



Airborne Signals Old Comrades Association

Minutes of a General Meeting held in Holiday Inn, Barnsley on Friday 13th June 2014

Attendance

Committee: J Griffin, R Hamilton, J Aspinall, R Duffy, R Porter plus co-opted members.

Members: A large number of Old Comrades (50-60) attended the meeting.

1. **Chairman Opening Address.** The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking the Committee and all present for attending.
2. **Apologies.** C Treeby, and R Hamilton were unable to attend due to a previous engagements/conflicting travel arrangements.
3. **History and Background of the Old Comrades Association Committee.** The Chairman spoke on the background and history of the Old Comrades Association Committee. He explained that the current Committee was formed by willing volunteers primarily to ensure that Ralph Porter did not bear the heavy load of organising the biennial reunion alone. It was the intention of all Committee members that the Committee should keep its dealings and meetings to the minimum required to deal with the reunion and then only substantive matters raised by Old Comrades.

Discussion from the floor raised the matter of the status of the OCA and resulting obligations of the Committee and members. The Chairman undertook to speak with Maj Gen Last on his role at the inception of the OCA.

[Afternote: The Chairman had this discussion and has also spoken with Colonel Canham, the Royal Signals Regimental Secretary at Blandford. Our OCA is an “affiliated branch” of the RSA and as such is governed by the RSA rules (these can be

seen on the RSA page of the Royal Signals website). These actually impose no onerous conditions on us and also allow us to make our own rules as long as they are not in conflict with the spirit of the RSA rules. The Chairman believes that we are not in any way in breach of these rules.]

4. **Democracy and Transparency.** C White proposed membership of the Committee should be confirmed democratically by the general membership every 2 years. It was further suggested that decisions should be more transparent. The Chairman stated that at every opportunity OCA information will in future be published on the Website. A proposal to thank R Porter and R Duffy for their past services on the Committee was **Carried Unanimously**
5. C White proposed that the current Committee be re-elected to serve for the next 2 years. **Carried Unanimously**

[Afternote: The Chairman has consulted key Committee members and proposed that it send out a letter with the next 2016 Reunion invitation letter notifying a General OCA meeting to be held at the Reunion weekend. The letter will inform members of the current composition of the Committee with a statement of whether Committee members are willing or not to serve on. Old Comrades will be invited to nominate replacements for Committee members and these nominations must be agreed by the person nominated and seconded by another Old Comrade. These are to be voted on at the General Meeting.

Old Comrades may also make proposals for consideration and voting by the general membership at the General Meeting. There will be no AOB – if the item is not on the agenda then it will not be considered. This will give the Committee members an opportunity to consider the issues raised and to respond intelligently and avoid a lengthy and fractious meeting. Any comments or suggestions on this approach would be welcome.]

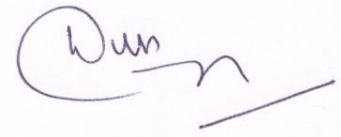
6. **Website Update.** Keith Weller gave details of the updated Website and explained that since being updated, when the time comes to hand over the reins to his successor it will take only a press of a button to pass on responsibility. He agreed to continue to publish all communications from the OCA and to continue to act as the focal point for the Association. The Chairman thanked Keith for his continuing efforts with the website.
7. **Changes to Committee.** It was proposed that (volunteers) Robin Stanley assume the role currently held by Ralph Porter (Social Organiser) and Mick Finn would assist him during his time in post – effective immediately. **Carried Unanimously**

T Aitken proposed Billy Haslam (volunteer) to take over the duties for the Golf competition from J Campbell. **Carried Unanimously**

8. **Review of Weston on the Green Branch, Royal British Legion.** The Committee held a short meeting following the Old Comrades General Meeting. The Chairman gave a short brief on the Weston on the Green (AB Signals) Branch and explained some of the concerns about the current direction of the RBL. The RBL's future support and linkage to the OCA was discussed and it was agreed we should continue to monitor the current situation before

any decision is made to its future. Any feedback, positive or negative, about the performance of the RBL would be welcomed by the Secretary (Ray Duffy).

9. **Next Reunion 2016.** Details of the next reunion will be sent via snail mail to all members. All other information will be passed via the web site. This is due to the rising cost of postage. **Members are urged to ensure their up-to-date details are held by the Secretary (ray.duffy@hotmail.co.uk) e.g. Home address, email address, telephone number.** Those who complained of not receiving details about the 2014 reunion had mostly moved without informing the Secretary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Duffy', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

R J DUFFY
Secretary
OCA

Distribution : All Committee Members
Website for all OCA Members