



OPERATION CROWN ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Annual General Meeting.
Held at the Village Hotel, Bury.
On Sunday 1st. July 2018

COMMITTEE

John Hamnett (J.H.), Alan Myers (A.M.), Noel Jackson (N.J.), Neville Wareham (N.W.)

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Fred Mua, Bill Edwards, Butch Edwards, Jimmy James, John Knowles, John Lloyd, George Dane, Jim Varden, Malcolm Macmillan, John Hooker, Mike Heal.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Due to the resignation of the Chairman Mike Stanbridge and no Chairman in place, it was agreed that J.H. Would take the meeting. The meeting opened at 09.40 hours. J.H. Welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming. He thanked N.W. for his efforts in negotiating and making the Hotel arrangements etc.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

N.W. Read out the following who had apologised, Mike Clare, Peter Coates, Robert Lavallin, Sarah Williams, Ray Hall, Brian May, James Adams, Roger Andrews, George Smart, Malcolm Shaw, Jack Crompton, Kenwin Jones, Hilary Nash, David Lockwood, Jake Townsley, Terry Evans, Neil Campbell, Ian Matyear, Chris Potts, Michael Allen, Maurice Day, Arthur St.Julien, David Jardine, James Hopgood, John Cook, David Allison, Jim Curtis, Bill Watch, Harry Murray, John Brazill, Allan Whiteley.

Members present had no one to add.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING 2017 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes had been distributed to all Members with no comments forthcoming. There were copies on the tables.

J.H. Asked the Members for any Matters Arising, no Matters Arising. Jimmy James voted that they are a true record seconded by John Lloyd.

3. RESIGNATION OF MIKE STANBRIDGE

J.H. Outlined the actions taken by Mike Stanbridge with regards to the Associations finances which are the responsibility of the Treasurer A. M. His actions caused disruption and loss of banking facilities for a period of time.

He also claimed monies from the Associations funds that had not been sanctioned by all of the Committee.

Because he could not have permission to control the Treasurers duties he forwarded his resignation.

Mike Heal responded in support of Mike Stanbridge, but he was not aware of the details.

John Hooker proposed a vote of thanks for all the work that Mike Stanbridge has done for the Association over the years, this was seconded by Mike Heal. All Members were in agreement.

4. TREASURERS REPORT. (Alan Myers)

A.M. Commenced by pointing out that copies of the Associations finances were on the tables.

You will note that these accounts have been verified by a professional practising accountant who has added his advice with regards to persons claiming expenses re-imburement.

A.M. went on to explain the problems caused by Mike Stanbridge interference at the banks.

A.M. offered Members present to view E. mails, invoices etc. with regards to what was felt to be excessive spending.

**OPERATION CROWN ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2018**

LLOYDS BANK ACCOUNT: SORT CODE 30-93-83 - ACCOUNT NUMBER: 49870160

	£	£
INCOME		
Donations and collections	429.29	
Members fees	90.00	
Merchandise sales	<u>105.00</u>	
		624.29
EXPENDITURE		
Port for Loyal Toast (Dinner)	55.00	
Expenses (M Stanbridge)	311.41	
Medal Payments	2,460.00	
Web site payment (Easily)	43.18	
Gifts for Thai VIP's	<u>132.97</u>	
		<u>3,002.56</u>
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		- 2,378.27
BANK BALANCE AT 1ST APRIL 2017		<u>6,046.74</u>
BANK BALANCE AT 31ST MARCH 2018		3,668.47
STOCK HELD AT 31ST MARCH 2018		
- 33 Pin Badges @ £4.02	132.66	
- 0 Ties @ £8.66	-	
- 45 DVD's @ £4.67	<u>210.15</u>	
		<u>342.81</u>
TOTAL ASSETS AT 31ST MARCH 2018		<u><u>4,011.28</u></u>

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

I have examined the accounting records and supporting documents for the Operation Crown Association for the year ended 31st March 2018 and verified that they form an accurate record of the transactions which have occurred and the balances which are held.

My view has been sought in relation to the appropriateness of certain expenses re-imbursed, however it is the committee's role to decide upon this. My role as reporting accountant is to report the accuracy of the financial statement. My recommendation of best practice would be for the committee to implement an authorisation procedure for such items in future such that receipted expenditure is approved by two committee members.

Lee Grattage ACA
LG Accountancy Limited

5. MATTERS ARISING

With no matters arising, John Lloyd proposed that the Treasurers Report be accepted, seconded by John Hooker.
A.M. Was thanked for his due diligence.

6. POST CROWN ROAD 50th CELEBRATION REPORT.

With the aid of video/photographs J.H. & N.J. told Members present how overwhelmed we were at the reception and turn out that confronted us at the airfield for the celebration day.

There were 500 dancers performing as we were led onto the main stage to be introduced personally.

The Association was fortunate that we had our own military high rankers in line with the Thai local governors etc. Our high rankers were Derek Marx, the Assistant Defence Attache from the British Embassy, Bangkok and Brigadier Chris Rose (ret'd) who is the son of Major Frederick Rose (ret'd) the original project officer on the Post Crown Road Project.

The unveiling of the refurbished road marker plaque at the end of the road was another spectacular event during the day with speeches from all dignitaries and our own J.H. It is certain that all who were fortunate to attend this celebration will not forget the overwhelming way we were treated.

N.J. Explained to Members present that as an Association through our sponsor we have been able to finance projects at the local schools. Following our 50th Crown Airfield Celebration in November of 2015 we sponsored the building and installation of a pair of grandstand, tiered seats for the school at Ban Khok Samran (Ban Khok Talat). Through the Associations contacts in Thailand we have been invited to sponsor an educational facility called "OPERATION POST CROWN HUT" this is a purpose built facility in the grounds of Ban Hong Khong School, previously the area occupied by Sappers working on Post Crown in the tented camp. It will be used to display pictures and text to inform and illustrate to local children and adults the work carried out by the British Army during Operation Post Crown. The building will be dual purpose as it will also serve as a waiting area for children being collected after school which will be particularly welcomed during the rainy season. Pictures of the facility were shown on screen. The beauty of being involved in this sort of project is that it will be overseen by ourselves, therefore there is no one lining their own pockets.

Mike Heal proposed that the Association contribute £1,500 towards the project from Association funds. This was seconded by John Knowles. All Members present agreed. The remainder will be sponsored.

The Members wished to thank Somrak, Eck, Rose, Kan, John, Noel and Nut for all their hard work and many hours in putting all the arrangements etc. together and for the way everything went smoothly. Nuts commitments at meal times in translating our requirements was invaluable.

A special mention for Kathaleeya and Kinnaree for their patience while Mum and Dad had their thoughts on this Celebration over the last 12 months.

7. THE WAY FORWARD. (COMMITTEE)

J.H. Asked Members present, do they wish the Association to carry on? All hands were raised in favour that the Association carries on. J.H. Stated that we have had to run without a Chairman since Mike Stanbridge resigned and everything seemed amicable. J.H. Suggested we run without a Chairman and just have a meeting coordinator.

Mike Heal proposed that J.H. Be the meeting coordinator and was seconded by Jimmy James. Everyone was in favour.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

J.H. Asked if the present Officers were willing to stand. The Officers were willing to stand. The Members were asked if any would like to join the Committee. No takers. Jim Varden proposed that the Committee serve as they are. This was seconded by Fred Mua. Everyone was in favour.

9. A.O.B

• Question from Michael Allen.

“In the event of O.C.A. Closing (unlikely I hope, with Noel) what will be the disposition of any existing funds? And, will all O.C.A.Members be given a vote on the disposition of any such monies and will the vote result be binding on the Committee?”

Answer. In the event of the Associations closure, highly unlikely at present (see item 7) a vote of all Members will be taken with reference monies. The Members vote is and will always be binding.

- **Question from Michael Allen.**

“Over the years since the O.C.A. Inception a considerable amount of Op. Crown memorabilia will have been amassed, photos, documents, Member stories etc. has this material ever been inventoried? And again, should O.C.A. Members be given a vote on it's future disposition? And again will that vote be binding on the Committee.”

Answer. The memorabilia is collated. The vote from Members present is that such items should be offered to the R.E. Museum.

Any vote taken with the Members is always binding.

- **Message from Members.**

This is an extract from an 'E' mail sent to me which is to be passed on to the relevant people. It is from David Jardine and Sandra Mahoney who were on the Post Crown Road Celebration. They reside in Australia.

“Predominantly, my reason for writing is to ask you to submit our most sincere thanks to the O.C.A. And all those who assisted with making our trip to the 2015 and 2018 reunions such a wonderful experience. We would especially like to record our thanks to John and Kan and Noel and Somrak and Nut for all their efforts and hard work, we appreciate amazing reunions don't just happen.”

10. DATE AND VENUE OF 2019 AGM.

After many locations were thrown into the arena, it was decided that A.M. investigate/organise based on the suggestion of the Coventry area amalgamating Butch Edwards' suggestion for the Warwick area.

It was voted that we revert back to March/April.

The meeting closed at 1115 hours.

11. POST MEETING NOTE

A collection was organised at the end of the AGM. Funds donated by attendees totalled £220.00 which will be added to Association funds. Gratefully received With Thanks.

**JOHN HAMNETT.
COORDINATOR.**