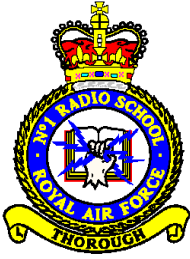


# ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

President: Air Commodore Martin Palmer RAF (Ret'd)



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## MINUTES FOR THE 23<sup>rd</sup> ROYAL AIR FORCE LOCKING APPRENTICE ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### MARRIOTT HOTEL, PETERBOROUGH

### SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2017 AT 1330HRS.

Present:	Air Cdre Martin Palmer	91st	President
Committee:	Tiny Kuhle	87th	Chairman
	Nigel Lodge	91 <sup>st</sup>	Secretary
	Tony Horry	76 <sup>th</sup>	Treasurer
	Jim Doran	219 <sup>th</sup>	Membership Secretary
	Colin Ingram	88 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter Editor
	Peter Crowe	95 <sup>th</sup> (see apologies)	Webmaster/AA Rep
	Graham Beeston	209 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Rep
	Rick Atkinson	91 <sup>st</sup>	Service Rep

There were 50 members in attendance.

#### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks and Apologies**

The Chairman in opening this the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting at 13:35 welcomed everyone and began proceedings with a reading of The Apprentice Prayer.

He followed this by recalling the names of those who had had received their 'final posting' in honour of whom there was a minutes silence. Respective Members are: Gary Hayward, 76<sup>th</sup> and Jim Powell, 93<sup>rd</sup>.

Apologies have been received from:

- Brian Colby 87<sup>th</sup>
- Tony Smith 93<sup>rd</sup>
- Pete Crowe 95<sup>th</sup> Committee, Webmaster.
- Charles Hart 71<sup>st</sup>
- Glyn Price 102<sup>nd</sup>
- Taff Scrivener 85<sup>th</sup>
- Pete Snape 221<sup>st</sup> New member, joined 04/2017

- Keith Rolland 96<sup>th</sup> New member, joined 04/2017
- Mike Keen 78<sup>th</sup> Apologies from Victoria, Australia. We do hope he is well.

*\*\*The following is a transcript of Chairman's opening address. Italicised wording is variation or addition to the transcript.*

“We do have a lot to discuss, so I'll try to keep this address as short as possible. My thanks to Jim Doran for organising and providing the presentation on screen, thereby saving a lot of paper, he spent some time here to ensure that everything worked with the hotel's equipment.

This is a new venue for us, I hope that so far it meets with your approval. I also hope that this location will have encouraged attendance from those living a little further north. However, I do notice a number of familiar faces, and I hope they're not disappointed. One thing is certain, we have more attending than last year, which I find encouraging, so a fresh venue is what we apparently needed.

*The actual attendees for the dinner including partners is 86 compared with 56 at the AGM in 2016.*

I had hoped that I could have reported that the memento at Locking would be finished, or at least well under way. However, despite a considerable amount time and effort spent by the Committee chasing the developers of Locking Parklands we've not a lot to report, but I'll leave further details to the agenda Item 7, to be presented by Rick Atkinson.

One of the items on the agenda, Item 6 is re-election of committee members, which I'd normally leave till then. However, we do have 2 members who will be retiring from the committee, namely our Secretary, and Web Master, so I'd like to give you all a bit of time to think and maybe some of you might pluck up courage to offer support for the Association ( I hesitate to the term 'volunteer'; we were never encouraged to do that!). Nigel & Peter have carried out fantastic work for you all, to ensure the smooth running of our Association.

We continue to support the Federation of Apprentices & Boy Entrant's Associations (FABEA), although the number of associations is declining. We only meet once a year, taking it in turns to take the Chair. Next year marks the centenary of the formation of the RAF. We've had an enquiry regarding the possible type of ceremony to mark the occasion, which we might wish to participate in. We hope to hear more on that subject at the next FABEA meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Further news will come via the News Letter & web site.

I now hand you over to our President, who will present our trophy to Cpl. Richard Nation.”

## **2. President's Address and Presentation of RAFLAA Trophy.**

*\*\*The following is a transcript of President's address. Italicised wording is variation or addition to the transcript.*

“The 2017 recipient of the RAFLAA Trophy is **Cpl Richard Nation**.

Cpl Nation has made a substantial contribution to the development of No. 1 RS' high profile training product during the past year. With his passion for the subject abundantly evident, he has worked closely with a range of stakeholders to enhance the cyber syllabus for projection to students, cadets, scouts, and visitors alike.

He regularly receives excellent feedback on his delivery style and techniques, with attention invariably drawn to the value added by the depth of research he undertakes to retain topic currency and relevance in a fast-moving field. “

As a **No. 1 RS cyber SME**, he played a key role in shaping implementation of the School's second Cyber Lab. using his significant experience to develop an innovative 'virtualised' solution to meet user requirements whilst enabling a considerable cost saving to be achieved.

Cpl. Nation has made a most valuable contribution to the School during the past year, and is a worthy winner of the RAFLAA award for excellence in 2017.”

*President further noted that as those involved in training the motivation of the student was essential if one was to achieve the goals set both by the organisation and indeed of the student and trainer.*

*Cpl Nation in responding and expressing his thanks stated that he enjoyed his job and found it most rewarding. One aspect that was often misunderstood by the older generation was that today all students were of a similar*

*level of computer/cyber technology aware and indeed this was not so. In light-hearted mode he emphasised that whilst he had not the experience of that which today's audience would refer to as 'heavy radar' he had a background in radar technology which albeit was much later in design and might be categorised as 'light' its functionality and purpose was broadly similar. To the question 'what is cyber' he responded that it was really information that was computer generated..*

### **3, Treasurer's Report**

*\*\*The following is a transcript of Treasurer's report. Italicised wording is variation or addition to the transcript.*

"A copy of the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending January 2017 is available for each member. The full accounts are here if anyone wishes to inspect them. Unfortunately, the accounts have not been independently checked this year as my independent examiner, Ann Cook, has recently completed treatment for cancer. She assures me that she is willing to carry out the examination of the accounts in the next few weeks. I believe that the accounts represent a true and fair view of trading for the year and that the Balance Sheet is an accurate reflection of the Association's affairs at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017.

The balance sheet for the Association now shows assets of **£14,631.78** (£12,569.88 in 2016), a surplus of income over expenditure of **£2,071.90** for the year. This is the result of further donations being received during the year towards the proposed commemorative monument at RAF Locking (Parklands). \*

**AGM 2016** – The total cost of the AGM 2016 held at the Webbington Hotel is shown as £2,557.55 which includes the cost Webbington (£2,011.60 including cost of wine and bar subsidy), coach (£225.00); Music (£220); annual award trophy donation of £50.00 (S. Bailie) plus other small expenses. At the AGM 32 members had lunch; 58 members and guests were served dinner. Income received was £1832.50. The cost to the Association was £725.05

#### **Expenses**

In accordance of the decisions made by the Association in 2012 no donations in memory of individual deceased members are made.

The AGM 2016 agreed to donate £100.00 to 'Parkinson's UK' in memory of members who had passed away. I confess that payment of this donation was completed overlooked by me, until I was preparing these notes. With apologies, I shall make a payment, which will be included in this year's accounts.

The 2016 AGM fund raising donated £170.00 to the RAFBF

The Committee holds two meetings during the year at Flowerdown House, W-s-M, and we make donations for their hospitality.

#### **Overheads**

These are much on a par with the previous year. We have further decreased printing and postage costs, due to members receiving newsletters on-line.

We have one Direct Debit of £10.80 per quarter as payments for website cost. This is to ensure that we do not have a continuity problem accessing the website due to change of circumstances of the web-master. We have recently been notified of an increase in charges and now pay £12.56 per quarter.

- I propose that the Accounts for the year 2016/2017 be adopted subject to independent verification by Mrs. Ann Cook
- That the Treasurer makes the payment of £100 to "Parkinson's UK" outstanding from the agreement at the AGM 2016 (see minute 8)

- That the meeting considers making a charitable donation of £100 in memory of members who passed away during the year. (see agenda item 8)”

*Subject to the caveat regarding the independent check being carried out by Ann Cook the Treasurer’s report was accepted.*

*With regard to Ann Cook’s recent indisposition it was agreed by members that best wishes should be extended to Ann and by way of doing this it would be appropriate a bouquet was suggested. Treasurer undertook to do this. After closure of the meeting donations towards the cost had been made in lieu of change from the purchase of ties amounting to £4.50*

#### **4. Membership Secretary’s Report.**

*\*\*The following is a transcript of Membership Secretary’s report. Italicised wording is variation or addition to the transcript.*

“Another reasonably steady year in terms of membership.

As stated by the Chairman we have lost 2 members

- Jim Powell Of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Entry
- Gary Hayward of the 76<sup>th</sup> Entry

Membership has remained at the same level as last year since we have recruited 2 new members:

<b>Entry</b>	<b>Name</b>
221 <sup>st</sup>	Peter Snape
96 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Rowland

#### **Entry profiles Brief:**

97<sup>th</sup> Entry has an active number of 23 members which is a repeat of last year and very consistent over the past 2 years.

87<sup>th</sup> Entry has an active group of 27 members a repeat of last year so another steady entry but, clearly again the **SENIOR** Entry in many ways is the 76<sup>th</sup> Entry with a total of 30 active members (31 active members last year).

On the subject of Senior Entry’s –

Although I have recruited 2 in the last week, I am delighted to have had the opportunity to recruit an entry number later than my own.

Last year there were 6 entry members after my own and I’m delighted to report there are now 7 entry members later than my own entry.

#### **Advertising**

The Association continues to advertise in the Royal Air Forces Association magazine.

I also use Facebook to spread the word about Locking Apprentices and the Association.

And I’m sure you all do promote the association and what we are about but, keep an application form with you and if you come across any ex Locking apprentices then hand them the application and say you can apply at a discount of just £15 to join.

#### **Newsletter**

The newsletter - mainly available by download from the RAFLAA website and this remains the most cost effective way for the Association to deliver this to our members. Hard copy is available upon request but please

bear in mind that this is a rather more expensive way for the association to provide and I ask you to download where possible please.

#### Distribution routes and volumes

I sent out 316 email notifications (306 last year) notifying members that a new edition of the newsletter is available. A slight change since last year but new members are solely on email at this time and I've had several updated email addresses. I still have a number that bounce back which is an ongoing process to manage. Physical Distribution of Hard Copies is undertaken by the treasurer now and I think a big thank you to Tony for such a good job in producing and distributing these to those that particularly need to have a hard copy. A total of 19 copies went out for the last publication which is a vast reduction from 2016 where there were 42 copies distributed. On behalf of the Association I thank you for helping to control costs.

17 Copies to UK Addresses (31 previous year) + 2 copies to overseas addresses  
The fellow Organisations RAF Halton and Admin Apprentices now receive copies via email

#### **Membership and Standing Orders**

Payment by standing order is by far the best way to pay annual membership fees and the most cost effective for the Association. Please consider converting to this method of annual membership payment if you don't already do this.

I am pleased to report that there have been a few who have converted to this method of annual subscription and I thank you for doing so.

#### **Membership Changes since the last AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 up to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

We are currently running at 378 active members on the database. (377 last year). (DATA CORRECTION [should have been 378 last AGM] Noticed and corrected since there were 2 last postings and 2 new recruits.

#### **REMINDER. Changes of personal details**

Please keep me updated with any changes to your personal details especially for receipt of Newsletter notifications via email and delivery of any correspondence to your home address."

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

Once again I wish to draw to the attention of members that when referring to the demise of a Member it is customary for Secretary to write a letter of condolence to the bereaved. Unfortunately as, indeed in this year past it has not been possible as there has not been sufficient detail in respect of the one member and one non-member who have 'crossed the bar'.

Four new members have joined the Association since April 2016 and each has received a letter welcoming them. Three of the new Members requested an Association tie. The total sales of ties this year is now 6. Current stocks of ties is 21. The cost of ties is £8.50 T the AGM instead of £9.50 by post.

Since the 2016 AGM I have attended:

Federation of Apprentice and Boy Entrant Associations (**FABEA**) with the Chairman in July 2016 at RAF Halton. See Item 9. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 11<sup>th</sup> 2017.

RAFLAA Committee meetings at Weston-super-Mare on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at RAFA, Flowerdown House, W-s-M 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at RAFA, Flowerdown House, W-s-M

Marriott Hotel, Peterborough with Chairman and Membership Secretary to negotiate and confirm booking for this the 2017 AGM.

As Chairman has said in his opening address, I do not wish to continue as Secretary and would welcome someone taking over from me. I have several other matters to resolve which take-up much time. To my successor I say that the role is not too onerous and the Committee are both helpful in my failings and tolerant of my idiosyncrasies. I will, of course, make myself available in the event that my successor requires assistance or is unable to attend a meeting on any particular occasion.

In anticipation of a successor coming forward I have brought with me for the meeting today two (2) large containers of archival papers which I inherited from my predecessor. Having investigated the content over three years ago I have since had no reason to access the papers. I suggest that it is time that an alternative location is found for the papers. Perhaps Members can come forward, before the next transfer of Secretary, with recommendation for storage.

For my travels from Norwich for meetings of the Committee and to FABEA at Halton I express sincere thanks to Chairman for being my “chauffeur” from his home thus reducing the distance by at least fifty per cent. If I had not been helped in this way I could not safely have done the journeys without an overnight stay.

## **6. Election of Officers.**

The positions of Membership Secretary and Secretary were subject to re-election.

Jim Doran had indicated that he was most willing to continue as Membership Secretary and was un-opposed. Secretary had stated that he wished to retire. One member offered to step-in, Graham Beeston and was elected un-opposed.

Graham has until now been a Committee Member as representative for Craft Apprentices. However, much of this role has been subsumed within the work done by Treasurer. The Committee will thus be reduced by one!

Peter Crowe, who had was unable to attend this year has filled the role of Web Master for many years is due for re-election in April 2018. He has stated that he wishes to retire. Given the importance of continuity in this role members were asked to volunteer. Roy Abraham agreed to ‘step-up to the mark and his offer to do so was most welcome. It is a requirement that the Webmaster should have a working knowledge of Serif Web+ X6 and he confirmed that he had the requisite knowledge.

## **7. Commemorative Monument at Locking-Parklands**

A report on the latest situation was given by Rick Atkinson. The plan and overall layout was presented as an overhead projection and the same imagery is on the RAFLAA website.

Rick explained that St Modwen, the developers of Locking Parkland has had problems with the Contractors with which it had sub-contracted development the former chapel as a Community Hall. There had been delay after delay. Work had been unable to commence on the Monument until the Community Centre was completed. St Modwen was no longer intent upon using its current subcontractor and was now in the final stages of sub-contracting with another party for work on the Monument. Rick had received confirmation from St Modwen that such contract should be in place in the next fortnight and that work should commence on June with completion by October 2017. Asked, from the floor, whether he had confidence in the suggested timescale indicated by St Modwen, Rick replied that he would be more confident when he received confirmation that a contractor had been appointed.

There followed a discussion about archival material, much of which had previously been held and/or exhibited at RAFA Weston-super-Mare. Treasurer added to the report from Rick and stated that much of this material had been assigned to the Helicopter Museum situated at the former Weston Airfield. The Museum had received some lottery funding and had developed the former control tower as part of the Museum. It was to the Control Tower that much of the donated memorabilia of 'Apprentice days at Locking' was now exhibited.

Asked whether it was possible yet awhile to visit the erstwhile Control Tower Treasurer replied that when open the whole Museum included the Control Tower. He added that 91<sup>st</sup> Entry Member, Ian Davies, was a very active member of the Museum team and had liaised with him on many occasions.

The overall report and underwritten funding were proposed for acceptance

## **8. Charitable donations**

At AGM 2016 members approved a donation of £100 to "Parkinsons UK" to commemorate those members who had 'crossed the bar'. This year, again, Members were invited to nominate a charity to receive a donation of £100. The Alzheimer Society was unanimously recommended.

Proposed – John Hall

Seconded – Chris Bryan

## **9. FABEA**

Chairman and Secretary attend FABEA each year. Chairman explained the value of FABEA. It was an opportunity for like organisations to get together informally and exchange news and views. FABEA now only represents Halton, Locking and Administrative Apprentices Associations plus the Boy Entrants' Association.

In July 2016 the Annual Meeting was attended by Chairman and Secretary.

RAFHAA manages the acquisition of 'tickets' for attendance by members at the Annual Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph. For 2016 there had been increased security and applicants were required to register and provide additional personal detail in order to register and, additionally, to carry such with them on the day. Secretary organised ticketing for RAFLAA members and tickets were subsequently issued to 9 members. It is likely that the organisers acting on behalf of The Royal British Legion will have the similar identity requirements for the parade in November 2017.

Secretary reported that he had been contacted by the co-ordinator for the RAF Centenary Celebrations and had been asked whether there was interest in our being involved. Secretary had ensured that FABEA through RAF Halton Apprentices Association (RAFHAA) was involved and had also requested further information on what sort of event was being planned and how the Associations might be involved. No detail has been received despite further email requests. It is intended that the matter shall be raised at the next meeting of FABEA which will be at RAF Halton on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Members expressed surprise at the lack of information given that the centenary was less than a year ahead (1<sup>st</sup> April 2018) and further that it was incredulous that RAF Department P1 was not 'already engaged' in such arrangements. Further it is known that the RAF Museums are arranging special events at both Cosford and Hendon. There was, according to at least one member, a 'centrally managed' event at RAF Syerston but there was no further information.

## **10. Newsletter.**

Colin Ingram, the Editor gave a brief presentation.

The previous suggestion that members should write to him with detail of how many, where and when, they had been stationed had resulted in an almost competitive response to record the highest number of different postings. His time available had been overloaded and as a result this year he had been unable to make a decision as to who had submitted a report most worthy of the "Wordsmith" award. He was nonetheless appreciative of the effort by those who had contributed over the year and also the rest of the 'Newsletter Team' who help in the publishing and printing.

Treasurer reported that through the good offices of his Parish Council and as a quid pro quo for his (Treasurer's) efforts therefor he had been able to obtain access to the PCC print facility free of charge to RAFLAA which was a significant saving for the Association.

**11. RAFLAA web site.**

Peter Crowe was thanked for his assiduous management of the website. From 'the floor' there was nothing but praise and no requests for any changes.

**12. Venue and format of AGM/Reunion 2018**

Chairman opened the discussion. He referred to the discussions that had taken place at the last two AGMs at The Webbington and remarked that fears about attendance on the basis of today's attendance had been largely unfounded. The numbers for the AGM Dinner had increased from 58 to 86 and had clearly enabled some to attend for whom distance was a serious criterion. He had received many compliments about the accommodation, the previous evening dinner and the breakfast as well as the pleasing attitude of the management and staff of The Marriott, accordingly recommended he was recommending that a booking be negotiated for this time in 2018 – to wit: after Easter 2018 and after the school holidays – Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April was suggested but subject to negotiation and availability.

Chris Tett, 92<sup>nd</sup>, said that whilst he was not dissenting he suggested that the matter of the following year, i.e. after 2018 – 2019, consideration should be given to elsewhere and possibly a return to Weston-super-Mare.

Chris was also concerned that when the Locking Monument was completed that might be the time for ensuring that members had the opportunity of meeting and marking the occasion. He was, he said, conscious of the expense of travelling to more than one event in any one year.

Chairman's recommendation was unanimously accepted save for one abstention.

**13. Any other business (To include Golden Entries 101<sup>st</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup>, 103<sup>rd</sup>, 201<sup>st</sup> and 202<sup>nd</sup>)  
Date of Next AGM.**

None of the Entries commemorating 50 years since attestation or graduation had submitted a report or had wished to make a presentation of their life and times as Apprentices. The subject will continue to be available for future AGMs.

A comment from 'the floor' regarding the aide memoire for member's choice at dinner elicited the request that where there were partners in attendance they, too, might have individual reminders. The Marriott staff had already taken this in hand and were to be complimented on having done so.

The Chairman formally closed the AGM at 15:20.

**Nigel H Lodge**  
**Secretary.**