

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UK CHAPTER OF THE ELECTRONIC WARFARE AND INFORMATION OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION (AOC) HELD AT THE RAF CLUB ON 20 MAR 19

Present:

Wg Cdr	John Clifford OBE	President
Mr	Chris Howe MBE	Vice President, Awards & Webmaster
Mr	Ian Fish	Membership Secretary
Wg Cdr	Roger Hannaford	Secretary
Wg Cdr	John Stubbington	Treasurer
Mr	Jim MacCulloch	Non-exec
Dr	Sue Robertson	Non-exec, Visits Coordinator

Plus 11 members and guests.

Apologies had been received from Mr David Peck and Prof David Stupples, Non-execs.

ITEM 1. WELCOME TO AGM AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

1. President John Clifford welcomed members and guests to the 2019 AGM and thanked the Secretary, Roger Hannaford, for setting it up, running it and for all his assiduous work as ever in ensuring the Chapter ran smoothly, effectively and efficiently. He also thanked Phil Davies for making all the arrangements.
2. Reflecting on the past year, it had been very successful, though not without its challenges and opportunities. In particular, he would return to two issues in the AOB section. The reason there was no speaker was largely to give time for discussion, as would be seen. The UK had again won the Chapter of the Year Award in the Large Chapter category, for the seventh year running, which was quite a record to have. He aimed to make it eight in a row.
3. On AOC HQ, AOC President Lisa Fruge-Cirilli had passed the baton on to LTC Muddy Watters in November after her two years. Lisa had done a great job from his perspective. There had been much work on governance, more committees, new aim and mission, etc; there were around 20 committees in all.
4. The AOC Annual Symposium moved to a new venue in downtown DC in 2015; the 2018 one was a success with more attendees, a slightly greater number of exhibitors and a moderate but good line-up of speakers. The STEM program was particularly impressive; the graphics material was available if anyone wished to access or use it. It had been a successful year financially for the AOC, in part due to non-US conferences. However, the UK had a major banking issue which he would return to at the end of the AGM.

5. The New AOC IT system continued to be problematic. For login, there was a separate Awards system with separate login, unwanted social media sites and scrambled membership data. Through the International Region 1 Director, Dr Sue Robertson, the UK Chapter and others passed comments about the system to the AOC BOD and staff. The UK particularly focused on the need to comply with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The major issue was accessing UK Chapter members' email addresses. There had been a marked upturn in the number of US Staff, including two full-time to work an advocacy – pretty much a US-only activity.

6. Three members of the UK Chapter BOD were also AOC Directors: Dr Sue Robertson (very active as International Region 1 Director) and Professor David Stupples and Dr Bob Andrews MBE (both AOC At-large Directors).

7. Looking to the future, John said that David Stupples and he had been invited to Arbroath by 45 Cdo to provide advice and commentary on how 45 Cdo and 30 Cdo Y Sqn RN could best train and operate together. The visit reignited talks about a visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn in Plymouth at Eastern Kings Fort in autumn 2019.

8. AOC EW Stockholm would be held 13-15 May 2019. The exhibition would exceed London and Lausanne. There was a reasonable and increasing level of sponsorship. The conference agenda was complete and very strong, with 46 presentations during the EW conference and 10-12 in the Plath-sponsored Intelligence Workshop. There would be a small AOC/JED stand. John had a code for volunteers to register for the conference and exhibition. VP Chris Howe MBE would head up the team, Ian Fish having signed up along with Jane Clifford.

9. John had attended part of the Classified EW Symposium at Shrivenham in December. The content was average. The Symposium had been advertised in the newsletter, and some members had attended. He had agreed to advertise the 2019 Symposium.

10. For DSEI 2019 10-13 Sep 19, UK Chapter volunteers would again man the stand and act as recruitment staff. The AOC Seminar in the afternoon of Wednesday 11 Sep would be chaired by Air Marshal Philip Sturley, with Maj Gen Borys Kremenetskyi, Professor David Stupples, Col Alan Blackman and Cdr Malte von Spreckelsen as speakers.

11. John said that, thanks to the BOD and particularly executive-membership director Ian Fish and the efforts of some members, the Chapter was probably as large as it had ever been, certainly since he joined in 1996, with around 500 members; there was a slight uncertainty about this because of the new IT system, which would hopefully be quickly resolved.

12. The Christmas Dinner had been a great success. He gave many thanks to Phil Davies for running it and looked forward to seeing members at the next one.

13. Chapter finances were on a sound footing, mainly because of advertising on the web site, thanks to Chris Howe but, as most of the advertising had ended for a variety of reasons, the Chapter was likely to be dependent on alternative revenue in future, perhaps including from the AOC, to continue with the awards programmes and other initiatives. Members should anticipate a gradual drawdown of financial reserves. He gave many thanks to John Stubbington for his meticulous accounts.

14. The Chapter had made several awards and intended to extend the awards program in the coming year, both financially and in terms of scope. Chris Howe would give a brief on the awards programme later; John thanked Chris for all his diligent work to ensure the recognition of the achievements of members and others in the UK EW and EM community.

15. For the coming year, John would continue to seek new and diverse members, including doing more to exploit the Under 26 membership scheme. The Chapter would consider more Awards, perhaps to apprentices thanks to a suggestion at the AGM last year and would continue to arrange visits. He would try occasional new formats for the newsletter.

16. In conclusion, he thanked all the Board and the supporting members.

17. In turn, in thanking him, Roger Hannaford said that it was largely due John's efforts as President that the Chapter had done so well with awards such as Chapter of the Year and with the increase in membership, and he had done much to make the AOC international, rather than representing solely US interests.

ITEM 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

18. The minutes of the previous meeting, which had been published on the website, were agreed as accurate, proposed by Roger Blackburn, seconded by Yvonne Jewitt and passed unanimously. There were no outstanding actions.

ITEM 3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

19. All Executive posts of the BOD were open for election. There had been no response to the request for nominations and, as the present members had agreed, they continued in post. In addition, Mr Jonathan (Swaz) Bramley was welcomed to the Board as a Non-executive.

ITEM 4. TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

20. The Accounts were presented by John Stubbington. He thanked Dr Bob Andrews, who had audited the Accounts and found all in order.

21. The year had been normal from the Treasury point of view, with income and outgoings much as predicted. There had been a recent advertiser on the website, which provided a useful additional income. However, the Association's bank account had been subject to a scam, investigation of which was still underway. This would be dealt with under Any Other Business.

22. The Accounts were approved by the meeting, proposed by Sue Robertson and seconded by Roger Blackburn and passed unanimously.

23. The 2019 AGM accounts can be viewed on the AGM page of the website.

ITEM 5. MEMBERSHIP REPORT

24. Ian Fish reported that there were some 506 members, of whom 450 were on e-mail. There had been a healthy increase in young member taking advantage of the free offer, and the first two military members had joined under the one-year complimentary membership.

ITEM 6. EDUCATION & AWARDS AND WEBSITE REPORTS

25. Chris Howe briefed on Education and Awards, which were healthy and continuing; a full report is attached to these minutes.

26. Of note, the winner of the RN Top EW Student had written a very nice letter thanking the Chapter, perhaps the first person to do so. The Fleet Efficiency Award was presented to HMS Diamond during the recent visit. The RAF Smallwood Trophy EW Award had been presented to the Special Project Team, Air Warfare Centre. Individual awards had been presented to John Clifford, Ian Fish, Paul Bradbeer and John Wise.

ITEM 7. PROGRAMME AND FUNCTIONS REPORT

27. Events during the previous year had included the AGM, with an insightful talk by Sgt Chris Moody, the Defence Electronic History Society Burns lecture, EW Europe in Lausanne, EW Asia in Singapore, support to 45 Cdo RM CEMA day, the AOC International Symposium in Washington, the Chapter Awards Christmas dinner and the visit to HMS Diamond. 2019 would see DEHS events, EW Europe in Stockholm, DSEI, a likely visit to 30 Cdo Y Sqn in Plymouth, and the Chapter Awards Christmas dinner, followed in early 2020 by EW Asia.

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

28. The President briefed on the fraud and scamming of the Chapter's bank accounts. Money had been transferred out of accounts. This should have required a card, a card reader, a password and pin only known to the Treasurer and then a 2-factor authentication process to establish a new payee followed by another 2-factor process to make a payment. The President showed the sequence of events and the firm action taken by the Treasurer, but the response from the bank had been totally inadequate; the matter had been passed to the Banking Ombudsman.

29. **Conclusion.** In conclusion, the President thanked members for attending and closed the AGM.

Roger Hannaford
Secretary
2 Apr 19