

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY AVIATION MUSEUM LTD.

Held at the Museum on 20th January 2018

Present: The Chairman (D Reid) and 29 members, C Ewing, R Sloan, R Sloan Snr, J Francey, J Burns, J Lange, P Howieson, H Wall, I Brown, D Oberheimd, H McConnachie, R Williamson, O Richardson, J Cowan, D Buckley, DS Johnstone, P Johnstone, D Johnstone, P Branfield, R Matthew, M Lavery, K Shiers, K Irving, A Lammin, S Stockdale, S Smith, M Service, + 2 others.

- **Apologies for absence:** K Kirkpatrick, Jim Kilpatrick, John Charteris, V Reid, Jim Kilbride, Paul MacKey, Jim Eagles, R Lumsden, J Lang
- **Minutes of the 2017 AGM:** The minutes of the meeting in 14th January 2017 were proposed by B Sloan, seconded by D Reid and approved with a single correction. The numbers quoted last year re visitors are as per the table in the agenda, and not those quoted.
- **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
- **Chairman / Curator's Report (David Reid)**

The curator announced the formal appointment of Bob Richardson as the patron of the museum. Bob was a service member of the RAF at the base during the war and we are honoured that he has accepted the post. There are very few veterans left that served here during the war.

Visitor Numbers

Visitor number increased during 2017.

<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
5952	4879	7216	6703	8719

Step increase in numbers is attributed to a number of differing factors –

- opening of the Spitfire hanger and the 40th anniversary of the museum.
- increased our presence on social media with heavy use of Facebook
- internet presence via Tripadvisor and continued expansion of website content.
- Leaflet distribution continues to become wider via company we use, and in 2018 will continue to expand with northern England to be covered

Volunteers

The Curator wished us to thank all the volunteers who help keep the museum running and took particular care to thank the front of staff volunteers for their ongoing efforts and those that assisted with the ongoing construction effort to expand the facilities at the museum.

Solway Military Trail

The curatorial staff continue to be actively involved in the establishment of this idea which will promote visitors to tour across a number of sites in the area (Siloth, Millom, Carlisle Castle, Devils Porridge, Solway Aviation Museum and of course our museum).

Museum History

The curator continues to work on creating a written history of the museum through its first 40 years. Whilst this was not able to be completed with the year of our 40th anniversary it is hoped to be ready during 2018.

Looking Forward

2018 will see the opening of the new RAF Dumfries building which will vastly expand the space available for displays relating to the site, and do so in a building that is more accessible to the general public. (wheel chair access throughout).
It is also expected that the new Airborne Forces building will be started during the year.

Events

The Gypsy Moth replica 'Jason' (Amy Johnson's aircraft) will be going on loan this year to the BADAPPLE Theatre company who will use it throughout the year in a touring production of a play about the life of Amy Johnson.

One date of the tour will be in Dumfries with the show being held at the museum (likely 3rd June) utilizing the Spitfire hanger.

A full programme of our normal events will also be run throughout the year and the full list will be published soon.

Closing remarks

Sadly during the year we have lost a number of members of the museum, many of which had played a significant part in helping the museum to develop into what it is today. It is therefore with sadness that we must note the passing of Jim Richardson, Willy Wightman, Alex West, and Ken Garner.

Question from floor: *Is there any update on the AntiAircraft Guns due from Orkney ?*

Response: *Yes, these are due to come to us and it is with the haulage company to arrange the transportation. They are looking to tie it up to taking a load north so that the cost is reduced. Expected to happen within the next couple of months.*

- **Treasurer's Report (Jym Francey)**

Jim Francey presented the summarised accounts for the year ending 31 October 2017.

He highlighted the increase in the surplus at the end of the year, but also that the costs of running the museum continue to rise, especially with the increased number of buildings.

The financial position is far healthier than it has been in the past and with the current levels of investment in developing our offering, and the potential increase in numbers that will arise from this the museum is seen as being in a solid financial footing at present.

No questions arose

- **Membership Secretary**

The new membership secretary, Charlie Ewing, introduced himself to the meeting and highlighted the timeline for renewals this year. The production and distribution of the Merlin will remain at 4 per year and all members were asked if there was anything they could contribute to this as many have been around the museum for many years.

In addition it was highlighted that there will be a consultation exercise with the members during the year in support of our development plan refresh. Everyone's chance to help shape our future.

Membership numbers will be published each year , as at 31st December

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Standard	87				
Premier	25				
Family	76				
Life	11				
Total	199				

Question from floor: *Distribution of Merlin inconsistent, some members received both by mail and email, others, not at all. Why?*

Response: *This is due to inconsistency between the email distribution lists used and the contents of the members database. There are a number of actions required to improve the overall accuracy of the data held as these are being actively worked on at present. The membership should see more consistency moving forward.*

- **Health and Safety Officer Report (Bob Sloan Snr)**

There were no issues worth noting during the year.

Continues to be a challenge, especially with the volume and nature of the building work, to ensure that we always put Health and Safety at the heart of our approach, but through diligent behavior and an increase in the use of Risk Assessments to highlight potential dangers we have had a very safe build.

- **Site Planning and Development (Bob Sloan)**

2017 has been a big year for the museum in terms of the development of the site. After all our work getting the new buildings erected, we have been able to enjoy putting them to use as planned.

The workshop has transformed our ability to work on projects in all weathers, with the Spitfire and F1-11 cockpit the first airframes inside. In the near future we intend to move the Sycamore in to assess the work it requires in preparation for its restoration.

The Spitfire hangar has proved a perfect fit for the Spitfire, with plenty of room to walk round the aircraft but with room to spare to allow the display to develop in the future.

Our RAF Dumfries & the Bomber War Nissen hut has been fitted out, and we will soon start mounting displays ready to open the building in the spring. This building especially will allow us to bring items out of storage which haven't been on display before, as well as drawing items from the tower creating space for new displays there as well.

In addition to the new buildings, we have also created a new Large Object Store with the help of Museums Galleries Scotland, who are great supporters of our use of the humble shipping container. This project is nearing completion, and has allowed us to store a large number of objects in good, dry conditions which we struggled to achieve beforehand.

2018 will have two main aims: the Airborne Forces Building and the Archive building. With funding applications submitted and some money already in place from museum funds and donations from various regional Parachute Regiment Associations, the Airborne Forces building is our first priority. It will house everything already on display in the current building, as well as a massive amount of material currently in store on and off site, including a Hadrian glider and a Willys Jeep. Funds allowing, we hope to start construction in the spring.

The Archive building will be housed in the next Nissen hut to be erected. This will hold a vast amount of material which due to space restraints we can't currently access easily. Our target for the year is to raise the funding required to erect this building over the winter.

None of the above would have been possible without the support of our funders and as always, the tireless work of our volunteers.

Question from floor: *Are there any plans for continued work within the tower.*

Response: *Yes, there is currently a grant application out with the SUEZ fund to replace the remaining windows and fix any outstanding issues with the render. We are awaiting a response to this funding request.*

- **Directors**

The company secretary (Charlie Ewing) highlighted that he was in error last year at the AGM by not ensuring the reselection of a number of our directors. Those who should have been reselected have been continuing in office but it requires the approval of the AGM for them to continue. As they have already served a year then it is proposed that they serve 2 more years before again seeking reselection. The following board members were therefore put forward for reselection to a 2 year term –

Board Member	Proposed	Seconded	Approved ?
David Reid	B Sloan	C Ewing	Yes
Charlie Ewing	D Reid	S Stockdale	Yes
Helen Wall	J Francey	C Ewing	Yes
Bob Sloan (snr)	J Francey	DS Johnstone	Yes
Jim Kilbride	A Lammin	B Sloan	Yes

In addition the following board members were put forward for reselection for 3 years as they become due this year –

Board Member	Proposed	Seconded	Approved ?
Bob Sloan	B Sloan (snr)	D Reid	Yes
Peter Howieson	J Francey	D Reid	Yes
Jym Francey	B Sloan (snr)	S Stockdale	Yes

2 existing directors (John Lange and Paul MacKey) have stated their intention to not stand for reselection and are therefore no longer on the board.

The secretary expressed the thanks of all the other board members for the significant contribution that they have made to the running of the museum and asked that all the members joined the board in this.

The board will continue with 13 members which is well within the bounds laid out by the Articles of Association. The board will consider the impact that the loss of these directors is likely to have and take action to address any weakness in its make up that this has introduced. This is already an agenda item for the next board meeting in February.

The curator highlighted that whilst Jim Kilbride does not attend our regular meetings his efforts in the identification of, and securing access to, significant artefacts of historic interest relating to Airborne Forces has been instrumental in our securing the position of being seen as the future home of the Air Assault (Scotland). His efforts deserve the thanks of both the board and the full membership.

- **AOB**

Question from floor: *Are there any plans for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of the RAF ?*

Response (DR): *Not specifically, and certainly not in time for 1st April anniversary. Once the RAF Dumfries building is fully open then the remaining spaces can be looked at to consider next displays.*

Response (Floor): *Would it be possible to approach Borough Museum to see if they have space for such a display.*

Response (DR): *Worthy of consideration and the board will ensure it is investigated.*

The Chairman closed the meeting with thanks to all those who attended

Next AGM: Saturday - 19th January 2019

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