

103rd Entry RAF Halton

Newsletter



Issue 50
July 2020

Just when we had pretty well got Christmas and the New Year behind us and there were mutterings from the Domestic Management Department about warmer weather and journeys to far off places a new word came into our lives.

CORONAVIRUS

What is this thing people thought? Is it a beer which has gone bad or a Cigar with an attack of Boll Weevils? No, none of these things and we soon learnt that this regal sounding word was the biggest Pandemic the world had experienced for over 100 years. By the beginning of March we were beginning to feel the effects of this word and being told this that and the other would protect us from being sick or worse. Eventually we were Furloughed and Self-Isolated and Guarded. As far as the committee know none of the Entry Members were affected by this awful virus and suffered nothing more than a little inconvenience. Let us hope this continues.

It would be good to think that our training at Halton played more than a little part in keeping us safe - our subconscious adherence to orders and procedures. It is a pity that other members of our society can't keep their distance and leave themselves and others exposed to the danger that is still Coronavirus.

Take Care and Stay Healthy

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Here is a great picture from Kev Murnan

How many can you name?

Where was it taken?



Do you have any similar pictures from our time together?

It would be good to share them and even a story or two of that time long gone

The next page has a story from Milton Hey about his sporting prowess!

Thanks Milton

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My Part In Winning That Trophy The First Time

(Confession of a reluctant hero)

I think it was the Cock of the Walk trophy that we won twice and I believe it is generally acknowledged that narrowly beating the 100th (I think) at rugby is what swung it. I scored my first ever and the only try of the match no one was more surprised than myself.

It turned out to be the winning try for which I readily accepted the credit. However my worthiness for the credit is not so straight forward. I had not wanted to play and had flatly refused Rob Peele's (god rest him) badgering to volunteer. Rob wouldn't take "no" for an answer and recruited the help of our permanent staff SNCO's to persuade me. On the day of the match, on my way to spectate, I was duly "persuaded" that it was in my best interest to play. I was not delighted.

On the field of play it soon became clear that I was to be marked for the duration of the match by a Welsh man of somewhat larger build than my 10½ stone. Inevitably the ball came my way and said Welsh man appeared in front of me, I handed him off and to my surprise he went down like a skittle.



After three similar incidents the Welsh man decided that enough was enough and with both his hands took me by the shirt collar and drawing my face up to his said in a threatening sing song voice that only the Welsh can do "*listen boyo! You do that again and you're for it, okay*" (Words imprinted in my memory to this day) To which I replied "*what do what?*" He then explained that every time I had handed him off I had "stiff armed" him across his throat. Well that posed a problem because the guy was shaped like a Russian doll and as far as I could see he didn't have a neck, but oddly he did seem to self-right like a child's Tommy Tippee mug.



Play carried on and I didn't have to hand him off again until well into the second half when inevitably I was given the ball and tucked it under my arm. He appeared in front of me again and I duly repeated what I had done previously and down he went again. "*Oh dear*" I thought "*I had better not let him catch me.*"



With the ball still tight under my other arm I put my head down and scarpered, bulldozing a few of the opposition out of the way. I was brought down but not pinned, so still anxious to avoid retribution I got up again and bulldozed some more defenders until amazingly I grounded the ball over the line. Game won. So in truth we won that trophy

the first time because I was terrified of being caught by an angry man with no neck.



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Here are the details of our next reunion

The Forthcoming Entry Reunion (2021)

Your committee has agreed that The Woodland Manor Hotel at Clapham, two miles north of Bedford is the ideal place to hold our next reunion and have booked the hotel's Autograph dining room for our next function on **Sat 3rd July 2021**. The building is an old Manor House and has a lovely atmosphere, large enough for any numbers we might amass, but small enough to retain the intimacy of the event. The hotel has thirty four bedrooms, all very nice, spacious, and en suite. The bar is adjacent to the dining room and foyer, we would not have exclusive use of it, but with our expected numbers it is unlikely there would be many other guests. Parking in the grounds is free. We have reserved twenty five rooms at this years rates which you can book with the hotel by quoting **103 Reunion** and giving a bank card number. You will not be charged until the day before the event and can cancel (unlikely) without cost until then. I recommend you do this soon, and please let me know so that we have an idea of how many are coming. We expect to have a hot buffet paid for from Association Funds.

The choice of area considered the ease of travel for most of our members and some entertainment for the following day. Bedford is close to the M1, A1 and A6 and the station two miles away has lines connecting it to London, Sheffield, Brighton and presumably all points in between.

We hope to get enough of you interested in going to Old Warden on Sunday to be able

to get party rates on what is a flying day for The Collection. Please look up their details on <https://www.shuttleworth.org/>. Also within fairly easy reach for any of you making a longer stay are The War Museum at Duxford, The Code Breakers Museum at Bletchley Park and the beautiful city of Cambridge (all recommendations of Mick Bossy and Jess Myers). There is a golf course beside the hotel which gives preferential rates for guests, if interested, anybody fancy arranging a match?

**Hotel Details,
Woodland Manor Hotel
Green Lane
Clapham
Bedford MK41 6EP**

Tel 01234 363281 (Ailish or Freya)
www.woodlandmanorhotel.co.uk
Room rates incl breakfast for two,
Single £85, Double £95, Premium £105,
Suite £135 per night.

If any of you attending on your own would you be willing to share a twin room? Let me know and I will try to put you in touch (we did used to share with fifteen others!).

Your Committee hope that the numbers attending will make it as successful as the last reunion when we had about seventy attendees, and we know our ladies love these things. I look forward to hearing from you, with any questions or suggestions you may have.

Regards **Mick, 07811 401040**
mickjwoodhouse1946@gmail.com

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RAF Halton Apprentices Association (RAFHAA)

The new RAFHAA Council has been working hard over the past 2 months and it has co-opted further members to the Council pending formal ratification at the next AGM. There is still a vacancy for a Marketing man as the Council thinks that there are huge opportunities to market brat memorabilia and boost the funds needed to ensure a worthy Halton Apprentice heritage programme. One of the key tasks is a Heritage Policy Statement; once completed it will be available for all RAFHAA members to view.

Membership categories and fees are being reviewed with proposed changes to life membership and renewal membership categories; these will be included as a motion for approval at the virtual AGM on 19th September. Many members had already indicated that they would happily contribute more to Life Membership, and the opportunity has just arrived! A new Heritage Life Membership category has been created; it is voluntary, and if members do not wish to pay more, then they do not have to. Annual members may also transfer to Heritage Life Membership by donating £75 and paying an annual fee of £15. As these are voluntary contributions, the scheme can be started immediately. For those members who have not yet paid, 20/21 fees are over-due.

The next issue of the Haltonian will be a bumper package as it will contain loose leaf pages of the motions and instructions required for you to vote in the virtual AGM. Members will be able to vote on-line or by returning votes by snail mail. The voting results will be announced at the virtual AGM attended by all the proposed Trustees and Council members. The meeting will be recorded and available for download from our Old Haltonian website together with the minutes. The Association is following the Charities Commission (CC) advice on virtual meetings. The CC has confirmed that the new Council is legally constituted subject to endorsement at the AGM. The RAFHAA Constitution had not been amended since 2009; the revision has been completed and a copy will be included in the next Haltonian. Members will be asked to approve the new Constitution by voting on the appropriate motion at the AGM.

It is hoped to launch a new 500 Club raffle in October and more details on how to apply will follow soon. To bring all members a little closer, it is hoped to start a chat capability on the web site.

It is clear that the Association needs to modernise the way it contacts the membership, and the plan is to switch from snail mail to electronic mail. Members are asked to send an email to membership@rafhaa.co.uk advising the best email address to use.

103rd Entry Association Committee Members:

*Les Shardlow, Les Garden, Chris Wales, Barry Neal, Dave Post, Ken Bannister,
Brian Lee, Malcolm Watts, Mick Woodhouse,*

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103rd Entry Association Contact List

Some time ago we invited you to allow us to publish your personal details on a protected section of our website for sharing amongst members of the Association. Could those of you that have not had your details listed please consider whether or not you would now like them included. The protection is tight and, in the event that you leave the 103rd Entry Association, in the event of your death, or in the event that the Association is 'wound up', then your details will be removed from the Website.

If you would like to be added to the list, please let me know and I will send you a consent form to be completed and returned to me.

Barry Neal

01805-601715

barry.r.neal@gmail.com

Notes of a Committee Meeting on 19th June 2020

As we could not meet face-to-face, this meeting was held by Zoom Video-Link. The minutes of the December 2019 meeting were accepted, and discussions took place on our finances, next year's Reunion, the Newsletter, and the RAFHAA. Details of the Reunion and the RAFHAA are elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our finances are healthy and will remain so. Our next meeting is planned at Watermead, Aylesbury on 5th December. Hopefully, human contact will have been restored by then - if not, it will be a virtual Xmas dinner!!

Barry Neal, Chairman

You can also follow us on Facebook - [Ton Threes](#)

Contributions, mail or abuse about the

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Editor's Plea

Milton's story in this issue is very welcome and so would be anyone else's story. Do you have an interesting story to tell? Were you involved with an occurrence in history or a noteworthy RAF occurrence? Why not put finger to keyboard or pen to paper and share your experience with other entry members?