



2015-16 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

This report was prepared by the Association Secretary on behalf of the Committee and was subsequently ratified at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

1...GENERAL OFFICERS

The following, elected under Rule 7 a-d (duties) have led the Committee throughout the past 12 months – John Fagan (Chairman) Jay O'Donnell (Vice-Chair) Ian Williams (Secretary/ Membership) and Peter Jays (Treasurer)

2...COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following, elected under Rule 6, have served in Committee over the past 12 months: ~ Harry Worth (FNF Rep) John Sheldon, McR., Nipper Naylor, Dave Hunn and John Dollin. Jay O'Donnell and Andy Vanes have assisted the Committee from within the Aircrewman fraternity at Culdrose and Yeovilton respectively. Harry Worth has managed the Association's website. Once again the Committee have received sterling support from our Patron, Andy Barnwell.

3...FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Treasurer furnished the meeting with a rundown of the Association's finances for the past 12 months and were accepted as a true account. An inspected witnessed audit of our accounts took place prior to the 2013 AGM.

4...MEETINGS

The 2015 AGM (ACA38) took place at the Durrant House hotel on April 26th. Your Committee held its autumn interim meeting in Butlins in Minehead on October 10th last. The Association's Fly Navy Federation Rep, Harry Worth, has represented the ACA by continuing to attend various meetings of that organisation throughout the year. We continue to have a seat at all FNF meetings.

5...OTHER ASSOCIATIONS and ORGANISATIONS

We have continued to maintain strong social links with the following sister FAA organizations and regularly exchange news and views, correspondence and magazines ~ FAAOA (Officers), FAAHA (Handlers), FAAAA (Armourers) and the RNR Air Branch. We also support and maintain, through Andy Vanes and Paul Collacott, a cordial working relationship with the RN Historic Flight. We continue our link with the Royal British Legion by way of the Cenotaph celebrations every November (see Note 10) As stated earlier, we have had an active seat on the Fly Navy Federation Committee which met regularly throughout the past year.

6...RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STRATEGY

All Committee Members continue to promote your Association with a view to increasing its profile within the service and beyond.

As stated earlier (Para 2) WOACMN Jay O'Donnell has overseen all ACA matters at RNAS Culdrose whilst Andy Vanes, looks after our interests at RNAS Yeovilton.

The Associations profile is as high as ever on all FAA Squadrons and at all the major Air Stations. Future social events will continue to be advertised in and around the crewrooms. Joining forms are available to all serving Aircrewmen within the Fleet Air Arm and we continue to support our air station reps with admin back up and communication. It's satisfying to note that Membership from within the serving Aircrewman community is still on the increase.

7...MEMBERSHIP

Since the last AGM (2015) we have recruited 8 new FULL Members
Sadly, 2 Full Members have passed away. We have also heard that
two fellow ex-aircrewmembers have passed away recently.

We have received one resignation.

All Members now have their own numbered ACA Membership
card and every new joiner is welcomed by letter and issued with a
new car sticker, an Association book marker and the latest copy of
TACAN.

Following a decision made at the 2006 AGM, and endorsed by the
Committee at successive meetings, all incorrect payers do not
enjoy any Member benefits (see Para 11)

OUR CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (as of 01.04.16)

STANDS AT:

FULL ~ 275

LIFE ~ 32

ASSOCIATE ~ 18

OVERSEAS ~ 47

HONORARY ~ 37

TOTAL ~ 409

PLUS:

Paying only £10 ~ 16

Current serving RN members number 62. (22.6%)

8...SPORTING EVENTS

John Sheldon continues as Flag Officer Golf. Last year's event was held prior to the 2015 AGM where Eddie (Soapy) Watson won the Billy Deacon Memorial Trophy.

9...ASSOCIATION WEBSITE (www.aircrewman.org.uk)

The new website was launched at the 2013 AGM and demonstrated by the new Webmaster Harry Worth. All fully paid up members now need to register on the site to gain access to the "Members Only" areas. With Internet access now widely available, it is satisfying to know that most applications for Membership come from the website via the on-line joining form or from our newly formed Facebook page. We remain committed to support and develop this resource as a key to our future communications strategy. The current annual cost to maintain our site is £102.49 (Registration is £25 every 2 years and hosting is £89.99) We have now found our way onto various MOD, Naval and other Service Association links pages.

9a)...FACEBOOK

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/15178468935/>)

The ACA now has a thriving Facebook page with 283 Members where the Aircrewman fraternity and interested parties (ACA members or not) can exchange posts, dits, pictures and chat.

10...ROYAL BRITISH LEGION/REMEMBRANCE

Some years ago your Committee applied to the RBL for the right to take an active part in the Cenotaph march past annually in November. This was granted and we initially received 30 tickets each year. Association attendance continues to increase year on year and we now receive an increased number of tickets

After the main parade we now join up with other FAA Associations and march as one contingent to pay our respects at a short ceremony at the FAA Embankme

11...TACAN

This is the Association's main financial outgoing. Annual cost to produce is around £1500 and postage costs approx. £450 per annum. We continue to seek, through our Patron and other means, substantial sponsorship from major companies and we will continue to pursue this avenue of income to support and part finance the cost. All editions now contain more colour content, and as a result, there has been a slight increase in production cost. Edition 52 was despatched to Members in mid-January of this year. The magazine now costs approx £2.45 per issue (£4.90 pa) ~ This New Year's issue was only £1.66.

Over 40 Members now opt for an electronic (.pdf copy) sent by the Secretary by EMail. Following a decision taken at the September Committee meeting all Overseas Members with Email addresses now receive their magazines via this method. Both these initiatives save the Association approx £52 p.a..

In accordance with a decision made by the AGM some years ago, Members in arrears with their subscriptions and ex-Members do not receive TACAN. The magazine is now distributed to all Squadron crewrooms regardless of ACA Membership therein.

12...FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS/MEETINGS

The 2016 Autumn interim Committee meeting will take place in London on 10th September next.

The next AGM (2017 our 40th birthday) will take place at De Vere venues at Wokefield Park near Reading over the weekend of April 21 and 22. A Sub-Committee has been established to oversee the planning of this event.

IAN WILLIAMS
ASSOCIATION SECRETARY
APRIL 2016

