



**HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

HMS COLLINGWOOD  
Newgate Lane  
FAREHAM  
PO14 1AS

11 September 2023

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING OF HMS COLLINGWOOD  
OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD AT HMS COLLINGWOOD WEDNESDAY 6  
SEPTEMBER 2023**

Committee:

Capt J.E. Palmer	Chairman and webmaster
Cdr D. Coombes	OA Sec
Lt Cdr D.L. Howe	Vice Chairman
Lt Cdr D.J Rook	Treasurer
Lt Cdr M.P. Carr	Membership and Social Secretary
Lt Cdr C.F. Brooks	Member
Lt Cdr J.R.D. Rouse	A/Sec

1. **APOLOGIES**

Lt Cdr T.C. James.

2. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2023**

The minutes were accepted, proposed by Lt Cdr Howe and seconded by Capt Palmer.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

a. Paras 3a and 3b. The Chairman reported that Cdr Fraser Hunt had joined as the new XO and that he had an appointment with him arranged to discuss various matters, including (1) the proposal to retry the scheme of giving officers, leaving the Mess, details of the OA and an application form to join the OA, but with the new benefit of adding in free membership of the OA for a limited period, and (2) the idea that the officer's career courses could be invited to OA events to 'broaden their experiences'

Capt Palmer, Chairman, reported that he'd met with Cdr Fraser Hunt, it had been a good meeting and they'd had a useful discussion. Cdr Hunt reported that events other than the OA's had been cancelled because of lack of support. He explained that, unlike in the past, they were no longer allowed to 'detail off' someone to organise an event, or force serving members to attend events. He also said that it wasn't the idea of young officers to join associations, so it was unlikely that the membership of the OA would increase. Cdr Hunt stated that very few lived on board now, so the requirement to provide food had greatly reduced.

**Action Complete**

b. A survey to establish which social events would have the most support to be sent out to all members.

This action would be discussed under Agenda item 4.

#### **4. THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

This agenda item was actually discussed after Agenda Item 8.

Capt Palmer, Chairman, opened the discussion with his proposed 'Chairman's Introduction' for the forthcoming Newsletter. There was a general discussion covering subjects such as the reduced facilities available to the OA despite the rise in the Mess fees; cancellation of events because of lack of interest; changing evening events (apart from the Trafalgar Night Dinner) to daytime events e.g., monthly lunches. It was also suggested that the WRMC could be asked how the OA could help with WR events.

Capt Palmer presented his proposed list of questions that could be included in the survey that would be going out to all OA members. He also listed 6 subjects for the OA Review, these were: -

- a. Review of documentation/constitution/purpose/website.
- b. Review of fees & membership types.
- c. Review of social events/activity.
- d. Review of opportunities for greater sharing with the Wardroom.
- e. Review of the experiences of other OAs.
- f. Review of the facilities available in the Wardroom.

The members of the Committee chose which of the 6 subjects they would each review.

#### **5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Lt Cdr Rook reported that his last report for the June committee meeting, stated that the OA account formally stood at £5,216.52. Since then, the only account activity of note was the £180 subsidy for the book presentation lunch.

The next expenditure would be the Trafalgar Night Dinner. Lt Cdr Carr reported that the Collingwood Volunteer Band would be playing at the dinner at a cost of £400 + VAT, which was more than twice the cost of the Nelson Quintet, which had been used in the past. There was also the cost of the Cumberland Guard to parade the beef. Lt Cdr Carr said he was planning to pitch the cost of the Trafalgar Dinner at about £60 per head, but he would wait for the costings from the WR Mess.

Lt Cdr Rook reported that the only other expenditure would be the refurbishment of the 1906 sword that had been donated for the OA Award. Capt Palmer said he'd been quoted £488 for the work and if the gold plating was included in the refurbishment, the cost would be £770. It was debated whether redoing the gold would destroy the character of the sword. It was agreed that the initial refurbishment costing £488 would be carried out, and to leave the decision of the refurbishment of the gold to the recipient after it had been presented in 2024.

## **6. SOCIAL AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Lt Cdr Carr gave the following report.

### **Membership**

Active	237
Full	10
Country	93
Honorary	8
Total	348
CANCELLED since last AGM	4
Deceased since last AGM	3

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>FirstName</b>	<b>RankShort</b>	<b>DATE</b>
REED	Bob	Lt	29 August 2023
LOCKWOOD	Philip	Cdr	28 August 2023
GRATTON	Steve	Lt Cdr	11 July 2023

### **Social**

Lt Cdr Carr reported that the SD L&R fraternity hold 3 lunches per year one of which is combined with the OA at Christmas. The next lunch was programmed Fri 8 Sep and it had been decided to open it to all OA Members. The take-up was 32 attendees and the initial costing for a simple 2 course lunch with Wine and Port was around £24 per head. The lunch would be in the Collingwood Room. Lt Cdr Carr informed the Committee that the WR bar would now be open during the week at lunchtimes but would close at 1315.

Lt Cdr Carr said that the Christmas lunch needed to be looked at, because, holding it on a Sunday would mean that the WR Mess galley would have to be opened specially and staff booked, for the event, which would result in a very costly “lunch”. He suggested that it should be changed to a Friday Lunch instead, although it would probably preclude some members who would wish to bring family and friends who may be working, or at school. It was proposed to change the date of the Christmas Lunch from Sunday 3 December to Friday 1 December and combine with the SD(L&R)s. It was also proposed to change the 2024 AGM to Friday 7 Jun 24.

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

Cdr Coombes reported that the temporary delay in processing Afs as reported in June, was quickly resolved. He had found the team to be very approachable and efficient even accepting that the OA load had reduced to a mere 6 renewals.

Cdr Coombes said that he had a draft Newsletter which awaited the Committee's deliberations and actions about Wardroom changes, costs and social activities.

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

As Lt Cdr James, WRMC Representative, was unable to attend, there was no report. As the Establishment had been on leave for the Summer, little had happened since the last report.

## 9. AOB

Capt Palmer expressed his concern over the security of the OA Membership details exchanged on line, bearing in mind the recent changes with GDPR. He questioned the amount of data that needed to be listed online.

## 10. DONM

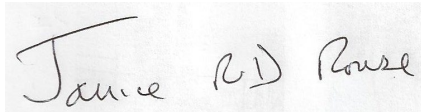
The dates of the next meetings: -

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Wed 6 Dec 23, venue and time tbd.

Wed 20 Mar 24 at 1230.

**Fri 7 Jun 24 at 1100 followed by the AGM at 1130. This is a change from the original date set for the AGM. (Previously 10 Jun 24).**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J 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

OA Website