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President
207 Squadron (Royal Air Force) Association

14th September 2013

Dear Member,

I am writing to let all members of No 207 Squadron (RAF) Association know the outcome of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7th September 2013.

AGM Proposition on the Future of the Association

After conducting routine agenda business, the members present addressed the main topic of the meeting, namely the future of the Association. The President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and one Member Without Portfolio (John Laing) had previously notified their intention to stand down from office.

There had been no volunteers prior to the AGM to succeed to those offices nor were any volunteers to join the Committee forthcoming from the members at the AGM. The meeting noted the accelerating decline in membership numbers, the negligible likelihood of recruiting former members of the Squadron and the lack of volunteers to hold office or even to ensure a fully functioning Committee militated against successfully continuing a viable Association. Typical comments received from members prior to the AGM supported the view that the Association must face up to the fact of declining membership and accept, with regret, that it was no longer viable. This led the AGM to conclude that it would be best to disband the Association now in an orderly and dignified manner rather than suffer a protracted decline.

Therefore the President proposed, seconded by WWII veteran member Tom Rogers, that the No 207 Squadron (RAF) Association be wound up at the end of the present subscription year, namely 31st October 2013, and the assets be distributed as decided by the Committee, in accordance with the Constitution. The proposition was agreed unanimously.

The present Committee members had indicated that they were prepared to continue in office to oversee the disbandment of the Association and were duly re-elected on that basis.

Winding Up the Association

Final Event The final, formal No 207 Squadron Association event will be participation in the laying up of the No 207 (Reserve) Squadron Standard at Lincoln Cathedral on 3rd October 2013 and hosting an informal reception afterwards. Details of this have been notified separately.

Subscriptions Please do **not** make any payment for the new subscription year commencing 1st November 2013 and **cancel immediately any standing order payments** for future subscriptions to the Association.

Distribution of Assets The distribution of assets by the Committee was discussed briefly by the members at the AGM. There was a strong feeling that any resultant financial donations should be targeted mainly on the upkeep of memorials to, and the welfare of, WWII veterans. Accordingly, the Committee will be considering in particular the RAFBF Appeal for the long term maintenance of the Bomber Command Memorial in Green Park, London; the Lincolnshire Bomber Command Memorial Appeal; the RAF Benevolent Fund, RAF Association, Royal British Legion and Not Forgotten Association appeals – specifying assistance to WWII veterans' welfare; the Market Rasen commemoration in 2014 of the 50th anniversary of the crash of Valiant WZ363; assistance to the long term maintenance of the Spilsby and Langar Memorials to 207 Squadron*. In addition, the AGM approved the principle of honoraria to Association Officers for continuing out of pocket expenses after dissolution of the Association.

*The meeting considered it essential that the appropriate groups of "Friends of the Monuments to 207 Squadron", should be established each with a separate bank account which would require a Chairman/Secretary and Treasurer to be appointed. In order to prevent hijacking by undesirable elements, such groups should embody the principles of the No 207 Squadron (RAF) Association but should clearly identify that they were not successors to the Association.

The same principle should be applied to the continuation of the Website which, whilst incorporating the previous content, would require a new name which would not imply approval by the No 207 Squadron (RAF) Association of material subsequent to its dissolution.

Get Together Reunion in 2014

Members were strongly of the opinion that they would like to have an informal get together in 2014 in a format similar to the 2013 Association Reunion, which was proving highly successful. The Washington Group should be invited to participate, there would be no AGM and the Gala Dinner should be informal. It was agreed that John Laing would invite *Isle of Wight Tours* to make proposals. (Note: it is now proposed that this informal get together, incorporating the Washington Group, should be held in Scarborough 12th to 15th September 2014; details will be circulated separately.)

Members will be invited to register an interest (without commitment) if they wish to be informed about any future events connected with the former 207 Squadron (Royal Air Force) Association – see the enclosed note from John Laing.

In Conclusion

It is with great sadness that we have accepted the inevitable need to close down the Association. The present Committee will continue in office to act in a caretaker role to oversee the various administrative and legal aspects, including distribution of assets, taking due account of comments and suggestions by members.

We intend to issue a final Newsletter, which will include the AGM Minutes and an account of the 207 (R) Squadron Standard laying up ceremony at Lincoln Cathedral, together with general information to tidy up after the formal end of the No 207 Squadron (RAF) Association.

REMINDER Please cancel straight away your Standing Orders for Association subs – the bank account will be closed and in any event the Treasurer, Nikki, will have a lot to do without an additional workload.

Finally, I wish to place on record my personal thanks to all members of the Committee for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Association over many years and especially in their efforts during the recent challenging times. It has been a privilege to work with them – and to meet and serve on behalf of the many members of the Association.

My best wishes to you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.



John A. Laing
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 Perth, PH2 0GZ
 Tel: 01738 623888 email: johnandmarylaing@hotmail.co.uk
Committee Member
207 Squadron Royal Air Force Association



Do you want to be informed about Future Gatherings?

Alan Watkins letter touched on this matter in his letter. I can add that comments from those present at Stafford indicated that it had been a very happy weekend. The Washingtonians were highly appreciative of being included and along with 207 people were keen to have joint meetings in the future.

On the Sunday afternoon the Committee members present met with Shirley Winn and Vanessa Trow of *Isle of Wight Tours* and agreed that they would organise future gatherings for which they would require to be supplied, each year, with the addresses of those wishing to participate. To this end I was asked to prepare a statement of intent to go to members and to be returned to me.

It would be appreciated if those who intend at any time to attend a gathering of ex members and friend members would complete the slip below and return it to me, so that their contact details can be updated to show that they wish to be advised of future events.

If I do NOT hear from you it will be assumed that you do not wish to get news of any gatherings or similar happenings connected with our former Association.

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To:- J A Laing
 10 Graybank Road,
 Perth
 PH2 0GZ

I wish you to keep me informed about any future events connected with the former 207 Squadron (Royal Air Force) Association.

Please print

Name:.....

Address.....

Phone No.....

Email:

Signature.....

Note: If you wish you may respond by email to: johnandmarylaing@hotmail.co.uk