

Coastguard Association 41st Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 19th March 2017, The Parisienne Hotel, Blackpool

MEETING OPENED 1003 hrs. 1 minute silence held in remembrance of the crew of Irish Republic Coastguard helicopter R116 who lost their lives 14th March 2017 during a rescue operation.

PRESENT:

AF	Alan Fisher	(Treasurer)
AB	Ann Bell	(National Secretary [co-opted] & Humber Branch)
BW	Bud White	(East Sussex Branch)
CO	Chris O'Regan	(Sheringham Branch)
JL	Jim Lilley	(Sheringham Branch)
NL	Nigel Ling	(Humber Branch)
PD	Paul Davig	(Welfare Officer, Trustee & Humber Branch)
PB	Peter Brown	(PR & Communications Officer [co-opted] & Lymington Branch)
SB	Sean Bell	(Humber Branch)
SM	Steve Muggeson	(Central Branch)
SA	Stuart Arundel	(Chairman & Trustee)
SF	Stuart Facey	(Sheringham Branch)
TB	Terry Bearpark	(Vice Chairman, Trustee & Humber Branch)

APOLOGIES:

Sir Alan Massey	(Chief Executive MCA)
Colin Tabor	(Lymington Branch)
Dave Ilsley	(Central Branch Secretary)
Fiona Shutler	(Lymington Branch)
Jo Howard	(Trustee & East Sussex Branch)
Mark Rodaway	(Maritime Operations Commander MCA)
Matt Renouf	(Lymington Branch)
Paul Richman	(Lymington Branch)
Steve Calfe	(Lymington Branch)

MINUTES OF THE 40th AGM: Minutes dated March 19th 2016 were accepted (Proposed: SA, Seconded: JL)

MATTERS ARISING: AF reported that the Tax Office has been slow to progress with the Gift Aid application. This is still in progress but can be backdated.

REPORTS:

Chairman: SA has visited many people around the UK during the last year. SA and AF travelled to the Isle of Wight to receive a cheque for £14k on behalf of the CGA in memory of baby Betsy Rose who was air-lifted to the mainland by a CG helicopter. Sales of merchandise have been slow. SA explained that all items are available to branches at cost price with the end profit from resale belonging to the vending branch. SA thanked the committee for the help and support he has received over the last year.

Treasurer: Although still steadily coming in, donations/subscriptions are down overall. Payments out for grants/relief and to retired officers are up, making 2016 not as profitable as 2015. However, outlay on printing, postage and general expenses were also reduced, resulting in an overall increase of ~£2.5k for the year end 2016 compared to 2015. Gift Aid is steadily bringing money in, helped especially by the large donation given by Betsy Rose's parents. Cost £160 to set up and has more than paid for itself. Accounts for year ended 31st Dec 2016 were accepted (Proposed: CO, Seconded: BW)

Vice Chairman & Retired Officers Representative: 78 gift cheques and diaries sent out to retired officers for Christmas 2016. Generally the gesture is much appreciated. The oldest recipient is 98 yrs. TB discussed the difficulties he has finding out about qualifying ex-CG's. TB is also pressing the MCA to award long-service medals to full-time CG's who completed 20 years prior to 2012. This is an arbitrary date and has created an unfair system. TB will continue to work on behalf of all those who deserve this recognition.

Welfare Officer: PD's busiest year (>£10k given out). Several homeless CG's have received assistance to improve their circumstances (e.g. deposits for accommodation, etc). A full-time CG received help to make

necessary house alterations. £5k was donated to a family to provide accommodation whilst their young daughter underwent potentially life-saving treatment in the US. This is the largest single donation made. The increase in applications for welfare is due in part to more people being aware of the CGA.

PR & Communications Officer: SA introduced PB and thanked the previous secretary for the good work on the website and Facebook (FB) page. FB group has 1400 members. Several nostalgic posts taken from past CG magazine editions have generated lots of interest recently. PB to change group status from 'Closed' to 'Open' to increase potential audience. Website is more static and keeping it interesting is a challenge. However, it is a useful conduit for donations. PB encourages use of both mediums and would be grateful for submissions to keep both fresh. PB to explore use of articles from MCA 'Coast to Coast' mag. PB has met with the MCA. They confirmed the CGA is their preferred charity and have steered several donors our way.

Central Branch: AF spoke on DI's behalf. Central has approximately 250-300 members. Each receives a diary annually. DI has made several visits around the coast giving talks on the CGA and bringing in new members. A recent visit to Liverpool brought in 15 new members. AF currently handles the IT work but DI is gradually taking this on.

Sheringham Branch: Sheringham are uncertain as to exact numbers of members at their branch. They are unsure whether forms given out sign up new members to the Sheringham Branch or Central.

East Sussex Branch: The National committee were thanked for their help, especially with regards to welfare cases. A fundraising bike ride is organised for May. BW asked that this be advertised via the website, etc.

Humber Branch: Now in their 42nd year. Continuing with Christmas vouchers for retired CGs (over 65 yr olds) and annual donation of a pair of binoculars for local Trinity House School student. Several welfare cases have been dealt with. Donations have been received after the funeral of a retired CG, also from the local Lions organisation and the Withernsea Pirates group. Further supporting events have been arranged by the Pirates as well as the local Boating club. The branch was also pleased to announce 50 years CG service by NL, Station Officer at Withernsea CRT.

Lymington Branch: The branch has been very quiet over the last year.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

CG 200 Year Anniversary: Mark Rodaway has asked for suggestions for ways to mark this special event. No money has been requested. Ideas proposed/discussed were as follows: Special issue stamps and/or coins from the Royal mail/Royal Mint respectively, which would include the CGA logo. PB suggested a Queen's garden party. SB suggested a display of historical methods of rescue (SA added that an original, fully equipped, Board of Trade CG rescue cart c.1880 is available). Also, an event in conjunction with the British Legion, in the Royal Albert Hall. BW proposed that, as the MCA itself cannot apply for lottery funding, could the CGA form a sub-committee to do this and also to work on developing these and further ideas for the anniversary. SA agreed that the next AGM would be an appropriate time to form this group.

Diaries: SA thanked DI and TB for their hard work ensuring the diaries were delivered round the UK. It was agreed that last year's calendar was excellent but diaries work better from a time, cost and delivery point of view. JL recommended a page be used to promote CG 200 year anniversary. SB suggested a short history of HMCG and CGA to be included. SB proposed diaries be continued. SF seconded.

Retired Officers: TB reiterated the difficulties he faces obtaining qualifying officer's details. Christmas gift currently set at £20. CO proposed that this be continued. JL seconded.

Loans: SA explained the background to the no-interest, no acceptance criteria loans. No applications yet but these will continue to be offered.

Bike: SA highlighted the availability of the 8-person, 22 ft 'bike' for fundraising events both by the CGA and other charities (for a small fee). Insurance and training are absolutely necessary before use. TB suggested putting a picture on the website to raise awareness.

Fundraising: SA thanked all the CRO's around the coast who have directed grateful casualties to the CGA. PB suggested 'business' cards with CGA details could be given out at rescues, where appropriate. Using stations for fundraising (e.g. open days, car wash days, etc.) was proposed several years ago by Chief Coastguard at the time, Rod Johnson. These are activities which could be explored by individual branches.

TRUSTEES:

CL proposed by PD. Seconded by BW. SA declared CL accepted on to the board of trustees.

AOB:

TB requested that DI send out AGM reminder slips with all relevant details included.

AB raised the issue of CGA logo badges on CG uniform. This query had come via the FB page. AB had contacted Sir Alan Massey who had kindly clarified the MCA's position. No badges/logos other than those issued by the MCA are permitted on CG uniforms as per the extant uniform policy set out in CG4. A copy of Sir Alan's reply was submitted for the record.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

SA handed over to TB and stood down as Chairman.

Chairman: SA proposed by SF. Seconded by BW. No other candidates.

TB declared SA re-elected as Chairman for a further 5 years.

Vice Chairman: TB proposed by SB. Seconded by CO. No other candidates.

SA declared TB re-elected as Vice Chairman for a further 5 years.

Secretary: AB proposed by TB. Seconded by NL. No other candidates.

SA declared AB elected as secretary for 3 years.

Welfare Officer: PD proposed by PD. Seconded by SB. No other candidates.

SA declared PD re-elected as Welfare Officer for further 5 years.

Treasurer: AF proposed by SA. Seconded by AB. No other candidates.

SA declared AF re-elected as Treasurer for further 5 years.

PR & Communications Officer: PB proposed by SA. Seconded by BW. No other candidates.

SA declared PB elected as PR & Communications Officer for 3 years.

NEXT AGM:

Date: 24th March 2018. Location: Norfolk. Venue: TBD. Sheringham Branch to host, assistance to be given as required by AB.

CLOSING REMARKS:

JL requested that condolence cards be sent to the families and colleagues of the IRCG helicopter R116. SA confirmed that this was in hand. Sympathy cards and gifts for the families involved to be organised by AB on behalf of the CGA committee, trustees and members.

PB would like to see a target set for more new branches (e.g. 5 before next AGM). PB would also like trustees to review the CGA constitution wrt current charity commission rules.

SA thanked those present for attending and welcomed all on the Fleetwood Nautical College tour.

- Meeting closed 1308 hrs.