

The Mildenhall Register

XV, XC, 149 and 622 Bomber Squadrons' Association

Chairman: Squadron Leader John Gentleman (RAF Ret'd.)



Minutes of the Mildenhall Register AGM on 11th May 2012 held at Middleton Hall, USAF Base, Mildenhall

JG welcomed everyone and said how good it was to see so many here. He advised there were copies of the agenda & minutes from the last meeting.

Apologies: See Secretary's report.

- **Review of last AGM minutes:** These were summarised by JG. They were proposed as a true record by Tom Paine and seconded by Jim Coman.
- **Chairman's Report:**
 - **Last Year:** JG reminded everyone about last years' service at Beck Row and said what an excellent day it had been all round. It was a good occasion befitting all those who served. On Saturday evening the food was dreadful, we have been assured it will not happen again. The Register had been given a partial refund. There is a new menu this year. The church service last year was too happy clappy, not at all like our C of E services. Some members were not happy with the service. Overall a good weekend. JG paid tribute to Don Clarke who dies last August. Don came to an open day at Mildenhall and the Register was born. None of would be here if it wasn't for Don. JG said an excellent magazine had been produced which had been well received. Thanks to GR for his work in expanding the membership and obtaining copy for the magazine.
 - **This year: Saturday:** A coach will collect those going to the Dad's Army Museum. It will be outside The Bird at 9.30am. There is a short walking tour around Thetford looking at where the series was filmed. Also a café where coffee and cake are available. We will leave Thetford by 12.30 and go to Methwold Church for lunch and be back in Mildenhall at 3pm. The committee need to be back on base by 6pm to meet and greet dinner guests. Dinner is at 7pm. Ron Pearson cannot make it to Mildenhall this year as he is at Runnymede, so we have the Newmarket RAFA standard bearer instead. Raffle tickets will be sold on the door. The modellers will set up their display for viewing before dinner. There is no art display by Geoff Pleasance. Wine will be on a side table for people to help themselves. **Sunday:** We will be having a separate church service at 9.30am on base. It will be a more traditional service, which we hope will be better received than last years' service.
- **Secretary's Report:** see attached report. There has been good feedback about the Newsletter. Several people surprised to hear that Don had died. 218 Squadron want to join us for future reunions. GR will write and find out their numbers. 75 Squadron will not be attending; they are having their reunion at Feltwell in July. They hope to come another year. There is a possibility of 44 Squadron joining us too. GR confirmed that a 2nd newsletter will be published this year. GR requested that anyone who flew

in Sterlings or trained in them to please sign a painting print he has been sent by someone in Australia. GR read out a letter of apology from XV OC. 'Under a Bombers Moon' has been re-published. JG advised that Steven Harris wrote this and it is a good read.

- **Treasurer's Report:** A/cs have been audited and signed. The bank balance is £400 up on this time last year, plus there will be the raffle proceeds from tomorrow night. The income has been higher due to the number of donations made. The Mildenhall Register finances are in a reasonably healthy state. We have £7500 with about £4500 of bills to pay. So we will be left with about £3000 plus raffle proceeds to carry forward to next year. There will be an additional raffle tonight; Howard Sandell has kindly donated a copy of his book about 622 Squadron signed by 13 veterans. All proceeds from this extra raffle will go to the Bomber Command Memorial Fund.
- **Thanks:** JG gave thanks to the committee; Geoff Reynolds – tremendous work with the membership. Smiley Mildwater - for managing the funds. Martyn Ford-Jones XV Historian, Sam Mealing-Mills 90 Historian, Howard Sandall 622 Historian, Alan Fraser 149 Historian. Also thanks to Clare More our trouble shooting committee member, Jim Coman who represented the veterans; a very valuable source of knowledge. Not forgetting the 'Mafia of wives' – Debbie, Jill, Val & Cherry for keeping us on the straight and narrow and lastly our auditor Robert Oakley.
- **Election of Officers:** JG stood down while the officers were elected. He said he was quite happy to carry on being Chairman. GR thanked JG for 'running the show'. GR said 'You just don't know how much work goes on behind the scenes!' JG re-election was proposed by MFJ and seconded by Pat Young. The Historians, Committee members and SM & GR were elected on block, this was proposed by Tom Paine and seconded by Jock Johnson.
- **Next year:** The dates are 17th-19th May with a similar format to this year. We need to decide upon next years' service. Opinions will be asked during this weekend. JG also confirmed there will be a second magazine this year and that recipients should donate towards the cost if they can. JG advised that we would try and set up a car lift service for next year's reunion.
- **AOB:**
 - SM would like to purchase 2 wreaths on behalf of the Register for laying in France. This was agreed by all.

There followed a presentation on 100th Bomber Group which was enjoyed by all.