



January 2011

Honorary President
Rear Admiral Scott Lidbetter



Coolhard Bull

The Magazine of the FAA Buccaneer Association

A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all our members and their Families.

Hello and welcome to all of you reading this and I hope 2011 brings everything you would wish for. I hope to see some of you at our 11th Annual reunion at the RCH Keresley in June this year (more of that inside) or at one of the other functions being organised during 2011. A lot of work will be required this year by many to keep the FAA in the spotlight of both the public and our Government and MPs. You may have been asked to sign petitions, log onto the House of Commons website and post letters, sign pledges etc. Please do it and don't lose heart thinking it will not make a difference. It will only not make a difference if you do nothing. The FAA got a very rough deal last October in the SDR but there is still a battle to be fought and won. I know from some of the comments in our web site guest book you support the principle of the future of a strong and stable FAA and lament it's proposed scale back. We lived our service lives in such a period and we owe it to the future FAA to fight to keep it as a major Naval Fixed Wing presence. The current RA FAA, Tom Cunningham is very much behind this mind-set, and is in fact launching an initiative designed to "twin" Federation Associations with current serving Squadrons and departments of the serving Fleet. He has assigned one of his staff **Flag Lieutenant, Lt Coxon** to develop this idea and a more detailed plan is due to be unveiled at the next FNF meeting next month in February. Both RA FAA and our own President have spoken passionately on the SDR and Scott, together with Admiral Lord West have had letters published in broadsheet papers recently. So the message is, be active in your condemnation of the cuts, never lose an opportunity to pass your views onto the public by any means possible and promote the FAA at every opportunity. Even if you only pick up a pen and write to the BBC when another "RAF" Sea King in Navy colours rescues a child from his rubber boat off the coast of Argyll or Cornwall. Adopt the Nike motto - "just do it." I have heard two speeches from the RA FAA since the SDR and the message is very much that he intends the FAA will not only survive but move onwards and upwards. But he needs us all, past and present, on-board, fully behind him and supportive of his actions. He deserves this support so please make 2011 the year you DO SOMETHING.

On a lighter note there are once again several opportunities to get together in 2011, the Reunion in June being the biggest and most obvious. It will be good for some of you who have not made it to a reunion thus far to make 2011 the year of getting to one of the venues. We look forward to seeing you.

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The FAABA is a founder member of the Fly Navy Federation



BUCCANEER HOTEL

BROUGH, Yorkshire.

Thinking of going to Yorkshire in 2011? Why not visit the Buccaneer Hotel in Brough for a nostalgic pint. Brough of course was the town where some of our members were posted to do the Makers course on the early MK1s in the early 60s.

Anyone been? Please get in touch and let us know what it is like now.

A message from Admiral Terry Loughran CB, Chairman of the Fly Navy Heritage Trust.

“You will have all now heard and read about the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review and how it affects the Royal Navy and in particular the Fleet Air Arm. There is no doubt that the planned early demise of the Harrier Force and with it our Carrier Strike Capability, leaves Fixed Wing Naval Aviation facing a very tough time until the Joint Strike Fighter becomes available. Other areas of FAA capability, notably the Commando Helicopter Force, also face a very uncertain future. There are still debates to be held, so the final outcome for the FAA remains unclear as I write.

With that in mind, it is now even more important than at any other time that we continue to support the living memorial, for all those that have gone before and are currently serving, which is kept enshrined in the Fly Navy Heritage Trust and especially the Royal Navy Historic Flight.”

So I urge all of you in this year of great uncertainty to become a supporter of the FNHT. Membership is only a minimum of £20 per annum but if we all joined the HT would benefit to the tune of £10,000 +,. If all association members of the FNF joined they would receive in excess of £100k per annum, and that **would** make a significant income for the trusts plans for the future. Plans which of course you as a member can be a part of.

The 11th Annual FAABA Reunion

This will be again held at the RCH Keresley near Coventry over the weekend of 17-19th June and will be open to both the FAABA and HMS Fulmar Assoc. membership and guests. 2011 prices have been agreed and are as follows together with this years supplements:

£68 pp for one night

£105 pp for two nights

£138 pp for three nights

Supplements

£0 for full members

£5 for each full members guests

£10 for non members and guests

Brian Sharrock is coordinating the event. Please contact him if you would like to attend on 01305 834112 or Email him on sharrockb@hotmail.co.uk



The Reunion prices are fully inclusive of breakfast and evening meals. Full use of all the hotels facilities including the gym and swimming pool. All house beers and spirits will be £2 per drink for the whole weekend. The agenda is:

Friday 1700 Meet and Greet with Up spirits. Evening carvery from 8-9.30

Saturday 11am AGM then free afternoon. 17:30 Up spirits. Evening Gala Dinner 8pm

Sunday evening Carpet Bowls competition (TBC)

Proposed optional visits to Bruntingthorpe and to the FAA Memorial at the NMA Alrewas may be organised if there is enough support.

A guy is sitting in the bar in departures at a busy airport. A beautiful woman walks in and sits down at the table next to him. He decides because she's got a uniform on, she's probably an off-duty flight attendant. So he decides to have a go at picking her up by identifying the airline she flies for, thereby impressing her greatly.

He leans forward and delivers the Air France motto: 'Winning the hearts of the world'.

She just stares at him with a slightly puzzled look on her face.

He leans across to her and says the Delta Airlines motto: 'We love to fly and it shows'.

The woman looks at him blankly.

He sits back and says the Asian Airlines motto: 'Going beyond expectations'.

The woman looks at him sternly and says 'What the f**k do you want?'

'Ah!' he says, sitting back with a smile on his face 'Ryanair'

FAA Memorial - National Memorial Arboretum.

Logos and crests: A proposal for the placement of logos and crests was discussed, and a general plan for uniformity of design agreed in principle involving the placing of sandstone 'paving' stones separate from but surrounding the memorial, with association logos and squadron crests sand-blasted on to individual stones. This was closest to plan 'B' from the original 3 options (please see previous minutes), and was agreed by the majority because it was cost-effective (requiring sandstone rather than expensive Portland stone), offered greatest uniformity, excellent longevity, minimal maintenance, and the largest number of logos/crests to be placed (up to 78 initially, with room for expansion in the future). Initial ground-works will need to be completed and blank sandstones placed. The stones will then be removed by associations /squadrans for their specific logo/crest to be sandblasted on to before being formally 'placed'. Bronze plaques were discussed but considered too expensive due to each having to be individually cast.

Funding for the ground-works needs to be found (cost approximately £8000) and, if all associations agree to assist, will be in the region of £750-£1000 per association. **Although it is a fairly large cost to bear it must be remembered that it is a memorial for the entire FAA that will last for many generations, and will be a great legacy to the generosity of the associations of the Federation.**

The FAABA committee have had preliminary talks about this and have a couple of options as to how best to raise our share. One option is to hold a fundraising dinner either at the WO&SR Mess Yeovilton, or a rather more ambitious alternative is to hold it under Concorde with a Meet and Greet reception on the Flight Deck within the FAA Museum. Please share your preferences with us and as soon as we have some feedback we will make a decision. The other easier alternative is to hold it on the Saturday Gala meal at the Reunion but this would not give the opportunity to invite other Associations and would not generate sufficient income.

FAABA Regional Representatives are:

Scotland and Overseas: Dave Clark 01935 474862 or daveclark@faaba.co.uk

South (Below M4 corridor): Brian Sharrock 01305 834112 sharrockb@hotmail.co.uk

North and Wales: Brian Stanley 01458 441440 or defstan1@hotmail.com

General Secretary Robin Harper 01935 840565 or robinharper@faaba.co.uk



We are on the Web - www.faaba.co.uk
Not online? Please address all comments to Mr Robin Harper, C/O FAA Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset

Did you hear about the fat, alcoholic transvestite – All he wanted to do was eat, drink and be Mary.

I got invited to a party and was told to dress to kill. Apparently a turban, beard and a backpack wasn't what they had in mind.

After a night of drink, drugs and wild sex Bill woke up to find himself next to a really ugly woman. That's when he realised he had made it home safely.

My mate just hired an Eastern European cleaner, took her 5 hours to Hoover the house. Turns out she was a Slovak

Below are notes of interest from the last FNF meeting held in September 2010

TAG Association. It was reported to the meeting by the FAAA that, with great sadness, the remaining 250 members of the TAG Association have decided that they are likely to wind-up the Association on a date to be decided at a meeting to be held in October. The annual TAG Memorial service at Lee on Solent on the 3rd Sunday of May is set to continue to be observed, with the FAAA assisting with the organisation with the Sunday Lunch being a FNF event. There is an opportunity to hold a SW regional reunion at this weekend so if you are interested in attending in 2011 please let your regional representative know.

Eastchurch Memorial Service/TAGA Memorial Service. A service was held at the Pioneer Memorial in Eastchurch on October 8th 2010. This will now become an annual event to be held on the first Friday of May from 2011 onwards. It is a council-run function with a serving-military and Association presence and there will be a 'fly through' by current FAA aircraft and by the Historic Flight. Standards will be paraded, and FNF Associations will be invited to attend. As with the Lee on Solent parade this is an opportunity for the SE region to get together on an annual basis. As most of you will know this is the birthplace of Naval Aviation so a fitting place to promote the FAA on TV and the media.

FNHT/Historic Flight

Lt Cdr Mike Abbey, CO RNHF, gave an update on the flight's aircraft, stating that despite a difficult year and continued problems with the Swordfish engine there has been much progress, and the Swordfish is due to start test flights as these minutes are written. The HF was represented at all of the major air shows, with a very successful season for the Seahawk and (loaned) Seafire. The twin seat Sea Fury is currently undergoing test flights, and the engine for the single seat Fury is virtually ready with the aircraft hopefully test-flying by mid-2011. It is a realistic hope that throughout next year all of the flight's aircraft will be airborne at one stage or another, so great progress is being made

Sue Dible gave an update on FNHT activity, and announced the excellent news that Sue Eagles has become a part-time member of the team to assist with PR and marketing. The 2010 charity dinner, Air day, golf day, Grand Draw and other events have been well supported despite difficult financial times, and the FNHT thanks associations for their assistance and support. The Charity Flying Day became a private viewing day at the Historic Flight, but the Flying Day will be more widely advertised next year, and will be held on the 17th of September 2011. Next year's plan also includes a VIP dinner on HMS Victory (February 2nd), Korean Sea Fury charity dinner in London (March 2nd, venue TBC), golf day (June 6th), and Yeovilton Air Day (July 9th). Again members of the FNHT are welcome in the HT Marquee which once again gives the opportunity for a members meet.

The Cenotaph 2010. Once again the attendance was hugely disappointing with only two representatives and an apology from a third who had recently had a knee operation and had to pull out. We all met at Horse Guards Parade for mustering and the opening of hip flasks. As all the FAA Associations were represented there was a lot of banter and jokes flying about. After the parade we all marched down to the FAA Memorial on the Embankment for a small service and speech from our President RA Scott Lidbetter. After the final "hymn" Bread of Heaven from the FGC we all moved to the Tattershall Castle which is a floating pub on the Thames about 200 yards away from the memorial which was the FNF meeting point for the after march social. This proved to be an excellent choice as the bar, the ambience and the food were all of a very high standard. Lets have more attending next year please, it is a massive event and certainly the most important exposure we are ever likely to be offered on daytime TV.

And finally thanks for reading this far and once again a Happy New Year to you All.