

## The South Atlantic Medal Association (1982) (SAMA82) - MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD at Derby Mickleover Hotel on – Saturday 2 April 2022

### PRESENT: Committee:

Tom Herring	Chairman
Andrew Lockett	Treasurer
Derek ‘Smokey’ Cole	Vice Chairman
Paul Holling	Trustee
Chris Jones	Trustee
Joe Locke	Trustee
Chris Howe MBE	Trustee
Stephen Penfold	Trustee
Tim Lewis	Trustee

- 1. Members attending** Members in attendance 67: the meeting commenced at 15:03 and closed at 15:47.
- 2. Meeting brief**
  - 2.1. Chairman Tom Herring welcomed members to the meeting.
  - 2.2. The chairman briefed - Please note that only members and associate members may vote on any of the resolutions.
  - 2.3. For the purpose of Resolution 3 and 4 (Articles and Memorandum) we need to achieve more than 75% of the vote present for the resolutions to pass. A vote to abstain will be treated as a no vote.
- 3. Apologies**
  - 3.1. Paul Holling gave notice of 38 apologies received.
- 4. Joe Locke** announced the reading of the names of those who have died in the last year. Stephen Penfold and Paul Holling assisted. This was followed by one minute silence.
- 5. Loyal Greeting from HRH the Prince of Wales, Patron, was read by Stephen Penfold.**
  - 5.1. I thank you for your kind message of Loyal Greetings, sent on behalf of the South Atlantic Medal Association (1982).
  - 5.2. I was delighted to receive these Loyal Greetings and I send my warmest good wishes to you all, assembled at the Mickleover Hotel today, to mark the occasion of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6. Minutes from AGM 2021.**
  - 6.1. These had been widely circulated with the calling notice.
  - 6.2. Proposal for acceptance by Trevor Wood, seconded by Chris Howe MBE.
  - 6.3. These were agreed unanimously.
- 7. The Chairman’s annual review – Tom Herring**
  - 7.1. The pandemic continued to adversely affect the activities the Association planned to achieve during 2021.
  - 7.2. Our main focus was to hold an AGM by remote means during 2021. The whole board of trustees, plus our part time administration employees, were involved in this novel method of running an AGM. As we had not held an AGM in the year 2020, a double meeting was held to cover both 2020 and 2021. Only a few members do not have an email address. The association was therefore able to promulgate the key written reports by email in a timely fashion and with significant content. The cost savings in both trees and money was considerable.
  - 7.3. The AGM was well attended and feedback from participants was very positive to glowing.
  - 7.4. The proposed change to the articles and memorandum permitting the term “meeting” to be used for remote participation meetings was passed by a unanimous vote.
  - 7.5. Each trustee reported a scripted section of the reports and could be heard and seen by the remote participants. This enabled the members to meet their elected trustee and see them perform part of their functions. A feedback method enabled contributions from the participants in the following open forum. Questions from our members and beneficiaries were encouraged in advance and sent in prior to the meeting for information, Answers were scripted and then explained by each presenting trustee.
  - 7.6. Trustees who were co-opted in 2020 offered themselves for election. These were Joe Locke, Chris Howe MBE, Tim Lewis and Stephen Penfold. Four other trustees, required to retire at the AGM in 2020 and 2021 or for reasons of age were re-elected. They were Derek Cole, Charles Jones, Paul Holling and Andrew Lockett.
  - 7.7. The majority of planning and preparation has involved the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022 of the South Atlantic conflict and the commemoration events both small and large. The Association will also celebrate 15 years as a registered charity and 25 years as an association.
  - 7.8. Of the combined events during Falklands 40, most will take place in collaboration with partner organisations such as The Falkland Islands Government Office in London, The Falkland Islands Legislative Council some 8000 miles away and the Royal British Legion in the UK.

- 7.9. Much to the pleasure of attendees, the reduced restrictions in the UK allowed the annual march of remembrance at the Cenotaph in London, The South Atlantic Medal Association 1982 was well represented by its unique membership of the Royal Navy, Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Merchant Navy, Civil Servants, Hong Kong Chinese and dockyard support workers who aided preparation of ships for sea.
  - 7.10. We now look forward to 2022, a momentous anniversary year with our youngest beneficiaries approaching 60 years of age and our eldest now in their eighties. Hopefully the air bridge to the Falkland Islands will reopen fully in 2022. A final "UK Ride of Respect" by the airborne riders will take place during 2022, taking in many of the graves and memorials to the fallen in 1982. When conditions allow, a similar event will be completed in the Falklands Islands on land, and at sea, to those who have no known grave. These events are self-supporting, enabled by the generosity of donations, with the residue presented to SAMA 82.
  - 7.11. The RBL National Memorial Arboretum event on 14 June 2022 is a key moment when the freedom of Stanley and The Falkland Islands is gifted to South Atlantic medal holders. The recipients, not only include the living, but also those killed-in-action, and those who have died since. The method of distributing a certificate to recipients is under discussion but will be announced in due course. Next of kin will be able to apply for the award certificate for those killed-in-action, and those who have died since.
  - 7.12. With 20 years left, until 2042 when SAMA82 is planned to close, the trustees aim to achieve a vigorous program of care, support and comradeship for the veterans of 1982.
  - 7.13. A serious question has been raised at previous AGMs, as to whether SAMA82 should continue, in a modified form, run by our descendants. The charitable purposes would be specifically modified to meet the needs of those with interest in the South Atlantic, and the welfare of descendants of 1982 veterans. A wider discussion is needed, and there would have to be a transition towards an increasing number of trustee posts held by our descendants.
  - 7.14. May I now thank, in particular, the office staff, Jo and Marie for their great help and support through a year of turbulence and disruption and also the President for his help and listening ear in guiding me through some of the difficult times we have had. I should not of course forget my supporting trustees, who have continued to collaborate hard, maintaining the momentum of the routines and planning for a successful organisation and planning for 2022.
  - 7.15. May I also convey the best wishes of trustees and members of SAMA82 to the South Atlantic fraternity and wish you all well on this 40th Anniversary.
  - 7.16. If you have any points to make from the floor or any questions you are invited to make them now.
- 8. Charles Jones Trustee read the secretary's report**
    - 8.1. This is the Secretary's Report – Year 2021
    - 8.2. 2021 was once again an extremely busy year for the SAMA (82) office with the joining of a significant number of new members, and 2022 so far has been no exception, with the office welcoming over 100 new members already in this 40th Anniversary year.
    - 8.3. SAMA 82 have been invited by the RBL to March at the Remembrance Day Cenotaph Parade Full details and application forms will be made available to all members during April 2022 via the website, Facebook page and direct emails.
    - 8.4. SAMA purchased another standard which will be kept in the Central region of England for the use of Mid England counties and Wales This purchase enabled the five SAMA (82) Standards to be paraded in all areas of the UK throughout 2021.
    - 8.5. Concessionary Flights remain grounded. Once further information is provided to the office on when these will resume, all applicants will be contacted directly, and flight applications will be dealt with accordingly.
    - 8.6. The area coordinators did manage to hold a few events throughout the UK last year which encouraged membership and raised much needed funds.
    - 8.7. The Ride of Respect team will be supporting SAMA 82 again this year with their fundraising efforts. Full details of their itinerary is available to view on the SAMA 82 website.
    - 8.8. The office staff wishes to take this opportunity say "thank you" to all members for their continued support and patience, as both members of staff continued to work under difficult circumstances. We hope that the remaining months of 2022 will see a full return to office working practices.
    - 8.9. If you have any points to make from the floor or any questions you are invited to make them now.
  - 9. Tim Lewis Trustee read the Treasurer's report**
    - 9.1. Good afternoon
    - 9.2. Treasurer's Report for year 2021.
    - 9.3. Around the room and probably found on the chairs are copies of the financial summary and the statement of financial position. The trustees require the acceptance of the accounts in a vote at the end of this report.
    - 9.4. This was a year of little activity, but much to do. Furlough was a key element in managing the office staff and keeping work under control. With the constraint of Welsh law, the office was not a place that could be occupied very often. The tax-payer kindly supported us with over £7,500 of grant for

hours not worked. Mindful of the daunting costs of the 40<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, expenditure was managed down, and was kept just below £40,000. Our biggest outgoing was the office, which cost just short of £27,000. In support of grants for individuals and wider welfare purposes, the association provided £3,110; we try and reach around £6,000 annually. The remembrance-day lunch was significantly subsidised and, with the plans for November 2022, the lunch contribution from individuals will have to rise. Usefully, our investment with BlackRock gave a good return with a gain of just over £43,000.

9.5. On a cautionary point. The Blackrock investment is always at the mercy of the market-place despite being a small part of a significant fund of other military charities in excess of £300M. History suggests that we are likely to be better off in the long term than we would be relying on prevailing interest rates. Nevertheless, turbulence and uncertainty prevails, and we have to accept the ups and downs.

9.6. I thank all those who gave directly to the bank account as members' contributions – this reached £16,800. Another remarkable performance was “other donations”, mainly from the excellent work of the “UK ride of respect”; which managed to exceed £12,000. We also recovered £3,500 from the HMRC for gift-aid. This makes the point that gift-aid is well worth claiming, but only if the giver will register as a UK tax-payer. So please do this by supplying the information needed. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you, for your remarkable support for the association, your generosity, and your hardwork. We have a robust and confidence-giving financial situation which must endure.

9.7. So, including all of our assets, stocks and those of our branches we had a value at the end of 2021 of just over £495, 500 and a cash balance of £456,979.10 in central funds.

9.8. Just to make sure that, as always, a treasurer's report should end on an unhappy note, I remind you that with inflation at over 5% our worthy pile is worth less by about £21,000 for each year at that rate.

9.9. May we extend to Tim Parrott thanks for his dedication, keen eye, accounting skills and for his impressive and deep scrutiny of the SAMA82 accounts.

9.10. If you have any points to make from the floor or any questions you are invited to make them now.

#### **9.11. No issues were addressed**

10. **Vote** on the acceptance of the accounts – resolution 1. Proposed by Martin Reed, Seconded by Rob Taylor.

10.1. For 67, Against 0, Abstain 0

11. **Vote** on the authorisation of the trustees to appoint an inspector of accounts – resolution 2. Proposed by John Phillips, Seconded by Martin Reed.

11.1. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0

12. **Andrew Lockett Trustee** gave a brief on the changes to the articles and memorandum. The existing and proposed articles and memorandum have been given wide circulation with the calling notice.

12.1. I will now address these two resolutions over the articles and memorandum.

12.2. The articles and memorandum record how we are governed and what we are supposed to achieve as a charity. It is couched in legalistic terms. The original articles and memorandum were prepared and accepted by our regulators, Companies House and the Charity Commission, in 2007. We have made one significant change in 2021 when we included a new definition of the word “meeting” and made some further consequential changes.

12.3. You have been supplied with the proposed document with the calling notice. You have also been supplied with the existing articles and memorandum with the changes made last year highlighted. I will now present to you the reasons and benefits of making the proposed changes. No feedback, objection or suggestions for further change have been received by trustees as a result of the circulation of the changes proposed with members' calling notice.

12.4. The trustee proposals before the meeting, with regards to the change to the Articles & Memorandum, is motivated by the need for consistency with the name of the association, bring about clarity over the company objectives and comply with other good practice.

12.5. The objectives have been rephrased from identifying grant beneficiaries as “serving and former members of the armed forces and the Merchant Navy and their dependents” to those “individuals who are in receipt of the South Atlantic Medal 1982 issued by the United Kingdom” and with reference to dependants “and also their dependants”. This brings consistency with the name of the Association and enables the inclusion of others such as civil servants and NAFFI personnel who were also medal recipients. These latter groups felt left out of consideration in the wording of the founding articles and memorandum.

12.6. General advice on the formation of objectives for organisations, such as SAMA82, is the setting of some geographical boundaries. There are no suitable boundaries set in the objectives at the moment; it would seem from the existing text, that Argentine forces may equally be grant beneficiaries of SAMA82 as those of United Kingdom forces. This has not been tested, however, but to ensure clarity the term “United Kingdom forces” is used in the rewrite proposals as well as the words “South Atlantic medal issued by the United Kingdom”.

12.7. We have removed reference to the provision of a virtual garden of remembrance to be kept at Pangbourne chapel. This remembrance document is

retained on a stand-alone computer at the chapel and is almost always out of date compared to the internet version available to all on-line. In keeping with technical developments, the wider use of the internet and the growth in the use of internet accessible phones, the separate and often out of date version at the chapel is no longer a significant service and has a cost to the association. The removal of this requirement from the objectives will stimulate the provision of a prestigious book of commemoration and remembrance for the chapel, to replace the present mandated virtual garden of remembrance on an aging computer. The book will only be provided in harmony with the wishes of the trustees of Pangbourne chapel but will not be an ongoing commitment set by the objectives. It other words we will match this commitment to provide a book of commendation and remembrance because we are so motivated, not because it is included in the objectives.

- 12.8. The change to the articles and memorandum made at the 2021 AGM to enable meetings to be held remotely remains in the revised proposal.
- 12.9. The complex set of numbering used in the articles and memorandum was not helpful to the lay-reader and so this numbering has been revised with only minor changes to the text, such as the cross references. This is consistent with government policy on simplifying and clarity.
- 12.10. Trustees commend these changes to you. For implementation the changes must be agreed by Companies House and the Charity Commission. The second resolution on this matter, enables trustees to define and enact a date of implementation of the new articles and memorandum, but only if the changes are agreed by both of the regulating bodies.
- 12.11. To proceed, trustees will seek approval from the regulating bodies and make these changes provided that this meeting approves both resolution votes by a margin in excess of 75% of the votes at this AGM. If this is not achieved, then the articles and memorandum, as they now stand, will remain in place.
- 12.12. One point I must make. We are voting on the articles and memorandum and that does not include the preamble that goes through an explanation of the medal qualification details. The ultimate arbiter on the South Atlantic medal qualification is the MoD.
- 12.13. As a reminder we need over 75% of the vote to achieve progress on this and, if you abstain, your abstention will be considered a no vote.
- 12.14. If you have any points to make from the floor or any questions on the proposals, you are invited to make them now.
13. **Vote resolution 3:** To approve the submission of the tabled new articles and memorandum to the Charity Commission and Companies House for approval by them. Proposed by Andrew Lockett, seconded by Tom Herring
- 13.1. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0

14. **Vote resolution 4:** To authorise the trustees to identify a date to implement the new articles and memorandum, if approved by both Companies House and Charity Commission, and implement on the identified date giving suitable notice to members of the date of implementation. Proposed by Paul Nolan, seconded by Tony Davies.
- 14.1. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0

15. **Derek Cole** Trustee gave notice: No resolutions have been received from members,

#### 16. Election and re-election of trustees – resolution 5.

- 16.1. Tom Herring
- 16.1.1. Proposed by Tim Lewis, seconded by Stephen Penfold
- 16.1.2. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0
- 16.2. Charles Jones
- 16.2.1. Proposed by Joe Locke, seconded by Paul Holling
- 16.2.2. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0
- 16.3. Andrew Lockett
- 16.3.1. Proposed by Chris Howe MBE and Seconded by Derek Cole
- 16.3.2. For 67, against 0, Abstain 0

#### 17. Report by Chris Howe MBE on public relations

- 17.1. Media Support: Once again, due to the ongoing restrictions placed upon the UK by the COVID epidemic, most PR activities have been conducted either by Telcon or Zoom. However, unlike in 2020, the level of PR activity during 2021 has seen a sharp increase of considerable time and effort being given over to assisting several media companies with ongoing research and advice for various documentaries and publications. Of significant note is the assistance being provided to The Veteran. UK publisher who are producing the official Falkland 40 anniversary commemorative publication; the same team that produced the F25 version. The F40 book is due to be released in June 2022 with the possibility of a 'light' 40-page version being available (an additional fund raiser) at the Army v Navy rugby match at Twickenham on 30 April.
- Assistance has been provided to:
  - Ben Warwick Films
  - BFBS Productions
  - Craig Mcalpine TV
  - Falklands 40 Commemorative Book
  - Cockleshell Endeavour Kayak Event
  - BBC Wales News (Welsh language)
  - BBC Wales Cardiff
  - Patrick Bishop led production for CH4 TV
  - Blink Films Documentary (aired 2021)
  - Garden TV for BBC Documentary
  - National Newspapers Various
  - BBC Breakfast News
  - These projects are mostly intended to be released during the 40th anniversary of the FI82 conflict in 2022 and considerable effort and hours has been provided to these projects.

17.2. Ride of Respect: This event was once again organised and undertaken by the Airborne Forces Riders. The event took place over a 16-day period between late July and early August, covering just about the whole of the UK by the time it was finished. The riders covered over 2500 miles in the 16 days and was well supported by SAM veterans and many others in most of the visited destinations. After liaison and agreement with Paul Moore, main organiser, a series of press releases were disseminated up and down the UK in order attract some well-deserved coverage and recognition. The Ride is to be repeated in 2022 during May but prior to the liberation day event at the NMA.

17.3. 40th Anniversary Planning: The ongoing planning by the FI 40th Anniversary UK Committee, of which the SAMA82 Chairman is a member, has also gathered momentum. Close liaison and discussions have been regular to coordinate efforts and activities between the FI 40th Anniversary UK Committee, SAMA82, RBL, MoD and other associations that are stakeholders or have an interest in 2022 events. Ongoing.

17.4. Remembrance Weekend: The other significant PR event was the turnout at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday in November. This year went ahead as ‘near normal’ albeit with additional security procedures in place that unfortunately did slow down entry to Horse Guards considerably. Prior to the Sunday parade, press releases were forwarded to both the BBC and RBL which provided general background information on the SAMA platoon. Early discussions have also taken place with the BBC for SAM holders to be interviewed for the 2022 Remembrance weekend.

17.5. If you have any points to make from the floor, or any questions, you are invited to make them now.

17.6. No issues were presented

18. **Announcement** of venue/location of AGM 2023 by Stephen Penfold.

18.1. This is likely to be held in the Swindon area. Details on location will be presented later. It will be held over the weekend of the 31 March to 3 April 2023.

19. **Chairman Tom Herring closed the meeting:**

19.1. May I thank you all for your attendance today at this SAMA AGM for 2022. As chairman I am closing the meeting having addressed all the requirements and the agenda items.

*Post Meeting Note: The trustees, members and beneficiaries much regret the death of Trustee Paul Holling on the 6 April 2022 and extend their thanks for his service in the South Atlantic and as a significant contributor to the well-being and success of the South Atlantic Medal Association 1982. The Association members extend their sympathy to his family.*

Signature of the Chairman.....

Date.....

Signature of the vice chairman.....

Date.....

*(An open forum was held afterwards)*

