



**THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020  
HELD BY ZOOM ON 5 DECEMBER 2020 AT 3.00 PM UK TIME**

**Attendance:** The list of those Members who attended is at Annex A.

**Chairman's Introduction.** "I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. Thank you for sparing the time to join us at the 2020 Falkland Islands Association Annual General Meeting.

As you have already heard, addressing you all by video-link is a first for us. So, I hope you will all bear with us if things don't run quite as smoothly as usual. To make all this possible, I would like to thank Peter Johnson who is acting as our host today and to all the members of our energetic Executive Committee who have considered and rehearsed as many aspects as possible of holding this remote meeting, including the mechanics of how to vote.

As with virtually every organisation, 2020 has provided immense challenges for the FIA. Ours began with the unexpected resignation of our Chairman, John Duncan, in March which brought me to the helm as the recently elected Vice-Chair. As you are aware, we are actively seeking a new Chair and hope to be in a position to announce the new candidate in the not too distant future.

Sadly, 2020 also saw us lose two of our most dedicated former Committee Members, Merle Christie and David Ainslie. With her husband Bill, Merle was instrumental in the formation of this organisation, even before the 1982 conflict and acted as our Honorary Secretary for many years. David Ainslie was the person to whom we turned for sound legal advice. As recently as last year, he continued to guide us expertly in the update of the FIA constitution. They are both much missed and I would like formally to record the Association's appreciation for everything they both did for us.

Again, like for many of you, the virus has presented us with many practical difficulties. As such a disparate group trying to avoid public transport, we have not been able to meet face-to-face since the last AGM in January. However, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, we have managed to achieve a good deal since then. My editorial in the October Newsletter described the many important advances we have made, including Tym Marsh's sterling work to establish a unique FIA brand by designing our impressive new logo and strapline.

I am told that the car window stickers which were included with the last Newsletter have proved very popular. Please let us know if you did not receive one or would like any more of them. Our Website, Twitter and Facebook pages continue to attract interest from all over the world. I would like to thank Tamsin Cunningham and Deborah Northwood in particular for their energy in putting our articles and messages on these platforms. I would also like to thank Karen Clapp for the excellent work she has done to organise and simplify our membership arrangements

Our involvement with the Falkland Islands Government in the *SS Great Britain* 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Bristol has been a great success. This, in spite of the virus which forced the postponement of a number of planned events. I was able to visit the exhibit in late-October and very much enjoyed spotting the impressively life-like penguin models along the Penguin Trail and Steve Massam's amazing Black Browed Albatross hanging majestically from the ceiling of the dock building. We plan to dedicate several pages in the next Newsletter to this amazing exhibit, which we think will be of particular interest to our many members who unfortunately will not have been able to travel down to Bristol to see it in person. Again, my sincere thanks go to Beverley Verwoert for her boundless energy and considerable efforts to make this happen.

I will not take up too much more of your time on other issues as later speakers will bring us up to date with the new Argentine Government's more assertive approach to their sovereignty claim; the latest developments on the Islands including the amazing news about the final clearance of all landmines, a project which started when I was still Deputy

Governor, and the latest news affecting the Falkland Islands from Westminster. I shall now hand you back to the Hon Sec".

The Hon Sec explained that the Executive Committee was putting forward a series of resolutions for the Members either to agree or not. The votes of those who had voted online would be added to those who voted at the ZOOM meeting. It was not permitted for a Member to vote twice on any motion.

**1. Motion 1 - To Approve the Minutes of the 2019 AGM.** Votes for 59, against 1, motion carried.

**2. Motion 2 - To Receive the Annual Report of the Executive Committee.** Votes for 67, against 2, motion carried.

**3. Motion 3 - To Receive the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2020.** Votes for 64, against 1, motion carried.

**4. Motion 4 - To Receive the Resignations of the Officers and all Members of the Executive Committee namely:**

Paul Martinez - Interim Chairman	Peter Johnson
Tym Marsh - Hon Sec & Treasurer	Peter Judge MBE
Nina Ashton	John Maskell-Bott
Karen Clapp	Deborah Northwood
Tamsin Cunningham	Alexandra Shackleton
	Bev Verwoert

Votes for 66, against 1, motion carried.

**5. Motion 5 - To elect Paul Martinez as Interim Chairman.** Votes for 67, against 1, motion carried.

**6. Motion 6 - To elect Tym Marsh as Hon Sec and Treasurer.** Votes for 67, against 2, motion carried.

**7. Motion 7 - To elect the Following Members to the Executive Committee:**

- a. All members of the existing committee named in Motion 4 above plus:
- b. Professor Richard Tranter.

Votes for 68, against 1, motion carried.

**8. Motion 8 - To Confirm BDO LLP as Accountants for the Current Financial Year.**

Votes for 67, against 2, motion carried.

**9. Motion 9 - To agree an amendment to the Constitution namely:** That Para 9a should be changed to allow Honorary Members to serve on the Executive Committee. It is proposed that the relevant paragraph should be amended by the inclusion of the words "or Honorary" to read as follow:

*"9a. Composition. The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than fifteen members as follows: the Chairman, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer plus up to twelve Individual **or Honorary** Members... "*

Votes for 68, against 1, motion carried.

**10. To take the Questions of Members to the Executive Committee.** There were no questions.

**11. Any Other Business.**

**a. Harold Briley Statement.** Harold Briley, an Hon Member for many years and formerly BBC Correspondent in Argentina, made a short statement as follows:

I would like to thank the Hon Secretary for his dedicated work because it is more essential than ever to boost support to the Islanders - to counter Argentina's intensified and unremitting claim to sovereignty in the period leading to the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We won the war as I jubilantly broadcast to the world in June 1982 but I fear, despite all our best efforts, Argentina has won the publicity and propaganda war since, gaining many supporters especially in South and Central America and at the United Nations, despite the weakness of its case. I also find continuing ignorance about the Falkland Islands in the United Kingdom as illustrated when I recently spoke to two

experienced TV producers who said they had never heard of the Falklands! I know the FIA leadership is concentrating on how to exploit the inevitable publicity surrounding the Anniversary. Like other FIA members, I also have ideas for a few practical steps which I shall be outlining to the Falkland Islands Government.

**b. Additional Member of ExCo.** It was explained that it was the intention of the ExCo to co-opt Air Commodore Russ La Forte CBE MA in the very near future. Because he had only recently left the RAF, it had not been possible to put his name before the AGM in the normal way. Russ made a short statement and said that he looked forward to joining the Committee and assisting the Association.

**12. Post AGM.** After the AGM, the meeting was pleased to receive short addresses from the following:

- a. Peter Pepper.
- b. Andrew Rosindell MP.
- c. MLA Mark Pollard.

**13. Chairman's Concluding Remarks.** "I would like to express my thanks for joining us today and for your continuing interest in the Falkland Islands. With potentially more challenging times ahead, it is reassuring to know that we can count on you to help us continue to support Falkland Islanders' right to decide their own future. Please try and convince others to join as the more we are the louder our voice will be. Thank you".

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Tym Marsh, Hon Sec, on behalf of Executive Committee

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Date

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**ANNEX A**

#### **LIST OF MEMBERS AT FIA AGM 5 DECEMBER 2020**

Keith Angus	David Edwards	Hugh Normand
Nina Ashton - ExCo	Matt Edwards	Deborah Northwood – ExCo
Robert Ashton	Norma Edwards – FI Committee	Stephen Palmer
Pablo Basques	John Erskine	Peter Pepper
Lisa Bauer	Ailsa Heathman – FI Committee	Mark Pollard – MLA
Deborah Bishop	Richard Hines	Bill Pollington
Harold Briley	Richard Hyslop	Sukey Pullen
Emma Brook – FI Committee	Alan Huckle – VP	Martin Rappallini
Gerald Cheek – FI Committee	Harriet Johnson	Jacky Ramsden
Karen Clapp – Membership Sec	Peter Johnson - ExCo	Roderick Rhys-Jones
Ted Clapp – VP	Russell La Forte	Gen Sir Michael Rose – VP
Fergus Cliff	Donald Lamont	Alexandra Shackleton – ExCo
Richie Coombs	Geoffrey MacKrell	Michael Sterva
Elizabeth Cunningham	Paul Martinez – Interim Chmn	John Swanston
Tamsin Cunningham - ExCo	Tym Marsh – Hon Sec/Treas	David Tatham – VP
Deborah Davidson – FI Committee	John Maskell-Bott – ExCo	George Townsend
Denis Doble	Bert Mauchline	Richard Tranter – ExCo
Mike Duguid	Jim McAdam	Beverly Verwoert – ExCo
John Duncan	Andrew Newman – Chmn FI Cmtee	Thomas Wardle
		Colin Young