

HMS GANGES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Strategy Meeting held at

RNA Uxbridge

1300 21 January 2016

PRESENT:

Howard Trotter	Chairman
Cliff Snelling	Secretary
Phil Bridge	Treasurer/Webmaster
Ken Bushnell	Membership Secretary
Des Kerrigan	Events & Standards
Gary Faulkner	Certificate Secretary
Colin Gent	
Florrie Ford	
John (Shep) Woolley	

Meeting opened: 1300

1. Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked Kevin Wood and RNA Uxbridge for again accommodating the Committee Members for their meeting.

The Chairman stated that prior to Richard Lloyd (Gazette Editor) being asked to join the meeting, the Committee needed to discuss closing dates for submissions to the Gazette as he felt that including proposals for the coming AGM in the Spring Gazette did not allow members sufficient time to contact Basil Downing-Waite to register for a vote if they would not be in attendance at the AGM. Discussion ensued. The deadline for proposals to be submitted to the Secretary for the following AGM is 31 December. The current closing date for submission to the Spring Gazette is 1 February. Members don't usually receive their Gazette until mid to late March, leaving little or no time for them to register for a vote if they are not attending AGM. It was suggested that the Committee ask Richard if the closing dates for the Gazette could be brought forward one month.

2. Reunion 2016 Update

Shep had emailed Committee members outlining the status of the 2016 Reunion. He gave the details of four people who he thought should be invited to the Church Service at Shotley - Richard Wrinch, Chairman of Shotley Parish Council, Derek Davis, Chairman of the HMS Ganges Museum, Bernard Nichols, Previous Chairman of Shotley Parish Council, and the widow and family of Trem Ling.

ACTION: Secretary to send formal invites

Shep stated that the Reunion was fully booked, with four still on the waiting list. Five people had requested single room, no sharing, which involves a cost to the Reunion fund; 20 other singles are sharing 10 rooms. When the rooms are allocated Shep said he would put these singles in touch with each other.

Shep said his recent visit to Gunton Hall was fine, everything is running smoothly.

- The bags and pens are already on site.
- The accommodation list would be promulgated shortly.
- He will confirm with Dave Poyser that Uckers is OK for Saturday afternoon.
- He will confirm coach numbers with the company.
- A number of polo shirts have been ordered.
- The PA system and Sea Cadets are organised for Evening Quarters
- A copy of the Church Service will be circulated to Committee Members before printing

With regard to the Church Service on Sunday, Shep said that Liesbeth is in Holland on the previous night but will be back for the service at 1400/1430. Shep said that he was arranging for a vicar to officiate at the scattering of Perky Mellow's ashes at 1300, adjacent to the Museum, prior to the church service. Shep said

he will ensure Perky's family and the Standard Bearers arrive in Shotley on the first coach, and that Martin Taylor was informed of all the details. The original Certificate of Cremation of Perky's ashes was passed to Shep Woolley by Des Kerrigan, from the family, to be given to the vicar, for the ceremony of spreading the ashes.

Shep stated that he had agreed with the caterers that tea, coffee, water, and eats were available in Nelson Hall from 1330, and then people could proceed straight to the service.

He also said that volunteers for a Working Party were required to clean up Nelson Hall in readiness for the Church Service. Shotley Division members will of course assist but it was decided to put a notice on the forum in an effort to get more people to assist with the clean up.

Shep said that whilst in Shotley he had heard that there were to be changes at the HMS Ganges Museum. After further discussion it was agreed that the Museum is run by Trustees and is not in any way controlled by the HMS Ganges Association. The Chairman said that according to the Rules the Museum is independent from the Association and we could only monitor the issue.

3. Subs

Shep said he had heard from Jim Sharkey that Tony Richards was complaining about the £20 subscription, saying he didn't think it was worth that much for three Gazettes each year.

ACTION: Shep to contact Tony to discuss.

4. Gazette

Richard Lloyd was invited to join the meeting to discuss the future of the Gazette. There seemed to have been some confusion over his comments in the last issue, resulting in many members assuming that he was giving up as Editor. Richard assured the Committee that this was not the case, he was just pointing out that should, at some time in the future, a replacement Editor be required, it would be a good idea for the Committee to possibly have someone in mind. The Committee agreed that they should be prepared to identify someone with the necessary skills. Des suggested Howard add something regarding this in his next submission, but it was agreed to leave this to Dick.

The Secretary asked Dick if it was possible to change the publication dates of the Gazette. Dick said he would review this and advise the Committee.

The Secretary also asked how many days it took the mailing house to dispatch the Gazette, as Committee members were always receiving complaints about how some members of the Association seemed to get their Gazette first. Dick said that all the Gazettes left the mailing house on the same day and that any delays in delivery were solely the responsibility of Royal Mail. The Chairman said he would include in his next submission that if a member had a complaint regarding the delivery of his Gazette he should contact Dick direct.

Dick said he had had a few requests for Binders to hold copies of the Gazette. As he had actually only had eight requests so far he asked if the Committee would be prepared to purchase a number of binders that could then be issued as and when requested. Dick said he had had quotes of £257.40 + postage for 50 binders and £460.84 for 100. Each binder holds 12 Gazettes. The Committee thought this was an excellent idea and Phil Bridge proposed that we buy 100 binders, seconded by Gary Faulkner. Dick said he would place an order straight away so that the binders would be available for sale at Reunion 2016, and he would also put something in the Spring Gazette.

The Chairman thanked Richard Lloyd for taking the time to attend the meeting and clarify some issues regarding the Gazette, and said he looked forward to receiving his thoughts on changing the publication dates.

Post Meeting Note: Dick contacted the Committee after the meeting to inform them that it was not viable to change the publication dates.

5. Certificate Secretary Vacancy

Gary Faulkner confirmed his decision to resign as Certificate Secretary. The Committee thanked Gary for all his excellent work; for bringing the production of certificates in-house, for producing an amazing product, for responding to requests quickly, and of course for saving the Association unnecessary expense.

Gary said there are currently 21 certificates to be presented at AGM 2016. He stated that he would bring all his paperwork to Reunion and explain the whole process to whoever takes over the position.

Charles (Florrie) Ford offered to take on the position of Certificate Secretary for the time being, with a view to possibly handing over to whoever may be selected to fill the vacant position on the Committee. The Committee agreed that this was an excellent idea, especially with Florrie's amazing photography skills.

Colin Gent then said that he believed if you didn't have a specific job you shouldn't be on the Committee, and he had considered resigning also, especially as he has many work and other commitments. Everyone agreed that Colin brings a great deal of experience to the table and that he was an invaluable member of the Committee.

6. Update on Christmas Draw

The Treasurer said he had made numerous attempts to contact Mr Cousins, one of the winners of the Christmas Draw, but without success. The phone appeared to have been cut off, the house was deserted, and to date the cheque had not been cashed. It was agreed that nothing else could be done so the money should be returned to the Association funds. The Committee assumed that Mr Cousins had CTB but that perhaps there was no other family to inform the Association.

7. Update on Charity Donations

Phil stated that he had received letters from the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust on behalf of Pembroke House, and the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity, thanking the HMS Ganges Association for the donation of £100 to each of their charities. Phil passed the letters to the Secretary for filing.

The Treasurer suggested that in future, to avoid any tax implications, instead of sending cash donations the Association should buy a particular item required by the charity. The Committee agreed that this was an excellent idea. Shep proposed that Pembroke House and RNRMC become the main charities to be supported by the Association. This was seconded by Phil Bridge.

8. Mylor Memorial

The Chairman handed out copies of emails received from Roger Pascoe, Chairman of Cornwall Division. Roger said that he has made a decision to resign, due to ill health. Roger also said that, due to members age and ill health, the Division had sadly decided to cease responsibility for the upkeep of the Mylor Memorial.

Cornwall Division will be holding a meeting in February. The Association has no control over local divisions, although it welcomes regular input from them, and the opportunity to support local projects.

ACTION: Secretary to write to Roger Pascoe requestin an update after their meeting, to see who will be taking over, and to confirm their proposals for Mylor.

The Chairman stated that the Committee will look at the situation again after a response has been received.

9. CTB Procedure

The Secretary asked why we were discussing this again. The Committee had made two different decisions in the last six months, but there still seemed to be some confusion as to the actual CTB procedure.

Colin Gent said the Committee must make a decision and hold to it, and not make different statements when responding to a CTB notification.

The Secretary suggested that all Ganges boys should receive a card from the Association, whether or not they had ever been a member; Lapsed Members should receive a card and cap tally; Fully Paid-up Members should receive a card and cap tally, and also be entitled to Standard Bearers and flag drape at the funeral, if requested by the family. This was agreed by the Committee.

ACTION: Secretary to inform The Almoner of the Committee decision and request that he submits an explanation of the CTB procedure for the next issue of the Gazette.

10. Committal of Perky's Ashes

This had already been discussed during Item 2. Des Kerrigan thanked Shep for all his assistance with this matter.

11. Any Other Business

- Colin Gent raised the question of dress at AGM. It was re-affirmed that the Committee had decided to all wear their Reunion polo shirts.
- Ken Bushnell said that he had received a comment from a member regarding our decision not to have a Facebook page, saying the Association 'is facing in, not facing out'. Colin Gent said that statement was incorrect as some members of the Committee belong to the H.M.S. Ganges Facebook page and they monitor and respond to comments as necessary. Recent 'talk' has centred around the Ganges Medal. Ken said he would arrange for Association Membership forms to be put onto Facebook. The Secretary subsequently added the Medal Application form.
- The Secretary said that members would be informed of the proposals for the AGM 2016 and told to contact Basil Downing-Waite to register their vote if they could not attend AGM. He also stated that the Committee changed the Rules so that members would vote at AGM, and how did we intend to handle this. It was suggested that each member attending AGM be given coloured cards to vote, e.g. Green for Yes, Red for No.
ACTION: Gary Faulkner volunteered to look into producing the cards and will advise. Shep asked if this was really necessary, wouldn't a show of hands do, but Colin Gent stated that the Committee should be seen to be following the rules that they set out.
- The Secretary said that as more interest was being shown in the Medals he would like to do a re-run. A minimum of 100 applications would be needed. He also suggested that cheques be paid in as and when received this time, so that there is no chance of them going out of date. The Treasurer agreed that this would be OK. The Secretary said that he would submit a piece for the Gazette, together with a new Medal form which now includes Membership Number and telephone contact number. Des Kerrigan stated that three medals were on show at the funeral he had attended the day before. He proposed that 100 more medals be ordered immediately, to be issued as required. This was seconded by Gary Faulkner.
- Shep said that Martin Wiltshire has around 1,000 cards with Ken's old address on them. He suggested that we use these for the 'Win Your Weekend' draw, and that any profit from the draw could go towards the printing of new cards. Agreed by the Committee.
- The Treasurer asked for approval to pay accommodation costs for Florrie as he was unable to make the journey in one day. Agreed by the Committee. Everyone wished Florrie a Happy Birthday.
- The Chairman then announced his resignation due to health issues, and said he would advise members in the next issue of the Gazette. The Secretary proposed Colin Gent to fill the position, but Colin said he thought he had too many other commitments at the present time. Florrie suggested that as we have a Vice President position vacant, Colin could assume that position until we have a new Chairman.‡ Phil Bridge said we must give careful thought to Howard's successor.
- The Secretary asked if the Committee needed to hold meeting more often. Shep said that the CMs should be held in different venues. It was decided to consider this proposal for discussion at the next meeting. Dates and venues of CMs also to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Shep said that assuming the proposal to elect him as a Life Vice President was carried at the AGM he should no longer be a member of the Committee. Other members of the Committee disagreed, the Chairman stating that there was nothing in the Rules to say that he couldn't still be a member of the Committee.

Meeting closed: 1600

Next Meeting: Saturday 12th March 2016 at 1200 at RNA Uxbridge.

‡After the meeting Colin Gent volunteered to stand as Temporary Vice Chairman, until such time as a new Chairman was elected.

Proposed: Phil Bridge *Seconded:* Ken Bushnell

Carried unanimously.