

**Minutes of the 201 Squadron 'Guernsey's Own' Association  
Committee Meeting Held 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
At The Railway House, Nairn/Zoom**

<b>Present:</b>	Chris Birks	CB	Chairman
	Neil Campbell	NC	Treasurer
	Dick Gould	DG	IT Rep (Zoom)
	Rosie Hall	RH	FB Rep (Zoom)
	Justin Morris	JM	201 Sqn
	Paul Warrener	PW	Historian
	Joe Kennedy	JK	Secretary (Zoom)

### **Introduction**

1. CB thanked all for attending and stated the main aim of the meeting was to debrief the 2024 reunion in Guernsey and discuss membership options for Sqn members, as well as discuss the 2025 reunion in Scotland.

### **Apologies**

2. Flt Lt Dave Miles and Sgt Kerri Madle-Simpson (201 Sqn LOs) sent their apologies as they were unable to attend due to various commitments.

### **Notes of Last Meeting**

3. The Notes of the last Meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved.

### **Actions Arising**

4. All actions from the last meeting had been completed, and there were no follow ups required.

### **Guernsey Reunion 2024 Debrief**

5. The reunion had been well received by those who had attended, with many offering their appreciation for the work of the committee and thanks to the Guernsey guests who gave such wonderful hospitality.
6. The issue of toasts during the formal dinner was discussed, and it was decided that future events would toast the Squadron, especially if the Sqn Commander was present.
7. As a result of visits to the Priaulx Library in St Peter Port, some additional history relating to the Sqn was obtained and shared with PW for developing the historical knowledge. Additionally, the son of a member of No 1 RNAS was introduced to CB and JK at the Church service and subsequent emails with him have elicited more information about his father's career on the Sqn.

8. During the visit to the 201 Sqn Museum at Castle Cornet, Sheena Baker delivered a speech and presented her husband's log books and a photograph of Jeff's crew from the early 70s to the Museum. Subsequently, the Museum asked if the names of the crew could be identified. CB asked if RH could put the photograph on the Association Facebook page to see if any crew members could be identified.

**ACTION: RH to place the crew photograph on the Assoc Facebook page**

Actioned 09/07/2024.

9. Sqn Ladies scarves sold well during the reunion including by serving Sqn members who were on the island. (Total 11 sales)
10. **Finance** NC reported that the Association account currently stood at £4,345.10. This figure includes £315 made from the raffle, together with sales of 11 scarves and 9 ties. One scarf and one tie were gifted during the reunion.
11. JK suggested that future raffles could be conducted more efficiently to enable participants to purchase tickets in advance of the dinner, although to have tickets available for sale at the dinner if requested. CB suggested that sales could be initiated at the start of the reunion ie Meet and Greet.

**Squadron Liaison**

12. JM reported that the whole Sqn were going to Guernsey for the Battle of Britain celebrations and also to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the Privilege to the Sqn. CM (current Association Chairman) and Andy Stewart (OC 201 Sqn for the 1994 Parade) had been invited to attend.
13. CB raised the question of serving Sqn members and Association membership status. The issue had been raised at the 2024 AGM, and some senior Sqn members reported that many junior members were unhappy at having to be fully paid-up Association members to sign up to the Association Facebook page. CB suggested that 3 options should be considered:
  - Pay a small fee to access the Facebook page only
  - Pay the full Association lifetime fee
  - Pay an abated Association fee, with the balance of the lifetime fee to be paid on leaving the Sqn

Committee opinions were aired.

**ACTION: CB to obtain Committee opinions by email and discuss the proposed option with the Sqn.**

14. CB advised that OC 201 had offered to take the lead on the 2025 Reunion in the Lossiemouth and Moray area. CB suggested that the Sqn should lead on the Meet & Greet, Dinner and any events over the weekend of 17-19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025. It was envisaged that the Association would lead on an accommodation package for those attendees that required it. CB asked JM if he could feed this back to Dave Miles on his return from detachment. DG expressed his reservations about the Sqn organising the dinner as it was an Association

event. CM accepted this but hoped that the dinner could be held on camp at Lossiemouth in either the Officers or Sgts Mess. An initial planning meeting should be held between OC 201, CB and the Sqn Liaison Officers to discuss options.

**ACTION: JM to brief DM and arrange a meeting with CB and OC201 to discuss Sqn members Association fees and the 2025 Reunion.**

### **Website**

15. DG reported that previous technical issues with the website had been resolved. The main issue remains lack of new material and lack of use. There have been no merchandise purchases since February, and no input has been received from the Sqn since then either. JM reports that the Sqn continues to be incredibly busy operationally, but that he would send reminders to the Liaison Officers. CB made a plea to all Committee members to submit any interesting material that could be published, especially history extracts. PW agreed to look at this after a busy period with other commitments. DG also mentioned the Discussion area, which was barely used. CB agreed to circulate a note to members reiterating the existence of the Discussion tab and requesting that it be used for such things as suggestions and ideas for Reunions. RH offered to add some images of available merchandise on the FB page with a signpost to the website. CB stated that a Discussion thread could be started to talk about the 2025 reunion, ascertain initial interest levels and get ideas for events.

**ACTION: All committee members to consider submissions to the website, particularly stories involving Sqn history.**

**ACTION: CB to circulate a note to members reminding them of the existence of the website Discussion tab and suggesting possible topics such as the 2025 Reunion.**

**ACTION: RH to add a post to the Facebook page reminding members about the merchandise page and providing a link to it.**

### **Facebook**

17. RH reported that membership of the FB page has increased to 500 with any non-Association members being signposted to JK to advise of the full membership options and processing of their applications. RH puts relevant information on the page including deaths and funeral details for any notified maritime personalities regardless of links to 201 Sqn. She welcomed PWs historical inputs and invited the Sqn to submit their own news stories eg RIMPAC 24.

### **History**

18. PW reported that he was continuing to submit posts of Sqn historical importance to the Facebook page, relevant to the date of posting eg Op CORK operations covering the surveillance of the Channel for the D-Day landings and Normandy operations. CB thanked him for all his efforts which were well received.

**AOB**

19. JK stated that he had received mails from former Canadian exchange AEO, Lew Ferris, who wished to join the Association but had experienced difficulties transferring the fee internationally. He had also started looking at booking accommodation for the next reunion in Scotland but had been advised to pause until further details had firmed up.

**Date of Next Meeting**

20. A meeting date would be arranged for Oct/Nov after the Sqns visit to Guernsey in September and initial discussion with the Sqn about the 2025 Reunion.

DRAFT