



Victor K2 Tanker
See inside story

Editor's comments & editorial

Hello Readers,

I hope you enjoyed the last newsletter. Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out to you all. I hope however, that the wait will be worth it.

There was a good response from the 'Reunion Questionnaire'. See below the findings.

There were a few responses to the competition. A good start and the first correct entry out of the hat was Mrs. Patricia Jordan (John Jordan's wife.) A gift token is on the way to her. Well done.

I received a few '**letters to the editor**' which was great. Thanks to those who

wrote in. However, there were no '**Sales & Wants**' so this section has been omitted for this issue.

It was good to get a little feedback. I know it is early days and there are only a couple of issues a year but it would be good to have a few more comments from you; something that you would like to share with others of the entry. How about an old photo or a memory you are willing share. This is *your* newsletter so why not have your say.

Send anything for inclusion into the newsletter to me either by e-mail or by letter if you prefer to actually put pen to paper. See

the back page for where to send your article, comment or memoir.

There is also an Association membership form included in this issue to try and increase our membership. It costs only £5 per year.

As this is the last newsletter to be sent to all known ex-103 entry members then why not complete the membership form so you can continue to receive this informative publication and not miss out on what other members are doing.

Ed

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Reunion Questionnaire

Very many thanks to all of you who returned the reunion questionnaire. We had a 34% response which is an excellent rate for this type of survey. Most importantly, it has resulted in 3 possible new members of the Association. That's success in its own right! Did the responses reveal any powerful magic formula? Unfortunately not! The results were pretty much as we expected and helped to confirm what we thought we knew. The key points from it are:

- A buffet-style meal - which we knew already and had been planned for the cancelled reunion
- December is not a popular month for a reunion; any other month will do
- Every two to three years - mm, we think that is probably too often but that's the majority view (60%)
- 68% of those responding indicated that they would definitely/probably attend a future reunion - (an interesting response as we

didn't come anywhere near that for the cancelled reunion.)

So what now? Well, we'll take account of all those views when looking at the possibility of another reunion. We'll never be able to satisfy everyone's wishes all of the time, but we can satisfy some people's wishes for some of the time!! We'll be in touch and, once again, many thanks to those of you who took the time to respond.

Barry Neal

Letter from our Cyprus Correspondent - Jeff Lloyd

After leaving Halton, I went on to serve 'til 40, a total of 24 years. I was scheduled to stay on for the full wack (to age 55), but decided, on promotion to Flt Sgt and *another* Instructing tour (at the Harrier GR5 School at Wittering), to call it a day and PVR.

With my CV prepared and sent to all corners of the UK, I was surprised (!) to find that the job opportunities that came my way were all teaching jobs in Industry. I was successful in being offered positions in British Aerospace, Decca and Marconi, but I decided that this was not what I wanted to do.....the only difference from my RAF life would be that I stood in front of a class wearing a suit rather than a uniform.

I was lucky enough to gain a position as a Sales Executive with Telephone Rentals, later to become Mercury Communications. This led to Cable and Wireless and Global Crossing in Senior Account Management. After 15 successful years in Telecom Sales, I could see the writing on the wall for the Telecom Industry.

There were too many providers, too much capacity, and I could see it would soon all end in tears, so I decided to take redundancy and retire to do the things I wanted to do.

Going back, Jeanette and I



Jeff relaxing in the Cyprus sunshine

were posted to Cyprus in January 1970. She worked as a civilian at 'Works and Bricks', Episkopi, and I at TASF, Akrotiri. Those were the days when Akrotiri was the biggest RAF base in the World. The CO was Air Commodore Stacey, who used to race around the camp in a stripped down land rover, sprayed in camouflage colours to resemble a Vulcan bomber!! And I remember witnessing Bob Mawson's inspired salute to the first Hercules aircraft to re-equip 70 Sqn, which took the form of a bow

from one of the Argosy aircraft when the jacking and undercarriage retraction went horribly wrong!

Our time in Cyprus was an extremely happy one; we made many friends, and fell in love with the island and the Cypriot way of life. So it was a natural progression for us on retirement to sell up in the UK and pack our belongings into a 40-foot container for shipment to Limassol. (When we arrived in 1970 all our goods and chattels were in three deep sea boxes!!)

We now live in a lovely Cypriot Village midway between Paphos and Polis, so if any of you are planning a holiday in Western Cyprus, give us a call and we can meet up to share a glass or two of Keo, we see many of our ex- airforce friends when they are passing through, including from the entry Chris and Heather Wales, 'Tiny' and Bette Cowsill and Les and Carole Gardenwho is next I wonder?

Jeff Lloyd

(Watch out for more stories of life in Cyprus. - Ed.)

50th Anniversary of the granting of the Freedom of Aylesbury to RAF Halton.

Yes! Fifty years ago, RAF Halton was granted the Freedom of Aylesbury and, to celebrate the occasion, a parade was held through the streets of Aylesbury.

Photographs taken at the time show the RAF Halton apprentices, led by Lewis III and the RAF Halton Pipe Band, parading through the streets of Aylesbury.

Fifty years later, it was decided to reaffirm that freedom by holding another parade. This time, RAF

Halton would lead the parade,



apprentice training now having ceased at Halton. However, it was decided to ask the ex-

apprentices, who were on the original parade, and the Golden Oldies Pipe Band to participate in the event. Sixty ex-apprentices 'volunteered' to participate as well as the Golden Oldies. We all reported to Henderson Grove Parade Square at 10.00 on the day for a parade rehearsal. All went well and the rehearsal was followed by lunch in the Airmen's Mess in 3(A) wing or 'Maitland Restaurant' as it is now called - how things change! After lunch, we were bussed

into Aylesbury and formed up just off the market square



ready for a 15.30 march off. At 15.30, the main parade, led by the RAF Central Band, marched off. We let them disappear out of sight before we set off. Well!! The reception we got was absolutely amazing!

The streets were packed with people and they were all clapping and cheering as we marched past. As we approached the saluting base in the market square, 2 RAF

Hawk trainers flew overhead followed by a Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at Coningsby. I didn't see it as I was concentrating on not tripping over on the narrow, cobbled streets but the sound of a Rolls Royce Merlin is unmistakable.

At the Civic Reception, which followed the parade, the Golden Oldies performed an impromptu rendering of



the 'Halton Bear'. It sounded really good and what made it was when all the ex-



apprentices shouted in the right places. It really broke the ice and the rest of the reception went very well.

All in all, a day to remember but I don't think I'll be around for the 100th Anniversary.

*Ken Bannister
Bass Drummer,
Golden Oldies Pipe Band*

Victor K2 Refurbished - by Barry Neal

"Boys and their Toys!!"



The photo is a great shot of XL231 - "Lusty Lindy" as she is better known - the *only* fully working Victor K2. It is privately owned and resides at the Yorkshire Air Museum at Elvington, a few miles south-east of York. She is in pristine



condition and opens each of the two days of the annual Yorkshire

Air Show at Elvington Airfield with a taxi display and high-speed run.

Reaching speeds of 125/130 knots, it is "flown" by Barry Neal, accompanied by the aircraft's owner and 2 other ex-Victor K2 RAF aircrew.



Lusty Lindy's Crew

Barry accumulated over 2200 flying hours on the Victor and over 3000 flying hours in the air-to-air refuelling role.

Lusty Lindy is on display at the air show every year during the weekend before the late-Summer Bank Holiday; this year on 19th/20th August.

Next year (the 25th Anniversary of the 'Black Buck' missions in the South Atlantic) it is hoped that she will be joined by Vulcan XH558, G-VLCN as she will be known, at the Yorkshire Air Show on her first display season after she has been restored.



However, there is currently serious doubt as to whether the restoration can be completed this year.

Barry Neal

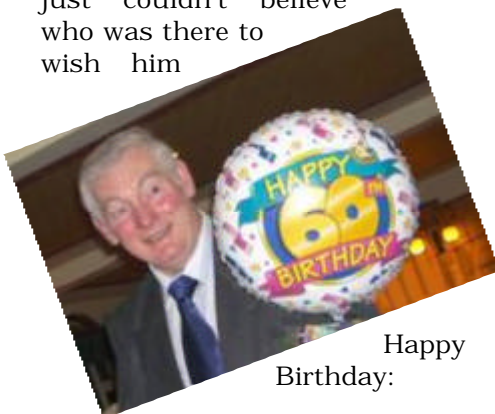
Kevin Sheehan's 60th Party

A number of us from the Entry went to Kev's 60th surprise party held on Saturday 4th Feb 2006 at the Punch Bowl Hotel, Thorne, near Doncaster.

Rebecca, his wife, had contacted a number of us to see if we could help with the surprise. Of course we could and it was almost like a mini reunion. Kev was completely taken back when he arrived at the hotel for an evening with his family. There were about 100 'surprise' guests waiting for him.

After the shock had sunk in he went around the tables to speak with his guests and upon

arriving at the '103rd table' he just couldn't believe who was there to wish him



Happy Birthday:

Al & Catherine Simmons
John & Patricia Jordan
Alex & Sue Nicholson
Chris & Heather Wales

Pete & Yvonne Laslett
George & Dianne Hope
Mick Woodhouse
Malcolm Watts

We all had a great evening and helped boost the hotel profits with copious amount of beer.

We were all staying at the hotel and in the morning it was just like the mess with the majority of the guests being ex-RAF. The women never had a chance to get a word in!!

Below are a selection of photos from Kev's party.

Chris Wales



The Mini Reunion



George, Chris & Alex



Mick, Chris, George, Kev & Pete



Catherine, Al, Patricia & John



Sue & Dianne



Al, Mick, John, Chris & Pete



Yvonne, Heather, Catherine & Al



George, Chris, & Malcolm



Dianne, George, Rebecca, Kev & Alex

Preserved Pension

Most of us have now or very soon to reach that age that we all thought was a mythical number 60!! Some of us did not complete 22 years to qualify for that full service pension. However, it is possible that you may qualify for a **'Preserved Pension'**

If you did, you would have received all those years ago a

"Statement of Preserved Pension on Discharge from the Royal Air Force." Now is the time to dig it out so that you can be prepared to contact RAF Pensions in due course. Never mind if you can't find it you can still claim. You should make your claim in writing, not more than 3 months prior to your 60th birthday. If you haven't

contacted them since you were discharged and have lost the address it is no longer RAF Innsworth. It is now a joint services approach. A phone call could be useful in the first instant. They are very helpful.

The address to contact is:

Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (Glasgow)
Joint Service Pensions
Mail Point 480
Kentigern House
65 Brown Street
Glasgow G2 8EX



0141 224 3600 or 945613600

E-mail: afpaa-pensions-div@dial.pipex.com

The Web Site is: www.rafcom.co.uk

Click...**Pay, Pensions & Allowances**, then in the Pensions paragraph click...**Pensions/ Rates & Info** and then under **Pensions Information** select... **Service Preserved Pensions.**

E-Mail addresses

In order for us to keep in touch with you all, could you please send your e-mail address direct to Barry Neal at :

Tupnce@aol.com
where Barry will update the Association records. This will especially help when sending the next newsletter.

Please be assured that the Association records are only for our use and are in no way passed to any other source. We respect the privacy of all members. Any request from a member for information of another member is only passed

on with the specific agreement of that member.

CJW

Association Membership Application

Why not become a 103rd Entry Association Member and continue to receive your own bi-annual publication. It will only cost you a mere £5 per year. Great value!! Keep up-to-date with what's happening to members.

All you need to do is complete the form on the following page and return it to:

Mick Woodhouse,
(103 Association Treasurer)
11 Fane Drive
Berinsford,
Wallingford
OXON, OX10 7NB

Authority 12 (1978) Standing Order Mandate

To: (Your bank and address)

Please pay:

Bank *Lloyds* Branch Title *Botley* Sort Code *30-19-83*

for the credit of:

Beneficiary's Name: *103rd Entry Association* Account No. *0037862*

The sum of: **Regular Amount in figures** **Regular amount in words**
£5.00 *Five Pounds Only*

Commencing: **Date** **Amount of First Payment**
NOW **£5.00**

and thereafter every:

Due Date **Frequency**
1st June *Annually*

Until you receive further notice from me / us in writing.

Quoting the Reference: **103/Subs**

and debit my/our account accordingly.

This instruction cancels any previous order in favour of the beneficiary named above, under this reference.

Special Instructions:

Account to be Debited: _____ Account Number: _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

- Note:** The Bank will not undertake to:
- i Make any reference to Value Added Tax or other indeterminate element.
 - ii Advise beneficiary of inability to pay.
 - iii Advise payer's address to beneficiary.
 - iv Request beneficiary's banker to advise beneficiary of receipt of payment.

Miscellaneous Section

HEARING TEST

A man feared his wife was not hearing as well as she used to, and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family doctor to discuss the problem. The doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. "Here's what you do," said the doctor.

"Stand about 40 feet away from her and in a normal

conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away. Let's see what happens."

In a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response. So the husband moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife, and repeats, "Honey, what's for

dinner?" Still no response. Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again, no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again, there is no response. So he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

"Harold, for the 5th time, WE'RE HAVING CHICKEN!"

Sudoku

This issue's Sudoku puzzle is a little more challenging but nothing that will tax you too much.

Answer in the next Newsletter issue 27.

		1				2		
	6			7			8	
7			4		8			3
		2				4		
	3			9			6	
		5				9		
5			7		3			2
	8			6			9	
		4				5		

Answer to Newsletter 25 Sudoku puzzle

5	6	3	7	9	2	4	1	8
4	9	1	5	6	8	3	2	7
8	7	2	1	4	3	9	5	6
9	8	7	6	2	5	1	4	3
1	5	6	9	3	4	8	7	2
3	2	4	8	1	7	6	9	5
7	3	9	2	8	1	5	6	4
6	4	5	3	7	9	2	8	1
2	1	8	4	5	6	7	3	9

Competition – NL26

Let's see if this gets a better response.

What international communication was officially disbanded in August 1999?

Send your answers along with your name and address to the editor at either of the addresses below by Monday 1st October 2006. The first correct answer drawn from the hat will win a £10 worth of gift tokens.

(Committee members and their families are not eligible to enter the competition.)

Answer to Newsletter 25 competition

Well I guess that the last competition was a little more difficult than I imagined. The response could have been better. Anyway, our winner drawn out of the hat with the correct answer to the question:

What must not be less than 10 centimetres (100mm), or more than 12.5 centimetres (125mm) in circumference, free from knots and not less than 33.5 metres in length?

was Mrs Patricia Jordan with the answer:

'A Tug-of-War Rope',

Patricia wins the £10 gift token.

Congratulations on her successful entry.

Letters to the Editor

Hi Chris

If you want a space filler for a 103rd Newsletter this is an update of my biography.

From 1988 I was a Packaging Engineer with the MoD at RAF Stafford. At the end of 2002, MoD called for volunteers to be made redundant. As I didn't have a proper job I volunteered and my last day of service was 1 April 2003 (Very fitting date). I am now retired. I was a "kept man" until my wife retired in August). To fill some of the spare time, I'm studying for a BSc with the Open University. If all goes to plan, I will get my degree in about 4 years time. This year I'm studying Pure Maths. In the past I've done other Maths courses and a couple of courses on Materials and Structures.

The degree courses, occasional gardening and DIY and a daily 3 mile walk seem to fill my time without too much "stress".

Is the answer to the 1st competition: Rugby Posts?
That seems to be all the news for now so I'll finish.

Regards, Roger Evanson

Chris,
Nice to keep getting the newsletter.
Regards, John Carhart

Hi Chris,
Hope all is well with you. At first sight did not have a clue and kept thinking something nautical then the penny dropped it's the spec for a tug-of-war rope!

That then reminded me of a sports meeting at Leaconfield when I was stationed at Leuchars in 1968 and the tug-of-war team drank the whole way and still won the next day.

At the same venue I had forgotten my running shoes and was in the 3 mile race which I won barefooted and also ran the last lap faster than the 440 yd race winner.

Still remember the running shoes that I loaned you and which fell apart whilst you were using them. Got them in a special deal at the NAAFI in Edinburgh - fire damaged goods - but they did last a couple of years.

Cheers, Jim McKenzie

Dear Chris,

My apologies for taking so long to write to you. I hope it is a case of better late than never!

Thank you for sending the copy of "103rd Entry Association Newsletter" and in it Gerry's obituary. It was good to talk to Brian at the funeral and I see Charlie occasionally. He and Gerry met in Aylsham a few years ago and they renewed their friendship after not seeing each other since their Halton days. They discovered they shared many interests including Italy, paintings and ceramics with good wine not coming too far down the list.

Many thanks to you once again.

Best wishes, Jan Miller

Thanks to those letters. Please keep them coming. Ed

Did you know.....

There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with: orange, purple, and silver!

Dates for your Diary

Next Committee Meeting:-
2 December 2006, at Queens Head, Aylesbury. 11:00hrs.

HAAA Annual General Meeting
Saturday 29th July 2006 in Kermode Hall.

HAAA Annual Remembrance Parade
Tuesday 7th Nov 2006, preceded by a service in St. George's Church at 11:00hrs.

103rd Entry Association Newsletter

Editor:

C. J. Wales

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e-mail: newsletter103@ntlworld.com

or

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Bearwood
Bournemouth
BH11 9SP

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<http://www.103rd-entry.org.uk/>

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