

Officers' Association
HMS COLLINGWOOD
Newgate Lane
Fareham
Hants
PO14 1AS

7 July 2011

MINUTES OF THE TENTH AGM OF HMS COLLINGWOOD OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION HELD ON 26 JUNE 2011

Present:

Cdr G Meekums,	Chairman
Cdre A Whyntie,	Vice Chairman
Lt Cdr J R Laurie,	Hon Treasurer
Lt Cdr M C Churchill,	OA Secretary
Lt Cdr W E Legg	Social Secretary
Lt Cdr T C James	Committee Member

24 Members of the Association

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Lt Cdr J R D Rouse A/Sec, Capt P Wason, Cdr N Whales, Lt Cdr C Poulter, Lt Cdr H Watson and Lt D Ansell.

2. Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on 27 June 2010

It was highlighted that the date of the meeting on the Website should have been the 27 June not 28 June.

At para 4 it should read S/Lt Barry Worsfold (not Worsfield).

Apart from the above, the Minutes were proposed as a true and accurate account of what transpired.

Proposed by Lt Cdr E J Richardson and seconded by Lt M Draper.

3. To receive the Chairman's Annual Report for the year ended 25 June 2011

Prior to the Chairman making his report, Cdr David Dawson-Taylor introduced himself to the meeting as the OA Website manager and stated that he would gladly receive any changes/comments reference the Website

The Chairman then delivered his annual report which is reproduced at Annex A. Additionally the Chairman reported, that in appreciation of his magnificent effort in delivering the Greenie, the OA Committee has agreed that Cdr Patrick Moore will become a Life Member of the Officers' Association.

The Report was proposed for acceptance by Cdr D Dawson-Taylor and seconded by Lt P Daysh.

4. To receive the Honorary Treasurer's Report

Members present were distributed with copies of:

The Treasurer's report (Annex B)	
Summary of OA Accounts	Attached to Minutes
Summary of OA Social Fund	Attached to Minutes
Proposed Five Year Plan	Attached to Minutes

The Treasurer reviewed the year from the above documents and asked if there were any questions, of which there were two:

Cdr Moore asked if there was a benchmark of how much the OA contributes to the Mess as a % based on subscriptions which could be used in negotiation with the Mess. The Treasurer stated that he did not have a figure as such. The Chairman also pointed out that VAT claimed by the Mess does not come back to the OA.

Lt Tomlinson asked if this also applied to Full Mess Members and Lt Cdr Legg pointed out that the Mess does contribute to the function for Full Members that attend.

It was proposed by Lt Cdr C. Kidd and seconded by Lt Cdr D Merritt that the Treasurers report be accepted which was passed unanimously.

5. The Greenie

In addition to coverage in the Chairman's report, it was stated that the Greenie is now being advertised on a number of websites including a flier on the OA website. The book is available for purchase today, copies of which will be signed by Cdr Moore. Lt D Asby asked if it would be worth having a copy available in the Wardroom, however after some discussion it was decided that would not be the case at this time.

6. To elect/re-elect Officers to the Committee

The Chairman stated that all the Committee have agreed to continue and they were elected unanimously.

Proposed by Lt M Draper and seconded by Lt Cdr J Stafferton

The Chairman then explained how Cdre Whyntie has now been on the Committee for a year which is a pre-requisite to becoming Chairman.

The Chairman asked Cdre Whyntie if he was prepared to become Chairman which he readily accepted.

Cdre Adrian Whyntie to become Chairman of the Officers' Association was proposed by Lt Cdr J Stafferton, seconded by Lt P Tomlinson and agreed unanimously by the attendees.

Cdr G Meekums stated that he would revert to Vice Chairman, the post he held prior to this year.

Cdre Whyntie thanked Cdr Meekums for his stewardship over the past year and also for the work put in by the remainder of the Committee. Cdre Whyntie stated that he thought it had been a good year based on the inheritance provided by the previous Chairman, Lt Mike Draper.

He considers that the highlight has been the Greenie and thanked Cdr Patrick Moore for his tremendous work in bringing it to fruition.

One of his aims is to further enhance the working relationship with the establishment and intends to meet the new XO, Cdr M Dreelan as soon as possible. Furthermore, he will call on Cdre T Lowe.

The encouragement of new members is a priority and he wishes to be remembered as a Chairman whose aim is to conduct business with a sense of fun.

Finally he wished to thank all the Collingwood staff and in particular those who work in the wardroom.

7. DONM

The eleventh AGM of the HMS Collingwood Officers' Association will be held at 1130 on Sunday 24 June 2012

The Chairman closed the meeting, thanking members for their continued support.

T C James
Lt Cdr RN
Acting Secretary

Annex A to
Minutes of the OA AGM
Dated 7 July 2011

Chairman's Report to the HMS Collingwood Officers' Association AGM held on 26 June 2011 in the Wardroom HMS Collingwood

Introduction: I took over as Chairman at last year's AGM for a period of one year and my first duty on behalf of the Association was to attend Annual Divisions in order to present the 2010 sword to Lt Cdr Rachel Smallwood.

The 2010 Sword: The sword presented to Lt Cdr Smallwood was donated to the Association by Mrs Anne Currie through Captain Sydney Hack- an Association Member. Anne is the daughter of the late Captain John Robinson who joined the RN as a Signals Officer and subsequently became one of the founding fathers of the Electrical Branch.

The 2011 Sword: This year's sword was donated by Lt Cdr Ken Pile for which we thank him. We do not know the who the recipient will be but the selection process is in hand and your new Chairman will be deeply involved with its outcome.

Membership and some Good News: As of May this year our membership stood at 470 – down 5 on last year. That said, the good news is that we are fortunate in having a fair number of “younger” members joining the Association.

The Social Scene: Lt Cdr Bill Legg, the Association's Social Secretary has continued to be extremely active and organised balls in July 2010 and January 2011, together with a Ladies Trafalgar Guest Night in November 2010 plus several lunches to boot! I would like to thank Bill for all the time and effort he puts in to making these occasions so successful.

Our guests at the Ladies Guest Night were the speaker VA Sir Neville Purvis together with Lt Mike Draper and his wife Margaret. As I said at Dinner, we owe much to Mike for his stewardship of the Association – thank you Mike.

Regrettably, Cdre Tim Low, the Commodore of the Establishment was unable to attend as his wife was taken ill.

The rest of this year will follow on in the same pattern with a Ball on 23 July and an MOD subsidised Ladies Trafalgar Guest Night on 28 October. The subsidy will be available for 2012 which is jolly good news for us all.

Uniform: Following on from our last Ladies Trafalgar Guest Night, I would encourage those of you who can still “Battle with the Bulge” to wear uniform again in October this year.

The Greenie: At long last the “Greenie” has seen the light of day thanks to sterling work by Association member Cdr Patrick Moore. His efforts included not only some very serious editing but also arranging for copyright clearance, subsequent publication by the History Press and the negotiations with the newly formed Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity to whom all royalties will be given. All-in-all no mean feat – for which is to be heartily congratulated – thank you Patrick.

The OA has purchased 200 copies of the Greenie and these are available to OA members at the knock down price of £17.50, which compares favourably with the street price of £25.00. First come – first served.

OA Finance: You will hear about our finances in detail shortly from your Treasurer. Your Committee, concerned about SODEXO's escalating labour costs for our social functions instigated a review of both:

- (i) The amount levied by the WR mess from our subscriptions and
- (ii) SODEXO's labour costs.

We met with the President of the Wardroom Mess on 4 Nov last year but were unable to secure any change to the distribution of our subscriptions. He encouraged us to negotiate direct with SODEXO with regard to their charges at our functions. This has resulted in the costs being negotiated on a function-to-function basis.

All that said, whilst we have met with little success thus far, we intend to re-visit the whole question of the amount by which the Wardroom benefits from the OA.

OA Management: The OA has benefited enormously from taking “in house” the day-to-day management of almost everything associated with membership of the OA. This includes, amongst many other things, the preparation of the List of Membership, the preparation and distribution of the Newsletter and handling of passes. For this we owe a well earned vote of thanks to Lt Cdr Mark Churchill – he spends a great deal of his time both at home and here in the Establishment working on **your** behalf.

We are keen to maintain correspondence with members using e-mail if at all possible – for those who do not have appropriate access this could be through a nominated e-mail address such as a relative or friend.

We did have a serving liaison officer-Lt Cdr Andy Christie who was the Commodore’s right hand man and rather a busy man, however, he has now left the RN and his post is currently gapped. A replacement is being actively pursued with the Establishment XO.

And Finally: My thanks for the support that all members of the Committee of the Officers’ Association have given me over the past year. My special thanks, too, to some unsung heroes – Cdr David Dawson-Taylor who runs the web site and Lt Colin Gittins who ably assists Lt Cdr Bill Legg in organising our social functions.

Your New Chairman – Commodore Adrian Whyntie: So provided you vote him in later on in this AGM, I will hand over the reins of a thriving Officers, Association to Cdre Adrian Whyntie with every good wish for an enjoyable and productive stint as your Chairman.

Cdr Geoff Meekums
June 2011