

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC MEDAL ASSOCIATION (1982)
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT HILTON GARDEN HOTEL, ABINGDON, OXFORDSHIRE
SATURDAY 5th APRIL 2025 AT 3PM

PRESENT:

Committee:

Tom Herring, Chair, 3PARA,
Andrew Lockett, HMS Endurance,

Stephen Penfold, HMS Intrepid
Christopher Howe, HMS Coventry

Alan Dodsworth

There were 40 Members in attendance

The meeting commenced at 3pm

1. Chairman's Welcome

1.1. Tom Herring welcomed all to the 2025 AGM and explained the proceedings.

2. Apologies

2.1. 12 formal apologies had been received from members.

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. Stephen Penfold, Alan Dodsworth 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 2024 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 Sean Keown, seconded by Phil Bunday.

7.4. Resolution 1 – Unanimous in acceptance – 40 votes, none against or abstentions.

8. Chairman's report

8.1 On behalf of myself and the Association membership, I would like to congratulate our long serving Trustee and Treasurer, Andrew Lockett Royal Navy, on his well-deserved award of an MBE in 2024. Andrew has served as Treasurer since 2005 when SAMA was simply a club, before being transformed into a Company and Registered charity. He will hand over his treasury role in 2025 but will remain a trustee of the Association.

8.2 An unfortunate event came to light in 2024, of the illegal wearing of the South Atlantic Medal (SAM) with or without Rosette. This concerned a high-ranking police officer. I attended a tribunal over the matter which concluded that the police officer was not entitled to wear a SAM. The Tribunal brought about considerable press coverage, resulting in other instances of the wearing of the SAM, which are now being investigated. The Association takes seriously any allegations and will follow up accordingly.

8.3 The Association platoon paraded at the Cenotaph on remembrance Sunday; there was a good turnout although the long wait to march off tested older legs. The silver lining was that we were highlighted by the TV coverage as we marched toward and past the memorial at Whitehall. Many Association veterans with families met and took lunch within the Union Jack Club (UJC) afterwards, this is a standing event and non-members who are medal holders are welcome to attend.

8.4 The annual general meeting was held in Hull, with the Sunday service in Hull Minster. Our venue for 2025 is here in Abingdon Oxfordshire, which as a town has previous service links being the site of the Number 1 Parachute Training School base for many years prior to the present set up at RAF Brize Norton. During the time here many trainee Military parachutists passed through the school including our Royal Patron who made his first decent at nearby Weston on the Green drop zone which is still in use to this day. The Association applied to the Ministry of Defence Air Events Branch for a Military Fly past to mark this occasion, which unfortunately cannot be carried out this weekend due to operational circumstances.

8.5 The Airborne Riders continue to complete the ride of respect in remembrance of those killed in action (KIA) the Association is most grateful for the funds raised and donated to SAMA 82.

8.6 This year we lost two valued contributors to the Association and our Board of Trustees. They were Ann Townsend, trustee between 2010 and 2014 and a mother of a veteran killed-in-action, and the Reverend Brown, deputy chaplain to SAMA and father of a Falkland veteran. May they rest in peace.

- 8.7 The Association holds five standards, which are available for events on request. These are located around the UK; on-going maintenance is carried out when required. Member volunteers act as standard bearers; training is available for any member wishing to become a bearer.
- 8.8 A major revision has been carried out by our diligent office concerning Rules and Regulations, with a review being carried out by trustees. May I thank Joanne and Marie, and the trustees for their assistance.
- 8.9 Our areas and branches continue to operate in support of the main Association; one branch may be forced to close due to lack of personnel. We are actively seeking interested veterans who wish to form their own branch for their areas, giving them support and advice, with training, to formulate raising the profile of the Association.
- 8.10 The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships continues to invite Falkland Veterans to their annual cruise on the River Thames. This popular event is welcomed by our members, and we would like to thank the Dunkirk Little Ships for their support of SAMA 82.
- 8.11 The Association continues to enhance contact with the new government; we are very grateful to them for the continuing provision of flight places, on an indulgence basis, for veterans to and from the islands via the air-bridge. Veterans in need of comfort from their experience in 1982, are encouraged to return; group visits and family support is encouraged for those who wish to return. The aim is to prioritise those in need and the many first timers, augmented by group leaders and repeat flyers. We are grateful to the Falkland Island Government Office (FIGO) in London who handle the full price flights for non-veterans alongside flights for the Islands citizens.

9 Secretaries Report for 2024

- 9.1 Robin Turk read out the secretary report for 2024.
- 9.2 2024 was an extremely busy year for the SAMA 82 office. 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 can travel at a hugely reduced fare. The scheme ran smoothly until later in the year; sadly, the MoD was only able to offer a limited number of seats from September onwards.
- 9.3 Much work has been done to improve our website. This is ongoing as we strive to provide comprehensive, accurate and easily readable information and recollection of the Falklands conflict. In 2024 we added a comprehensive library of books written about the conflict and the book of condolence section was improved. We thank Alan Dodsworth for his continuing efforts in maintaining and growing the virtual Garden of Remembrance.
- 9.4 The SAMA 82 office endeavours to run efficiently and reduce our carbon footprint. We try to ensure that most of the correspondence is digital, and our website is used as an integral part of the SAMA 82 office administration. All applications are now made through a paperless website application process.
- 9.5 We encourage members to complete a gift aid form, and this can easily be completed on the SAMA 82 website. Gift aid is funded by recovering the tax you have paid on your income to HMRC. You must be a taxpayer. It allows the association to claim an extra 25% of any donations (If you are a higher rate taxpayer, then the benefit to the association is even greater).
- 9.6 The SAMA 82 newsletter is published twice a year for members and its beneficiaries. We take this opportunity to remind members that the newsletter is for you; we encourage anyone to submit entries. Whether it be a short story about their time in the conflict, a visit to the islands, an event they are organising or have attended, a poem, a small gallery of images, any fundraising efforts you have completed or organising – it can be anything suitable and relatable for the membership and the many other readers of the newsletter.
- 9.7 As a charity, we rely on donations. Whether donations are made directly or through volunteers' collections or via an event sponsorship, such as climbing a mountain or a cycle ride. It is entirely up to you, how you wish to support SAMA 82 by fundraising so whatever your idea is, we're grateful for your support. If anyone is thinking about raising funds for SAMA 82, please visit the website for further details on how to donate or download a sponsorship form. We also ask that you inform the SAMA 82 office. We can offer you support and circulate information to beneficiaries.
- 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 2024

- 10.1 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. At the AGM last year, we were not in a position to approve the accounts and reports for 2023 because of the lack of information from one of the branches. The office staff worked hard to secure this information, but this could not be done in time. We have now received an explanation for this, and we are able to present the accounts and reports for both 2023 and 2024. So, you will also be able to find copies of the 2023 financial reports although these are fewer in number. I will give more details on this later in this report.
- 10.2 As a result, we will be voting on the 2023 financial reports first and then the 2024 reports.
- 10.3 All 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 remains incomplete at the time of the newsletter publication; it also takes a significant amount of space in the publication.
- 10.4 At the start of 2024 year, trustees gave support to a policy of making an effort to expend more of our reserves during the year. Clearly the money can only be spent on the benefit of our beneficiaries and must not be disposed of

recklessly or dishonestly. I regret to say that this policy was not entirely successful and with the investment gains of nearly £40,000, we failed to make much of dent in the reserves which rose by £38,320 to £522,816.

10.5 I am confident that trustees will continue their effort and raise suitable spending during 2025.

10.6 Trustees of SAMA have always had the comfort and security of a significant investment base. This means that they have had no need to implement hasty and urgent fund-raising campaigns or carry out swinging cuts; it also reassures our employees that their employment is reasonably secure. Of course, as we wind down, we need to keep sufficient reserves to meet such things as redundancy payments and to secure the ongoing maintenance of the NMA memorial.

10.7 The treasurer is entirely satisfied that the future for SAMA is grounded on a sound financial footing, and that trustees understand that as we all grow older our needs will change, and the demands from beneficiaries will alter significantly.

10.8 I express my thanks to my fellow trustees, the office workers, the branch treasurers and all those who work to make SAMA82 the successful charity and company it is. I would also like to thank all those who have given regularly to the charity by whatever means. These are the backbone to our survival as a charity and we must never overlook the value of our donors.

10.9 I present my thanks also to Tim Parrott for his time and expertise in inspecting the accounting processes and the final account summaries. He has informed the trustees that they are a satisfactory account of the financial position of the charity and company, and that the organisation is in good financial health.

10.10 I have already referred to the problem with the Christchurch branch. Sadly, the treasurer died during 2024 although the date has not been confirmed. We have been provided with no accounts for the branch for 2023 and 2024 and information suggests that the branch has become dormant and should be formally closed by trustees. Without any valid information, the balance at the end of 2023 was uncertain and we delayed approval of those accounts until this AGM. We have received some information that funds are close to being trivial if not zero. I therefore ask members today to approve the 2023 report which shows a zero balance for the Christchurch Branch and the 2024 accounts which shows the same balance. Trustees will consider the future of Christchurch Branch, and will most likely formally close it, but there may be some investigations to be followed first.

10.11 Alan Dodsworth is taking over the treasurer task and has a significant amount of the work under his control already. During the next few weeks, the remainder of the duties will be passed to him. I am confident that he will be a great asset to the trustee board as he has proved to be already.

11 Resolution 1 - Accept the annual reports and account summaries for financial year 2023

11.1 Proposed by Rob Taylor and seconded by John Phillips.

11.2 38 votes in acceptance, none against and 2 abstentions.

12 Resolution 2 - Accept the annual reports and account summaries for financial year 2024

12.1 Proposed by Christopher Duckworth and seconded by Sean Keown.

12.2 39 votes in acceptance, none against and 1 abstention.

13 Resolution 3 – To authorise the trustees to appoint an inspector of accounts for financial year 2025

12.1 Proposed by Joe Locke, seconded by Peter Hampton.

12.2 Unanimous in acceptance – 40 votes, none against or abstentions.

14 Voting section – Election of Trustees

13.1 Andrew Lockett sought re-election. Proposed by Stephen Penfold, seconded by Robin Turk.

13.1.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 40 votes, none against or abstentions.

13.2 Alan Dodsworth sought re-election. Proposed by Tom Herring, seconded by Chris Howe MBE.

13.2.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 40 votes, none against or abstentions.

13.3 Tom Herring sought re-election. Proposed by Andrew Lockett MBE, seconded by Alan Dodsworth.

13.3.1 Unanimous in acceptance – 40 votes, none against or abstentions.

15 Place and Date of 2026 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.

16 The meeting ended at 15.39 pm