

**ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION
NEWCASTLE & GATESHEAD 0370 BRANCH**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026
Benwell Hill Cricket Club**

Monday 2nd March 2026

Branch AGM opened at 7.15pm, a total of 9 members signed attendance.

Dedication given by Molli Lloyd-James

Welcomed by Chair, Chris James, who announced - **Before we begin AGM proceedings, I have been in discussions with RAFA and Chair of Whitley Bay & North Shields branch regarding their Branch amalgamating with Newcastle, which at a prior meeting Whitley Bay members agreed to. Therefore, can I have a vote tonight on this branch willing to also amalgamate – A YES vote was carried unanimously, RAFA to be notified soonest.**

Apologies received, from – Karen Bowers, Kevin Mongan, Ray Hill, Alan Proudlock, Roger Cheese, Wg.Cdr. Blackie o/c RAFAC and Sqn Ldr. Burton, RAFAC, Cllrs R Higgins and S Anthony.

The minutes of the AGM 2025, previously circulated to members after 2025 AGM, was read by the Branch Secretary, acceptance proposed by David Gilbert and Roy Knox, on behalf of all present, as a true record. No matters arose and advised no motions etc had been received.

The following reports were presented and will be available to read in the **Trustees Annual Report** on Branch website and Facebook page.

Charman – given by Chris Lloyd- James, Chair to members present.

Secretary, Welfare and RAFLO reports were given by Debbie Owens, A short report on Welfare status, and owing to operation recovery of the RAFLO, the Secretary read out his report.

Vice Chair's commemoration report, owing to illness, this was given by Bill Houston, Treasurer to members present.

Treasurer's report – given by Bill Houston, copy of the annual accounts distributed, explained and noted a summary of this is also in the Trustees Annual Return. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report proposed by Ken Allan and seconded by Molli Lloyd-James on behalf of all present.

Wellbeing report- in absence of Kevin Mongan, delayed on business, report given by Andy Farley to members present.

Wings 2025 appeal – given by Ken Allen to members present.

After all reports had been presented, and there being no further comments or motions passed, the meeting then undertook the election of principal officers, delegates and independent examiner.

As the AGM is being held later than normal the election of other committee members and non-committee roles will take place, The following members were elected to the principal roles and other committee members, etc. All committee members were proposed and seconded for election; however, note the Chair and Treasurer were both elected by a unanimous show of hands!

Chair and Trustee (re-elected)	Mr Christopher Lloyd-James
Vice Chair and Trustee (re-elected)	Mrs. Karen Bowers
Secretary and Trustee re-elected)	Mrs. Debbie Owens
Treasurer and Trustee (re-elected)	Mr. William Houston
Welfare Officer/Committee	Mr. Andrew Farley
Wellbeing Officer/Committee	Mr. Kevin Mongan
Wings Organiser/Committee	Mr Ken Allen
Committee Member	Miss Molli Lloyd-James
Committee Member	Mr Michael Collins
Committee Member	Mr Michael Blackman
	Whitley Bay - TBC
National Conference Representative	Mr William Houston
Area Conference Representative	Mrs D Owens TBC
Independent Examiner	Lady Joy Walker

Branch Standard Bearer
Deputy Branch Standard Bearer
Wings Support/Co-Ordinator

Mr David Gilbert
Miss Mollie Lloyd-James
Mr Roy Knox

Members present at AGM

C. Lloyd-James, W. Houston, D. Owens, M. Collins, K. Allen, R. Knox, A. Farley, D. Gilbert, M. Lloyd-James.

There being no further elections/motions etc, the Chair closed the 2026 AGM, and Branch moved on to AOB for notice and general discussion.

As the RAFLO was unable to give any updates in person, passed on that RAF Boulmer is on a 2-week exercise, and he hopes to be fit to join with Branch at the annual ANZAC event in April.

From D Owens – note RAFAC on 29th March, a bag pack in Morrison, West Denton and RAFA invited to have a tabletop, volunteers please.

Battle of Britain, September – advised Mr. M. Toft has provisionally booked for RAFA to hold this service again in Newcastle Cathedral, Secretary to contact the Dean for confirmation etc.

Chairman has been in conversation with the RAF Benevolent Fund to give a talk at a Branch meeting. He was informed that the Fund are proposing 2 welfare posts for NE and NW England, presuming they will be advertising for suitable candidates.

There being no further agenda matters, the Chair declared meeting closed and invited members for refreshments and take part in a raffle for Branch funds.