



## AnyFace Association AGM 28 Feb 23 A Zoom Meeting

### Minutes

<b>Attendees</b>			
Mike Rawlinson Chairman	Nick Byatt	Julian Hayes	Michael Salmon
John Saunders Treasurer	John Bewick	David Hobbs	Keith Sanham
Serena Brotherton Secretary	Danny Daniell	Bruce Hutchinson	Richard Scott
David Biggs Committee Member	Pat Douglas	Keiryn Moffitt	Robert Scott
Rich Lewis Committee Member	Mike Forbes	John Newman	Pete Smith
Andy Murray Committee Member	Catherine Hanson	Andy Robinson	
Chris Jones Committee Member nomination	Keith Harris	Andrew Rose	

1	Welcome	Chairman
2	Rules for the evening	Secretary/Admin Director
3	FAA Update Cdre Rose provided a very much appreciated update on the current status of the FAA.	Cdre Andrew Rose RN
4	Chairman's Report (Rule 13.1) Report below	Chairman
5	Treasurer's Report (Rule 13.2) Report below	Treasurer
6	Election of Cdr Chris Jones to the Committee (Rule 13.3)	Chairman
7	Committee business to raise (Rule 13.5) None raised	Committee Members
8	Members points to raise (Rule 13.6) None Raised	Secretary/Admin Director

9	Date of Next Meeting To be confirmed	Chairman
10	A toast to Absent Friends	All

### 13.1 Chairman's Report 2023

Well, I reckon we have had a very good year. Having shaken off the Covid restrictions we have been able to get on and strengthen the purpose of our Association. But first as this is our first AGM I need to put on record officially- briefly - the beginnings of our Association.

In early 2020 Cdr Serena Brotherton RN took the initiative and put forward her thoughts on forming an Association to act as a focal point and a means of connection to all ranks and rates who have contributed to Royal Navy Airborne Early Warning since 1952. This quickly gained positive support increasingly so following the unexpected decommissioning of 849 Squadron on 20 April 2020.

Serena set up a website and by mid/late 2020 there were sufficient numbers and interest to form a committee. Seven members came forward: Ron Scott, David Biggs, John Saunders, Richard Lewis, Andrew Murray, myself and of course Serena who took on the role of Admin Director - and our mentor. For myself, having first joined 849 Squadron in 1954 and served in the Skyraider and AEW Gannet era I felt very privileged and honoured at this stage to be invited by the Committee to become your Chairman. Thank you.

Commodore Mike Clapp was invited to be the Association's President and pleasingly he agreed to do so.

At the time of forming the Association COVID restrictions were in full force and our opportunities for organising anything were minimal.

Our Committee meetings were conducted by Zoom and continue that way and it works well, although as a result I did not meet all of the Committee members personally until the Reunion in November last year! The monthly newsletter edited by Serena was extremely valuable during that time, and remains so. And the email callsign, AnyFace Association, has ensured easy access and good two way communication. Behind the scenes the Committee progressed necessary tasks – establishing the Rules of the Association, recording the 20 April 2020 as the start date of the Association, setting up the Association's financial arrangements and importantly listing the Squadron's memorials and memorabilia and seeking their safekeeping.

We continued to grow in membership numbers, at the last count it stood at a total of 211, 19 of which are overseas members and 5 associate members. It is very encouraging to know that many wish to continue their link with the Service and in particular with their AEW colleagues and share the camaraderie and professional wellbeing that we all experienced and enjoyed while serving in the Squadron. That's got to be good.

During the year the Association has continued to build on establishing itself and being recognised by other FAA linked Associations. We were represented at the Fly Navy Federation meeting last March and through Serena at the Fleet Air Arm Officers Association AGM. We were well represented by our contingent again at the Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and at the Fly Navy Federation ceremony that followed – and also at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, where Her Majesty The Queen Consort spoke with Serena - all of these have contributed in getting our Association better known and I thank those who gave of their time to represent us.

Part of our purpose is to ensure we always remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice; we will do this not only on Remembrance Sunday but throughout the year and also ensure that our memorials to them are well cared for. Mike Yeates reported during the year that the Redrat bench at the National Memorial Arboretum was looking rather weathered and our Treasurer John Saunders called for donations towards it's refurbishment. He was inundated and we can report job done. The Memorial stone at Culdrose will continue to be maintained by the air station.

The highlight of the year was of course our first Reunion held on 5<sup>th</sup> November at Yeovilton as Culdrose was not able to host us - also it was held some seven weeks later than originally planned due to the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen. The reunion coincided with 70 years of AEW in the Fleet, and 40 years since the Falklands War and the subsequent rush in the evolution of the helicopter borne AEW capability, Project LAST. The presence of Richard Scott at the Reunion and the launching of his book 'Eyes of the Fleet' could not have been more appropriate, a real bonus, as was his gift of a copy to members, which was made possibly by through sponsorship by Lockheed Martin, Thales and Leonardo. Thank you Richard.

With the generous support of our sponsors Heliops, Leonardo, Lockheed Martin and Thales, the attendance of the Royal Marines Corps of Drums and the excellent service and dinner provided by the Yeovilton Wardroom Staff the whole Reunion evening was deemed a great success and

Serena, who was the prime organiser, was heartily thanked by all for making it so. And it was pleasing to receive a letter from our VIP guest of honour Admiral of the Fleet Sir Ben Bathurst in which he expressed his thanks for a thoroughly enjoyable evening and wished the Association good fortune.

The Service of Commemoration held next day at the Fleet Air Arm Church, St Bart's, was well attended. The choir, the organist and the service conducted by Reverend Nigel Beardsly with participation of Association members in readings and the Exhortation provided a memorable occasion and I think we will be invited back too – not only for our lusty singing --- we had a note afterwards thanking us for our generous donations!

Now your Committee has given some thought to the future and in this we seek your views. We have had a good year, we have had a good reunion. We now pose some questions. What next? How frequently should we hold a reunion every two, three, five years? What other opportunities might there be for additional social occasions – regional groups to reduce travel – link up occasionally with other groups locally such as FAAOA First of the Month meetings? What of visits? – who might be prepared to organise – one or two members getting together? We would like your views, not now but please give it some thought and email your ideas.

Finally. I thank you all for your positive support, please keep in touch via the Web Site or contact committee members and on behalf of us all I thank in particular Serena again for her timely initiative and the unstinting giving of her time and effort on our behalf and thanks to my fellow Committee members on getting the Association off to a good start.

Thank you. MJH Rawlinson 28 Feb 23

### **13.2 Treasurer's Report 2023**

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen I am John Saunders and for those who don't know me I was an AEW Observer in both Gannets and Sea Kings. The AnyFace Association has a single Banking account and no petty cash, so cash at bank represents the liquidity of the account, with a small exception that being a Lodger unit called the Bench Fund, some £270 donated by members to support the refurbishment of the Red Rats Memorial bench in the National Arboretum. The accounts were submitted for independent audit 6 Jan 2023, with a sign off 6 Feb. It is this liquidity I will now cover in précis form, with an update to current status.

At Audit the Fund had an operating surplus of £1700.91

#### Summary of Income

##### Donations

LM £500 for Remembrance 2022 and Ties

Helioperations £525 for Reunion

LM £500 for Reunion

Leonardo £1000 for Reunion

Thales £1000 for Reunion

Membership 183 Members @ £10 £1830

Sale of Ties 46 Ties @ £10 £460

Reunion 100 @ £20 £2000

TOTAL Income £8490.68

#### Summary of Expenditure

Ties, Web site, Zoom Fees, Remembrance Sunday £1030.28

Royal British Legion £173.50

Reunion £4550.74

Reunion Gizzits (Coasters and Prints)

£535.20

TOTAL Expenditure £6789.77

Balance of +£1700.91 on the 6th Jan 2023-02-28 (This includes the ring fenced Bench Fund £270)

Balance today £1756.52

Anticipated Income from Membership Renewal

Outgoing Zoom Fee £14.39

Income 2 New Members, 2 Membership Renewals, 4 Postage Payments Total £70

We the Committee have decided that this year the Membership Fees should be reduced to £5 pa. with the two following exceptions: Overseas Members continue to enjoy free membership. Those joining after the Reunion 5 Nov 2022 also have free membership for 2023 having paid £10 late in 2022.

The 5 Renewals already received for 2023 will be reimbursed £5 if they contact me with bank details.

That concludes the Treasurers Report. John Saunders, 28 Feb 23

### **13.3 Election to the Committee.**

One member of the Committee, Ron Scott resigned from the committee during the year, for personal reasons. I thank Ron for his valued input during the early days of the Association and on behalf of all members wish him and his family all the best for the future.

In the vacancy Commander Chris Jones agreed to join us as a co-opted member. Many of you will know Chris, he is at present the CO of 824 Squadron and as such has among other duties the responsibility for training Observers for the ASaC role (that's AEW+ for those not up to speed) and for us as a Committee, he is an ideal active service link for the Association.

Per our Rules a co-opted member requires election by the Association membership to be a full Committee member. I and the Committee fully commend Chris to you and to ease procedures unless any member has an objection I propose Chris becomes a full member of the Association's Committee.

No objections from members.

The other Committee members have agreed to continue:

Mike Rawlinson Chairman

Serena Brotherton Admin director/Secretary

John Saunders Treasurer

Ronnie Biggs

Andrew Murray

Dicky Lewis