

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UK CHAPTER OF THE AOC, HELD ON ZOOM 25 MARCH 2021

Present:

Mr	Chris Howe MBE	President & Webmaster
Mr	Jonathan (Swaz) Bramley	Vice-President & Awards
Mr	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
Wg Cdr	John Stubbington	Treasurer
Wg Cdr	Roger Hannaford	Secretary
Mr	Richie Canale	Non-exec
Wg Cdr	Phil Davies	Non-exec
Mr	Jim MacCulloch	Non-exec
Mr	Darren Nicholls	Non-exec
Dr	Sue Robertson	Non-exec, Visits Director
Mr	Dave Peck	Independent Elections Volunteer

Plus 10 members.

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

1. The President, Chris Howe, welcomed everyone, saying that it was so good to have not only familiar faces looking at him but some new ones as well. There were no surprises but, due to the prevailing COVID restrictions, the Chapter had been forced to run this year's AGM in a virtual manner. It would cover a standard agenda, to include all the relevant issues, but there would not be a presentation on completion as there normally would. However, the board would address any questions arising at the end of the formal agenda, to allow for a smoother running.
2. What a year it had been, nobody needing reminding of lockdown life, although he would like to mention the very sad passing of two big names in the world of UK EW, namely John Clifford and Jim Wickes; it was so very sad to lose such big personalities in the UK Chapter.
3. The Chapter had once again won 'Outstanding Large Chapter of the Year', for the ninth consecutive year. This time, though, it was on its own as outright winner.
4. There had been changes to the Board for President, Vice-President and Awards. Regular virtual board meetings had been held on Zoom and were very productive to keep things ticking.
5. The Chapter was in good shape financially, basically not being able to spend as much. The website had been updated, a new design with the same information, the announcements to look for Jobs page proving popular. For

the stats, since the new site had been up there had been 1648 unique visitors from 37 countries, 75% UK and 13% US Canada.

6. Newsletter had a new look and feel with EW items of interest; if members had any new ideas, they would be most welcome - just shout.

7. Sue Robertson would cover events in detail, but the Region 1 presentations she had organised were excellent work. It was hoped that DSEI and AOC Europe would go ahead, and he was hoping for a larger attendance at the Xmas Dinner.

8. The Awards programme had kept going in some areas, though COVID had been a challenge; Swaz Bramley would cover. Of note, there was a new AOC award in memory of John Clifford, for advocacy, leadership, management and the general promotion of EW, the things he so much championed.

9. Finally, Chris gave his thanks to the Board for their first-class support - no names, but all members knew who they were.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

10. The previous AGM could not be held physically, because of COVID, and at that time the only practical way was to hold it online with just the Board. The minutes had been published on the website, together with the accounts. There were no actions arising. Those minutes were agreed, proposed by Yvonne Jewitt and seconded by Jim MacCulloch.

ITEM 3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

11. Following the death of previous President, calls were made to members for a volunteer. There had been no takers and Chris Howe, although very busy with other commitments, agreed to stand. This required a new Vice-President, for which Swaz Bramley agreed to stand. As there had been no other volunteers, these posts became effective in June. Swaz also took over Awards.

12. There were no other Board posts due for election in 2020.

13. The Constitution required an Independent Elections Volunteer who was not on the Board. Dave Peck, having been on the Board for 30 years, agreed to stand down and take on that role, for which Chris thanked him.

ITEM 4. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

14. The Treasurer, John Stubbington, noted that copies of the annual statements had been circulated to attendees. The very large surplus for 2020 arose explicitly from the refund of losses incurred in November 2018, via the good services of the Financial Ombudsman. There was very little else to say

about the 2020 accounts, because of the lack of activity. Looking forward to the Budget for 2021, there was substantial speculation about which items would actually occur, especially in the Awards context. The connections already secured by the President for website job advertisements had yielded £1500 credit so far, and there was one more company expressing interest. There were no questions or comments raised by the attendees. John thanked Dr Bob Andrews for his annual audit, which had found all in order. The Account Statements were agreed as an accurate record of 2020 transactions, proposed by Swaz Bramley and seconded by Clive Murgatroyd.

15. The accounts are attached to these minutes.

ITEM 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

16. The Membership Secretary Ian Fish, briefed that membership of the UK Chapter had had another excellent year and stood at 562. In late 2020 the Chapter received two membership awards, for the greatest membership growth in International Region 1 and also for the greatest growth in the whole AOC.

17. Ian said that he would be grateful if members who were registered under a company email address would consider changing to a personal email address, so that there would be a better chance of remaining in contact when retirement or job move occurred. Anybody wishing to make this change was invited to email him at piscene1@gmail.com.

ITEM 6. EDUCATION AND AWARDS REPORT

18. Swaz Bramley, Vice-President & Awards, briefed on education and awards. Key items were the RN Top Student, the Army Yeoman of Signals and the RAF Weapon Systems Operator (for which Chemring was donating a trophy) awards and those to John Clifford and Tim Gosling.

19. The RN had not made its Fleet Efficiency Award in 2020, and the RAF Smallwood Trophy was due during 2021.

20. The awards summary is attached to these minutes.

ITEM 7. PROGRAMME AND FUNCTIONS REPORT

21. The Visits Director, Sue Robertson, briefed on functions. Unsurprisingly, COVID had completely disrupted events for the year, with proposed visits to 30 Commando Y Squadron in Plymouth and to the Joseph Pilsudski Institute in London put on hold. New dates for those events would be set up as soon as possible. She thanked Dave Peck for his hard work with the Institute and also in hopefully setting up a very interesting talk on the recreation of the Polish Cyclometer by Hal Evans; it was hoped to hold that at the RAF club when things returned to normal.

22. While physical events had been impossible, the AOC had moved reasonably successfully into Zoom world, and HQ had put on some impressive online events including a virtual EMS summit and a CEMALITE Virtual Summit.

23. Closer to home, the AOC had recently introduced a series of Zoom meetings for members in International Region 1 (which includes the UK) to come together about once a month. Each meeting focuses on one chapter in the region, with the host chapter president giving a brief overview of the chapter and then a technical presentation by one of the chapter members. There had been two meetings so far, with the Arctic Roost from Norway hosting the first one and the UK chapter hosting the second. Chapter President, Chris Howe, and David Stupples gave excellent presentations. The next meeting would feature the Pretorian roost from Italy and would be held on Tuesday 13th (Secretary's note: now 20th) April. The Italian Chapter was the AOC's newest chapter, so it was hoped that members would support this meeting.

24. In May there would be a break from the regional meetings to hold an AOC Europe online summit. That would take place on May 18th and was being organised in conjunction with Clarion events, the AOC's logistics partner for AOC Europe. The summit would have two sessions, the first being Battlefield Digitisation and the second Cognitive EW. One of the UK chapter directors, Darren Nichols, would speak on "Augmenting Existing Radar and Air Defence Systems". The event was free to register on website www.AOCEurope.org.

25. As for face-to-face events, the UK chapter was considering participating in DSEI to be held, as usual in the Excel Centre, from 14th to 17th September. The much-delayed AOC Europe conference would be held in Liverpool from 11th to 13th October. Although the conference would have to be smaller than usual with just one conference stream, it was hoped that it would prove to have been worth the wait for all to meet up again in person.

26. Finally, the Christmas Dinner would take place on Friday 10th December at the RAF Club.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

27. Clive Murgatroyd, on behalf of members, thanked Chris Howe for stepping up as President.

Roger Hannaford
Secretary
2 April 2021

AOC UK CHAPTER - 2020 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

2019 INCOME	2019 COSTS	ITEMS	2020 INCOME	2020 COSTS
		AGM		
	534.60	Annual General Meeting		nil
		CHRISTMAS AWARDS DINNER		
	2138.40	2019 <Christmas Awards Dinner> 2020		nil
1450.00		2018<Christmas Awards Dinner members payments>2019		
		CHAPTER AWARDS		
	nil	<i>Smallwood Trophy - Biennial award</i>		nil
	375.00	2019 <Fleet EW Trophy> 2020		nil
	200.00	Air Warfare School - Cranwell		nil
	400.00	LS(EW) Course Award, HMS Collingwood		nil
		Yeoman of Signals, Blandford		200.00
	25.00	Engraving for Awards; Frames etc		nil
		REBATE AND REFUNDS FROM AOC HQ		
2694.52		AOC Chapter Rebate	3799.50	
302.18		Chapter Award from AOC HQ		nil
	818.05	Expenses for EW Europe		nil
1585.66		Profit share from AOC HQ		nil
1087.50	1109.50	Expenses for DSEI Exhibition		nil
		OPERATIONS		
10.00		Sale - two ties		nil
	44.59	Treasurers expenses - P&P		nil

750.00		AIA - Website Advertisement		nil
1750.00		PENNA - website advertisement		nil
		EWST - Website advertisement	750.00	
		Refund from Financial Ombudsman	8994.53	
		EasyWeb Hosting		30.99
		Squarespace web design		194.40
		Bank refund	7.76	
		Flowers for Jane Clifford		58.00
		Website Improvement - Alan Howe		1500.00
9629.86	5645.14	TOTALS	13551.79	1983.39
0.00		Bank interest	0.00	
3984.72		2019 <YEAR SURPLUS/DEFICIT> 31 Dec-2020	11568.40	
		Items carried forward to 2021		
		Nil		
		ASSETS at 31 Dec 2020		
		18 plaques and 47 ties (Ties @ £5)		
		4 x EW History Vol3 @ £20		
		1 x AOC Legacy - The First 50 Years @ £15		

John E G Stubbington
Wg Cdr, Treasurer
16/03/2021

AOC UK CHAPTER
2021 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BUDGET

2020 INCOME	2020 EXPENDITURE	ITEMS	2021 INCOME	2021 EXPENDITURE
		AGM		
Nil	Nil	Annual General Meeting		Nil
		CHRISTMAS DINNER		
	2250	2020 <Xmas Dinner Costs> 2021		2000
1500		2020 < Xmas Dinner payments > 2021	1000	
		CHAPTER AWARDS		
	750	Smallwood		750
	375	Fleet EW		375
	200	Cranwell		200
	200	Collingwood		200
	200	ISTAR Award		Nil
	50	Miscellaneous, engraving, etc		50
	??	Yeoman of Signals, Blandford		200
	??	Operational Award		Nil
	??	Wellbeck College		Nil
		REBATE AND REFUNDS FROM AOC HQ		
2500		AOC Subs Rebate	2250	
250		AOC Award to Chapter		Nil
		OPERATIONS		
	30	Internet		30
	25	Treasurers P&P expenses		25
??		Annual website Advertisements	1500	
4250	4080	TOTALS	4750	3830

170		YEAR SURPLUS	920	

John E G Stubbington

Wg Cdr, Treasurer 1 16/03/2021

UK CHAPTER AWARDS SUMMARY MARCH 2021

ROYAL NAVY

The Royal Navy Top EW Student of the Year Award

For 2020 the "Top EW Student" was LS (EW) Lewis Bennett from the latest LS (EW) Qualifying course and who is currently serving on HMS Kent. The award and cheque will be sent to HMS Collingwood for presentation in due course.

BRITISH ARMY

Army Yeo of Signals Course Top Student

The UK Chapter (Board Member Mr. R. Canale) presented a Certificate of Commendation and cheque to SSgt Y of S(EW) Paul Tough in June 2020. The ceremony took place at the Army Royal Corps of Signals EW, Blandford Camp.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Award for the No.50Aerosystems Course in July 2020

No. 50 AeroSystems Course started in 2020 to and is due to finish in 2021 (no course ran 2019/20). The UK Chapter President addressed the course in September 2020 about the AOC and the benefits of membership.

The Royal Air Force Top Student on the WSOp (EW/ISR) Course Award

The AOC UK Chapter was delighted to recognise two winners of the relatively new award recognising the EW content and capability of the RAF Weapon Systems Operator (EW/ISR) Course. Both courses ran in 2019 and formal presentation of the awards has been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions impacting the graduation ceremonies. The winners were Sgt Wallace and Sgt Elliott who are now both on Frontline squadrons.

The AOC would like to express its thanks to Chemring Countermeasures Ltd. who have offered to provide a bespoke trophy to be awarded to the future winners.

INDIVIDUAL

Anton D. "Tony" Brees Lifetime Service Award

The 2020 Anton D. "Tony" Brees Lifetime Service Award was posthumously awarded to Mr John Clifford OBE, in recognition of his exemplary and sustained service to the AOC at a national level. It is hoped a presentation will take place later this year to John's wife, Jane, when COVID-19 measures allow.

Outstanding Achievement Award

The UK Chapter is delighted to recognise Mr Tim Gosling, the winner of an Outstanding Achievement Award. It is hoped that the presentation can be made in 2021 when the current COVID restrictions are lifted.