

XV SQUADRON ASSOCIATION – THE FUTURE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you will know, No XV Squadron disbanded at RAF Lossiemouth on 31 March 2017. You will be pleased to hear that the organisation of the ceremony and the standard of the parade reflected the outstanding professionalism which XV Squadron has shown throughout the whole of its service career and was a proud, if sad, moment in its history. The disbandment of XV Squadron has also had a major impact on the viability of the Association's future. For some considerable time, the Squadron has provided the Association with a serving officer to act as Secretary. This has not only provided a vital link to an active front line unit but has also provided us with many resources, both in manpower and materials. The opportunity to meet and talk to Sqn personnel, even if only at Reunion Dinners, has enhanced the vibrancy of the Association. The Squadron Standard has been laid up at RAF Cranwell but this is no indication of an imminent reformation and, with the shrinking of the UK's front line, it could be some time, if ever, before the number plate is resurrected.

The Association Committee met on 12 May, before the Reunion Dinner, to decide on a way ahead for the future. The options available realistically came down to three:

1. Close the Association permanently. Although it was unlikely that the Sqn would reform as an active unit in the foreseeable future, it was felt that to close the Association at this stage would be premature.
2. Continue in the current format. It was not feasible to maintain the status quo because of the resources we had lost with the Sqn closure and the load it would place on the Committee to overcome those losses.
3. Move the Association into 'hibernation'. It was felt that to maintain the current functions of the Association but reduce the tasks would offer a viable solution which would provide the means of communication between members if needed. It was decided that, for the meantime then, we would continue as follows:
 - a. The President and all members of the Committee would maintain their current roles for the immediate future but discussions and decisions would be made by email.
 - b. The Chairman, now also the Secretary, would maintain the Association email address active in order to answer any queries or pass them on to the appropriate part of the Committee.
 - c. Website. The webmaster would maintain the site, updating as necessary.
 - d. Membership. The Membership Secretary would maintain an active database for use as required. New members would be accepted but there would no longer be a membership joining fee. The Membership Secretary would send out an email twice per year which would remind

members that the website was still active, prompt them to update any membership detail changes and continue to seek contact details for those 'lost' members.

- e. Finances. The Treasurer would maintain the bank account active to pay for minor charges such as the website fee (currently £20 per year). The Treasurer would not maintain account records for longer than 7 years.
- f. We would no longer publish Newsletters or hold official annual reunions. The current trend is for reunions to become more type orientated (Buccaneer Blitz, Finfest, Jaguar Reunions etc) or geographically based. The website or the membership details could provide members with the means of staying in touch and organising more appropriate size and venue meetings. The Victor representative, for example, commented that they were still likely to continue with self-organised small reunions.
- g. These arrangements would be reviewed in one year.

The President suggested that it might be appropriate to meet informally once a year in the RAF Club for a casual lunch on 1 March as this was the anniversary of the formation of XV Squadron. It would be up to individual members to decide whether to participate.

Finally, to reduce the large number of spam emails which are sent to the Committee, all contact details will be removed from the website. As stated above, the Secretary's email address, without the personal details, will still feature on the website for members to send any queries – Membership, Website, History etc. The Secretary will forward them to the appropriate Committee member.

I hope you will understand that the President and Committee have given this decision considerable thought and hope that it will provide a viable way forward for our membership to remain in touch.

Ivor Evans

Chairman/Secretary