



The Air Despatch Association



Minutes of The Air Despatch Association Annual General Meeting Held at The Quality Hotel Coventry On 20th August 2016.

| | | |
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| Present | Lt Col (Retd) P Williams MBE Mr M J Dearing Mr P Edgington Mr J S Johnstone Mr G Hilliar Maj J Lockett RLC | Chairman Secretary Treasurer Quartermaster Members Secretary OC 47 AD Sqn RLC |
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|-----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Apologies | Col S English RLC | President |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|

Item 1 – Opening Statement

1. The Chairman started by welcoming everyone present and gave an opening statement.

Item 2 – Minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting were read through and agreed.

Item 3 – Matters Arising

Point 1 – The Annual General Meeting and Gala Dinner 2017

3. The chairman stated that members of the Association Committee have been working closely with 47 AD Sqn RLC, in order to hold the AGM in the squadron lines at RAF Brize Norton on the weekend of the 08th - 10th September 2017. This weekend will also coincide with annual Arnhem memorial service, held at All Saints Church, Down Ampney on 10th September 2017.

Decisions:

a. The Treasurer gave a brief regarding the proposed date and location of the 2017 AGM and reunion, it is hoped to have all the relevant details published in the

Action



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December edition of the Open Door.

b. It was felt that Association members could attend the service at Down Ampney.

c. At this point the Chairman stated that the venue of the AGM and location of the AGM is decided by the ADA Secretary and Committee as per the ADA Constitution. In previous years this had not been the case, and the decision for the location of the AGM had been made by the members during the current meeting.

d. The Secretary briefed that the AGM and reunion are two separate entities, the venue and date of the AGM is dictated by the Secretary, in theory a reunion could be held at a different location and on a different date. The reasons for a change in venue were thought to encourage more of our members to attend, as only a small proportion of the association attend the AGM at Coventry.

Point 2 – The International Reunion 2018

4. The Chairman gave a brief introduction on the origins of the International Reunion.

Decisions:

a. The Membership Secretary will meet with the President of the Australian ADA in September, in order to discuss a proposal of the UK ADA meeting up with the international visitors in a location, TBC during 2018 It is also hoped to hold an AGM and reunion and to visit the site of C-130, XV 193 which sadly crashed in Scotland on 27th May, 1993.

b. The Membership Secretary gave a brief on the proposed itinerary for the international visit, the Membership Secretary has kindly volunteered to accompany the international party (at his own expense) on their visit to the UK, in order to act as a liaison.

Item 4 – The Chairman's Report

5. The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and especially those who had travelled significant distances to be there, he hoped that everyone would enjoy the weekend and he was looking forward to having a few drinks with everyone later.

6. The Chairman thanked Mr Peter Stubbs for his continued support including the



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editing of the Open Door, and for ensuring that the ADA website is kept up to date with relevant information. The Chairman requested that members of the ADA assist in providing Mr Stubbs with material that they feel may be appropriate for future publishing in our magazine.

7. The Membership Secretary continues to work at updating the ADA members list, this is a slow process. The Members Secretary is also in the process of creating new membership cards. Hopefully those who attended the AGM 2016 will have received their new cards, and it is hoped to have issued all ADA members with their new cards in the near future.

8. The Chairman thanked Mr Brian Pickering for all his help during his time with the ADA. Mr Pickering is a co-founder of the ADA, he has held the position of Secretary and also the Treasurer, he has always been a strong supporter of the association and back in the days when the squadron was located at RAF Lyneham, he provided a room at his business for the association meetings to take place. Mr Pickering has taken the decision to step down as a member of the committee, the Chairman and the committee members wish him all the very best for the future.

9. The Chairman thanked Mr Bill Sunley for again organising the venue for the 2015 AGM and reunion. Mr Sunley has recently decided to stand down from his position on the ADA committee. Mr Sunley held the position of Welfare Officer, a role that he undertook with passion and a 'get it sorted' attitude. Mr Sunley has helped a number of members throughout his time on the committee, if he did not know the answer in order to help, then he would find someone who did, not letting any issue go, until it had been sorted. Mr Sunley will continue to assist the committee with the publishing of the Open Door.

10. The Chairman finished his report by announcing the names of the members who had sadly passed away since the 2015 AGM and reunion:

Geoffrey Barnes
John Rumney
Robert Christie
Les Crawford

Barry Hippisley
Artie Hunter
Ted Duffy
John Butcher

Phil Taylor
Mick East
Reg Kelly



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11. A moments reflection was held by all those attending, in memory of our members who have recently passed away.

Item 5 – Secretary’s Report

Mr Stubbs

12. The Secretary introduced himself and gave a brief outline of his role as Secretary. He stated that all minutes that he has produced since being the Secretary are available to all members in an electronic format. He also drew the attention to those attending to the ADA constitution and bylaws, documents that again are available to all members. He also stated that all meetings are digitally recorded, and the minutes for the meetings are produced from those recordings. Copies of the ADA constitution and bylaws will be available on the association website in the near future, and can be found at: <http://www.air-despatch.co.uk/>

Item 6 – Treasurers Report

13. Due to an IT issue, the Treasurers report will be issued as an appendix to these minutes at a later date. All Treasurer reports are available on request.

Treasurer

Item 7 – Membership Secretary’s Report

14. The Membership Secretary gave an update the continuing work that he is undertaking in regards to the updating of the members’ spreadsheet. He also asked for assistance from those attending, concerning any address changes that he may not be aware of.

All

Item 8 – Welfare Officers Report

15. The Secretary read a final Welfare Officers Report that he had received from Mr Sunley:

On behalf of the ADA I would like to thank Maj Lockett RLC, for allowing soldiers from 47 AD Sqn RLC to attend Mr Reg Kelly’s funeral in Hartlepool, with our Standards. It was a long way for them to travel, LCpl Chimbeva along with Pte’s Brown and Pinchen showed an impeccable display of professionalism. Their presence was very



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much appreciated.

A reminder to all members that the ADA is not in the position to accept requests for financial assistance as it does not hold a welfare fund. If financial assistance is required, approaching SSAFA or the RBL is the recommended option.

Item 9 - Quartermasters Report

16. The Quartermaster gave an update on ADA shop sales, stating that sales are somewhat down during 2016, compared to 2015. Stock from the ADA shop will be taken to Arnhem. The Quartermaster is happy to accept new ideas from members for stock, as long as its cost effective. Production costs for new items can be expensive and there is normally a minimum order.

All

Item 10 – 47 AD Sqn RLC Update - Officer Commanding Maj J Lockett RLC

17. The OC stated that the squadron goes from strength to strength, retention and recruitment continues to be outstanding. The squadron remains busy with continued support to all three services and other agencies.

18. A royal visit by Princess Anne took place in May 2016, where QADI and AD Brevets were presented by HRH.

19. The OC briefed that a team from the squadron will depart from All Saints Church, Down Ampney, after the Arnhem memorial service and cycle to Arnhem arriving in time for the Operation MARKET GARDEN memorial service.

20. The C-130 aircraft will now see military service until 2035, with the A-400M continuing with flight trials. Medium Stressed Platform trials continue at JADTEU and it is hoped that the squadron will have this capability by early 2017. New systems continue to be developed and trialled. AD trials from the A-400M should start during 2017 and there are discussions taking place of the C-17 aircraft being utilised in the AD role.

Item 10 – Arnhem Pilgrimage 2016

21. The Chairman gave an update on how the Arnhem memorial service is conducted.



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It was decided approximately 2 years ago, that this service should be organised by the squadron, as it was not financially viable for the ADA to continue with it. The squadron kindly decided to do this, the Chairman reported that the attendance at the 2015 service was equal to that of the 70th anniversary service. The Chairman thanked the OC and the members of the squadron who had helped in making the service a complete success.

22. The Chairman gave details on how members of the association can attend the MARKET GARDEN memorial services. The Chairman and the Membership Secretary will represent the ADA at the 2016 services in Arnhem.

Item 11 - AOB

23. The Chairman stated that our tree at the National Arboretum is looking in a poor state and that it requires some TLC or indeed replacing.

24. Mr Peter Stubbs again thanked the OC and the soldiers of the squadron who attended Mr Reg Kelly's funeral, he also went on to say is there any possibility of changing the ADA Standard.

25. A request was made from the floor regarding the current state of the Standards which are in need of repair.

26. A question was asked from the floor as to why Air Despatchers were no longer permitted to wear the Dakota emblem on their dress.

27. A question was asked from the floor as to why there was no ADA representation for the royal visit earlier in the year.

28. A question was made from the floor regarding the achievements of 395 AD troop and how the troop was re-rolled without any formal disbandment parade or farewell party.

29. A question was asked from the floor regarding 47 AD Sqn RLC's future and is it likely to become an RAF asset.



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Decisions:

a. Mr Dennis Kitt has kindly volunteered to speak to the Arboretum in regards to replacing the tree, he has also agreed to get prices and report his findings back to the committee. The Chairman suggested that funds from the GPF be assigned to the replacing of the tree. All those members who attended the AGM agreed that this should be funded.

b. The Chairman stated that in order to change the ADA Standard, a request must be submitted to the RLC association, If Mr Stubbs would like to submit a case requesting a change to the current Standard, he should forward it to the Chairman, he will then approach the RLC association.

c. Mr Sunley agreed to contact a company that he knows that can repair the current standards, he will report back with an estimate for the cost of the repairs. All those members who attended the AGM agreed that this should be funded. The Chairman agreed to 2 x new standard cases being purchased.

d. The OC confirmed that squadron members are wearing the Dakota emblem on their service dress.

e. The OC stated that the royal visit was a regimental visit and not a visit to the squadron, in future there may be a possibility of ADA representation.

f. For the purpose of point 28. An answer could not be given as to why this has not happened.

g. There is no plan known at present for the squadron to change from being an Army asset.

Chairman
Treasurer
Mr Kitt
Mr Stubbs
Mr Sunley

Item 12 - Closing Statement

30. The Chairman stated that the current committee are willing to remain in their current posts for a further 12 months, he also mentioned that there are current vacancies on the committee, those being:

1. Welfare Officer
2. Memorial Officer

If any member would like to volunteer for any of the above positions, then please approach a member of the committee.

31. The Treasurer stated that he is sourcing a Roll of Honour memorial stone for Air

Treasurer



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Despatchers, this will be placed at All Saints church, Down Ampney. It is hoped to unveil the stone at the 2017 Arnhem memorial service. This unveiling will coincide with the 2017 AGM and reunion.

32. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone and the AGM was closed at 1712.

[Original Signed]

M J Dearing
Air Despatch Association Secretary

Distribution:

All Committee members

Copy:

Members area on Association Website
Committee Area on Association Website



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Appendix 1 – Treasurers Report

| AIR DESPATCH ASSOCIATION | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2016 | | | |
| | | | |
| INCOME | £ | EXPENDITURE | £ |
| REUNION | 10,520.00 | REUNION | 10,305.00 |
| 2018 International Reunion | 0.50 | 2018 International Reunion | 0.00 |
| SHOP | 1,125.84 | SHOP | 164.40 |
| GPF | 1,447.50 | GPF | 1,287.58 |
| | | | |
| TOTAL | <u>13,093.84</u> | TOTAL | <u>11,756.98</u> |
| | | | |
| | £ | | |
| Balance Brought Fwd 2015 | 8,218.48 | | |
| | | | |
| CREDIT BALANCE | 9,555.34 | | |
| INVESTMENT ACCOUNT | 6,032.52 | | |
| SHOP STOCK | 5,872.50 | | |
| | | | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u>21,460.36</u> | | |
| | | | |
| TREASURER | | | |
| PETE EDGINGTON | | | |