

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UK CHAPTER OF THE AOC, HELD ON ZOOM 15 MARCH 2023

Present:

Mr	Jon (Swaz) Bramley	Acting President & Awards
Mr	Chris Howe MBE	Past President; Webmaster
Mr	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
Wg Cdr	John Stubbington	Treasurer
Wg Cdr	Roger Hannaford	Secretary
Mr	James Angove	Non-exec, Army Member
Wg Cdr	Phil Davies	Non-exec
Mr	Darren Nicholls	Non-exec
Prof	David Stupples	Non-exec, Academic Director
Mr	Dave Peck	Independent Elections Volunteer

Plus 10 members. Several further members had been unable to join because of problems getting the log-in details to them.

Apologies had been received from: Roger Blackburn, Julian Grenfell, Yvonne Jewitt, Clive Murgatroyd, Bill Preece (Non-exec, Deputy Awards) and Dr Sue Robertson (Non-exec, Visits Director).

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

1. Swaz Bramley welcomed members and then handed over to Chris Howe, who had been President for most of the year. Chris ran through significant events; most are covered in the later Programmes and Functions report. He had submitted the annual report to HQ, from which the UK had again won Distinguished Chapter of the Year. He spoke of the need to restart physical events and address the awards programme, particularly for the Army. However, after 15 years on the Board, he felt that it was time to hand over and to allow new ideas to flourish.

2. Swaz then took over and chaired the rest of the meeting. He thanked Chris for taking over after the sad death of John Clifford and for his tireless work for the Chapter including the newsletter, website and job advertising. He also thanked the Board and Election Volunteer for all that they had done.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

3. The minutes of the previous meeting had been available on the website. It was proposed by Phil Davies and seconded by John Stubbington that they be accepted as an accurate record and this was agreed, approved unanimously.

ITEM 3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

4. Dave Peck explained that there had been two volunteers for the post of President and that he had organised an election in accordance with the Constitution. This was won by Professor Steve Roberts, and he was duly appointed as President from the end of the meeting. The other candidate, Jonathan Farrington, was thanked for his manifesto and his interest in the Chapter.

5. There had been only one volunteer for Vice-President and that was the existing VP, Swaz Bramley. No election was needed, and he was duly confirmed to continue in post.

6. Swaz welcomed two new non-execs to the Board: James Angove, who would become Army Member, and Bill Preece, who would assist Swaz as Deputy Awards.

ITEM 4. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

7. John Stubbington briefed on the Accounts, which had been audited and approved by Bob Andrews. They were some £2,000 down on the year, the result of the 2021 Xmas dinner being payable in 2022. The Chapter had received £1,200 income share after EW Europe and about £2,300 for the Large Chapter award and the Chapter rebate, a total of around £3,500. In addition, there was some £27,000 on deposit. The Chapter was financially stable and sound. The Accounts were approved, proposed by Swaz Bramley, seconded by David Stupples and carried unanimously.

8. The Budget projection for 2023 indicated a shortfall of about £1,000, which was not a problem.

9. John and Bob agreed to check on HQ funds being available for travel to off-shore AOC events that required the President's attendance.

ITEM 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

10. Ian Fish reported that membership had fallen to 481. This might have been because the Chapter had lost the boost from EW/AOC Europe, at which free membership was offered which often converted to regular membership. Potential members were not taking advantage of the various offers available, particularly for serving members, and those with contacts in the services were asked to promote membership.

11. In general discussion, it was agreed that to retain membership it would be necessary to provide value for members. The JED magazine was certainly worthwhile but, now that covid was no longer a major factor, physical events, visits

and conferences should be held. AOC HQ had a contract with Dstl to look at classified conferences in the UK, and Steve Roberts would look to hold a separate meeting to discuss membership.

ITEM 6. EDUCATION AND AWARDS REPORT

12. Swaz briefed on Awards. New Board member Bill Preece would be helping him by looking after awards made in the South. The Chapter made cash awards to support awards made by the services for EW; however, during the year the services had been unable to staff some of the selection processes, and therefore the Chapter awards had not been needed. Of those awards that had been made, the Aerosystems course was awarded to Sqn Ldr Liam Taylor and the new award to Junior Rank at JEWOSC was awarded to Cpl Sam Harman.

13. A list of awards and their value is attached.

ITEM 7. PROGRAMMES AND FUNCTIONS REPORT

14. Sue Robertson was working abroad without internet access but had provided a comprehensive report. Covid continued to disrupt during 2022 with Chapter visits on hold for much of the year.

15. In April Chapter members took part in a memorial event for our late president, John Clifford, with Chris Howe leading the tributes. The AOC series of Zoom meetings for members in International Region 1 continued throughout 2022 with presentations from the French, German and, as a guest, Canadian chapters; the new Region 1 Director intended to continue with this programme. The AOC Europe 2022 conference was held in Montpellier, France in May. It was well-attended with over 80 exhibitors and attendees from 39 countries. Finally, members gathered for a great evening at the International Bomber Command Centre Lincoln on Fri 4 Nov to mark the 50th anniversary of the formation of the AOC UK Chapter.

16. For the future, AOC Europe 2023 would take place in Bonn, Germany on 16 and 17 May and would be preceded on 15 May by a free Signals Intelligence Workshop. The Chapter intended to organise a visit to a major UK defence facility later in the year, and it was hoped that there would also be opportunities to participate in several local EW events. The Shrivenham EW conferences would take place from 6-8 Jun and 26-28 Nov, and the increasingly popular Operating in the Future Electromagnetic Environment symposium would be run by Dstl in Nov.

17. The RAF Club had previously been booked for Fri 8 Dec for Xmas dinner, if required.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

18. There was no other business.

19. The meeting was closed, after which the new President made an address to those attending the meeting. A summary is attached.

Roger Hannaford
Secretary

28 March 2023

Attachments:

1. New President's Address'
2. Awards.

1 - NEW PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

After the formal AGM was over, Prof Steve Roberts thanked the previous President and acting President and those that had voted for him. He noted that he felt a great debt to the AOC for the support he had received over his career from members and for the opportunities for networking and sharing information that the AOC had provided.

Steve set out his vision for the Chapter as its new President using his manifesto to explain his goals, which were aimed at providing a link between the past, present and future of the Chapter in terms of its history, membership and objectives:

1. Build the Chapter's standing and influence by using members' experiences and understanding of EW, EMSO and CEMA.
2. Maintain the Chapter's role in preserving and applying the knowledge and experience gained through real operations.
3. Secure recognition of the Chapter and its members within the wider community by attending conferences and through awards.
4. Develop a Strategic Plan for the Chapter to build on our present position while supporting and influencing the wider AOC aims.
5. Support the new generation of professionals working on strategic programmes such as Tempest, MEWP and Cornerstone and encourage them to take an active role in the AOC.

The final point underlined his belief that it was important to get people that were involved in just one aspect of EW to see that there was now a bigger picture regarding CEMA and other developments and that help and guidance could be available from the wider membership of the Chapter.

Steve was looking forward to meeting and addressing members at future events and conferences. He was planning to attend the conference in Bonn.

2 - LIST OF UK CHAPTER AWARDS

Name of Award	Awarded	Amount £	Amplifying Comments
RN Top EW Student	Annually	250	Certificate
RN Fleet EW Effectiveness Trophy	Annually	375	Plaque
RAF Smallwood Trophy	Biennial	750	Plaque
AeroSystems Course Top Student	Annually	250	Certificate
Army Yeo of Signals Course Top Student	Annually	250	Certificate
EW Operational in Theatre Operations	Annually	750	Plaque
Individual UK Chapter Member Awards	Annually	Nil	Certificate (free invite to Xmas Dinner)
RAF WSOp EW Award	Annually	250	Certificate
The AOC Award for Distinguished Service to EW by a Junior Rank	Annually	250	Certificate (possible presentation at JOSCA's)
	Total	3,125	