



Autumn General Mess Meeting

MINUTES

Sea Room, Juno Tower

Thursday, November 23rd, 2023, 10:30 AST

1. Call to Order / Confirmation of Quorum
 - The PMC confirmed a quorum was present (approximately 65 Ordinary and 2 Associate Members in attendance) and called the meeting to order at 10:36.
2. Opening Remarks
 - The PMC welcomed everyone to the meeting and indicated that he likes to work by consensus. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.
 - The proposed Senior Sub, Capt. Brandon Finyanos, was found hiding in the crowd and was cajoled to sit at the Committee Table where he rightly belongs.
3. Approval of Agenda
 - The PMC noted that the agenda had been previously circulated with the meeting invitation.
 - The PMC called for any additions, deletions, or amendments.
 - Hearing none, the PMC called for a **motion to approve the agenda** as circulated:
Moved by: Maj. Liam Taylor
Seconded by: Capt. Corey McLean
Motion passed.
4. Approval of previous Minutes: Annual General Meeting, 13 April 23.
 - The PMC noted that the AGM Minutes had been previously circulated with the meeting invitation.
 - The PMC called for any additions, deletions, or amendments.
 - Hearing none, the PMC called for a **motion to approve the previous minutes** as circulated:
Moved by: Jaime Tobin
Seconded by: LCdr Chris Cann
The minutes were approved by consensus without dissent.

5. Introduction of Committee Members

- The PMC introduced the proposed new members of the Mess Committee and indicated that we are still looking for a Bull Sub.

Secretary: LCdr Ryan Stanley
Treasurer: LCdr Isabelle MacNeil
Membership Officer: Lt(N) Anne-Marie Day
Entertainment Officer: SLt Jason Pereira (not in attendance)
Communications Officer: Lt(N) Holly Burbidge
Senior Sub: Capt. Brandon Finyanos

There being no additional nominations or volunteers for the proposed positions, the Mess Committee was **approved by acclamation without dissent.**

6. Financial Report (Treasurer):

- The Treasurer presented the financial report (see ppt below). The figures for 30 Sept 23 were prepared internally. Our current unencumbered cash is approximately \$52,000. The Treasurer confirmed the HOM is anticipating a loss of approximately \$37,000. This is due to:
 - a. the delayed re-opening of RA Park – impacting expected revenue;
 - b. the eight-week closure of the mess due to the HVAC/water break – again, revenue;
 - c. the cancellation of six weddings – due to HVAC/water break and mess closure; and
 - d. impacts from COVID.
- The Treasurer explained that we are funded for all our activities until the end of the fiscal year, but do not have excess funds for new initiatives.
- Question: Are we allowed to have corporate sponsors? Mess Manager, yes. This could be an option for New Years or other events.
- The PMC reinforced that our finances are healthy, but any rumours of excess cash are not true.
- The finances were **approved by consensus without dissent.**

7. Old Business and Business Arising

- RA Park Re-opening (VPMC):
RA Park has now re-opened but renovations of the facility are still ongoing. RP Ops has a number of small issues such as a kitchen exhaust fan and door lock that still require rectification by contractors. The staff have been working tirelessly to complete the process of re-opening (Thanks Tina!). The renovation has brought the building back to a state of around 1850, but while meeting 2023 building codes – such as fire suppression.

- The PMC highlighted that we will be scheduling both daytime and evening events to ensure that everyone is able to participate in mess activities.

8. Reports:

- Membership Officer:

The Membership Officer, Lt(N) Anne-Marie Day, introduced herself and her role. She encouraged that the membership become involved in organizing activities and events – our mess is what we make it. She highlighted that the Membership Officer is here to represent your interests – please reach out if you have ideas, questions, or comments.

Question: Are we supposed to have an RA Park Rep, will we be creating a committee? VPMC, as the PMC of RA Park, I am your representative. We have only just re-opened and need to generate more Membership engagement on both the Mess Committee and Entertainment Committee.

Question: What is the difference between Associate and Honorary Members? A full description of both Associate and Honorary can be found in the Constitution and By-Laws – but the main difference is that Honorary Members do not pay Mess Dues. Neither Associate nor Honorary Members have voting rights.

Question: Can you confirm are Class A Reservists are entitled to a departure gift? IAW the By-Laws: *For the purchase of a memento for each Ordinary Member departing on posting who has been a Member of the Mess for at least 24 months. Posting gifts will consist of a range of products approved from time to time by the Mess Committee. These gifts will generally be available in the mess office, and may include prints, mugs, books, or plaques, etcetera.*

Question: How do we claim our baby, departure, or other gifts? Please speak to the Membership Officer, Lt(N) Anne-Marie Day.

- Entertainment Officer (PMC on behalf of SLt Jason Pereira)
The PMC highlighted that we are looking for units to take ownership of Superweepers as hosts. Please speak to any member of the Committee if you are interested.

There was a review of upcoming events (see ppt below).

The PMC indicated that we are looking to encourage a bit of a rivalry between the messes to encourage fun.

Question: How will events be allocated to Juno vs RA Park? PMC, with RA Park returning to operations, we will alternate locations for events.

The Mess Secretary highlighted that members are encouraged to volunteer as OPIs for events. It is a great way to get involved in the mess, learn how to be a

host, and differentiate yourself. Mentorship and guidance are available. If you are interested, please reach out to the Entertainment Officer, SLt Jason Pereira.

Question: Will the OPI to an event get a free ticket to the event that they organize? The PMC recommended a motion be made.

Capt. McLean made a **motion that the OPI to an event get a free ticket for themselves and a plus one for the event that they organize:**

Moved by: Capt. Corey McLean

Seconded by: Maj. Andrew Dunford

Passed without dissent.

- VPMC

The VPMC, LCol Andrew Nicholson, reinforced that RA Park is still in the process of opening. We are seeking members for the Entertainment Committee to help with planning, and we need to be patient as we build capacity. We have a limited staff that we are looking to hire more.

If you have a great idea for an event, please let us know, we would like to support your vision. Just please manage expectations with the knowledge that we are still getting up and running.

- PMC

The PMC, Cdr Bill Sanson, highlighted that we are looking for ways to improve our communication including sending invites via outlook.

We are trending upward with member engagement and it's great to see our community participation grow. Thank you to everyone for their work to get us here post-COVID. We are looking for OPIs and Hosts for events. We want to be conducting events at both messes and promoting engagement with all of our members.

Please remember the Golden Rule – treat everyone as you want to be treated.

If there are issues, please reach out to the PMC for resolution.

We are looking for more engagement with the Mess Committee, especially the Entertainment Committee. This is our mess, and it functions best when we are involved.

He also highlighted the importance of appropriate dress. The mess is attended by senior officers as well as foreign officers, and we want to reflect positively on ourselves. Please consider that PT strip is not appropriate.

Finally, we are looking for ways to improve the décor of the space by engaging with the Naval Museum and other sources for art/historical items.

9. New Business

- Nil

10. Round Table

- Question: What is the succession plan for members of the committee? PMC, most of the members you are seeing today are new to the committee. We will need to consider the replacement of the PMC and VPMC roles sooner, but do not have a plan at this time.
- Question: How do we bring forward ideas from the Associates? The Associate Representative is Tom Birchall.
- Point: Maj Brian Brooks highlighted that being involved in the Entertainment Committee is the engine for planning and hosting entertainment events – it is always appreciated when others help out. It will be important that the Entertainment Committee carefully manage the funds available ensuring that they are used effectively and are equitably distributed between the two locations.
- Door Prizes
Five free lunches with a plus one were drawn as well as a pair of tickets to the New Years Ball.

The PMC, pointed out that this draw is because we are no longer able to open the PMC chit following the General Meetings while the chit system is reviewed at the national level.

- The PMC recognized Chelsea, our long-term bartender, who will be leaving us shortly. Thank you for your service to the mess.

11. Adjournment:

- There being no further business to discuss, the PMC called for a **motion to adjourn**:

Moved by: Lt(N) Edward Woolley

Seconded by: Lt(N) Jacob Thornhill

The meeting was **adjourned at 1125**.

Date: _____

Stanley, RK
LCdr
Mess Secretary
427 6582

Sanson, W
Cdr
PMC
721 5455

Date: _____

Andreycyk, CJ
Civ
Deputy PSP Mgr
721 8709

Date: _____

Stark, G
Lt(N)
Messes & Acom Officer
721 7883

Date: _____

Foley, CG
Cdr
BAdmO
721 8611

Date: _____

Dist List

Mess Manager
FPAS
Deputy PSP Manager
M&IO
HSO
Mess Notice Board
Communications Quarterly (CQ)

CFB Halifax Officers' Mess

General Mess Meeting

23 November 2023

FORTS. FIER. PRÊTS.
STRONG. PROUD. READY.



Agenda



1. Call to Order/ Confirmation of Quorum
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Opening Remarks
4. Approval of previous AGM Minutes (13 Apr 23)
5. Introduction of Committee Members
 - a. Appointment of Secretary and Treasurer
 - b. Election of Entertainment Officer, Communications Officer, Membership Officer, Senior Sub.
6. Review of Mess Financials
7. Old Business
8. Reports
 - a. Membership
 - b. Entertainment
 - c. VPMC
 - d. PMC
9. New Business
10. Round Table
11. Adjournment



Opening Remarks



- Please direct communication to PMC
- Motions – table – postpone indefinitely – amend
- New motions limited to ongoing discussion



Minutes of Previous GMM



- 13 April 2023
- Motion to Approve



Mess Executive Committee

**PMC**

Cdr Bill Sanson

Vice PMC

LCol Andrew Nicholson

Secretary

LCdr Ryan Stanley

Treasurer

Lt(N) Isabelle McNeil

Associates Rep

Tom Birchall

A/Entertainment Rep

*SLt Jason Pereira **

Sports Rep

SLt Maryo John

A/Communications Rep

*Lt(N) Holly Burbidge **

A/Membership Rep

*Lt(N) Anne-Marie Day **

Senior Sub

*Capt. Brandon Finyanos **



Financial Report



The Mess budget is comprised of mess dues; all members must pay into a mess.

The Mess is required to submit a balanced budget.



Financial Report



Mess Dues Breakdown

GENERAL - \$9.87

Operating expenses: bar staff/admin wages, cable/internet, supplies, contribution to base fund, etc.

ENTERTAINMENT - \$10.99

All entertainment events and depreciation costs.

GIFT FUND - \$0.01

Posting, retirement, bereavement, birth. Reg Force only.

TAX - \$3.13



Income Statement



(1 Apr 23 – 30 Sept 23)

Bar Sales	\$ 46,429.00
Bar COGS	<u>\$ 23,970.64</u>
Gross Profit	\$ 22,458.36
Revenue	\$221,521.76
Expenses	\$281,058.23
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$ 37,078.11)



Balance Sheet



As of 30 September 2023

Total Assets	\$235,475.46
Total Liabilities	\$ 36,667.87
Total Equity	\$198,807.59
Total	\$235,475.46
Unencumbered Cash	\$ 52,155.96



Financial Report



ENTERTAINMENT

Budgeted Expense Forecast:	\$237,200.00
Expense as of 30 September:	<u>\$152,987.98</u>
	\$ 84,212.02

BAR

Budgeted Revenue Forecast:	\$130,875.00
Revenue as of September:	<u>\$ 46,429.00</u>
	\$ 84,446.00



Old Business



Renovation of RA Park has been completed!

- Some of the major work includes:
 - Upgrade electrical
 - Replace HVAC system
 - Intrusion alarm
 - Fire alarm/suppression system
 - Washrooms upgraded
 - New windows/doors
 - Rehabilitate all antique fixtures/fireplaces, surfaces, etc.
 - New bar facilities (upper and lower)
 - Replace exterior siding
 - Foundation repairs



Reports



- Membership
- Entertainment
- VPMC
- PMC



Membership Report



IAW the Constitution, the purpose of the Halifax Officer's Mess is to "provide services and amenities to members... (as) a vital role in the fostering of Service customs and traditions..."

Better said: Our Mess exists to enhance our relationships with ourselves, our colleagues, our friends, and our families.



Membership Officer



Promote the wellbeing of the Membership.

Communicate Member needs and concerns.

Encourage engagement in organization and participation.



Membership Subscriptions



- Ordinary Members – 722
- Associate Members – 117
- Honorary Members – 2



Membership Benefits



- Weekly subsidized meal – \$7 Thursday with (seasonal) Moosehead ticket draw (Ward), Thirsty Tuesday (RA Park)
- Monthly Gratis Growlies (free lunch!)
- ~Monthly Evening Event – seeking OPIs
- ~Monthly Super Weepers or TGIF – seeking OPIs and Unit Hosts
- Retirement Gift: for an Ordinary Member retiring with not less than 20 years of service with the Canadian Forces and who has been a member of the Mess for at least 24 months.
- Departure/Posting Gift: Ordinary Member who has been a Member of the Mess for at least 24 months.
- A token of congratulations to be given to a member on the birth/adoption of a child in the form of a baby hamper or gift certificate.
- Family Grief and hospitalization: (1) As a token of sympathy in the event of the death of a member, whether ordinary or associate. (2) To any ordinary or associate member who is admitted to hospital for more than 48 Hours.
- Mess facilities are available to the membership should they wish to sponsor a private function.
- Members may entertain guests in the Mess and at functions at their own expense subject to any restriction on function, numbers, times, or locations that may apply.



Entertainment Report



Our mandate is to represent the members of the CFB Halifax Officers' Mess, which includes both the Wardroom & Royal Artillery Park.

We endeavor to provide a wide variety of entertainment and events that cover the entire spectrum of the membership.



Upcoming Entertainment Events



November

- Super Weepers – 24 November
- Parade of Lights – *new date!* 25 November
- Gratis Growlies – 28 November
- Weekly \$7 Thursday Lunches

December

- Children's Christmas Party – 3 December
- At Home, CPO's hosting Officers' Mess – 14 December
- New Years Eve Gala – *Tickets are on sale!*



Halifax Officers' Mess Events



More events to look forward to at the Mess this year:

- Robbie Burns Supper – January
- Valentines Day – February
- Super Bowl – February
- Wine Tasting – March
- St. Patrick's Day – March
- Super Weepers
- Weekly Food Events



VPMC Report



Your RA Park Officers' Mess
is now open!

- Soft opening
- Manage expectations
- Limited staff
- Functions and events
- Ongoing work





RA Park Update



- Major work includes:
 - Upgrade electrical
 - Replace HVAC system
 - Intrusion alarm
 - Fire alarm/suppression system
 - Washrooms upgraded
 - New windows/doors
 - Rehabilitate all antique fixtures/fireplaces, surfaces, etc.
 - New bar facilities (upper and lower)
 - Replace exterior siding
 - Foundation repairs



PMC Report



- Mess Events
- Budget
- Mess Committees
- Staff
- Dress



New Business



- Mess Navalization Project



Round Table



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Suggestions?



Round Table



- Questions?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Suggestions?



Adjournment



Thank you for participating!

Next GMM: March 2024

Stick around for \$7 Lunch starting soon.