

**RECORD OF AN RAFSC&TSW ASSOCIATION AGM HELD AT BEACON BARRACKS SGTS' MESS ON
13 JUNE 2015**

Chairman: David Orr

Treasurer: Tim Newstead

Membership Secretary: Martin Williams

TSW rep: CO TSW Wg Cdr Tim Moss

Welfare Secretary: Gp Capt (Retd) David Packman

Also present:

President: AVM Graham Howard

V-P SC: Gp Capt (Retd) Duncan Grant

and 32 Members

Introduction

The Committee were joined at the table by CO TSW, Wg Cdr Tim Moss. Apologies had been received from many members, including: Alan Robinson and Robin Springett (who would both be attending the Annual Dinner); Alan McQuillin, Pete Whalley, Gwyneth Pritchard, Ernie Deighton, Ron Hindle, Rae Taylor, Andy Spinks, Mike McCann, Mal Quick and Des Peters.

Agenda Item	Topic	Narrative	Actions/Remarks
1.	Introduction and Reflections	The Chairman opened the AGM by noting a quorum of Committee and Members, expressing pleasure at our being joined by Don Fisher of 3209 SC who had travelled from Florida and Jim Coleman, recovering from recent hospitalisation. The Chairman called for a minute of reflection for "absent friends". In particular, the recent death of Flt Lt Steve Moull, an ex TSW OC Trg, was mentioned.	ALL
2.	Matters Arising from last AGM	All matters arising from the 2014 AGM either had been completed or were included in Agenda Items of this Meeting.	ALL
3.	TSW Report	CO TSW, Wg Cdr Tim Moss, delivered an interesting and comprehensive report of TSW's typically hectic year. Operational commitments continued alongside increasing Exercise engagements, with manning and morale holding well. Contributions to charitable works and local communities featured strongly; and adventure training continued to feature	ALL

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		<p>in TSW's calendar. In particular, a Staff Ride to the Battlefields of Normandy was planned for mid-October 2015, when the trip would be combined with the presentation of a SC Plaque to the Mayor of St Croix sur Mer. Details of this trip, where it was hoped members would rendezvous with the TSW team, would be published when definite dates are available.</p>	
4.	Treasurer's Report	<p>a. The Treasurer reported that finances were in good order. Details had been distributed with the agenda to the AGM and no points were raised but, in summary, after known commitments, over £5,000 was available; see Enclosures 1 & 2. The Treasurer invited suggestions for worthy employment of the funds.</p> <p>b. The Chairman proposed the report be accepted as a true reflection of the Association Account. Seconded: Peter Berry. Carried unanimously.</p>	ALL
5.	Membership Update	<p>a. Tim Newstead and Martin Williams advised the membership position. Membership numbers were declining slightly in the SC, as might be expected, and were holding well within the TSW element of the Association. Overall, Current paid-up Membership stood at 237, a decline over the previous year. However, the new Wg WO Mick Stokes' drive to increase membership from serving members of the Wing was bearing fruit and we are hopeful that numbers will increase.</p> <p>b. The Chairman proposed the report be accepted as a true reflection of the Association Membership. Seconded: Jim Coleman. Carried unanimously.</p>	ALL

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6.	Election of Committee Members	<p>a. In accordance with the Articles of Association, Tim Newstead and Martin Williams were liable for biennial re-election and both had intimated this would be their final period of office.</p> <p>b. The Chairman offered the opportunity to the enthusiastic assembly to volunteer to replace either of these Committee Members.</p> <p>c. In the absence of any such volunteers, both were confirmed in office for a further 2 years. Proposed: Andy Lawty. Seconded: Peter Berry. Carried unanimously.</p> <p>d. The Chairman reinforced the significance of these posts and in particular, the extraordinary commitment to the Association shown by Tim Newstead, who remains in retirement, a hard act to follow. Members were encouraged to ponder accepting the challenge</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>TN, MW</p> <p>All</p>
7.	RAFA Stafford Donation	<p>a. The AGM expressed grateful thanks to the Stafford Branch of RAFA for the most generous donation of a cheque for £500 towards the TSW Paving Stone project.</p> <p>b. Formal presentation to the RAFSC & TSW Association President, AVM Graham Howard, was made by The President of the RAFA Stafford Branch and Association Member Paul Davies.</p>	
8.	TSW Paving Stone at the NMA.	<p>a. The Treasurer gave a SITREP on the construction of Heroes' Square and plans continue to progress at the NMA for this significant project, albeit at a patience-testing, measured pace.</p> <p>b. The TSW paving stone project at the new Heroes Square being built at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas was part of a £15.7 million project. In total we had received donations</p>	

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		amounting to £1,894 – a magnificent achievement for which very many thanks to all the donors – boosted further by the very generous donation from the RAFA Stafford Branch. The Association had already paid a deposit of £1,000; with these donations, the full £3,000 cost of the Paving Stone will thus be covered. Completion of the project was expected by November 2016.	ALL
9.	Arrangements for 2016.	<p>a. The Chairman thanked TSW for facilitating the Association activities over the weekend, commenting on the usual, faultless effort by all concerned at the Wing and Beacon Barracks Sgts' Mess. In a traditional general murmur of contentment, the AGM indicated that the format was good and should be maintained if possible.</p> <p>b. CO TSW indicated that similar arrangements would be possible next year; and that similar calendar dates would be likely to match local school holidays.</p> <p>c. The Chairman undertook to advise members as soon as precise dates were available.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>TSW</p> <p>DO</p>
10.	AOB.	<p>a. The Chairman outlined the plan for that afternoon's naming ceremony at Craven-Griffiths Barrack Block, in honour of TSW's founding father, Gp Capt (retd) John Craven-Griffiths. CG was inbound with family members various to participate in the ceremony and had admitted to being tickled pink by the gesture. The honour remained that of the Association and especially, TSW.</p> <p>b. The Chairman advised that the annual TSW President's Award would be presented to the 2014 winner, SAC Peter Blakeman at the dinner that evening. SAC Blakeman's citation is at Enclosure 3.</p>	

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		<p>c. The Treasurer outlined the service received from Dave McCandless, an ex Halton Apprentice and friend and colleague of V-P SC, Duncan Grant. Dave had provided Web hosting services to the Association gratis, and it was with thanks that the Association granted a small gift voucher to mark Dave`s increasing embrace of retirement. He would ensure we were passed to a competent successor organisation, albeit at cost.</p> <p>d. The Chairman thanked Tim Newstead for his technical and administrative expertise, patience and good humour in issuing another fine Newsletter earlier in the year. Further, the Chairman called for submissions for this year`s Newsletter, topics could be professional, social, sporting or charitable - anything would be considered!</p> <p>e. The Chairman had received notice of one item of other business, presented by new Member Sgt Dean Wagstaff of TSW. Sgt Wagstaff outlined a proposal to provide financial assistance to the local boy`s football Club to help with the costs of a new strip. Given the presence in the team of several "RAF children" and desire to maintain visible links between the RAF and local community, The proposal that up to £200 be earmarked for such purpose was put to the AGM. Proposed: Sgt Dean Wagstaff Seconded: Chairman Carried Unanimously.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>TN</p>
10.	Chairman`s Note	<p>a. Following a successful and well-attended event weekend, the Chairman would like to extend his thanks on behalf of the Association to all who worked so hard to make it a success.</p> <p>b. In particular, TSW Wg WO Mick Stokes is to be congratulated for continuing the tradition of excellence in the assistance that post renders to</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CO TSW MS</p>

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		<p>the Association. WO Stokes receives the grateful thanks of the Association.</p> <p>c. Two further notes of thanks have been issued by the Chairman on behalf of the Association: Tillington Hall Hotel, which again proved a most appropriate venue for the Meet & Greet, accommodation and friendly, helpful staff; and Mrs Gabbi Walker and the Sgts Mess staff, who again provided exceptional support for the AGM, lunch and Annual Dinner.</p> <p>d. The Association records its gratitude to all.</p>	<p>ALL</p>

*David Orr
Chairman
HILLVIEW
FIFE
Jun 15*

Encls:

1. Receipt and Payment Account for year ending 31 December 2014.
2. Treasurer's Report – 2014.
3. SAC Blakeman Citation - Airman of the Year.

Distribution:

President
VPs
Committee Members
All Members (on request)
CO TSW
TSW LO
TSW Wg WO
website

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2014**ENCL 1**

	<u>2014</u>		<u>2013</u>
Balance of Current Account at 1st January:	£ 408.74		£ 317.76
Balance of Savings Account at 1st January:	£ 5,915.81		£ 7,913.00
Balance of PayPal Account at 1 st January:	£ 251.73		£ 133.85
	<u>£ 6,576.28</u>		<u>£ 8,364.61</u>

RECEIPTS

Subscriptions	£ 2,214.75		£ 2,589.80
Reunion	£ 1,166.77		£ 1,462.85
Donations	£ 319.46		£ 246.53
Memorabilia	£ 47.91		£ 139.28
TSW Paving Stone	£ 1,487.43		£ 63.24
Interest	£ 2.72	£ 5,239.04	£ 2.81
			<u>£ 4,504.51</u>

Less PAYMENTS

Reunion	£ 2,446.74		£ 2,154.42
Donations	£ 510.00		£ 730.00
Welfare	£ 370.00		£ -
Postage	£ 123.07		£ 246.30
Stationery	£ 59.57		£ 74.36
Miscellaneous	£ 33.20		£ 1,261.51
Subscriptions	£ 19.17		£ 29.66
President's Award	£ 12.00		£ 140.12
TSW Paving Stone	£ -		£ 1,000.00
Memorabilia	£ -		£ 392.47
Travel	£ -	£ 3,573.75	£ 264.00
		<u>£ 1,666.29</u>	<u>£ 6,292.84</u>
		<u>£ 8,241.57</u>	<u>£ 6,576.28</u>

Represented by:

Balance of Current Account at 31st December:	£ 1,099.66		£ 408.74
Balance of Savings Account at 31st December:	£ 6,918.53		£ 5,915.81
Balance of PayPal Account at 31 st December:	£ 223.38		£ 251.73
	<u>£ 8,241.57</u>		<u>£ 6,576.28</u>

I have examined the above accounts and can confirm that they accurately reflect the records of the Association.

TREASURER'S REPORT – 2014

The Receipt and Payment Account for the year ended 31st December 2014 was published with the Calling Note for the AGM and includes the 2013 figures for comparison.

During 2014, subscriptions were received from 31 (38) Servicing Commando and 206 (223) TSW members. Overall, membership numbers fell from the previous year from 261 to 237; however, the new Wg WO, Mick Stokes, drive to increase membership from serving members of the Wing is bearing fruit and we are hopeful that numbers will increase. Donations last year totalled £1,806.89 which included £60 towards the Servicing Commando plaque for presentation to the Mayor of St Croix sur Mer, £200 for the Nanyuki Children's Trust in Kenya and £1,487.43 received in support of the TSW Paving Stone project at the NMA.

As usual, the main turnover during the year was for the Reunion weekend and the subsidies towards the event amounted to £1,280. Association funds are again subsidising the events this year. A donation of £500 was made towards the TSW charity project at Nanyuki in Kenya and a £10 donation from a SC member was passed on at their request to the Help for Heroes charity. Other funding during the year was given as welfare gifts in the form of a Foreman grill and food processor for the Falkland Islands detachment at Fox Bay (who had issued an invitation to any passing members to drop in on them!), together with a Christmas barrel for the Wing Christmas bash and gifts for deployed personnel. Other payments are as seen on the balance sheet. The £33.20 spend shown against Miscellaneous was for a poppy wreath laid at last year's 70th Anniversary of D-Day commemoration and for the domain name renewal in respect of the Association website.

Turning to the TSW paving stone project at the new Heroes Square being built at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas – part of a £15.7 million project. In total we have received donations amounting to £1,894 – a magnificent achievement for which very many thanks to all the donors – this will very shortly be boosted by a further very generous donation from the RAFA Stafford Branch. As you will recall, the Association has already paid a deposit of £1,000; with these donations, the full £3,000 cost of the Paving Stone will thus be covered.

The on-line PayPal facility, for the payment of subscriptions, reunion fees, tie sales and donations continues to be popular. Last year, nearly £1,400 was paid in via PayPal at a cost of £35 in fees.

As can be seen from the Balance Sheet, the Association's funds remain very healthy; the present balance, after payment of known liabilities, is approximately £5,000. As ever suggestions for spending funds are always welcome. If anyone wishes to see more details of the Association's financial status, I will be very happy to share them.

Tim Newstead
Bourton-on-the-Water
June 2015

SAC BLAKEMAN - AIRMAN OF THE YEAR CITATION

Throughout the past 12 months, Senior Aircraftsman Blakeman has performed to an exemplary standard; his loyalty and professionalism have been significant in the success of Tactical Supply Wing throughout this critical period. His continual drive and determination to excel in all his undertakings has set a fine bench mark that others aspire to.

This was aptly highlighted during Exercise PEGASUS GAUL when he delivered a meticulous, highly informative brief and an extensive practical demonstration to assembled high-ranking delegates from the US and French Airborne Forces. Due to his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Joint Operational Fuel System Light Forces equipment, he was specifically selected ahead of more senior ranks to lead and deliver this capability demonstration. He delivered a faultless presentation which accurately described the equipment capability and its unique function when operating in Forward locations and Austere conditions.

Whilst deployed to support Forward Refuel Point maritime trials with a specialist user unit, Blakeman's organisational and managerial acumen were tested to their limits. Hampered with strict timescales to meet specific objectives he remained composed and able to deliver informative guidance whenever required culminating in successful serials which were subsequently used to develop operational plans. An assured, intelligent and highly effective leader, Blakeman can always be relied upon to complete complex tasks while still maintaining the morale of his team mates; moreover; he has volunteered to take the lead on numerous essential engineering inspections of fuels equipment where he ensured his team remained mission focused through extremely arduous and prolonged activity.

Senior Aircraftsman Blakeman's commitment to Tactical Supply Wing is second-to-none. As well as performing exceptionally in his primary role he dedicates his time to the wider-Service community. He volunteered to aid the RAF Cosford Air show and the laudatory letter of appreciation he received from the Chairman exemplifies the positive impression Blakeman makes in all that he does. It extolled his work ethic, initiative and exemplary performance as well as his judgement to carry out multifaceted taskings without seeking higher direction.

Blakeman's desire to continually raise the profile of the RAF was also evident during both iterations of TSW's support to the Staffordshire Air Training Core. Here he delivered professional and informative field-craft lessons to over 120 cadets during the Easter and Summer camps. His unwavering support of this great cause has a positive effect on the youngsters who attended and gave them the perfect insight to Service life. In further addition to his extra-curricular activities he was an essential member of a TSW cycling team which rode a kilometre for every Service person who made the ultimate sacrifice during operations in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2001 to the present day. He selflessly dedicated his own time to organising the event, arranging sponsorship and publicity which resulted in a considerable sum of money being raised for the Royal British Legion.

Blakeman's remarkably consistent level of achievement, output and selfless desire to promote the RAF and Tactical Supply Wing in the wider-community have all been evident throughout the year. He epitomises the ethos of the Service and is rightly recognised as the Tactical Supply Wing Airman of the Year.