

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UK CHAPTER OF THE AOC, HELD ON ZOOM 25 MARCH 2022

Present:

Mr	Chris Howe MBE	President & Webmaster
Mr	Jonathan Bramley	Vice-President & Awards
Mr	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
Wg Cdr	John Stubbington	Treasurer
Wg Cdr	Roger Hannaford	Secretary
Wg Cdr	Phil Davies	Non-exec
Prof	David Stupples	Non-exec
Mr	Dave Peck	Independent Elections Volunteer

Plus 9 members.

Apologies had been received from Darren Nicholls, Non-Exec, Dr Sue Robertson, Non-exec Visits Director, Phil Judkins and Julian Grenfell.

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

1. The President, Chris Howe, welcomed those attending, saying that the reduced numbers did not justify the cost of a physical meeting, although it would have been nicer to actually meet people again.
2. He gave an update on the previous year. Although events had been curtailed because of Covid, he had attended the AOC President's Meetings on zoom, the Awards programme had been maintained, there were regular Newsletters, with initiatives including jobs, letters and EW News, and the Website was regularly updated. The BOD had had regular Zoom meetings. Of note, the Region 1 Presentations organised by Sue had been well received and had included high quality briefings. The Chapter won Chapter of the Year again – superlatives! The membership decline was a worry, and Ian would address this in his brief.
3. AOC Liverpool 2021 went very well, with the Chapter helping man the booth. Looking ahead, AOC Europe would be held in May in Montpellier.
4. 2022 was the 50th anniversary of the UK Chapter. There would not be a separate event to mark this, but it would be incorporated into the Xmas Awards dinner or a similar event if held elsewhere a little earlier.
5. Finally, Chris gave his thanks to the Board for their support throughout the year, where quite a lot had to be done in spite of the restriction on activities.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

6. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record, proposed by Yvonne Jewett and seconded by Roger Blackburn and passed unanimously. There were no outstanding actions.

ITEM 3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

7. The posts of Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary had all fallen due for election. Dave Peck had conducted an on-line ballot, in accordance with the Constitution. As there had been no other volunteers, and as the existing Directors had agreed to stand, they were re-elected unopposed.

ITEM 4. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

8. John Stubbington briefed on the budget and on the accounts, which had been audited by Bob Andrews and were found to be a correct record of the Chapter's financial business through 2021. The 2021 Account Balance Summary Sheet was approved by the Meeting, proposed by Bob and seconded by Jon Bramley and carried unanimously.

9. The Banking Mandate had been updated to add Jon as a third signatory, in addition to Chris Howe and John, and to delete John Clifford and Jim MacCulloch.

10. Under AOB, Bob had queried the large surplus that had built up. John explained that the increased balance at the start of the year was partly due to the late presentation by the RAF Club of the invoice for the 2021 Christmas Awards Dinner, to some awards having not been made during the year and to the lack of activity because of Covid, in addition to increased revenue from three job advertisements on the website. Several new awards had been proposed and agreed within the BoD. This might lead in the longer term to an adverse cash flow, depending in part on advertising revenue which of course could not be guaranteed. However, the BOD intended to increase expenditure where this could be safely done and where it would support the objectives of the Chapter.

11. The accounts are attached to these minutes.

ITEM 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

12. The Membership Secretary Ian Fish, briefed that membership of the UK Chapter had fallen by 51 to 511 during the year. This was almost entirely due to those who were members through their companies, and he would investigate causes.

ITEM 6. EDUCATION AND AWARDS REPORT

13. Jon Bramley, Vice-President & Awards, briefed on education and awards. Of note, the Fleet Effectiveness Award was presented to HMS Montrose, the EW Operations Award went to EW Solutions for their training work in Africa, and there was a new award for Joint EW Operational Support.

14. The awards summary is attached to these minutes.

ITEM 7. PROGRAMME AND FUNCTIONS REPORT

15. Chris Howe briefed that functions had been constrained by Covid, although a successful Awards Xmas Dinner had taken place. There would be a tribute to John Clifford near Guildford in April, which was likely to be well attended. AOC Europe in Montpellier was looking to be the largest so far, in spite of keynote NATO speakers having to withdraw. Whilst the ambience of the RAF Club for the Xmas Dinner could not be faulted, it could be an expensive event, particularly for younger members having to stay in London. With the EW centre of gravity moving to Lincoln, the BOD was looking for options to host the major event there, probably earlier and combined with a celebration of the Chapter's 50th birthday. This would be announced in the newsletter when decided.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. Bob Andrews queried the large balance in the accounts; this is dealt with in the Treasurers report.

Roger Hannaford
Secretary
5 Apr 22

2021 Accounts Summary

2020 INCOME	2020 COSTS	ITEMS	2021 INCOME	2021 COSTS
		AGM		
	nil	Annual General Meeting		nil
		CHRISTMAS AWARDS DINNER		
	nil	2020 <Christmas Awards Dinner> 2021	1450.00	
		CHAPTER AWARDS		
	nil	Operational Award - EWS		750.00
	nil	Smallwood Trophy - Biennial award		nil
	nil	2020 <Fleet EW Trophy> 2021		nil
	nil	Air Warfare School - Cranwell		250.00
	nil	LS(EW) Course Award, HMS Collingwood		200.00
	200.00	Yeoman of Signals, Blandford		200.00
	nil	Engraving for Awards; Frames etc		30.00
		REBATE AND REFUNDS FROM AOC HQ		
3799.50		AOC Chapter Rebate	2215.71	
	nil	Chapter Award from AOC HQ	127.79	
	nil	Expenses for AOC Europe	342.15	
		OPERATIONS		
	nil	FR Aviation - Website Advertisement	750.00	
	nil	ESROE - website advertisement	750.00	
750.00		Leonardo - Website advertisement	750.00	
		Board member travel costs - Blandford		184.00
		AOC Europe attendance expenses		1069.87
		Jane Clifford		8.82
8994.53		Refund from Financial Ombudsman	nil	
	30.99	EasyWeb Hosting		nil
	194.40	Squarespace web design and Charges		216.00
nil		Transfer between Accounts	16.53	
7.76		Bank refund		nil
	58.00	Flowers for Jane Clifford		nil
	1500.00	Website Improvement - Alan Howe		nil
13551.79	1983.39	TOTALS	6402.18	2908.69
0.00		Bank interest	0.00	
11568.40		2020 <YEAR SURPLUS/DEFICIT> 31 Dec- 2021	3493.49	
		Items carried forward to 2022		
		Christmas Awards Dinner 2021		2279.60
		ASSETS at 31 Dec 2021		
		18 plaques and 47 ties (Ties @ £5)		

		4 x EW History Vol3 @ £20		
		1 x AOC Legacy - The First 50 Years @ £15		

2022 Accounts Budget

2021 INCOME	2021 EXPENDITURE	ITEMS	2022 INCOME	2022 EXPENDITURE
		AGM		
	Nil	Annual General Meeting		Nil
		CHRISTMAS DINNER		
	2000	2020 <Xmas Dinner Costs> 2021		2280
1000		2021 < Xmas Dinner payments		Nil
		CHAPTER AWARDS		
	750	RAF Smallwood Trophy		750
	375	RN Fleet EW Effectiveness Trophy		375
	200	RAF Aerosystems Cranwell Selected Student		250
	200	RN Collingwood EW Selected Student		250
	25	Army Yeoman of Signals Selected Student		250
	Nil	In-Theatre EW Operational Award		750
		JEWOSC -Distinguished Service by a Junior Rank		250
		RAF WSOp EW Award		250
	50	Miscellaneous, engraving, etc		100
		REBATE AND REFUNDS FROM AOC HQ		
2250		AOC Subs Rebate	2250	
	Nil	AOC Award to Chapter	150	
		50th ANNIVERSARY EVENT		5000
		OPERATIONS		
	30	Internet		30
	25	Treasurers P&P expenses 2021/2022		30
1500		Annual website Advertisements	750	
4750	3655	TOTALS	3150	10565
1095		YEAR SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-7415	

AOC UK Chapter Board Meeting – Awards Update (25/3/2022)

John M Clifford OBE Trophy

The opportunity arose on the 24th March to present the John M Clifford OBE Trophy for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of EW (RAF) to the 2019 and 2020 winners, Sgt Steve Wallace and Sgt Maddie Elliott.

The trophy was awarded by Sqn Ldr Wilde at 45 (R) Sqn and Jonathan Bramley, AOC UK VP had the privilege of being invited to the presentation ceremony.

Special thanks to Chemring Ltd. who kindly donated the countermeasures mounted on the trophy.





Chicksands Instructor Award

A new award was approved in principle at the December BOD meeting, awaiting estimates for a trophy.

WO2 Gary Hamilton at Chicksands has looked into this and is proposing either a crystal vase on wooden stand or crystal bowl on wooden stand. Estimated cost is £200 pounds, excluding a suitable engraving.

Proposal: Board to approve a budget of up to £250 pounds for the trophy of choice and suitable engraving, precise wording to be decided between Chris Howe MBE and SIGINT Wing.

Awards Values

The awards prize amounts were reviewed at the 10th December 2021 BOD (Awards Report) and it was agreed that they should be reviewed at the end of the FY meeting. The current award prizes are included below:

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
	Total	2,875	

Proposal: Current figures are approved by the Board.