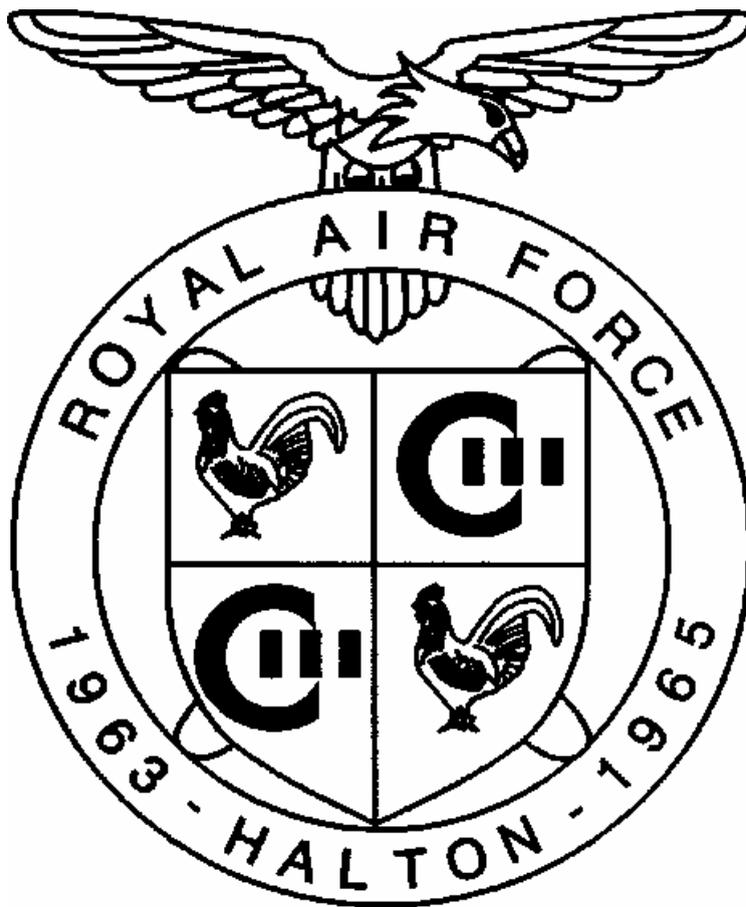


# 103rd Entry Association

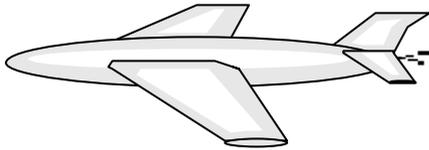
## Newsletter



No. 6

September 1992

Editor: MHF Watts



## **Editorial**

The focus for this issue of the Newsletter has to be the forthcoming RAFHAA Reunion at RAF Halton. As this is the last Triennial Reunion to take place before the RAF Apprentice Scheme ceases next year, this event is likely to mark the end of an era. We are therefore hopeful of a good turnout, and to this end, the 103rd Entry Association Committee have pledged funds to provide all members with subsidised 'refreshments' during the day. We will look forward to seeing you there.

It's nice to know that there are people out there. During the past 6 months we have received résumés from Mick Woodhouse and 'Tiny' Cowsill, plus a very interesting potted history from John Carhart via Brian Lee. Shortly after receiving John's contribution, John found himself on a business trip to UK during which he popped into the Shoulder of Mutton, Wendover for an extended Sunday lunch. I have the photographic proof that some people just do not age.

On the subject of 'Tiny', I wonder if we shall see him at the RAFHAA Reunion. A call has gone out for a Drum Major (see letter from Keith Harris). I suspect that we would all like to see him 'performing' once again.

Some of you may remember Alan Stevens, who was the team manager for our successful '65 Ten Tors Team. Many more of you will remember Flg Off Ernie Fox. Alan has now retired from the RAF but remains closely associated with the Ten Tors event where I see him each year. Through Alan I have uncovered Ernie's address which I have added as a foot-note to Mick Woodhouse's résumé, so should any of you wish to drop Ernie a line, I'm sure that he would be delighted. I will be forwarding a copy of this newsletter to both Ernie and Alan.

In this edition I have included Committee Notes from the past 2 meetings, plus our Treasurers Annual Report. We will hope that this new spirit of 'openness' will encourage more members to attend our Haddenham meetings.

You will see from the enclosed membership details that the introduction of the Standing Order system for subscription payments has been a success. However, we still need to encourage more to join us and hopefully now that the holiday season is all but over, minds will become re-focussed. In accordance with the wishes of the Committee my aim is to get this newsletter into the post well before the RAFHAA Reunion, to act as a timely reminder. I am also mailing to those who have yet to respond to Nick Smith's request for membership fees. I shall assume that these are merely oversights, but please remember that fees

are required for overheads (eg postage) and to subsidise future events. Thus if memberships are not renewed we shall have to assume that individuals no longer wish to stay on the mailing list. Could this be your last newsletter?

MHFW

## **Reunion '92** **- An Extract from the RAFHAA Newsletter**

The Fourth Triennial Reunion of all ex-Halton Aircraft Apprentices of the Royal Air Force, Commonwealth Air Forces and Royal Navy, together with their Boy Mechanic predecessors, will be held at RAF Halton on Saturday, 26th September 1992. This will be the last Triennial Reunion at which Aircraft Apprentices under training will be present, since the Apprentice Scheme will come to an end with the graduation of No 155 Entry in June next year. Reunion '92 will therefore be an even more Special Occasion and we hope to see Ex-Apprentices and Ex-Boys from every Entry and from all over the world at Halton on 26th September.

The main car park on the Sports Field adjacent to the Coslett Stand this year, will open at 1000. Access to the Airfield will be via the Rothschild bridge. Registration will be in No 4 Hanger, open from 1000 to 1400. Bars and lunch facilities will be in Nos 2 and 3 Hangers, open from 1100 to 1430, with lunch served from 1200. There will be special parking areas on the Airfield for coaches, the disabled and caravans. All parking will be signposted from Chestnut Avenue.

Planned events during the day include a flypast by the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at 1400, a display by the Ex-Apprentice Pipes and Drums at 1410 and a Memorial Service in St George's Church at 1500. Workshops (Old and New) and Kermod Hall (Schools) will be open to visitors from 1430 hours. Assembly for the March Up to Henderson Square, led by the Ex-Apprentice Pipes and Drums and the current "Lewis", will be at 1645. Following the March Up, there will be a Sunset Ceremony at 1730. After the Dismiss, bars will open in Groves (2 Wing) Mess until 1930. The gates of Henderson & Groves Barracks (Armoury gates) will finally close at 2030.

For those travelling by train there will be a shuttle coach from Wendover Station (trains from London Marylebone for Aylesbury via Amersham) to the Airfield from 1000 to 1200 with return from Groves Mess to Wendover Station via the car parks from 1800 to 2000. Note that there is no rail link north of Aylesbury

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**FROM THE HALTONIAN**  
**- With Thanks to the Editor**

**Golden Oldies Pipe Band**

Judging by the responses to the last article in the Mag, the band will be somewhat bigger (and better?) on the September reunion.

To date we still have no "Mace Basher", but no doubt an ex-'Twirler' will come forward to replace Ray Merton. Keith Arnott, the new Pipe Major, wishes to include a reel this time, so get practising "Piper of Drummond". The mini retreat on 1 Wing square will include an ensign lowering, so any ex-trumpeters who can still manage a blast, please let me know. Details of actual timings etc, will be available at Reception on the day and changing facilities will be available.

It would be helpful if intending instrumentalists will contact Keith Harris—just to help estimate the final numbers. My telephone number is (0296) 623932, meanwhile I still have an information sheet available for anyone wishing to know the times, etc. A s.a.e. will be appreciated.

See you there—Keith Harris, 55th

Your Editor intends to return to his youth and 'bash' a tenor drum with the Golden Oldies at Reunion '92. This means that I will not be able to take my usual series of photographs during the day in order to produce a souvenir article in the November issue of The Haltonian. So, here is a chance for all you undiscovered photographers and reporters to shine. Please send in, TO ME AND NOT THE OFFICE AT HALTON, your record of the day in pictures or words. It will not be possible to return all the material but you will be credited for all that is published.

Bill Kelley, 55th

Those of you who were at the AGM will already have seen copies of this paper prepared by our Chairman, with the help of Eric Wright. In order that it may stimulate the widest discussion it is included in this Issue of the Haltonian. Should anyone wish to contribute their thoughts on the points raised, please send them to Head Office or to Mike Evans direct, please, not to the Haltonian Editor.

**The Future of the HAAA from 1992**  
**- A Discussion Paper**

The HAAA has reached a plateau of activity after some 10 years of existence, a period which has seen the Association grow from nothing into an approved Charity with over 3500 members spread world-wide and over £70,000 invested to provide the income needed to operate. The Association's role is defined in our Constitution, in summary, as:

- a. The maintenance of contact between past and present members of No 1 School of Technical Training (1 S of TT).
- b. The preservation of the traditions of the School.
- c. The relief of hardship of those past and present members of the School and their dependents as may require it.

However, we need to examine whether the management of the Association and the financial structure that we have put in place are appropriate to the next 10 years and beyond.

Firstly, we have to take account of possible changes in the next 10 years, such as a move of 1 S of TT away from Halton after the end of Apprentice training, a possible fall in recruitment because there is no link with a current RAF Apprenticeship scheme, a steady increase in the age of our members which could lead to a slow attrition of our numbers, and a steady growth in the cost of running the Association. None of these is absolutely inevitable but certainly the latter is easily illustrated by the increase in postal charges, a significant element of our expenses, over the last 10 years. We must ensure that we do not reach the position of spending more to run the Association than we get in revenue, a fate that has overtaken other ex-Service organisations.

On the other hand, what do we offer to prospective or existing members, and is it enough? Council members have, in the last ten years, tried to put themselves into the minds of the whole body of ex-Apprentices to arrange our business and activities to satisfy the perceived needs. We hope that we have largely succeeded with the production of The Haltonian, Newsletters, the triennial Reunions, and vitally, in giving support to ex-Apprentices "out there" to enable them to set up local and entry branches. We have provided a link with the Royal Air Force of today and we have given modest financial support to 1 S of TT and the current

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generation of Apprentices. Lastly, we have established a line of communication for welfare matters. However, we have to accept that, with all the will and effort in the world, we are unlikely to increase our membership dramatically. We have slowly built up to almost 3500 members in the last few years but recruitment only just keeps pace with anno domini which inexorably depletes our numbers. We also have to accept that, while Reunions attract large numbers of ex-Apprentices, not all of them will join the Association.

So far, we have only illustrated that there may be a problem without really examining possible solutions; to find these, we need a greater understanding of our finances. We have, until now, worked effectively on a cash flow basis and have accounted over periods of 3 years, as the income from Reunions and the 3-year members has dominated the accounts. The first year of the period has always shown a healthy income but in years 2 and 3, we came close to crisis point before another year 1 bails us out again. We need to apply income to the year for which it is required, ie one third of a 3-year subscription should be applied to year 1 and the rest "accrued" in a separate account until the time for the next application of one third arrives—and so on. This would identify the annual profit and loss problem even in year 1 and our 91/92 accounts to be submitted to the AGM will show this Presentation of the accounts would change

to include an extra item in the Balance Sheet showing the accrued funds. We also intend to display our budget projection at AGMs to show where the problems are and why some potentially drastic solutions may be necessary. The cost of running the Association has risen so that the budget for 1992/93 will be about £13,500 and to generate that at, for example, 9.75% interest, would need capital of some £138,500. This is exactly 1.8 times the Association funds currently invested of over £76,600 which is made up of c£42,000 of Life Member's funds and c£23,000 of Retained funds. In addition, we have almost £12,000 of subscription payments in advance. As we get 83.75% of our income from interest from our investments, these figures do illustrate the scale of the problem.

There are three headings under which we might look for solutions:

- a. Introducing revised financial arrangements to maximise our income.
- b. Changing our procedures to reduce our outgoings.
- c. Devising alternative strategies to meet the needs of the future.

We have, over the years, discussed a number of ways to generate more income. One was to invite Life

Members of long standing to make a donation to top up to a figure closer to the current Life subscription. This would, certainly, bring in a valuable amount but would not, of itself, ensure the long-term health of the Association. We have also looked at finding advertising to offset the cost of The Haltonian but our circulation figures only attract advertisers with a philanthropic outlook, and there are not many of these, as we have found.

A business faced with our problems would be looking not only at ways of improving its income but would also be examining its running costs or overheads. There is no doubt that, by very careful management, we could improve our cash flow and reduce costs by, say, 5%. However, there is also no doubt that unavoidable costs such as postage will always increase faster than we can economise. We need, perhaps, to examine what we do and how we do it.

Lastly, can the Association develop new commercial strategies and create business initiatives which will secure our future? This, we believe, would need the establishment of a Business Group either as part of, or reporting to, the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Council. Such a group should consist of 2 or 3 Members with current commercial experience with the remit to identify and recommend business ventures appropriate to the Aims of the Association. In this way we could, perhaps, find new ways to improve our financial position and introduce a modest business culture that will ensure our survival.

In conclusion, this paper has briefly examined the circumstances faced by the Association after over 10 years of development and progress; it has identified potential problems and has indicated where solutions might be sought. The paper did not set out to offer concrete proposals but merely to act as a catalyst to stimulate discussion of the future. While the Association is holding its own at the moment, albeit only just, positive action is needed if we are to survive through the next decade, let alone to progress further. New ideas are needed and we have no doubt that, among the Members, those ideas exist together with the skills to implement them. Not all of them will be practicable; not all of them will be appropriate; and all of them will need development to bring them to a workable state. However, we must hear about them and we ask that you forward them to the Council so that they may be presented to the Association.

M J Evans, 70th Chairman of the Council

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### **Résumé from Mick Woodhouse (17)**

As requested, a brief summary of my life/career since we left the brat factory or Aylesbury Tech. as some prefer to call it, and a few personnel views.

Firstly, I was delighted when Roy Sanders wrote, initiating an entry association and probable re-union in the future, having attempted to do something similar with my room-mates several years ago, but without response. With hindsight my attempt was much too early. Secondly, the re-union eighteen months ago was certainly one of the highlights of my life, and I am looking forward to the next. As for the 'elitism' mentioned in your last newsletter, I certainly saw nor felt nothing of it and I think I got on better with everybody possibly better than I did during those first three years we were together. I can only suspect that the allegation was made by somebody who was not at the re-union. I feel happier since I realised I was a failure and I intend to be at the next re-union, I'll be happy to slum it with anyone!

Now the history:

- January 66 Arrived at Stradishall with Pete Milsom, Twink Bell and Dick Ball who announced that he has married during the Christmas grant and was already living out.
- June 66 Married Marilyn, who some of you might remember, much against the advice of the Chief who commented "You'll be like 'X', a year's time the wife will be pregnant and you'll be going unaccompanied to Aden, Mother in law will accuse you of getting posted on purpose."
- April 67 First indications of chiefs predictions being realised.
- June 67 Posted to Role Equipment Flight in Aden, met Jock Kennedy again.

- August 67 Posted to 208 Sqn, Bahrain, met Rog Flitter, and Pete Milsom again when detached to Sharjah.
- November 67 Son Stewart born in Halton Hospital, wife of Flg Off Fox (our last deputy flight commander at Halton) in next bed to Marilyn, had also just produced.
- July 68 Posted to Vulcan OCU at Finningley, great!
- November 69 Second son Graeme born prematurely.
- January 70 Vulcans' move to Scampton, I get posted to Halton, to instruct! The next two years I did not enjoy, mainly because of my inexperience in my trade and lack of war stories etc. but there were some hilarious moments in the classroom. I hadn't realised how objectionable some apprentices can be. Met lots of ex 102s in the same boat but cannot remember 103s.
- December 70 Got my third, better paid but not a lot happier!
- January 72 Escape tunnel broke through into daylight with an exchange posting to Leconfield doing majors on Lightnings. Met Bill Rawden. Happiest tour, lovely part of the country, locals had a good attitude.
- August 73 Daughter Pamela born, I got 'made safe'.
- January 75 Programme finished, posted to Honington at my request, into ASF (Tony Shevells arrived to take over my quarter at Leconfield).
- April 78 Got my Chief up, two years late after being over confident with passing exams.
- February 79 Posted to 18 Sqn Guterslah as Major Team and Field Flight SNCO. Met Al Symonds on the Sqn.
- October 80 18Sqn disbands, posted to the Big House, Rheindalen. Found staff work during the Buccaneer crisis very rewarding.
- February 82 Posted to Benson i/c Wessex Major Team, bought house for first time.
- 86 Stuart married, granddaughter Joanne born.
- 88 Grandson Roger born. Realised career prospects were minimal after personality mismatch, applied for environmental posting.
- March 89 Posted to Repair & Salvage Sqn, Abingdon as repair team leader/site manager and for last two years as a quality inspector. Most of my time is spent in the car travelling the country to do stage inspections. Have met lots of 103s in my travels, Pete Bugden is at St. Athan, Pete Ince at Brize Norton, Al Symmonds at Wittering, Graham Markwell was at C10 Leeds about two years ago.

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April 92      Contemplating demob in a years time, favourite at present is to become a 'Traditional boatbuilder' in the Norwich/ East Suffolk area. I've taken to sailing in the last five years and my other hobbies are fishing and gardening. Expecting posting back to Benson in June when RSS moves to St Athan and Abingdon closes. Relief, I did not want to go to South Wales.

I would particularly like to know the whereabouts of fellow 'Suffolk Swedes' Derek Palmer and Danny Garnham. Also I hope the committee has success finding somewhere big enough to accommodate the next entry re-union, I'm confident that many more 103s will come next time.

Well Malc, here's another editing job, I included the family events to show that Tiny Cowsill is not the only Granddad amongst us.

Hope to see the Entry at Halton next month.

Mick Woodhouse

### **Résumé from Alan Cowsill (who ???) (18)**

Probably better known to everyone as 'TINY' COWSILL - Ex- Drum Major

On leaving Halton I went with many others to RAF Sealand and spent two and a half years trying to get out. John Dillon mentions in the last newsletter that his ex-stations were turned into prisons. I'm sure this was one all those years ago.

I remember visiting General Office on occasions applying for an overseas posting to Singapore, Hong Kong, Middle East, anywhere to get out. In the summer of 1968 just after getting married I was granted my wish and got sent to 14 Squadron Canberras at Wildenrath. After spending all that time in the elect. bays at Sealand I had to try and remember what a circuit diagram was and try and fix these aircraft without looking a complete dumbo to the SAC mechs who could probably run rings round me in fixing their faults.

Anyway after two happy years on the Squadron the powers that be decided that it was time to disband and reform with Phantoms. I was then transferred to Laarbruch and spent my final year in Germany.

On returning to the UK, I was posted to Line Servicing at Linton-on-Ouse. This was again a dead end job and I spent my time trying to get off that into 4th Line servicing in the hanger, which I eventually did. I spent five happy years at Linton.

During those years at Linton I applied to sign for the full 22 but every six months I was told that there were no vacancies for my year of exit 1986. I wanted to stay in the Yorkshire area so as a stopgap I applied to join the

North Yorkshire Police and was accepted. Just three months before I was due to leave the RAF I got the letter I had been waiting for all those years previously that " you can sign on if you want". I'm afraid they got the Raspberry and the normal victory sign reversed.

The stopgap has been extended somewhat by about 15 years and when I book someone for pinching spotlamps I cast my mind back to the jaunts all those years ago when I was party to it but never actually did anything myself. I always think 'There but for the Grace of God go I'. They always say that to catch a thief you require the mind of one.

Recently I met Bill Dowdeswell who lives in the same town as me. We have had a few drinks together but I seem to have lost trace of him.

As for my family, I am married with 3 children. The eldest is married herself with three children (which makes me a Granddad), the eldest boy is in the RAF as a MT fitter at Catterick and the youngest is doing his final year at Manchester University reading Electronic and Electrical Engineering. On graduating he will probably start a further course with a firm to do Chartered Accountancy although he hasn't made up his mind yet.

That's about all I can think about up till now without boring the boots off you with page after page of memories. I still twirl the broomstick now and again. Some things never die.

Alan Cowsill (Tiny)

### **A Letter to the Editor**

From: BG Lee - 0953-882392 works 0603-749131 evens

I recently (would you believe last May) received a letter from John Carhart, I found it very interesting and I am sure fellow 103ites will share this interest. For convenience, I have précised it, but most of the phrases are Johns'.

"We were last together in November 1965, when Rhodesia declared UDI and we were required to leave the UK. We were offered the opportunity of leaving the RRAF and being sent to Cranwell on a pilots course. We had not been home for 3 years at that stage, so there was no chance that we would accept this offer.

We arrived back in Rhodesia within 24hrs of UDI being declared. I worked as a Cpl Tech for 6 months before joining No 20 PTC (Pilots Training Course). Nev Johnson went through the selection course but did not make it.

After 18 months of BFS and AFS, having done my piston flying on Provosts and my jet flying on Vampires, I was awarded my wings and was posted to a Canberra squadron for 3 years. We were fairly hampered by

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sanctions that had been imposed against us, and only flew 2 or 3 hours per week.

I could not stand the boredom, so I began studying CIS (Chartered Institute of Secretaries and Administrators). It took me about 4 years to complete my studies as I had to take exams between periods on operations. I can remember studying economics at some God-forsaken airfield in Northern Mozambique in the early stages, before they pulled out of Africa.

From Canberras I was posted back to Vampires, where I became a weapons instructor. After about 2 years instructing, I was posted to Provosts flown on the squadron. After a further 2 years instructing I was posted to Provosts and Trojans (an Italian 6 seater light aircraft). Both types were flown on the squadron. After a further 2 years on this squadron I was posted to Dakotas, but decided to retire from the Airforce as I had done 11 years service and the permanent 6 weeks on operations and 2 weeks at home was not the best of situations. I continued to fly as a reservist for the next 4 years.

I left the Airforce and joined my step-father in an accounting partnership in the Eastern Highlands of Rhodesia in a town called Umtali. This partnership went well, and I completed my CIS and followed it with CMA (Institute of Chartered Management Accountants)."

John goes on to say that he left Rhodesia about 10 years ago and is now living in South Africa where he is currently the Financial Manager for Teljoy, the largest TV and video rental company in the country. He is married with 3 daughters, the eldest of which is 17.

His current address is: 15, Louis Leipoldt Road, Farramere, Benani 1500, South Africa.

### A Letter to the Chairman

From Paul Collins

New address for probably only 2 years is 4A Craigie Court, Harbour City, T.S.T, Hong Kong.

I re-married May '88 after 8 years of single life in Hong Kong, which as you can imagine was pretty hard to take. Visited regularly by my 2 children from 1st marriage who thought life was wonderful, dashing around the world at every opportunity, and seeing their Dad more often than guys, who I know of in the UK, who have gone their separate ways, and rarely see their children.

So on 12:12:90 a vertical tornado hit the household in the form of a wonderful daughter Yasmin Joan, who I must say has bought us both tremendous pleasure and many hours of sleeplessness, but worth every minute. I thoroughly recommend it. And its never too late!!?

### Notes of Committee Meeting , held at Procon Electronics 7th March 1992 @ 1100hrs

Present: L. Shardlow, J. Dillon, M. Watts, J. Bromley, M. Woodhouse, L. Garden

Apologies received from: N. Smith (sick)

1. A limited Treasurers report was received. Account stands at £460 in credit.
2. Two new members Ken Burn and Mick Bossy.
3. Next news letter to include details of reunion and list of area branches. Input by August for September issue.
4. So far we are not being subjected to "business bank charges". If this happens we will require a change of bank. LS NS LG to monitor.
5. Next meeting at Procon on 20th June.

Note: This is week before Halton Show. LS is not available 27th, reunions agenda to be discussed by all. Please note and try to attend.

L. Garden

Secretary

### Notes of Committee Meeting, held at Procon Electronics 20th June 1992 @ 1100hrs

Present: L. Shardlow, J. Dillon, M. Watts, L. Garden

1. Treasurer presented his annual report which was accepted by the Chairman.
2. NS to update members and non-members list.
3. MW to issue newsletter by the end of August, this to include details of Halton '92 Reunion. A Standing Order scheme introduced by Treasurer is going well. NS to issue reminders to those who haven't paid.
5. It was proposed by LG that a sum not to exceed £100 be used at the Halton '92 Reunion for the refreshment of members. A limit of 2 'refreshments' per member to be imposed. Unused money which would be held by the Treasurer, to be returned to the fund.
6. We now need to start planning for our next reunion. We would welcome details of suitable hostelrys which could accommodate 70-150 guests.
7. Members found - Colin Worth.
8. Date of next meeting: 5th September 1992.

Les Garden  
Secretary

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## Treasurers Annual Report - 22nd June '92

The Association had a balance of £187.95 in Lloyds Bank on June 1st 1991.

Members subscriptions totalled £286.00 during the year. The Association welcomed 3 new members during the year, unfortunately, 3 old members chose not to renew their membership.

The treasurer holds the stock (34) of Association ties, 3 being sold during the year (£18.50).

Expenses incurred were in postage and stationery, by the treasurer and the editor of the Entry newsletter. The total expenses were £35.31. M. Watts owes the Association £3.80.

This year it was decided to try out a Bankers Standing Order for renewal of annual subscriptions. In the month since these were sent out, the treasurer has received 28 renewals, 24 opting for the Standing Order option.

### Income and Expenditure Statement - 1/6/91 to 30/5/92

Details	Income	Details	Expenditure
Subscriptions	£286.00	Expenses - Postage & Stationery	£35.31
Tie Sales	£18.50	Monies Owed	£3.80
Balance B/F	<u>£187.95</u>	Balance C/F	<u>£453.34</u>
TOTAL	<u>£492.45</u>	TOTAL	<u>£492.45</u>

N. Smith, Treasurer

### Change of Address

Chris Fair  
9, Provost Road, Manby, Louth, Lincs LN11 8TI  
Tel: Not known.

Cliff Kay  
27 Askham Grove, Acomb, York YO2 3HE

### Update

Paul Collins can now be reached by telephone on:  
(Hong Kong) 010 852 735 3965 or fax on: 010 852 735 3960.

### Found!

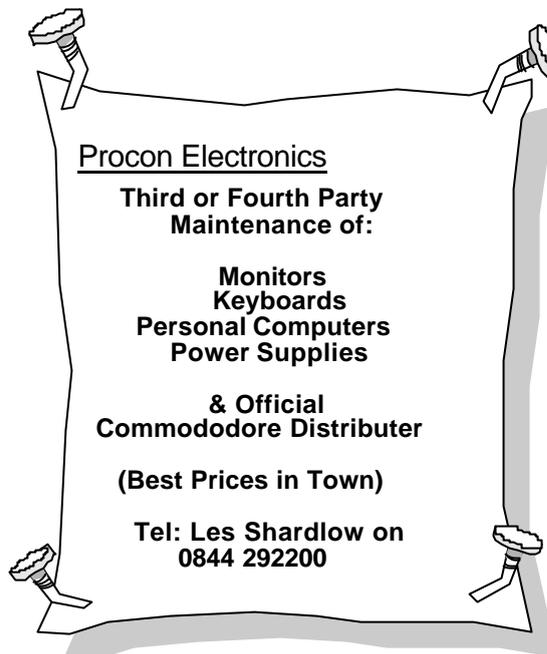
Lurking in Dorset, when not working for Britain's favourite airline:

Gary McMenemy

Kingswood, Launchy Croft, Uplyme, Lyme Regis,  
Dorset. Tel: 0297-443265

Colin Worth  
18 Whiteleigh Avenue, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon.

PL5 3BQ Tel: 0752-775656



### And Finally..

Please don't forget to send any contributions  
(news/résumés/letters/etc) to the editor:

MHF Watts. 122 Greenwood, Walters Ash, High  
Wycombe, Bucks. HP14 4XD or fax 0494-496685.

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