

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION – GLOUCESTER
BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SATURDAY 7th MARCH 2015
MINUTES and ATTACHMENTS

Present:

18 Members
1 Guest (lapsed Membership)

1. Opening and Dedication.

The meeting was called to order at 1245 hrs by the President, Mr Eric Ede and the Dedication was observed.

2. Apologies.

Mrs Anne Allen
Mr Andy Collis
Miss Sue Bennison
Mr James Conolly
Mr Clifford Fuller
Mr Arthur Blackburn
Mr Eric Foston
Mr Geoff Worrall
Mrs Teri Ogden
Mrs Sally Dixon
Mr Robert Machin

3. President's Opening Remarks.

The President, Eric Ede, asked the meeting to remain standing to observe a moment's silence in memory of Members and friends no longer with us. The President then handed over to the Chairman, Ian Boyd.

The Chairman introduced the Committee to the meeting and invited the Members present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

4. Minutes of the AGM 2014

The minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 26th April 2014 were presented by the Secretary. It was proposed by Pam Blackhall and seconded by Ruth Aldridge that they represented a true record of the meeting. Carried.

5. Branch Chairman's Report.

The Branch Chairman, Ian Boyd, commented that 2014 had been a successful year and gave a special thanks to Ray Bunnage for his hard work in organising several well attended events as well as setting up and editing the new website and producing quarterly newsletters. He thanked the Treasurer for his good accounting and sound investment decisions over the year and further thanked the rest of the committee for

their hard work and support. He remarked that he was looking forward to the next year of proposed events and was also pleased to report that 181 Sqn ATC were taking an active interest in the Branch and have agreed to help with the Wings appeal collections this year.

6. Branch Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer, Chris Hill, produced a statement of account for the year ending 31st December 2014. Further details available from the branch secretary.

7. Honorary Welfare Officer's Report.

The HWO, Ray Bunnage, reported that in this, his first year as HWO, he has visited an average of 2 people per week on welfare matters. However, thanks to the services of Sally Dixon who has now joined him as Assistant HWO and Steve Waygood who has become HWO for the Forest of Dean and Hereford, working independently of Gloucester Branch, the workload should become more evenly spread. During the year, Ray made 70 welfare visits to members, 208 contacts by email and telephone, arranged 3 Wings breaks at Fowerdown for members. In addition, 16 tea and chat visits have been made by his team of volunteers. He appealed for more volunteers to assist with tea and chat visits which are proving to be popular and an important aspect of welfare for some of our elderly, lonely and/or housebound members.

As social events co-ordinator, Ray gave a summary of the 3 events so far, namely Armed Forces Day Standard parade at the Jet Age Museum followed by lunch at the Aviator restaurant, a tour of Staverton (Gloucestershire) Airport and the Gloucester Branch 75th Anniversary presentation and cheese and wine party. Additionally one member attended Project Propeller at Gloucestershire Airport and enjoyed a flight in a light aircraft, along with his WW2 compatriotes. Ray outlined his plans for social events for 2015, details of which will be notified to all members in the normal way. Finally, Ray reported that the website was proving a success with an average of 100 plus visitors a month. He appealed for more input from members with stories to tell, both on the "mentioned in dispatches" page and for the newsletter.

8. Honorary Wings Appeal Organiser's Report.

Lorraine gave a breakdown of the collection total for the Wings Appeal 2014 as follows:

Teri Ogden	£26.24
Chris Hill	£99.56
Lorraine Wilson	£56.73
Noel Phillips/Pam Blackhall	£74.86
Total	<u>£257.39</u>

20% of the total will be given as a rebate to the Welfare account.

Lorraine informed the meeting that she had applied to the Wings Appeal co-ordinator for permission to collect in some of the supermarkets on various dates throughout 2015. She appealed for volunteers to assist with these collections as well as the normal street collection in Gloucester City and would provide dates as and when they are approved by Gloucester City Council and the Wings Appeal co-ordinator.

