



Supporting the right of Falkland Islanders to decide their own future

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO THE AGM ON 5 DECEMBER 2021

The Executive Committee (ExCo) is pleased to provide its Annual Report to the AGM in accordance with Paragraph 11d (1) of the Constitution:

MAIN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

1. Overview. Activities since the last report have been limited by COVID which continued to affect all aspects of national life. A particular disappointment was the lack of the FIGO Summer Reception for the second year in a row and, in view of the uncertainties, it was thought prudent not to organise any form of public wreath laying ceremony in London on Battle Day this year as was customary before the onset of the pandemic. However, the ExCo has continued to meet very successfully by ZOOM and the work of the Association has continued.

2. Exhibition at SS GREAT BRITAIN, Bristol. The exhibition at the SS GREAT BRITAIN, Bristol ran for a few months in the early part of 2021 although COVID restrictions limited attendance. Nevertheless, we count it a great success as the attention of many visitors was drawn to the Falkland Islands; public awareness of the Falklands is a vital part of their defence. Members will wish to thank Bev Verwoert, an ExCo member, who provided much of the driving force and many of the ideas behind the Falklands aspects of the exhibition.

3. New Membership System. On 1 April 2021 a new and very much simplified membership system was introduced and it is pleasing that members responded well to the new arrangements. No more than a handful of Members has been lost during the change and it is hoped that the simpler, less confusing system, which has fewer categories, will make it easier to recruit the new Members who are badly needed.

4. Information Leaflet. Thanks to the work of Deborah Northwood, an ExCo member, a new coloured information leaflet has been produced as part of our public relations outreach. Stocks of the leaflets are available and can be sent to any Member on request. The more people who know about the FIA the better!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

5. Newsletter. The Newsletter is published twice per year, in April and October. For some years, the Editor has been Lisa Watson, who is the Editor of the Falkland Islands newspaper, Penguin News, and we are extremely grateful to Lisa for her many contributions. She stood down after the April 2021 edition and her place has been taken by Nicholas Roberts who is the Deputy Editor of Penguin News. Nicholas was the Editor of the highly successful October 2021 edition of our Newsletter and we wish him well for his forthcoming work with us. We regard the Newsletter as our flagship and, although it is edited for the benefit of Members, it is widely distributed to maintain awareness of the Falklands and to remind people throughout the world that its people are determined to retain their links to Britain.

6. Monitoring of Argentinian Press. One Member of the Association, a Spanish speaker who has lived in Argentina, keeps a daily watch on Argentinian press and draws the attention of the ExCo to political and other developments. Over recent months, he has been underlining the catastrophic state of the Argentine economy which has only been intensified by the COVID pandemic. As always, when things become difficult in Argentina, political rhetoric against

the Falklands is increased, and so it has been of late. Yet further ramping up of tension is likely in 2022 to mark the 40th Anniversary of the 1982 Conflict.

7. Falkland Islands Committee. Throughout the year, the ExCo in London has remained in close touch with our colleagues on the Falklands Committee which is chaired by Andrew Newman. They provide indispensable advice and local knowledge and the ExCo wishes to put on record its thanks for their energetic support.

FINANCE

8. Financial Performance for the Year Ended 31 March 2021. The Association's annual accounts are produced by our accountants, BDO LLP of Ipswich. Owing to the COVID pandemic and the resulting reduced activity, income fell sharply during the year (from about £83k to £48k) but there was a corresponding drop in expenses (from about £78k to £49k). The result of this is that we ended the year broadly in line with where we were at the end of the previous financial year; that is to say, with net assets of £45k as against £46k the year before. The Association is grateful to the Falkland Islands Government for its subvention of £25k which covers the costs of the Newsletter and without which our finances would be very different. The accounts in full will be available within the Members' Area of the website by 20 Nov and to any Member on request.

9. Financial Procedures and Claims Policy. The Association has a policy document setting out its financial procedures and policy on claims. Members are able to view this in the Members' Area of the website.

10. Insurance. There is a public liability policy for claims up to £5m.

11. Reserves Policy. To provide for a sudden drop in income, to exploit an unexpected opportunity, or to mount an emergency publicity campaign in support of the Falklands, it is the policy of the Executive Committee to maintain cash in the bank sufficient to cover at least 6 months of operations at the current rate.

12. Tax. The Association is not registered for VAT and, although we are not incorporated, we pay Corporation Tax.

13. Accounting. BDO LLP act as the Association's accountants. They see all monthly bank statements and prepare the annual accounts and the corporation tax return. We are grateful to Fortuna Fishing who generously make regular donations which correspond to our bills from BDO so our accountancy costs are effectively paid for us.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

14. Governing Document. The FIA is an unincorporated association, that is to say, it is neither a charity nor a company. It is governed by a Constitution which was first agreed in 1984 but then rewritten and agreed by the AGM on 25 Jan 20 (then amended by the AGM on 5 Dec 20). The Constitution may be seen on the website.

15. Aim of the Association. The Constitution states that the aim of the Association is to: "support the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to decide their own future."

16. The Executive Committee. The Constitution places all aspects of the government of the Association into the hands of an Executive Committee (ExCo) consisting of 3 Officers and up to 12 members who are elected annually at the AGM. Up to 3 additional members may be added by co-option.

17. Management. There are no paid employees. All action on behalf of the Association is undertaken by unpaid volunteers, usually members of the ExCo, who work from home.

18. Privacy. Because it holds the names and addresses of Members, The Association is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and is strongly aware of its obligations under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). There is a privacy policy which can be seen on the website, the most important rule being that the Association never divulges the details of Members to third parties except with their permission which is requested in every case.

19. Contact Details. The Association uses the address of the Falkland Islands Government Office (FIGO) in London. There is no permanently manned FIA office at the address and mail is helpfully redirected by FIGO staff to the Hon Sec's home. This means there is sometimes a regrettable delay in responding to letters. Telephone calls to the Association's published telephone number in London are automatically routed to the Hon Sec's home where his long-suffering wife invariably takes the calls.

OTHER POINTS

20. How Members Can Help. There are many simple ways by which Members can assist including, for example:

- a. Speak to family and friends about the Association and encouraging them to become Members as well as passing on copies of the Newsletter to anyone who might be interested. Display the car sticker.
- b. Pay subscriptions by standing order or by PayPal recurring payment; this reduces the work and expense of sending out reminders.
- c. Make sure the Membership Secretary has your email address as it is quicker and cheaper for us to use email than post.

THE FUTURE

21. Next Year, 2022. Work in the coming year will focus on:

- a. Publicising the Association to people who visit and work in the Falklands, particularly members of the Armed Forces, Civil Servants, contractors, and tourists.
- b. A strong drive to attract new Members of all ages and backgrounds.
- c. Preparations to mark the 40th Anniversary of the ending of the 1982 Conflict.

22. Longer Term Challenges. In the longer term, challenges facing the Association include:

- a. Standing ready to mobilise public opinion if a future UK Government is tempted to decide the future of the Islands without the agreement of its' people.
- b. Establishing a succession plan for ExCo Members and, in particular, key office holders.
- c. Fundraising.

23. Thanks to Members. The Executive Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members of the Association for their support; the Association could not continue without them

Tym Marsh

Tym Marsh
Hon Sec, For Executive Committee consisting of:

Date 10 November 2021

Officers

Paul Martinez - Interim Chairman
Tym Marsh - Hon Sec & Hon Treasurer

Members

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|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Nina Ashton | Russell La Forte (co-opt) |
| Karen Clapp | John Maskell-Bott |
| Tamsin Cunningham | Deborah Northwood |
| Peter Johnson | Alexandra Shackleton |
| Peter Judge MBE | Richard Tranter |
| | Bev Verwoert |