

MINUTES OF THE HALTON APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 29th MARCH 2014

Present:	D Grant	Chairman
	Gp Capt S A Harper	President
	D Larkin	Deputy Chairman/Archivist
	D O'Brien	Office Manager
	D Knowles	Treasurer
	A King	Membership Secretary
	P Milner	Branches Secretary
	A Parrott	Trading
	R Priest	Halton Grove
	A Farley	IT Manager
	B Smith	Council Member
	P West	Council Member
	L Shardlow	General Secretary
	Plus 82 members	

**Item 1 – Introduction and Apologies**

The meeting was opened with the election of a new Chairman. It was proposed by Sir Dusty Miller that Duncan Grant be elected for the ensuing 3 years and seconded by Jim Brackley (99th). The members present voted unanimously in favour of the proposal.

Sir Dusty then gave a vote of sincere thanks to Geoff Burton the outgoing Chairman for his work with the Association over the past 3 years and made a presentation of plate hand carved by Malcolm Taylor.

Geoff thanked Sir Dusty for his kind words and wished the Association well for the future.

The meeting was then opened with the Apprentice Prayer.

The Chairman welcomed the President, Group Captain Simon Harper, our Vice-Patrons, AM Sir Dusty Miller and AM Cliff Spink, Vice-Presidents and members attending. He also welcomed the senior member present but in true Apprentice tradition found that he had sloped off after staying for lunch!

Apologies had been received from our Patron, ACM Sir Michael Armitage, AC Mike Evans, and 21 other members.

**Item 2 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd March 2013 had been posted on the website. It was proposed by Des Knowles (97th) and seconded by Peter Brown (96th) that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Item 3 – Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 4 – Election of Officers and Trustees**

There were two new positions to be filled:

**Deputy Chairman** – Peter West was proposed by John Nelson and seconded by Cliff Spink and carried unanimously by the members present.

**Welfare** – Andrew MacKenzie proposed by Denis O'Brien and seconded by Duncan Grant and carried unanimously by the members present.

All other members of the Council had agreed to stay in post and were voted in unanimously.

#### **Item 5 – Membership**

The membership statistics were displayed and expanded upon by the Membership Secretary. The Chairman thanked Tony and Peter for their efforts over the last period.

#### **Item 6 – Branch Matters**

Nothing to report.

#### **Item 7 - Association Finances**

The Association's accounts for the year 2013 had been previously published the Haltonian and the Treasurer explained them to the members present.

It was proposed by Denis O'Brien and seconded by Alec Brown that the accounts for the past financial year be adopted and agreed unanimously by the members present.

The Treasurer stated that he would not be continuing after the current financial year and a vote of thanks for his efforts over the past few years was given by Cliff Spink.

#### **Item 8 – Appointment of Financial Examiner**

The Association's previous treasurer, Fred Crooks, indicated that he was willing to stand as the Independent Financial Examiner. It was proposed by Barry Smith and seconded by Malcolm Taylor that he should be appointed as such. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Item 9 – Haltonian**

Graeme Booker of the Editorial team gave a presentation of the working of the Haltonian and encouraged the members to please submit any articles they would like printed in future editions.

The Chairman thanked the team for their efforts and for maintaining the output of the magazine without interruption

#### **Item 10 – Trenchard Museum**

A small presentation was given by the Curator of the Trenchard museum.

#### **Item 11 – Halton Grove**

The Chairman asked to record a vote of thanks to Ron Priest and his team on behalf of the Association. For the excellent work they are doing at the Halton Grove.

#### **Item 12 – Association Apprentice Award**

The Chairman reported that a Memorandum of Understanding had been reached with No 1 S of TT and was confident the first presentation of the Award would take place in 2015.

#### **Item 13 – Council Report**

The Chairman reported that most of the previous year had been taken by the organisation of the Triennial last September, which once again had turned out to be a very successful day.

The Chairman wished it to be recorded that a vote of thanks be given to the Council for the organisation of the day and to the Station for allowing the Association to use their premises.

#### **Item 14 – Future of the Association**

The Chairman stated that he, The Vice Patrons and the other members of the Council felt it was very important to expose our legacy more publicly and to that end the Association would be embarking on a project to ensure our heritage is there for posterity and for all to see. There would be some financial commitment involved in such a project.

#### **Item 15 – President's Address**

Group Captain Simon Harper, Station Commander, RAF Halton opened his address stating that he again felt privileged to be the President of the Association. He said that the RAFHAA was part of the Halton DNA.

2013 had been a very busy year for both RAF Halton and the Association, with Centenary of Flight and the Triennial plus other events throughout the year. However time passed very quickly and this would be his last AGM as he was handing over command to Gp Capt Adrian Burns on the 20th August 2014, but he would remember his time at Halton fondly. The President stated that the Halton spirit is alive and well and morale across the station is good. There were challenges ahead and the station could expect a few busy years. He stated that the links between the Station and the HAA were as strong as ever and as President he would like to thank the Council, Vice Patrons and members for their continued support of a remarkable Association and for which he had felt proud to have acted as its President.

#### **Item 16 – Patron's Address**

In the absence of our Patron, Sir Michael Armitage, Sir Dusty Miller thanked the CO for his address and wished him well in his next post.

Sir Dusty then read the following message from Sir Michael:

"Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you today. It is a great tribute to all those PT sessions and drill parades that so many of us are still active in retirement, though quite a few like me must plead excused boots or even in my place excused parades. Meanwhile the Association remains in very good heart,

thanks to a robust committee and two Deputy Patrons, who all continue to devote so much time and effort to our success. We owe them a tremendous vote of thanks, and I am sure today's AGM will show its appreciation in the usual enthusiastic manner. With all good wishes for today's get-together, and for the future of the Association".

With all good wishes. Michael 56<sup>th</sup>

#### **Item 17 – Closure**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1500hrs.

D Grant  
Chairman RAFHAA

L J Shardlow  
General Secretary RAFHAA