

103rd Entry RAF Halton

Newsletter



Issue 52
July 2021

Editors Comment

Yet another half year has gone by and hopefully we are coming to the end of a bad period in our country's history. We have had widespread epidemics before notably at the end of the First World War and The Plague back in the 17th century. Luckily we have progressed from the days of yore and science and technology have improved and combined to help our government and NHS to help us. It amazes me how many critics and experts we have, could the performance fees play a part in this? I get more sceptical as I get older!! The virus was responsible for us rescheduling our reunion due in July until next year around the same time, details later in this newsletter.

It looks like summer has come at last (Well at time of writing anyway) and how welcome it is, on with the shorts, lunch outside, not to mention the ladies in their summer dresses and shorts. I like ladies dressed for summer, but for the life of me can't remember why!

In this issue we have contributions from Jess Myers, Doug Pearson, Les Garden, Mick Lewry and our Chairman Barry Neal. A big thanks to all.

To start us off the following is a description of an air show seen by Doug Pearson the year before we all took the Queens Shilling. Its amazing what is tucked away in lofts, cellars and shed, why not have a look and see what you can offer us.

Thanks for the article Doug.

RAF Upavon 1962

A Celebration of 50 years flying by the RFC, RN Air Service and RAF

On a recent expedition to the back of my loft I found an old programme commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Military Aviation display held at RAF Upavon in June 1962 which I attended.

For those not familiar with Upavon, it was one of the first (maybe the first) RFC station opened in 1912 and was the Central Flying School from 1912 till 1926. It only ever had a grass airfield.

It was an ideal place to hold the Anniversary display even with its landing limitations. A benefit for spectators was the fact that the viewing area was located on a low hill to the east and gave a splendid panorama of events.

The display started off with Vintage Aircraft (all actually flying) with Avro 504K, Sopwith Pup, Bristol Fighter, SE5A, Avro Tutor, Bristol Bulldog, Gloster Gladiator, Fairey Swordfish and Hawker Hart. This was followed by WW2 A/C, Fulmar, Spitfire, Hurricane, Mosquito (how I wish I had a clear memory of seeing that fly) and Lincoln. But no Lancaster you notice.

CFS display by 5 Jet Provosts followed by fly past of many current types then a display by Fleet Air Arm Sea Vixens. A 38 Group set piece (a staged 'retake' of the airfield under hostile occupation I imagine, which was often part of air displays in those days). The one thing I remember of this particular event was the arrival on to the grass strip of a Blackburn Beverly with rear doors removed. Which then reversed some distance before disgorging its load.

A display by the then P1127 followed, doing its unique flying (or not) tricks to amaze us all.

But the item which was really stunning and the most memorable was the aerobatic display by the then RAF Display team of Lightning A/C! Seems almost unbelievable now. Their display ended with a bomb burst with Lightnings to all points. A short period of silence was shattered by one flying at a great speed over the spectator area from behind at probably about 100ft. It then dipped down towards the grass landing area such that we spectators got a view from above the a/c. Needless to say that the surprise generated by such a stunt is burnt into my memory. Safety concerns were considerably more relaxed in those days. Noticeable that the Lightning display only lasted for 10mins. All going 'bingo' on fuel by then I assume.

What a great display it all was.

In case your little grey cells are getting lazy in the lockdown.

Remember BODMAS - this is a numbers/mathematical puzzle which will give literally hours of enjoyment?

The puzzles task and rules:

- 1 Produce solutions for every digit from 1 to 100 inclusive using any mathematical symbol/constant and only the number 4.
- 2 For each number you may only use the 4 four times.

So, BODMAS, and all these are usable.

Powers, roots, $\sqrt{\quad}$ is OK for the square root but for other roots the root needs to be expressed using 4's. Similarly powers all have to have the power expressed using 4's

Logs, this is base 10. But you can have \log_e factorials (!) eg $4! = 24$, the decimal point without a zero in front, the recurring symbol, Pi, e, and any other constants/symbols from the non Electrical/Electronics fields.

NO MAKING THEM UP!

NOTE

You may have difficulty getting two or three numbers in the 70's to an exact value, a discretionary 0.1 either way is OK but try.

A solution to this is to use J that equals $\sqrt{-1}$, J^4 therefore = 1. However I am sure that you are all, or have been in an earlier time been excellent mathematicians. Hum!

HINT

Identify solutions using no more than two 4's for as many of the low numbers as you can eg 10 is $4/.4$

I do have a solution. Above all enjoy it. It puts Sudoku a little into the shade I am afraid.

Mike Lewry

Thanks Mike that should bump start a few comatosed brains, look forward to the next one.

This is a reminder about the arrangements that are in place at present for the postponed reunion.

Date for your Diary 16th & 17th July 2022

“As you will all know, we had a Reunion planned for July this year. After much discussion your Association Committee decided to postpone the Reunion until the weekend of the **16th & 17th July 2022**. Even though the vast majority of you would have been fully vaccinated by July, we considered that it would have been irresponsible of us to go ahead.

The Government’s Roadmap out of lockdown is very positive but it contains too many uncertainties to give us any confidence that we would be able to have a successful Reunion. The Hotel had a couple of other dates available this year, but we decided that neither of them would be suitable. There is also the possibility that restrictions will be implemented again in the autumn and winter as the Government considers the effect of the European 3rd wave and variants of the virus.

The Hotel has kindly agreed to transfer everything en-bloc to July 2022 - including the individual room reservations that have been made. If you no longer want your room booking then **you need to cancel yourselves**, as the Hotel will work on the assumption that you will want to retain your reservations. Our deposit as well as all the originally agreed pricing/details, etc, have also been carried over.

If you need to contact the Hotel then Ailish (Wedding & Event Coordinator) is the one to talk to quoting “103rd”. 01234-363281; Woodland Manor Hotel, Green Lane, Clapham, Bedford MK41 6EP.

The RAFHAA - moving to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

In the RAFHAA's move to become a CIO, included in the last issue of the Haltonian was a draft copy of the proposed CIO Constitution for consultation with members. At the 2020 AGM the RAFHAA Council received overwhelming support to move to a CIO, and is following the guidance of the Charity Commission to introduce the change. Several RAFHAA members took time to examine the document thoroughly and provided a lot of detailed and knowledgeable comment; including lots of members approving the document. There were a lot of what I will call 'wordsmithing' suggestions and most of those have been included. Every single comment was collated and appropriate outcomes were discussed at a Council Meeting held solely to discuss changes to the draft. The final draft has now been approved by Council; is now ready to be presented to the Charity Commission; and is now available on the website; www.oldhaltonians.co.uk. RAFHAA Members will have the opportunity to vote on the new Constitution at the next AGM on 25th September 2021.

I will mention some key points that the RAFHAA Council feels are of use to everyone. A question was asked about secret ballots - rest assured there will not be any secret ballots. For AGMs it is the intention to continue with the pre-AGM voting process (introduced in 2020) where only those Association voting members are able to cast their votes. The votes will be independently verified and, where necessary, re-counts can be held. Any substantive motions and plans will be subject to agreement by the entire membership, but minor changes to the Constitution can be made by Council at any time. It is extremely poor governance whereby minor, administrative changes to a Constitution can have to wait for up to 12 months before membership approval.

In the case of winding-up or dissolution of the Association, the Trustees have the flexibility under the relevant clause to decide where the Association's assets would be distributed. At the moment the Association remains committed to the RAFBF as a specifically-named beneficiary of funds in these circumstances. But that does not mean that all the assets would go to the BF; other beneficiaries could include support of the Association's Heritage developments.

Council changed its mind about the members of Council who should be appointed as Trustees on election as Officers. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer & 500 Club, and Governance Officer will be the trustees. That will mean that the trustees will form a minority of Council members, and will clearly be accountable to the remainder of Council. There is no appetite for an independent body of any sort, as the trustees & Council have a legal responsibility to operate in accordance with the Constitution, the regulations of the Charity Commission, and the UK Charities Act.

Dispute Resolution is always a tricky matter, but up until now the RAFHAA has not had a formal process in place. The procedure to be brought in is the same as that used by another Charity and has seemed to work well. We will see how it works (hopefully we will never have to use it), learn from it, and make future changes as necessary.

A Charity's Trustees are solely responsible for a Charity's finances - accounts, expenditure, budgets, investments, etc. The RAFHAA has a Finance & General Purposes Committee with the responsibility to recommend to the trustees the way forward for all financial matters. It also has a very detailed Financial Policy & Procedures document which guides all financial matters. It would not be feasible to include that detail in the Constitution, but the document will be available to members on the website. All financial matters will still be subject to final approval by Council.

Heritage and education are included in the Association's Objects; and Life & Heritage Life are sub-categories of Full Membership without the need for separate criteria.

So there we are. I have not included everything that has been considered, but I hope this explains some of Council's thinking and has been of interest to you.

Barry Neal

RAFHAA Governance Officer

You can also follow us on Facebook

Ton Threes

<https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10003874764371>

Or our website

<http://www.103rdentry.org.uk/>

Contributions, mail or abuse about the Newsletter to

The Editor
Brian Lee
Omaha House
London Road
Ipswich
IP2 0SS

Or e-mail: steam707@hotmail.com

Entry website

<http://www.103rdentry.org.uk/>

Committee Members:

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