

Air ACES A.G.M. Monday 22nd May 2017;8.45 p.m. Chichester Park Hotel.

1] Welcome, Membership, Chair`s & Talk Co-ordinator`s report – David Batcock.

Thanked the members for attending, and asked all attendees to confirm that they have a copy of the handout relevant to tonight`s A.G.M.

Membership was 186 in 2016, so far to the April meeting membership is 142 & average attendance is 90-100.

In 2017 there are 15 talks booked. All talks in 2018 are booked, totalling 14, and to date 6 talks are booked for 2019. David said that “I hope you enjoy our talks I try to get as good as possible speakers”. Item 6 is for your questions. David then thanked his Patrons and the Team, reminding members that Christine Stevens and Andy Tate were appointed Vice Chairs in 2016. He also thanked Alison Batcock for her support. Raffles for 2016/7 have produced £400 for the Air Scout Group and £500 for fly2help. Our 4th Anniversary Evening saw the best meal yet and brilliant entertainment from Richard Digence. Southdown Gliding Club has produced special prices for winch & aero tows for members.

2] Vice Chair`s report & Press updates- Christine Stevens.

Christine said that, “It was a privilege to say a few words on behalf of Andy Tate and herself”. The Team had to run two meetings without David`s leadership this year. Thanks to his organization they went very smoothly. It is brilliant to see David B back to full health & we must pay tribute to him for the amazing job he does attracting such superb speakers and leading the Team with such vigour. The members showed their appreciation by applauding David B.

As you may know Air ACES does not spend any money on press advertising. Air ACES do a lot with the local press to ensure as much coverage as possible. David B sends press releases to all the local newspaper groups receiving excellent results in What`s on & Club/ Societies sections. Ken Nicoll and Christine send releases to the local magazines, village papers, local websites, history groups and national magazines such as Flypast. Air ACES receive tremendous support and members feedback shows that we inform local people very well. We have recently gone on line with the Observer Series, hopefully this will reach a new audience and benefit Air ACES. Christine then appealed for any new contacts. There were no questions about press coverage.

3] Treasurer`s report – John Gradwell.

John asked members to study the accounts, which showed a small nominal loss because of expenses drawn from our reserve for the 2017 4th Anniversary Evening in late December 2016, together with the buying of some equipment. Unfortunately, because of this expenditure exceeded income in 2016.

4] I.T. & Website co-ordinator`s report- Andy Tate.

Andy said the website was still sturdy and includes notice of meetings and trips too. There is a link on the site, so you can communicate to Air ACES their correct email address. You can also unsubscribe from the website too,

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5] Visits co-ordinator`s report – Fred Barber. Last year`s trips were RAF Odiham & Fleet Air Arm Museum Yeovilton both by car. The first by design, the second because numbers were not sufficient for coach hire. Refunds had to be made for Yeovilton, but it was a great day out seeing the Royal Navy Historic Flight, Cobham Hall [Reserve Collection] & the Museum itself. A coach does make the trip easier to organize. This year`s trip is to Middle Wallop [AAC] & Old Sarum. 43 have expressed an interest and 10 have now paid the full £34 required.

6] Any points/ questions from members attending- Members.

Three questions were asked by members and all were answered by the Chair, David Batcock.

1] One member was interested in our membership profile. David answered that 20% were ex-service, mostly ex RAF with the rest enthusiasts of whom 20% are female.

Subsidiary; Are there any younger members? David replied that regrettably despite support of Air Scouts & A.T.C. the support by youngsters has been poor, as has support from their parents, not for want of trying. The average age of members is 70.

2] Another member reminded us of the Fleet Air Arm and asked if we had ever considered a panel of speakers? David said that Air ACES have had quite a few talks on the Fleet Air Arm & Army Air Corps. David asked members to forward any details of any new speakers.

3] The last question was why no 5th anniversary evening? David said that it was difficult to organize, and it did not attract sufficient numbers to break even. In addition, he no longer has his entertainer contacts.

7] Charities nominations for May 2017 until April 2018- Christine Stevens.

For the last 4 years we have divided the raffle proceeds between 2 good causes. One specifically for young people and one that benefits people of all ages. Last year we took the decision to change our adult charity to fly2help. This will continue for the coming year. The young peoples` charity has been to the 1st South Bersted Air Scouts. Hopefully over the last 4 years we have helped give a number of Air Scout Cubs & Air Scouts enthusiasm for aviation. The Team this year propose that we target a geographically wider audience of youngsters and more specifically aviation orientated. In conjunction with Southdown Gliding Club we propose to help fund young people to experience the joy of flying. They have a Junior section and have been supportive to us in the past. This will enable young people to get airborne, who might not be able to afford it. There were no questions and a show of hands by members voted for fly2help and the new gliding idea.

8] Election of Air ACES Team Members for 2017/2018- Christine Stevens.

The existing Team are listed on the hand out [& on our display boards]. We also have regular helpers not attending Team meetings, but are invaluable to the running of Air ACES. The Team meets for administrative purposes every two months. Colin Chapman is a new member who joined to support Fred Barber in the organization of trips. All the Team members wish to continue in place, if this is the members wish. There were no questions about the Team. The Air Aces Team were all re-elected unanimously.

David Batcock then closed the A.G.M. by reminding members that there are two meetings in June. He thanked members for staying to attend and wished the members a good night.

