



**MINUTES OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE
FLY NAVY FEDERATION
Fleet Air Arm Museum, RNAS Yeovilton, 21st May 2010, 1100**

Present:

Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham	COS (Aviation and Carriers) and RAFAA
Phil Carpenter	Chairman/Secretary
Vic Murphy	Aircraft Handlers Association
David (Harry) Worth	Aircrewmans Association
John Hallam	Armourers Association
Jill Charles	Cloud Observers Association
Arnold Thompson	Fleet Air Arm Association
Ben Worship	Fleet Air Arm Association
Dave Clark	Fleet Air Arm Buccaneer Association
Trevor Wilkinson	Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Association
Jimmy Andrews	Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Association
Harold Williams	Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Association
Mike Purse	Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association
Peter Rickard	Fleet Air Arm Officers' Association Webmaster
Ray Whitehouse	RN Photographers Association
John Phillips	RN Safety Equipment and Survival Association
Tom Dawson	Sea Harrier Association
Nick Foster	Fly Navy Heritage Trust
Lt Cdr Gavin Simmonite DFC	EA to COS (Avn)

INTRODUCTION

1. The secretary, standing in as chairman, passed on apologies from RAdm Clayton who was called away on business at short notice. He then welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming.

PREVIOUS MINUTES AND ACTIONS ARISING

2. Outstanding points from the 9th meeting were carried forward to the current agenda. With no further comment on specific points the minutes were accepted.

COMMAND BRIEF

3. The meeting was honoured by the presence of Rear Admiral Tom Cunningham, who recently (April) took over the role of Chief of Staff (Aviation and Carriers) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm. He gave an excellent and entertaining 30 minute brief on the current challenging but positive state of affairs for the FAA and for the wider Navy in general. He also took questions from the association representatives and re-emphasised the positive and beneficial role played by the associations in maintaining the proud heritage of the FAA. All were highly impressed by his attitude towards the Associations of the Federation and his brief on the state of the FAA, and it was excellent recognition of the ongoing relevance of the Associations to have the Admiral take time to attend the meeting so early in his tenure.

FNHT UPDATE (Contact: **01935 842005/849200**, www.royalnavyhistoricflight.org.uk/fnht, office@fnht.co.uk)

4. i. Nick Foster gave a brief update on the Historic Flight, focussing on the ongoing difficulties with the Swordfish engine – if anyone knows any Swordfish engineers please pass their details on to the HF! The Seahawk is serviceable and will be displaying this year, although the single seat Sea Fury will not. The twin seat Sea Fury should be ready to fly in the next month, and there will also be the Seafire and Skyraider ‘federated’ aircraft on the circuit.

ii. Nick discussed the ongoing need for increased finance to keep the FNHT running, which is particularly difficult in the current troubled financial times. He emphasised that any and all financial input helps to keep things running – please continue to encourage members to donate where possible and to sign up as FNHT supporters. The 2010 Grand Draw tickets are now available, so please sell these at all association AGMs and reunions.

iii. Nick also gave a roundup of the latest events and those due to take place this year – please go on to the website (**note new website address above**) for all details – especially as some have free Swordfish Ale available. He emphasised that the Air Day tent will be in place again this year, and that the cheapest tickets anywhere (£14) for Air Day are available to Supporters of the FNHT. Please contact the office for details.

iv. Swordfish Ale is available in Asda supermarkets within the Devizes local area (home of Wadworths brewery), as well as from the brewery direct. The FNHT does benefit from sales so please do order stocks for any association events. Nick has details of the contacts at Wadworths, so please contact him directly for those.

FLY NAVY FEDERATION PROJECTS

5. i. Remembrance Day Cenotaph march past – 2010 proceedings.

A letter has gone in to the Royal British Legion requesting that, as per last year's event, the Associations of the FAA be allowed to march as one company. This has been accepted and all associations are to apply to the RBL for their allocation of tickets in the normal manner (in June), indicating 'Fly Navy Federation' at the top of the application. The order within the column will remain the same for the sake of simplicity and continuity.

The 2010 post-march social will not be prescriptive for those associations/members who wish to do their own thing. However, the Tattershall Castle pub has been recognised as an excellent location for those who do wish to gather at one venue after paying respects at the Embankment memorial. Details will be finalised at the next meeting.

Ray Whitehouse of the RNPA will once again be applying for press accreditation, so it will be excellent to have a dedicated 'Federation' photographer on site, and a way will be found to highlight the Federation column to Ray.

ii. Copyright of official photographs.

This issue was raised by Arnold Thompson, and it was understood by all present that if pictures carry the caption 'Crown Copyright' and are not used for profitable purposes then it is ok to use them in association publications.

iii. FAA memorial - National Memorial Arboretum.

Mike Purse gave an update on the progress to repair the frost damage to the mortar and slightly faded paint on the FAA memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. After research and testing the repairs are due to take place very soon, and the memorial will be restored to new condition, all within the budget allocated. Once repairs have been carried out there will be further discussions on the provision of funds for the future upkeep of the memorial.

Most associations have discussed at length and decided on their preferred plaque designs, and this will be an agenda item at the next meeting once the repairs have been completed. All agreed that it was appropriate to take time to make the right decision, and by the next meeting all remaining associations should have decided on their preferred design, and the majority vote will then decide the style and placing of the plaques.

iv. Proposed Federation Logo.

The association representatives thanked John Phillips (RNSESA) for his outstanding work on designing a Federation logo. Having come up with several excellent designs, the majority vote decided on one logo that John will now finalise once he has the correct wings emblems; he will then make the logo available to all for use on association literature in due course. A further email will follow-on after the minutes regarding the logo and its use. Once again, thanks to John for all of his (unpaid) efforts.

v. Federation dinner.

Dave Clark discussed the finalised details of the Federation dinner, which promises to be an excellent event, to be held on Saturday 23rd October at the Limes Country Lodge, just south of Birmingham. Information has been distributed to all associations and is on most association websites/in publications – please make sure it continues to be well advertised. Most associations stated that they expected to be able to fill a table of 10, and senior FAA Officers will be approached to ask if they will be prepared to 'chair' the proceedings from the top table. Please direct enquiries to Dave Clark (faaba@tiscali.co.uk) or Dave Morris (david@thepremiergroup.co.uk).

vi. Federation representatives dinner.

A smaller dinner for regular attendees (and partners) of the Federation was discussed, and all present agreed that this was a good idea, especially if done in conjunction with a meeting of the Federation. This will be taken forward to the next meeting for further planning, and will hopefully be implemented for the meeting after next.

vii. Fleet Air Arm fighting arm badge.

This project was initiated by WO Wayne Ronayne, but after much careful consideration it has been shelved for the foreseeable future. WO Ronayne is applauded for his efforts, which were certainly not wasted, and he is now hopefully enjoying his retirement from the Service!

viii. Roundup of association activity and recent events.

Each association gave a current state of affairs, and the general agreement was that, with a few exceptions, membership was healthy and stable, and in many cases increasing, albeit despite the fact that there is currently real difficulty in recruiting current serving personnel. There was no particular explanation for the increased membership, but it was generally thought that the extensive PR provided by FN100 has benefited the associations. There are also two dinners on HMS Victory this year involving associations (Survival Equipment and Photographers), and this should highlight the existence and importance of the associations to current serving members of each branch.

Other pertinent points were:

- RN photographic branch is 90 years old this year and there will hopefully be an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum later in the year – details to follow. This year is also the 50th anniversary of the Peregrine Trophy awards (for best Naval photograph) to be held at the MOD during the week of the 7th of July, where all naval photography from the last year will be displayed. Details of these events will be distributed as soon as they are available.
- The Sea Harrier Association will be providing a presence at the veterans parade at Weymouth in June.
- The TAGs memorial service was a great success once again, and although this year was the last one to be organised by the TAGs, the future organisation of the parade and events has been taken on by the FAAA, for which they are thanked.
- The FAAA in conjunction with Cdr Geoff Bowker, and with approval from Navy Command, is also hoping to continue an observance at the Eastchurch Pioneer Memorial, and a meeting concerning this will take place in June.
- The FAAOA has 45 gliding scholarships available each year, and the scheme is open to all. Associations are asked to consider suitable interested young candidates from all walks of life, and to apply online at www.fleetairarmoa.org.
- The Channel Dash Memorial Trust had a very successful unveiling ceremony of the memorial to 825 Squadron, which took place in Ramsgate on the 12th of February. They are now working towards a permanent memorial to Op Fuller.

AOB

6. Lt Cdr Simmonite said that the momentum gained by FN100 has been widely recognised, and Cdr Sue Eagles is continuing the good work – although there is pressure on the funding for her role even now, and as such the work of the associations is becoming ever more important. A DVD has been produced showing current activity of the FAA, and this will be made available once it has been completed – details to follow from the secretary.

7. Ray Whitehouse announced that on Sunday 17th October the HMS Illustrious Association will be unveiling their memorial in Portland Harbour to the Pinnacle Disaster. More details will be provided when they become available.

8. Dave Clark stated that sales of the whisky have produced something in the region of £3000-4000 for the nominated charities, which is fantastic. Dave is thanked for his ongoing efforts, and it was decided that the Federation dinner in October would be an excellent place to auction off bottle number one, and another bottle will be raffled in the FNHT tent at Air Day. Thanks again Dave.

9. Ben Worship of the FAAA asked if a volunteer has been found to take over running the FAA diary. There has still been no volunteer forthcoming, and all associations are asked if they know of anyone who may be willing to take on the job.

NEXT MEETING.

10. **Friday 24th September 2010.** Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, 1100; this has been confirmed and booked.

Phil Carpenter
Secretary
Fly Navy Federation

(Signed on original)