

# **RECORD OF DISCUSSION SWORDFISH ASSOCIATION MEETING HELD AT THE 14 WING MUSEUM CONFERENCE ROOM 1330 ON 12 JANUARY 2018**

Chairperson Chris Henneberry (President)  
Jack Backstrom (Vice-President)  
Bill Brown (Treasurer) regrets  
Jeff McBean (Membership)  
Al Harvey (Museum Liaison)  
Bert Campbell (Web Manager)  
Reid McBride (Kit Shop) regrets  
Rick Anscomb (VPI Liaison)  
Dwight Estey (Social Media) regrets  
Niels Roggenkemp (415 Historian)  
Jim Lambie (Member)  
Butch Fleury  
Bernie Thorne (CO 415)  
Keith Fugger (member)  
Serge Parisien (member)

1. The Chairman welcomed all participants. He noted the large turnout for the meeting and the significant presence from the Squadron. He thanked the CO for his continued interest and collaboration on a number of projects over the past year.
2. The Chairman also noted that it had been some time since the last Association meeting. He did point out however that during this time a number of articles have been written, a significant number of queries have been answered concerning former Squadron members and the website has been updated regularly. He was also happy to report that in September he and two other members of the Alumni attended a portion of a Squadron Ground Training Day. An historical quiz was presented by the Association, as well as a short motivational talk by Jim Lambie, both of which were well received. Additionally, the Chairman stated that a Squadron social event currently planned for the March timeframe may be opened to Alumni members and their spouses – as details become available they will be announced on the Association website.
3. The proposed Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and accepted as presented.
4. The Record of Discussion of the 28 November 2016 meeting was reviewed and accepted as promulgated. The review confirmed that necessary action has been taken or is underway to meet stated objectives.
5. **2017 East Moor Memorial.** The 2017 event was well attended by RCAF members, with three members from 415 and 12 members from 429. The larger contingent from 429 was in part due to its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program of events. Also the Commanding Officers of both Squadrons were present – the first time this has happened since 1999. The Association has been advised that planning is now on-going for the 2018 event, which is scheduled for Saturday 19 May.
6. Organization of the annual memorial ceremony was transferred to F/Lt (Ret'd RAF) Alan Dolding prior to the 2017 ceremony. Alan is a resident of Sutton-on-the-Forest and assumed this duty from Mike Rigby, who had been the Parade Marshall since 2006. Sadly Mike passed away on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. An article concerning Mike's passing will be placed on the Association website.

7. **Membership Report.** The Membership Coordinator provided an updated Alumni List, which now includes 136 members. He noted that there were four new memberships in 2017.

8. **Financial Report.** The Treasurer provided a written report on recent account activity. He noted that as of 31 December 2017 the account balance was \$3165.00. The account balance was remained steady over the past year.

9. **Kit Shop Report.** The Chairman noted that the Coordinator had forwarded a report, which indicated that a total of \$125.00 in sales was realized in 2017.

10. **Charitable Affiliation.** Once again Al Harvey agreed to take the Association lead for the joint visit to the Veterans Wing at Soldier's Memorial Hospital. This year six members of the Squadron and Association toured the facility and visited the Veterans. A gift of \$300 was presented to the Veteran's social coordinator, of which the Association contributed \$100. A photograph and short summary of the event have been placed on the Association website.

11. While at the Veteran's Wing the visitors received insights on the care which is provided at the Hospital and the restrictions which currently apply to residency on the Wing. The current limitations set by the Federal Government concerning residency is a cause for concern. Members are encouraged to learn more about this situation. Information can be obtained on line or by contacting the local Service Officer at any Royal Canadian Legion. Another friendly and knowledgeable contact is the former MP, Peter Stoffer.

12. **Association Website.** Bert Campbell reported that on average there were well over 3000 visits to the Association website each month. In 2017 the number of visits rose to 41,000, which was a significant increase over the 2016 total of slightly more than 25,000. It is apparent that keeping the website up to date and introducing new material has a very positive effect on the number of views.

13. **Social Media Coordination.** Late in 2017 Steve Tremblay advised that he would no longer be the Administrator of the 415 Swordfish FACEBOOK account. Fortunately Dwight Estey has agreed to take on this responsibility; and as well, he has agreed to continue the related coordination function with the Association. Dwight has reported that there are currently 117 members of this FACEBOOK Group, which is a place where all current and former members of 415 Squadron can keep in touch.

#### 14. **Status Report on remaining 2016 Project:**

(1) Argus Crews 1961-1970, OPI Chris Henneberry, Status: **80%**

Update: It has proven to be very difficult to acquire crew information from this era. Despite having placed notifications on the Association website soliciting information for this project, returns have been disappointing. Even though we have copies of the Historical Reports from this period, there is very little information provided concerning the size, number and composition of the crews. Clearly the capture of crew information and pictures will be a long process. As previously reported, the completion of this project will occur once a framework has been published and the available crew information has been posted to the Association website. This is expected to occur by February 2018.

#### 15. **Status Report on 2017 Projects:**

(1) Remembrance of Argus 737 Crash, OPI All, Status: **Complete**

Update: As a result of significant Ops tempo, the Squadron had to cancel plans to hold a memorial service and parade. The Association compiled a comprehensive article on this tragic Squadron event, which commemorated the loss of three Swordfish. The article, which is posted on the

Association website, received positive feedback from many members of the Alumni and friends of the Squadron. Despite extensive investigation, it was only possible to connect with five members of the crew or their immediate families.

(2) Squadron Historical Reports, OPI Squadron Historian, Status: 50%

Update: Some years ago copies of the Squadron Historical Reports for 1961 to 1969 were recovered amongst the artefacts of the Squadron. More recently during a visit to the Directorate of History and Heritage (DHH) Niels Roggenkamp obtained copies of the Historical Reports written between 1986 and 2004, which he has shared with the Association. Unfortunately the Historical Reports written between 1970 and 1985 were classified and must be parsed and redacted before parts of the reports can be distributed openly. Apparently to move this project along, a member of the Squadron will need to take a specialist course that is required to declassify portions of the Reports in question. In conjunction with Niels Roggenkamp, Al Harvey (who still holds a Secret security classification), will investigate what steps must next be taken to move this project along. Bert Campbell confirmed that no Squadron Historical Reports are held by the Greenwood Military Aviation Museum.

(3) Argus Crews 1971-1981, OPI Chris Henneberry, Status: 50%

Update: While conducting research related to compiling a list of Argus crews from the sixties, a significant amount of information and crew photos were obtained for the period 71 to 81. This information is being compiled in a similar fashion to that acquired for the period 61 to 70. It is hoped that an initial release of this information can be placed on the Association website by May 2018.

## 16. Proposed Projects for 2018:

(1) Swordfish Tales

Scope: Jack Backstrom has agreed to conduct a research project to determine whether or not copies of Swordfish Tales are held at the Summerside Library. He expects that this work should be completed by September 2018.

(2) Refurbishment of Bennett Painting – Argus 737

Scope: Chuck O'Neill, a member of the Alumni, has forwarded a Geoff Bennett painting of Argus 737, which is in need of refurbishment. Once updated, the painting will be presented to the Squadron and it will become part of their collection. It was moved that up to \$150 be spent to complete the refurbishment (including frame). The motion was unanimously passed. It is planned to have this project completed by June 2018.

(3) Given the on-going work with the Argus Crew projects, it was agreed that a third 2018 project was not necessary.

17. **Other.** In previous meetings the Association had discussed the feasibility of assisting the Squadron with the costs associated with moving and updating the Inspiration Stone from the GMAM to the Squadron. The amount that was suggested was \$200.00. The stone has now been relocated and updated at a total cost of \$525.00. There was a general discussion in which it was agreed that the Association should pay half the cost. At this point Jim Lambie stated that he would make a gift to the Association of \$200, which could be used to offset the cost. It was then moved that the Association would match the gift received from Jim Lambie and that a total of \$400 would be presented to the Squadron. This motion was unanimously passed. The Association Treasurer will forward a cheque in the amount of \$400 to the CO 415 Squadron.

18. Information concerning an annual memorial service at Thorney Island has been received by the Association. The focus of the ceremony is on those who are buried in the military cemetery adjacent to St Nicholas church, which is located on the military station (formerly RAF Thorney Island). There are 52 Commonwealth graves of which 19 are RCAF. Of these 19, sixteen were members of 415 Squadron. An article which captures in detail the history and conduct of this remembrance service will soon be posted on the Association website. Niels Roggenkamp, who is designated to attend the 2018 East Moor Memorial, has stated that he will visit Thorney Island and try to learn more about the Ceremony. It is expected that he will provide a report on his findings in June 2018.

19. The CO 415 Squadron provided a brief update on directed structural changes, which will affect the mandate and strength of 415 Squadron. The RCAF has decided to place all Test and Evaluation activity under the command of the Air Warfare Centre. As a result, up to nine positions will be transferred to the centre. While these positions will remain at Greenwood and be co-located with 415 Squadron, they will report directly to the AWC in Trenton.

20. The CO also reported that Block 4 activity is moving along according to schedule. It is expected that a prototype aircraft will be ready before the end of the year. This was a very positive update, which bodes well for the future of the CP-140 fleet.

21. **Closing.** All agreed that this had been a most worthwhile meeting. Members agreed to stay in contact and work on various projects outlined in this report. The next meeting is tentatively planned for the Fall of 2018.

Chris Henneberry  
President  
28 November 2016