

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

609(WR) SQUADRON ASSOCIATION

Saturday 5 July 2014

St Georges Hotel, Middleton St George

Present.

Ms C Clayton, Mr D. Darley, Mrs R Darley, Mr M Farrelly, Mr M. Foster, Mr G. Garriock, Ms U Granahan, Mr. A. Hayman, Mr K Hobbs, Mr A Marsh, Ms. D. Marshall, Mr. J Matley, Sqn Ldr J Metcalfe, Mr H Mulligan, Mr T Overton, Mr A Parkes, Mr D Robinson, Mr D Weatherhill, Mr P Wilson

Apologies

Air Cdr S Bostock, Mr D Bage, Mr G Bell, Mr G Carroll, Mr K Cothliff Ms S Ezard, Mr D Guild, AVM S Hunter, Mr M Ingle, Mr R Lambie, Ms R Lloyd, Mr P Meakin, Mr P Proudley, Mr D Reed, Mr C Roumenieux, Mr S Spencer, Mr S Staniforth, Ms H Vincent-Philpott, Mr B Waite, Mr D Webster, Ms A Hudson, Ms J Graham, Mr M Briggs, Mr C Sharp

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 5th July 2014

The Chairman opened the meeting at 11:03 with a request for a minute's silence to remember absent friends. He requested that we particularly remember those who have passed away since our last meeting:

Col Wilfred Van Der Linde, Paul and Peter Gladstone, Jim Barlow, Tony Iveson, Alan Senior MBE, Frank Reacroft and J Danby "Danny" Barber

The Secretary then moved onto the minutes from the AGM at Yorkshire Air Museum on the 13 July 2013. There were no matters arising from these minutes. The Secretary requested that they be recorded as a true record.

Proposed – Andy Marsh

Seconded – Dez Robinson

Chairmans Report.

- The Chairman started off by thanking everybody for their donations to the renovation of the RAuxAF Memorial at Arrawas, a total of £3000 was raised by the Association, Squadron and individual member's, he voiced his concerns that no donations were received from any of the Scottish RAuxAF Squadrons.
- A ceremony was held at the RauxAF memorial on the 15th May 2014 where 14 stones were laid for deceased 609 Squadron members.
- Alan Parkes raised the issue of no stone being laid for Pinkie Stark, the Chairman pointed out this was the 1st batch of stones to be laid and that there would be an annual stone laying ceremony .
- The Chairman advised that the RAuxAF memorial will be completed in 2015 and that a general invite would be issued for the unveiling ceremony, the Project Officer for the memorial refurbishment was Flt Lt Alfie Hall who arranged a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Mike Foster proposed a Formal letter of thanks from the Association to Flt Lt Hall for his efforts.
- The Chairman advised that the New 609 memorial at Leeds Bradford Airport was to be moved from its current location to a new location close by, the original memorial would remain at its current location airside at the airport.
- Future Reunions – The Chairman proposed that due to the low attendance at the AGM at Elvington in 2013 and also the low response on the vote for a new venue that we canvas the membership for their opinions on the location for future AGM's. He went on to propose that we look at possibly holding the AGM at Leeds Bradford Airport and a Joint Association/Squadron event at RAF Leeming.
- The Chairman pointed out that we were making no headway in recruiting new members of 609 Squadron to join the Association. Mr D Robinson felt it was a good opportunity to recruit new members if the event was held at RAF Leeming. Mr G Garriock suggested that a letter be sent to Association member's listing the various options and getting the member's opinions on the proposed changes. Mr M Foster suggested we look at an informal and a formal function. Mr D Robinson proposed we put it to the floor for a vote on a combined function, this was seconded by Mr M Foster. It was agreed that the President would issue a

letter to the member's on this. Those present at the meeting voted unanimously for a combined event at RAF Leeming with the current 609 Squadron.

- Mr A Parkes suggested that Association members attend 609 Squadron Graduation ceremonies to put forward membership reasons to new recruits.
- Mr M Foster suggested getting the current Squadron FTRS staff onboard.
- Mr M Farrelly suggested Association member's attend Squadron training weekends to talk to current Squadron members.
- The Chairman went on to advise that the **Squadron has applied to Ceremonial through the MOD for the purchase of a Squadron Standard, if this is approved the manufacturing cost of about £40000 will be borne by the MOD, we are hoping to have this finalised** and ready for presentation to the Squadron on the Squadron's 80th Anniversary in 2016.

Secretary's Report

Began my report by saying it had been a fairly quiet year for the Association and I had settled into my role after a hectic first year. Went on to express my disappointment at the response we had from member on the AGM venue vote out of 100 members balloted only 25 participated in the vote a great disappointment bearing in mind the amount of times members had complained in the past about venue location, cost etc.

I went on to explain that I would be moving more toward the use of electronic media, Email, Association Facebook page and website to speed up communication and to reduce the cost to the Association on stationary and postage., to this aim I will be compiling a register of member emails in the near future.

For those members who do not have access to email/internet I will continue to send hard copy to them.

We received a request during the year from a group who had created a Facebook Group and website based on the history of RAF Gravesend where 609 was based from July – Sept 1941 to use some of the photos from the Association archive on their site, approval was given on condition that copyright was clearly attributed to the Association and to Mark Krame in

particular, if members are interested in looking them up the address for their site is <http://gahp.org.uk> and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RAFGravesend/> (closed group you need to request to join before you can view anything)

Alan Hayman

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that it was **quiet** on the financial front for the Association during 2013 with expenditure being for “run and maintain” purposes i.e. postage and stationery which amounted to £207.00.

Again, as a reflection of the financial situation, the number and amounts of donations to the Association were small and amounted to £36.50.

The Treasurer went on to state that following on from Squadron Leader Jeff Metcalfe's appeal at last year's AGM and his follow-up correspondence to members regarding the RAuxAF Memorial Appeal, the Association made a donation of £1000 to the cause.

She was pleased to report that a few new 609ers have joined the Association and hope that more may be persuaded to do the same in the coming year.

She went on to thank those members who were paying their subscriptions by Standing Order, this has become a popular method of payment with more than half the members now paying by this method.

Financial Details for the year were as follows and are as at 31 December 2013.

Total Income	£ 2, 281.00
Expenditure	£ 2, 094.83
Cash at Bank	£ 6,877.58

Rosemary Darley

Honorary Treasurer

609 (WR) Squadron Association

Proposed that the Treasurer be thanked for her report and that it was a true record.

Proposed - Alan Parkes

Seconded - Mike Foster

Election of Officers

Current committee to stand as is until next AGM.

Proposed - Maurice Farrelly

Seconded - Alan Parkes

Any Other Business

- David Darley apologise for the lack of a newsletter, due to work and time constraints
- Alan Parkes offered a Vote of Thanks to the Committee for their hard work over the past.
- David Darley thanked John Mateley fro his efforts at representing the Association at various events over the past year.
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Date of next AGM

To be confirmed

Meeting closed at 12:30