



## RFA Association Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 19th May 2018 at 1500 at the Liner Hotel, Liverpool.

1. RFAA Trustees present:

Ray Bennett (RB) - Chairman  
Peter Fry (PF) - Deputy Chairman & Treasurer  
Bob Settle (RS) – Welfare Director  
Ian Thompson (IT)  
Stan McCabe (SM)  
Patrick Molloy (PM)  
Keith Escott (KE)

RFAA Members: 39 members present plus 172 postal votes.

2. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.
3. Apologies for absence had been received from Martin Jones. The RMT representatives no longer participate in the trustee work of the RFAA. RB stressed the ongoing requirement to attract new members and new trustees from all specialisms and ranks.
4. The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 AGM were accepted without amendment. This was proposed by Pat Thompson and seconded by Hugh O'Donnell. There were no actions outstanding not covered in the 2018 agenda.
5. The Chair reported on the RFAA financial position which was currently healthy with £130k of reserves; though annual income was falling so too was expenditure. For the first time each of the branches had been given £250 for local maritime charitable causes. Welfare payments of £500 had been made in the year.
6. Membership is currently running at 660 of which 150 are Life and 9 Honorary members. The RFA no longer paid for RFAA life memberships. We had joined the RNA 'Shipmates and Oppos' scheme which offered free RFA membership for the first year. Robin Lock will continue as corporate fundraiser until a replacement is found but not as a trustee. New trustees were always sought and this is becoming more critical as some approach their maximum end date for service.
7. The 2018 handbook had been issued and had received widespread praise for its revised content. Facebook and Twitter are probably the way ahead to fill this news void left by the demise of Gunline and the limited items available for Force 4.

8. A lot of work has been undertaken to ensure the RFAA meets the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into effect on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018. A privacy Statement, Cybersecurity policy, contact consent and data audit are in course of preparation to meet the deadline.
9. In the last year there were four approaches for welfare assistance. One was successful whilst the other three failed through lack of eligibility under current rules or lack of evidence of need.
10. The annual meeting with the Commodore took place in December . This proved to be a valuable session with Commodore Lamb affirming his commitment to the association, though a renewed MOU is still an ambition. The Coull award was presented to CPO Martin Crawford of RFA Tidespring. A full copy of the Chair's 2016 report is available on the website.
11. Financial Report. The Treasurer's report dated 19<sup>th</sup> May is attached. Income had fallen by £11,400 or almost 33% on 2017 due to cessation of the Commodores Benevolent Fund annual donation and reduced Coull Fund, Welfare Fund, membership and reunion income. Expenses had been tightly controlled and had also reduced by £6300, or almost 25%. Despite reduced income the RFAA financial reserves had increased by £4273 to £130,058 though unrestricted funding had fallen by £2200. A number of questions were asked and answered about the restricted funds, the lack of CBF funding and the health of our financial position. There will be no future CBF money as income to that fund continues to reduce.

12. Ordinary resolutions:

Vote to receive the Annual Report and Accounts. Alan Williamson proposed and Ivor Feist seconded. Totals: 209 for, 1 against, 1 abstained..

Vote to appoint Mr Peter Nicholls as Independent Examiner. Stan McCabe proposed and Keith Truscott seconded. 211 for, 0 against, 0 abstained..

13. Election of RFAA Trustees:

Trustee	Proposer	Seconded	Votes for	Votes Against	Abstained
Ray Bennett -Chair			209	0	2
Peter Fry – Deputy Chair & Treasurer	A Williamson	A Roach	207	0	4
Robert Settle - Welfare Director	M Mann	P Thompson	208	0	3
Patrick Molloy	M Troman	H O'Donnell	209	0	2
Ian Thompson	I Hall	A Edworthy	210	0	1
Stan McCabe	A Roach	P Thompson	204	0	7
Keith Escott	J Reid	J Halford	203	1	7

All were duly elected to act as trustees of the Association.

There were 10 spoiled ballot papers for the following reasons:

Ballot paper received too late	1
Directed Chair to exercise own judgement then completed voting boxes	2
Directed Chair to vote as directed but then no voting boxes completed	5
Voting form contained no Voters name nor membership number	2

14. AOB: Questions were raised about the future of Force Four. Branch Chair's would look at the need for it as there is little editorial support for Pat Thompson in producing it; it was

suggested that we should merge Gunline and Force Four but the former appears to be defunct. It was pointed out that the RFAA members cannot access the RFA MOD website. Commodore Lamb, who was attending as a member, agreed to look into this.

15. The meeting wished to convey their best wishes to Brian Waters, who is not in the best of health, and to pass on thanks for his work for the RFAA as Trustee and Solent Branch Chair over many years. A well done was also passed to Andy August for his support and work as Solent almoner.
16. There being no other business the meeting closed at 1640.
17. Date of Next Annual General Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 1500 in the Radisson Blu hotel, Durham.

Ray Bennett  
RFAA Chair

Date: May 2018