

Patrons: Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope GCB OBE ADC,
Vice Admiral Andrew Burns OBE
Cdre Jamie Miller, CBE
Captain David Wixon, RN (Retd)
Lt.Cdr Stephen Carbery, CEng, RN (Retd)
David Fitzgerald, BBC Presenter and writer
Heather Ogburn, MBE



Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organisation Reg.No. 1177870

FUTURE FIT JUNIOR FIELD GUN
MEETING OF TRUSTEES

Unit 8, Westover Industrial Estate, Ivybridge, PL21 9ES
Thursday 22nd September 2022 at 1900

Present:

Cdr Charles Crichton
David Worrall
Robert Hunter
Brian O'Hara
Graham Smith
Margaret Worrall

Chairman
Operations Manager and Trustee
H&S Risk Assessment and Trustee
Sec/Treasurer and Trustee (via phone)
Workshop Manager Designate
Minute Secretary

Item 1 – Apologies from Trustees:

Jed Stone	Prior engagement
Major Alex Howard	Prior engagement
Wg Cdr Francis Reis	On leave
Samantha Morcumb	Family commitment

Item 2 – Matters Arising

2.4 Choice of Clothing Outfitter – remains outstanding.

4.1 FF received an Invoice from Brickfields for £100 for use of their facilities. BO'H queried this invoice because Brickfields was being used by FF for training the schools that would be taking part in AFD. FF did not regard the training sessions as an 'Event'. BO'H has received no response, so far, but as Brickfields do not seem to be chasing the invoice BO'H advised the Meeting to regard the invoice as cancelled.

4.4 School Leagues. The Board decided it would be better to make dates in January 2023. FF should then organise and use FF staff on this issue. It would be a case of bringing together schools which were at a stage of being able to compete and only FF training staff would know which schools these were.

6.1 Grants update. BO'H informed the Meeting that FF's Grant Application (£10k) had been declined. We were asked to send a copy of our accounts, and this probably resulted in their decision to decline our application. These Committees do not always see the full picture. It would therefore be a good idea not to apply for our £30k from the John McAndrew Trust this year.

6.2 The Workshop rates may also be affected by FF's large bank balance. While FF is entitled to 80% discount the 100% discount is at the discretion of the Council. FF's application for 100% discount has to be approved by committee. No answer has yet been received, so FF lives in hope.

Item 3 – AFD Inter-school Competition

3.1 Extremely successful and a well organised day. A different School won the majority of trophies, this year, which was good to see.

3.2 The highlight of the day was the young boy in the wheelchair. Two weeks prior to the Competition he was in hospital, but he was determined to take part. As a result of his commitment, therefore, FF awarded him a Future Fit shirt with which he was delighted, as were the crowds. It is impressive that this young sport has been able to open the doors for a diversity of children to take part and will continue to do so.

3.3 The Veterans who came along to judge the Competition offered advice and support to the children. Their enthusiasm was appreciated, not only by FF, but also by the schools, parents and teachers, as well as the public who were watching the competition.

3.4 We had varied weather throughout the day, sunshine and showers and thunderstorms in the area. It did not put anyone off and the children positively enjoyed the experience of taking shelter between the rain showers.

3.5 This coming year will find Competitions taking place in the Plymouth Piazza, AFD in Taunton and AFD on Plymouth Hoe. FF were asked if they would like to take part in AFD in Falmouth, but declined the offer, as the logistics of taking down up to 20 schools was too difficult.

Item 4 – Ladies Night Dinner

4.1 The Hotel where previous dinners have been held is no longer available, so the venue has been transferred to Boringdon Hall Golf Club.

4.2 Numbers for the dinner are low now but are expected to rise nearer the date. In addition to the three-course meal, the Operations Manager will update the diners on FF's progress, a talk by David Pond and an auction, which always creates lots of enthusiastic bids!

4.3 The numbers need to be a minimum of 50 in order to break-even. DW to review total numbers at the end of September. The Dinner is being held on 14th October 2022.

Item 5 – Grants and Rates Up-Date

5.1 This item was dealt with in Matters Arising; 6.1 and 6.2.

Item 6 – Workshop Up-Date

6.1 TH and GS reported that the work is now in the finishing stages. They are just waiting on the electrician to complete work on the sockets. The toilets have been revamped and the Workshop painted. The Office is also in the process of being painted and will be completed shortly. The office space next to the kitchen will be used as a Planning Office, where all the work can be listed, and a rota written up and events planned.

6.2 It was suggested that prior to the official opening on 20th October 2023 FF should put up a board with photos of FF staff and Patrons in the entrance area. This agreed.,

6.3 The lathe is arriving next week; the flooring company has measured up and FF are just waiting for the financial quote. A well-known ex-field gunner has offered to fund the flooring, rather than take money out of FF finances.

6.4 The Boardroom will benefit from an overhead projector and screen so that FF can invite schools to bring in children to learn more about field gun past and present.

6.5 TH asked how bills would be paid, i.e., electricity etc. BO'H said to post the bills to his address or scan them and send them via internet and he will arrange payment.

6.6 GS would like to record the effort which has taken place in order to change the dismal empty building into a smart efficient workshop with specific spaces for gun and limber storage and work production areas. Electrical safety is essential and positions for machinery appropriate, together with supporting paperwork. Hot water is not yet available but will be essential for personal health.

6.6 CC thanked GS and TH for all their hard work in getting the Workshop into a workplace to be proud of. The official opening of the Workshop will be on Thursday 20th October 2022 and will be opened by David Fitzgerald from Radio Devon.

Item 8 – AOB

8.1 –TH wanted to note that FF was in a different place from a year ago. TH can now devote up to 3 days a week to FF since his retirement from City College Plymouth. We have GS who is working almost daily on the Workshop. All this will eventually spread the workload amongst FF.

8.2 TH suggested that FF should review the situation of the paid trustee that was only a temporary situation to support the workload of Dave Worrall previously.

8.3 FF would be better placed to pay someone skilled in marketing or carpentry to support equipment building, marketing or fund raising activity. This would offer stability for the team. The Board agreed; however, it will need to be discussed further as to how this can be implemented.

8.4 GS suggested that School Leagues could be organised in a similar vein to squash leagues. The Board agreed to discuss this further as the proposal was a positive one, offering a way forward for School Leagues during quiet periods between the main events.

8.5 BO'H suggested that GS be co-opted on as a Trustee, but GS declined the offer saying that he liked the way he was working at present and did not want to commit to more.

8.6 CC informed the Board that Andrew Burns is now a Vice Admiral, and that Peter Coulson has now gone. CC suggested contacting the new Naval Base Commander, who may well be able to replace Peter Coulson as a Patron.

Item 9 – Date and Time of Next Meeting

9.1 The next Meeting will take place in December in the Workshop. Exact date to be discussed. As this will be an opportunity to review 2022, and to look ahead to 2023, the Meeting will be regarded as an AGM.

9.2 Meeting closed at 2000.