



**Operation Crown Association
Minutes of Annual General Meeting
Sunday, 21st June 2015
Holiday Inn, Stratford**

Attendees: Mike Stanbridge, John Hamnett, Alan Myers, Jess Baldwin, Bryan Shield-Probett, George Smart, Roger Andrews, Charles Davis, Maurice Day, Mick Allen, Tony Bold, Jim Varden, Terry Evans, John Lloyd, John Brazil, Tommy Harris, Larry Hughes, Kenny Clements, Chris Potts, David Higgins, Noel Jackson, Bill Watch

1. Welcome & Introduction

The meeting opened at 09:30 with the Chairman, Mike Stanbridge, welcoming everybody and thanking them for coming – some from very long distances.

The Agenda for the meeting would be as published except that Items 3 and 5 would be covered by himself and/or Alan Myers in the absence of the Hon Sec, Neville Wareham, who has had to withdraw at short notice owing to recent hospital admission and surgery. We all toasted his health last evening and wished him a very quick recovery.

2. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman announced that whilst he had been sent a list of apologies, by Neville, in May he was sure that it was not now up to date but it numbered close to 40.

See Item 11 for the latest version.

3. Minutes of Last AGM and Actions Arising

The only action arising from the last Minutes was the question of Funding as the only income the Association has is from one-off membership fees, merchandise sales and donations. The first two on their own would never support or financially offset any of our activities. The introduction of an annual fee would either result in unacceptable additional work of chasing debtors for either cheques/standing orders or extra bank charges for direct debits. Clothing sales are normally one off as individual members join and only provide a profit of c.15%. However, to date, the Association has been very fortunate to receive a number of donations, many of them anonymous, and we have come to rely on these together with raffles and collections. Hence, we will continue to operate on this latter basis until such time we really have to consider an alternative.

4. Treasurers Report

The Chairman reminded members that he had handed over his Treasurer's responsibilities to Alan Myers soon after last year's AGM and as a consequence was in a position to audit this year's account himself. A printed copy of this audit report had been distributed to attendees and had been published on the members' only part of the Associations website. The figures were then explained by the Chairman using a power point slide. In summary, there had been c.40 transactions during the audited year with an excess of expenditure over income of £375.84. At the end of the audit period we had £5,666.15 in the bank plus merchandise assets valued at £367.88 at cost price. The Treasurer, Alan Myers, then brought members up to date with the few transactions that had taken place since the audit date of 28th March 2015 but our net value had changed very little.

5. Membership Matters

In the absence of the Neville, The Chairman announced that, to the best of his knowledge, there had been c.14 new members during the year with, from memory, one loss. We now had a total membership of c 160 Full Members and 12 Associates. These figures will, no doubt, be corrected by Neville in the due course of time.

6. MOD GSM Thai Clasp and/or Thai Govt Award - Actions & Progress

As announced last year the possibility of a GSM Thai Clasp had been explored via the Chairman's local MP, Steve Brine, who channelled the request through the Veterans Minister and ultimately the Under Secretary for State for Defence, Lord Astor of Hever with whom the Chairman had then corresponded with directly. In short, he was quite adamant that there was no case to answer for a UK GSM Clasp even though both the Australians and New Zealanders were awarded the same by their own Governments under different rules/policies BUT still signed off by HM The Queen! However, Steve Brine has since recommended that as many members as possible lobby their own MP's to persuade Lord Astor to think again! With regards to a Thai Govt Award, no progress was made after Col Wittawat Wattanakul, in the Thai Foreign Liaison Division, was badly wounded in the Bangkok riots. Our UK DA in Bangkok, Col Chris Luckham, has endeavoured to resurrect our case via that office to no avail. Hence, the Chairman had recently written to the Thai Prime Minister, General Prayut Chan-o-cha, with a copy of the Thai Award proposal but, as yet, had received no reply.

7. Web Site Matters

John Hamnett then updated members on the content and plans for the web site and this topic will be the subject of a separate report by John,

8. Committee Matters

The current situation, with Alan Myers on board as Treasurer and Neville Wareham taking on more secretarial duties during the last year has smoothed out the workload but assistance, short or long term is always welcome particularly in the organisation of local events like George & Agnes Smart did in Edinburgh last year. Clothing sales, except for a few caps and ties still available from the Chairman, can now be obtained directly from the supplier Messrs Workstyle Ltd. The proprietor, Michael Johnson's email address, should anyone require a OCA branded T shirt, Sweatshirt, Polo Shirt, Pullover or Fleece, is workstyle@hotmail.co.uk An excellent Newsletter, entitled Sawadee, was initiated by Roger Andrews last year and sent out to all members and it would be good to continue with this as a regular publication but it clearly requires articles from members. Hence, members are encouraged to submit articles to Roger if they feel they have any relevant topics for circulation.

9. Future Events

- a. **Thai Reunion:** John Hamnett gave an overview of what had already been published and circulated regarding the planned Thai reunion in November. Please inform John Hamnett and Noel Jackson if you intend to be there so numbers can be catered for.
- b. **Next AGM:** Doncaster was proposed by John Lloyd because of the Scammelfest in April. No doubt John will update us with possible arrangements in due course.

10: AOB.

- a. **Thanks to Committee:** George Smart proposed thanks to all Committee members for their continuing efforts. This was kindly seconded and carried by all.
- b. **Collection:** A voluntary collection was proposed and carried out by the Treasurer and a total amount of £174.00 was collected including a £25 cheque received by post from Malcolm Macmillan. A big thank you to all contributors.
- c. **Closure:** The meeting closed at 11:00

11. Apologies for Absence

Neville Wareham, Gerry Crowe, Brian Brown, James Adams, Adrian Mills, Tam Macdonald, Malcolm Shaw, Tony Mitchell, Mike Clare, Wally Boldock, Jack Crompton, Dave Allison, Bob Barlow, Clifford Gray, Michael Twigg, Mick Norton, Terry Crimmons, Ian Mattyear, Dave Chapman, David Kruger, Kenwin Jones, John Valkman, Jim Parker, Charlie Quinn, Jake Townley, Arthur St Julien, Ken Bywater, Bill Lewis, John Caldwell, John Knowles, Jim Curtis, Brian May, John Jordan, Harry Collar, Michael Heal, Freddie Rose, Buck Brown, Bob Lavalin, Fred Collings, Michael Lindsey, Arthur Nix, Stephen Rose, Malcolm Shaw, John Hooker, Michael Burgin, Phil Horn, Allan Whiteley, Fred Mua, John Owen, Bill Sayer, Mike Stevenson, George Nicholson, John Brown, Neil Campbell, Alan Stockton, Roger Robinson, Ray Hall, Charles Davies, Malcolm Macmillan.