



THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

Rutland Branch

THE FLYING HORSESHOE

Branch Newsletter

April 2010



REPORT ON AGM

The Branch Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Cottesmore Village Sports and Social Club on Wednesday 3 March 2010. The Branch Chairman welcomed Air Marshal Philip Sturley, Branch Life President and Mrs Anne Morley, a potential new member attending a branch meeting for the first time, then handed over to the Branch President, Group Captain Gary Waterfall as AGM Chairman. Group Captain Waterfall welcomed the strong association the branch had with RAF Cottesmore and stated that he had every intention of continuing the connection. It was his intention once the base closed to continue his affiliation with the branch and its members.

Branch Chairman's Report

Duncan Manderson thanked everyone in the branch for their support during his first term in office. In the events calendar last year the "Call my bluff evening" was a huge success. Flt Lt Charlie Mathew's Typhoon display team presentation and the talk on the Joint Service HQ by Group Captain Mark Heffron had been of particular interest. Another memorable presentation had been given by Dan Hall on the Berlin Airlift. And of course not forgetting Mr Richard Davies and his Graf Zeppelin talk which was enthralling.



The Branch were well represented at Remembrance Day parade in Oakham and at the National Arboretum. Duncan also represented the branch at the funeral parade of Cpl Woytak and also gave an interview to Rutland Radio on the closure of RAF Cottesmore. He extended his personal thanks to Derek Bury, Honorary Secretary, and Malcolm Sutton meetings co-ordinator for their time in office. More volunteers are needed to fill the vacant posts because leaving it up to a few is a recipe for problems. We have as members of RAFA Rutland the opportunity to make 2010, the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, our most successful yet.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Our annual income rose from £5,434.56 in 2008 to £9,492.15 last year. Firstly we had 2 dinners last year and our donations were up due to an outstanding set of donations following Rob Toy's funeral. Our buoyant income has allowed us to maintain our reserves at a level well over £1,000 for the whole period. This represents approximately 9 months running costs in line with RAFA Rutland Branch policy, and falls well within the Charity Commission guidelines.

You may be interested to know that our rebate from RAFA Central funds has again risen this year, which is a credit to our Membership Secretary's hard work in collecting subscriptions.

The Treasurer thanked Roger Hyde for dealing with the administration of the Welfare account which is held as a separate entity. In summary, the Hon Treasurer explained that the Branch's finances were robust and financially sound.

Honorary Secretary's Report

All communication received from RAFA HQ and Area was passed on to the committee in the appropriate manner and, the South East and Eastern area monthly newsletter was distributed by email and made available for download on the RAFA website. The foremost of the subject matter received was the information sent to the branch about the inauguration of the RAFA memorial garden. Several members from the branch attended this ceremony and, on behalf of the membership, laid a wreath in tribute to all past branch members.



Last month we received notification that - by actively contributing to the Lift-Off Lotto our branch earned a commission of £6.70. This figure has been rolled over till this year as it is uneconomical to pass this amount for HQ through the banking system. **All members should be aware that the branch receives 10% every time a player is recruited to the scheme so I would urge more members to take up this scheme.**

As I vacate the post of honorary secretary I wish to say that I have enjoyed my time on the Committee, and will gladly offer my support to whoever fills the post.

Honorary Welfare Officer's (HWO) Report

It has been another quiet year for the welfare side of things. I have visited a couple of folk and have successfully re-applied for a maintenance grant from the RAF Benevolent Fund but that has been it for the past year. Again, I do not know if this means that the level of need is not so great in this area, or that the message is just not getting out there. I would just like to make my annual plea — if you do know of anyone who could use some financial support from RAFA or the RAFBF, please do let me know.

Honorary Membership Secretary's Report

Since our last AGM in 2009, we have gained 13 new members and have also welcomed 2 new Branch Associates, although regrettably we have also lost members this year.

Figures for membership are to date as follows:-

	ACTIVE	LOST	TOTAL
ANNUAL	103	3	106
LIFE:	57	5	62
HONLIFE:	0	0	0
TOTAL ANN/LIFE:	160	8	168
ASSOCIATE:	8	0	8
TOTAL STRENGTH	168	8	176
Branch Associates numbers	35		35

Thank you all and especially those who bring along used postage stamps, which are sent off regularly to RAFA Stamps appeal, and I was informed recently that we can obtain £18.00 per kilo for foreign stamps, and a lower rate of £6.00 per kilo for British Stamps, so please keep saving them if you can as this does raise money for RAFA Funds.

Social Secretary's Report

Last year the trip to RAF Waddington Air Show was a huge success. Anyone interested in this year's event should contact Fred Prestwood. He has received this year's detail and is collecting names of members interested in going to the event. Recently, Fred attended the Selly Oak hospital Birmingham and this is being considered as a future visit for Branch Members.

Wings Appeal Organiser's (WAO) Report

In his report the WAO said that although money raised during the Wings Appeal period was rather low £1, 544.31 we donated £5,900 to the Appeal, which is more than we have ever previously managed to donate. This large amount was achieved by having two collections at Tesco Stores, a generous donation from one of our members, stalls at RAF Cottesmore and Oakham Town Pump and money raised at our Meetings with raffles etc.

Flying Horseshoe Editor's Report

Following on from what has been said earlier, I would like to thank a few people for their assistance. Peter Thomas for helping with the photography, Angie and Francis Humphreys for their efforts in printing the Flying Horseshoe and Derek Bury and his team for the distribution process. Thanks also go to those who have contributed and, for those who have not, now is the time to start. If you have submitted an article and it has not been published – do not dismay – we cannot print everything for obvious reasons.

AGM Chairman's Closing Remarks

In bringing the AGM to a close the Chairman thanked the branch chairman for taking the branch forward in the past year. He went on to say that the increase in membership level was encouraging and for his part he was actively encouraging RAF Cottesmore station personnel to apply to join RAFA.

The Committee was also thanked for their work during 2009. In addition, the Cottesmore sports and social club team were thanked for providing the venue for Branch meetings.

Finally, the Branch Chairman thanked Group Captain Garry Waterfall branch President for his support. He expressed his thanks to all the Ladies who had contributed to providing a superb buffet for the evening.

Duncan Manderson & Kathryn Manderson will represent the Branch at the Annual National Conference on Friday 21st — Sunday 23rd May 2010 at the Winter Gardens Blackpool.

Chief Technician Dave Craven, RAFALO from RAF Cottesmore would represent the Branch at the Annual Area Conference on Friday 26th March - Sunday 28th

Extracted from the minutes

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

There are vacancies on the committee for Secretary, Public Relations Officer and, from September 2010, Wings Appeal Organiser. In the latter case, Jim Tibbott is standing down after the 2010 appeal and would like his successor to stand in from now.

Committee

COTTESMORE VETERANS DAY

On page 24 of the RAF News 12 March 2010. there is an article stating that a Veterans Day will be held at RAF Cottesmore on June 17, for those who served at Cottesmore between 1940 and 1960. Interested personnel should contact Media & Communications Officer, Squadron Leader Paula Willmot, RAF Cottesmore, Rutland, LE15 7BL.

[Bob Tacey](#)

2010 COMMITTEE

Chairman:	Duncan Manderson	Vice-Chairman:	Gordon Diffey
Honorary Treasurer:	Gordon Diffey	Honorary Secretary:	Vacant
Membership Secretary:	Angie Humphreys	Public Relations Officer: :	Vacant
Standard Bearer:	Francis Humphreys	Social Secretary:	Fred Prestwood
Meetings Coordinator:	Bob Tacey	Flying Horseshoe Editor:	Phil Marston
Associate Members:	Diana Toy, Jo Tibbott, Kathryn Manderson, Sonia Sutton		
The posts of Honorary Welfare Officer, and Wings Appeal Organiser were not subject to re-election, but would be appointed by the Committee at its next meeting.			

DIARY DATES

7 Apr 2010	Bowls Evening at RAF Cottesmore. If interested contact the Secretary.
5 May 2010	AI Page – RAF Motor Sports Association
21-23 May 2010	Annual Conference at Blackpool
2 Jun 2010	Sqn Ldr Bev Cartwright – OC 3MCS, RAF Wittering
7 Jul 2010	TBN
4 Aug 2010	Brian Best - Victoria Cross Society
1 Sep 2010	Wings Appeal – Social Evening
6 Oct 2010	John Williams - Rutland Round
3 November 2010	Sarah Outen – Solo Across the Indian Ocean
1 Dec 2010	Christmas Dinner – Greetham Golf Club

Meetings are normally held on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the Cottesmore Sports & Social Club – 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Branch Contact Numbers

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[Derek Bury](#)