

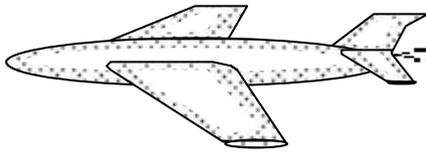
103rd Entry Association Newsletter



No. 12

March 1996

Editor: MHF Watts



From the Editor of the RAFHAAA Newsletter

As I hope many of you have noticed, this is the first Newsletter since last July. The reason is simple - insufficient material. We try to send you a Newsletter once a quarter, but it costs around £800 to mail to our worldwide membership, so if there isn't much to say, we do the prudent thing and save our money!

Editorial

Does the above sound familiar? Even trying to get our Newsletter out twice a year can be a strain on editorial resources. I really do need your input.

It all seems a long time ago now, but as this is the first Newsletter since our Reunion last November, we have a contribution from Les Garden on his view of the Dinner. We also had a letter from 'Ed' Cochran before the Reunion, but sadly, his promise was not fulfilled! What happened Ed?

I have also included a postcard from Mick Woodhouse. Its nice to see someone taking on a new venture and succeeding, so why not give him a ring? Summer is only just around the corner.

Mick's enterprise and a chance meeting with Gerry Miller in the carpark of the Falcon Hotel gave me an idea. Self promotion is one area that we haven't really addressed in the Association. There are many of us beavering away at our chosen professions, with little idea of what our colleagues are doing. Networking is often the name of the survival game, so why don't we compile a list of professions to accompany our membership list? If anyone wants to send me their business card or detail their line of business, we will include it in the next Newsletter and hold the information on a database.

Reunion Dinner - A View

57 members of the Entry, and their ladies, gathered at the Falcon Hotel in Stratford upon Avon on the 11th November 1995 to celebrate 30 years since our Graduation.

The occasion started at 1145 am, with just five in the bar and this gathering gradually increased in size until nearly all had at least one drink before going to get ready for the main event.

Ken and Ann Banister had made it from Qatar, where he is instructing for the Civil Aviation Authority. Ken

Had a tight schedule, as he had to be at Heathrow early Sunday morning to fly back (for a game of golf?). As he was the only one not accounted for in the morning, I assume that he made it.

As with all reunions, the sandbags were being filled, lights were swung and the stories flowed. One that I heard was from Chris Fair and Buff Frame attending a fancy dress do at a nurses home at Chivenor not long after Graduation. Buff was dressed up as a tart, with a short skirt and loads of thigh showing. Whilst waiting on the back of Chris's bike at the guardroom to turn onto the main road, a passing motorist couldn't take his eyes off Buff's legs and ran off the road. Buff also confessed that he was thrown out of the ladies and got some very funny looks in the gents.

We also had a rare visit from one of man's close relatives. He was reunited with his handler of some 30 years ago, Alex Nicholson. This is one of the Entry's great secrets, but those of who served at Wittering, 51 Sqn, Farnborough and Boscombe, may know who I mean. Bob Mawson, also does a very good impression of Manuel.

Our guest of honour was our deputy Flight Commander, Ernie Fox, accompanied by his wife. In the early hours of the morning, it was interesting to hear him and Alec discussing the withdrawal from Malta from two different points of view, Alec as a Cpl and Ernie as OC GD. Alec was then posted to Cyprus and had to do it all over again with several other members of the Entry, myself included, during the Turkish invasion.

We had a lively speech from our Chairman, Les Shardlow, where nobody was spared. Nick and Mary Smith helped out by Heather Wales did all the menus and the presentation of an Entry plaque to the hotel. Barry and Ruth Neal did the place cards and the table flowers.

Thanks were expressed to the Committee. Finally many thanks are due to Keith Wilson, who brought along a superb selection of Halton memorabilia. Keith is WO i/c Airframe Training at the 'other place' and has responsibility for the Queen's Colour as well. We were all surprised to see drawings for our final test job, how to lay your kit out for inspection and even the Halton song book. So gentlemen, you can rest easy for at least the next 5 years, for our heritage is still in the hands of an apprentice.

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As we made our way home next morning, we learned that Ken Burn, Shaun O'Rourke and our 'close relative' stayed on until gone 5 am, with an early breakfast, or was it a feast?

Finally can I make a plea through the world-wide brethren of apprentices to help us track down some of our missing members? Sandy Hamilton was last heard of in Goose Bay; also, our Command Piper, George Rattray from East Neuk, described as one of the best pipers to come from Halton. There are of course many more, so if you know of the whereabouts of any members, please contact Les Garden on 01276 31397.

(See back page for photos)

LG

Reunion '95 Attendees

We were glad to see:

Les & Judy Shardlow
Ken & Ann Bannister
Chris & Sue Neal
Barry & Ruth Neal
Jeff & Jeanette Lloyd
Pete & Jenny Slawson
Chris & Heather Wales
George & Dianne Hope
Brian & Yvonne Lee
Kevin & Rebecca Sheehan
Mick & Marilyn Woodhouse
Peter & Brenda Bolton
Nick & Mary Smith
Colin & Jane Frame
Duncan & Andrea Patterson
Dave & Sue Post
Alec & Sue Nicholson
Keith & Jenny Wilson
Mick & Jenny Bath
Ernie & Mary Fox
Jerry Bell
Ken Burn
John & Kevin Dillon
Gerry Miller
Bob Lee
Dave Mathers (wot no Heather?)
Dick Turkhud
Bob Proctor
Bob Mawson
Bill Davidson
Roger Evanson
Les Garden
John Bromley
Chris Lacey
Dave Adams
Shaun O'Rourke
Malcolm Watts

Did you Know?

If you didn't attend the last Reunion then maybe you have forgotten that the:

Attestation date - 16th January 1963

Graduation date - 17th December 1965

189 apprentices enlisted, including 8 Malaysians and 2 Rhodesians

176 Graduated:-

43 Airframes,

14 Engines,

69 Electrical,

13 Inst Gen and

37 Inst Nav.

6 were awarded Cadetships and 2 selected for Commission.

The 103rd Association was formed on the 16th June 1990. Its basic objectives being to promote the Entry by maintaining contact between its members, fostering mutual friendship and providing for social gatherings for them; and fostering esprit de corps and comradeship to preserve their traditions.

Notice

On the 11th December we were notified that Cyril Griffiths had been badly injured in an accident. Our best wishes go out to him and his family, and hope that by the time that this newsletter reaches you, Cyril will be back to his old self. Queries to Brian Lee.

LG

Changes of Address

Cliff Gobbitt:

42 Vicarage Meadow, Fowey, Cornwall PL23 1 EA

Tel: 01726 823561

Tom Maxwell:

313 Kensington Road, Kensington Park, Adelaide, South Australia 5068

Tony Chaplin:

9 Vertican Road, Innsworth, Gloucester GL3 1BX

A Letter to the Editor

Many thanks for the newsletter, interesting as always. I wonder if you have any info on how Eddie Gallagher is faring. Last I heard, he was rather ill and unable to attend the Reunion we had some time ago in Aylesbury. Has Ron Dent surfaced?

I gather John Carhart popped in a while back to see the Committee. He has now started his own business in South Africa, doing 'God-knows-what'. I shall write and ask him. His wife seems to do all the letters, he rarely puts pen to paper.

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Minutes of Committee Meeting held at Procon Electronics - 9th December 1995 @ 1100hrs

Present: L Shardlow, N Smith, J Dillon, B Neal, C Wales, L Garden, M Watts

Apologies: J Bromley

1. The Treasurer presented the accounts for the reunion Dinner. Note should be taken that the loss given in the accounts is on 1995 income. Overall the fund is still in the black. The accounts were checked and approved by the Committee.
2. NS agreed to send Noreen Rose (Procon Secretary) a token of appreciation for the work done on behalf of the Entry for the Reunion organisation. Sum not to exceed £20.
3. Next newsletter due out prior to Christmas!!
4. Reunion photographs. LS to contact AN to see if he can arrange printing of the photos taken at the Dinner.
5. CJW to provide new Entry logo to MHFW, LG and NS.
6. CJW to revise Entry Constitution prior to next meeting and present draft for approval.
7. Date of next meeting is Saturday 9th March 1996 at Les's House, Haddenham.

LG

The way things are going, I suppose it is high time we started perusing the Obituary columns in the Telegraph; maybe we should start a system to ensure that any really bad news on any one of us is published somewhere so we can all do a bit to ensure that the family etc get all the support they might need, and the 'old sods' don't slip away without having at least one beer drunk to their memories. What a cheerful b****r I am!

My Ingrid has just - well, one year ago - produced my third child, a boy. I now have three, girl 8yrs, boy 5yrs and now Timothy. Keeps me young and constantly poor.

It was great to hear about Ken Bannister and Jim Davidson finally earning their keep, and that Pete Slawson is still trying to earn a crust. If I had any money, I would certainly entrust it to an Old Haltonian before anybody else.

Must end this missive now, as I am doing it at work, and my tea (no sugar now!) might otherwise get cold.

Will have to get back to you on the 18th June - all depends on the kids and the wife. Will telephone as soon as I know I will be coming.

Ed' Cochran
Penwood House, Pennymoor, Devon EX16 8LJ
Tel: 01363 866441 Fax: 01363 866833

A Postcard to the Editor

Thanks for the last newsletter. For the last year I have been the *Alaska's husband!/stoker/engineer/varnisher/painter etc amongst my other interests and activities. Working more hours than a pensioner should but never mind. Looking for more charterers in the Reading-Windsor area, suggest the Officers' Mess at HQSTC, do we have any members? (Try Simon Keen - Ed)

Mick Woodhouse

* Alaska The steam launch Alaska was built at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire in 1883. Today she is the oldest coal fired steamer on the River Thames. Available for hire - enquiries please telephone (01628) 826119

1995 30th Anniversary Reunion Treasure's Report

The 57 members and their partners who participated in the Reunion contributed £1400 as deposits. One member had his accommodation bill fully met by the Association. One member paid in full to the Association. A net loss on accommodation expenses of £56.

The Association also paid £373,65 for sherry and wine for the meal. Incidental expenses totalled £31,55.

As £150 had been withdrawn to subsidise the bar and purchase raffle prizes and cloakroom tickets, the raffle expenses amounted to £50.72. The Committee decided that the proceeds from the raffle, £84, would also be used behind the bar. A free bar was thus enjoyed by all until about 12.30 am.

The Reunion cost the Association a total of £611.20, leaving the bank with a total balance of £781.02.

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The sum of £400 will be transferred from the Savings Account in order to prevent the Current Account from going into the red.

NS

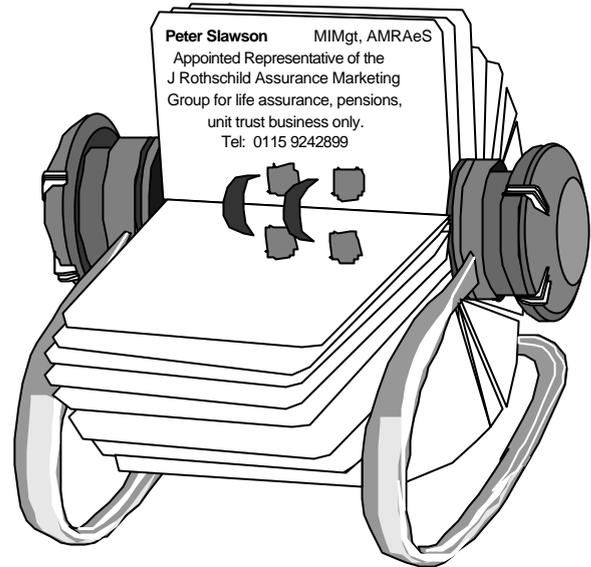
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Present: L Shardlow, N Smith, J Bromley, B Neal, C Wales, L Garden

Apologies: J Dillon, M Watts

1. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and agreed.
2. The Treasurer presented his financial statement as follows:
Current Account - £123 (in credit), Deposit Account £740.
3. It was proposed that a social event be organised to coincide the Reunion '98 at Halton in September 1998. This will take the form of an evening meal at a location close to Halton. All dates, venues etc to be announced in newsletters over the next 2 years. Any member feedback on this will be appreciated. It will be stag.
4. CJW to select suitable prints of Reunion '95 for inclusion in next newsletter. Alec Nicholson had volunteered to produce a professionally printed record of the Reunion, but it was felt that the expense was not justified.
5. The date of the next Reunion Dinner will be the 11th of November 2000. Venue and format tbd. Ignore what your Psion says, its wrong! All members to make a note of this date as no excuses will be accepted for non-attendance.
6. The date of the General Meeting will probably be some time in June at Les Sharlow's house. All members are requested to attend. The actual date will be confirmed nearer the time. The agenda will be : Minutes of Last Meeting, The Treasurer's Report, The Election of a new Committee and Any Other Business.

LG



And finally:

Don't forget to send your contribution for the next newsletter to me at:

162 Main Rd, Naphill, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4RU

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Entry Reunion November 1995

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