

**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE MILDENHALL REGISTER held at  
Middleton Hall, RAF Mildenhall on 15 May 2009**

1. **Apologies.** Fred Coney, Don Clarke, John Swallow
2. **Minutes.** Chairman signed as a correct record
3. **Matters Arising.** None
4. **Chairman's report.** John Gentleman reported he had taken over as Acting Chairman at Fred Coney's request and paid tribute to his long years of service as Chairman. The Chairman mentioned the establishment of the website and the successfully redesigned newsletter. A new innovation this year is the Saturday trip to the Lincoln Aviation Heritage Centre. The Chairman thanked the USAF at the base for the very successful 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations earlier in the day.
5. **Secretary's Report.** Andrew Bridgwater first paid tribute to the generation of work and commitment that Don Clarke gave to the register. More than anyone it was his vision that has brought us together, and will continue to do so. This first year has been largely spent in converting records into a computerised database, which the Register has not had before. Many thanks to his wife, Sue, for carrying out this extensive piece of work, now nearing completion. We had a very good response rate from the Newsletter with about half of all forms sent out being returned. We will be sending out a supplementary mailing to those who did not respond in the hope that we can add to the replies received. The newsletter will go out again in January in the same format, which was very well received. We also received over £700 in donations this year. The Secretary thanked everyone who donated. This year we will put in a request not to send cash, or postage stamp payments. Cheques/postal orders are much preferred. We will also be advising that those who require a receipt should include a stamped self-addressed envelope.
6. **Treasurer's report.** The treasurer tabled the audited accounts to 31 August 2008 and an up to date statement of account, to 15 May 2009. The Treasurer advised that there were still a few cheques to be received via the Secretary and so he could not yet give a final figure of donations received. However we are able to keep the cost of next year's reunion at the same price level despite the weakening of the £ Stg against the US Dollar, which is the currency of the Invoice from the USAF.
7. **Election of Officers.**
  - a) **Chairman.** The Acting Chairman handed over to the Secretary. John Gentleman was proposed by Jim Hammond Seconded by Clare More. The Secretary handed back to the Chairman.
  - b) **Secretary.** Andrew and Sue Bridgwater proposed as Joint Secretaries by Colin Cohen Seconded by George Thompson
  - c) **Treasurer.** Smiley Mildwater was proposed by Clare More Seconded by John Cox.

- d) **Committee Members:** Geoff Reynolds, Jim Hammond, Alan Fraser, Howard Sandell, Martyn Ford-Jones, Jim Coman and Clare More were all Proposed together by Ralph Skilbeck and Seconded by Eric Taylor.

ALL ABOVE ITEMS Unanimous votes were made to support all the above candidates to office who were all therefore duly elected.

- e) **Auditor.** Robin Oakley was proposed by John Gentleman seconded by Clare More. This was agreed.
8. **Report on the Website.** Alan Fraser reported on the establishment of the website advising that there had already been over 2000 contacts. Stories and pictures can be added and any photos sent for inclusion would always be returned. The same applies to log books. It is the best way of securing more knowledge of the Register squadrons and others, as well and sharing this information. He has links to the Aircrew Association website.
9. **Review of the Rules.** The Chairman proposed that this be considered by the new Committee, who would report on proposed changes to the 2010 AGM.
10. **The Future.** The Chairman reported that the new committee will be considering the priorities for the future and will report back to the 2010 AGM.
11. **2010 Reunion.** This will be on 14/16 May 2010 subject to the USAF's confirmation.
12. **AOB.**
- We need better links with the Aircrew association, Bomber Command, Royal British Legion, XV Squadron Association, 90 Squadron Association.
  - Geoff Reynolds mentioned he has researched 419 and 75 squadrons that had served at RAF Mildenhall and may possibly find others as well.
  - Andrew Bridgwater urged veterans to encourage their families and close friends to continue/develop their interest in the register.
  - Sue Bridgwater reminded the meeting that Winnie Clarke should be acknowledged for her help and commitment to the register through helping and supporting Don Clarke over many years.

John Gentleman concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

AJB/15/05/09