

Present:	AVM P S Collins	Association President
	Gp Capt H A W Drew	Association Vice President
	Wg Cdr R Wells	OC
11Sqn		
	Mr Iain Small	Association Secretary
	Mr Paul Field	Association Treasurer

In Attendance:

Association Members

Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 30th April 2010, were approved.

Apologies:

AVM Cliffe, AVM Price, Paul Smith, Tony Walker, Jim Wild, Dick Heath, Freddie Cook, Digby Staley, Duncan McNiven, John Taylor, Roger Watson, Tony Large, Graham Perry, Nick Willey, Andy Williams, Ronnie Hush, Erik Collinson, Vic Morrison.

Remembrance:

Iain Small reported with great sadness the passing away of the following members; Tom Curtis, Wg Cdr Ted Nance, Sidney (Timba) Wood, Bruce Spurr, Tony Damer, Gp Capt Ian Thompson, Vernon Evered, Sqn Ldr Jacko Jackson, Alec Maule

Chairman's Address:

Gp Capt Innes was unable to attend as he is leading the Hawk fly-past which is part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations. Mr Iain Small (Secretary) therefore welcomed Association members to RAF Coningsby on behalf of Gp Capt Innes, and passed on his best wishes to all Association members.

AVM Collins (Association President) formally thanked Wg Cdr Wells (OC 11Sqn) on behalf of the Association for his excellent support, and thanked Flt Lt Wyllie for organising this year's events.

Financial Statement:

The Association's Treasurer (Paul Field) reported that disbursements since the last AGM in April 2010 have totaled £643, and that the Association account remains in credit to the approximate sum of £1060. The remaining stock of ties, prints and badges is valued at £1360, giving the Association total assets of £2420. Total assets as of April 2010 were £2319.

Victory Services Club Dinner:

It was unanimously agreed that the function should continue in its present form, but should not take precedence over the annual Squadron hosted event at RAF Coningsby.

The financial viability of the event was also discussed and the requirement for at least 30 attendees to ensure continued viability was emphasised. Association Secretary will liaise with the VSC to ascertain a suitable date in late September, in consultation with the Association Chairman and OC 11Sqn.

Reunion Format in 2013:

It was agreed that the two day format remains popular and the Petwood Hotel is a welcoming and suitable venue for the informal gathering on the evening prior to the Dinner. Continuation of this format was unanimously supported.

OC 11Sqn once again welcomed the Association to RAF Coningsby, and confirmed that the Association will also be most welcome 2013

Legs XI Badge Update:

Paul Field reported that after much effort, solid silver copies of the wartime legs-eleven badge had finally been procured from a silversmith in Calcutta. They are available for purchase for the sum of £15, and over half of the 100 badges procured for the Association have now been sold. 11Sqn Officer's Fund also procured 100 badges.

The creation of a formal 'member for memorabilia' was also proposed. This idea was supported unanimously as it is recognised that maintaining the Association Funds through the creation and procurement of memorabilia such as ties etc is essential. Mr Chris Boden kindly volunteered for the position as he has a lot of experience in the role, which he also undertook while serving on various RAF units. Mr Boden was unanimously accepted and takes over responsibility for current stock with immediate effect; he will also liaise directly with the Association Secretary and Treasurer with regard to future procurement.

National Memorial Arboretum:

John Bailey had asked at the 2010 AGM if it was possible and indeed appropriate for a commemorative plaque to 11Sqn to be commissioned and placed at the National Memorial Arboretum. Chris Boden had agreed at that meeting to investigate the possibility and reported that the RAF garden is now closed to planting. It is still possible to arrange for a memorial cross or stone to be placed, however, this can only be done through RAFA (details are available on the RAFA website.) A lively debate as to whether it remained an appropriate and cost-effective idea ensued, and following a lengthy discussion attendees were asked to vote on the proposal. Six members voted in favour and eighteen against, so the idea was withdrawn from consideration. Chris Boden was thanked for his efforts.

Any Other Business:

MINUTES OF THE XI SQN ASSOCIATION AGM - RAF CONINGSBY – 18th MAY 2012

AVM Collins proposed that Wg Cdr Doug Aylward be appointed to the position of Vice-President in recognition of his long standing support for the Association. This enthusiastically supported and unanimously agreed to by all in attendance.

Mr Jack Nicolson ('Burma Boy') was delighted to present OC 11Sqn with a pocket book in which many of the wartime serving members of the Squadron had written their names and a farewell message to Jack upon the occasion of their repatriation to the UK upon completion of their tour of duty /. He also presented the Squadron's original WWII soccer competition trophy. OC 11Sqn gratefully accepted them on behalf of the Squadron.

Mr Frank Proctor asked if the legs-eleven wartime badges were to be restricted to past and serving squadron members only, as he had been asked by the daughter of a deceased member if it was possible for her to purchase one. It was unanimously agreed at the meeting that it was appropriate for the badges to be made available in such cases.

The meeting closed at 16:45PM

A J INNES
Gp Capt
Association Chairman

Distribution

Action:

Wg Cdr R Wells - OC XI Sqn
Flt Lt D Wyllie - Sqn Association Officer
Iain Small - Association Secretary
Paul Field - Association Treasurer

Information:

ACM Sir Michael Graydon - Association Patron
AVM P S Collins - President
AVM Price - Vice President
AVM Cliffe - Vice President
Gp Capt H A W Drew - Vice President
Wg Cdr Aylward – Vice President
Gp Capt A J Innes - Association Chairman