

Penelope A Schofield
Senior Coroner
County of West Sussex

033022 27100
01243 753644 (fax)
hm.coroner@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk



Coroner's Office
West Sussex Record Office
Orchard Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1DD

THE OUTCOMES AND DIRECTIONS ARISING FROM THE PRE INQUEST HEARING
IN RESPECT
OF

Maurice Rex Abrahams
Dylan Archer
Anthony David Brightwell
Matthew James Grimstone
Matthew Wesley Jones
James Graham Mallinson
Daniele Gaetano Polito
Mark Alexander Reeves
Jacob Henry Schilt
Richard Jonathan Smith
Mark James Trussler

HEARD ON 22nd MARCH 2016
AT COUNTY HALL NORTH, HORSHAM

Persons in attendance:

Ms Penelope Schofield, Senior Coroner assisted by Mrs Jemma Gaule, Senior Coroners Officer and Mrs Margaret Butler, Mrs Tina Gindra and Mrs Nicola Bradley, Coroner's Support Team.

Abrahams Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
The family and friends of Mr Abrahams.

Archer Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
The family is represented by Abi Bryan and Sam Candy, Family Liaison Officers.

Brightwell Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
The family and friends of Mr Brightwell.

Grimstone Family:

Mr Jim Morris (Counsel) of Irwin Mitchell.
The family and friends of Mr Grimstone.

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Jones Family:

Mr Dominic Fairclough (Counsel) of Russell Cooke.
The family and friends of Mr Jones.

Mallinson Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
The family and friends of Mr Mallinson.

Polito Family:

Mr Dominic Fairclough (Counsel) of Russell Cooke.
The family and friends of Mr Polito.

Reeves Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
Mr Jim Morris (Counsel) of Irwin Mitchell.
The family and friends of Mr Reeves.

Schilt Family:

Ms Tessa Grayson of DMH Stallard.
The family and friends of Mr Schilt.

Smith Family:

Mr James Healy Pratt (Counsel) and Mr Owen Hanna (Solicitor) of Stewarts Law.
The family and friends of Mr Smith.

Trussler Family:

Mr Richard Borrett (Counsel) and Gillian Lakes (Solicitor) of Zest Legal.
The family and friends of Mr Trussler.

Sussex Police:

Mr Gareth Jones (Counsel).
DCI Paul Rymarz, Senior Investigating Officer.

Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB):

Mr David Mankell (Counsel).
Members of the investigation team.

Royal Air Force Association (RAFA) Shoreham Airshow Limited:

Mr Christopher Langley (Counsel), Mr Christopher Smith (Solicitor) and Mr Edward Spencer (Solicitor) of Holman Fenwick Willan.
Representation from the Board of Directors.

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Canfield Hunter Ltd (Owners of the Aircraft):

Mr Alexander Fox (Partner) and Mr James Harrison (Associate) of Penningtons Manches.

Insurers to the Pilot:

Mr Gareth Lewis (Counsel) of Clyde & Co.

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA):

Mr Keith Morton (Counsel) of Temple Garden Chambers.

Flying Display Director:

Mr Tim Scorer (Consultant) of Kennedys.

OUTCOMES AND DIRECTIONS:

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Coroner welcomed all and explained that no evidence would be taken today. Legal representatives for family members introduced themselves.

2. Properly Interested Persons (PIP) were identified as:

- All family members
- Andy Hill, Pilot of the Hawker Hunter
- Insurers to Pilot – not present - if wish to be identified as a PIP to contact WS Coroner direct within 7 days
- Owners of the Hawker Hunter
- Insurers to the Operators of the Hawker Hunter
- RAFA – Royal Air Force Association
- Rod Dean Flying Display Director
- Shoreham Airport – not present - if wish to be identified as a PIP to contact WS Coroner direct within 7 days
- AAIB
- Sussex Police
- CAA

Anyone else wishing to be identified as a PIP to contact WS Coroner within the next 7 days.

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Group email address to be set up and all letters to be circulated to all in the group. Those representing were asked to provide an email address to the Coroners Officer today (attached).

3. Update on ongoing investigations

- Mr David Mankell, Counsel for the AAIB and DCI Paul Rymarz, Senior Investigating Officer for Sussex Police provided written updates on their current investigations.

4. Scope of the Inquest

- The Coroner indicated it was too early to decide on the scope of the inquest. It is necessary for the investigation to be concluded and for receipt of all documentation.
- However the Coroner gave a preliminary view on the scope as follows:
 - Events leading up to the deaths of those named above to include the following:
 - The events that led up to the Hawker Hunter jet aircraft tragically crashing at the 2015 Shoreham Airshow.
 - The organisation and preparation for the airshow and the aerobatic display, the actions of the pilot both before the event and during, and the safety of the aircraft.
 - In accordance with the Coroner's responsibilities under Reg28 report it will also be necessary to look at the overall issue of safety, exploring issues raised by the AAIB including the safety of aerobics displays at airshows, the use and type of aircraft and the licensing of pilots.

5. The provision of disclosure and timescales

- The AAIB report will not be out before early summer, and therefore it is not going to be possible to hold the inquests in June 2016 as originally planned.
- Discussion took place around the likely timescales to allow for the decisions of the High Court on the release of AAIB information, and the CPS regarding any possible prosecutions. There will need to be full disclosure of all documentation and further consideration by the Coroner before being released to the PIPs.
- The timetable relating to disclosure will be kept under review.

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6. Confirm Inquest Dates and any further Pre Inquest Reviews

- The date for the next Pre-Inquest Review was set for **Monday 19th September 2016** at 10am at County Hall North, Horsham.
- The potential inquests dates were fixed for March 2017 for a period of approximately 8 weeks.

7. Any Other Business

- Disclosure to over 20 PIPs. Assistance requested in the provision of some of this documentation to ensure that this is all from the same bundles.
- Thanks recorded to family members for attending, advocates and also to Jemma Gaule, Senior Coroners Officer, Margaret Butler and Tina Gindra from WSCC and Coroner's Office Support for all their help.

The PIR was concluded at 10:55am.

Penelope Schofield
22nd March 2016