



**RAF LOCKING  
APPRENTICE  
ASSOCIATION**



# **AGM SPECIAL EDITION**

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**MARCH 2020**

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

Unfortunately, we are faced with a situation not of our making and out of our control.

Hopefully all will be aware of the cancellation of the 2020 AGM and Reunion and our Chairman explains the reasons.

So that we all have a flavour of the missed AGM the Committee Reports have been enclosed in this 'virus free' manner for your enjoyment.

Lets hope this pandemic plays itself out and we can all gather again next year.

I apologize for the rushed copy and somewhat disjointed look but at least it is virus free.

Stay safe and healthy, I look forward to seeing everyone next year.

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## CHAIRMANS NOTES 2020

I would normally begin with the Apprentice Prayer, and apologies for absence, however as we've had to cancel this year's AGM, I shall resort to a few short notes to highlight the Association's status. Needless to say, we regret that we had to cancel the AGM, but the health & well-being of our members is of paramount concern, apart from recommendations by the government that social gatherings should not occur. One thing which we would normally do is to present our trophy to a nominee from Cosford. We will still be able to present our trophy at the No. 1 RS annual lunch, normally held in October.

As reported last year, our monument at Locking has received some brushing up, but a bit more needs to be done, which Tony & Rick have in hand in discussions with the owners of the site, with a view to arrange for long term care & maintenance of the monument.

The future of the Federation of Apprentice & Boy Entrant Associations (FABEA) is in doubt, as the Halton, & the Boy Entrant associations have ceased because of the age of members. This leaves only us and the Admin Apps associations still in being, this development is not good news, particularly as we are in the region of the centenary of the formation of the Aircraft Apprentice scheme. There is some discussion of the actual date, some think that it was begun in 1920, but my view is that it was 1922. Evidence for this is the pass-out details of No.1 Entry of 'Wireless/Operator Mechanics from Flowerdown, a copy of which was published in the News Letter of Feb. 2003. Whilst there had been recruitment and training of boys almost since the formation of the RAF, I believe that the pass-out of No. 1 Entry is the starting point. We have been in contact with Sqdn. Ldr. Pawsey, who is organising the celebration of the event, but some of the elements have been put on hold due to the Corona Virus situation. When the committee meets again, we shall discuss what we can do to mark the occasion in 2022, which I believe should focus on the Locking Monument, but more details will be published in the News Letter in due course.

I hope that we will be able to hold the AGM again in 2021, at the Centurion Hotel, when we can all meet up again and renew old friendships once again. In the meantime, our Association is in fine shape, thanks in a large part to your committee's hard work and dedication to the well-being of the RAFLAA.

*Tiny*



## TREASURERS REPORT

Income & Expenditure for period July 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 are shown overleaf

The Accounts for the FY 2019/2020 shows that we started the year with total of £8765.46 and that we now have a total of £8808.85.

An excess of income over expenditure of £43.40

<b>DONATIONS 2019/20</b>		
Flowerdown House RAFA	40.00	RAFLAA Cttee Meeting - July 2020

Direct Debit payments to Freeola for Web hosting. Payments of £13.10 in March and June and £13.86 in Sept and Dec 2019

Renewal of Domain Name for 5 years in 2018 = £46.99

At the Committee meeting in February, it was agreed that a new mandate with our bank account at HSBC should include Bob Grant (219th) and Bill Walker (102nd) as cheque signatories. These two members live in the Weston-s-Mare area. The mandate to the bank has been completed and should now be in operation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Income/Expenditure for period July 2019 to January 2020 be approved as presented.
- That the accounts for FY 2019/2020 be approved and submitted for independent check prior to the AGM (18th April 2020)
- That a donation of £40 be made to Flowerdown House for their hospitality for to-days meeting.

*Tony Horry, Treasurer,*

*20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020*



**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT  
2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**GENERAL**

Latest Membership number used is 739 (No new recruits).

Currently running at 372 active members which takes account of 2 last postings and 1 new member

**NEW MEMBERS - 1**

79 <sup>th</sup> Entry	John Culliford
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**WE HAVE TWO LAST POSTINGS**

78 <sup>th</sup> Entry	Mike	Creasey	10/2019	Member
78 <sup>th</sup> Entry	Mike	Keen	05/2019	Member

**ENTRY PROFILES BRIEF:**

97<sup>th</sup> Entry has an active number of 21 members which is the same as last year.

87<sup>th</sup> Entry has an active group of 27 members a repeat of last year so another steady entry

76<sup>th</sup> Entry has a group of 27 active members

I declare the **SENIOR** Entry title to be jointly owned by the 76<sup>th</sup> and the 87<sup>th</sup>. Although we all realise that the 76<sup>th</sup> have it 😊.

**ADVERTISING**

The Association aims to advertise in the Royal Air Forces Association magazine after some absence. The next advert will be in the July – Sept and the Oct – Dec 2020 editions.

And I'm sure you all do promote the association and what we are about. At only £1.25p per month for the first year it is probably the most cost-effective Association former apprentices can join.

## **NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION**

The newsletter - mainly available by download from the RAFLAA website and this remains the most cost-effective way for the Association to deliver this to our members.

## **DISTRIBUTION ROUTES AND VOLUMES**

I sent out 277 email notifications in February which takes account of 5 rejections + 1 update notifying members that a new edition of the newsletter is available. A bit down on last year due to several email addresses being rejected.

Physical Distribution of Hard Copies. A total of 22 copies went out for the last publication which is up by 1 since last year.

20 Copies to UK Addresses + 2 copies to overseas addresses

## **MEMBERSHIP AND STANDING ORDERS**

Payment by standing order is by far the best way to pay annual membership fees and the most cost effective for the Association. Please consider converting to this method of annual membership payment if you don't already do this. All committee members are on the SO payment method

## **MEMBERSHIP CHANGES SINCE THE LAST AGM ON 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2019 UP TO MARCH 2020**

Our membership now stands at 372. Can I ask members again to consider updating details via the data check form on the website to ensure we have valid information which includes Next of Kin should you be willing to supply this.

Thank you to all those that have updated, and may I thank you, in advance, to all those that I hope will do. Nil returns would also be appreciated if only to confirm basic details.

## **REMINDER. CHANGES OF PERSONAL DETAILS**

Please keep me updated with any changes to your personal details especially for receipt of Newsletter notifications via email and delivery of any correspondence to your home address.

This concludes my report for Membership Matters.

*Jim Doran*

*Membership Secretary - RAFLAA*



Royal Air Force Locking Apprentice Association

<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS</b>			
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>2018/2019</b>
Membership fees	£1,864.50		£1,992.50
Life membership			£0.00
Sales - ties, pins and videos	£9.00		£26.00
Donation/ fund raise	£123.00		£534.71
AGM and other misc. income	£1,854.00		£2,400.00
Bank interest received	£9.92		£5.29
Bank Transfer			
		£3,860.42	£4,958.50
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Pins			
Ties			
Videos			
Name badges	£8.40		£8.40
AGM and other purchases	£2,791.35		£2,691.79
Donations	£305.00		£351.73
Other + Monument	£11.00		£1,502.58
		£3,115.75	£4,554.50
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>			
Advertising			
Bank charges			
Auditing	£50.00		£50.00
Refund			
		£50.00	£50.00
<b>OVERHEADS</b>			
Travelling expenses	£567.33		£609.70
Printing			
Telephone			
Postage and carriage	£30.02		£58.58
Stationery			
Website (incl. DD)	£53.92		£98.85
		£651.27	£767.13
<b>PROFIT/LOSS</b>		£43.40	-£413.13
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>			
	<b>2019/2020</b>		<b>2018/2019</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Deposit Bond			
Business Money Manager A/C	£4,977.03		£4,967.11
Community Account	£3,831.63		£3,798.15
Petty cash	£0.20		£0.20
<b>NETT CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>£8,808.86</b>		<b>£8,765.46</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>FINANCED BY</b>			
Brought forward balance	£8,765.46		£9,178.59
Profit and loss account	£43.40		-£413.13
	<b>£8,808.86</b>		<b>£8,765.46</b>

RAF LOCKING APPRENTICES ASSOCIATION INCOME/EXPENDITURE - 5th July 2019 to 31st Jan 2020									
Brought forward from 4th July 2019									
Deposit Bond					<b>Expenditure (Purchases)</b>				
Business Money Manager A/C			£4,972.07		Pins				£0.00
Community A/C			£3,148.92		Ties				£0.00
Cash			£0.20		Other				£0.00
<b>Total Funds</b>				£8,121.19	Social/Monument				£0.00
					Donations				£40.00
<b>Income (Sales)</b>					Name Badges				£5.60
Membership Renewals									£45.60
Standing Orders		108	£1,082.50						
Cheques		1	10.00		AGM – 2019				£50.00
				£1,092.50	Advert				£0.00
					Bank Charges				£0.00
New Members		2	30.00		Audit				£0.00
Life		0			Refunds				
Ties		1	9.00						
Donation				39.00					£50.00
wheels					<b>Overheads</b>				
					Travel				£279.55
AGM 2019				0.00	Printing				£0.00
					Telephone				£0.00
					Postage				£30.02
					Stationery				£0.00
Interest (Sept+Dec)				4.96	Website (DD)				£27.72
Business Money Manager									£337.29
Total Income				£1,136.46	Total Expenditure				£432.89
<b>Total Balance</b>					Surplus/Deficit				£703.57
	Business Money Manager			£4,977.03	Bank Statement Sheet 331 @ 31st Jan				
	Community A/C			£3,831.63	Bank Statement Sheet 563 @ 31st Jan				
	Cash			£0.20					
	<b>Total Funds</b>			£8,808.86					
					Presented to LAA Committee - 20th Feb 2020				
					Tony Horry - Treasurer				



## RAFLAA WEBSITE

Our website is currently 'work in progress' whilst it is being completely transferred to a new platform due to the existing software package, WebPlus X8, being discontinued by the manufacturer. The package still functions but manufacturer supported resources have been withdrawn, which makes any improvements to the site an increasing challenge

The work is being undertaken in phases, the first of which is being carried out on the existing platform, essentially as a pilot study. This involves creating a set of member related pages (member/entry details and newsletters, etc.) separate from the general material. Access to member related material will require members to create a personal username and password during a registration process as is common on most websites. Members will then be able to access their own details and update them as and when necessary and access all current and future newsletters without the requirement of a further password.

I had intended to demonstrate the above feature at the AGM but unfortunately world events have conspired to prevent our gathering. I will endeavour to publish a detailed guide to accessing this part of the website in the next Newsletter.

Several members have kindly donated photographs and videos that currently reside on the website in the 'Docs/Pics' page. Would those members let me know whether they are happy for these to remain in the public domain or prefer to have them transferred to the members only pages. Please do this via email: [webmaster@raflaa.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@raflaa.org.uk)

The existing site will remain functional during the upgrading but once finished members, and interested public, will find a completely new look with improved navigation through the pages and resources.

**Roy Abraham**



## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

No correspondence has been received.

The following Letters of Welcome and Letters of Condolence have been sent since the AGM:

- *Welcome John Culliford 79<sup>th</sup> Entry.*
- *Condolence None.*

**Graham Beeston**  
**Secretary**

## RAF LOCKING APPRENTICE MONUMENT

Rick Atkinson reports that work is currently being carried out to widen the road between the monument and the "Radio Wing" community centre (the old RAF chapel) which is infringing on the path to our Monument. Rick has spoken to the St Modwen area manager to raise our concerns. The manager is obtaining the site plans to ascertain the extent of the work so that he can monitor the situation; he assures Rick that the path and the monument will be looked after.

Also, Rick (who lives near Banbury in Oxfordshire) is delighted to report that Bob Grant (ex 219<sup>th</sup> entry) who lives in Locking village, has kindly agreed to keep a regular check on the monument."

**Rick**



## NEWSLETTER

As ever the Newsletter input is thankfully supplied by you, our members, and as ever I am asking for more. As can be seen in the Chairman's report the various Associations are falling by the wayside, thankfully not RAFLAA, but even so it seems more imperative that we secure your tales of the past and present print, so please overload me with Newsletter material.

We will be celebrating the Apprentice 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I am not suggesting we have any members who can recall those distant days but it would be appropriate to attempt to imagine a day in the life of the first entry of RAF Apprentices.

**Colin**



# The Apprentice Prayer

Teach us good Lord, to be thankful

For all the good times we had,

The skills we have learned,

The friendships we have shared

And the companionship we have enjoyed.

May all who have served the Apprenticeship of the Wheel

Be ever mindful of the needs of one another.

**AGM AND REUNION 2021**

# **RAFLAA AGM**

**APRIL 2021**

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**BEST WESTERN CENTURION HOTEL  
MIDSOMER NORTON**



**BEST WESTERN CENTURION HOTEL  
MIDSOMER NORTON  
RADSTOCK  
SOMERSET  
BA3 4BD**