May 2016

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Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of The Tower of London.

It was a fine, sunny day although there was a brisk but chilly wind blowing off the Thames when around 09:30 a number of pipers started to tune up and then a few red-capped members of the RMPA arrived. As the minutes passed more red-caps appeared together with several serving NCOs of the RMP. As we stood waiting, almost impatiently, for a familiar face I spotted a white beret and then another and then a pale blue standard. I was not alone. A fourth white beret appeared. Alas, this was to be the total representation of the LHC Branch of the RAFPA, the National Standard, the Branch Standard and two members ready to march! And march we did, to the skirl of the pipes and beat of the drums of the Green Hackle Band, and the commands of the RMP RSM we strode through The Lanthorn Gate, up the hill past The White Tower and along The Parade to St Peter ad Vincula, the Chapel Royal for a traditional service of Choral Matins. After the service, we formed up again and marched past the Chairman of the Royal Military Police Association and thence to the Yeoman Warders Mess for lunch. After lunch we had the freedom of the Tower, to wander as we would, to see the Crown Jewels and the various museums. As usual, there were hundreds of visitors of every nationality, indeed it was a change at times to hear English spoken; most had cameras and the parade was probably photographed several thousand times, I was asked several times “Why are you wearing a white beret?”.

It was indeed an opportunity to fly the flag for the Association and the Branch. It was a most enjoyable occasion, we were made welcome by all around and we were indeed proud to represent our Association. Perhaps next year a few more might be persuaded to support the event.

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letters to the editor

During the night of the 15/16th February 1944 a Short Stirling (EF271) of 199 Squadron took off from RAF Lakenheath on a S.O.E. mission to drop supplies to the resistance in the south west of France. For reasons unknown the plane crashed at Boirac in the Dordogne. All seven of the crew were killed and are now buried in Mazargues War Cemetery, 6 kms south west of Marseilles. Each year on the 16th February at 11am a commemoration is held in memory of the seven airmen at the War Memorial at Grun-Bordas which includes a plaque in their honour.

John Reid attended this ceremony on behalf of RAFPA and photographs can be viewed at http://st-mike.com/remembrance.htm

RAFPA Member Honoured for Services to Education

At a civic ceremony at the Palace of Westminster on 28th January 2016, Andy Davies, a member of the Wiltshire Branch, was honoured by being presented with the British Citizens Award for over 30 years of dedicated service to education in his community. A former nine-time British tae-kwon-do champion and European silver medal winner, Andy runs a martial arts and fitness gym in the Bristol area which helps local people, especially children. When interviewed prior to receiving the award, Andy said “I feel deeply honoured to be receiving this award and would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement, without whose help I could never have achieved much of what I have been able to. Many people think that armed forces veterans are simply old men and women in blazers just reminiscing about their military service when in actual fact many of them are actively engaged in supporting their local communities and raising money for charities”.

The communities to which Andy dedicates his time are known as Priority Neighbourhoods in South Gloucestershire. The council and its partners, including the police, health authorities and the fire service have made a commitment to work with voluntary and community groups to make a difference in these areas. Andy visits many schools and clubs within the community to organise taster sessions, demonstrate techniques and to conduct assemblies on the importance of self-discipline and responsibility to the community. Some of these sessions have also introduced life skills and anti-bullying techniques to children. As a recipient of this prestigious award Andy Davies is entitled to use the post nominal BCAe after his name.

Submitted by: Brian Flinn

Acknowledgments...

The Editor sincerely thanks All contributors for their photographic and article inputs, especially Mike Lester, John Walton, Brian Burgess, John Curtis, Neil Rusling. Again many thanks and please keep those contributions coming in.
Sutton Wick Memorial Dedication

On Saturday 5th March, members of the Wiltshire and London Home Counties Branches attended a ceremony to dedicate a new Memorial at Sutton Wick, Oxfordshire. The Memorial has been erected in remembrance of those killed when RAF Blackburn Beverley XH117 developed a fault shortly after take-off, attempted a return to RAF Abingdon on 5th March 1957, but crashed into the village. Amongst those who died in the crash were 8 RAF Police Dog Handlers and their dogs whilst en-route to Cyprus. A dedication service was held last year with a temporary plaque being put in place to mark the occasion and after the service, a local wood carver, Mr Brian Eastoe, offered to make a permanent memorial and he planted hundreds of snowdrops in memory of the RAF Police Dog Handlers who died in the crash. The Memorial has been inscribed with the names of those who perished on the day, including the two civilians on the ground. The photo shows the newly carved memorial with the 8 collars and leads representing the 8 'missing' dogs that died as a result of the crash. John Crosby (Wilts) is shown taking the salute after laying a wreath, in remembrance to the Dog Handlers and their dogs, on behalf of the RAF Police Association. The guest of honour on the day was Colonel Jiri Svatos, Air Attache, Czech Embassy, who laid a wreath in memory of Flt Sgt Jindrich Zurecky, a RAF pilot, who served with the RAF in the Free Czech Air Force, during the war, who then joined the RAF and perished in the crash. Under the command of FS Steve Penman, four serving RAF Police NCO’s, Sgt Brown, Cpl Webb, Cpl Watson and Cpl Griggs and their dogs from RAF Brize Norton and RAF Marham attended, along with ten members of the RAF Police Association and one ex-RAF Policeman, Ian Mclaucilan, from the RBL Riders Branch, who has been a regular attendee at the many Repatriations in Wootton Bassett and Carterton. The RAF PTI Association Standard Bearer, Mr Roy Rigg, was a PTI at RAF Rudloe Manor during the days of HQP&SS (UK). The Events, both last year and this, were the result of the dedication and hard work of Iain Henderson (LHC), on behalf of the “Memorial Mob”.

Submitted by: Brian Flinn
Christmas Lunch Belton Woods Hotel on 6 December 2015

Ed says... better late than never!

Thanks to Mike and Pat Hall for arranging the excellent Christmas Lunch at Belton Woods Hotel on Sunday 6 December 2015. John Curtis asked me as the “newbie” of the Branch to put pen to paper to give my feelings about the day. When I got home I thought about this for a bit and, like most things worthwhile, I realised that a simple statement of the day’s occurrences would not suffice. For Betty and me the journey to Belton Woods started back last March when I opened my front door to a guy, face vaguely familiar, who said “You’re Bill Bennett, aren’t you?”. I hadn’t heard my old RAF Police nickname since I retired in 1984 so I was a bit taken aback. The guy came in and knew all about me and even my wife’s name. After a long chat he departed and left behind a copy of the “Snowdroppings” with a promise to invite us to the next RAFPA meeting at Radcliffe on Trent. Following receipt of a lovely invitation card we attended our first meeting on 9th May. Since then we have attended most of the meetings and social events and have gained some new friendships and renewed some old acquaintances underscored by that special relationship that can only be created by like-minded individuals working for a common cause.

The only cloud on the horizon is the inescapable dispute about the RAFPA website. I do not profess to know (or care) anything about this, suffice to say that, these guys are the same ones that, in the past, would have laid down their lives for each other and need to regain some of that perspective. So Betty and I sat down at Belton Woods with you all and had a lovely meal. Those of you who know me are aware that I am a Coeliac and on a “Gluten-Free” diet. This was no problem to the staff at Belton Woods who went out of their way to ensure that my food was wheat free. The food was delicious and we finished with half an hour of carol singing to the accompaniment of Del … and his guitar. Driving home (unlike Skegness when I crashed the car) Betty and I discussed the changes to our lives wrought by the RAFPA in 2015. Had it not been for one individual, Russell Jones, going out of his way to open our eyes to the advantages of being a member of the Association, we would have missed out on a whole new aspect of our lives. Perhaps there is a lesson there. I wonder how many similar situations exist where branches are closing due to lack of support whilst others (like us) around them carry on in ignorance of the benefits and comradeship of membership.

What has this to do with Christmas? Over two millennia ago a few people went out of their way to spread the message of goodwill to all men (and women). Perhaps this Christmas lunch could be the start of us all spreading the RAF Police Association message of Sodalitas Perpetuus.

Submitted by: ‘Bill Bennett’
More Brassards!

Reference September 2015 issue, Brassards Right or Left?
Chuck Agar writes that originally the brassard was worn on the right arm with 2 press-stud fasteners, which he claims were 'a bloody nuisance'. In 1955/56 Gp Capt W.I.G Kerby became the Provost Marshal. His decision was that the brassard should be worn on the left arm just like the Military Police. At this time the PM had the idea of changing the cross straps to support the ammunition pouch, rather than the pistol holster. What a daft idea!, however, it didn't last long. The ID cards, were they the ones I was issued with in 1947? A fold over pink card known as Form 1250R? It contained No, Rank and Name, but no photograph. In 1948 a new type of ID which became known as a F1250 was issued and it contained No, Rank and Name, plus a photograph and a space to write changes in rank. This type stayed in service until a similar but slightly smaller version, without the provision to amend rank.

Submitted by: Chuck Agar
Memorial for Dogs of War

The explosive detection dog memorial.
For an Australian soldier about to start out on a morning patrol in Afghanistan, there were few more welcome sights than a bomb-sniffing dog. A dog would lighten the mood and was a reminder of home and family. But most importantly soldiers knew that with a dog leading a patrol, they stood a better chance of survival.

While most people know about the 41 Diggers who died in Afghanistan, few know that six Australian explosive detection dogs were killed or went missing there. For soldiers in Afghanistan, losing a dog was felt almost as deeply as the loss of a fellow Digger.

Now the contributions that dogs made in Afghanistan have been recognised with the dedication of a new monument at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.
The memorial carries the names of dogs Merlin, Razz, Andy, Nova, Lucky and Herbie. It has only one human name — Sapper Darren Smith who died with his dog Herbie in an insurgent bomb blast in Oruzgan province in 2010.
The bond between Sapper Smith and Herbie was well known. When Herbie was sick, he spent three nights sleeping alongside his partner at the vets.
When they died together, it seemed only fitting they should be buried together. Sapper Smith’s father was at the unveiling.

Australian War Memorial director Brendan Nelson said dogs had been used in conflicts from World War I to Vietnam, but it was only in the Afghan war that they were integrated into soldiers’ units.
Dr Nelson said that without bomb-sniffing dogs there might have been as many as 60 Australians killed in the Afghan war.

The bronze statue portrays a dog face-to-face with his handler, who is removing the animal’s kit after a patrol. The display also incorporates a dog training tunnel through which children can crawl and play.

Submitted by: Alex Oliver/John Walton

NB: Refer to your January 2016 Issue.
Nigel Howcroft found this email in September 2015 Griff, hoping I was still the Editor and that I might consider this item. On Saturday 9 April 2016 at The Quarrymans Arms PH, Box, Wiltshire, former members of Support Squadron, RAF Police, RAF Rudloe Manor held a reunion. The reunion was organised by Wayne Dewfall (ex RAFP Cpl). £150 was raised in a raffle. This was donated to Headway, a charity that assists people recover from brain injuries. My brother sustained a serious brain injury last year, so this charity is near my heart. Headway is a national charity, with several branches around the UK. The photos show the generous people who attended the reunion and me handing the cheque over.

Submitted by: Nigel Howcroft
RAFPA AGM - April 30th 2016

This year’s ECM and AGM did not turn out to be, in any way, as contentious as some members anticipated. Almost all Branches were represented in the Royal Maritime Club and we had a great weekend of friendship and good fellowship. In the absence of any other volunteers, Mike Thornton offered to stay on as the Treasurer until the October ECM - thank you Mike, because we cannot exist without a Treasurer. Alan Mitchell (WILTS) and Dave Wardell (HD&IOW) were re-elected and remain as Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary respectively. We now have 2 new National Officers - well done to David Budd (WILTS) and Jeremy Fenton (S&NI) for offering to be co-opted as Chairman and Secretary respectively. They all deserve our thanks for stepping up and I would like to ask the ‘keyboard carpers’ who, within hours of the AGM decisions being published, were criticising Wiltshire Branch for ending up with three National Officers - You knew the Association needed volunteers, so where were you?

I must offer a massive vote of thanks to Mitch O’Neil and his wife Shirley, the organisers of the AGM Weekend for the second consecutive year. It is not easy to arrange this sort of event successfully but they managed it superbly and, on behalf of all members present, I would like to thank them both for their hard work and patience.

Submitted by: Brian Flinn

The 2016 AGM, hosted by Hants, Dorset and IOW Branch, was held for the second year running at the Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth and I think it’s true to say that the same high standards of quality and excellence by the Management and staff of that establishment were superb. The weather although reasonable was not quite as good as last year, but did manage to have sunshine, although not good enough for sunbathing.

As last year, there was a certain apprehension as to how harmonious or aggressive the proceedings might develop, but the core values of the RAFPA won the day and everything was discussed and voted on, using all the various methods allowed.

The dinner was of the same high standard as last year while the entertainment was supplied by a local band, ‘Mista Messy’, not to everybody’s taste, perhaps a little loud! That said, several couples tripped the light fantastic and the Provost Marshal and his wife, made quite a handsome couple as they cavorted to the ‘jungle drums’ of ‘It’s only rock and roll’, but they liked it.

The raffle’s main prize was won by Steve Gardner, Nottingham, he will be able to enjoy a weekend for two at the Royal Maritime later this year, second prize, £100, was won by Lyn Ehrsham, Newark and third prize, £50 by Frank Authers, Exmouth. After expenses were deducted:

| Tickets sold | £1075.00 |
| Expenses     | £ 442.34 |
| Profit       | £  672.66 |
| Donation     | £  500.00 |

There were no takers for hosting the 2017 AGM initially, but there is a slight possibility that could alter! Of course among all the Branches and individuals who complain that everything is based in the South, here is an ideal opportunity to change that and organise an AGM much further ‘up country’. There is advertising space in The Griff and plenty of experience and expertise to assist any Branch or indeed individual to ‘Get it on’

Submitted by: Mitch O’Neill
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at
Royal Maritime Club, Portsmouth 30 April 2016

At 1405 The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming our Vice – President and all members to the meeting. He explained the need for the registration procedure and the introduction of Voting Cards. At this point Elma Bailey (Secretary,S&NI) who had been helping with the administration finished her duties and left the meeting. My thanks go to her for some very useful assistance enabling the meeting to start on time.

Act of Commemoration
The meeting was invited to stand whilst the names of our members who have passed away since the last AGM were read followed by one minute silence:-


Apologies for Absence
240 Proxy votes had been received and accepted as apologies
Alan Shaw, David & Win Mooring, John Walton, Alec Glover, Brian Lawrence, Maurice Griffin and Air Cdr Hall

Minutes of the last meeting
The Minutes of the last meeting were accepted and proposed by Frank Turner and seconded by Pete Farrant with a unanimous vote bar one abstention.

Chairman’s Report
Aim To afford members the facilities to meet together to foster good fellowship and to advance the spirit of comradeship formed during service with the Royal Air Force Police.

Overview
For the majority of the membership this has been a reasonable year with our annual activities being well attended. In addition to our actions at National level most of our branches have continued to maintain enjoyable social activities.

Our usual memorial parade at the NMA in June was much enhanced by the service of dedication of the pavers commemorating the lives of our RAFP colleagues who had passed to higher service. These pavers were introduced for first time this year to be purchased by family or friends and proved to be extremely well received. We were also joined for the parade and service by a contingent of serving RAF Police with the salute being taken by the Provost Marshall, Gp. Capt. Kevin Bailey.

October saw an early blooming of Snowdrops in Skegness, once again many attended and thoroughly enjoyed the weekend so well put together by John Curtis and East Midlands Branch.

In November the Association was well represented at the Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph then once again most thronged into the Silver Cross pub for an excellent buffet and convivial company. John Walton

The Snowdrop Parade at the NMA took place as usual where once again we enjoyed the company of our RMP colleagues. We were also joined by a contingent of serving RAF Police with the salute being taken by Gp. Capt. Kevin Bailey. A certain sadness accompanied this event as it was the last time that Gp. Capt. Bailey will take our salute as Provost Marshal, he is due to be posted on 27 May. It is also probable that tasking pressures upon the RAFP will also prevent the further attendance at these functions by serving personnel at least in the near future.
Individual Branches have also carried out parades and have run stalls at events etc. too many to mention but all have contributed to ensuring the RAFPA stays in the public eye. It is with great relief that I have to report we only had one repatriation to honour since last April.

Over this year I have been honoured to lead the Association at the Cenotaph and at the NMA. I have also had the most pleasant privilege of presenting awards on behalf of our Association to RAF Police recruits passing out from Southwick Park.

We have had some less than happy news with the closure of Norfolk Branch, again due to falling numbers prepared to take Officer posts and the old problem of age. Other branches have had problems but have managed to find ways around them. Essex and Sussex have decided at a final meeting to continue and have reported a slight increase in attendance figures. Scotland and Northern Ireland have enormous problems of distance to overcome when they hold meetings and so are experimenting with a system of geographically detached groups meeting up but under the parentage of the Branch. If this proves to be successful it might be worth considering for other areas where groups of less than 10 wish to join together but distance to normal branch meetings makes it impracticable.

It is my opinion that future management will need to look at the structure of the Association with a view to making it more flexible and responsive to local needs. The current system of Branches, but nothing smaller, works in some areas but we are losing members actual and potential in others. We do not want to end up with a system where subs. are paid solely to march at the Cenotaph; that is not fulfilling our aim in any way.

When I took over as Chairman last April I did so in the knowledge of the problems certain decisions made at the previous ECM were causing. Having been at that ECM and the previous I was also aware of the facts and had checked that answers given to the questions being asked were factual and correct. ECMs are a tool tasked with the management of the Association. Every member of the ECM has been elected by their Branch or by an AGM as their choice to run the Association on their behalf. There are no personal votes at an ECM members are either voting as directed by their Branches or, in the case of National Officers, as they see being in the best interests of their area of responsibility. There is a serious weakness in the ECM system and that is the optional nature of attendance by Branch representatives. So often over one third of Branches are not represented and therefore the wishes of the members of those branches are not heard. I am convinced that a full attendance would have produced some different voting at the October 2014 ECM and probably avoided the very serious problems experienced later. Whether or not that would have been the case is not known but what is clear is that the Minutes of that meeting and subsequent meetings have been accepted without challenge. In other words the vast majority of members of the Association accept those decisions whether they agree with them or not. This is the democratic way, support the people you have elected or vote them out at the next meeting.

Sadly there are a few members who do not accept the will of the majority and have decided to carry out a campaign of misinformation accompanied by intentionally damaging innuendo against the elected Association Officers and Trustees. This campaign has been carried out based on second hand information, the main protagonists Mr. Hingley -Davis and Mr. Cattell were not at either of the contested meetings and their versions of the meetings are not in keeping with the written minutes of those ECMs. Within this campaign they have quoted rules that do not exist and have ignored efforts to correct their statements. This inaccurate quoting of events has even carried forward to a point where I have had to remove a Proposal put forward for consideration at this AGM as the some of the supporting evidence quoted was totally untrue.
When I arrived home from last year’s AGM I found that the website RAFPA.com, which according to the licence had been set up for the use of our Association by Mr Cattell, had been hijacked for his personal use. Not long after I had the start of a series of letters from Mr Hingley-Davis containing a list of questions and a requirement that I dismiss and discipline an officer and a Trustee. After re-examining the facts, I replied to the effect that I could find no grounds for taking such actions refused to continue the dialogue. In response Mr Hingley-Davis wrote with the following threat: “The original enquiry was clearly set out and indeed we made our situation clear in that if we did not receive a satisfactory solution, then the matter could be brought to the attention of the wider RAFPA membership, which would certainly result in major disruption, perhaps a vote of no confidence in the RAFPA Officers and Executive Committee (EC) and even the collapse of the National RAFPA as we know it.” This letter was also signed by Mr Lamacraft. Mr Cattell has also shown his support to this letter in statements he has made. All the time this action was being dealt with within the confines of the Associations internal channels of communication the complainants were within their rights as members but, when an item entitled “The full story gone public” on the publically accessible front page of the website being run by Mr Cattell. This item was signed by Messers Hingley-Davis, Cattell and Lamacraft. It was obvious from the very title that this was intentionally published in an area which could bring discredit upon the RAFPA. All three had their membership suspended for taking an action that could bring the Association into disrepute.

Within a few hours Mr Hingley-Davis resigned from the Association, Mr Lamacraft pleaded that he did not know that the item/letter was going to be published in this way and had his membership reinstated. This defence has proven hollow as he has taken no action to prove his innocence by having the item or his signature removed. Mr Cattell had faith in his colleagues and the Kangaroo Court (descriptions used by Mr Hingley-Davis and Mr Cattell) and was reinstated by at the October 2015 ECM. Since this time the elected volunteer management have been the target of fairly consistent abuse and accusations made on the websites run by Mr Cattell and Mr Hingley-Davis. Amongst these were allegations of Corruption, mishandling of funds and innuendo suggesting dishonest practises in the handling of votes for the AGM. Also amongst the abuse aimed at the elected volunteer Association Management there have been four tangible demands.

1. **Answers to the questions that would fit their version of events.**
2. **That the wishes of the main body of the Association should be ignored.**
3. **That an enquiry be set up.**
4. **A vote of confidence be taken.**

**Ref 1.** I am afraid that the truth as recorded, and confirmed as the truth, by vote of acceptance by the National Council at subsequent meetings, cannot be altered to suit the whims of a few.

**Ref 2.** The voting of the majority, either by representation or directly, at meetings instructs and directs the actions of the National Executive. This is a point that is ignored by the complainant’s e.g. 242 votes for and 14 against in the vote supporting a new website.

**Ref 3.** An Enquiry has been held and the findings have been published. No evidence could be found to support any of the allegations made against the National Executive Officers or the Trustees.

**Ref 4.** I have encouraged members to organise a vote of confidence but so far no one seems to have thought it to be worth the trouble. I have also ensured that all National Executive posts have been available to competition but absolutely no contenders for the posts have come forward.

Finally I offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to all who have supported me through this past year.
Vice Chairman’s Report
Alan Mitchell was away on a trip that had been booked before the date of this AGM was known, no report was available.

Secretary’s Report
Alan Weeks (SWAB) the duly elected Secretary had to resign on health grounds late in 2015, this condition had been brought about by the stress of the work. The Chairman has kept this position functioning at a much lower level. Bill Veazey stepped in to assist with the running of the ECM and the AGM but cannot make any further commitment to the post of Secretary. I am most grateful to Bill for his input and to Alan for all his support and early planning.

Bill raised the issue of him being made aware about questions and doubts over his honesty and integrity aired on some social media and private forums, where the counting of the proxy votes was concerned. He gave everyone present the opportunity to raise any concerns publicly and on-record. No concerns were raised and several people stressed that trust has to be placed in those elected/appointed to carry out a function; further a vote of thanks was proposed by Brian Sutton and unanimously supported by all present.

Treasurer’s Report
Mike Thornton produce a written report (copy attached and on the website) and explained the various points contained within it.

Membership Secretary’s Report
You have heard from Mike Thornton the current Membership figures, but this is a short resume of what has gone on since the 2015 AGM.

We have added 17 new Annual Members, plus 80 new Serving members and 3 rejoined, but from this we have lost 22 members who have passed away, and 3 Members who have formally resigned, together with those whose Membership has lapsed.

I cannot help but think that a good number of the drop outs are as a result of the bickering and back biting that has taken place of late, and this surely is a retrograde step and certainly contrary to the aims and objects of the Association, namely “continued friendship”. Can we not end the personality clashes and get back to working together?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
No nomination had been received. The Chairman accepted an offer of co-option from David Budd. The co-option was proposed by Brian Flinn and seconded by Paul Donovan.

VICE CHAIRMAN
Alan Mitchell confirmed in post by a majority vote

TREASURER
Michael Thornton Stood down but then offered himself for co-option to serve until October 2016 ECM Being in post his co-option was confirmed by majority vote.

SECRETARY
No nominations had been received. The Chairman accepted an offer of co-option from Jeremy Fenton. The co-option was proposed by Roy Laver and seconded by Bill Veazey.
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
David Wardell decided to remain in post and was confirmed by majority vote.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES  
The following members were elected to be Trustees by ballot.  
Ted Hellewell, 220 votes  Alan Shaw (re-elected) 172 votes,  John Armfield. 155 votes.

RE-ELECTION OF ASSOCIATION AUDITORS  
It is recommended by the National Officers that the Association Auditors be retained for a further year.  
This proposal was carried by a majority vote.

Please note: The results of the Pre-notified business is included on the enclosed insert.

Provost Marshal Gp Capt Kevin Bailey, Guest of Honour, in his last official capacity as Provost Marshal.
Frank Authers spent 30 years of his life in the RAF, most of that time was spent in the RAF Police. With his passion for things mechanical and if possible with a military background, he developed a rather unique collection of four and two wheel machines. Included in his ‘fleet’ are a World War 2 Jeep, a Harley Davidson, an AA Patrolman's BSA side car outfit in distinctive yellow and an even rarer RAC Norton Patrolman's outfit. Always gaining admiring glances and a few smiles is his half scale version of the full scale WW2 Jeep.

Submitted by: Ed.

Gp Capt Bailey advised the Committee that no monies from the Memorial Fund account were used to cover the cost of the June 23rd 2015 buffet lunch. This matter is now closed.

NB. A full account of those Minutes, from the Memorial Committee meeting, March 19, 2016 may be viewed on the RAFPA website. Ed.
Have You any Prohibited Items? Part 3

The Station Commander came over to me and asked me why I had not taken this airman off the aircraft and placed him in close arrest. I asked him on what grounds did he suggest I should have arrested him. I explained that the airman had been naïve rather than criminally culpable. He had not hidden the fact that he had the python with him. If I had taken him off the aircraft an empty seat would be on its way to UK at an expense that I, a mere Sergeant could not justify. He demanded that I had a written report on his desk, first thing next morning. I did that and heard nothing further from the Station Commander. Now Charlie and I had a python on our hands, which would later try to kill us both!

Time was passing and we needed to get back to the Air Terminal to meet a Shackleton aircraft arriving at 21.30 hrs. We were to carry out Customs duties in respect of the aircrew. RAF Changi had a Jungle Survival School where, as part of their training, RAF aircrew were taught how to kill, cook and eat reptiles. For demonstration purposes they kept snakes at the school, I don’t think they actually ate any while under training. However, I rang a Squadron Leader the CO of the survival school. I explained to him our possession of the python and the airman’s expectation of arrangements being made at his expense to send the snake to UK but meanwhile perhaps the Jungle Survival School would look after it.

The Sqn Ldr referred us to the Married Quarters address of a Flight Sergeant who was the Survival School “expert” on snakes. Charlie drove the Landrover to the AMQ area with much more care than when he drove to the Air Terminal from Changi Creek Hotel. I again held the green PVC bag out at arm’s length near the windscreen.

Notes: At this point I should explain some features about pythons which we were aware of at the time. We knew the airman had kept his pet snake for 2 years so he could have found it at say 6 months old. We knew it was as thick as a man’s forearm and weighed about 8 to 10 lbs. We also knew that a reticulated python can grow up to 30 feet but that takes about 20 years. We knew its retracted teeth were longer and sharper than any other snake in Asia. However, while its savage bite was non-venomous we knew it was highly toxic due to its diet of rats, frogs and other serpents leaving rotting detritus in the gaps between its teeth. A python’s bite is greatly feared. However, We did not know that a python grew at the rate of 3 feet every 6 months until it reached maturity in 2 years when the process of growth slows down. Give or take a few feet due to limited diet and its possible age of 30 months “our” sleeping python could be between 9 and 12 feet long. We didn’t know that a python, even as a pet, should be fed by a person wearing armoured gloves. It has a massive appetite and treats anything that is alive and moving as a likely source of food.

Submitted by: Brian Whitaker

Final Part next issue
A chance to pause for a minute in quiet contemplation for our friends and colleagues who have ‘passed away’.

December 2015 - April 2016

Mr William Viney - LHC
Mr Kenneth Stubbs - SDB
Mr Martin Hay - EMB
Mr Edward Milne - EMB
Mr Brian Murcutt - No Branch
Mr Rick Kingdon - No Branch
Mr Keith Liddiard - No Branch
Mr David Mitchell - WILTS
Mr Derek Hodgkinson - YOS

Welcome to New members
Dec - March 2016

Serving Members:

Mr James Kirkhouse
Wing Cdr Brian Ripley
Mr Thomas Wadsworth
Mr Marcus Read
Mr Pascalis Petrou
Mr Samuel Wilton
Miss Fiona Burnell

Miss Charlotte Urry
Mr Dominic Noone
Mr Graeme Steele
Mr Jack Lambie
Mr Jonathan Lloyd-Jones
Mr Jonathan Peverley
Mr Graham Robertson-Fox

Mr Christopher Harvey
Mr Torsten Lumber
Mr Kieran Laverie
Mr Thomas Longstaff
Ms Samantha Bunn

Annual Members:

SDB
Mr Eric Prior - West Sussex

LHC
Mr Iain Henderson - Bucks

SNI
Mr George Cuthbertson - Glasgow

MAB
Mr Brian Tremain - Staffs

EMB
Mr Keith Ellis - Notts

Mr John Chamberlain - Lincs
Mr Melvyn Bagshaw - Lincs

Membership at 30th April - 1420
In 1953 the brass in the air force decided that, since Coastal Command was under Royal Navy control, he would be recalled to that organization. After 2 weeks bouncing around between air force and navy custody myself and another NCO were given the job of handing him back to the care of regulating staff at the R.N Barracks at Chatham. Off we set in our trusty Land Rover to West Drayton where our criminal awaited us, a scruffy individual in corduroy slacks with a straggly beard adorning his face. He steadfastly refused to change either his appearance or his attire.

We naturally struck up a conversation with his mentors on the subject second most dear to a 21 year olds heart, after the availability of the opposite gender

“What’s the grub like”?

“Oh it’s terrible, all fried chicken or steak with ice cream and pineapple for desert “ Looked like it too, they were all bursting out of their uniforms. In Germany we thought it a treat when combat ration packs approaching their use by date had to be eaten. At least the cooks could not do too much to ruin those; as long as the can opener didn’t fail.

Anyway off we set, arriving at the gates of the RN Barracks Chatham at 18.55 to see about 100 sailors lined up in three ranks inside the gate, dressed in uniform for what is termed in navy parlance “A run ashore “ When we enquired why the line up we were told they had to wait for the duty officer’s inspection and permission to board the liberty boat. Since the vessel of choice was few double deck buses also waiting in line and we had just driven in from a main road it all seemed a bit strange to us; however our charge, having been incarcerated at this establishment many times was able to direct us to the lockup, a cellar under a building adjacent to the gates. At the bottom of the steps we encountered a steel gate which our charge told us we had to rattle while at the same time shouting “ Keys ” This we did, resulting in a Chief Petty Officer of the Regulating Branch appearing who, on seeing the reason for the disturbance uttered

“ Bloody hell , not you again . Why don’t you stick yer uniform on and get this over wiv“ Since we had suggested this several time during the journey we knew the member of the senior service was pushing the proverbial mess up hill.

On entering the establishment we saw we were surrounded by cells, each with the door slightly ajar and a face peering out through the aperture, investigating the disturbance. A naval rating patrolled the corridor with a baton which looked suspiciously like a sledge hammer handle, bound with copper wire at the business end, hanging from a bayonet frog on his belt. Having obtained a signature for our captive and thus discharging our duty we fled the scene as fast as our trusty steed would carry us, deciding the air force wasn’t such a bad life after all, there was always the possibility of a posting to West Drayton to look forward to.

Submitted by: David Jones
D-Day 6th June the invasion of France. No.6 RAFP Sy (Sgt Hallam) Section are the first RAF unit to accompany 2 TAF and 21st Canadian Army Group ashore on Juno Beach. In July 1944 RAFP dog handler (Cpl Thompson and Airdog Gundo successfully assist ARP in London to search for victims buried after German V1 rocket attacks. August 1944 saw the RAFP in Brussels form the Belgian Auxiliary Air Police Service to assist with guard and security duties. September 1944 the WAAF Police established in the Middle East (Egypt, Palestine, and Iraq). One member of the WAAF joined the Mounted Section at RAF Habbanyia in Iraq.
Subscriptions 2016

Members Renewal  £ 12.50

New Members Joining 2016
1st January to 30th June
Joining fee  £  8.50
Subscription  £  12.50
1st July to 31st December
Joining fee  £  8.50
Subscription  £  6.50

Serving Members Scheme
Membership for entire service - FREE
(Does not include Provost Parade, The Griff or Members Directory).

NOTE: Joint membership may apply to eligible spouses of existing members and to those joining as Serving Members.
One normal joining fee plus  £  1.00

STOP PRESS

Subscriptions: Treasurer, Mike Thornton, wishes to remind all members that subscriptions were due on the 1st January 2016. Please ensure your payments are made promptly and the correct information is with the Banks if paying by direct debit, etc.. Thank you in advance.

Any item from RAFPA Sales will be actioned by:
Tony Lake on Tel: 01179 392755

Guide Deadline for the September 2016 Edition of “The Griff” will be mid August. Ed. (It can change!)
Land war. English cavalry in action at the western front in France 1916.

Mobilization, declaration of war: pupils of Eton college exercising in suit and high hat, rifle over the shoulder. England 1915.
A selection of members at the AGM Gala Dinner 2016

Band for the evening - Mista Messy

John Paice with members of Hants & Dorset Branch.

Lucky winner!
A selection of members at the AGM Gala Dinner 2016
PROPOSALS FOR THE AGM

PROPOSAL 1
It is proposed that the St Michaels Branch (Designate) be ratified as a full Branch within the RAF Police Association. To accommodate this within the Constitution the rules be amended as set out below:
Proposed by: Roy Laver (LHC) Seconded by Alan Weeks (SWAB)
Proposal carried , Votes For 195 Against 13 Abstain 15

PROPOSAL 2
It is proposed that due of the astronomical cost of postage that the automatic distribution of the Provost Parade cease. Any member who still requires a 'hard copy' can indicate their wish to the National Treasurer and on receipt of £2, for each issue of the PP, to cover the cost of postage and packing will be mailed a copy. The Provost Parade will still be displayed on the Association website.
Proposer; Mitch O'Neill (Griff Editor) Seconder; Ken Appleford (Association Padre)
Proposal Carried Votes For 157 Against 49 Abstain 18

PROPOSAL 3
It is proposed that an updated edition of the "RAF Police Association Members Directory" be produced and issued to those members who wish for a hard copy.
Proposed: John Walton MBE Seconded: David Wardell
The Chairman advised the meeting of a decision made at the ECM on 29 April for security reasons that future hard copy of the Membership list would no longer carry contact information. Service information as now would still be carried but contact would need to be made through an Association Officer.
Proposal Carried, Votes For 196 Against 15 Abstain 14

PROPOSAL 4
It is proposed that with effect this 2016 Annual General meeting, where no nomination for an Association officer’s post has been received at any appropriate duly notified election/meeting, a nomination properly made and seconded from the floor, may be accepted and voted upon. Success will require 50% or more of those members attending, and entitled to attend and voting in favour accordingly. A member elected in this manner will assume the full responsibilities and privileges of that Officer post including voting. This rule may be varied within Branches.
Proposer Roy Laver Seconder Bill Veazey
Proposal Carried, Votes For 184 Against 28 Abstain 13

PROPOSAL 5
It is proposed that with effect this 2016 Annual General meeting, future funding for the RAFP/A memorial should receive a regular input of funds by way of a small capitation taken from member’s subscriptions. It is suggested that a capitation of 50p per member per year or an amount suggested and kept under review by the current Treasurer be authorized.
Proposer Roy Laver Seconder Bill Veazey
Proposal Carried For 197 Against 11 Abstain 16

PROPOSAL 6
I propose that Steve Cattell, Membership No 38 North Yorkshire Branch Be formerly elected to the Post of Webmaster/Moderator for the Royal Air Force Police Association with effect the 2016 Annual General Meeting.
Proposed by:- Ken Turner Member No 2299 Seconded by; Brian Whitaker, Member No 184
Not carried For 88 Against 117 Abstain 18

PROPOSAL 7
It is proposed, that with effect this 2016 Annual General Meeting, Ch 9.27 (7) be amended to read as follows:
"The Council shall make decisions on matters brought to their attention, especially those matters considered to be of a critical or urgent nature, and requiring an immediate response or action, provided any decision made is considered to be in the best interests of the Association and its membership and that such decisions are consistent with the Association Constitution Rules
and Regulations, any policy previously laid down by the members in General Meeting, or any other matter considered to be 'best practice'. Such decisions shall be notified at that time to the National Trustees, and in due course to the members at the next General Meeting, who shall either ratify or revoke the same."

**Proponent:** Brian Sutton (Membership No 2155)  
**Seconded:** Nigel Lacey (Membership No 2279)

**Proposal Carried**  
For 186  
Against 12  
Abstain 25

**PROPOSAL 8**

It is proposed that:

1. With effect this 2016 Annual General Meeting, the RAFPA Constitution Rules & Regulations be extracted from the Admin Handbook and displayed on the website as a distinct item, with the Documentation Custodians - Brian Flinn and Alan Shaw maintaining a watching brief on such document updates accordingly.

2. During the course of 2016, the Constitution Rules & Regulations be reviewed with a view to amending and simplification as considered necessary, and presented for approval by the membership at the 2017 AGM.

3. The Executive Council be required to review and simplify as considered necessary, the Administrative Guidance aspects contained within the remainder of the Admin Handbook, having regard to the best use of the medium of the web-site.

**Proposed:** Brian G Flinn (Membership No. 079)  
**Seconded:** Alan Peel Shaw (Membership No. 249)

**Proposal Carried**  
For 180  
Against 18  
Abstain 26

**PROPOSAL 9**

In 2005 the Rule relating to Association Trustees was extensively re-written to cater for the formation of a Board of Trustees. Whilst the rule is expansive covering length of Trusteeship and other administrative details it no longer contains reference to:

1. The responsibility of a Trustee in respect of Association property/funds.
2. The Individual liability of a Trustee.
3. That Trustees must be members of the Association.
4. The circumstances in which a Trustee can be removed from office during his term and how this would be effected.

Whilst we believe that the exclusion of the above points is an oversight we do believe that they should be included in the Rule both for the benefit of the Trustees and of the Association. We, therefore, propose that the relevant rule be re-worded such:

**Rule 24 – Trustees.**

1. There shall be not less than two nor more than four Trustees who shall be appointed by the members in General Meeting; the Trustees to be known collectively as the Board of Trustees. Such duly appointed Trustees shall be members of the Association but shall not be an Officer of the Association. In the event that an Officer of the Association wishes to seek election as a Trustee, or vice versa, then he should resign from his current position.

2. All the property of the Association shall be vested in the Trustees as from time to time appointed and they shall act in all respects as regards such property or investments in strict accordance with the directions of the members of the Association. The liability of each and every Trustee shall be limited to the extent of such property and/or funds of the Association as may be actually received by him.

3. A Trustee will be appointed to serve for a fixed term of four years with one retiring each year on a rotational basis. Retiring Trustees will be eligible for re-election; they can also be removed from Office ‘mid-term’ by resolution passed in General Meeting.

4. Where a Trustee is appointed ‘mid-term’, or to fill a pre-existing vacancy, his length of office will be that of his predecessor’s position in the four year cycle.

5. In the event of a Trustee resigning, being deceased or ceasing to be a member of the Association for whatever reason, the Executive Council may co-opt a replacement, subject to ratification at the next General Meeting.
6. Should a Trustee’s membership be suspended for any reason he shall relinquish his duties for the period of such suspension.

7. All Trustees, by virtue of their appointment and responsibilities, shall be entitled to attend Executive Council meetings but shall not be entitled to vote.

Neil Rusling Memb.No. 0006 John Armfield Memb.No. 2444

Proposal Carried For 158 Against 20 Abstain 46

PROPOSAL 10
It is proposed that it is not in keeping with the ethos of our Association for our website to track members visits to the site and retain the information gathered without their permission or authority.

. . . . . . The tracking is to be removed with immediate effect or the web site closed down.

Proposed by: John Armfield Memb. No. 2444 Seconded by: Neil Rusling Mem No 0006
Proposal Withdrawn

PROPOSAL 11
It is proposed that the Association Constitution and Rules be amended to include a section that says discrimination, victimisation and bullying of its members on the grounds of Religion, Sexual Orientation, Disability or place of abode will not be tolerated in any form.

Proposed by: John Armfield Seconded by: Stephen Cattell
Not carried For 140 Against 83 Abstain 12

PROPOSAL 12
It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by Huw Rees that no member should have more than one vote regardless of office held.

Proposal Carried For 181 Against 25 Abstain 20

PROPOSAL 13
It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by Huw Rees that resolutions be decided by simple majority without the need for a two thirds majority.

Proposal Withdrawn

PROPOSAL 14
It is proposed that with effect this 2016 Annual General Meeting, the Royal Air Force Police Association Web Site, www.rafassociation.com, cannot be closed down or the operation suspended by an individual member or members without the prior approval of the Royal Air Force Police Association membership at an Association Annual General Meeting.

Proposed: Brian G Flinn (Membership No.079) Seconded: Donald D Ivie (Membership No.2133)
Proposal Carried For 187 Against 27 Abstain 20

PROPOSAL 15
It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by David Wise that the position of Webmaster be made an elected post.
Proposal Carried For 148 Against 47 Abstain 31

PROPOSAL 16
It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by David Wise that to avoid the inference of tacit consent, that the following rider be added to the Constitution: “Nothing in this Constitution authorises the expenditure of membership funds without membership consent”. Proposal Withdrawn

PROPOSAL 17
It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by David Wise that the term "Executive Council" be amended to read "National Council" and members to be known as "National Councillors".

Proposal Withdrawn

PROPOSAL 18

It is proposed by Paddy Cowap and seconded by David Wise that the item "any other business" be included on the AGM agenda.

Proposal Withdrawn

PROPOSAL 19 This proposal was removed by the National Chairman.

PROPOSAL 20

It is proposed that the RAF Police Association Administrative handbook also known as the Rule book and the Constitution and all associated TORs be scrapped with effect from the AGM 2016 and replaced with a simple NOTES FOR GUIDANCE, maximum 10 pages, and that a panel of the elders - maybe founder members and LVPs - put together a maximum of a 5 page guide.

Proposed by:-Steve Cattell- LVP No 38          Seconded by:- Ken Turner No 2299
Not carried For 98 Against 106 Abstain 19

PROPOSAL 21

Counting of Proxy Votes

I propose that in future, to remove any possible inferences and any possible conflict of interest’s .That Proxy Votes are counted by Members of The Exec Committee after the EC Meeting prior to the AGM.
A viable procedure is possible. This way the counting would be scrutinised by all E C Members and a further 1 or 2 non E C Members could be co-opted to overlook and scrutinise the counting.

Proposed by:- Ken Turner No 2299        Seconded by:- Steve Cattell No 38
Proposal Carried For 151 Against 53 Abstain 19

This result is referred back to the ECM for a study of the practicality of the action proposed.

PROPOSAL 22

It is proposed that a vote of thanks be recorded in respect of ALL national and branch officers who have voluntarily worked for the good of their branch and the Association. These members (and Associate members) have given freely of their time, some over many years, in a whole variety of duties".

In addition to the elected officer appointments at national and branch level, there are many not elected, but are never the less important to the success of the organisation. These duties include the Archivist, Historian, Parade Marshal, all Standard Bearers, organisers of events, including dozens of raffles and collections for charities, Webmaster, Griff Editor, liaison at different levels with the Royal British Legion, the Royal Air Forces Association, the Royal Military Police Association, the Royal Marines Association, the RAF Police School at Southwick Park and other organisations.

Some of these good people have given of their time since the Association was founded, just over 30 yeaars ago. Some have recently started their voluntary duties, but every single one of them act in support of the branch and Association.

At both levels (ie branch and Association) there are times when we disagree with the way a vote has gone, or other decisions made. There is only one democratic way to satisfy these disagreements and that is to vote at an AGM to remove the existing volunteer officers and replace them by other volunteer officers. If we don’t like the present rules etc, then we should propose and vote at an AGM to change them, in the traditional democratic manner.

We have a great Association and by comparison with much larger Associations which have been around for many more years than our 30, we have accomplished much. We have our dedicated standards, and the National Standard has been paraded at many national prestige events at home and in France.
We have dedicated windows in St George’s Church in RAF Halton and Southwick Park chapel. There is a dedicated floor plaque in St Clement Danes, the RAF Church in London.

At the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) each spring, there is the “Snowdrop Parade”, a joint service with the RMP Association. On 23 June each year there is the RAF Police Memorial service and march past in the NMA.

In October for many years, there has been a popular reunion in various locations, for the past several years, at Skegness. In late October or early November, the London reunion takes place, as it has done every year since the 1950s. On Remembrance Sunday in London, a 60 strong contingent of the Association takes part in the Cenotaph Parade. At many other locations members of the RAF Police Association parade at local war memorials and do so again on Armistice Day.

The Association is always represented at repatriation services of deceased members of the Armed Forces at Royal Wootton Bassett or Carterton.

Several times each year when there is a graduation ceremony of basic RAF Police at Southwick Park, the chairman or other representative of the Association is present and presents a trophy to a selected RAF Police person.

For 20 years the Association magazine (The Griff) has provided members with news of the events in which members have been involved.

For all these reasons, the members and Associate members of our great Association who work so hard, deserve a sincere vote of thanks for their loyal, voluntary, devoted service to their branch and the Association over the 30 years of the its existence.

Please use your vote to support this proposal. Without these volunteers there will be no Association, or even branches and we should show our appreciation to each and every volunteer.

Proposed: John Walton MBE  Seconded: Matthew Cowap MBE
Proposal   Carried   For 198  Against 3  Abstain 22

An update on the RAF Police by the Provost Marshal

The details of the 2017 AGM will be announced by the new Executive Council.

The Chairman then stood down thanking all for their attendance.

The meeting was closed at 17 16hrs.

Roy Laver OBE
Chairman
Apr2015 – Apr2016
Royal Air Force Police Association 6 May 2016