

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL ASSOCIATION (1982)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT Alexandra House, Swindon
SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 2023 AT 3PM

PRESENT:

Committee:

Tom Herring, Chair, 3PARA;

Andrew Lockett, Trustee, Endurance.

Brian Sherrington, Trustee, 36 Engr Regiment;

Stephen Penfold, Trustee, Intrepid;

Christopher Howe, Trustee, Coventry;

Michael Sherrington, Trustee;

Alan Dodsworth, Trustee, NOK;

There were 32 Members in attendance.

Sukey Cameron, Member; Martin Read, Canberra; Sean Keown, Br Tay; Robert Taylor 205 Sig Sqn; William Aspinall, NP8901; Clive Lane, 3 BAS; Roy Goodwin, Hecla; Robert Geddes, Farnella; Neil Allen, Endurance; Simon Dove, Uganda; Gary Hams, Hermes; John Waterfield, Plymouth; Neil Johns, Illustrious; Antony Patterson, Brilliant; Michael Parson, Welsh Guards; Barry Angus, 656 Sqn AAC; John Batting, Sheffield; Eon Matthews, Glamorgan; Peter Robinson, 40 Commando; Phil Bunday 21 Ad Bty RA; David Careless, RAOC, Tim Parrott; Invincible; Nicci Pugh, Uganda; Carl Keeble, Richard Hyslop, FIGO, member, Cherryll West, Member.

The meeting commenced at 3pm

1. Chairman's Welcome.

1.1. Tom Herring welcomed all to the 2023 AGM and gave an explanation of the proceedings.

2. Apologies.

2.1. 33 formal apologies had been received from members.

2.2. Including Life Vice Presidents Mike Bowles and Joe Erskine.

3. Declaration of interest.

3.1. No declaration of interest was forthcoming.

4. Reading of the names of medal holders known to have died recently.

4.1. Brian Sherrington, Stephen Penfold and Chris Howe MBE read out the list of fellow veterans who had passed over the last year.

5. One minute silence

5.1. Chris Howe MBE asked for one minute silence to remember those who died in the conflict and those comrades who have since passed away.

6. Loyal Greeting

6.1. Stephen Penfold read out the message sent by the Chairman to the Patron, King Charles III and the Patron's response.

7. To Agree the Minutes of 2022 AGM

7.1. Minutes had been circulated via email prior to the meeting.

7.2. No matters were arising.

7.3. The acceptance is proposed by Clive Lane, seconded by Phil Bunday.

7.4. Resolution 1 – Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions.

8. Chairman's report.

8.1. The following Chairmans report was read by Tom Herring:-

8.1.1 Year 2022 has been a momentous year; my thanks to all those who assisted and took part, contributed and attended. We collaborated very closely with the Falkland Islands Government Office (FIGO) in London. They nominated SAMA (82), on behalf of all south Atlantic veterans to receive the freedom of the Falkland Islands. I am pleased to report that the Falkland Islands Government, and the inhabitants of the islands, agreed and the honour of the freedom was given at the National Memorial Arboretum (NMA) on the 14 June 2022. The event was organised by the Royal British Legion (RBL) who are the custodians of the NMA. Our thanks to the RBL who went above the call of duty on behalf of south Atlantic veterans.

8.1.2 A thank you also to the Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the recognition of the 40th anniversary (usually they celebrate 25th & 50th), we are already collaborating with the MOD for the 50th. The Airborne Riders, aptly led by Paul Moore, completed the ride of respect in the UK for the 3rd year running, raising considerable funds towards SAMA (82). For 2023 please look out for regionally coordinated organised rides on the 10th & 11th June, your support will be much appreciated. It is hoped that a ride will be also held in the islands.

- 8.1.3 May I also thank our serving armed forces for their support and cooperation during 2022, and our trustees and regional coordinators for their nonstop efforts. A great success from a standing start. After the lockdown, the future was still uncertain, and much was learnt on the job. Something veterans and serving personnel are very good at.
- 8.1.4 We could not have achieved this without the support of our SAMA (82) office staff. Their effectiveness in organising, communicating, and guiding trustees was the corner stone of our success.
- 8.1.5 My condolences to the families who lost veteran family members in 2022. The nation's loss of their Queen in 2022 was a poignant reminder of the mortality of all of us. Throughout the history of SAMA (82) the company, we have enjoyed the patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. On the 8 September 2022 the Prince of Wales became King Charles III and for the moment he remains our patron but with a new title. I have been in contact with His Majesty's private office recently; the news back is that there will be a review of His Majesty's patronages in early 2023. When I know more, I will disseminate the information through the normal channels.

9. Secretaries report

- 9.1. Brian Sherrington read out the secretary report for 2023.
- 9.2. Due to the many 40th Anniversary events, 2022 was an extremely busy year for the SAMA (82) office. Many events took place throughout the UK and overseas. The SAMA 82 website was regularly updated to inform beneficiaries and the public of all events. On average we receive about 120 new membership applications yearly but, the significance of the 40th Anniversary, led to 280 members joining last year.
- 9.3. The RBL increased our allocation of places for the Cenotaph, and we were the largest group to march at the Remembrance Day Cenotaph Parade. Almost 400 members represented SAMA (82). It was inspiring to see the many SAMA (82) ties and the scarves on display. The office was later informed that members thoroughly enjoyed the 3-course lunch that was held at the Union Jack Club. Therefore, it has been decided to provide the after-parade lunch once again in this format in 2023. Details and online application forms for this year's parade are now available via the website.
- 9.4. Concessionary flights resumed in June 2022 and, after a few initial hiccups, the system between the MoD and SAMA (82) ran well. For many years the Ministry of Defence has provided the concessionary flight scheme. We are grateful for their commitment and support in ensuring that medal holders are able to travel at a hugely reduced fare. Unfortunately, there is limited seat capacity per flight; it has become apparent that some veterans had used the scheme many times before and this was restricting the availability of seats to first time returners. SAMA (82) Trustees have decided that if a situation arises where that seats on a flight are limited, priority would be given to those returning for the first time, or are in need, as mandated in our objectives. Improvements have also been made to the application form and procedure, which has led to a far more streamlined system, and has eased the administration of the scheme.
- 9.5. Sadly, due to health reasons, Charles Jones stepped back as area coordinator for Devon and Cornwall and resigned as trustee at the end of 2022. He will be greatly missed. Three new area coordinators started on the 1st January 2023 and Charles is still in the wings guiding them into the role.
- 9.6. As part of the SAMA (82) website, we feature a virtual garden of remembrance. We strive to include personal details for each killed-in-action entry. It is unforgivable that a fellow task force colleague should be killed-in-action without a tribute from his closest colleagues in the task force. Eight-eight of our fellow combatants have been ignored by their colleagues on the garden of remembrance. It is time to put this right and to truly remember our dead.
- 9.7. The SAMA (82) office understands the importance of running efficiently and in playing our part reducing our environmental impact. We have taken steps to ensure that the majority of our correspondence is now digital, and our website is used as an integral part of the SAMA (82) office administration. Applications for membership, concessionary flights and all events can be made through a paperless website application process.
- 9.8. Jo and Marie from the office wish to take this opportunity to say "thank you" to all members for their continued support.

10. Treasurer's Report for 2023

- 10.1 Stephen Penfold read the Treasurers report for 2023.
- 10.2 Around the room and probably found on the chairs are copies of the financial summary and the statement of financial position. There are also two other documents, the first being the long report and the second the short report. All of these documents are important and should you have any feedback please convey this to one of the trustees. I regret that we were unable to send out these documents with the calling notice as the financial information remained incomplete into the early part of March. The trustees require a vote on the acceptance of the accounts and the reports at the end of this report.
- 10.3 This was a year of great activity and many transactions within the accounts. We did well from donations from members, corporate identities and other donors including Paul Moore and his motor cyclists. We thank both ABF and Seafarers for

two grants towards the 40th commemoration and we were happy to give grants to SAMA82 areas and the cycling event. We particularly thank all those who contributed to the income of the association, for their loyalty, consistency, and generosity.

10.4 We ended the year with over £475,000 in cash in the central fund and over £511,500 in assets for the central and area funds. May we thank the treasurers of the area funds for their hard work and punctual delivery of their annual reports.

10.5 We also thank the office for their work on the accounts and the treasurer apologises to them for droning on about supporting documentation.

10.6 We give a big thank you to Timothy Parrott for his dedication, keen eye, accounting skills and for his impressive and deep scrutiny of the SAMA82 accounts.

10.7 Of course, we have no wish for you to go away with contentment and cheerfulness. On the downside our Blackrock investments fell sharply along with every other investor's wealth, and it declined by £42,377. We performed much better last year with a gain of over £43,000. We rely on a bounce back in 2023 but that is by no means certain.

10.8 Of course, inflation has a big impact. Whilst we see headline figures of 10-11%, SAMA's spending pattern is very different from the average household. We can however estimate that the purchasing value of our reserves has fallen by about £30,000.

10.9 If you have any questions of a policy or general nature, a trustee will be happy to try and answer them now.

11. Resolution 1 - Accept the annual reports and account summaries for financial year 2022.

11.1. Proposed by Robert Taylor and seconded by Martin Reed.

11.2. Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

12. Resolution 2 – To authorise the trustees to appoint an inspector of accounts for financial year 2023.

12.1 Proposed by Nigel Allen, seconded by Bob Geddes.

12.2 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

13. Voting section 2 – Election of Trustees.

13.1 Brian Sherrington sought election. Proposed by Andrew Lockett, Seconded by Tom Herring.

13.1.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions.

13.2 Andrew Lockett sought re-election. Proposed by Tom Herring, Seconded by Chris Howe MBE

13.2.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

13.3 Alan Dodsworth sought election. Proposed by Brian Sherrington, Seconded by Andrew Lockett.

13.3.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

13.4 Robin Turk sought election. Proposed by Stephen Penfold, Seconded by Chris Howe MBE.

13.4.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

13.5 Michael Sherrington sought election. Proposed by Chris Howe MBE, Seconded by Stephen Penfold.

13.5.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 32 votes, none against or abstentions

14. Place and Date of 2024 Annual General Meeting.

14.1 Normally now we announce date and location for next year's AGM/weekend, however this year we have yet to decide on plans for next year's AGM as there are an increasing number of factors affecting attendance, these include:

14.1.1 We had a very busy calendar of events to mark the 40th commemorations.

14.1.2 The energy cost crisis has made people look again at their budgets against increasing costs for the weekend.

14.1.3 It is possible the format has now run its useful life; it has done well to have lasted for so many years.

14.1.4 We are all getting older.

14.1.5 Is there really a need to gather together for an AGM every year, some would say not, we have proved another way using ZOOM.

14.1.6 Covid lost people money and they fear commitment more than they used to.

14.1.7 As a result of reduced attendance this year we have been required to pay for the Saturday 'shopping'; coach out of association funds. The reduction in numbers reduces our leverage when negotiating the best deal with hotels. We could of course choose 3* over 4* type hotels to reduce costs but this in turn would have an effect on the standard of accommodation, hotel location and facilities. In addition, our organiser SF Events reports that a number of hotels traditionally used for association reunions have been re-purposed by the government to house refugees, thus effectively taking them out of the market.

14.2 I am sharing all this to make everyone aware of some of the challenges we face organising an event for all members and to give you food for thought about how we may best move forward.

15. The meeting ended at 15.39 pm