

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NO 201 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE St PIERRE PARK HOTEL, GUERNSEY, ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024**

**ATTENDEES**

The following Association members attended the 2024 Annual General Meeting:

Chris Birks (Chairman)	Joe Kennedy (Sec)	Neil Campbell (Treasurer)	Dick Gould (IT)
Sir Geoffrey Rowland	Lady Diana Rowland	AVM Andrew Roberts	Air Cdre Garry Porter
Andrew Stewart	Wg Cdr Rob McCartney (OC 201)	Dorothy Birks	Jackie Gould
Sheena Baker	Beverlie Blee	Karen Seward	Rebecca Sarre
Jim Reid	Pat Reid	Phill Basey	Jane Basey
Martin Coales	Harry Nockolds	Hector Hillman	Alan Anderson
Michael Buehner-Coldrey	Brian Quintin-Baxendale	Mike Beane	Dave Irvine
David Newth			

Ser	Lead	Item	Comments	Actions
1	Chair/Sec (CB/JK)	Welcome. Apologies	The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members. Apologies had been received from the following members: Paul Warrener (C – Historian), Chris Moore, Terry Earl, Peter Stean, Raj Patel, Douglas Torrance, Drew Steel, George Borwick, John Bussey, Geoff Hanson, Derek Larkin, Andrew Walker, Bob and Rosie Hall (C – FB), Paul Warrener, Terry Boissell, James Johnston, Mike Hill, Richie Williams, Alan Brunger, Dave and Dawn Tennant.	
2	Chair/Sec (CB/JK)	Minutes of Previous Meeting	The Chairman advised that the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed by email previously. CB outlined the actions and status and thanked Jane and Phill Basey for their work on the ladies scarves merchandise. <b>Minutes approved – Garry Porter (P) / Harry Nockolds (S)</b>	
3	Chairman (CB)	Chairman's Update	Chairman advised that since he took over at last AGM, the following events and initiatives have occurred: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CB had instigated direct liaison with Sqn</li> <li>• CB, NC and PW had been invited to the Sqn to deliver presentation to Sqn members about the Association's history, aims and value to the Sqn</li> <li>• CB held 3 committee meetings (attendees in person and remotely)</li> <li>• Two Sqn Liaison Officers had been appointed who, together with FS Justin Morris, attend meetings when able</li> <li>• CB presented Sqn with a print of a Sqn flying boat, and the Sqn hosted a number of Assoc members for lunch at Lossiemouth Officers Mess.</li> <li>• Association members have started to meet serving Sqn members at functions such as the</li> </ul>	

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			<p>Lt Governor's reception at Govt House in St Peter Port.</p> <p>CB outlined the issue of encouraging serving Sqn members to join the Assoc and invited discussions from the floor at which several options were proposed.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>1. <b>Membership options for serving Sqn members to be explored by committee</b></p>	Committee
3a	Sec (JK)	Sec's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership total 358 Lost Track (emails etc) 23 One US based member requested his membership was cancelled JK reported that work to update contact details of members who had fallen through the gaps was a priority, together with ensuring that applicants to the Facebook page were also captured as members of the Association.</li> <li>19 new members since June 2023 including 3 serving Sqn members and a number of relatives of former Sqn members who have passed away.</li> <li>PW had researched the names of former Sqn members for relatives and provided them with new information for which they have all been grateful.</li> <li>Off Task – 3 notified. John Nash, Gp Capt Terry Flanagan, Capt John Hutchence. In addition, the death of former Sqn Nav and serving officer Flt Lt Andrew Gill was noted by the attendees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p>2. <b>Sec to continue liaison with FB Rep for FB page applicants.</b></p> <p>3. <b>Sec to continue resolving details of members who have lost track</b></p>	<p>JK / RH - Ongoing</p> <p>JK - Ongoing</p>
3b	Treasurer (NC)	Treasurer Report	<p>NC reported the Association account for 29 Sep 23 – 02 May 24 – ANNEX A attached</p> <p><b>Account approved – Dave Irvine (P) / Andy Stewart (S)</b></p> <p>CB stated that it may be necessary to use Association funds to cover shortfalls caused by short notice cancellations of reunions due to illness etc. Otherwise, admin charges for attendees will increase.</p>	
3c	IT Manager (DG)	Website Update	<p>DG outlined the Association IT strategy following the formation of a sub committee after the last AGM. Essentially, the website will be used as a searchable repository for items of long-term interest, while the Facebook page will be used for the daily exchange of views, ideas and information. Additional social media channels may be exploited in the future at the discretion of the</p>	

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			<p>committee, dependent on volunteers able to manage such channels.</p> <p>DG reported that the website had fallen into disuse and disrepair largely due to the dormancy of the Sqn. The website had not been maintained or updated for some time, and the webmaster was commissioned to fix the issues which cost £100</p> <p>DG demonstrated the refreshed website with new documents and material, but requested that contributions by members would be necessary to ensure the website flourished in the future.</p> <p>CB thanked DG for the excellent work to re-generate the site. <b>Andrew Roberts proposed a formal vote of thanks, David Newth seconded.</b></p>	
3d	Facebook Coord (RH)	FB Update (provided by JK)	<p>RH reported the Assoc FB page had 493 active users, an increase of 9 since the last AGM. The most active contributor to the FB page is Historian PW who provides detailed and thought-provoking articles of historical interest. RH also reported that applicants who weren't already Assoc members were signposted to JK to enable them to formally apply; however, a number of FB applicants declined to complete membership of the Association, and their requests were discontinued. A question was asked about contacting those drop offs, if the FB joining criteria was revised. JK said that it would be possible to contact failed applicants should membership criteria be updated.</p>	
3e	Assoc Historian (PW)	Historian Update (provided by CB)	<p>PW's activities as Association historian had already been well reported. However, during this reunion visit to the Prialx Library, a newspaper article from 6<sup>th</sup> May 1939 describing the island's affiliation with 201 Sqn was seen. The curator would be a very useful source of information for PW and the Sqn history. PW is a member of the Guild of Aviation Artists and had donated one of his framed pictures of Sqn flying boats to the Lt Governor. CB formally recorded a vote of thanks to PW for all his efforts but particularly his historical articles.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>4. <b>Chairman to link Historian to the curator of the Prialx Library</b></p>	<p>CB / PW 08/10/2024 - Complete</p>
3f	Chairman (CB)	Committee Summary	<p>CB stated that the Association was working well with the Sqn but more work was needed to decide how to attract serving Sqn members to the Association and what criteria would apply. Also work required to reconcile actual Association membership numbers with Facebook numbers, and bring more 'lost' members back into the group. The Association finances are in good health, the website is much improved, and Historian section is working well.</p>	

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4	Chairman (CB)	Association Charter	<p>CB outlined that the existing Association Constitution required updating as the Sqn had been disbanded and then reformed and the old Constitution did not reflect the practicalities of this circumstance for the Association. The new Charter addresses this, and explicitly provides for any future changes to the status of 201 Sqn. The updated Charter explicitly states the criteria for membership including relatives of deceased members. Previously, committee membership was restricted to 4 core officials who were proposed and ratified by the AGM. To reflect the inclusion of additional officials to assist the Association, the new Charter provides that the appointment of such volunteers will be made by the Chair and ratified by committee. Finally, the new Charter expands operation of the Association account to the Chair and Secretary in addition to the Treasurer, for redundancy purposes.</p> <p><b>Charter approved – Michael Buehner-Coldrey (P) / Dave Irvine (S)</b></p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>5. IT Rep to add new Charter to the Association website</p>	<p>DG 08/10/2024 - Complete</p>
5	Chairman (CB)	Merchandise	<p>CB stated that the ladies scarves were selling well including to serving Sqn members for use as cap liners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike Hill had suggested that the Assoc consider stocking cufflinks, and this was agreed as a good idea. OC201 proposed that the Sqn lead on this and he would talk to liaison officer Dave Miles to progress it.</li> <li>• Phill Basey suggested updating the Sqn tie design, possibly in similar Sqn colours as the scarves. The meeting considered this a good idea and would be progressed once current tie stocks had been sold. The membership could be surveyed on suitable designs</li> </ul> <p><b>Chairman formally recorded a vote of thanks to Jane and Phill Basey for their excellent work on the ladies scarves.</b></p> <p><u>Decisions</u></p> <p>6. Sqn Liaison Officer to update on progress with cufflinks at committee meeting</p> <p>7. Chairman to add new product suggestions to committee meeting agenda</p>	<p>OC201 / DM CB</p>
6	Chairman (CB)	Reunions	<p>CB discussed the reunion on Guernsey and, although the event is normally held in October, the suggestion by the President, at the last AGM, to hold it over the period of Liberation Day</p>	

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			<p>celebrations in May was a good idea. CB indicated that it might be better for future events on Guernsey to be extended over a slightly longer period and to keep Liberation Day free of formal Association events.</p> <p>CB advised the meeting that the previous OC201 had agreed that the next reunion (2025) should be held in Moray and had offered to lead on the event. Wg Cdr McCartney was happy to fulfil that commitment and CB suggested that 201 Sqn could lead in partnership with the Association. The dates of 17-19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 were proposed and OC201 was happy with that.</p> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>8. 2025 Association Reunion to be held in Moray 17-19<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025, with 201 Sqn leading the event in partnership with the Association <b>Andy Stewart (P) / OC201 (S)</b></p>	OC201 / CB
7	Chairman (CB)	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mike Hill sent information that the Shackleton aircraft at the Gatwick Aviation Museum (www.gamc.org.uk) where he volunteered, was being refurbished and it was intended to repaint it in 201 Sqn colours.</li> <li>OC201 raised the issue of a silver rosebowl which had been presented to the Sqn by the Association for its 100th anniversary. The former Assoc Chairman (AS) had proposed that it should be awarded to someone on Guernsey who had made a significant contribution to the links between the Sqn and island. The following year, it would be awarded by the island back to a worthy Sqn member. The proposal was agreed in principle and various discussions were held by attendees which made valuable suggestions for how the process could work. <b>OC201 (P) / David Newth (S)</b></li> </ul> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>9. Sub Committee to be formed between representatives of the Sqn, Association and Guernsey to progress this proposal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Former Association Chairman Andy Stewart proposed a formal vote of thanks to the committee for all the work that had been done in the last year, particularly the work of the IT team who had rebuilt the website and communications channels. <b>Vote of thanks Andy Stewart (P), Unanimous approval to proposal as lack of</b></li> </ul>	<p>CB 08/10/2024 – Complete: Decision made to award to suitable Guernsey recipient each year</p>

Ser	Lead	Item	Comments	Actions
			<p><b>identified seconder</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Irvine advised that 201 Sqn are the current holders of the Fincastle Trophy, which was last contested in 2008. He proposed that there was something added to the website to highlight that fact. OC 201 stated that the Fincastle competition was cancelled for 2024, but that it was hoped to resurrect it in 2025.</li> </ul> <p><u>Decision</u></p> <p>10. Dave Irvine to work with the Sqn to produce an article about the Fincastle and Nairn Trophy for the Association website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JK advised that some members had asked questions about the VPI organisation, and whether there was any activity with the maritime Sqns at Lossiemouth. OC201 stated there was a Sqn VPI representative, and Dave Irvine suggested that the role of VPI could be included in the proposed article about Fincastle.</li> <li>CB gave details of the 2024 reunion dinner and format of the evening.</li> </ul> <p><b>Meeting was closed at 1700</b> <b>Next AGM Oct 2025 date/time TBD</b></p>	<p>DI / DM</p>

Annex:

A. Balance Sheet as at 29/09/2023 - 02/05/2024

## 201 Squadron Association

### Balance Sheet 29 Sep 23 - 02 May 24

#### INCOME

Balance B/F	£ 3,436.74
New membership	£ 260.00
Admin Charge	£ 469.09
Whisky Raffle	£ 320.00
Ties	£ 200.00
Donations	£ 871.40

**Total** **£ 5,557.23**

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#### EXPENDITURE

02 May 24 Whisky Gift for Bailiff	£ 65.00
23 Apr 24 St Pierre Park H Function room	£ 460.00
23 Apr 24 Island Coachways	£ 406.16
11 Apr 24 Web Domain Design	£ 100.00
09 Apr 24 Silver plate for picture frame SB	£ 87.50
02 Apr 24 Beachlea Framing	£ 110.00
25 Mar 24 Island Coachways Deposit	£ 174.07
28 Feb 24 James Morton Ltd Scarves	£ 806.40
23 Jan 24 Jewelion Web design	£ 60.00
20 Oct 23 Whisky for Raffle	£ 70.00

**Total** **£ 2,339.13**

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**Total Funds available £3218.10 02 May 24**

Assets: Ties: Red 28 Blue 44 Total 72 @ £20 EA £1,440.00

Total Assets:

Scarves: Total 50 @ £20 EA £1,000.00

**£2,440.00**