committee, other OA members and, in particular, Janice Rouse generated information about the origin and development of the OA and its contributions to the establishment that I edited to form our offering. At the time of writing this report, I await to hear when publication will finally take place. One positive outcome is that the Committee realised how much we need to capture the Association's history and Janice has generously agreed to build on her work by trawling through Committee minutes and other records to yield a definitive account. I am very grateful to her for so willingly taking on this task.

My most important duty before I hand over to your new Chairman is to offer my sincere thanks to all the members of the Committee. With far more knowledge of the Association and its operations than their Chairman, they kept me from committing any serious errors, always with patience and good humour. I cannot recall any committee that I have experienced in the past that has worked so harmoniously. It would be invidious to single out individuals for praise when it is such a team effort. I should, however, like to tell Association members just how lucky we are to have such long-serving, efficient and collaborative Committee members. They thoroughly deserve a BZ.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lt Cdr Rook's written report:-

a. My report for the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Officers Association commences from the last reported position from the 14th June 2020 AGM, where the fund stood at £6,799.43. From the OA account activity through the year up to this meeting, our current financial position stands at; £7,029.07.

b. With the Covid restrictions placed on us nationally from March of last year there has been a financial agreement reached with the Wardroom to reduce the levy amount that the OA's individually pay to the Mess. This resulted in a flat charge being made to all membership types for this year of £5, to reflect the minimum required to keep our organisation active through the auspices of the Wardroom fund, to which our accounts are attached. It is our intention to request a similar arrangement be made for the forthcoming year reflective on the ongoing restrictions naturally placed on our activities, until the Collingwood Wardroom facilities are reopened to us or relaxing of the national restrictions allow us to become more active as an organisation.

c. There has been little financial activity over the last year as reported overleaf. The only minimal item of note has been the receipt of £120 royalties from the sale of the Greenie, which will be put to the funding of future support to the annual award of the OA Collingwood sword. Future

royalties will be paid directly from the publisher to the RN&RM Charity involving neither the author nor the OA.

d. Annual detailed receipt and expenditure figures appear overleaf for the information of our members and for reference, the 2019/2020 equivalent totals are also provided.

The accounts were accepted, proposed by Capt John Palmer and seconded by Lt Cdr Trevor James.

4. TO RE-ELECT OFFICERS TO THE COMMITTEE

With the exception of Capt John McGrath, who as stated in the AGM Calling Notice was stepping down from the Committee and handing over the role of Chairman to Capt Jim Palmer, all other officers had indicated their willingness to serve another term of one year. No new nominations had been received. There was a unanimous vote to accept the current members remaining on the Committee, Proposed by Lt Cdr Mark Churchill and Seconded by Cdre Adrian Whyntie. Capt Jim Palmer was voted in as Chairman, proposed by Lt Cdr Colin Brooks and seconded by Lt Cdr Janice Rouse.

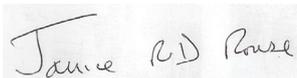
Lt Cdr Doug Howe, Vice Chairman, gave the following vote of thanks to Capt John McGrath.

“On behalf of the Collingwood Officers Association (COA) Committee and all the members I would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to John for his 2 years as our chairman especially for his detailed attention over the last 18 months or so where there has been no script or template for how to progress. There has never been a time like it and let us hope never again. During this time John has not only continued to maintain the Associations profile, especially in Collingwood, to make our presence felt. As an example we have to thank John for engaging with the Mess President to adjust our subscriptions for 2021 in the light of being “Locked out” of the establishment, and not being able to enjoy any social events. Above all John has ensured the future for the COA for which we are all very grateful and therefore we would like to offer John Life Membership of the Association in recognition of his hard work especially in these strange times. We would also like to wish John and Zena our very best wishes for the future. Please don’t be a stranger”.

Capt McGrath accepted, with delight, the offer of Life Membership.

5. Date Of Next AGM

The next AGM would be held on Sunday 12 June 2022 at 1130 (tbc).



J R D ROUSE
Lieutenant Commander
A/Sec

Annex A: OA’s Fund Annual Statement 2021

Distribution: Committee Members
Wardroom Mess Treasurer
WRNB
OA Website

ANNEX A TO THE OA AGM 2021 TREASURER'S REPORT

OA's Fund Annual Statement 2021

Income		2019/20	2020/21
Central Fund B/F		£7,412.24	£6,799.43
Members Subscriptions		£5,917.90	£1,530.39
Greenie Royalties		£0.00	£120.93
Total		£13,330.14	£8,450.75
Expenditure			
WR Levy		£3,007.50	£1,405.00
Subsidies to OA events	Trafalgar night	£348.38	£0.00
	Summer Ball	£962.50	£0.00
	Golf Day	£20.00	£0.00
	80 th Lunch	£312.68	£0.00
Sword		£1,153.14	£0.00
Refund Subs		£118.31	£16.68
Committee Meetings		£45.84	£0.00
Committee Expenses		£393.73	£0.00
Collingwood Bust		£113.05	£0.00
Presentations/Wreath		£55.58	£0.00
Total		£6,530.71	£1,421.68
Balance C/F		£6,799.43	£7,029.07