

Wx Sec 2130

See Distr

11 Apr 19

**WESSEX RESERVE FORCES' AND CADETS' ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019**  
**HELD AT RNAS YEOVILTON**  
**ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Present**

Mrs A Maw	President
Colonel L C A Ranson	Chairman
Mr E D Fursdon	Vice-President
Mr A Campbell	Vice-President
Colonel E T Bolitho OBE	Vice-President
Mrs S R Troughton	Vice-President
Mrs P Golding OBE	Vice President
Mr E Gillespie OBE	Vice-President
Colonel J Thompson TD DL	Chairman City & County of Bristol
Wing Commander S R Richards RAF (Retd)	Chairman Cornwall & Vice-Chairman Air
Commander PJ Burne RD RNR	Chairman Devon
Brigadier D R Wilson CBE	Chairman Dorset
Maj R Wharton TD**	Chairman Gloucestershire
Colonel H A R Hancock	Chairman Wiltshire
Mr Alec Mann	Chairman Estates Committee
Mr Peter Wright	Chairman Finance Committee
Col R Guest TD	Chairman Cadets Committee
Wing Commander Mike Sherburn	Chairman REEG
Captain S Jameson RD RNR	Vice Chairman Naval
Colonel P A Jobbins OBE GM RD*	Vice Chairman Marines
Cdr S Ward RN	COS NRCWWE
Colonel A P L Dawes	Commander, HQSW

And 83 members of the Association.

**In Attendance**

Brigadier S P Hodder and 18 members of the Association Executive.

**Keynote Speakers**

Colonel A P L Dawes	Commander, HQSW
Lieutenant Colonel J Penhale	CO 6 RIFLES
Colonel Ashley Fulford OBE	Colonel Cadets, HQSW

ITEM	DETAIL
(a)	(b)
1	<p><b><u>PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS</u></b></p> <p>The President, Mrs Maw, opened by expressing that she had benefited greatly and learnt a huge amount from her year as President of Wx RFCA, although it had gone by very quickly. She went on to state that the Cadet Force cannot be overstated and children from less privileged backgrounds should be encouraged to attend, as it offers more and more opportunities. Following on from the 2018 AGM, and listening to the Cadets talk about First Aid Training it became an aspiration to set up a system in Somerset schools for children to learn First Aid. A partnership was struck with St John's Ambulance and 3 schools have trialed the training linked to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Mrs Maw was delighted that one of the leading lights of this training was one of her Lord-Lieutenant Cadets.</p> <p>Last week Mrs Maw attended the presentation of the Firmin Sword of Peace to 40 Commando RM, based in Taunton. This award was given in recognition of their humanitarian work, following Storm Irma, in the British Virgin Islands. She went on to suggest that these humanitarian efforts, by the Armed Forces, need to be recognized more widely, as it is a good message to send out. Employers also need to be informed as Reservists assist in these roles and can transfer the skills required back into their civilian employment.</p>
2	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Apologies were received from 68 members who were unable to attend.</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at Wellington School, Somerset, were passed as a true record.</p> <p><b>Proposed By:</b> Wg Cdr Steve Richards  <b>Seconded By:</b> Air Cdre John Bessell</p> <p>Matters Arising. There were no matters arising.</p>
3	<p><b><u>APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS</u></b></p> <p>The President reminded Members that, in accordance with Clause 5 of the Scheme of the Association, it was necessary for new Members to be agreed before the election of the Chairman and County Chairmen to permit the new Members the right to vote.</p> <p><b>Proposed By:</b> Col Hugh Hancock  <b>Seconded By:</b> Maj Robert Wharton</p> <p>All members were elected en-bloc.</p>
4	<p><b><u>ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN</u></b></p> <p>The President explained, that in accordance with Clause 10 of the Scheme for the Association, the Chairman had to be re-elected each year. There were no other nominations. The President thanked Col Ranson for continuing as Chairman and for the time and work he has given to the RFCA over the last year.</p> <p><b>Proposed By:</b> Gp Capt Mike Trace  <b>Seconded By:</b> Col Oliver Chamberlain</p>

5	<p><b><u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMEN</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman reminded Members that County Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen had to be appointed or re-appointed every year. This year there is one new County Chairman and one new Vice Chairman; Air Cdre John Bessell vice Wg Cdr Steve Richards as both County Chairman Cornwall, and Vice-Chairman Air.</p> <p>The list of the new and existing Vice-Chairmen and County Chairmen was tabled as per Annex A. The motion was approved for them to be elected en bloc.</p> <p><b>Proposed By:</b> Wg Cdr Mike Sherburn  <b>Seconded By:</b> Lt Col Craig Hampton-Stone</p>
6	<p><b><u>EMPOWERMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION BOARD</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman proposed the motion that the Board be authorised to:</p> <p>Exercise the powers conferred, and the duties imposed on the Association by the Reserve Forces Act 1996, as amended, and the Regulation made thereunder, and to deliver the requirements set by Service Level Agreements entered into by the Council of RFCAs, in support of the Services, without prior reference to the Association save that this delegation did not extend to any decision relating to the future existence, independence or autonomy of the Association.</p> <p>There are 2 new Board members; Mr Alec Mann becomes Chairman of the Estates Committee Vice Brig Tom Lang, and Col Rob Guest becomes Chairman of the Cadets Committee vice Wg Cdr Ian Todd.</p> <p><b>Proposed By:</b> Chairman  <b>Seconded By:</b> Col Stephen Bartlett</p>
7	<p><b><u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all Association Members, and in particular the recently appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire, Mr Edward Gillespie, who was attending his first meeting.</p> <p>He went on to discuss the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>The opening of the new Somerset ACF training centre at Yoxter.</b> A bungalow on the Yoxter training facility has been refurbished and dedicated to the former Somerset ACF Commandant, Col Paul Richardson, who died suddenly at the end of 2018. The Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset and Mrs Richardson opened the building which enables both disabled CFAVs and cadets, and cadets on a gender journey, to take an active part in the ACF and benefit from the cadet experience.</li> <li>b. <b>Value for money.</b> Brexit has had an impact on the Defence budget, and with money tight the RFCAs must demonstrate value for money. A review is taking place this year, by Dr Rob Sullivan, of the Council of RFCAs and all 13 RFCAs; a report will go to the MOD. Alongside this, an External Scrutiny Team will be reporting on the Reserve Forces and the Cadet Health Check has recently been published, and is on the Members' Area of the Wx RFCA website.</li> <li>c. <b>Wessex RFCA.</b> Last year Mike Trace emphasized the size of the Wessex region and its unique aspects. There is a vast Armed Forces community within the area and business should pay attention to this. Defence Relationship Management (DRM) are working with the Tri-Service community to inform businesses, and over 3,600 firms have signed the Armed Forces Covenant. In the South West today's total is 421, and therefore thanks was given to the REEDs, Jon and Rachael for their hard work. Wessex also has a large estate to manage, with a small team looking after 271 properties, with a very limited budget. Five of the top 10 FR20 projects are within the</li> </ol>

	<p>Wx RFCA region, and therefore the Estates Team were thanked for their ongoing hard work.</p> <p><b>d. What can the Membership do?</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Look for different organisations and reach out to them for representation within the RFCA, thus making it a more diverse organisation.</li> <li>II. Visit local cadet units and Reserve forces, and link employers, mayors and other persons of interest with the Reserves, helping to turn more people into effective ambassadors.</li> <li>III. Get up-to-date with modern media, including social media, and look for positive stories which can be fed into the Communications team.</li> </ol>
8	<p><b><u>SERVICE AND CADETS REPORTS</u></b></p> <p>Service and Cadet Reports were taken as read. Authors were invited to update their reports if necessary.</p>
9	<p><b><u>MEMBERS' BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>The Chairman introduced the Members' Business Forum, and questions were taken.</p> <p><b>Given the Army's inability to meet its manning targets both for Regulars and Reserves for several years now, why is Capita still holding the Army's recruiting contract even though it fails to achieve its targets every year? Hopefully they receive penalties for contract failures.</b></p> <p>Comd HQSW answered stating that the Army has outsourced recruiting to CAPITA, and GOC Home Command is the relationship Manager. Lt Gen Ty Urch has recently assumed this role, and is holding CAPITA to account. This has had an impact, and along with a new recruiting media campaign recruiting figures have improved. Gen Ty also understands that potential recruits are leaking from the pipeline and he has made improvements and reduced barriers, where appropriate. There are a number of initiatives being put in place to solve the recruiting problems.</p> <p>CO 7MI added that in 5 years their manning figures have increased by 350%. Where the profile is right people are coming and therefore it is not all doom and gloom.</p> <p>CE Wx RFCA added that Maj Gen O'Leary, DCFA, has written a letter reflecting on the improvements in recruiting and, with authority from his office, a copy will go onto the Members' area of the website.</p> <p><b>The purpose and role of Local Authority Members</b></p> <p>The CE explained that each Local Authority is entitled to nominate a member to our Association. Council Covenant Partnerships exist across the Region and provide the RFCA with a helpful channel of networking and communications.</p> <p>Cllr Rod Williams, SCC, added that the County Councils and Local Authorities Covenant Partnerships oversee the promises made by the authorities in their Armed Forces Covenant, and it is only through these partnerships that the Armed Forces Covenant can be delivered effectively.</p> <p><b>The provision of additional ModNet connectivity at Wyvern Bks</b></p> <p>CE Wx RFCA stated that the RFCA only provide the hard infrastructure, and MODNet installations are carried out by the Army.</p> <p>Col Dawes added that whilst MODNet is a very important asset, it is expensive and therefore needs prioritizing. Wyvern Barracks is of significant importance, especially as a hub providing</p>

	<p>support to the emergency services. However, with one third of the Army within HQSW's AOR the queue for additional connectivity is long.</p> <p><b>There is FR20 funding for the refurbishment of Swindon ARC. Is there any indication of when the money will be released?</b></p> <p>The CE explained that Swindon is the major priority for FR20 work. The garaging on the site is full of asbestos and needs replacing at a cost of £2 -3 million. Planning and design took place in FY17/18 with all approvals sought ready for work to begin in Apr 18 at the start of FY18/19. The MOD then suspended approval for anything over £0.5M. The RFCA are still trying to get the money released, but as yet do not have a date. It is hoped, however, that the construction will take place this financial year.</p> <p><b>Will all of the money for the FR20 projects be released this year? If not, can units bid for betterment money in order to assist recruiting and retention?</b></p> <p>Projects at Horfield and Keynsham were due to be started this year. Swindon, and work at Wyvern, have now been added to this year's works list. All can be done concurrently. Units' positions are appreciated but there is hope that work will come to fruition this year.</p> <p><b>It is good to hear you encourage members to visit cadets but we do not know when or where. How can we get a training programme so that we know where and when training is taking place?</b></p> <p>The CE stated that the RFCA staff will ensure that County Chairmen know where and when cadets are training and they will then inform their memberships. Col Cadets added that a location statement should have been completed by each county, which can be shared with County Chairmen. All Reserve and Cadet Unit locations, within the South West, can be found on the 'Find a Unit' page of the Wessex RFCA website.</p>
10	<p><b><u>HANDOVER OF THE PRESIDENCY</u></b></p> <p>Mr David Fursdon, Lord-Lieutenant of Devon, accepted the role of President of Wessex RFCA and addressed the meeting.</p> <p>Mr Fursdon started by thanking the RFCA for inviting him to become the President and that he was delighted to accept. Although coming from a Service family and serving himself he admitted that having left the Army 47 years ago he had a lot to learn. He is particularly interested in the relationship with businesses and employers, and the unique talents that Reservists can bring to an organisation looking to recruit quality staff.</p> <p>Another area of interest is encouraging children and young adults from deprived areas to join the Reserves and Cadets. In his capacity as Lord-Lieutenant Mr Fursdon recently accompanied HRH The Princess Royal to the opening of a school for children that had been excluded from mainstream education. Some of these children had taken up art, and had a real talent for it, and whilst there the Princess Royal handed out certificates for their work. There are some incredibly talented children who lack hope and ambition, and the Cadets can potentially fulfill some of this.</p>
11	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting would take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Venue TBC</p>

**BRIGADIER S P HODDER**

Chief Executive

Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association

Dated:

Annexes:

- A. List of Chairmen.

Distribution:

Chairman

Association Board

All Association members

**A MAW**

President

Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets'  
Association

Dated:

**LIST OF VICE-CHAIRMEN AND COUNTY CHAIRMEN**

**CHAIRMAN FOR RE-ELECTION**

Colonel Lance Ranson TD Chairman

**VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR ELECTION**

Air Commodore John Bessell RAF (Retd) Vice-Chairman Air

**VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR RE-ELECTION**

Captain Sue Jameson RD RNR Vice-Chairman Naval

Colonel P A Jobbins OBE GM RD\* MSc Vice-Chairman Marine

**COUNTY CHAIRMEN FOR ELECTION**

Air Commodore John Bessell RAF (Retd) Chairman Cornwall

**COUNTY CHAIRMEN FOR RE-ELECTION**

Colonel Jane Thompson TD DL Chairman City & County of Bristol

Commander P J Burne RD RNR Chairman Devon

Brigadier D R Wilson CBE Chairman Dorset

Major Robert Wharton TD\* Chairman Gloucestershire

Brigadier N C Beacom QVRM TD Chairman Somerset

Colonel H A R Hancock Chairman Wiltshire